Puppy mill dogs find homes

S.N.I.P. Clinic celebrates 5 years

Waggin’ Trail Walk for the Animals
Dear friends,

Welcome to spring! We hope you are spending these beautiful days with your best four-legged friends, creating lots of great memories.

The Kentucky Humane Society (KHS) has created some wonderful memories already this season – both for ourselves and for the companion animals we serve. In early March, KHS took in more than 50 dogs and cats from tornado-ravaged areas in our region. This let shelters in affected counties take in strays who lost their way in the storm, allowing their owners to find them more quickly.

Also in March, we welcomed 55 dogs recently emancipated from a puppy mill in Morehead, Ky. These dogs had spent their lives in cages without any of the love, hugs and care they deserved. (Read more about both of these stories in this issue of the Paw Street Journal.)

As a loyal supporter of KHS, you have also probably noticed some changes to this publication. We have given the magazine a facelift and changes to this publication. We have given the magazine a facelift and...
**SURVIVORS**

KHS helps tornado victims

The images on the nightly news were shocking: lives cut short, homes and dreams destroyed, communities in ruin. The March 2 tornadoes left a path of destruction and violence that affected thousands of people in Kentucky and Indiana.

Also affected were cats and dogs—the storm’s silent victims.

Within hours, animal welfare organizations were on the ground, assessing damage and evaluating what needed to be done to save lives. The Kentucky Humane Society (KHS) worked around the clock with many local and national rescue groups to help cats and dogs impacted by the tornadoes.

One of the communities hit hardest was West Liberty in Morgan County, Ky. Six people were killed, and dozens of homes and businesses were destroyed. The Morgan County Animal Shelter quickly found itself overrun with stray pets who had lost their way during the storm.

That’s when KHS Operations Director Karen Koening received a call from Pam Rogers with the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), a national organization not affiliated with KHS: Would KHS be willing to take in pets who were at the shelter before the tornadoes hit, freeing up much-needed kennel space for lost companion animals?

“Of course we were happy to help,” says Karen. “Any time there are natural disasters in our area, we are happy to open our doors to animals in need.”

On March 10, KHS received 20 Morgan County dogs from the HSUS rescue transport team. Ten dogs were destined for the adoption floor, and another ten were to be housed at KHS until another rescue group could pick them up.

KHS also took in 32 cats and dogs from Clark County, Ind., which suffered extensive tornado damage. Animal shelters in that area and rescue groups saw a huge influx of animals lost in the storm. Some were left homeless after properties were destroyed, including Windy (see story below) and Stormy, a beagle who suffered a broken leg. Almost all of the pets KHS took in from storm-damaged areas had been adopted by press time.

Windy’s Journey

One special tornado survivor saves another’s pups

Three days after the March 2 tornadoes hit southern Indiana and central Kentucky, the Kentucky Humane Society (KHS) received a desperate call from a local rescue group: they had several dogs who needed a place to stay immediately.

One of these dogs was a beagle. She and her three puppies were left homeless after their caregiver’s house in New Washington, Ind., was destroyed by a tornado. The KHS staff named her “Windy” and placed the young family in a foster home to relax, regroup and allow the puppies a bit more time with Mom.

Windy and her puppies thrived. After a week, the puppies began eating solid food, and Windy began pushing them aside—a sure sign they were old enough to be weaned.

KHS then received another call for help. There were ten, two-week-old Labrador retriever puppies whose mother had been injured. She could no longer nurse her hungry puppies and, unless a surrogate mother could be found, these puppies were in trouble.

Although Windy had already been through a lot, she was asked for just a bit more, and she responded. On March 10 KHS Animal Care Manager Kristin Seaman introduced Windy to five of the puppies. It was love at first sight. Windy accepted the hungry puppies, and they began nursing. KHS was able to find another surrogate mother for the other five puppies.

“Seeing the lives and livelihoods destroyed by the tornadoes was heart breaking. But Windy’s journey is a testament to the healing power of love,” says Lori Redmon, KHS president and CEO. “Windy’s devotion reminds us that, by working together, we can get through any tragedy.”

