Late on a Friday afternoon on December 16, 2022, Rescue Village learned that 21 dogs and 17 chickens and ducks needed emergency rescue. The animals’ owner had passed away and there was nobody left to care for them.

Rescue Village staff put aside their evening plans for what was going to be a long night and began loading vehicles with cages, preparing kennels with toys and bowls, and gathering medical and bedding supplies.

With the vans loaded, several staff ventured out into the fading light for a 45-minute drive to the emergency site, a home on the northeastern side of Geauga County. Meanwhile, Humane Investigations staff was already onsite, along with the Geauga County Sheriff’s Office, assessing the situation—the conditions were grim.

13 large Siberian Huskies were found inside a very small outdoor utility shed in extremely unsanitary conditions. Inside the home, there were seven more caged dogs, including more Huskies. It was apparent the owner had been struggling with caring for the dogs for quite some time. Most of the dogs had not been spayed or neutered and had little to no human socialization.

With the sun now set, it took 90 minutes for staff to corral the dogs in cages and to round up the ducks and chickens for the long drive back to their waiting colleagues at Rescue Village. The dogs’ transition into the shelter was difficult and staff had to take their time going very slowly to coax each of the dogs, one by one, safely into a kennel.

Next, the staff broke into teams to squirt the kennel cough vaccine into the noses of these very big and stressed-out dogs, along with administering flea medicine and de-wormers.

“Bringing that many animals into the shelter all at once is challenging for people and animals alike,” said Kenneth Clarke, Executive Director, “especially at the end of a long day at the end of a busy week. But, giving vulnerable, homeless animals everything they need is what the staff of Rescue Village does best.”

All the dogs needed a bath in the worst way, so a call went out to volunteers for help with bathing them and many came right away to help. Each dog was bathed within days of being rescued and their spay and neuter surgeries followed. Many of the huskies quickly came out of their shell and enjoyed love and affection from the staff. But some of the dogs had a long way to go to learn to trust that everything was going to be OK.

Rescue Village does everything it can to help ensure a fear-free and healthy environment for its animals. And thanks to the tireless efforts of our dedicated staff and volunteers and with the support from so many people through financial contributions and donations, Rescue Village was able to turn a sad situation into a happy one. Most of the animals were adopted and a few of the chickens are waiting patiently for a new home.
1,923 Animals Found Shelter
1,225 Children and Adults

1,783 Adoptions
1,077 Animals Fostered

125,000 Volunteer Hours

1065 Cats
658 Dogs
49 Small Animals
151 Barn Animals

249 Volunteers helped with fostering, representing Rescue Village at community events, fundraising, walking dogs, cleaning cat cages and doing laundry and dishes. Volunteers help the staff in so many ways!

In 2022, the number of animals fostered doubled from the previous year!

150 Foster Families donated their time and home to abandoned pre-natal kittens that needed bottle feeding, dogs being treated for heartworm disease, animals that are too stressed to be at the shelter, animals with behavioral issues or those that we need to learn more about prior to placing them up for adoption.

Kenneth Clarke
Executive Director

Kristy Bailey
Finance Director

Christian Courtwright
Humane Officer

Erin Hawes
Shelter Director

Lisa Ishee
External Affairs Director

Dr. Megan Volpe, DVM
Medical & Behavioral Services Director

Caitlin Adolph
BARN Supervisor

Ben Bainbridge
Animal/Adoption Care Specialist

Grace Blamble
Senior Clinic Assistant

Dr. Page Borger, DVM
Veternarian

Dr. Paul Borger, DVM
Veterinarian

Natalie Bradac, RVT
Clinic Assistant

Mindy Carter
Development Database Manager

Erika Custis
Animal/Adoption Care Specialist

Julia Dolly
Animal/Adoption Care Specialist

Torrine Leanza
Animal/Adoption Care Specialist

Summer French
Adoptions Supervisor

Andrea Giorgio
Intake and Rescue Manager

Carla Gubana
Animal/Adoption Care Specialist

Jacklyn McKinnon
Animal/Adoption Care Specialist

Colin Hribar
Animal/Adoption Care Specialist
2,184 Surgeries
This total includes spay/neuter surgeries for adoptable animals, as well as other surgeries needed by an adoptable animal, such as removal of a blockage or a necessary amputation. Rescue Village performed surgeries through its Trap-Neuter-Return program and its Fix-it-in-the-Farmland partnership, which is a low-cost spay/neuter option for pets.

20,000 Pounds of Food Distributed
Times are tough and with Rescue Village’s Pet Food Pantry, we helped ensure families in need could keep their pets.

