

# ORHS PAWS



## THE DIRECTOR'S CUT

### Last Year in Review

What a year 2023 turned out to be. I am in awe of how much ORHS accomplishes for such a small but mighty group. The Food Distribution program wrapped up 2023 by giving out over 50k pounds of food in, a 51% growth from 2022. This program helped families to keep their pets instead of having to surrender them to shelters and rescues due to family food instability.

Our Community Spay/neuter program saw equal growth and success with a 50% increase with 610 cats and 184 dogs altered over the course of the year. The breakdown of those numbers showed us 442 of them were owned pets and 135 were community cats. For those of you who may not be familiar with the term, community cats are living in outside groups, often referred to as feral cats. A member of the community serves as a caretaker for the group, ensuring they have food, water, and maintain the growth of the population through spay/

An additional program ORHS has not significantly engaged in recently was TNR (trap, neuter or spay, return). The difference between this program and community cat surgeries is the full service being provided by ORHS volunteers who set up the traps, pick up the trapped cats, transport them for surgery then return them to the colony following their recovery from surgery. The program was started up in the spring, successfully trapping 217 cats! This is a time-consuming task with late nights and early mornings.

Facing challenges such as parvo and ringworm, as well as the current national trend of more animals entering shelters and staying longer, prevented the kind of growth we want through our adoption program, but the program was not without highpoints. Both the cat and dog programs adopted out a number of our long-term residents. On the cat side were Gracie after 11 years, Lucy 6 years, Sweetie 11 years, Susie 11 years, and Diamond 1 ½ years. On the dog side, Bruno Mars - 266 days, Putter - 137 days, Mulligan - 189 days, Birdie - 207 days, Pepper - 112 days, Charlie - 169 days, Fiji - 271 days, and Sterling - 124 days.

For everyone who played part in the successful year for ORHS, the endless hours cleaning, feeding, walking, fostering, and every other contribution, THANK YOU! Let's have an even better 2024!

**Join us at Lakeside Church for the Oconee Regional Humane Society's public board meeting!**

**Mark your calendars for 10am on Friday, January 26th, at Lakeside Church located at 5800 Lake Oconee Pkwy, Greensboro, GA 30642. The meeting will be held in the cafe.**

**Let's come together to support our furry friends!**

**#ORHSSupportsPets #CommunityMeeting #SaveTheDate"**



this issue

The Director's Cut pg. 1

The Dog Pen pg. 2

Catty Corner pg. 3

Adoption Update pg. 4

Wish List pg. 5

Getting to Know pg. 5

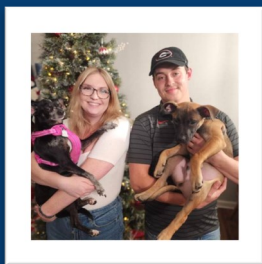
Tam-o-Gram pg. 6

Events pg. 7

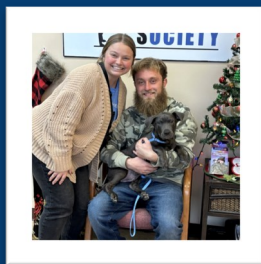
# The Dog Pen

Hats off to everyone for ending 2023 strong! Between puppy training class, the PetSmart adoption event, fostering over the holidays, continuous dog care, and generous donations – your support is astounding! With a new year comes a new enrichment program, so get excited for more volunteer opportunities heading your way!

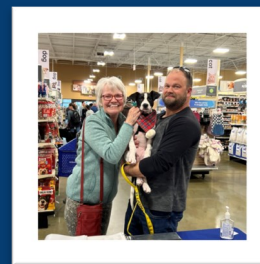
**Adoptions last month:** . Buckwheat, Bruno Mars, Captain, Mack, Rascal, Razzle, Skye and ...



