

PAW TALES



Volume 9 | Issue 1



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UPCOMING EVENTS:

-  ORAU Health & Safety Fair
August 21 (10:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m.)
-  ORAU Cutest Pet Photo Contest
September 1 -15
-  PetFest and Blessing at
Grace Lutheran Oak Ridge
October 5 (1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.)

Capital Improvement Grants Awarded

By: Amparo Atencio

Since 2014, HPAN has been in the position to help local area rescue groups with funds for capital improvements annually. What started at a funding level of \$1,000 in 2014 has grown to \$10,000 for the past two years because of the generosity of our faithful donors and successful fourth quarter fundraisers. A few of the rescue organizations we have been able to help include the Oak Ridge Animal Shelter, the Campbell County Animal Center, and the East Tennessee Miniature Horse and Donkey Rescue.

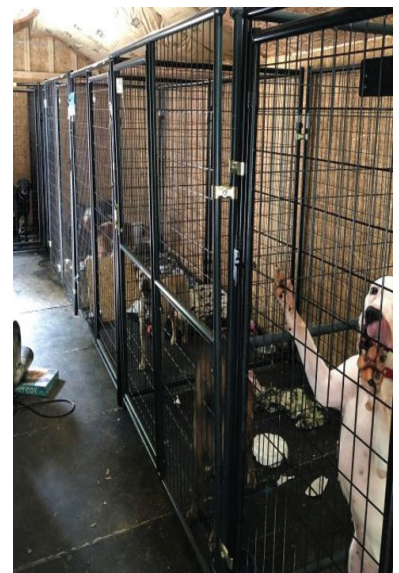
In 2019, we received 10 applications for capital improvement grants. After careful review and consideration of each application, we awarded grant funding to four of the rescue organizations that applied, recognizing the importance of their work! Grants were awarded to:

Hooves & Feathers Farm Animal Humane Society, for fencing materials to repair their fence and create a strong perimeter arena to ensure the safety of the animals and volunteers. Hooves and Feathers provides rescue, shelter, rehabilitation, and adoption services for farm animals to local law enforcement.

The arena repairs are currently underway!

A Chance for Champ (ACFC), for the addition of four standard kennels, one isolation kennel, and an air conditioning unit. Most of the dogs rescued have special needs and must be kept separated when not under supervision due to varying temperaments, sizes, disabilities, and diet. ACFC is a canine rescue dedicated to the rescue, rehabilitation and rehoming of "at risk" canines.

The intake kennels were successfully installed in June 2019!



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Capital Improvement Grants Awarded

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Senior Dog Lodge & Animal Rescue, for a cage bank and washing station with hot and cold running water to clean the intake animals, especially puppies, before being ready for the next step of their journey. Senior Dog Lodge & Animal Rescue is currently the only rescue group in Morgan County. Partnering with northbound rescue groups, they have been able to save nearly 200 dogs in the last year and even a few cats.

The washing station was successfully installed in April 2019!



GoNorth Animal Transport Collaborative, for stainless steel sheeting installation for inside the cargo area of their primary transport vehicle. The vehicle holds 25 to 30 animals on weekly (and sometimes twice per week) 8-12 hours-long trips. The cargo area must be thoroughly cleaned after each transport to prevent the spread of disease; however, this was an impossible challenge due to the design of the cargo walls. GoNorth works with local, overcrowded shelters to send animals to partnered northern shelters that need to meet high adoption demands.

The van was successfully outfitted with new sheeting in May 2019!

HPAN would love to continue the capital grant improvement trend, but it all depends on year-end gifts and the success of our October – December fundraisers. If you would like to be involved in any fundraising activities or would like more information, please contact us at info@helpingpawsanimalnetwork.org. You can also visit our website at <http://helpingpawsanimalnetwork.org/> to make a donation, purchase from our HPAN Store, or find upcoming events at any time.

We would not be able to do what we do in support of the animals without you!