98% Live Release Rate
Rescue Village is a limited intake/unlimited stay shelter. Euthanasias are uncommon at Rescue Village and occur for severe medical or behavior reasons.

510 Complaints Investigated
Resulting in 728 follow up visits. Humane officers drove over 10,180 miles in 2022 to investigate reports of animal cruelty or neglect. Rescue Village has 1 full-time and 3 part-time Humane Officers.

2022 Functional Expenses Breakdown*

- Fundraising: $591,143.03
- Programs: $2,361,443.92
- Management: $158,278.49
- Total Expenses: $3,110,865.44

*These financials are unaudited.
Every Number Is An Animal's Life Saved

Rescue Village measures its success and impact on the community by tracking every caregiving action along each animal's rescue journey. Rescue Village has taken great strides to build our capacity for care in a thoughtful and purposeful way following the pandemic. For instance, more emphasis has been put on our Foster Program, meaning that in 2022, 56% of all animals that came to Rescue Village spent time with a volunteer foster family, as compared to 17% pre-pandemic.

The animal needs of Geauga and surrounding counties will never go away, and Rescue Village is dedicated to always being there to help. For example, in 2022 the number of dogs needing to be surrendered by their owners more than doubled since ‘21, and we took in 17% more cats in ‘22 than the previous year. With your continued support, we know we can adapt and overcome anything to ensure Rescue Village is an important part of the solution.

Kenneth Clarke, Executive Director, Al the Haflinger, and Carrie Radivoyevitch, Board of Trustees President

Rescue Village Cares About Cats

A little-known fact about Rescue Village is that year after year, Rescue Village provides shelter, medical care, and new homes for more cats than it does dogs, and last year was no different. Certainly, this isn’t a feline vs. canine competition. Still, the fact is, Rescue Village has always been a dedicated, welcoming, sanitary, and humane cat shelter, the only of its kind in Geauga County. In the last five years alone, 4,854 cats have been rescued, with 1,065 rescues in 2022.

When people need to give up their pet cat, Rescue Village is here to help people in this most difficult of decisions, whether due to an economic crisis, medical emergency, or drastic life changes. People love their cats and don’t want to give them up, but when they have no choice, Rescue Village has a loving staff, a warm bed, and a safe place to stay. Last year 352 families surrendered their cats to RV’s care.

In addition to ensuring that every cat who calls Rescue Village home is spayed/neutered, Rescue Village also works to help reduce the free-roaming stray and feral cat population. Rescue Village’s dedicated trap, neuter, and return program (TNR), and its long-running low-cost spay/neuter program Fix-It-in-the-Farmland for cats (and dogs) have a significant impact on this regional problem. Last year the medical team altered 1,730 cats.

One of Rescue Village’s more unique volunteer roles is that of a cat trapper. These volunteers must be as wile as an outdoor feline. Coaxing and luring the animals into traps for a date with Rescue Village’s medical staff isn’t easy! Unaltered cats tend to get into more territorial fights and carry more diseases such as FIV and Feline Leukemia, not to mention contributing to overpopulation. In addition to the spay/neuter surgery, these wild cats are vaccinated against rabies. You can always tell if an outdoor cat has been part of an official TNR program as they will always have a clipped left ear, and this is how the trappers know if an animal has already been altered, so keep your eyes peeled.

Cat Foster Volunteers are integral to helping make sure the cats in Rescue Village’s care have a more stress-free stay. It is a fact that living in an animal shelter is stressful for animals, and fosters are so very crucial in helping make sure the cats get as much cuddling, couch time, and under-bed-time as possible as they await adoption. In 2022, 671 cats stayed with a loving foster family as part of their Rescue Village journey.

Yes, Rescue Village really, really cares about cats, and all this care is made possible by the dedicated staff, the volunteers, and the thousands of donors who directly participate in this work every day.

A Barn For Max & Al

A 21-year-old Al and 16-year-old Max, both Haflingers, were housed in small, makeshift stalls and had not been turned out from their stalls for more than two years. Both horses are now getting the much-needed medical, dental and hoof care they so desperately needed. They are both enjoying their roomy stalls in Billie’s Barn at Rescue Village, and time in the pasture, not to mention nutritious treats and affection from staff and volunteers! While having a dedicated barn may be unique for a humane society, the 800 animals that have temporarily called Billie’s Barn home since 2005 sure do appreciate that Rescue Village is there to help them.

HELP THE ANIMALS
DONATE TODAY!