

# ORHS PAWS



## THE DIRECTOR'S CUT

### 2024 Public Board Meeting

I would like to thank everyone who was able to make it to the public board meeting. This annual meeting and the subsequent town halls are an opportunity to keep our volunteers and community apprised of the happenings at ORHS and future plans. For those of you not able to attend, [click here](#) for the handout. The video will soon be posted on our website.

Briefly, this is an exciting year. We are in our 25th year of existence! An anniversary to celebrate not just the organization but those who came before us who created and sustained ORHS over the years. ORHS has continued to change and grow, a history I hope to capture through photos and stories from past and present sources – stay tuned for more on that.

Finally, thank you to staff and BOD members who helped put this meeting together and all they do everyday for each other, volunteers, the public, the animals, and me. I am looking forward to seeing how much our small but mighty organization brings to 2024.

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**Pets Love Vets**

a **FREE** Pet Adoption Program for U.S. Military Veterans

**HOW DOES IT WORK?**

1. Complete an adoption application & submit to pet shelter.
2. Upon approval, meet with participating pet shelter to view available pets.
3. Select a pet and conclude **FREE** adoption!

SPONSORED BY ROTARY CLUB OF GREENE & PUTNAM COUNTIES **703.407.0153**

### Pets Love Vets Celebrates 5 Years of Providing Free Pet Adoption to Military Veterans

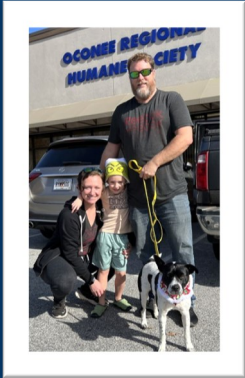
In 2018, the Rotary Club of Greene and Putnam Counties launched Pets Love Vets as a free shelter pet adoption program for U.S. military Veterans. Studies of human blood chemistry show a significant reduction in stress-related hormones when people interact with animals. These positive physiological effects can occur in as little as 5 to 24 minutes, which is faster than medication for stress. Pets Love Vets was a project designed to increase the quality of life for all U.S. Military Veterans, including those who may be struggling with PTSD and/or other service-related illness or injury.

Pets Love Vets has been a resounding success. To date, 131 shelter animals have been adopted by Veterans and their families; however, Veterans can only take advantage of the program if they know it exists. Consequently, The Rotary Club is always looking for help in raising awareness of the program within the military Veteran community.

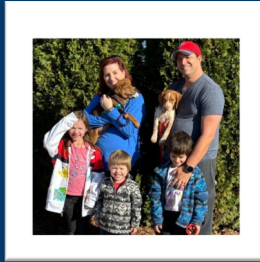
The Pets Love Vets program has had a profound impact on central Georgia's Veteran community. Pets Love Vets helps once-troubled Veterans achieve a measure of peace and tranquility in their lives; the unconditional love and acceptance that a companion pet offers have instantaneous benefits for the Veteran, and the Rotary Club is thrilled to partner in such an important project. For more information or how you can help the Pets Love Vets program, contact Rotarian Scott Gessay at 703-407-0153.

# The Dog Pen

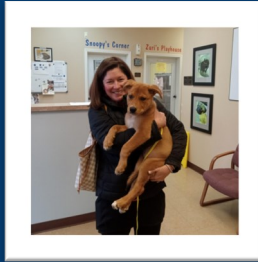
**Adoptions last month:** . Angel, Brownie, Mattie, Ruby, Chloe, Claus, Darla, Spanky, Dasher, Stella, Yogi and ...



Pepper



Kringle



Tinsel



Stymie



Doodlebug



Zhara



Frankie



Zora

## A dog on your lap at the dentist? ‘Yes, please.’

Debbie Zaiger hates going to the dentist. She puts off her appointments as long as she can. “My level of anxiety at the dentist is really high — so much so that I need laughing gas just to get my teeth cleaned,” she said. Then last month, she learned about Ollie. When Zaiger, 61, showed up for her hygiene appointment in downtown Minneapolis, she reclined in the dentist’s chair and Ollie, a fluffy, 80-pound English goldendoodle, hopped into her lap and sprawled across her legs.

Zaiger said she was able to relax, this time without nitrous oxide. “While my teeth were being cleaned, I was petting Ollie and rubbing his head and ears, and he fell asleep on top of me,” she said. “He’s such a good boy, and he was really calming. I’m surprised at how much he helped.”