After giving so much to others, brave Windy found her new home in April.

---

*Paw*
Ending Pet Homelessness
S.N.I.P. Clinic Celebrates Five Years of Spaying and Neutering Pets

What’s the best way to solve pet homelessness?

“Spay and neuter your pets,” says Emily Clement, director of the Kentucky Humane Society’s S.N.I.P. (Spay/Neuter Incentive Program) Clinic.

“We often say that we’ll never adopt our way out of the problem,” she says. “To get to the root of too many pets winding up in shelters, we need to decrease the number of unplanned litters.”

That’s exactly what the staff at the S.N.I.P. Clinic has been doing since the clinic opened in January 2007. In just five years, the high-quality, low-cost spay/neuter clinic has altered more than 44,000 owned animals. That is in addition to the 6,000 altered animals KHS adopts out every year. Considering that one pair of cats can produce up to 420,000 cats in just seven years, and one pair of dogs can produce up to 67,000 dogs in six years, these efforts are making a huge difference.

“We know the S.N.I.P. Clinic is making an impact on the number of animals entering area animal shelters. But there is still so much more to be done,” says Emily.

As part of the S.N.I.P. Clinic’s five-year celebration, in March KHS unveiled an aggressive growth initiative to tackle head-on the problem of pet homelessness in the Louisville area. The clinic will perform more than 10,000 surgeries in 2012 and has launched a community cat program and an urban transport program.

The community cat program concentrates on the city’s most at-risk population to wind up in animal shelters: community, free-roaming cats (often called feral cats). KHS is partnering with Alley Cat Advocates (ACA) to expand trap-neuter-return (TNR) services for cats throughout the city. TNR is the only proven humane and effective method for controlling feral cat growth, according to Karen Little, president and cofounder of ACA.

“We are excited to collaborate with the Kentucky Humane Society,” Little says. “Alley Cat Advocates has proven that trap-neuter-return strategies work and are the best solution to reduce free-roaming cats in the neighborhoods where they live.”

The urban transport program will provide free transportation to the S.N.I.P. Clinic, as well as subsidize the cost of the surgery for pet owners who find transportation or cost to be a barrier to spaying or neutering their pets. This program also covers free surgeries for pit bulls and owned cats in the 40215 zip code. This zip code was selected because in 2010 it had the highest percentage of stray pit bulls relinquished to Louisville Metro Animal Services and the highest percentage of stray cats relinquished to the Metro Animal Services.

To ensure lack of financial resources is never a barrier to getting a pet spayed or neutered, the clinic provides financial aid to full-time college students, people with limited income and those receiving government assistance. That’s in addition to the clinic’s already low costs.

What does a cat coordinator do?

My goal is to better the lives of community, free-roaming cats (often called feral cats) by expanding spay/neuter efforts and by growing KHS’ Working Cat Placement Program, which finds barns and warehouses for cats who are unsuitable as house pets, but will thrive in indoor/outdoor locations.

When did you get into cat rescue?

My first “soul cat” was a kitten I found when I was a fifth grader. She was almost bald from flea bites, and I knew I had to save her. After that, cats started finding me. I began volunteering for Alley Cat Advocates 13 years ago, working 30-40 hours a month to help unowned cats in the Louisville area.

What did you do before joining KHS?

Before becoming the S.N.I.P. Clinic’s cat coordinator, I was a forensic nurse. I conducted health assessments on victims and suspects of crime. It was rewarding helping victims, but my passion is cats. When this opportunity at KHS opened up, I was thrilled: I get paid to do what I love – help cats and the people who care about them.

What is T-N-R?

T-N-R is short for “trap-neuter-return.” Alley Cat Advocates has proven this is the most effective way to manage community, free-roaming cats. The 40215 zip code saw a 40 percent decrease in the number of cats turned into Louisville Metro Animal Services after two years of targeted surgeries. In the past, communities saw these cats as nuisances and many were killed. Now we know that maintaining stable colonies of spayed and neutered cats is not only humane, it is also cost effective.

How many cats do you have?