2019 Mid-Year Metrics

Submitted by Amy Starkey, HPAN Co-founder and Treasurer

It has been almost six years to the day since HPAN became an official non-profit organization. Thinking back on how we started and how far we've come is humbling. We have had the opportunity to help hundreds upon hundreds of local rescue animals since inception, and we are closing in on a quarter-million dollar milestone in revenue and sponsorships. So far in 2019, we have sponsored almost 200 sick or injured animals for non-profit rescue organizations in our mission area for nearly \$40K, which includes \$10K in capital improvement grants awarded to four rescue organizations. All of our sponsorships/grants can be seen on our blog: www.helpingpaws37830.wordpress.com.

None of these accomplishments could be possible without donations. We currently have 40 regular supporters, meaning people who donate regularly via payroll deduction, for \$467 donated every two weeks. This is our lifeblood, enabling us to sponsor 2.5 rescue animals per month with a per-animal cap of \$300. You can join this special group of core supporters by contacting us at info@helpinpawsanimalnetwork.org for the simple payroll deduction instructions. Additionally, contributions can be sent by check to HPAN at 969 Oak Ridge Turnpike, #304, Oak Ridge, TN 37830, or sent via PayPal to info@helpingpawsanimalnetwork.org. No amount is too small, and every dollar adds up to an amount we can apply to achieving our mission. All donations are tax-deductible.

If you can't donate monetarily, you can help by linking your Kroger Plus Card to HPAN at: www.kroger.com/communityrewards. Upon registering your card in the community rewards program, select Helping Paws Animal Network; Harriman, TN as your charity of choice. Then all you have to do is shop! It costs you nothing. Same goes for Amazon shoppers. If you instead shop AmazonSmile at www.smile.amazon.com and select Helping Paws Animal Network - Harriman, TN as your charity of choice, Amazon donates a percentage of your purchase price to HPAN, and you lose nothing.

The rest, and majority, of our income comes from fundraisers. We are always looking for new and creative ways to raise money. Fundraiser staples include bake sales, gift shows, an annual pet photo contest, and online auctions. We also have an online store on our website (www.helpingpawsanimalnetwork.org) where we sell **Calendars, T-shirts, and In Memory of/In Honor of Certificates**. Material donations are always welcome for our booth-type events. We can use your unwanted household and pet-related items, purses, tools, and other items to sell at our booths. Most of our funds are raised during the last quarter of the year, which puts us in a great position to start the year with a surplus that can be offered for capital improvements to our sponsored rescue groups.

We continue to work hard to meet our vision of ending animal suffering-one rescue at a time. It takes a village to give voices to the voiceless. We aren't changing the world with what we do at HPAN, but we sure have changed the world for many deserving animals. We are on track to change the world for over 200 of those deserving animals this year. Will you help us?

Thank you for your support!

Check out all of our social networks:

Our website: www.helpingpawsanimalnetwork.org

Our blog: helpingpaws37830.wordpress.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/HelpingPawsAnimalNetwork

Twitter: www.twitter.com/hpan37830

Instagram: www.instagram.com/helpingpawsanimalnetwork

Pinterest: www.pinterest.com/HPANHHelpingPaws



Featured Rescue Group: East Tennessee Miniature Horse and Donkey Rescue

By: Janet Kile

When the East Tennessee Miniature Horse and Don-key Rescue (ETMHDR) was established in 2014, Angela Devine, founder, envisioned taking in a few miniatures here and there. Little did she anticipate the need for a rescue for miniatures. The rescue quickly reached ca-pacity. Angela and her family, with a few other volun-teers, helped as many as they could. It became appar-ent that more help was needed so, in 2018, they put out a call for volunteers. That is where I come in.

