



# ORHS PAWS



## THE DIRECTOR'S CUT

### Mysterious Respiratory Disease Reportedly Spreading Among Dogs Across the Country

Last week I sent an email making everyone aware of this disease being experienced around the country. I would like to share an article by Dr. Julie Levy with the University of Florida's Shelter Veterinarian Program. Dr. Levy is one of the leading experts in animal shelter medicine. If you want to know more than you ever thought possible check out the link for Dr. Scott Weese's blog [Worms and Germs](#), another brilliant and dedicated veterinarian.



Veterinarians are reporting an increased number of dogs presenting with acute respiratory infections ranging from mild and self-limiting to life-threatening pneumonia. The disease is reportedly nonresponsive to commonly prescribed antibiotics, and diagnostic testing is often negative for known canine pathogens.

It is not yet clear if this is caused by a novel emerging pathogen or one of the well-known causes of Canine Infectious Respiratory Disease Complex (CIRDC, casually known as "kennel cough"). The lack of a centralized reporting system means it's not even possible to confirm that there is a spike in CIRDC incidence or severity. The intense media coverage of a "mystery disease" may be raising awareness and discussion about CIRDC cases that would otherwise be managed as usual. It's also possible that localized clusters are occurring due to one or more known pathogens due to some predisposing factor, such as an asymptotically infected dog visiting a dog park, day care, dog show, or boarding kennel, etc.

### Did you know?

The month of December is...

- \* National Cat Lover's Month
- \* National Mutt Day (12/2)
- \* International Day of Veterinary Medicine (12/9)
- \* National Day of the Horse (12/13)
- \* Cat Herders Day (12/15)

Many of the cases suspected to have "atypical CIRDC" have not had diagnostic testing. Some were tested, but only after weeks of resolving cough. That's too late to detect some of the most likely culprits, such as influenza virus, pneumovirus, and respiratory coronavirus. And many were tested with a respiratory panel in a popular diagnostic lab that does not include pneumovirus, which could be causing the disease in some dogs. Researchers are also looking into the possibility of emerging or increasingly virulent pathogens.

H3N2 CIV is currently circulating along the eastern and western coasts as documented in show dogs and shelters. Although most cases of atypical CIRDC have been reported in privately owned dogs seen at veterinary clinics, the Shelter Medicine Program at the University of Florida is currently working with several shelters with highly contagious pneumovirus and/or *Streptococcus equi subsp. zooepidemicus* across the country.

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# The Dog Pen

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While these pathogens are familiar to shelters, many private practitioners may not have diagnosed them before. Both cause pneumonia that can progress to a life-threatening situation. Co-infections with multiple pathogens can be especially debilitating. At this time, we recommend being especially vigilant to identify and segregate dogs with respiratory signs. Respiratory PCR panels should be submitted within 4 days of the first clinical signs, especially in dogs recently exposed to other dogs. Visits with other dog populations should be minimized, and dogs should be kept current on DHPP and CIRDC vaccinations (including CIV for owned pets). While much is unknown about reported atypical CIRDC, basic disease control and treatment protocols as described below will help keep dogs safe and provide a roadmap for diagnosis and treatment.

## Dogs at Risk

- Dogs that visit with other dogs, such as boarding, day care, dog shows, dog parks
- Suspect cases have been reported in at least 12 states, including Florida
- So far, animal shelters seem to be less frequently affected, although historic levels of crowding present risks for outbreaks
- People and other species have not been reported to be at risk.

## Clinical Signs

- Highly contagious, rapidly spreading among dogs in contact with other dogs
- Acute cough, sneezing, nasal discharge, eye discharge, fever, anorexia, lethargy
- Severe form can progress to life-threatening pneumonia requiring oxygen and ventilator support
- Cough may persist for weeks to months

[Read more for diagnosis and treatment . . .](#)

## Need More?

[Request help](#) with a shelter disease outbreak

**Veterinarians only:** Consult a UF specialist on dogs under treatment at 352-392-2235

**Adoptions last month:** . Joe and Darla.

## More training opportunities for Dog Care volunteers!

Because there's so much overlap between Dog Walking and Dog Care roles, we want to ensure everyone is as equipped and as comfortable in the dog room as possible. All existing Dog Care volunteers are strongly encouraged to attend a Dog Walking orientation with Linda to review getting dogs in and out of enclosures, what types of walking equipment we have, and tips for a good walk. If you've already attended a Dog Walker orientation, please disregard. To pursue Dog Walker orientation, please contact Linda at [philandlin1011@gmail.com](mailto:philandlin1011@gmail.com)



# Catty Corner

Submitted by Dreama Thomas

**Arrivals:** Welcome Smokey! Smokey is an owner surrender whose owner was allergic to him. He is a handsome, grey Persian.

**Adoptions for November:** Sadly, there were no adoptions last month.

## THE CATTIE SIDE



### REMINDER

In order to make sure all shifts are covered, if you are unable to be here please remember to remove yourself from the VicNet schedule. This alerts us that the spot needs to be filled.