I live with multiple cats – let’s just leave it at that (laughs). I also have a daughter, Zoe, two dogs and a boyfriend who is still coming to terms with my love of cats.

How can people contact you?

My email is cats@kyhumane.org or I can be reached at 636-2008.
Snarf’s First Chance
Former puppy mill dog finds love for first time

O
ne look at Snarf’s button nose and almost toothless grin and people can’t help but laugh. The senior Japanese Chin has a tongue that could make Gene Simmons envious and a personality so outgoing Jim Carrey would fade into the background.

Snarf was one of 55 former puppy mill dogs the Kentucky Humane Society (KHS) received from the ASPCA® (The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals®) in March. Like most puppy mill dogs, Snarf probably spent all his life in a tiny cage, where his only value was seen in the money he could make his owner by siring puppies. By the time he was rescued, his 10-year-old dog’s teeth were so infected that all but one had to be pulled.

Now, for the first time, Snarf knows the love of a family. He was adopted by Scott Franke and his wife, Andie Kyle, after Andie saw Snarf’s photo on the Kentucky Humane Society’s Facebook page and couldn’t stop thinking about him.

“Andie just loved Snarf’s big eyes, his little face and his tongue hanging out,” says Scott.

The couple visited Snarf at the KHS Main Campus. Since they had four cats at home, they thought a senior dog might do better in their household. They brought Snarf into a cat room, and he was interested only in the couple. Snarf went home with them that day and instantly fit in with his new family.

“We’ve been amazed at Snarf’s demeanor,” says Scott. “He’s very relaxed and happy, and he spends his days with his new cat siblings, Lucy, Ellie, Pandora and Stanley.”

Snarf’s life took a turn for the better in October, when the Attorney General’s Office in Rowan County, Ky., began an animal cruelty investigation against Snarf’s owner. Officials found 118 dogs living in small, filthy cages stacked on top of each other, some with dead rats inside them. The dogs were seized and placed in foster homes until they were well enough to be adopted. Medical care was made possible through a generous grant from the ASPCA.

The dogs were seized and placed in foster homes until they were well enough to be adopted. Medical care was made possible through a generous grant from the ASPCA.

The dogs were seized and placed in foster homes until they were well enough to be adopted. Medical care was made possible through a generous grant from the ASPCA.

The dogs were seized and placed in foster homes until they were well enough to be adopted. Medical care was made possible through a generous grant from the ASPCA.

The dogs were seized and placed in foster homes until they were well enough to be adopted. Medical care was made possible through a generous grant from the ASPCA.

The dogs were seized and placed in foster homes until they were well enough to be adopted. Medical care was made possible through a generous grant from the ASPCA.

They received daily socialization as well as medical care for skin and eye infections, ringworm, giardia and other health issues. Just as important, and probably for the first time in their lives, they were shown love and compassion.

In March the puppy mill operator pleaded guilty to two counts of misdemeanor animal cruelty and one count of kennel violation. As part of her plea agreement, she relinquished ownership of the dogs, and the ASPCA transported them to various shelters, including KHS.

“I am so proud of the Kentucky Humane Society team,” says Lori Redmon, KHS president and CEO. “The admissions, adoptions and veterinary teams worked together to check the dogs in quickly and efficiently. Within just a few days, all these former puppy mill dogs were up for adoption and looking for their forever homes.”

Within a month of their arrival at KHS, all 55 dogs had found their forever homes—including Snarf, a little dog with a huge personality.

A former puppy mill dog, Snarf is now a cherished family member. Sibling Snarf with his new family, Andie Kyle, Scott Franke and KHS cat Stanley.

The ASPCA brought these puppies to KHS after their shelter became overcrowded due to pets seized from cruelty investigations. Photo by: ASPCA/Mike Bizzell.
I

The cat colony rooms were made possible by donors to enjoy, complete with a bird feeder! these kitties get their very own cat-friendly landscaping to help keep cats healthier, less stressed and happier. Plus cuddle with each other or say hello to visiting humans. This can choose to play, climb, sit in the sun, find a quiet spot, or love watching the birds!

