

# Happy Tails

Cleveland Animal Protective League

March 2011

Newsletter for Volunteers

## Program Spotlight

### Animal Care

Cleveland APL volunteers probably have noticed some new faces in the shelter lately. Between staff promotions and new hires, some duties and responsibilities have shifted, and one of the happy results is the arrival of Amanda Kopec.

Amanda is our new Animal Care Lead - Volunteers and Enrichment. Among other tasks, Amanda will supervise Dog Enrichment and Cat Enrichment Volunteers who previously reported to Margaret Garrett. Margaret has been promoted to Animal Admissions and Care Supervisor.

Before joining our staff on March 1, Amanda worked at the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo, where her eight-year stint included interning in the animal care department. "I assisted in caring for a variety of birds, koalas, tree kangaroos, kangaroos, wallaroos, wallabies, domestic hoof stock and New Guinea singing dogs, along with a variety of amphibians and reptiles," she said.

Most recently she worked in the zoo's guest services department, but since graduating from college last spring Amanda had been looking for a career working with animals. In fact, she had the Cleveland APL in mind for many years.



Amanda and Sweet Lady, whom she just adopted.

Now that she's on staff, Amanda is looking forward to meeting our volunteers and increasing volunteer involvement in both dog and cat enrichment.

Most of our staff members have at least one animal adopted from the Cleveland APL, and Amanda wasted no time joining their ranks. She met Sweet Lady her first day and adopted her March 16!

Sweet Lady had arrived at the shelter with her puppies, then went into foster care while being treated for heartworms. Amanda was touched by her story and immediately fell in love.

"She was wonderful on the leash and when you sat or kneeled down in her kennel she would just come right over and lay her head in your lap," Amanda recalled. "She really is a 'sweet lady'."

The dog's gentle nature also made her a great partner for new DEVs during their first shifts.

"She would stand patiently while everyone learned the basics," Amanda said. "And belly rubs - they were the best thing in her eyes."

Amanda, who praised the staff for giving her a warm welcome, also was quick to realize the vital role volunteers play here.

"I want to thank all the volunteers," she said. "During my short time here I have discovered we really could not do it without you!"

## Staff Snapshot

**Name:** Amanda Kopec

**Title:** Animal Care Lead - Volunteers and Enrichment

**Years at Cleveland APL:** Amanda joined our staff March 1.

**At Home:** In addition to Sweet Lady, Amanda has another dog, one cat, three horses, two rabbits and a variety of chickens.

## Call to action

The Cleveland APL is offering spay/neuter appointments through our TNR program for just \$10 for any homeless or feral cat within Cuyahoga County!

Appointments include a veterinary exam, rabies and FVRC vaccinations, and ear-tipping (for identification) for free-roaming and feral cats.

Please urge anyone feeding or caring for stray or feral cats to bring them in for spay/neuter ASAP. Most of the females outdoors are either in heat or pregnant **now**, and need to be spayed so no more homeless kittens are born.

Our TNR clinic operates Monday-Friday. For humane trapping advice or appointments, please call Spay/Neuter Programs Supervisor Marta Anderson at 216-377-1624.

**See the flier on Page 3.**

## Kudos to:

**Roberta Bates**, foster care volunteer, for selling 25 Cleveland APL 2011 Calendars.

**Kelly Smith**, DEV and Special Events volunteer, for securing a grant for the APL from her employer, Kaiser Permanente, through her volunteer service.



Photo by Dan Sandy

## Foster caregivers needed

Spring, known in our world as kitten season, has arrived and the Cleveland APL desperately needs foster parents to care for the incoming population of kittens.

If you or anyone you know is interested in learning more, please attend a foster care orientation, held every Saturday at 11 a.m. at the shelter. No advance registration is necessary.

Even if cats and kittens are not your cup of tea, there are many other opportunities to foster dogs, puppies, rabbits and guinea pigs in need.

**Did you know:** In 2010, 235 volunteers provided foster care for a total of **1,801** animals. Thank you, everyone! We couldn't have done it without you.

## Radiothon Help Wanted

For the sixth year in a row, we're teaming up with Q104 for the Pledge for Pets Radiothon.

This year's fund-raiser is being held Friday, May 13, and Saturday, May 14. Q104's morning show team of Toohey and Fee will broadcast live from the Cleveland APL Friday from a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday from 10 am. to 4 p.m.

Although the event is several weeks away, you can help our fund-raising efforts now by signing up to be a Q Cash Captain, Kid or School. Go to <http://www.clevelandapl.org/2011RadiothonMainPage.html> to find out more.

We're also looking for phone bank volunteers to record pledges called in during the broadcast. Because they are based in the broadcast room with Jen Toohey and Allan Fee, phone bank volunteers also serve as the "audience" for the event.

Each three-hour shift requires 20 volunteers, so this is a great option for companies or organizations looking for one-time group volunteer opportunities.

Please contact Volunteer Manager Danielle Begalla at 216-377-1627 or [dbegalla@clevelandapl.org](mailto:dbegalla@clevelandapl.org) as soon as possible if you're interested. Shifts will be assigned ahead of time on a first-come, first-served basis.



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## Happy Tails Staff

**Sharon Harvey**, Executive Director

**Danielle Begalla**, Volunteer Manager

**Molly Callahan**, Office & Development Assistant

## Too many cats?

*We can help!*



Low-cost spay/neuter services for outdoor cats available through the Cleveland APL's TNR clinic:

- Fee is **only \$10** for *any* outdoor cat (\$40 outside Cuyahoga County)
- Includes spay/neuter, Rabies vaccine, FVRCP vaccine and ear-tipping
  - Appointments scheduled each weekday
- Humane traps available for use & instruction provided. It's easy—call us today!

Help us end the cat overpopulation crisis.



Contact Marta Anderson, Spay/Neuter Services Supervisor for the Cleveland APL at 216-377-1624

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## Spread the word about TNR

We are looking for volunteers to distribute our TNR fliers to advertise this terrific program! Since we don't have an advertising budget, we must rely on word-of-mouth and volunteer assistance to get the word out.

All you have to do is print out this page of four fliers and make copies. Then you can distribute them anywhere you like - your workplace, community bulletin boards, coffee shops, libraries, book stores, etc.

Thank you for helping us to **END CAT OVERPOPULATION!**



# Thank You, Cleveland APL Volunteers!

After last Tuesday's dryer fire forced the relocation of the cats on our adoption floor and prompted a last-minute decision to reduce cat adoption fees to \$5, our volunteers helped to save the day—and in a big way!

With barely a moment's notice, our wonderful volunteers dropped what they were doing and responded to our plea for extra help in the shelter. Many of our regular adoption volunteers worked extra shifts to provide much-needed reinforcement for our overtaxed staff during those two days. In addition, numerous volunteers who had never worked in adoptions before stepped right in and helped wherever needed —directing and escorting shelter visitors, looking after our animals and replenishing our rapidly dwindling supply of informational packets for adopters.

Your efforts helped 110 understandably stressed-out cats find new homes. Thank you, on their behalf, from the entire Cleveland APL staff.



The cats pictured here —, and many more — got out of a stressful situation and into new homes, thanks to the extraordinary efforts of our fantastic Cleveland APL volunteers.

