

# ORHS PAWS



this issue

## THE DIRECTOR'S CUT

This month I am celebrating my one-year anniversary with ORHS. Over the last month I have been reflecting on everything this past year has brought. Change can be a challenge and this year has not been in short supply of both for me, personally and professionally, and certainly not for the ORHS family. Animals have come and gone joining their new families, people have come and gone, but ORHS has continued to not only stand strong but grow our community programs and outreach.

As with any family, we haven't always agreed how to best handle situations, but as strong families of choice always do, we have moved beyond our differences for the good of the animals. We have dealt with parvo in some puppies. We are currently dealing with ringworm in kittens. Exhausting? Yes! Stressful? Yes! Worth all the work and stress to save more lives? Absolutely!

Unfortunately, disease is all too common in animal shelters but since both the parvo and ringworm animals came from the same shelter partner, we can mitigate the potential in the places we pull our animals from. We can also celebrate the coming together to provide the needed care for these animals. My endless gratitude for everyone who helped make treatment and care a success.

Behind the scenes the staff have faced the most change, never shying away from the challenges set before them. Together we have looked at our policies and procedures to ensure we are working efficiently to industry standards. While all that was going on they faced the additional challenges all animal welfare and nonprofits are facing across the country with more animals entering shelters, staying longer and transport to partner shelters at a near standstill.

Despite these trends three long term cats found their forever homes. Cat adoptions have increased unlike industry trends. Not to be outdone, multiple long-term dogs also found their forever homes. Our community programs have seen amazing increases. Low-cost spay and neuter has had a year-to-date increase of 80% over last year and we are not done yet. This increase includes 119 cats with the community cats spay/neuter initiative begun this year. Food distribution has also seen a year-to-date increase of 80%. What a success!

Cont'd on pg. 9

## Did you know?

The month of October is...

- \* Adopt a Shelter Dog Month
- \* National Pet Wellness Month
- \* National Animal Safety and Protection Month
- \* National Pit Bull Awareness Month
- \* National Walk Your Dog Week (10/1-10/7)
- \* National Black Dog Day (10/1)
- \* World Animal Day (10/4)
- \* National Vet Tech Week (10/15-10/21)
- \* National Pit Bull Awareness Day (10/28)
- \* National Cat Day (10/29)



**Bob Barker**  
1923 – 2023

Thanks for always reminding everyone to "help control the pet population. Have your pets spayed or neutered." Good bye Bob!

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# Catty Corner

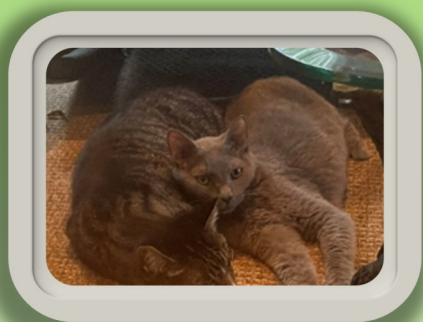
Submitted by Dreama Thomas

**Arrivals:** from Baldwin County - Stella, Sweet Tea, Buttermilk, Lester, Charlie, Ranger, Elmo, Checkers, Gigi; returned through no fault of their own - Junebug & Cassie (new owner's daughter had allergies); and two sweet singles - Stetson & Brandi.

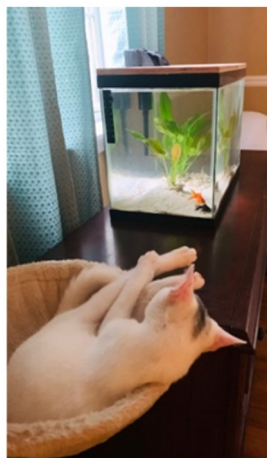
**Adoptions for September:** Bobo, Bailey, Mitzi, Hemi, Harley, Rickie, Aspen, Poppy, Acadia, Emery, Jane and Sable. Happy lives kitties!!

## ADOPTION

## UPDATES



*Gracie & Susie living their best lives*



*Mitzi relaxing while fish watching. LOL!*



*Sweet Pea & Tiana watching TV*

### Trainer Update:

Larry Ross will be taking over as our evening cat feeding trainer. Larry will be filling the shoes of Sharon Gabrielli (see pg. 9) who will continue to foster for us. Sharon's helpful personality and smiling face will be greatly missed!

