



FOCUS ON FRIENDS

Friends of the Bell County Animal Shelter, Inc.

Friend in Need,
Friend in Deed

Volume 16, #1

Winter 2017

What's New at the Shelter



In October, our good friends at Lincoln Memorial University's Shelter Medicine Club received a grant allowing them to improve our facilities. They enthusiastically cleaned and painted dog kennels and built a fenced exercise area for our smaller dogs.

The students especially lavished attention on our cat facilities, setting up a large cat tree and two

new banks of cages complete with privacy curtains (left)!

Our thanks to the

dedicated LMU Vet School volunteers who give so much to Bell County Animal Shelter, its staff, and our deserving cats and dogs.

And now it's easier than ever to find your way to the shelter with our two new signs. One (upper right) was donated by an LMU vet student, and the larger one (bottom right) was purchased by FOS. Special thanks to Daniel Lamb for framing and mounting the sign.



Bobbie Hoskins (left) is a recent employee at the shelter. Friends of the

Shelter celebrated National Animal Shelter Appreciation week in November by giving each employee a \$25 Wal-Mart gift card, and treating them to a special lunch of pizza and dessert. We really appreciate the shelter staff's hard work and dedication to helping animals!



Friends of the Bell County Animal Shelter, Inc.
P.O. Box 2534
Middlesboro, KY 40965
(606) 337-2005
www.shelter-friends.org



Meetings are on the fourth Monday of every month, 7 p.m., at the Bell County Health Dept. in Middlesboro. **Please join us!!**

Bell Co. Animal Shelter
715 Highway 1534
Pineville, KY 40977
(606) 337-6331

Hours:

M- F 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Thurs. 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Sat 11 a.m. to 1p.m.



11th Annual Beastie Bash Puts the “Fun” in Fundraising



On November 12th, Pine Mountain State Park was the place for Bell County animal lovers to gather for an evening of music, fine dining, and eager bidding, all for a good cause.

The 11th Annual Beastie Bash Dinner and Auction officially kicked off as 195 attendees lined up to survey the 52 live and 100+ silent auction items, which ranged from the handcrafted to food and chainsaws. This year’s highest bid was for four Disney tickets valued at \$600. They raised \$470.

Ever-popular local musicians Larry Goodwin, Richard Gambrel, and Ken Wilson donated their talents during the auction preview

and social hour, and professional auctioneer Lawrence McGeorge freely offered his gifts of rapid-fire speech and good humor to inspire and entertain bidders.

The Bash traces its history to a small 2005 auction and fundraising concert by



Goodwin, Gambrel and Wilson and has since

grown into our biggest fundraiser. This year’s event raised just over \$12,000. Proceeds support FOS’s spay/neuter, rescue/adoption, and Humane Education programs, and, of course, help us support the Bell Co. Animal Shelter.

Seated at four rows of long tables, attendees dined on chicken and roast beef. Banana pudding, cobbler and a beautifully decorated chocolate cake donated by Long’s PicPac were the choices for dessert.

One of the most popular Bash events is our Wine Raffle, for which 10 bottles of wine are beautifully wrapped so no one can see the labels and people purchase chances at \$5 each. (All wines are valued at a minimum of \$10, but one is especially expensive.) The Wine Raffle alone raised \$538!

Pulling off the Beastie Bash takes the generosity of many sponsors, donors, and attendees, plus the hard work of dozens of volunteers. This year, students from the Pineville Key Club, J. Frank White Academy, and LMU Vet School provided a much-needed and welcome brigade of youthful volunteers. The names of our 18 sponsors appeared in the Bash brochure and will also appear in our next newsletter. A big thank you to *all* whose money, time, and talents made this all-important fundraiser possible!



Mary the Former Shelter Dog says "Keep Your Pets Warm!"

Take it from a dog who once did outside "time" all winter: if it's too cold for *you*, then it's too cold for us. Be a good human and give us extra winter TLC. Here are 8 tips on how to do that:

- * **If we must stay outdoors**, remember that our fur can't keep us safe. We can get frostbite. We can freeze to death. If possible, please bring us inside on freezing days and nights. If you have no choice but to keep us outdoors, be kind. Make sure we have access to a **warm and dry bed in a draft-free shelter that gets sun during the day**. **AVOID STRAW AND HAY**. They can cause mange and attract fleas and ticks! Use **pine or cedar wood shavings instead**. They're soft and comfy, provide odor control, and repel insects. Frequently check our paws, ears, and tips of tails. If they're firm, waxy, or blistered, we may have frostbite! Take us to our vet ASAP.
- * Outdoor pets need extra calories to survive the cold. So feed us more, and check our water supply often.
- * Hopefully, you can bring us indoors during cold snaps. Maybe we could stay in the laundry room or a well-lit, warm basement. Wherever we stay, please keep us away from drafts. Old towels or blankets really make us happy!
- * Whatever you do, don't put us in your garage. Car radiators often leak **antifreeze**. We think it's delicious, but even the tiniest sip is **fatal**! If we start convulsing or acting "drunk," take us to a vet immediately.
- * Remember that the salt and chemicals used on winter sidewalks and roads are harsh on paws. Booties protect our feet when we take walks, but another option is to wash and dry our feet and bellies when we get home.
- * **Don't leave us in a parked car!** They trap the cold, and we can freeze to death.
- * Remember that outdoor cats like to hide under car hoods for warmth. So tap on the hood before turning your key!



GOOD HUMAN!