*Alfalfa*

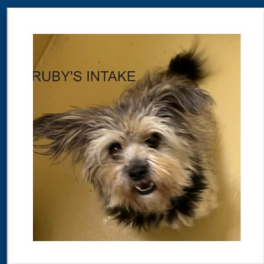


*Martie*

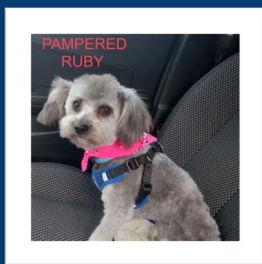


*Scout*

## *Ruby's Miraculous Makeover!*



*Before*



*After*

### Attention Dog Care and Cat Care Volunteers

Please review the SOG for "Cleaning & Sanitizing Bowls and Hard Toys". We are trying to be cost efficient in the use of Rescue within the new guidelines. Unfortunately there have been several times when soiled items have been put directly into the Rescue bin instead of the dirty bin. This immediately contaminates the Rescue bin and a new mixture has to be made.

Please contact Lily or Dreama if you need a copy of this SOG.

# Catty Corner

Submitted by Dreama Thomas

## ADOPTIONS LAST MONTH: Cashmere, Leia and ...



Buttermilk



Fig



Smokey



Stella & Gus Gus



Stetson

## THE CATTIE SIDE



## DID YOU KNOW?



thank you

*I would like to take this opportunity to thank each one of our compassionate and loyal volunteers that make ORHS the BEST!*

*2023 presented us with challenges and sadness, but the celebratory times far out-weighed the sad times!*

*I am proud to a part of such a wonderful organization that has rescued many animals from horrid conditions and successfully helped them find their loving furever homes.*

*I am looking forward to seeing where 2024 will take us!*

*The very best to all for a happy, safe and prosperous new year!!*

*Dreama*

*Please send good thoughts out for fellow volunteer Ryta Lett who is recovering from recent knee replacement surgery.*

*Here's to a speedy recovery. We miss you Ryta!*



# Adoption Update

## “Lucy in the sky with Diamond”

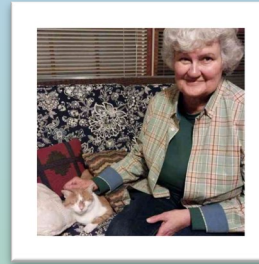
### A Christmas Story

Once upon a time there were two cats - Lucy and Diamond - living together in Snoopy’s Corner and they were happy. Diamond had been at the shelter for such a long time (August 2022), but was loved and cared for by all of the volunteers. In January 2023, lucky Lucy was adopted by a nice lady named Pat. Diamond was sad that Lucy had to leave.

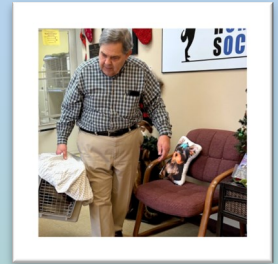
Pat continued to visit the shelter to socialize with the cats. For months the shelter staff continued to convince Pat that she needed to adopt Diamond to be mates with Lucy. Pat really wanted to take Diamond home but she kept saying that she needed to convince her husband.

Lo and behold, one day in December, Pat’s husband arrived at ORHS to adopt Diamond. He would be taking Diamond to his sister’s house and planned to surprise Pat on Christmas morning!

What a true love story! Merry Christmas sweet Diamond!



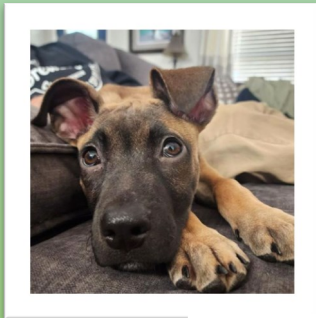
**Pat & Diamond  
on Christmas  
morning**



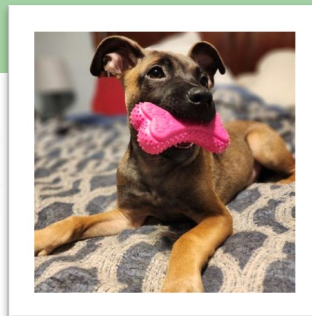
**“Under-cover  
getaway”**



**Diamond**



*The* **LITTLE RASCALS**

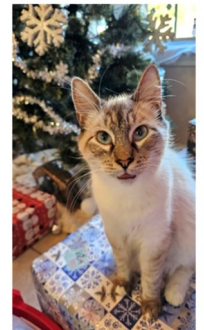


Remember Alfalfa? He was one of our “Little Rascals” pups who was adopted by a loving family in December.

Alfalfa, now Max, is doing wonderful in his new home. He thoroughly enjoyed his first Christmas in his forever home!



