The Best of Company in Our Veterinary Clinic

“What I witnessed almost left me speechless.” Doug Wilt

“Through The Eyes of A Shelter Dog
The journey described by a veterinary technician
State of the Shelter  by Diane Less

Another year almost gone! Time goes so fast, it seems like such a short time since we were in a chicken barn on Green Valley Drive! Just a snap of the finger and voila – we reside in the finest animal shelter and medical facility in the country! It is true- everyone who made this possible should be so proud! All of this is made possible by YOU. The donors, the employees, the volunteers – every one of these people made this dream come true! However, we still have a lot of work to do – but the frame work is in place – a huge accomplishment! I personally take a great deal of pleasure giving tours and seeing the looks of amazement. Just last week I gave a tour to a veterinarian from San Francisco who stated that there was nothing like this where she lives!

We had a great year in so many ways – our annual garage sale was the biggest ever. We added a new building and grossed $217,000 – netting about $40,000 more than last year. Our reverse raffle and other summer events were good. Our new event - Cars, Cats and Canines - was amazing! All of these events take our mission and needs to the general public. I would guess 2 out of 3 of the people at the car show had never been to Angels.

We have had some backsliding in our cat mission. Sherry and her team have been juggling about 900 cats and kittens in the current system. For the first time in 5 years, we have to turn cats away. This is heartbreaking! Even though we offer reasonable pricing on spays/neuters and health care. There are many factors in this issue – number one is feeding that stray. Now winter is coming and now what? At this point in time, we could take every stray cat in this entire region if people would just bring the first one before it has kittens. So... now is the time to fix this problem for 2023. We need the greatest Feline Fix Fest ever! Fixing every cat in January or February before the kittens are born in March will stop this from occurring. Consider a generous donation to Feline Fix Fest 23. If you make a $200 donation, I will send you an awesome shirt so you can wear the message and spread the word!

The dogs are way ahead in our society. The desirable ones are snatched up very quickly, but sadly covid has greatly affected their world. We are receiving many dogs that were adopted from other shelters and purchased during the lock downs. These dogs, mostly puppies, lived a very isolated life with their families 24/7. So now, mom and dad go back to work and this poor animal goes crazy. The answer - just take them to the pound or shelter. These are the pets that really need rescued! We are so lucky to have Jenny Falvey and Dog Smartz here at Angels. They have classes in our spay/neuter lobby every weekend. Our dog manager and her team of volunteers work very hard on these issues to save the lives of these dogs.

Our clinic and spay/neuter surgery staff schedule as many clients as possible. We try to keep up with the demand, but like every other business in America we lack staffing. We are dealing with a national veterinarian and vet tech shortage where there are 4.5 available jobs for every vet in the country. Even receptionists and kennel workers are hard to come by. We are hoping that our partnerships with Eastern Gateway Community College, Mahoning County Career and Technical College and Columbiana County Vocational School will yield future employees. We also hope some of the students in vet school will come back to work for us!

We just have to keep trying. The pets only have us to help them. Don’t forget... see the “good” you can do!

Visit us soon! Tours of the “Angels Wing” continue every Saturday at 1 p.m.
Mission Statement

Angels for Animals believes that animals, as living creatures, have value beyond economic measure. Our mission is to educate the people of our community about pet overpopulation and regular veterinary care for pets; cultivate an awareness and responsibility toward the needs of companion animals; provide for the well-being of our community’s animals that are abandoned or otherwise in need; and instill respect for and appreciation of all living things.

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Promote your business with an ad in the Marketplace and help us publish the very popular Halo Magazine. Funds also help animals in need.

Contact Kimberly Moff at Kimberly.moff@angelsforanimals.org.

DONATION ANIMALS

Throughout the year our furry friends join us at one event after another to work the crowd and bring in donations. We love our donation animals and their owners! Donation animals must love people and being around crowds. Once we slip on the vest, they get a little extra love and donations in their pouch. Events, dates, and times vary throughout the year, so there is plenty of time to volunteer and join our team! To become a donation animal, contact Angels for Animals at 330.549.1111 press #5.

Angels for Animals Annual Gigantic Garage Sale dates will be April 21st, 22nd and 23rd at the Canfield Fairgrounds! Mark your calendars and watch for more details at www.angelsforanimals.org
Veterinary Technician’s Oath

“I solemnly dedicate myself to aiding animals and society by providing excellent care and services for animals, by alleviating animal suffering, and promoting public health. I accept my obligations to practice my profession conscientiously and with sensitivity, adhering to the profession’s Code of Ethics, and furthering my knowledge and competence through a commitment to lifelong learning.”