Ollie belongs to hygienist April Kline. She started bringing the sweet-natured 4-year-old canine to work with her at J & D Dental from time to time last year, thinking he might help comfort nervous patients. “Dentistry isn’t an easy profession — nobody tells us that coming here is the best day of their life,” she said. “Having Ollie here has been a game changer. He brightens everyone’s day and he’s become a huge hit.”

Studies have shown that petting dogs can relax people and reduce stress, and also that dogs benefit from the interaction as well. About 36 percent of Americans have dentophobia — a fear of going to the dentist, with 12 percent having an extreme fear, according to the Cleveland Clinic.

To read the full article from The Washington Post [click here](#).



Let’s give a big shout out to one of our newest residents, Dodger, a stray from Putnam County, who was just accepted by 404<sup>th</sup> Charlie Company, a program which matches service dogs to veterans in need. Yesterday, Dodger officially started his journey of becoming a K9 Battle Buddy. Once he's recovered from his neuter surgery, he'll start the next steps!

[Click here](#) to learn more about the K9 Battle Buddies program.

# Catty Corner

Submitted by Dreama Thomas

## ADOPTIONS LAST MONTH: Angel, Buttermilk, Desiree, Harley, Roxie and ...



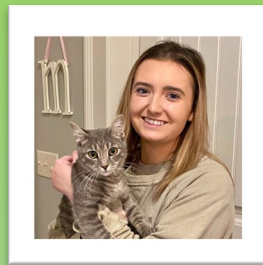
*Analisa*



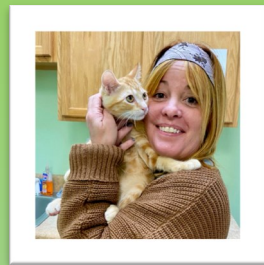
*Brandi*



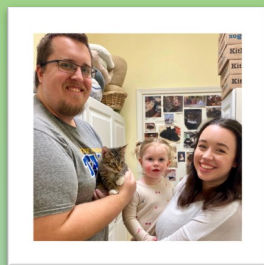
*Bobbi & Georgie*



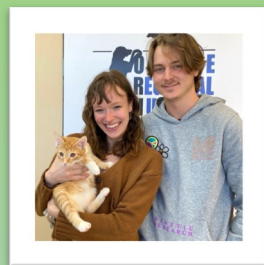
*Caleb*



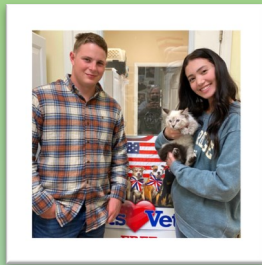
*Cinnamon*



*Gigi*



*Lester*



*Marshmallow*



*Quinn*



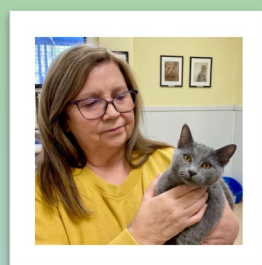
*Snowflake & Coalton*



*Spice*



*Spirit*



*Zoey*



## KITTEN SEASON HAS BEGUN!!

Our first litter of 2024 has been rescued by Tammy Delamater from a Social Circle construction site! The momma cat is around the site but appeared to have been leaving the 5 orange babies for long periods of time. We are still in the process of trying to trap momma to reunite her with the babies. The babies are now on their way to Daddy Dave's and Momma Marie's house.

In preparation for the kitten season, Dave and Marie have deep cleaned their foster rooms and are ready for this year's new babies!



Please consider being an ORHS Foster

With kitten season about to begin, we are in need of fosters now more than ever!!

We have limits on the number of cats/kittens that can safely be housed at the shelter. Without fosters the number of lives saved will be significantly less.

Being a foster is a VERY rewarding and important job!!

If you are interested in being a foster or just want a little more information, please contact Dreama at [dreama@orhspets.org](mailto:dreama@orhspets.org).

# Catty Corner

Submitted by Dreama Thomas

## ON A SAD NOTE...



**Our precious Fig crossed the rainbow bridge. He was fine one minute and then he wasn't. His adopter, Mackenzie, and her family immediately took him to UGA where he was diagnosed with FIP. They did everything they could to save him. Unfortunately, he declined very quickly and they had to say goodbye.**

**The story does have a happy ending though! Mackenzie knew that Fig and Caleb were BFF's. When she came in the other day to get some kitty love, Caleb was front and center! She decided to honor Fig by giving his best friend a loving home!!**

## DID YOU KNOW... ABOUT FIP?

In August 2021 Dreama lost her cat Max to FIP. On a Friday evening he wasn't his playful, fun-loving self and had stopped eating. Dreama took him to the vet first thing Monday morning, where, after ruling out other medical issues, they determined he had FIP. By the end of the week, Dreama had to make the difficult decision to say goodbye to Max. She was devastated! Now we have lost our precious Fig as well.

