Returning to Our Roots

Equine programs help Kentucky’s horses

S.N.I.P. Clinic offers wellness services

Join Waggin’ Trail at Waterfront Park
From the Mailbox

Like He’s Lived Here Always

I’d like to update you on Buster. He seems to fit right in. He’s made himself at home. He loves belly rubs and treats. We cannot believe how sweet and loving he is already to all of us. It doesn’t feel like there’s been any transition period. It’s like he’s lived here always. We would like to thank his previous two families for raising such a sweetie!

Laurie Schock

Adopt an Older Pet

Every day Leo’s sweet nature is a joy to experience in our household. I would highly recommend adopting an older cat or dog so they can enjoy life. Leo is 13 years old, and he is now learning tricks like sit and trying to do “high fives” because he has seen our two other cats do them. Leo loves treat times and getting his tummy scratched. We’ve caught him playing with toy mice a few times, too. We are thrilled he has taken to his new home and hope others are inspired to give older animals a chance. They are truly a blessing.

Charity King-Harl

Good Friends

Here is a photo of Liberty and Bubba sleeping close together. They really do like each other. We’ve had Liberty for a month and a half and we love her. I’m so glad her picture was posted on Facebook by the Kentucky Humane Society!

Kim Wirth
Dear Friends,

About two years ago, I received a call from an animal control officer in Eastern Kentucky. He had 27 stray horses who needed foster placement and rehabilitation. While looking for food and salt, they had begun to destroy property and became a public safety hazard by wandering onto the roads.

This wasn’t the first time I’d heard of these free-roaming horses in Eastern Kentucky, so I committed to making a trip out to Appalachia to see for myself what the talk was all about. I was amazed by what I saw: hundreds of horses grazing on coal reclamation sites, previously mined and now re-seeded pasture land like something you would see in Wyoming. But these horses were not wild. Some were abandoned by local owners who could no longer afford to feed or provide veterinary care. Others were owned, but were left to forage for themselves. Some were starving or suffered from injuries. Still others were born out there and had never been handled by humans.

That visit in 2012 was an eye opener. Here in Kentucky – the horse capital of the world – were hundreds, if not thousands, of abandoned horses. With the blessing of our board, the KHS leadership team started to investigate what we could do to help. The culmination of that research led to the creation of our equine program, which we announced in February.

The launch of an equine program marks a return to our roots. In 1884, KHS was founded to advocate for water troughs for carriage horses in Louisville. While our focus in recent years has been dog and cat welfare, we have not forgotten our origins.

In this issue of the Paw Street Journal, you’ll find the story of a special horse who gave hope and love to a hurting woman. You’ll also learn more about our equine programs and how KHS plans to help horses in our state. To learn more, please visit www.kyhumane.org/horses.

While we are excited to add horses to the animals we assist, you can be assured that KHS remains steadfast in our mission of providing spay/neuter, education and adoption for cats and dogs. Your donations support our lifesaving mission as Kentucky’s largest no-kill animal shelter. Thank you for your commitment to helping those who cannot help themselves.

Sincerely,

Lori Kane Redmon
President and CEO

By the Numbers
(December 1, 2014 – February 28, 2015)

1,550 pets found homes from December 2014 to February 2015. Of those, 633 were felines and 917 were canines.

2,418 pets were spayed or neutered at our high-quality, donor-supported S.N.I.P Clinic from December through February. Since opening in 2007, the clinic has altered more than 72,000 cats and dogs from Louisville and surrounding counties.

On the Cover

Christy was aching from the loss of her spouse. Jigsaw filled the void and gave her renewed hope.

The Paw Street Journal is a quarterly publication of the Kentucky Humane Society. Questions or comments may be addressed to the Public Relations Department at (502) 515-3152 or info@kyhumane.org. Circulation: 12,000

In an instant, everything changed. Christy Feeney received a devastating phone call on October 24, 2014. Her husband had died in a horrific motorcycle accident at age 39. Chaz (short for Charles) and Christy had been together for a decade. They had been best friends, soul mates.

Now, everything she had hoped for was gone. Chaz’s career, her career, dreams for the future – all gone. Her father had died when she was 15. Thankfully, she still had the support of her mom, Betsy, and stepdad, Art. Christy also had her good friend Casey, who wasn’t going to let Christy sink into despair.

