



# Happy Tails

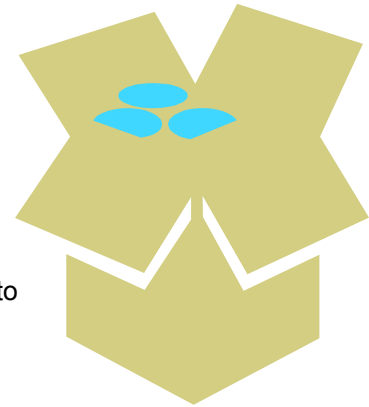
Cleveland APL's Volunteer Newsletter - September 2008



## The Suggestion Box is Open

**Happy Tails** is back after our summer hiatus (also known as Danielle's maternity leave). We're looking forward to bringing you a new issue every month once again.

What would you like to read about in future issues? **Happy Tails** is for and about Cleveland Animal Protective League volunteers, and we want to include your ideas. Please send suggestions, questions and comments to Volunteer Coordinator Danielle Begalla at 216-377-1627 or [dbegalla@clevelandapl.org](mailto:dbegalla@clevelandapl.org).



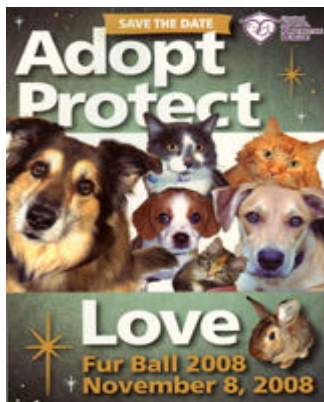
## Congratulations To:

Cleveland APL Volunteer Coordinator **Danielle Begalla**, her husband, Phil and big brother Christian on the birth of baby **Jason Thomas Begalla** on May 27, 2008. Jason weighed in at 7 pounds, 10 ounces and measured 19 ½ inches long. On behalf of all of their pets, Haus, the 100-pound yellow Lab, welcomed Jason to the family with a big wet kiss on his cheek when he arrived home.

**Olivia Fetko**, Interim Volunteer Coordinator during Danielle's leave, who is staying on staff for a few more months as our Meet Your Match Program Project Leader.

**Kristine Popa**, former Development Associate, who has taken a job as an account executive with Brand Muscle Marketing Solutions. Kristine, who worked alongside many of our volunteers during her 3 ½ years at the APL, plans to join their ranks in the near future.

## Save The Date! It's Fur Ball '08!



This year's event will be held Saturday, **November 8, 2008, at 6 p.m.** in the **Cleveland Marriott Downtown** at Key Center. It's a whole new breed of Fur Ball this year. You'll get to "paws" at the many food stations, wag your tail to the music of the legendary No Name Band, take part in our incredibly fabulous live and silent auctions. Attire is sensationally casual!

It is the generosity of our community that makes this evening a success and we hope you can be a part of this wonderful night as we come together to help the APL animals. We are committed to caring for every friendly, healthy animal for as long as it takes to find them a new family. Fur Ball 2008 will benefit our **Second Chance Fund**, with which we've been able to extend that same commitment to an increasing number of animals with treatable illnesses and injuries.

There are many ways you can help the Cleveland APL animals during Fur Ball 2008 - from donating auction items to becoming a corporate sponsor to buying tickets to volunteering to help with the evening itself. Whether you choose all or just one of the many options available, you can know that your help is an essential part of the Cleveland Animal Protective League's life-saving mission. Volunteers, look for more information soon via e-mail about helping on that evening.

## Staff Spotlight

### Carrie Gedeon, Offsite Adoptions Liaison

The Cleveland APL shelter isn't the only place you can find our adoptable animals. Our offsite adoptions program brings the animals to the people.

Offsite Adoption Liaison Carrie Gedeon coordinates the program, which includes six pet stores that house our cats and mobile adoption events throughout the area.

The program has resulted in several hundred extra adoptions a year, Carrie said. "Sometimes at the shelter, the competition of 300 other cats makes their placement a bit of a challenge," she explained. "However, at a store with only three to six other cats, their chances of shining are greater."