The Lifelong Friends Camp at the KHS Main Campus and Wags ‘n’ Whiskers Camp at the KHS East Campus are designed for children aged six to 12. The Animal Advocates Camp is for 12 to 15 year olds who have a passion for animal welfare. Campers learn about shelter animals, basic pet care, how to read animal body language and more. This summer, nurture your child’s compassion for those that cannot help themselves, while also providing them with the unique experience of spending their summer being bathed in sloppy dog kisses and scratchy kitty kisses. Visit kyhumane.org for details and to register.

Cats Love Having a Room with a View

In February the KHS Main Campus added two new cat colony rooms. These new rooms allow cats to stretch their legs, bask in the sun, and better show off their individual personalities to potential adopters. In cat colony rooms, adoptable cats are free roaming and can choose to play, climb, sit in the sun, find a quiet spot, cuddle with each other or say hello to visiting humans. This helps keep cats healthier, less stressed and happier. Plus these kitties get their very own cat-friendly landscaping to enjoy, complete with a bird feeder!

The cat colony rooms were made possible by donors to KHS. Thanks to their support, our cats can now live in more home-like environments until they are adopted. In addition, we thank Candy Medina and the Gilbert Foundation for providing funding for the cat-friendly landscaping. The cats love watching the birds!

KHS is raising funds for further cat enrichment. If you would like to make a gift, go to kyhumane.org and click on the “donate now” button. In the comment field type “for cats.” Or you can return the envelope in this publication and write “for cats” on the inside of the envelope. For questions about giving, please call Beth Hobson, director of development, at 502-515-3131 or email bhobson@kyhumane.org.

Looking for an exciting summer camp for your child or teen? Sign up for a Kentucky Humane Society (KHS) summer camp!

“We have some really fun activities planned for the kids this year,” says Valerie Merrifield, KHS education manager. “They’re going to share a lot of laughs, make new friends and enrich the lives of our pets with their company – we’re going to enjoy a great summer at the shelter.”

The Lifelong Friends Camp at the KHS Main Campus and Wags ‘n’ Whiskers Camp at the KHS East Campus are designed for children aged six to 12. The Animal Advocates Camp is for 12 to 15 year olds who have a passion for animal welfare. Campers learn about shelter animals, basic pet care, how to read animal body language and more. This summer, nurture your child’s compassion for those that cannot help themselves, while also providing them with the unique experience of spending their summer being bathed in sloppy dog kisses and scratchy kitty kisses. Visit kyhumane.org for details and to register.

Belle of the Ball

Spunky Bella Goes Home after Year in Foster Care

Last May a small, calico cat and her tiny kittens were transferred to the Kentucky Humane Society (KHS) from Louisville Metro Animal Services. The mother cat, now named Bella, and her three kittens needed a quiet place to stay until the kittens were old enough to be adopted.

Foster volunteers Christina Bellflowers and Jennifer Thai agreed to take the family for a few weeks. The mother cat took excellent care of her kittens, and soon her babies were ready for adoption. Then Christina noticed something unusual on Bella’s skin: a dime-sized bald spot. It was ringworm, a highly contagious but not serious fungal infection.

The kittens were quickly separated and adopted, but Bella needed to remain in foster care for a few months until her infection cleared. Christina and Jennifer enjoyed the spunky little cat, so they agreed to care for her. Bella was given her own room to prevent the household’s two cats and two dogs from catching ringworm.

The KHS veterinary team prescribed a medicated dip, but that irritated Bella’s skin. They tried an athletic foot cream, which helped, but soon another spot appeared. They next tried an oral medicine, which made her sick. Finally an antifungal cream did the trick.

By the time Bella’s ringworm was cured, she had been in foster care for 11 months— an unusually long time for a foster animal. Christina admits it was hard to see her go. “She was so tiny, but when she was over the ringworm, she looked adorable. I had a hard time saying goodbye,” she says.

“Then it was sad to see her leave, but I’m so happy to hear she found a permanent home with a family that treats her like the princess she is,” she says.