Christy mentioned to Casey that she had always wanted to go horseback riding. Casey latched onto that – hoping a lesson would help ease Christy’s grief, if only for a moment.

Christy arrived at Dark Horse Training Center in Simpsonville, KY, excited but overwhelmed just a week after Chaz’s death. After receiving pointers from instructor Mary Rose Sawicki, Christy climbed onto the back of a gentle horse.

“I had been standing in the barn crying, but as soon as I was on a horse, I forgot about everything,” she says.

For Christy, it was an instant connection. From the time she could walk, Christy had been obsessed with horses. As a girl, she collected Breyer horse figurines. She read every equine book she could find. But until that day in November, she had never ridden.

“Once I was in that saddle, it felt so right – like I knew this was what I was supposed to be doing,” she says.

For the first time since Chaz’s death, Christy felt like she could breathe, she could focus. She felt free.

“There’s a saying I love – ‘When you ride a horse, you borrow freedom,’” she says.

Christmas came around, and Christy told her family she didn’t feel like celebrating. Betsy suggested they break from tradition and go horseback riding instead. On Christmas day, Betsy, Art and Christy went out to the training facility. Christy didn’t realize it, but Betsy had a surprise: waiting in a stall was a horse for Christy!

There was Jigsaw, a beautiful – but fearful – 10-month-old paint foal.

For Christy, “It was love at first sight. He was my little baby,” she says.

Jigsaw had been born wild in Eastern Kentucky. He and his mother, Cheyenne, had a hard go at it. When they were found last winter on reclaimed coal-mining land in Knott County, KY, by KHS President & CEO Lori Redmon, Cheyenne was rail thin and pregnant once again. Jigsaw was still nursing, which was further depleting the scant bit of nutrition Cheyenne was finding on the mountain top. They couldn’t survive much longer on their own.

Cheyenne’s owner had died, and his widow wanted nothing to do with the horses, so they were looking at a lifetime of fending for themselves and competing for limited food in the winter. Given the situation they were in, Lori asked if KHS could take the horses. The widow agreed, and Cheyenne and Jigsaw were transported to safety in the Louisville area. Lori and her husband, Kevin, took on the care of Cheyenne and her unborn
foal, and a KHS volunteer with knowledge of horse training provided a temporary foster home for Jigsaw.

“Jigsaw was essentially a feral horse,” says Lori. “Everything scared him, and he panicked easily. We knew he would need months to build his trust and confidence.”

Jigsaw would be a challenge to train. Just the kind of challenge Christy needed.

Every day, Christy spent time with Jigsaw. Slowly, Jigsaw became less fearful. And slowly, Christy could see a bit of hope for herself.

“These two have been through so much trauma, and they really needed each other,” says Lori. “Jigsaw needed to learn to trust people. Christy needed to learn how to open up her heart.”

In the meantime, Betsy and Art had fallen in love with the horses too. The family decided they had room in their hearts and a home for Cheyenne and her new foal, Apache, who was born in January. For now, all three horses are residing at Dark Horse Training Center. Christy continues to work with Mary Rose to ensure Jigsaw and Apache receive the training they need and to help sweet Cheyenne continue to blossom. But Christy is looking forward to the day when they will be at her mother’s and step dad’s horse farm in Goshen. Betsy and Art share her enthusiasm.

“Our entire family feels we need a new start. Life has to be completely different than it used to be. Jigsaw, Cheyenne and Apache are helping us create new meaning in our lives,” says Christy.

For Christy, that means not only falling in love with horses: it also means a new career path. She plans to pursue a master’s degree in occupational therapy. Her goal? To use equine therapy to help people recover from physical or emotional trauma.

“Horses are saving my life. Animals have a healing power, and I want others to experience that healing,” she says.

Returning to Our Roots – Horses

Nothing defines the culture of Kentucky better than the state’s passion for horses. One visit to Kentucky’s horse country and it’s easy to see why we are internationally known as the horse capital of the world.

In 1884, the Kentucky Humane Society (KHS) was founded to advocate for water troughs for carriage horses. While our primary focus in recent years has been dog and cat welfare, we have not forgotten our equine roots.