Contact Stacy at Scpierce@egcc.edu

Fleas - You Never Have Just One by Kim Smith

Parasites! The word itself makes you cringe. Fleas are an external parasite that can cause discomfort and skin problems for your pet and cause problems for your home and family. The pharmaceutical world has many very effective products that take care of the parasites while providing a good safety margin for you and your pet. We are going to discuss fleas.

External parasite prevention and control should be given year round. Veterinary professionals see many owners waiting until there is a problem and then attempting to treat. Waiting until a flea problem is out of hand by the fall can cost a lot more to treat than just using a monthly flea treatment. Pets also lose in this scenario as they can end up with severe skin infections, hair loss and discomfort. Using monthly flea and tick prevention stops the population from growing in your environment and prevents a problem from starting.

Fleas can lay 20 to 50 eggs daily and they need a blood meal from the host, your pet, to lay those eggs. The eggs can hatch to larvae in 1 to 12 days and live in the area where the pet spends most of its time. These turn into adults quickly and the cycle starts anew. Just a couple of fleas that may not be noticed by the pet owner can turn into hundreds or even thousands in a short period of time. Usually by the time fleas are noticed to be a problem the problem is extensive and treatment of the house may be needed. This can be costly.

An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure! That old saying is very true. While an effective flea treatment isn’t cheap, it is much less expensive than paying an exterminator to treat your home.
Shopping at Angels by Kate Haplea

Here at Angels for Animals, we have a wonderful retail department filled with all kinds of goodies for your pets as well as yourself! Enter Door B Monday thru Friday, 12 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. and Saturday, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. We have a large assortment of leashes, collars and toys for dogs. We carry dog crates and harnesses too! For the felines we have a large array of cat trees, toys, catnips, cat carriers, collars and leashes.

We also carry an assortment of nail trimmers and grooming brushes for every four legged friend. We carry a variety of shampoos and conditioners as well as sprays and cleaners for when our pets have accidents.

We have a terrific assortment of t-shirts, hats and hoodies available as well! Volunteers make blankets, scarfs, necklaces, catnip sticks and more! We have even expanded to an online store on our website. There is also a unique gift shop that has many unusual items available if you are looking for that special something for a fellow pet lover.

We have a retail room currently set up over in the new Angel Wing with dog and cat items to the left of the front desk. To the right of the desk we boast an urn room filled with many beautiful styles of urns to place your beloved pet's cremains in when the time comes for end of life services.

We have really tried to make Angels a one stop animal center! Come on out to visit our retail area to see the huge variety of items we offer!

Looking for a great holiday gift?

Pick up the ANGELS 2023 CALENDAR at the shelter for just $12.00, or you can order online to have it delivered for $16.

Interested in having your pet in the 2024 calendar contest? After April 1, 2023 go to www.angelsforanimals.org and find the link for the calendar contest. Your photos can be submitted from April 1, 2023 to September 15, 2023. We look forward to seeing your best photos of your furry friends!

Feebea Jo Cheney, owned by Trudy Cheney, was the winner of the 2023 Photo Contest with 1410 votes. A big thank you to all participants for submitting photos and voting!
Adoption by Application
by Sherry Bankey, Cat Manager

Hello everyone! We are happy to report that currently over 1100 cats/kittens have been adopted since January! So many have found their forever homes and we are so happy for them!

Many people are still wondering why we are still doing adoptions by approved applications. Things are certainly not the same as years past where doors were completely opened to everyone. During covid, we went to appointments for approved applications, which limited the number of people together, with masks in the shelter. During that time, we realized that people who were serious about welcoming a new pet into their homes, were able to spend time with the cats without numerous people in the rooms with them. It helped them make the decision on who the lucky kitty was getting that one on one with no distractions. It also allowed staff to spend more one on one time with these potential adopters and answer questions they may have. It also gives staff time to reach out to landlord and vets listed on applications, so pre-approval helps one of our cats (or dogs) find their forever homes. For every cat adoption, space opens for another to get their chance at a loving home.

Our feedback has mostly been positive on the time people have been given to spend that time in the room where neither they nor the cats are pressured to make a decision. We have also noted that there has been less upper respiratory, and cats are mentally happier! That means less vet calls, medications and cats that can’t wait to greet people at the door when they come into their rooms! Our volunteers and fosters are our backbone and they have seen the difference from years past in the overall health of the cats they care for daily.