## THE CATTIE SIDE



➡ **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 so that another volunteer can fill your spot!!**





# POISONOUS PLANTS FOR CATS



**AUTUMN CROCUS**



**AZALEAS**



**CYCLAMEN**



**DAFFODILS**



**DIEFFENBACHIA**



**HYACINTH**



**KALANCHOE**



**LILIES**



**OLEANDER**



**RHODODENDRONS**



**SAGO PALM**



**TULIPS**



## Isolation Room Update:

We are beginning to see positive progress in the Isolation Room. I want to thank you all for your willingness to help during this trying treatment time! Kudos to my dipping partners, Kari, Alyson, and AJ and to Dave and Marie for continuing to foster Gus Gus in their home despite him having it! Dr. Duncan has recommended we let them out of the condos and stop dipping them. He feels like this will help relieve their stress which will aide in them getting better sooner. These sweet kittens have been through so much! They have been real troopers! We will continue to suit up to go in the isolation room until everyone is better and the room has been deep cleaned.

## Signage in Rooms:

Please **DO NOT** post any signs in the rooms without checking with Dreama first!!

There are now evening feeding protocols post in Snoopy's Corner and Zuri's Playhouse.

## Wrap Up:

As the staff continues to work diligently to improve and implement Best Practices here at ORHS we are now having morning debriefings at 10:00 a.m. each day and Operations Meeting each Thursday at 11:30 a.m.

This helps us to work cohesively with one another and be ready for what each new day may bring. I know there have been a lot of adjustments and changes that have taken place over the past year and these changes can take time to put in place. I really appreciate your patience and support through these changes as you continue to volunteer at ORHS to support the staff and all our animals.

We couldn't do it without you!

# The Dog Pen

Take a beat and reflect on what brought you to ORHS. Perhaps it's working with animals, or giving back to your community, or completing service hours. We all have our reasons. This world we're in, animal welfare, is complicated. It is compassion. It is hope. It is crazy & sad. But, most of all, it's love. While our paths to animal welfare come from all directions, it is our love of animals that undoubtedly unites us. We are all working hard to provide our beloved residents with the best care possible. As we grow, we look forward to being able to provide more information, more opportunities, and more love. Thank you for joining us on our mission.

LA

**Adoptions last month:** Rose, Lucky, Ben, Gertie, Tilly, Bailey, Bear, Gadget and Emmy. Enjoy your furever homes pups!!

## TIPS FOR TAKING PICTURES OF YOUR DOG:

Here is the next tip from Kelly for capturing your dog's personality with just your cell phone camera.

This month's pose -  
The Soulful Eyes



### The Soulful Eyes

A dog speaks through its eyes so get as close as you can, and keep the dog's eyes on you with a toy, sound, treat, etc.



**Saturday Oct. 14th 9 AM -1 PM**

Crafts, Food Fair & Pet Costume Contest Fundraiser

Outdoor Event at Jen's Market in

Lake Oconee Village 1050 Parkside Main,  
Greensboro, GA.

Fundraiser for Morgan County Humane Society &  
Oconee Regional Humane Society



On Site Donation  
for Contest  
\$10 per Household



**Sponsors**



**Trophies & Prizes**

- \* Best Overall Costume
- \* Best Pet/Human Costumes
- \* Most Creative Pet Costume

Information/Pre-Registration  
[www.jens-market.com](http://www.jens-market.com)  
[jennifer@jens-market.com](mailto:jennifer@jens-market.com)

## Ode to the Shelter Volunteer

by: Rebecca Richardson

In August of 2023, I presented myself to a whole new world,  
I went from typing demand letters to writing poems.  
I entered a world of love, sincerity, missions and goals  
Where passion and work is to save animals' souls.  
The immense generosity and loyalty I've seen,  
Are the upmost best qualities that all of you bring.

Oh, the responsibilities that volunteers have.

The rules and regulations put forth that we bring,  
The constant emails and text messages in swing.  
The changes in everyday operations that come,  
And of course the confusion it has brought to some.

**WE ARE A TEAM and we can get through this,  
Not for ourselves but for the animals at risk.**

As I stand here today, 5'3" and true,  
I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know each of you,  
Thank you over and over again for everything you do.



## ORHS PARTNERS WITH VETERINARIAN

ORHS is pleased to announce a new partnership with  
Dr. Andrew Duncan, DVM of Douglas, GA. Dr. Duncan  
joins ORHS as a volunteer veterinarian.

Dr. Duncan will check on our animals weekly, consult on  
injuries/illnesses, monitor treatments and provide rabies  
vaccinations. If/when we have the capability to do spay/  
neuter in-house, he will provide that service as well.

Dr. Duncan is currently a public health veterinarian. He  
is responsible for enforcing Federal meat and poultry  
inspection procedures. He is also a Veterinary  
Preventative Medicine Officer for the US Army Reserve.

## Got the scoop?

If you have an article, picture or some  
interesting news that you would like to see in the  
newsletter, please send your submission to  
[orhs@orhspets.org](mailto:orhs@orhspets.org) with the word **NEWSLETTER**  
on the subject line.