Over the last few years, KHS has been working to incorporate equine welfare back into our scope of services. We have made a commitment to find solutions for neglected, abused or abandoned horses in Kentucky, and to ultimately reduce the number of unwanted horses that may wind up in bad situations in the future.

There is an overwhelming need: rescues are overcrowded, funding is limited for county shelters to house equines, laws are antiquated, and education about responsible horse care is often lacking. This scenario often leaves horses in tragic and helpless situations.

KHS is dedicated to honoring our original purpose for coming into existence – to help horses. In 2015, KHS launched an equine program to focus on helping the companion or recreational horse. The program will include moving horses from crisis into safe homes or rescue agencies, providing online re-homing services to horse owners who can no longer keep them, matching available horses with adopters, implementing gelding and wellness clinics, and making educational tools and resources available.

Learn More

Learn more about KHS’ Equine programs, including how to make a gift for horses. Email horses@kyhumane.org or visit www.kyhumane.org/horses.
If you answer the Kentucky Humane Society’s Pet Help Line like Katy McClellan does, a pattern quickly emerges. Call after call, pet owners are looking for affordable veterinary care.

“So many times pet owners call because they are facing difficult financial decisions. They may have to choose between paying the electric bill or getting their pets vaccinated,” says Katy.

To help financially strapped pet owners – and to ensure that pets in our community are healthy – in April the Kentucky Humane Society’s S.N.I.P. Clinic launched its Healthy Pets Program. The program, which provides low-cost wellness exams and vaccines for owned animals, is open every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the S.N.I.P. Clinic in Louisville.

“Our goal is to ensure every pet owner in our community has access to preventive care for dogs and cats,” says Karen Koenig, Kentucky Humane Society Community Outreach Director. “This program will help keep pets healthy, leading to fewer sick animals in our community and in local shelters.”

Healthy Pets Program wellness exams for cats are $20 and include two core vaccinations—rabies and FVRCP. The $30 wellness exams for dogs include three core vaccinations—rabies, distemper parvo, and bordetella. Other services include flea preventives at $15 per dose; $10 heartworm tests for dogs; $20 FeLV/FIV tests for cats; heartworm preventives for $25–$43 for six months; $25 microchipping; $10 fecal exams; $4–$15 deworming; and $7 nail trims.

Rachel Brown, DVM, is the Healthy Pets Program veterinarian. She teaches veterinary sciences at Brown-Mackey College and has been a shelter veterinarian. The Healthy Pets Program will not diagnose or treat illness or injury. Owners of pets that need more care will be given a list of vets in their area.

Appointments are not needed, and pets are helped on a first-come, first-serve basis on Saturdays. To learn more, visit www.kyhumane.org/snip.

The S.N.I.P. Clinic provides affordable, high-quality spay/neuter surgeries Tuesday–Friday. Since opening in 2007, the clinic has spayed or neutered more than 72,000 dogs and cats.

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Dora’s Story

Eight-year-old Dora had a rough start to life. Her legs are bowed. Her teeth were filed. Her sides had numerous scars. Her heart was enlarged many times over from heartworm. But Dora is a survivor and a wiggly, happy girl, and she deserved a good home.

Mary Gaskins had been looking for a dog for months. She had at first thought about getting her older dog, also named Dora, a companion. When her dog passed away, she continued her search for the right dog at KHS. Mary walked past the older dog, but her children’s father noticed Dora in the KHS Main Campus lobby and suggested they bring her some treats before they left. Mary agreed and went to look at the other dogs.

None of the other dogs seemed perfect for the family, so they returned to the lobby, where Mary learned the old dog’s name: Dora. She went in to visit Dora. Dora greeted her as though they had always been family. Mary brought in her two-year-old son and watched how gently the dog played with her boy. Mary decided that Dora should come home with her.

Dora quickly became a part of the family. Mary says that Dora really appreciates having a home and loves everyone who is a part of the family. Mary says that she thinks adopting Dora was a great decision.

Dora still needs to continue heartworm treatments, so the family brings her in every month. Such treatments are paid for by KHS and will continue until Dora is heartworm negative. Between treatments, Dora is treated like a queen, with children to play and snuggle with, and she knows this is her forever home.
What’s the best way to create a better future for pets? First, increase pet adoptions and opportunities for spay/neuter surgeries. Second, create proactive programs that help keep pets in their homes and out of shelters.