Adopting is a big decision and feel that the appointments give adopters the time to pick the cat that will be the best for them. We love the look on their faces when so many cats clamber for attention because the cats stress levels are low and lower number of people in the rooms are helping that for sure. If you are considering adoption, please fill out a pre-adoption form on our website at www.angelsforanimals.org We do our best to process them within 48 hours so one of our wonderful cats can have a happy, loving forever home!
Since the COVID pandemic and more people working from home these days, the pet population in our area has grown exponentially. We strive to keep our veterinary costs low for people in our community in hopes to get clients to routinely vet their animals in order to provide the best start to a long happy life for their new fur babies. Traditionally animals were just referred to as property, but these days more and more people view their pets as family members. As with any family member, we all expect to receive the best care possible when our pets are in need. Sadly, even when a client is happy with the care they receive; getting them to comply with the advice of our doctors can prove to challenging. Ensuring pet parents understand the need for routine and preventative check-ups to ensure a long happy life for their pets is an expense a lot of people do not anticipate when they first decide to take in a new fur baby.

Working at a veterinary clinic can be an exhausting and sometimes feel like a thankless job. In this current day, with the struggle to find and retain appropriate staff, the challenge to stay up to date on ever changing standards, emerging trends, new medications, therapies and treatments, the job can be emotionally and physically draining. We find ourselves overworked and understaffed; all while trying to maintain the ability to meet the community’s needs. We tend to be on our feet for 8-12 hours a day, exposed to disease and the constant risk of physical injury due to fearful and/or aggressive pets and animals in our care.

Veterinary medicine is becoming more and more specialized and quite a few practices in the area have closed due to the struggles of having to refer services to other more specialized facilities. Many facilities are too understaffed to accommodate the growing needs for veterinary care. We here at Angels for Animals have been working diligently toward obtaining state-of-the-art equipment and training for staff to operate all the new equipment. We are currently offering digital X-rays, dental surgeries, general surgery, spay/neuter surgery, ultrasound, laser therapy, UV light therapy, full service veterinary clinic, grooming services, private euthanasia and crematory options, just to mention a few. While the job may be taxing, we all love what we do and we will continue to strive to offer the latest, most innovative services possible to our community; all while trying to remain low cost for the betterment of the clients and their furry family members. As always we find it beneficial to maintain a community presence, not only to keep them aware of services we offer but also to always address issues and provide education about animal over-population and the importance of our spay and neuter clinic.

Our spay and neuter program continues to gain ground. Last year we had a combined total of 9,059 feline and canine spay/neuter procedures, as of November this year we are already at a total of 9,126 surgeries completed with another 6 weeks to go, we will hit well over 10,000 before the end of the year. Our feline spay numbers alone are up 10.68% from all of last year already. We couldn’t be happier about this! We are here to stay and we will continue doing our best, struggles and all. I believe we are up for the challenges required to grow this unique state-of-the-art facility, stay competitive in the veterinary field and keep up on all the current trends to meet the needs of our community while giving back as much as we can. All we ask of you is please be patient as we grow; - growing pains are no joke.. We are always looking for veterinarians, vet techs and animal support staff to add to our family. However, finding quality people with the passion and dedication to do what we do here at Angels for Animals has proven to be quite the task these days, and it can feel like a thankless job sometimes.
A Dream to Reality - But at What Cost? by George Beaver

Angels for Animals what is it…. It is a facility for Veterinary Medicine, Adoption, Education and Care. But what is it physically? Physically it is a collection of buildings some of them 20 years old on 32 acres on the south side of Mahoning County that serves people in all of Northeastern Ohio and parts of Western PA. Angels now encompasses 3 main buildings, 5 acres of parking lots, a water treatment plant and 3 different areas that are supervised by the EPA.

What does any of this have to do with animal care? Everything! Without our facility we couldn’t house animals, we couldn’t provide low cost spay and neuter, and we couldn’t have a vet clinic that costs about 70% of what other clinic costs with substantially lower prices for end of life care. All of this does not come without a cost. A quick rundown of expenses in order of cost would look like this for January through October of this year:

- State and federal licensing: $1,615
- Vehicles: $4,182 – Used to transport supplies, pick up donations and plow in winter.
- Andrews Hall: Cleaning, Repair and Maintenance: $10,885
- Insurance: $15,571
- Cecil Crematory: Repairs & Maintenance: $26,366
- Lariccia Animal Adoption Center & Angel Wing Maintenance & Repairs: $72,965
- Inside & Outside Services: $132,302
- Water, Gas, Electric and Internet: $137,440 – the largest part of that is electricity

These figures don not include the donations or time and materials vendors have provided. Those figures, which add up to about $430,000 for our first 10 months of the year, only account for 14 percent of our overall budget. We work very hard to have funds to care for our animals. Keep in mind the next time you see one of our staff asking for donations of money or you attend one of our many fundraisers, that on average just giving the animals a place to live and a place for the thousands of surgeries and patients we see annually costs us $43,000 a month before we ever buy a single drug or pay a single staff member. That’s the starting price to dream big that all the animals in the area will receive the care they need, but we think its worth the price, hopefully you do too.
A Calling to Volunteer  by Diana James