Mobile adoption sites range from those same pet stores to special events such as "Meet Your Best Friend at the Zoo" and this summer's inaugural "Cats on Tour."

"It honestly puts the biggest smile on my face when I take a cat who was here for months to an offsite location where someone falls in love and takes it home within a week of it being there," said Carrie, who has a 6-year-old cat named Elvira and a 1-year-old terrier mix named Kirby, both adopted from the APL.

Another highlight of Carrie's job is working with our volunteers. "They are truly the most caring and wonderful people I've ever met," she said. "There is no way whatsoever I could do this program without these wonderful people. I've also become so close to so many of them and consider them good friends."

Interested in joining the offsite adoptions team? Contact Carrie at [cgedeon@clevelandapl.org](mailto:cgedeon@clevelandapl.org).



Carrie cuddles with Elvira, one of two pets she has adopted from the Cleveland APL.

## Volunteer Salute Dawn and Milton Lorring, Offsite Adoptions Associates



The Lorrings, Milton, Butch, Winston and Dawn, enjoy a day out. The family also includes cats Chloe and Simba, who, like their doggy siblings, were adopted from the Cleveland APL.

Ask Dawn and Milton Lorring why they decided to volunteer with the Cleveland APL and their answer is simple: "We were looking for a good way to give back to the community. We thought, why not combine our love of animals with giving back."

The Lorrings already knew something about the CAPL before they started volunteering three years ago because they had adopted a dog (Butch) and a cat (Chloe) from the shelter about 12 years ago.

As volunteers, Dawn and Milton work in a number of areas, primarily offsite events, some of which they have led. They have helped with the silent auction at the

Fur Ball, given tours during the Pledge for Pets Radiothon, driven Rover, our mobile adoptions vehicle, and assisted with adoptions counseling at the shelter.

“When we think of all of the animals that are not given a second chance in this world after finding themselves in situations over which they have no control (families moving, losing their homes, etc.), it is hard to believe that more people do not volunteer for an organization that is dedicated to finding homes for those that are forgotten,” the Lorrings wrote. “The wonderful animals that find themselves in these situations are the reason that we volunteer. (Along with the fact that we do not have a big enough yard to take them all home with us!”)

The Lorrings shared the story of one special dog who won his way into their hearts and their home. “Our most recent addition to our family (Winston) was 115 pounds and still adorable when he arrived at the APL from his previous family. We took him on one mobile event to a dog wash and he was a huge hit and ended up cooling himself in a Rubbermaid container full of water. No adoption that day. Then he went to another dog wash, made everyone laugh with his infamous picture laying on the dashboard of Rover. Still no adoption. Then he went to the Nighttown event and still no adoption, but he was definitely not doing well in the shelter environment with behavior declining. By this point, he had already decided that we were his new family, but it took us a little longer to realize it. Today, he is a big 85-pound baby that wants to cuddle and sleeps on our bed.”

Stories like Winston’s continue to inspire Dawn and Milton. “We love our time volunteering at the APL.” they wrote, “and look forward to many great years of finding homes for wonderful pets!”

## Happy Tails Staff

**Sharon Harvey**, Cleveland APL Executive Director  
**Danielle Begalla**, Cleveland APL Volunteer Coordinator  
**Molly Callahan**, Cleveland APL Volunteer Associate

## Critter Corner

Volunteers, have you ever wondered what happened to some of the dogs you walked or cats you cared for?

Our website now includes a list of the animals adopted each month from the shelter and our many offsite locations.

Log on to [www.clevelandapl.org](http://www.clevelandapl.org) and go to the Adoptions Page. Find the “More Adoption Goodies” heading and click on the “Who Was Adopted?” link for the most recent list.

The list is divided into sections according to animal type and then sorted alphabetically according to the name the animal had in the shelter.

While you’re on the website, you’ll find many other fun and informative features about the APL and animals in general. Check it out!



**Stripes, now known as Gabby, was adopted in June.**