With this philosophy, the Kentucky Humane Society (KHS) has become a national leader in the humane industry. KHS offers pet adoptions at nine sites throughout Louisville. Our S.N.I.P. Clinic provides affordable spay/neuter surgeries for owned pets. And increasingly, KHS is offering programs to support pet owners so they are better able to keep their pets.

“Reducing the number of animals needing to come to shelters is key to saving lives,” says Lori Redmon, KHS President & CEO. “With fewer unwanted animals, we can ensure best outcomes for shelter pets.”

This two-pronged approach is a winning strategy—but it is expensive. That’s why we are so grateful to grant providers and to private donors who support our mission.

In February 2015, the ASPCA (American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) awarded KHS $65,250 in grants.

The grants will help fund programs designed to give owners the tools they need to keep pets in their homes and out of shelters. These include:

- KHS’ free Pet Help Line, 502-509-4PET, which provides free behavioral advice and connects owners to local pet resources, such as low-cost veterinary care, pet food banks and pet-friendly apartment guides.
- Reduced fees for spay/neuter surgeries at the KHS S.N.I.P. Clinic to ensure lack of financial resources is not a barrier to altering pets.
- Community outreach resources, such as training tools, vouchers for KHS’ new Healthy Pets Program (see page 6), and spay/neuter and vaccine assistance for animals using the KHS Courtesy Re-homing Service.
- Increased veterinarian support at the shelter.

The grants will help ensure best care for shelter pets by supporting:

- A foster coordinator who ensures fragile pets receive TLC in volunteers’ homes. Thanks to funding for this position last year, KHS was able to save every healthy kitten in our community’s two largest shelters.
- A behavior evaluator who ensures each pet is evaluated before adoption. Animals who need behavioral assistance are referred to the KHS shelter behavior team for help.
- A part-time veterinary assistant who aids the KHS veterinary team. This team provides medical assessments and care for more than 7,000 needy pets a year.

The ASPCA chose Louisville as its 2013 Partner Community, with participating agencies KHS, Louisville Metro Animal Services and Alley Cat Advocates, a local nonprofit dedicated to spaying and neutering unowned cats.

Through the five-year partnership, Louisville’s participating agencies receive expert advice, data analysis and funding opportunities. The goal is to jointly save more animal lives by increasing the number of pets who are adopted, increasing spay/neuter surgeries and expanding programs that reduce the number of pets turned in to shelters. Learn more at www.kyhumane.org/aboutus.
Paw
Street Journal

If you live in Louisville, chances are you’ve seen photos of happy local families with their happy pit bull terriers all over town. Called Pit Bull Dogs Are Family, the awareness campaign aims to help get more local shelter dogs into loving, permanent homes.

Thanks to generous support from local media, the campaign has been featured in The Courier-Journal, Louisville Magazine, Today’s Woman, Today’s Family, Metro TV, WDRB, WHAS11, iHeartMedia and others, and the ads have been on 60 TARC buses and numerous billboards.

The campaign, which features photographs of local families taken by former KHS board member Beth Andrews of Beth Andrews Fine Photography, is funded by national animal welfare organization Best Friends Animal Society. The campaign is a collaboration between Louisville Metro Animal Services (LMAS), the Kentucky Humane Society (KHS) and Saving Sunny.

“Our goal is to show everyday people with their everyday dogs,” says KHS PR/Marketing Director Andrea Blair. “People from all walks of life share their homes with pit bull terriers.”

KHS, LMAS and Saving Sunny are all members of Best Friends Animal Society’s No More Homeless Pets Network Partners. Learn more about Best Friends at www.bestfriends.org.

The Best Friends-funded awareness campaign is just one part of a holistic approach to find loving homes for shelter animals and to provide families with support they need to keep their companion animals.

How else is Best Friends helping KHS assist local pets?

Free Spay/Neuter Surgeries

In 2014-2015, KHS received Best Friends funding to provide free spay/neuter surgeries to 1,500 owned pit bull terriers. More than 800 dogs have already been altered at the KHS S.N.I.P. Clinic thanks to these grant monies.

