2020 Comes to a Close

Dear Friends,

As 2020 starts to come to a close, I hope you and your loved ones are staying well.

This has been a challenging year, but I wanted to share some good news with you that will help your gift to the Kentucky Humane Society go twice as far.

The Frazier-Joy Family Foundation has generously offered to match – dollar for dollar – every gift the Kentucky Humane Society receives before Dec. 31 … up to a total of $35,000.

So many animals and people in our community are hurting right now. The struggling economy has cut donations, and more animals than ever before are in crisis. If you can make a special gift to help the animals, we would be so grateful!

KHS is our state’s largest pet adoption agency and spay/neuter provider. Thanks to compassionate people like you, we take in and find homes for more than 6,000 cats, dogs and horses every year, and provide critical resources to pet owners in need. We help animals not only in Jefferson County, but from all corners of Kentucky.

But we can only do it with your support. Please make a life-changing difference for animals in need by making a special donation to KHS. Your gift will help us meet this matching gift challenge, so that twice as many animals will be impacted by your generosity.

Wishing you a safe and peaceful holiday season.

Sincerely,

Lori Kane Redmon
President and CEO

The Paw Street Journal is a quarterly publication of the Kentucky Humane Society. Questions or comments may be addressed to the Public Relations Department, (502) 515-3152 or info@kyhumane.org. Circ.: 18,500

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Cover photo of Twiggy by Jennifer Schoenegge, jenniserschoenegge.com
Twiggy’s Triumph

Starving stray puppy makes miraculous recovery

In June, a woman knocked on the Kentucky Humane Society’s Admissions door, a small blanket in her arms. The staff gently unwrapped the contents. They were shocked at what they saw. A skeletal Chihuahua in critical condition – barely breathing, on the brink of death. Her body scale was a 1 out of 9 – the lowest possible before death by starvation. She barely weighed a pound. The staff rushed the stray puppy to the KHS veterinarian.

At first, Dr. Emily Bewley was not sure if the little dog would survive more than an hour.

“She was unresponsive, and her body temperature was 10 degrees lower than normal. But we promised her we would do everything we could to try to save her,” said Dr. Bewley.

Dr. Bewley and her team began the slow and gut-wrenching process of trying to save her life. They warmed the little dog with a heating blanket and inserted an IV to provide fluids – trying to avoid organ shut down. They held her so that if she died, she would know she was not alone.

Over the next several hours, this tiny dog started to open her eyes, and she licked food from a staff’s hand. But she was not even close to being out of the woods. It would take weeks of special care if she was going to survive.

The veterinary team took turns taking her home at night – feeding her every two hours and monitoring her condition.

“We were just calling her Little Chi – superstitious that if we named her, she would die. Well, almost two weeks later this little girl got her name – Twiggy!” said veterinary technician Angela Mikesell.

Each day, Twiggy got stronger. Soon, Twiggy had doubled her weight, and she blossomed into a confident, playful puppy. Her new family couldn’t wait to adopt her. Twiggy will spend this Christmas safe and warm with a family who adores her. She will never be hungry or cold again.

It’s what we want for every animal who comes through our doors. Your support makes our lifesaving work possible. Your donations allow us to give Kentucky’s needy animals lifesaving medical care, nutritious food, kindness — and forever homes. Your gift makes miracles like this possible! Thank you for supporting animals like Twiggy!

Have Your Gift Matched

The Frazier-Joy Family Foundation has offered to match all donations received before Dec. 31 – up to a total of $35,000. Have your gift doubled by returning the envelope in this magazine or by visiting our website, kyhumane.org.

If you prefer to mail your gift, the address is Kentucky Humane Society, 1000 Lyndon Lane Suite B, Louisville KY 40222.
Ariel Survives Fish Hook

In the middle of the pandemic, another animal needed saving. This time a young kitten, found by a Good Samaritan.

The tiny kitten was wandering a neighborhood at night, crying in pain and confusion. Horrifically, a large fishhook pierced through the soft pallet of her mouth and up into her eye. The Good Samaritan rushed her to a local emergency veterinary clinic, which removed the sharp hook.

The next day, Ariel – as we named her – came to the Kentucky Humane Society. Our veterinarian hoped that after the fishhook was removed, Ariel’s eye could heal. But that was not the case. That cruel hook had damaged Ariel’s eye beyond repair. It had to be removed. As Rebecca van Schepen, our veterinary assistant, held Ariel before her surgery, she purred, knowing that she was in loving arms.

After surgery, Ariel went into foster care with Yuko, a KHS volunteer who specializes in rehabilitating injured cats. In her foster home, Ariel played with feline friends and made the family laugh – just what a young, healthy kitten should be doing!