I joined Angels for Animals this summer as the volunteer director. I come from a background as a graphic designer, but with a good understanding of the power of volunteers in our community. While working full time and raising my family I felt called to volunteer as a room mom, school bus trip chaperone, PIE member and president at our elementary school PTA. I became a soccer coach and then joined the board and eventually became president of our local soccer league. As our kids entered high school, I helped in the athletic booster booth, chaperoned dances and helped with fundraisers. Both my husband I have been involved with 4H for the past 20 years. I am a longtime member of Youngstown All Breed Training Center, an all-volunteer organization dedicated to teaching the public to have a good relationship with their dogs. All of these groups were looking for the same thing - someone to step in and lend a hand. None of these groups could function without those people willing to step in and dedicate themselves, and most importantly their time to help others.

There is a satisfaction that comes from sharing your time and talent where it’s needed. Everyone has some talent they can share or a gift that could make a difference in someone’s life. In my short time here, I have seen what an impact our more than 280 volunteers have on Angels. Most of the care they give is never seen, but you all provide a valuable service to the animals who are waiting for their forever homes. You help provide clean shelters and keep our residents well fed. We are a dedicated team of men & women who make it their mission to make the life of our shelter animals as comfortable as possible. I so appreciate our volunteers that give of their time for our special events for the shelter, bringing in the much-needed funds to keep the shelter running. A lot of our events are on weekends, so our volunteers may be giving up the only free time they have that week. We have many gifted volunteers who take the time to use their gift of sewing, cooking or just being an extra set of hands around the shelter.

The great thing about what I have seen with our volunteers is what I have experienced myself. There is a sense of satisfaction, service and purpose that comes from knowing that you have made a difference in another’s life; whether it’s dogs, cats or people. Thank-you to all our volunteers, and if you haven’t had the opportunity to volunteer yet, please consider volunteering. The benefits are amazing.

Sponsor a square foot for the new Angel Wing and multiply the ways we care for all animals in the future.

Just fill out the information below and send it in an envelope addressed to Angels for Animals, 4750 W. South Range Road, Canfield, OH 44406.

I would like to sponsor _____square feet of Angel Wing @ $200 per square foot for a total of $___________.

I would like to pay
☐ now
☐ monthly in payments of $___________.
☐ quarterly in payments of $___________.

NAME _______________________________________________________________
ADDRESS ____________________________________________________________
CITY ___________________ STATE ___ ZIP __________
PHONE ____________________________
EMAIL ____________________________

Credit card (info below)    Check (enclosed)

☐ CREDIT CARD# _______________    ☐
EXPIRES ____________________

For questions, call 330.502.5352.
All donations are tax-deductible.
We wanted to do a fundraiser for Angels for Animals that not only would raise money, but also bring the community in to see the shelter itself and all that it has to offer. Most of the shelter’s fundraising events take place at other locations, but with so many new changes, updates, and the completion of the Angel Wing we thought “why not here?”. We saw the potential and we were determined to make it happen - thus creating Cars, Cats & Canines!

This event was the first of its kind at Angels for Animals and with a lot of hard work it was an outstanding success. Initially, we envisioned the 300 lined parking spots filled with unique cars that would bring attention to the shelter and entice people to head inside and see the many furry faces and the passionate work that goes on at the shelter. We had planned for food, drinks, raffles, cars, and shelter tours that day with hopes for good weather to help. We were blessed with beautiful seventy-five degree weather and not a cloud in the sky, which fortunately brought hundreds of cars and even more people than we could have ever hoped for! Every inch of the parking lots, grass, field, and road were packed with exotic, antique, street, sport, muscle and collector cars. The first show car arrived at 7:55 a.m.! We estimated nearly four-hundred cars and over five-hundred people. The shelter dogs had a wonderful time walking the show and meeting so many friendly faces and getting a lot of love. We truly could not have asked for a better day! Cars, Cats & Canines brought in just over $13,500 for Angels for Animals!

We would like to thank all of the volunteers and companies who donated time, resources, and energy to help make this event possible, it was a lot of work and without you it would not have gone off without a hitch! A special thank you to Dr. Mark & Stephanie McMurray for the planning and preparing the food for the event. And to each and every individual who chose to spend their day at Cars, Cats & Canines THANK YOU for making a difference for every cat and dog at Angels for Animals! We look forward to an even bigger and better event next year!