Open your home and heart... temporarily

Each spring hundreds of kittens and puppies are brought to the Kentucky Humane Society. Many will need temporary homes for a few days or weeks until they are old enough to be adopted. You can make a difference in the number of animals we help by becoming a Kentucky Humane Society foster parent. It’s fun and you’ll make a difference for pets in need. Call 502-366-3355 or visit kyhumane.org.

Tired Dogs Are Good Dogs!

20% Savings on Doggie Daycare One-Week Pass

KHS East Campus, 1000 Lyndon Lane

Book one full week of Doggie Daycare (M-F) and save 20%! Valid through June 2, 2012. For new Doggie Daycare clients. If you already bring your dog to daycare, refer a friend and receive the same discount!
Debit ootworks 10 Paw for one of our favorite events of the year – more details...

The event is August 18 at the beautiful downtown Marriott. *Starry Night* is the theme for the 19th annual event, as our pets wish upon a star for their forever homes. Get your dancing shoes and mast starry, celestial gala apparel ready for one of our favorite events of the year – more details coming soon! Thanks to our presenting sponsor Brown-Forman.

**Tuxes & Tails, August 18**

The 2012 Tuxes & Tails Benefit Auction and Gala is coming up soon, so mark your calendars!

**Dog Day at the Park, June 4**

Nothing says summer like a night at the ballpark with friends in tow and a hot dog in hand! KHS and the Louisville Bats make it possible for your best four-legged friend to come out to the game with you at Louisville Slugger Field. Make it out to Dog Day at the Park on June 4th. Each $3 dog admission goes straight into the KHS mission to fight pet homelessness. Visit kyhumane.org for more information and to purchase tickets. Many thanks to Park Community Credit Union for sponsoring this year’s Dog Day at the Park events.

**Waggin’ Trail Walk for the Animals**

Register today and hightail it to Waggin’ Trail Walk for the Animals—the 18th annual pet celebration and fundraising walk/run to support the animals of the Kentucky Humane Society! You’ll join hundreds of area pet lovers for a fun-filled day and help KHS care for thousands of needy animals when you sign up and start fundraising.

Visit kyhumane.org to register. Your $25 registration includes a Waggin’ Trail T-shirt and your own fundraising webpage. Use your page to tell your story, upload photos, invite friends to participate and ask for donations. Maximize your fundraising efforts by forming a team!

Last year’s Waggin’ Trail raised more than $97,000 to support life-saving programs at KHS. Our goal this year is to raise a record-breaking $125,000—all which stays in Kentucky to support life-saving programs at KHS.

The 2012 Tuxes & Tails Benefit is coming up on August 18 at the beautiful downtown Marriott. *Starry Night* is the theme for the 19th annual event, as our pets wish upon a star for their forever homes. Get your dancing shoes and mast starry, celestial gala apparel ready for one of our favorite events of the year – more details coming soon! Thanks to our presenting sponsor Brown-Forman.
In Memory of….

The following people donated $25 or more in honor of a loved one between October 1, 2011, and March 31, 2012.

Staying in touch with the nation's leading equine publication for over 100 years, know that you can read a great deal more in this issue at www.kyhumane.org.
Thank you for your support.

Mark your calendar! This year’s Taxes and Tails Benefit Auction and Gala is Aug. 18.

Thanks
Sax, an adoptable cat at the KHS adoption center at Hikes Point Feed Supply.

Bobby & Jeff

Angels for Animals

A t KHS, a picture isn’t just worth a thousand words—it can mean a new home for a pet. A beautiful photo of a cat or dog that captures his or her unique personality helps our pets find homes faster.

Two of our earliest and most faithful volunteer photographers were Bobby Baumgardner and Jeffrey Vaughn, who began taking photos of our pets in 2006. The couple made it their mission to take beautiful portraits of relaxed, happy cats and dogs at KHS adoption sites. And when KHS launched our current Pet Photography Program in 2010, Bobby and Jeffrey were two of the first people in line to assist. The goal of this program is to provide quality photos to as many pets in KHS’s care as possible with the use of backdrops, props and a full team of volunteers.