## ADOPTION

### UPDATES



**Maddie & Violet**

### GOOD NEWS!

The Cuddle Zone is once again open for business! We now have 8 adorable, very inquisitive kittens!



**Cabbage**

### TOP 10 HOLIDAY DANGERS FOR CATS

- 1 Dangerous Wrapping
- 2 Hanging ornaments
- 3 Poisonous plants
- 4 Candles
- 5 Holiday foods
- 6 Stress
- 7 Tinsel & Ribbon
- 8 Cats given as gifts
- 9 Christmas tree water
- 10 Travel dangers

# Toby Premieres in new NBC series Found!

by Dreama Thomas

In late December 2022, Bob Hartman was contacted by a former executive director applicant to see if we had any kittens around the age of 2-3 months to be cast in a show being filmed in Atlanta. Bob put her in touch with me and she hooked me up with a casting agent by the name of Greg Tresan with Animal Casting Atlanta. At the time I was fostering to adopt Kincaid (now called Toby) and I sent Greg this picture of him to see if he would be interested in using Toby. The answer was "Yes!"



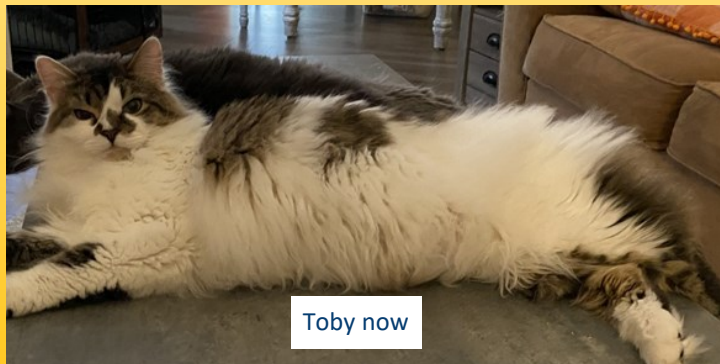
Toby and I traveled to a studio in Atlanta on January 6, 2023 for this amazing opportunity to feature one of our shelter kittens! At the time, I could not discuss any details of who I might see and what he was going to appear in. I was eventually told he would be in an episode of the new NBC show, Found. Originally, it was supposed to air in March, but ended up airing on November 21, 2023. Toby became a TV star in Episode 8 of Found! It was so exciting to see his performance!! He meowed and purred throughout filming. Here are a couple of pictures of him with the actors.



Azaria Carter as young Gabrielle Mosley



Mark-Paul Gosselaar as Sir  
(yes, this is the actor who played Zach Morris on "Saved by the Bell")



## 7 Ways to Make the Holidays Safer for Pets

Nothing can spoil holiday cheer like an emergency visit to the vet clinic! These 7 tips can help prevent a holiday disaster with your pet.

1. Keep people food out of the reach of your pet. These foods are potentially harmful or toxic: bones, candy (especially chocolate), chives, citrus, coffee, raw or undercooked eggs, meat and fish, garlic, grapes and raisins, nuts, onions and salt.
2. Keep trash, which may contain harmful food and wrappings, in tightly sealed containers or hidden where your pets can't access it.
3. Don't leave your pet alone in a room with lit candles, a decorated tree or potpourri.
4. Keep holiday plants (especially holly, mistletoe and lilies) out of reach of pets.
5. Consider leaving tinsel off your tree if you have a cat.
6. Secure your Christmas tree to keep it from falling over if your dog bumps it or your cat climbs it.
7. Provide a safe place for you pet to escape the excitement of entertaining. Consider putting them in another room with toys and their bed.

Blessed are the animal rescuers.

They have fallen in love a thousand times.

While their wallets may constantly be empty, their hearts are always full.

## TIPS FOR TAKING PICTURES OF YOUR DOG:

December's tip for capturing your dog's personality with just your cell phone camera:

### The Tongue Out

Just in time to catch your pup licking up all those special holiday treats\*!

\*see above for harmful foods



### The Tongue Out

Hold up a treat and/or tire your dog out. (Don't be a mean girl/guy. Actually give your dog the treat).

## FOSTERS NEEDED!

Help our babies find their forever homes for the holidays by being an adoption ambassador!

Ambassadors are fosters who are trained to find a safe and loving home for the animal in their care.

To find out more, email Lily at [lily@orhspets.org](mailto:lily@orhspets.org).

## ORHS Wish List - Cats

To help keep our cats healthy and happy we can always use:

- 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
- Fresh Step Premium Scented Non-Clumping Cat Litter
- Arm & Hammer Litter Slide Multi-Cat Scented Clumping Clay Cat Litter

## GETTING TO KNOW ...

### Linda Crouchman



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

For about 18 months

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

I live with my husband Phillip. My son, Alex, lives and works in Pennsylvania.

#### In which areas do you volunteer?

I mainly help with dog training and walking, but I also like to work adoption events when the opportunity arises.