I would like to dedicate this event to my father, David Flynn. He was a life-long car enthusiast and a lover of dogs and cats. He and my mother instilled the importance of care, compassion, and empathy for all animals in myself and my siblings from a young age and we hold true to his belief in defending what cannot defend itself. He would have been overjoyed to see the love and support of Angels for Animals from our community and his fellow car enthusiast friends! On behalf of him, thank you.
Dog Volunteer Highlights

by Kimberly Vivacqua

We have been very fortunate to have so many incredible volunteers at Angels for Animals throughout the years, and couldn’t be more grateful that this year has brought us the gift of two more extraordinary volunteers, Georgina Griffith and her daughter, Tabitha. This mother-daughter team has touched the hearts of every person and every dog at the shelter. Tabitha is a 7th grade student, and as you can imagine, life is busy for their family with schoolwork, full time jobs, and so much more. But volunteering at the shelter is a top priority for this amazing young lady and her mom. Their dedication, kindness, and love for animals shine through in everything they do. You will find them every weekend and many nights during the week playing with all the shelter pups and showering them with love, taking them for walks, cleaning kennels, washing dishes, and anything else that needs done. Not to mention, all the times they have volunteered at special events at the shelter.

The dogs are all so excited when they see them come through the door because they know it’s going to be an extra special day! Georgina and Tabitha are truly an inspiration for all of us, and we just can’t thank them enough for everything they do.

To become an Angels volunteer, contact Diana James at 330-549-1111. Press # 5.

We always have volunteer opportunities and are always in need of more volunteers.
Planned Giving – Ideas for Giving Throughout the Year by Janet Flynn

It’s never too soon to make your end-of-the-year giving plans. There are many ways to donate to Angels for Animals. Some might benefit you through tax savings and others are new digital donation ideas.

Consider Donating a Portion of Your IRA Required Minimum Distribution
If you are 72, you might be receiving a Required Minimum Distribution from your IRA each year. The RMD is considered ordinary income and is taxed at an individual’s tax rate. If these funds are donated directly to Angels for Animals, which is a 501(c)3 organization, they are not treated as income to the donor by the IRS up to a maximum of $100,000 per year. If your tax consultant determines this is appropriate for your situation, please contact Janet Flynn at 330-716-0697 to make the necessary arrangements.

Naming Angels for Animals in Your Will
Over the years Angels for Animals has received bequests from long time volunteers, donors and animal lovers. Their names can be seen as you tour the Angel Wing, above doorways and on the exterior of the building. These generous people paved the way for the beginning of the Angel Wing project by committing funds from their estates to be used for specific rooms or buildings. Others designate funds to be used for the specific purpose of spaying/neutering stray dogs and cats. Please contact your estate planner or Diane Less at 330-502-5352 to learn more about leaving a gift to benefit the future of Angels.

Set up a Facebook Birthday Fundraiser
If you are one of the 170,000 Angels Facebook followers you may have noticed many people setting up Facebook Birthday Fundraisers. This is an easy and fun way to invite your friends, co-workers and family to make a gift in honor of your birthday directly to Angels for Animals. Instructions for the easy set up are on Facebook and no fees are deducted.

List an Item on Ebay for Charity
Do you love to sell on Ebay? Angels for Animals is an approved charity with Ebay and has been receiving funds from supporters all over the country who list items and designate a percentage to go to Angels. Go to https://charity.ebay.com/charity/Angels-For-Animals/1734188 for information on items listed and how to list your own items.

Transferring Securities
Appreciated stock is an easy way to make a gift that is economically advantageous to you and Angels for Animals. Donating stocks directly might allow you to increase the net amount of your gift significantly. Questions about stock donations can be answered by your broker or by calling Janet Flynn at 330-716-0697.

Giving Gifts of Personal Property and Real Estate
In some situations Angels for Animals is able to accept gifts of personal property such as collectible items, jewelry, coins, artwork, vehicles and residential or commercial property. You can choose to designate your gift of residential property now and continue to live in it for your lifetime. Please contact Diane Less at 330-502-5352 if you would like more information. Donations of personal property can be given at any time depending on storage space available, and a tax receipt letter will be provided.

Matching Gifts and Payroll Deductions
Many employers now offer a matched percentage to donations made by their employees. Others will set up payroll deductions for donations to charitable organizations. Contact your human resource department to find out if such plans are available to you. One website designed to help you search for employers who offer matching funds can be found at https://ww2.matchinggifts.com/search/ritsituation.

Donate a Raffle Basket or Gift Card
Many special events held by Angels for Animals offer auctions of gift baskets or gift cards. If you or your business would like to donate to one of these events please contact Robin at 330-506-2839. Gift baskets or items are always needed for the Wine Taste, Reverse Raffle and Garage Sale. Volunteers are available to create a basket for your business or pick up items if you make arrangements ahead. Auctions significantly increase the success of these events!