“Spaying and neutering is critical to ending pet overpopulation,” says Karen Koenig, KHS Community Outreach Director. “It’s the best way to ensure every pet is a wanted pet and to reduce the number of animals coming into local shelters.”

To schedule your pet’s spay/neuter surgery, contact the S.N.I.P. Clinic at www.kyhumane.org/snip or 502-636-FIX1.

Subsidized Cat Adoptions

Last December KHS found itself in a bit of a jam: adult cats were filling up the adoption floors, and adopters were choosing kittens and younger cats instead. Cats taking longer to be adopted meant there was a long waiting list for adult cats who needed our help. Grant monies from Best Friends allowed us to reduce adoption fees on adult cats for qualified adopters. That month, 195 adult cats found their forever homes thanks to the subsidized fees.

We thank Best Friends, and all our supporters large and small, for supporting our lifesaving efforts.
Take a Walk!

Waggin’ Trail Walk for the Animals, presented by Hill’s Pet Nutrition, is only a month away. Have you signed up to raise money for our shelter pets? There are a great many reasons to join us on May 16 at Waterfront Park’s Big Four Lawn. Here are just a few:

Walk with people united in a belief that shelter pets deserve a better life. It’s always fun to gather with people who feel the same way you do about animals. Enjoy the comradery while helping our shelter pets have a better life.

Come for the walk, stay for the festival. This year, we’re having live music by Ghost Holler and Dick Chaney, food, beer and wine, vendor booths, kid’s games and contests to make this event more festive than ever. Even if you aren’t interested in walking, gather pledges and just come for the fun.

Win fabulous prizes. The more donations you get, the more fun swag you receive. We’ll have t-shirts, lights for your dog’s collar, captain’s chairs and other great prizes that will make it even more fun to raise the funds our shelter pets need.

So what are you waiting for? Join in the fun, and help us improve the lives of homeless pets. Sign up today by visiting www.kyhumane.org/wtrail-2015.

We’d like to thank our sponsors for helping to make Waggin’ Trail 2015 possible:

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Kitten Shower

On February 28, we held our Kitten Shower. The shower gives the Kentucky Humane Society an opportunity to provide attendees with information about fostering, to share information about the importance of spay and neuter programs, and, of course, to have fun. Guests brought wonderful gifts of Kitten Milk Replacer (KMR), toys, litter boxes and many other items needed to care for young kittens.

The staff had food, literature and gift baskets for the many people who attended. Children made cat toys, had their faces painted and enjoyed the company of adorable kittens. Adults learned about fostering opportunities and spent time with the kittens too.

We’d like to thank all our attendees for their donations of time and kitten items. Those of you who love cats know how important their contributions will be.

Dog Day at the Park

At the time of publication, our first Dog Day at the Park at Slugger Field, April 14, has passed. We hope that all enjoyed the event, and we want to thank Slugger Field and the Louisville Bats for inviting dog lovers and their dogs to the ball game. The next Dog Day at the Park will be June 16. We will have doggie pools to keep the pups cool and volunteers to help you find the pup section in the ball park.

Pegasus Parade

This year, the Kentucky Humane Society will represent our shelter pets at the Pegasus Parade. Shelter dogs will join staff and volunteers as we walk to represent our pets. We hope that our family of shelter pet supporters will cheer us on as we travel down Broadway in Louisville.

Tuxes & Tails

Mark your calendar! This year’s Tuxes & Tails will be held August 15 at the Galt House. The theme is The Great Catsby and Barking 20s. Tuxes & Tails, presented by Brown-Forman, kicks off with a silent auction, open bar, hors d’oeuvres and adoptable pets, followed by dinner and a live auction. The evening ends with dancing to the music of Old School Band. This year’s event will have flappers strutting their stuff, having fun and supporting KHS.

Tuxes & Tails is our biggest fundraiser of the year and helps us care for even more dogs and cats in need of shelter. Please join us for the fun and give generously.
The Kentucky Humane Society would like to thank the following donors for their generous contributions between December 1, 2014 and February 28, 2015.

$500 or more:

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Thanks
Two-year-old Amia writes a home where there is a sunny spot to relax and people to love her and let her relax with them. She’s sitting at our Main Campus.
Lula is a one-year-old Chihuahua terrier mix. She’s fun-loving and loves a comfortable lap. She’s available at the Preston Feeders Supply adoption center.
Nine-year-old Boomer is a sweet girl looking for someone to give her a comfortable spot to sun. She’s available for adoption at Hikes Point Feeder’s Supply adoption center.