METZGER

# Wine, Wags & Whiskers was a HUGE success!!

The Lake Oconee community came together on September 13th to support ORHS and the well-being of our furry friends during a delightful evening of compassion and camaraderie. Attendees of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Wine, Wags and Whiskers event had the opportunity to taste nine different wines by Rescue Dog Winery, enjoy delicious hors d'oeuvres by the Burch, desserts by Cafe 44, live music by South of Somewhere, bid on incredible silent auction items and live auction items led by Ted Baker, and learn more about the ORHS mission.

The ORHS Wine, Wags, and Whiskers Wine Tasting fundraising event was an outstanding success, thanks to the unwavering support of our dedicated supporters, volunteers, and sponsors. The event, held at The Oconee Brewing Company, brought together animal lovers from all walks of life who share a common goal: to ensure the welfare of animals in need. Through the combined efforts of those who attended, donated, volunteered, and sponsored the event, ORHS was able to raise critical funds to support our goal of reducing pet homelessness and helping pets and their caregivers have the best quality of life.

Thank you to everyone for your help putting the event on and who came out to support ORHS!!



## Thanks to our PAWsome Sponsors!



Our mission is to support the placement of as many rescue dogs as possible into loving homes through wine sales and donations. Our business is producing fine wines; our passion is helping rescue dogs.

Laura and I started planning our new life in wine country in 2015. We knew that we wanted to embrace sustainable growing practices and create a new, more rewarding lifestyle for ourselves. In addition, we knew that we wanted enough land to grow wine grapes AND foster dogs. We knew at some point in time we wanted to create high quality, premium wines. During this period of exploration throughout many of California's wine regions it dawned on us that we could combine our two passions and Rescue Dog Wines was born!

Fast forward a few years and we now are pleased to offer a full lineup of wines, many from our sustainable green neighbor's vineyards or our [Lodi Rules](#) certified vineyard in Acampo, California. Our commitment is to give 50 percent of our profits to rescue dog and charity organizations

*Cheers!*  
Blair and Laura  
President and Chief Giving Officer | Rescue Dog Wines



## PETS LOVE VETS:

Did you know that we have a program available to all veterans, called Pets Love Vets? This program is sponsored by the Greensboro Rotary Club. The rotary pays the adoption fees for a veteran that wishes to adopt an animal from us.

Please help us spread the word about this fantastic program that is so deserving of our military. For more information please contact Tammy at 706-318-8737 or at [tammy@orhspets.org](mailto:tammy@orhspets.org).

### ORHS Wish List

Here is a list of just a few of the items we can always use around the shelter:

- Kitchen size trash bags (33gal)
- Black garbage bags
- 8 1/2 x 11 copy paper
- Dawn dish detergent
- Toilet paper
- Anti-bacterial hand soap
- Bleach
- Sponges
- Disposable gloves (all sizes)
- Paper towels
- HE liquid laundry detergent
- Newspapers

## GETTING TO KNOW ...

### *Kristen Loeb*



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

*For about 18 months*

#### Do you have any pets?

*I am currently the very proud mom of Cannoli. Cannoli came from ORHS where she was formerly known as Lucky. Cannoli was dumped at the rescue with a prolapsed rectum due to a very high parasite load. ORHS took care of all her medical needs, including treating her for heart worms. She has lived with me for over a year.*

#### In which areas do you volunteer?

*I mainly do dog care, 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?

*I have lived here part time for the last 5 years as I was the primary caregiver of my elderly parents. I have a home in Johns Creek, which is a suburb of Atlanta.*

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

*I have a husband, Niel and two adult children. My son, Tyler, lives in New Orleans. My daughter, Emily lives in Asheville.*

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

*I enjoy cooking, gardening, doing puzzles, and many different craft activities. I also teach a class for people experiencing mild cognitive impairment secondary to diagnoses of Dementia or Alzheimer's.*

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

*I am so lucky to be a volunteer at ORHS! I have made some very good friends, learned so much, and get to help dogs get ready for their forever homes. Don't underestimate the healing powers of working hard and getting to care for so many fabulous pups!*

## ORHS Volunteer Program

Growth within any type of organization is always a great problem to have, but sometimes growth and change can be very difficult and at ORHS we are definitely growing and changing. Even with all of the changes being made, it has not gone unnoticed that you have all been graciously adjusting to it!

Currently we have over 160 volunteers! As you can imagine, with that many volunteers to take care of, it has become a much larger job than any one person can handle! Along with the many other tasks that we are responsible for it is sometimes the equivalent of doing the work of 2+ people. Yes, we are spread thin, but we always prioritize what is most important—the animals. While we would love to accommodate each volunteer’s wishes, it just isn’t always possible. We greatly appreciate everyone understanding this as it helps to lessen stressful situations we face every day in animal welfare.