Amazon Wishlist
Allows you to see what the shelter needs to take care of kittens, puppies and more. Amazon has made it easy to contribute to the everyday operations of the shelter! Go to www.AngelsforAnimals.org and click on the Amazon wishlist button.
Front Office Donations
by Robin Helscel

Angels for Animals is a 501©3 entity that relies on donations and volunteers to help with the overwhelming task of housing stray/adoptable animals while they wait for their forever homes. We take many types of donations to help us with this task.

The Front Office at Door B is the main drop off for all donations for the Shelter. We are taking in open bags of food and canned food for both cats and dogs, along with different cat and dog treats, as well as blankets and towels for our furbabies. We don’t take sheets, pillows or comforters. We also rent traps to catch feral/stray cats.

The food donations do not go to our shelter animals. We pass out that food to out of people who are having a temporary hard time financially. We just ask them to replace what they have taken when things get better for them so we can then help another animal. If you want to help with our enormous food bill, a monetary donation is always appreciated. We order food from a supplier that makes it easy for all of our animals to have a consistent diet while they are with us.

We also take newspapers to line surgery cages as well as plastic lined feed bags. We request the plastic lined so that the animal waste doesn’t soak through the bag making a mess for disposal. Any unused sealed medical supplies are also taken and syringes, tubing, gauze, etc. is always needed. The more we can get donated frees up more money to help other animals in need.

The Cat, Dog and Medical Wish lists gives you a better idea of the items we are happy to accept during normal business hours. We so appreciate the donations from the community!! We can’t do what we do without YOU!
Pet ownership can be a stressful situation for anyone at some point in that pet’s lifetime. We don’t always factor that into our decision making when getting a pet. I was fortunate enough to be introduced to a great veterinarian when my pups were young. Dr. Parker was in private practice at the time and she always made time for them whenever they needed anything. I’m a bit of a helicopter pet parent. Needless to say, she has endured a lot over the years with my sometimes needless worrying. She was always happy to do her best for them. I’m thankful she chose the path she did.

When Dr. Parker left her private practice to work at Angels for Animals I kind of panicked. I didn’t know what that meant for my aging little guys. She assured me that whenever they needed something she and Angels would be there. That need did arise several times and I had an opportunity to witness their care first hand as I’m reluctant to just hand them over to someone in a back room. What I witnessed almost left me speechless. It’s a busy place in an organized, chaotic kind of way to someone like me. To the vets, vet techs, assistants, etc. it looked routine. Seeing them at work it becomes very apparent that these people truly care about animals. Some of them were carrying cats around in towels & blankets, comforting them as they woke from surgery. Others were practically laying on the floor with the larger dogs on foam pads covered with blankets accompanied by a kind hand rubbing their head and a reassuring voice telling them they were going to be ok. If you’re ever concerned when you can’t be there with your pet, rest assured they are in the best of company. I saw someone else that day who walked in and seemed to be looking in on things. We didn’t formally meet but Dr. Parker later told me: “that’s Diane Less”.

I’ve always been grateful to Angels for the level of care they provided over the years for my dogs. I got a call from Dr. Parker out of the blue when one of her co-workers needed a car. I work at a car dealer and told her I would try to help any way I could. He stopped by one day and picked out a car he liked. Unfortunately he hadn’t established any credit yet and he didn’t have anyone to co-sign for him. A couple days had passed and he called to tell me that his boss was going to co-sign for him. Honestly, my first thought was his boss was just not going to do that. In twenty plus years in the car business I have never seen a boss co-sign for an employee.

A day or two later he walked in, with his boss. She introduced herself to me: “Hi, I’m Diane.” It was her, that familiar face I remembered seeing at Angels. Well, there’s a first time for everything. The guy left with the car less than an hour later. I was wrong and happy for it. The kindness and generosity of that simple act meant a lot to me. Of course it pales in comparison to what it means to the animals in her care. Diane Less has more help now compared to the more modest beginnings of this vision she had while out riding horses with a friend. The facility itself is massive and quite impressive. Her team is an amazing group of people that really care for animals. YOU are the center of your pet’s universe. For the homeless cats and dogs at Angels for Animals, many caring souls are the center of theirs.
Computers and technology can be a blessing or a curse. We have worked to expand our new website to allow you to find information with ease or a click of the button. Hopefully, with a little explanation as to how it all works, you will find the website as an online window as to what is happening at Angels for Animals. With the Animal Shelter, Veterinary Clinic, Spay and Neuter Clinic and so many other services that we currently offer at Angels for Animals, our website needed to reflect these many services. By using the tabs at the top of the website, you are able to travel from page to page to find answers and information on your specific needs. On your phone, this is the white button with the lines. These are actually interactive buttons, that once you click on them, they will automatically take you to the page where you will find information on the topic you chose. Even donations or buying event tickets can handled by simply clicking the designated buttons on any page of the website. We currently have a small online store with t-shirts, hoodies, and such. Visit www.AngelsforAnimals.org and check us out!