I knew about the rescue, as HPAN helps support them. My first love is horses so when the call went out, volunteering was a no-brainer. On a cold, wet January day, we met at the farm for an orientation. As everyone who ever owned a horse knows, a lot of time is spent cleaning up! Little equine produce just as much waste as big equine! So, twice a week, I go to Loudon with pitchfork in hand to clean anywhere from 10-12 dry lots and stalls. At capacity ETMHDR has around 40 miniatures. Watching these little guys come in with health problems, foot problems, often underweight and skittish, and then see them become confident, fat, and sassy is a rewarding experience. In addition to cleaning, we water and refill hay troughs.

There are other ways to help too. All the minis need handled and shown that humans can be kind. While some are very friendly, others are slower to trust and need more coaxing. We groom, halter, love, pet, and just make sure they get the attention they need.

Another area, as anyone in rescue knows, is fundraising. We have several initiatives through the year to include rummage sales and Facebook auctions. We have been overwhelmed at the generosity of supporters. Between three events this year, we've raised over \$4,600. Our next Facebook Auction will take place in November. We still have some awesome items for sale.



Other volunteers have helped with maintaining the barn and fences, as well as improvements to the barn area. The two current stars of the rescue are Mimosa (gray) and Strudel (sorrel). These two were born a month apart, and it is very hard to get any work done with them around. Besides these cuties, ETMHDR has a bunch of adoptable equine of all ages and sizes.

For more information on the rescue and upcoming events, check out the Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/minirescuetn/>. Consider volunteering; you won't regret it!

An HPAN Rewind

By: Leigh Ann Pennington

More than 11 years ago, back in 2008, several staff members at ORAU were informally growing an ORAU network of like-minded people. I started to get emails every now and then informing me about some amazing grassroots efforts to assist animals with urgent needs in our local community. It was so cool. We would just immediately donate what we could. The results would amaze us every time. One example that I still remember happened during a cold December. The carpentry class at Anderson County High School had offered to build dog houses for Anderson county dogs without proper shelter, but they needed funds donated to buy the wood. In just a couple of days, we were able to donate \$200 towards this effort. It was a really rewarding feeling, and it was even better to do this with a group of co-workers. After informally raising funds like this for several years, a small group of us convened our first of many monthly meetings on April 14, 2011, in the kitchen of MC-212 at ORAU. We decided that we would meet monthly and call ourselves the Helping Paws Animal Network, or HPAN. We soon firmed up a six-member board, but some of us thought we would probably only be able to keep this going for a year or two, at most. To our surprise, we are still meeting monthly and now we have a history to share. I am amazed that this network of almost 100 ORAU employees is still going so strong after more than 10 years.

In August 2013, we became a 501(c)(3) nonprofit and, since we formed our first board, 18 ORAU employees have served on the now seven-member board. In addition to the board members, our ORAU network of supporters provides the real backbone. We have been able to help thousands of animals through your generosity, all documented via our web page, blog, and social media. We have multiple fundraisers each year, like bake sales, gift/craft shows, pet photo contests, and Facebook auctions where your generosity continues. Many of you contribute regularly via payroll deduction. The regular payroll deductions are the support base that ensures we are ready when an urgent animal need comes to our attention. Support for HPAN also comes by choosing Helping Paws Animal Network as your charity of choice at Kroger Rewards Card, Amazon Smile and iGive.

If you are looking for ways to get involved and have questions, please reach out to a current board member, or join our monthly meetings the first Tuesday of each month, from 12:00-1:00 in the MC-210 Conference Room #203.

In 2008, I could have never guessed we could do all we've done. In the near future, we will reach the amazing fundraising goal of \$250,000. Our mission has never changed, and we humbly ask for your continued support so that we can continue to make the lives of companion animals better, which in turn makes the world a better place.

Thank You Corner

"Thank you so much. What a blessing!"

~ Rebecca, Halos Second Chance Rescue ~

"Thank you so much. Donations are hard to come by right now so we really needed this."

~ Lauren, For the Love of Paws ~

"Thank you sooo sooo much!"

~ Stacey, Roane County Animal Shelter ~

"Thank you for EVERYTHING!"