One day in December 2010, PR Manager Erin Clephas received a shocking phone call. Jeffrey Vaughn had suddenly passed away. This was something no one had expected to hear. Immediately the staff at KHS thought of Bobby, and many visited with him during Jeffrey’s visitation. Bobby was sad but strong.

To everyone’s surprise, just three short weeks later, Bobby showed up to volunteer. Bobby told Erin that it’s what Jeffrey would have wanted, and that continuing to take photos of animals in need was Bobby’s way of honoring Jeffrey’s memory.

Some of Jeffrey’s last words to Bobby were “Be kind to the animals.” Jeffrey lived this sentiment in life, and he continues to live this through his legacy. Jeffrey had chosen to include KHS in his will. Thanks to his incredible generosity, dogs and cats far into the future will continue to feel Jeffrey’s love and compassion.

Because of their great contributions, the KHS photography studio is now the “Vaughn-Baumgardner Pet Photography Studio.” The KHS staff is thrilled to honor them in this way because, whether they know it or not, both are forever priceless to the KHS staff and to the thousands of animals they have helped find their loving, forever homes. 

Make Your Pet a PINUP!

Have a great photo of your favorite feline or precious pooch? Send it to the 2013 KHS Pet Calendar Photo Contest! Submit your entry at kyhumane.org or pick up a registration form at any KHS adoption site, including Feeders Supply stores, or call 502-515-3131 or bhobson@kyhumane.org.

Our goal is to provide quality photos to as many pets in KHS’s care as possible with the use of backdrops, props and a full team of volunteers.

One day in December 2010, PR Manager Erin Clephas received a shocking phone call. Jeffrey Vaughn had suddenly passed away. This was something no one had expected to hear. Immediately the staff at KHS thought of Bobby, and many visited with him during Jeffrey’s visitation. Bobby was sad but strong.

To everyone’s surprise, just three short weeks later, Bobby showed up to volunteer. Bobby told Erin that it’s what Jeffrey would have wanted, and that continuing to take photos of animals in need was Bobby’s way of honoring Jeffrey’s memory.

Some of Jeffrey’s last words to Bobby were “Be kind to the animals.” Jeffrey lived this sentiment in life, and he continues to live this through his legacy. Jeffrey had chosen to include KHS in his will. Thanks to his incredible generosity, dogs and cats far into the future will continue to feel Jeffrey’s love and compassion.

Because of their great contributions, the KHS photography studio is now the “Vaughn-Baumgardner Pet Photography Studio.” The KHS staff is thrilled to honor them in this way because, whether they know it or not, both are forever priceless to the KHS staff and to the thousands of animals they have helped find their loving, forever homes.

Details, photo tips and entry form at kyhumane.org

KHS 2013 Pet Calendar Competition

Volunteer De-Tails
WALK * RUN * PLAY TO MAKE THEIR DAY!

Hill’s Science Diet Presents

2012 WAGGIN’ TRAIL WALK FOR THE ANIMALS
A walk and 5K run for cats & dogs

Saturday, June 2, 2012 • E.P. “Tom” Sawyer Park
9 a.m.: 5K Run • 10 a.m.: Benefit Walk • All day Pet Expo

Join us after the walk for games, food, music, contests, and more, for every member of the family!

For more information and to register, visit kyhumane.org or call 502-515-3147

MAY

8 Volunteer Orientation, 5:30 p.m.
9 Pet Tales, Noon

JUNE

2 Waggin’ Trail Walk for the Animals, E.P. “Tom” Sawyer State Park, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
4 Dog Day at the Park, Louisville Slugger Field, 7:05 p.m. game time
12 Volunteer Orientation, 5:30 p.m.
13 Pet Tales, Noon

JULY

10 Volunteer Orientation, 5:30 p.m.
11 Volunteer Orientation, East Campus, 5:30 p.m.
11 Pet Tales, Noon

All events are at the Kentucky Humane Society’s Main Campus, 241 Steedly Drive, Louisville, unless otherwise noted. For more information on KHS events and programs, visit kyhumane.org or call (502) 366-3355.