We at FOS are sad about the passing of Middlesboro resident Barbara Shattuck, a long-time supporter of our organization. Barbara was active from the beginning, writing thank-you notes to donors, attending monthly meetings, and enjoyed fund-raisers, most especially the Beastie Bash. Barbara was an animal lover and cared for the Arthur Museum's resident cat, Nellie Victoria, for many years until her health began to fail. We are grateful to have known Barbara, who worked so hard to better the lives of people and animals in her community. We'll miss you.





Happy Tails!



Recently we received a heart-warming thank-you from happy adopter Alyssa Mirmina. A first-year LMU vet student, she naturally misses her friends and family back in Connecticut. So she decided to share her Tennessee home-away-from-home with a shelter dog and went to BCAS.

Alyssa recalls meeting the little dog she named Paisley (left). “At first she was really scared of everyone, but she climbed onto me and put a paw on each side of my neck, so I knew she was the right dog for me. I took her home and by the end of the day she was already warming up to me.” Alyssa was so happy with Paisley that she sat down and penned a thank-you note to FOS.

“Dear Friends of the Bell County Animal Shelter,” she wrote. “I just wanted to say thank you for helping me find Paisley. She is really coming out of her shell and fitting right in at home. She loves to cuddle and follows me everywhere I go. She is full of love! Thank you again for making this possible!”

In fact, it’s adopters like Alyssa and the dedicated BCAS staff who really make these happy stories possible. What a lucky dog Paisley is! Just look at her life now!



Fortunately, there are many happy endings for shelter pets. Here are just a few more from the past month:

Here’s one of our lucky rescue dogs with his new owner (left). He went to a foster home arranged by Kayla and Rachel of the LMU Shelter Medicine Club. They are essential in getting many animals from the Bell County Animal Shelter into Rescue. As shelter director Patsy Bracken said, “This guy was so shy at the shelter, we couldn’t get him to walk or respond

to our love, but look at him now !”

This little guy was tied up in a garbage bag of dirty diapers in a dumpster (right). The shelter was able to stabilize him and called in the girls to find a special foster home for him. Another proud moment for Patsy! “Here’s our baby from the shelter that was found in a dumpster, barely alive! Look at him now!”

Becky Branscomb posted this photo of her daughter with adoptee cat Mr. Nemo on our Facebook page (facing page). “Mr. Nemo is doing great!!!! The girls love him!!!! In a



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Recent Fundraisers Give FOS a Boost

On a sunny and warm Sunday in October, FOS held its **Annual Halloween Dog Walk** in the parking lot of the First Baptist Church in Middlesboro. Thirty-five spirited contestants vied for awards in three categories: Best Large Dog Costume, Best Medium Dog Costume, and Best Small Dog Costume (left, Darth Vader with his dog). Many of the participants then completed the two-mile walk. All told, \$929.75 was raised from the event.

FOS received a \$1,000 grant from the **Pedigree Foundation** to purchase new crates used in transporting dogs to rescue groups. Each year the Pedigree Foundation offers grants for projects that help encourage dog adoption.



The **Kroger Community Rewards Program** brought in \$714.29 during the 3rd quarter of



2016. Seventy-two households participated, a slight drop in participation. Please make sure that you have re-enrolled since

August 2016, and use your Kroger card often! Go to www.kroger.com to re-enroll if you haven't done so, or take time to enroll during your next visit to Kroger if you are new to the program.

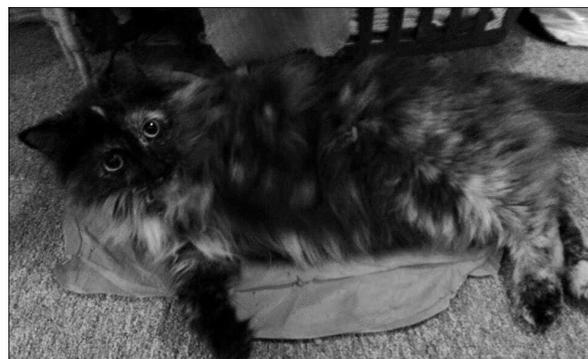
In December, local dogs and cats had their pictures taken with Santa at our annual **Santa Paws** event at the Middlesboro Mall (right, a little elf waits his turn). Thanks to all participants and management of the mall for a fun, festive, and successful day!

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follow-up post, she told us, "We are all in love with him!!! He is an awesome cat!! So super sweet."

Adopter Misty Kennedy posted this story on Facebook: "This is my Chloe (right). I got her at your shelter when she was just a baby a little over 5 years ago. She's been a blessing to my home. Thanks for rescuing her and making her available for adoption."



Won't you consider opening your home to a shelter cat or dog, too?

Friends of the Bell County Animal Shelter, Inc.

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
MIDDLESBORO, KY 40965
PERMIT NO. 19

P.O. Box 2534
Middlesboro, KY 40965

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Happy New Year from FOS

President Dinah Presnell

For 15 years, Friends of the Shelter has worked to reduce the number of homeless, unwanted, and uncared for animals in Bell County. And now we are beginning to “smell” real success!

In 2007, for example, 2718 dogs entered our shelter. In 2015, that number was down to 1564. That’s 1154 fewer dogs. FOS spay/neuter programs are working! And 1020 of those 1564 dogs found new homes through FOS adoption/rescue/transport programs!

Our deepest thanks to everyone who has supported us over these many years. Together, we’ve made a real difference for Bell County’s unwanted animals. Please consider making a holiday gift to FOS so we can help make 2017 a happy one for the many cats and dogs who depend on us.

Want to join FOS or make a donation?

- Individual Membership (\$15)
- Family Membership (\$25)
- Supporting Member (\$50)
- Sustaining Member (\$100)
- Patron (\$500)
- Other

Please type or print:

Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

City/State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Interested in volunteering? _____

Make check or money order payable to:

FOS, P.O. Box 2534
Middlesboro, KY 40965