**Stetson chilling**



**Hammer**

## ORHS Wish List

### **For our cats:**

- Inabu Churu cat treats
- Temptation Meaty Bites
- Temptation Mixups
- IAMS Kitten Formula dry food
- IAMS Healthy Adult Cat dry food
- Cat toys
- Fancy Feast Pate wet food for cats
- IAMS Kitten Formula wet food

### **For our dogs:**

- Dog beds (medium)
- Cong Wobblers
- Slip Leads (1")
- Purina Proplan Focus Puppy Dry Food
- Canned dog food
- Soft treats—like Pupperoni
- Nylabones/Kongs
- Pill pockets
- Medium & large wire crates
- Purina Proplan Small Breed Shredded Blend Chicken & Rice Formula Dry

### **For the shelter:**

- Trash bags (13gal)
- Black garbage bags
- Toilet paper & paper towels
- Disposable gloves (all sizes)
- Liquid anti-bacterial hand soap
- Dawn dish detergent
- HE liquid laundry detergent
- Bleach

## **GETTING TO KNOW ...**

### ***Vicki Kindl***



#### **How long have you been a volunteer?**

*5 years*

#### **In which areas do you volunteer?**

*I mainly help with dog care but I also like to work adoption events when the opportunity arises.*

#### **Tell us a little bit about your family**

*My husband is Craig. He comes once in a while to help with dog care. He is a retired sales guy. We have two grown children. Our daughter, Mollie, lives in Great Falls, VA.. Her husband is Evenz and they have two girls—Ginger is 3 and Rose is 1. Our son, Anthony, lives in Phoenix. With his wife Brandy and their daughter Morgan who is 2. We travel quite often to see all of them!*

#### **How long have you lived in the lake country and what brought you here?**

*We moved here from Geneva, IL six years ago. Initially we looked at Del Webb and decided we weren't ready for that so we bought land and built a house in Harbor Club. Craig's dream has always been to live on a lake., be in a warm climate and play golf.*

#### **Besides volunteering at ORHS, what do you like to do in your spare time?**

*I play pickleball and golf and exercise regularly. I like to keep busy. I also read a lot and enjoy cooking.*

#### **Do you have any pets?**

*We have a multipoo named Millie. She only weighs 7lbs! She is not adopted as we have to be selective because allergies run in the family. It is very hard to find dogs her size and breed at a shelter.*

#### **What else would you like us to know about you?**

*I LOVE volunteering at ORHS!! The people I meet are so nice..*

# The Tam-O-Gram



**VOLUNTEER**

Peter Szabo	1/01
Chris Hock	1/04
Roslyn Arena	1/05
Debby Harrisberger	1/06
Liat Westerman	1/07
Ric Crane	1/07
Robin Riecke	1/07
Theresa Alperti	1/07
David Hasson	1/09
Rachel Kramer	1/18



For all volunteer questions, contact Tammy Ellis  
tammy@orhspets.org or  
706-318-8737.



If you are not already doing so, please consider receiving texts through Vicnet.

You will ONLY get texts that pertain to you and you will never be in a group text.

Texting (and email) ensure that you are receiving the most up-to-date info about the shelter including animal intakes/adoptions, newsletters and volunteer info

Please contact Tammy if you are unsure how to enable texts on your Vicnet account.

## Current Volunteers Needed

### Cat Feeder (Evening Feeding Shift)

Responsible for feeding, scooping litter boxes, filling water bowls, socializing and giving meds.

### Cat Care (Morning)

Responsible for feeding, cleaning cat room and litter boxes, helping with laundry and socializing.

### Transportation

Responsible for transporting animals to S/N, vet, foster homes or events.

### Front Desk (Reception/Greeter)

Responsible for greeting visitors, answering phone, and assisting with clerical tasks.

If you would like more information, please contact Tammy Ellis at tammy@orhspets.org.

Join local photographer Charlotte Detienne as she sets out to tell the stories of Georgia's Lake dogs - the swimmers and the dock dogs, the office greeters and the golf cart riders; the couch potatoes and coffee shop regulars.

Create custom artwork for your home, support the Oconee Regional Humane Society, and get your dog featured in a gorgeous coffee table book!