~ Annette, Almost Home Animal Rescue ~

"Thank you so much!!! You are a blessing to rescues in our area."

~ Jenny, Hooves & Feathers, Farm Animal Humane Society ~

"Thank you so much!!"

~ Michelle, A Chance for Champ ~

"Thanks so much, HPAN!"

~ Christi, Spay it Forward East TN ~

"Thank you so very much for your generous grant award! This grant is much needed and much appreciated! You can depend on us to be good stewards of this wonderful grant. Congratulations to you, HPAN, for the good work and good will you have brought to the animal welfare community in our region."

~ Carmen, GoNorth Transport Collaborative ~

"You guys are amazing! Thank you sooo much! Having hot water in our kennel area will make such a difference in the quality of care we will be able to give to all the little ones and not so little ones that come thru our doors! Just amazing! You all have helped us so much, we sure appreciate it! We couldn't do this without you.THANKS AGAIN!!!"

~ Lisa, Senior Dog Lodge & Animal Rescue ~

"We wanted to extend our thanks. Thank you for taking the time to review our request and thank you for everything you all already do for so many of us rescues. We sincerely appreciate the help you all have provided and just cannot say thank you enough. We are very blessed to even have the opportunity to request assistance from you. One of the things we like to point out to people is this "if you have more than one favorite rescue or shelter or aren't sure where your donation would be utilized to the fullest extent, please check out HPAN because they are amazing at helping several rescues in the local area."

~ Amy, Pet Path ~

"Thank you so, so much! We appreciate you and all you do! We can't treat these heartworm-positive dogs without your help." xoxoxo

~ Patricia, Friends of Campbell County Animals ~

"Thank you so much!!"

~ Angela, East TN Miniature Horse and Donkey Rescue ~

Campbell County Animal Shelter's Enrichment Program Results in Happier and Healthier Animals

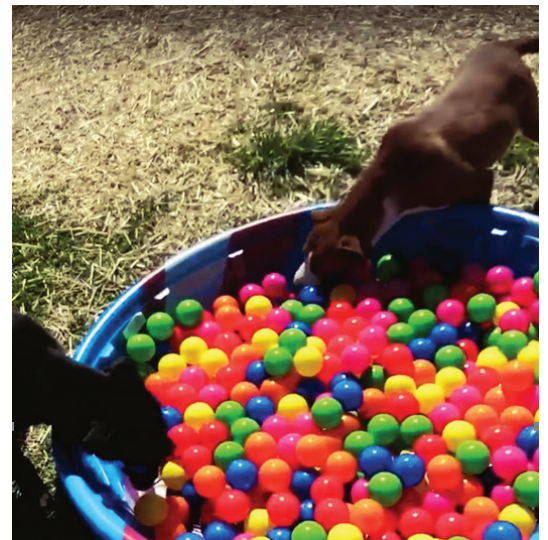
Submitted by Patricia Siwinski, Director Campbell County Animal Shelter

You shift your weight trying to find a new, more comfortable position. You look up and stare at a different spot on the wall as you wait for more time to pass. You try to sleep, but sleep doesn't come easily now; there are only so many hours in a day that your body can rest. You stand up and stretch for a moment, trying to work out some of the stiffness in your joints. After just a minute, you lie back down. Nothing to do, to look forward to, or be excited about. This is the life of so many shelter cats and dogs across the country. Day after day of nothing.

Many shelter animals (the lucky ones, that is) may be enclosed in kennels or cages for weeks, months, sometimes longer while they await their forever homes. Over time they become unresponsive, unmotivated and depressed. For many, the stress of living long periods in a traditional shelter environment can simply be more than they can withstand. Here at the Campbell County Animal Shelter, we wanted to change things. Our goal was to give our residents things to do during some of the countless hours in each day - to give them a focus, and in doing so, enhance the quality of their lives.