This horrible disease also affected Yogi, adopted by Sharon Gabrielli, Petey, adopted by Barbara Funke and Gracie, adopted by Sue Rinker. Fortunately they were diagnosed early enough to receive treatment and after a long, roller coaster ride for all of them they are each currently doing well.

**What is FIP?** It is a fatal infection and a leading cause of death in young cats for which no effective preventive or treatment is available. FIP is a very difficult disease to deal with because there are no clinical signs that are specific for the diagnosis of FIP, and no simple blood test to confirm a diagnosis.

**What are the signs of FIP?** With Effusive, or "wet" FIP, the clinical sign is the accumulation of fluid within the abdomen or chest which can cause breathing difficulties. Other symptoms include lack of appetite, fever, weight loss jaundice and diarrhea. Non-effusive, or "dry" FIP also presents with these symptoms but there is usually not an accumulation of fluid. Typically, a cat with dry FIP will show ocular or neurological signs like difficulty in standing or walking with functional paralysis developing over time. Loss of vision is another possible outcome.

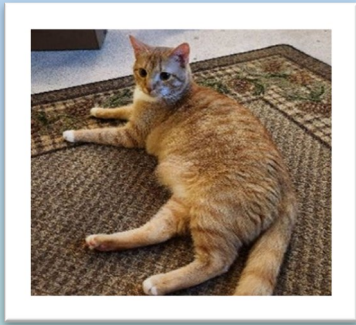
**What is the treatment for FIP?** There have been significant recent developments in the management of this once fatal condition. Hope came in 2020-2021, when several new anti-viral drugs became legally available initially in Australia, then the UK and now via export to multiple countries around the world. Experience using these drugs has shown that most cats can be successfully treated (response is around 85%). The treatment course is long at 84 days, and most cats can be treated at home with tablets/liquid, but if very unwell, they may require the initial treatment in the veterinary clinic with injectable anti-viral drugs.

If you would like to read more about FIP, please visit [Feline Infectious Peritonitis \(FIP\) | International Cat Care \(icatcare.org\)](https://icatcare.org).

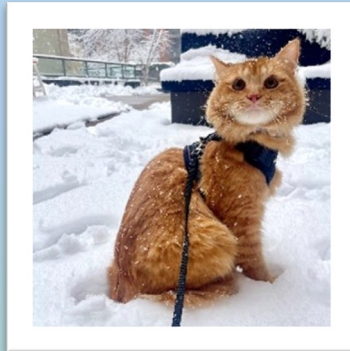
## ON THE CATTY SIDE



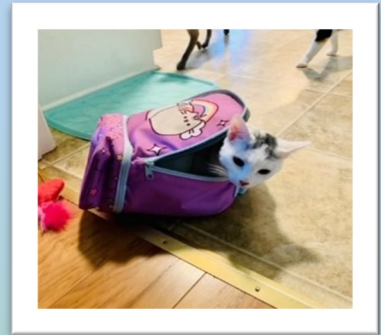
# Adoption Update



*Frey (aka Ringo) weighing in at 14 1/2 lbs!!*



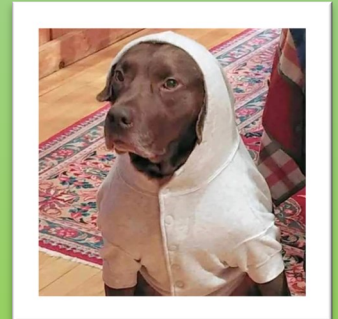
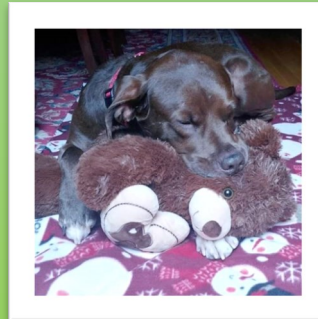
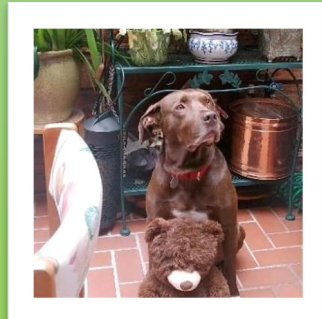
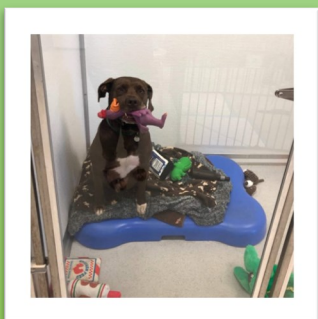
*Ellington (aka George) living his best life in Washington DC. He has become a snow kitty and a seasoned traveler He has been on 20 flights this last year and earned his Delta sky wings!!.*