Did you know that when you use your Kroger rewards card, Kroger will donate to KHS?

The Kroger Community Rewards program donates to KHS every time you use your Kroger card. Register online at www.krogercommunityrewards.com to become part of this program. 🐾
Getting Innocent Animals Adopted

By Amy Cook, PR Intern

Looking for a fun, rewarding way to help local homeless pets? Become a Kentucky Humane Society volunteer. In this article, we focus on the many volunteer opportunities at our East Campus location. From socializing dogs and cats to cleaning and generally caring for the pets, the East Campus has plenty of volunteer opportunities. To learn more about all our volunteer opportunities, visit www.kyhumane.org/volunteer.

Ashley Haering began volunteering at the Kentucky Humane Society’s East Campus in the spring of 2014. After learning about ways to make a difference in homeless animals’ lives, Ashley signed up to become a volunteer. Helping innocent animals and reducing pet overpopulation are issues that she wanted to be a part of.

Ashley is a web designer and spends lots of her time behind the computer screen. She enjoys what she does but finds that coming to KHS and surrounding herself with cats and dogs is a great way to escape the office. She helps out with grooming the animals, cleaning up after them, socializing them and introducing them to their potential adopters. Her favorite thing to do is socialize the adult cats.

“Working with a shy cat over a period of time and seeing them become more trusting and social is amazing, but the best part is seeing them get adopted and knowing that I was a part of that,” she says.

Ashley does her part in opening her home up to these animals as well. Her two cats, Audrey Hepburn and Holly Golightly, were previously adopted from the Kentucky Humane Society, and her dog, Lilly, she rescued from the streets. She also recently completed the volunteer orientation that will allow her to foster kittens. She looks forward to fostering as many kittens as she can once kitten season begins.

“If you love animals, volunteering for KHS is a great way to directly have an impact on their lives,” she says. “In addition, KHS is awesome because there are many different areas you can help with. It makes it easy to fit it into your schedule.”

PetSafe® Brand Donates Toys

During the month of December, we asked our followers to like PetSafe on all social media platforms. Those likes turned into toys for our shelter pets and shelter pets across the nation. In late January, a large truck pulled up to our doors and delivered 500 toys from PetSafe.

These high-quality interactive toys were a great addition to the toys we have on hand to help keep our pets engaged and active. We want to thank PetSafe for this wonderful donation, and we want to thank our social media followers for liking PetSafe and making this happen.
Thank You!

Thank you for your support of the Kentucky Humane Society (KHS), the state’s largest pet adoption agency and no-kill animal shelter. KHS finds loving homes for more than 6,000 cats and dogs a year at our nine adoption locations in Louisville and Southern Indiana. We also spay or neuter more than 10,000 local cats and dogs a year – helping reduce the number of unwanted pets.

Contributions from supporters like you allow us to fulfill our lifesaving mission.

Thank you. ♻️

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www.kyhumane.org/donate
1000 Lyndon Lane, Louisville KY 40222
502-515-3144

Hill’s Pet Nutrition presents

2015 WAGGIN’ TRAIL
Walk for the Animals

Saturday, May 16, 2015
Waterfront Park,
Big Four Lawn, Louisville

Walk, games, pet booths, food, live music, contests!
See page 7 for details.

May

2 Main Campus Closed
16 Waggin’ Trail, Waterfront Park, Big Four Lawn, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
23 New Pet Care, Main Campus, noon
29 Frankfort Avenue Trolley Hop supports KHS

June

16 Dog Day at the Park, Slugger Field, 7:05 p.m.
27 Training Mouthy Pets, Main Campus, noon
Picture Your Pets at Dixie, Springhurst and Middletown Feeders Supply stores, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

July

18 House Training Your Dog, Main Campus, noon

August

15 Tuxes & Tails, Galt House, 6 p.m.

The Main Campus is located at 241 Steedly Drive and East Campus is at 1000 Lyndon Lane, Louisville. For more information about KHS events, programs or volunteer opportunities, visit kyhumane.org or call (502) 366-3355.