Microchip Creates a Happy Ending
by Kimberly Moff

Why is it important to microchip your animal? Just ask Mavry Maestro of Alliance, Ohio. Their cat, Nebula, was lost in June of 2021. They tried to find him, but had no luck. Months had passed by and they had given up hope. Little did they know that Nebula had found his way to Berlin Center, Ohio and was living with a different family. Through the miracle of the microchip, Mavry received a phone call that she had been dreaming of for what seemed like forever. In November of 2022, Nebula was found and the tears this time were tears of joy! Nebula was finally coming home thanks to a tiny microchip. Microchips are easily injected at most veterinarian facilities and are painless. Contact our veterinary clinic at 330-549-1111, Press #1 if you have questions regarding microchipping your pet. We would be happy to help you create your happy ending!

Grooming with a Little Extra

If you think about how exhausting it is to groom an animal that does not want to be groomed, imagine the fear and anxiety being that animal. Animals need to have a good experience while being groomed. A groomer must have the patience of a saint in some cases, to work through the fear that some animals have with clippers, nail clippers, ear cleaning, and with some, just the experience of being touched by a stranger.

Cindy Kingston is that special person who is able to work with the toughest animals during grooming at Angels for Animals. She is also trained in sedated grooming to ease the anxiety an animal may have during grooming. The animal is simply given some gas to help it nod off to sleep and stay comfortable during clipping, nail trims, ear cleaning, and then slowly wakes looking brand new. Prices vary according to what all your furry friend needs during the visit.

Our grooming facility can also do bird, rabbits and other exotics. We plan to add another basic groomer to open more appointment times. All appointments must be scheduled by calling our Veterinary Clinic at 330-549-1111.
Working in an animal shelter is very hard on the employees. It breaks our hearts to see the sad and lonely animals come in, all scared and uncertain of what is happening. But I want to take a moment to think and see how truly difficult it is on the animals, especially our shelter dogs. There are two main categories of dogs who come into our shelter and those categories are, stray dogs and surrendered dogs. The difference between the two is one of them, the stray, is found wandering the streets, the other one, the surrendered dog, comes from a loving home. I have taken a moment to think about what these two different dogs may think as they end up coming to the shelter. So I am telling you their stories through their eyes.

Hello, I'm one of the shelter dogs here at Angels for Animals. I was brought in by a nice police officer who found me wandering around in a park. I was scared and lonely and extremely hungry. The police officer offered me a treat, which I gladly took from his hand, and he put me in his car. He took me for a car ride that was kinda scary because I didn't know where we were going. He brought me to Angels for Animals and gave me to a very nice lady who took me back to a little area with a very comfortable bed. They gave me food and water, and my favorite treat in the world, peanut butter. I was very scared at the beginning because I was not sure if I could trust these people. I have been so used to being on my own and fending for myself, but now I have people giving me treats and taking me on walks and taking me outside to play with my favorite toys and sitting with me when I get scared. I even get extra cuddles at the end of the day. There are some scary parts like the people who poke me with those needles, but I will say they help me a lot. I have not been sick yet!

The people who take care of me keep sitting with me and telling me that I will soon find a home. I don't even know what a home is, but the way they make it sound I can't wait to have one! Days pass and I'm waiting for this place called home. I have been here for so long and people just keep passing by my cage door just stopping to look in but they walk away and I begin to lose hope. Finally, one day this very nice family came up to my cage door and stopped but they didn't walk away. They looked at the nice lady that takes care of me and said "we want this one". I was so happy! They put a collar on me and clipped on a leash and they took me to my new home. The best part is they have kids and I get to sleep on the bed with them! Who would have ever thought that a dog like me who was found wandering the streets would have ever had such a happy ending and a brand new beginning! Time for me to enjoy life in my forever home!