*Sugar trying to hide*

## Our Boy Brownie

From shelter shadows to the warmth of a forever home, Brownie's journey is a tale of love and resilience. After 120 days of patiently waiting, our Brownie's wishes and dreams have come true. ORHS' staff members, volunteers, and our wonderful community give a heartfelt THANK YOU to the amazing heroes who rescued Brownie and made a difference in his life! Your compassion and kindness have given him a second chance and a forever home.



## 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 ...**

### ***Peggy Ruzika***



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

*6 years*

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

*I am the coordinator for the ORHS spay/neuter program and I work the front desk on a regular basis.*

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

*I have been married to my husband, Steven, for 44 years. We have two sons: Chris lives in South Florida and Kyle lives here.*

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

*We built a house here in 1998. We have now been living here full-time for the last seven years.*

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

*I play tennis and golf and like to do puzzles.*

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

*We have a dog—Harley.*



# The Tam-O-Gram



Randi Gibson	2/18
Laurie Huffman	2/20
Lou 'Mack' Whitesides	2/23
Sarah Gibeaut	2/23
Chris Bowen	2/25
Ann Rowan	2/28



For all volunteer questions please contact  
Catherine Moore at:  
[catherine@orhspets.org](mailto:catherine@orhspets.org)

706-817-9437



Hi everyone! My name is Catherine Moore and I am so thrilled to be joining ORHS as the new Community Outreach and Engagement Manager. My husband and I are still fairly new to the area and have had the best time making it our new home! I have almost 4 years of experience in animal welfare where I have worked as an Office and Programs Manager at Tuscaloosa Metro Animal Shelter in T-town, AL. I have worn several hats while at TMAS and have specialized in on-line marketing, outreach shelter programs and more! I have truly found my people within the shelter community and can't wait to meet you all! I hope to help with the current shelter programs and initiatives as well as growing and advancing the shelter in all ways possible.



For volunteer scheduling,  
please contact  
Rebecca Richardson  
[Rebecca@orhspets.org](mailto:Rebecca@orhspets.org)  
706-817-3330

## Current Volunteers Needed

### Early Riser

Responsible for assisting the dog or cat program managers on S/N surgery mornings with pet drop offs, paperwork and loading pets into the vans.

### Dog Enrichment

Responsible for providing mental and physical stimulation to help reduce stress and well-being for our dogs.

### Greeter

Responsible for greeting visitors as they come in to welcome and show them our ORHS hospitality.

If you would like more information, please contact Catherine Moore at [catherine@orhspets.org](mailto:catherine@orhspets.org).

## Our Staff

Diane Robinson	Executive Director	<a href="mailto:diane@orhspets.org">diane@orhspets.org</a>
Dreama Thomas	Cat Care Mgr	<a href="mailto:dreama@orhspets.org">dreama@orhspets.org</a>
Lily Apollony	Dog Care Mgr	<a href="mailto:lily@orhspets.org">lily@orhspets.org</a>
Molly Rowland	Animal Care Specialist	<a href="mailto:molly@orhspets.org">molly@orhspets.org</a>
Rebecca Richardson	Animal Care Specialist	<a href="mailto:rebecca@orhspets.org">rebecca@orhspets.org</a>
Tammy Ellis	Office Administrator	<a href="mailto:tammy@orhspets.org">tammy@orhspets.org</a>
Catherine Moore	Community Outreach Mgr	<a href="mailto:catherine@orhspets.org">catherine@orhspets.org</a>



## Our Board

Barbara Gniewek - President  
Chris Hock - Vice President  
Jeanne Lehmann - Treasurer  
Donna McCollum - Secretary  
Karyn Scott  
Kristina Johns  
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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## OCONEE REGIONAL HUMANE SOCIETY

ORHS is a non-profit, 501(c)3 Organization - ID# 58-2440625  
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Open Tuesday - Saturday 11am - 3pm and by appointment.  
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[www.orhspets.org](http://www.orhspets.org)