No one can imagine how an injury like this happened – we hope it was not intentional. All we can do is pick up the pieces of each hurt, neglected or abused animal that comes to us, provide them medical care, teach them that humans can be kind and loving – and give them a second chance at a happy life.

Strawberry & Rocky Run Free

In May, an animal control officer called about two horses surrendered by their owner. Over 10 years ago, the owner had a riding accident that left her severely injured, so her mother took over care of the horses. By taking care, that meant providing hay and water in their 12 x 12 ft. stalls – and that was all. It turned out, the mother was afraid of the horses, so for almost a decade, these two horses did not leave their dark and dirty stalls.

They lived side by side – in separate stalls, one small window looking out on the green pastures that they were denied access to. These horses entered this prison when they were just one year old. They were not provided farrier service, so their hooves grew for all those years – curling up, making it painful for them to stand or walk, what little they could, in their stalls.

Once the two Quarter Horses arrived at the KHS Willow Hope Farm, our staff began their long rehabilitation. Our equine team introduced them to new experiences – grass and warm sunshine, the ability to run and have interaction with other beings, both equine and human. We took time to gain their trust and allow them to adjust to all the things they had been deprived of for such a long time.

The farrier trimmed those long hooves, and with proper food, medical care and sunshine, their coats are now shiny and smooth – revealing two magnificent horses. Today Strawberry and Rocky are running in green sunlit pastures, making new horse and human friends and finally enjoying the life they deserve after a decade of imprisonment.
With more time at home, many people are choosing to adopt a new companion animal. But the pandemic has also created some unique challenges – including how to socialize your puppy.

Proper socialization is immensely important to helping ensure your puppy will grow into a happy, well-adjusted and confident dog – which helps reduce future problems such as fear, anxiety and anti-social behavior.

A lot of sounds can seem strange and concerning to our dogs, but you can help make new sounds fun! For example, find a recording of thunder or turn on the vacuum and give your pup some treats. Pair these sounds with good things, and they become a lot less scary.

Meeting other dogs is important, but when this isn’t possible, we can still help our puppies develop social skills. When you’re out in the world and see another dog, reward your puppy for checking in with you so they associate seeing another dog with rewards from you.

If you have family or friends with dogs, that’s wonderful – but be sure to choose your puppy’s dog friends carefully. Your puppy needs good experiences with calm, polite dogs who won’t scare or overwhelm them, so they can learn that other dogs are fun.

Our pups might not meet many new people right now, but playing “dress up” can go a long way. Work on your basic obedience skills while you’re wearing a silly hat, sunglasses, a puffy coat or your mask. You can practice crawling, skipping or using a cane. Get creative! Friends and family can help too, even from a safe distance. The goal is to teach your pup to associate new friends that look strange to them with great things.

Keep things fun and positive for your puppy. Even just sitting and watching the world go by is good for socialization. If your dog seems shy or fearful, don’t hesitate to reach out to one of our certified trainers. We are here to help! Contact our Behavior Department at 502-253-2883.

New! Puppy and Teenage Socials
To help young puppies and “teenage” pups, KHS is now offering Puppy Socials, composed of 45-minute sessions of age-appropriate socialization exercises, off-leash play with other puppies, written homework for families, and a live video stream with commentary from a KHS certified behavior trainer. Puppy socials are available in two age groups – puppies 8-15 weeks old and puppy “teens” age 4-6 months. Learn more by calling 502-253-2883 or visiting kyhumane.org/behavior-training.

Need Help? Call Our Pet Help Line
Are you or someone you know struggling financially during the pandemic and having trouble caring for your animal? Call our Pet Help Line, 502-509-4738 or email helpline@kyhumane.org. Thanks to grants from GreaterGood.org, Banfield Foundation, Dogs Trust USA, The Grey Muzzle Organization and others, KHS can provide pet food and vouchers for veterinary care, emergency boarding, dog training and other services to families who qualify.
We’ve Gone Virtual!

During the pandemic, we’re adapting to a new reality, but our mission remains the same. We are grateful and amazed that so many supporters have stuck with us, even as our biggest events of the year went virtual in 2020.

Waggin’ Trail Walk for the Animals

Our annual Waggin’ Trail Walk for the Animals was rescheduled for August 9 as a virtual event. We are thrilled that 215 people signed up online to walk with their dogs on their own, and to raise much-needed funds for our shelter animals!

We want to give a big shout out to Megan Decker, our talented Media Manager and top Waggin’ Trail fundraiser, who raised $3,670. Megan walked in honor of Opie, her 14-year-old rescue dog. We also want to recognize our sponsors:

Feeders Supply, Purrfect Day Café, Pet First Pet Insurance, Oxmoor Toyota, and Park Community Credit Union 🐾

Peace of Mind for Your Pet’s Future

At the Kentucky Humane Society (KHS), we understand pets are more than just companions: they are family.