Applications for her exclusive Lake Oconee dog portrait experience are now being taken! Visit her website to apply:

<https://charlottedetienne.com/lakedog/@ORHSPets>

#LakeDog Project



The  
**LAKE DOG**  
PROJECT

**APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN!**  
APPLY AT [THELAKEDOGPROJECT.COM](http://THELAKEDOGPROJECT.COM)

Benefiting  
OCONEE  
REGIONAL  
HUMANE  
SOCIETY

# Community Cats Workshop

## An Introduction to Community Cats & Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR)

### The ABCs of Community Cats

What are community cats and where do they come from? What to do if and when you find cats outdoors.

### State of the Mewnton: Panel Discussion

Join representatives from local community cat organizations to talk issues, trends, and concerns.

### Talking Trap with 'TrapKing' Sterling Davis

Meet community cat advocate and trapper extraordinaire Sterling Davis to talk TNR.

### Introducing: The Neighborhood Ambassador Program

Are you an animal advocate wanting to make a difference for animals in your area? Partner with Atlanta Humane to connect with even more resources and opportunities!

Scan the QR code or visit [atlantahumane.org/catworkshop](http://atlantahumane.org/catworkshop) to register.

**atlanta  
hu♥ane  
society**



**Saturday, February 3**  
**9 a.m. - 1 p.m.**  
**Atlanta Humane Society**  
**1551 Perry Blvd NW**  
*Lunch will be provided.*

The Community Outreach team at AHS would like to formally invite you and the Oconee Regional Humane Society community to our Community Cats Workshop taking place on Saturday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> at our Atlanta Animal Center!

This free event will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and will be geared towards the general public to discuss the what, why, and how of community cats, TNR, and (to an extent) Kitten Season.

Our event flyer/invite combo is included below for you to take a peek at our agenda and pass along to any staff, volunteers, or community members you work with that you think may be interested in attending! The morning will consist of a presentation on the "ABCs of Community Cats", the introduction of AHS' new Neighborhood Ambassador Program, a community conversation/panel discussion on the state of community cats in Georgia, and a lunch-and-learn presentation (lunch will be provided) with Sterling Davis (TrapKing).

We encourage folks to attend the whole workshop, but we also welcome anyone interested in dropping by for a portion of the day to participate in whichever topic/s interest them most!

Registration can be done through the QR code on our flyer or by visiting [atlantahumane.org/catworkshop](http://atlantahumane.org/catworkshop).

Please let me know if you have any questions – we hope to see you there!

## Our Staff

Diane Robinson	Executive Director	diane@orhspets.org
Dreama Thomas	Cat Program Mgr	dreama@orhspets.org
Lily Apollony	Dog Program Mgr	lily@orhspet.org
Molly Rowland	Animal Care Spec	molly@orhspets.org
Rebecca Richardson	Animal Care Spec	rebecca@orhspets.org
Tammy Ellis	Office Admin	tammy@orhspets.org



## Our Board

Barbara Gniewek - President  
Chris Hock - Vice President  
Jeanne Lehmann - Treasurer  
Donna McCollum - Secretary  
Karyn Scott  
Kristina Johns  
Christine Plazola  
Bob Hartman  
Heidi Hausler  
Kevin Aycock  
Howard Goldstein

## Our Mission

A center dedicated to advocacy for the care of cats and dogs in need of help through an approach that benefits and improves the community and lives of animals utilizing outreach, education and services accessible to all.

## Our Vision

A community where companion animals live in a safe and loving home and the human/animal bond is honored by respect and compassion.

## Our Values

**Compassion, Integrity, Fiscal Responsibility, Compliance to Laws, Teamwork.**

We believe no rehabilitatable cat or dog should be abandoned or unnecessarily euthanized.

- Give a second chance to animals that would otherwise be discarded.
- Set standards for responsible pet ownership through public education.
- Help people and their pets stay together when they have difficulties that are economic, behavioral or medical.



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oconeeregionalhumanesociety



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**ON Instagram**  
instagram.com/orhspets

## OCONEE REGIONAL HUMANE SOCIETY

ORHS is a non-profit, 501(c)3 Organization - ID# 58-2440625  
1020 Park Avenue, Suite 101, Greensboro, GA 30642  
Open Tuesday - Saturday 11am - 3pm and by appointment.  
[706-454-1508](tel:706-454-1508) | [orhs@orhspets.org](mailto:orhs@orhspets.org)