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

We moved to Marietta in 2003 from York, England through Phillip's job. That was to be a temporary assignment and became permanent. We retired to the lake country in 2012.

#### Do you have any pets?

My dog is Camo, an Australian shepherd mix that I found on Petfinder through a group in McDonough. He had been on "hold" for someone and when he was 12 week old he was released to adopt and I jumped in.



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

We love to travel and cruise. I try to mix up my vacations so that Camo can come with us. I am proud to say I can take him anywhere! I have worked with him since he was 20 weeks old to get him socialized.

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

Although my career was in the financial industry, I also had a hobby-job at PetSmart for 8 years. I met a lot of lovely people and dogs as an area dog trainer and as a Canine Good Citizen evaluator for the AKC. I also ran therapy dog prep classes.

# The Tam-O-Gram

## ORHS Volunteer Christmas Party

We hope you can join us for our ORHS Volunteer Christmas party on Wednesday, December 6th.

Drinks (wine, beer, soda, & water) will be provided and we are asking for attendees to bring an appetizer or dessert.

Date: Wednesday, 12/06/2023

Time: 5:00pm - 7:00pm

Location: The party will be at Southern Luxury Homes (next to 5B BBQ & Brews) from 1011 Park Place Blvd. Greensboro,

[www.CreativeCertificates.com](http://www.CreativeCertificates.com)



## Current Volunteers Needed

**Dog Care Volunteers: Dog Care/Cleaning**  
Volunteers sign up for shifts to feed dogs, walk/exercise animals, clean and sanitize dog kennel areas, help with laundry, socialize, and love on dogs in our adoption center. If you would like more information, please contact Tammy Ellis at [tammy@orhspets.org](mailto:tammy@orhspets.org).

## ORHS Will Be Closed On:

**Monday, 12/25/23**

**Tuesday, 12/26/23**

**Monday, 1/1/23**

For volunteer scheduling,  
contact

Rebecca Richardson  
[Rebecca@orhspets.org](mailto:Rebecca@orhspets.org)  
706-817-3330

## Just a reminder...

For all volunteer questions,  
contact  
Tammy Ellis  
[tammy@orhspets.org](mailto:tammy@orhspets.org) or  
706-318-8737.

# Thank you!

By Diane Robinson

Thanksgiving may be over, but our gratitude is not. This time of year is full with so much to wrap up the end of the year and prepare for the beginning of the next in the midst of a full holiday season. In the rush we sometimes forget to take a moment to stop and enjoy a quiet moment to chat and express our many thanks for everyone and all you do. Let me take a moment to express how much I appreciate all of you. The passion and commitment to ORHS and the animals in our care is a motivating force behind our mission. There are far too many to thank individually but let me share a couple thanks for individual and community support, and know you are all valued more than you may know:

- Lake Oconee Church for their donation to our pet food distribution program. This program helps pet owners experiencing food insecurity year-round is even more critical in the winter months and over the holiday season. Their gift will go far to continue to support the program.
- Lakeside Church for volunteer cleanup during their day of giving. They cleaned up around the facility and fixed up and added sand to the sandbox in the play yard. Our diggers were thrilled.
- The 100WWCLC shared the photo taken during the check presentation where I updated them on how their gift would be used to support our Miracle Care fund helping animals in need of advanced medical care.



Finally, I would like to extend thanks to Liat Westerman. If you aren't aware, this fabulous newsletter would not be possible without her. Each month she not only puts it together but chases down the content which can often be like herding cats. If you enjoy this as much as we do, please let her know. Thank you Liat.

If anyone has something to contribute, please forward the content to me. All of you bring so much experience in so many areas, our community would love to hear from you.



## Help Us Spread the Love this Christmas!

This holiday season, let's make it extra special for our furry friends at Oconee Regional Humane Society! We're introducing a new idea to make our ORHS fur babies feel the warmth and joy of Christmas.

We're asking for your help to collect Christmas stockings for our 17 dogs and 41 cats in need. While you're decking the halls and putting up your festive decor, if you happen to come across an extra stocking, we'd love to put it to good use for our shelter pets!

Pro tip: Dollar Tree has a fantastic selection of stockings at budget-friendly prices! (hint, hint) Let's shower these adorable animals with holiday cheer and make their tails wag with excitement. Donations can be dropped off at our shelter located at 1020 Park Avenue, Suite 101, Greensboro, GA. Your generosity will make a world of difference in the lives of our furry companions this Christmas!

Once we are able to obtain enough stockings for everyone, we will then begin to fill them! Keep an eye out until then and help us spread some joy! Thank you for helping us make this holiday season unforgettable for our ORHS pets!

[#ORHSChristmasCheer](#) [#SpreadLoveThisHoliday](#)  
[#StockingsForShelterPets](#)



## 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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## OCONEE REGIONAL HUMANE SOCIETY

ORHS is a non-profit, 501(c)3 Organization - ID# 58-2440625  
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