

Spay Neuter Assistance Program of Gallia County
PO Box 86 Gallipolis OH 45631 snapofgalliacounty.org
January 2014 Newsletter

We set another record in 2013 for the number of spays and neuters in one year – **52 dogs and 246 cats** – and our community is better for it. By preventing pregnancies we are preventing unwanted kittens and puppies, which often become unwanted adult dogs and cats. Our program would not exist without Riverbend Animal Clinic and people like you. Thank you!

Status of 501c3 Application

I submitted our application for tax-exempt status to the IRS in May last year. We received the standard letter saying they had received our package and would inform us of its status within 90 days. The 90-day point passed and I had not heard anything so I called the IRS. An employee told me that our application had not even been assigned to anyone. Another two months passed and still no word. It was then that I called U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown's office and voiced my disappointment. The person in his Cleveland office told me that the IRS is extremely backlogged and it has been taking a year or more for them to review applications. Hopefully, we will hear from the IRS in two or three months. In order to apply for grants, organizations need to be a 501c3. It's just one way the grantors know the organizations are complying with IRS regulations.

If our application for tax-exempt status is approved this year, I plan to apply for grants, specifically for spaying and neutering of stray, community, and feral cats. Depending on the amount of those grants, we might be able to lower the co-pay for spaying and neutering of dogs. Currently, based on the person's income, their cost is from \$40 to \$60. I asked the Gallia County Animal Welfare League if they would help by contributing \$20 toward the cost of the dog spay or neuter and I was told by League president Summer Martin, that their board would not approve my request. She did not provide a reason.

Unwanted Cats

Early last year we began placing kittens and cats up for adoption at Riverbend Animal Clinic. The cats were unwanted and the Perennial Cat Shelter* was always full so two or three people began fostering the cats until they could be adopted. The cats are spayed or neutered and vaccinated through our program. The people who care for the cats pay \$28 for each cat or litter to be tested for AIDS and leukemia (a Riverbend requirement). The adoption fee is only \$15 and it is applied to our account at Riverbend. If you want to bring a kitten or adult cat into your home, we encourage you to adopt one of these cats.

Yard Sales

If you came to one of our yard sale fundraisers last year, you know the quality of the merchandise we offer. And everything is donated. The family of the late Wanda Atha was very kind in donating much of Mrs. Atha's furniture and other belongings to our program after she passed last year. We were touched by her family's generosity. If you have furniture, crafts or household items that are in good working condition, we would be very happy to accept them. Please call 441-1647. Our first sale this year will be May 8, 9, and 10.

TNR

We have several ladies who trap and transport cats to Riverbend for spaying or neutering. After the cats have recovered from their surgery, some of the cats are released to their original location if someone is feeding them. Trap-Neuter-Return is the most effective way to deal with community cats. Alley Cat Allies, HSUS, ASPCA, and many organizations advocate TNR. Check out their Websites if you'd like more information.

Funding

Our funds are very low right now (less than \$200) and we desperately need your cash donation. Our veterinary costs last year were \$13,293. There is a cash donation box on the cat crate at Riverbend, you can mail a check to us, or you can make a donation on our Website through PayPal. As a reminder, we are a non-profit, all-volunteer organization. We hope you will support us. Your donation of any amount will be appreciated.

Thankful

We are very thankful for everyone who contributes to our organization. There are so many ways a person can help a cat or dog. We appreciate the efforts of Purrever Friends Cat Rescue and Friends of Gallia County's Animals. Together – we are improving the lives of cats and dogs and people in our community. There is much more work to be done. Let's continue helping those who cannot help themselves.

Sincerely,
Chris Myers Cozza, President and Founder

*Purrever Friends Cat Rescue, formerly Perennial Cat Shelter, has reorganized and the former location has been closed for safety reasons. Cats are being fostered and are available for adoption by calling 339-9933. Friends also holds adoption days at Petland and the next date is February 8.

Thank you **Riverbend Animal Clinic** and the following people.

Website Creator & Manager
Mary Chipman

Yard Sale Donors

**Family of Wanda Atha - Mark & Barbie Cline - Cliff, Angie & Katie Queen - Scott Baker
Juanita Rainey - Zeb & Patty Jones - Jenny Loomis - Linda Conard - Suzanne Frazee**
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Phyllis Copley - Betty Jo Houck - Jean Houck - Marian Louderback
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Mabel Copley - Suzanne Frazee - Sue Freyberg - Gift of Love Foundation
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