The idea of an enrichment program was first introduced at our shelter several months ago. We began simple. We installed MP3 players throughout the facility and provided the animals with classical music during certain periods of the day, in order to create a calming sensation amid all the turmoil. This auditory stimulation helped to muffle the loud noises of the shelter, and gave the animals something pleasant to concentrate on. Once that was implemented, we began providing interactive toys. For the cats, we focused on their instinctive drive to play - jingles, balls, feathers, etc. For our dogs we wanted toys that stimulated problem-solving skills, such as searching for hidden treats.

A couple of the greatest additions we made to our facility are the canine exercise yard and outdoor catio. These enclosures have allowed everyone time to be out of kennel/cage and to run, play or express energy in a positive and constructive manner. Further, we installed portals to our indoor cat kennels effectively doubling the living space each resident has, and creating separate quarters for eating/playing and away from the litterbox. With each addition to our enrichment program, we saw immediate results. The residents quickly became aware of different phases within a day - play time, nap time, dinner time, etc., and they began to expect and look forward to what was coming next. The animals became more engaging, excited, and they seemed to have renewed purpose in their lives. This only served to further our desire to make more positive changes.



We added lick pads to the kennel walls so the dogs could experience taste bud stimulation. We incorporated outdoor play time with bubbles to our schedule, which quickly became a favorite game with many of the dogs. For the cats, we provided visual stimulation in the form of faux aquariums inside the feline adoption area, and while in the outdoor catio, the cats now enjoy a view of a bird bath on the front lawn. We have even implemented olfactory stimulation for everyone by filling the air with various outdoor or animal-specific scents. Everything is scheduled in detail and rotated daily, to help prevent boredom with any one activity.

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How to Choose a Veterinarian

By: Eboney Johnson

Choosing a veterinarian can be tough! There are a lot of options out there. What should you consider before making a decision?

First, consider proximity to your home. If there is an emergency, it is good to be able to get your pet in quickly opposed to making a long commute. It's also easier to keep up with medications such as heartworm prevention and flea/tick medications if the veterinarian is close instead of having to drive out of your way.



Second, consider the vet's hours. Do you work full time? You may want to make sure the vet is open on weekends or later on weekdays so it is convenient to take your pet. You will not want to take a day off from work when there are many wonderful offices out there that will work with your schedule.

Third, look at reviews, recommendations, and referrals! Look online and see what the ratings and reviews are. Keep in mind, many people only leave reviews when they've had a bad experience. Even so, this is a good source of information. Ask for recommendations on social media. Many subdivisions, apartment complexes, etc. have their own Facebook groups. This is a good way to ask your neighbors which vets they recommend. Also, don't forget to ask your family, friends, and co-workers for referrals! These are people you already trust, so make sure you get their advice!

Now that you've used these methods to narrow down the list, what services are important to you? Emergency on call? Boarding? Grooming? Perhaps you have a pet that is not a dog or cat; does the vet office take exotics, etc?

Hopefully, this has narrowed down your options to one or two facilities. When you decide to call the vet office to ask questions and/or to make an appointment, are the staff nice? When you go to your newly chosen vet for the first time, don't forget to take a list of any questions and concerns you have as well as everything your pet needs. No one likes to get home and realize they forgot to get nails trimmed!

Finally, after you've visited the new vet, make sure you and your pet were comfortable with the whole experience. Trust your instincts because you want to be happy with your decision. Do not be afraid to change veterinarians or offices if your first choice does not work out! We all want the best for our pets!

Campbell County Animal Shelter's Enrichment Program

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Here is what we know; animals are sentient beings. Those that feel connected to humans and want to engage with them. Animals that feel safe and protected become stable, loving companions. It is possible, even in a shelter, for animals to feel valued and loved. Happy animals are healthy animals, and we have seen a marked reduction in illnesses and the need for antibiotics in the past few months. Our goal when we started this program was to provide enrichment and value to our resident's lives; what we did was save lives.