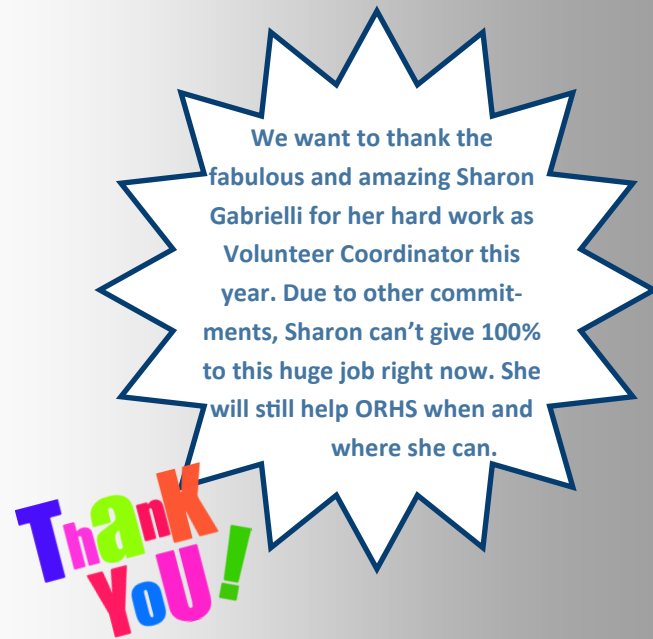
Should you have any issues, please contact:

### For scheduling:

Rebecca Richardson, Animal Care Specialist  
706-817-3330  
rebecca@orhspets.org

### For all volunteer related issues:

Tammy Ellis, Office Administrator  
706-318-8737  
tammy@orhspets.org



## Volgistics Home Page

Keep your eyes open to the Volgistics Home Page for ORHS news related items, such as resources, staff and volunteer directory, ORHS Newsletters, etc. If you have any ideas of other things you would like to see on the home page, please send Tammy an email with your ideas or stop by the office at any time.

## Posting Volunteers Hours

As we have mentioned in the past, we would like to recognize volunteers for their service hours to ORHS. The only way that this can be accomplished is through VicNet. Each volunteer must access VicNet either on their computer or through the app. Once you are logged in, click on the SERVICE tab, which you will find at the top on your computer or at the bottom on the app. Now, simply enter the required information.

See the sample on the right 

For those that don't volunteer through a shift, you can still add your volunteer time under "Other Volunteer Areas" then under "Service Notes" simply put a brief description

For Fosters, your time will be entered in as days instead of hours.

If you need any help with this please let Tammy know and she will have a step by step process that she can send you or you can stop by the office at anytime.

The screenshot shows the 'Post Service' form in the VicNet app. At the top is the ORHS logo. The form fields are: 'Date of Service\*' with a calendar icon and a value of 9/27/2023; 'Hours' (empty); 'Assignment\*' (dropdown menu); 'Shifts' with a value of 1; and 'Service notes' (text area with 0/500 characters). A 'Post' button is at the bottom. A navigation bar at the very bottom has icons for Home, Mail, Schedule, and Service.



**The Director's Cut (con't from pg. 1)**

My reflection on this year with all we have accomplished is fueling me for next year's goals to save more animals, help more owners to keep their pets happy and healthy, and reduce pet overpopulation through spay/neuter. And of course, I can't forget, ways for us to fund these programs and the assets needed to deliver on them.

Which brings me back to the ORHS family. Without the volunteers, fosters, staff, and board we cannot deliver on our mission. So much goes on behind the scenes of a successful humane society. It is a 24/7 operation. For all of you who support the organization, us and the animals, Thank you for an amazing first year!



**Holiday Card Pet Photos!**

Open to everyone, this annual Pets with Santa returns once again this year to Harbor Club. On Saturday, October 14th from 10am to 3pm all pets and family members are welcome and no signup required. Cost is \$20 and donations are welcome!

Photos will be taken by photographer Leigh Lofgren and all your pet photos will be emailed to you. They will also be available online at [www.leighlofgren.com](http://www.leighlofgren.com)

under Pets with Santa 2023. Wildlife prints will also be on sale and a percentage of the proceeds will go to the ORHS.

**ALL PROCEEDS FOR PETS WITH SANTA GO TO ORHS**

When you get to Security, just tell them you are going to Pets with Santa and once through, take the first left into the Grove. Building is on the left. Dog park is next door. Park and come on in.



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

## 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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facebook.com/  
oconeeregionalhumanesociety



**FOLLOW US**  
**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)