Hello, I am another one of the shelter dogs but my story is different than my friend's story. I will never forget the day I first came to the shelter. My family and I were sitting on the couch together in our house. My owner looked over at me and said, “Hey buddy, do you want to go for a ride?” “Of course,” I barked my answer. I know he can't understand me but they both know I love car rides! So we got my leash and went out to the car. My mom was carrying a bag of some of my favorite toys and treats and my bowls, dad was carrying my bed. I thought this was a little strange but I didn't care, we were going for a car ride! I eagerly jumped up into the car and waited for mom and dad to finish loading everything into the back of the car. We started driving, they both looked very sad. We drove into this big parking lot with a big building and a lot of cars. I saw other dogs too. We parked the car, and mom went to the back of the car and got my stuff out and dad opened my door, “Come on pal, let’s get out,” he said. Of course I was scared but
I was a loyal dog and trusted my humans, so I jumped out. Mom and dad led me through the door where they handed my leash to a strange lady. The lady then took my stuff from mom. “Goodbye buddy,” mom and dad said to me as the lady walked me away from them. Little did I know that would be the last time I would ever see my humans.

The lady took me back into a little area where she set up my bed and gave me food and water and my favorite toy. They tried to give me treats but I didn’t feel like eating. I missed my family and I wanted to go home. They left the treats in my food bowl and left me alone for the night. I didn’t eat for a few days and the people that were taking care of me started to get worried. When they would come into my area to see if I was okay I would growl at them, not because I was being mean but because I was scared and unsure of what was happening. Where was my family? Every time the door would open to my room I would look up in hopes of seeing my mom and dad walk through to come and get me, but eventually my hopes of that happening diminished. The nice people kept coming in and sitting with me even though I still wouldn’t let them touch me. Then one day I decided to give them a chance. I approached one of the ladies and let her pet me. The moment she pet me I melted into her lap. While we sat there I kept thinking, why did my family leave me? Was I not enough for them? Was I a bad dog? What did I do wrong? I tried my best. Yes, I chewed up dad’s shoe but I also protected them. I was loyal to them. I trusted them. What if I can’t trust anyone like that again? The nice lady asked me if I wanted to go for a walk as she held up a leash. The last time I went for a walk someone just left me in a random and scary place with other barking scared dogs. I was a little scared of going for a walk but I really wanted to. I let her put the leash on me and we went outside. She took me to this big area where I could run around and she threw my favorite tennis ball so I could go fetch it. Then, we went inside back to my little area. She unclipped my leash and pet me on the head and said I was a good boy. It has been a while since I heard that. I was finally starting to trust the humans again. When the doctors came in to look at me I did get a little scared but the kennel staff stayed with me and kept me calm. At night the kennel staff would sit with me and tell me I would find a home again some day. But I kept thinking what if I don’t. If my family gave me up, would my new family give me up too? What if I’m not a good enough dog for my new family?

One day I was laying in my cage and a nice family came up to my door and asked if they could meet me. We went out to the play area and played fetch. They also gave me lots of pets and my favorite treats. I was starting to like these people. When the nice lady came out to see how we were doing, the family looked up at her and told her that they want to take me home today! I was so happy I started jumping around and barking. I gave them both slobbery kisses! I will say even though my old family never came back for me, it’s ok I have a new family and they are the best!

These two dogs are just the tip of the iceberg. Imagine the stories of each shelter dog. Although it is not easy for the workers in the shelter to see what the animals are going through, it is even worse for the animals who don’t understand and comprehend what is happening to them and why.

When dogs come into our shelter we generally give them three days before we handle them too much. In the shelter business we have the rule of three that we urge every potential adopter to follow. In the first 3 days your new dog is trying to figure out it’s home and new family. In 3 weeks your new dog has figured out that they will be living with you and they will start a routine. In 3 months your dog has become part of the family! We ask everyone who adopts a dog to please follow these rules. Remember it is hard, especially for a dog who has been in a stressful environment like a shelter, to adjust to big changes. Adopt with patience and help the dog feel comfortable. Show the dog that he or she can trust you. Then you will have the most loyal friend ever.

I hope this article helps see another perspective and helps everyone consider what life might look like through the eyes of a shelter dog.
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Please call Diane anytime to schedule an appointment at 330-502-5352.
Adoption requires commitment to the lifetime of an animal. At Angels for Animals, we require that all individuals wishing to meet our animals complete a Pre-Adoption form. These forms are available at Angels for Animals or can be found and completed online on our website at www.AngelsforAnimals.org. The website offers detailed information about adoption. Shelter life should never be a permanent life. If you have space in your heart and your home, consider adopting from a shelter. These animals definitely have space in their heart for you! Contact our dog or cat manager by calling our office.

How Can I Adopt?

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Business Office & Angel Store
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Dog & Cat Viewing By Pre-Approved Application
Sunday CLOSED
Monday CLOSED
Tuesday Noon - 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Noon - 6:00 p.m.
Thursday Noon - 6:00 p.m.
Friday Noon - 6:00 p.m.
Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Mitchell Veterinary Clinic
Call to schedule an appointment
Sunday CLOSED
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Tuesday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
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