What would happen if you were no longer able to care for your pets? They have given us so much: unconditional love, joy and comfort. Preparing for their safety and security in the event of our absence is the final, but perhaps most significant, act of this lifelong friendship.

KHS’ Pet Guardianship Program helps provide a bright future for pets who outlive their owners. By enrolling in the Pet Guardianship Program when you make a planned gift to KHS, you have our promise to immediately receive and care for your beloved companions and place them into new homes.

Your pets depend on you to meet their needs – and KHS promises to be there for them when you no longer can.

To learn more, contact Kristin Binkowski, Planned Giving Specialist, at 502-515-3147 or kbinkowski@kyhumane.org 🐾

Tuxes & Tails Gala

What an incredible evening we had on September 19! Our Tuxes & Tails Gala was held all online, and supporters as far away as Australia tuned in! We are so grateful for the almost 500 people who “attended” the online event, bid on auction items and donated, as well as the generous businesses and artists who provided auction items.

A special part of Tuxes & Tails is when we invite people to support our TLC (Tender Loving Care) Fund, which helps pay for medical or behavioral help for our most fragile shelter animals. We are thrilled that supporters gave over $73,000 to this special fund – enough for us to provide critical care to over 200 animals in the next 12 months.

Presenting Sponsor:

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Lifelong Friends

Providing for Pets in Need Today, Tomorrow and Beyond

Become a member of the Kentucky Humane Society’s Lifelong Friends program when you designate KHS as a beneficiary of a planned gift. Future generations depend on the important decisions you make today. Already have KHS listed in your estate plans? Please let us know so we can honor your compassionate decision.

Kristin Binkowski | 502-515-3147
Meaningful Holiday Gifts

Are you looking for unique holiday gifts for your loved ones? Here are a few ideas that also benefit the animals at the Kentucky Humane Society.

**Pawtique**
Shop our Pawtique for animal-themed gifts, such as “Keep Louisville Purring” hoodies or “Keep Louisville Wagging” shirts, “Proud Dog Mom” or “Proud Cat Dad” T-shirts and much more. We recommend you order early, as each item is printed on demand, and some items are taking longer during the pandemic. [kyhumane.org/pawtique](http://kyhumane.org/pawtique)

**Dedication Paver**
Honor or memorialize a two- or four-legged friend with an engraved brick at the Kentucky Humane Society’s Sam Swope Pet Treatment & Lifesaving Center; 4”x8” pavers are $100 and 8”x8” pavers are $250. [kyhumane.org/honor-gifts](http://kyhumane.org/honor-gifts)

**Amazon Smile**
If you shop Amazon, use smile.amazon.com to have Amazon donate .5% of all your eligible purchases to the charity of your choice. Amazon Smile has the same products, same prices and same service, at no cost to you. So far this year, KHS has received over $3,000 through this program!

**KHS Pet Calendar**
When you visit Feeders Supply after Thanksgiving, be sure to purchase a KHS Pet Calendar. It makes for a great stocking stuffer, and features adorable local animals.

**Sponsor an Animal**
Did you know you can sponsor any adoptable animal at KHS? Sponsorships help all pets who come to KHS by offsetting the costs of food, shelter, enrichment and veterinary care. You can sponsor as much or as little as you wish, and you can make your gift in honor of a loved one. We’ll send them a card to let them know about your generosity. [kyhumane.org/sponsor-a-pet](http://kyhumane.org/sponsor-a-pet)

**Holiday Plans?**
We’ll take great care of your 4-legged family member

While you’re away, entrust your best friend to the animal experts at the Kentucky Humane Society Pet Resorts, where we love your pet like our own. Offering overnight boarding, Doggie Daycare and all-breed grooming. Holidays book up early, so call us today. Proceeds benefit shelter pets! [kyhumane.org/petresorts](http://kyhumane.org/petresorts)

Eastpoint Pet Resort, 13310 Magisterial Dr., 502-253-2221 | Fern Creek Pet Resort, 5225 Bardstown Rd., 502-499-1910
Eloise is a two-month-old kitten who came to KHS diagnosed with Pectus Excavatum – meaning that her sternum is a bit misshapen. She had the best little personality but was passed over by many adopters because of her condition. Charles had almost adopted another one of our kittens but decided he wanted to see Eloise and give her a chance. Eloise was quick to connect with him so he knew she was the one! Thank you so much for giving our sweet, special needs kitty a great home! 🐾

Four-month-old Daisy came to KHS when her family could no longer care for her. The Kirk family met her at our East Campus and it was love at first tail wag! They decided to adopt our little princess and we couldn’t be happier for them. Congratulations, Daisy! 🐾