

A New Life for **FOREST**

On November 24, 2017, just one day after Thanksgiving, AWL humane agents received and responded to a call about a dog tied to a tree in the middle of a wooded area in Warren. It's unknown how long the dog had been left out there as he had just become visible to a nearby business due to the season change and leaves falling from the trees. Agents had to search the area but eventually found a very

emaciated but very sweet dog that seemed to have simply been abandoned in the woods.

Upon arrival at AWL, this dog was examined by AWL staff and was undoubtedly given the name Forest. Not only was he severely underweight but he also had open wounds on his legs and scabs from healing wounds near his neck and face. It was apparent that Forest not only needed veterinary treatment but some extra TLC was also in order.

the second chance he so very deserved. They adopted, brought him home, and Forest has never looked back!

Since being with his new family, Forest has gained over 20 lb. and is finally at a healthy 71 lb.! Tyler stated, "Slowly but surely, his wounds healed, his coat shined and his weight returned. He was zooming around the house in no time!" Forest has completed obedience classes and loves going to the dog park and socializing with other dogs. Tyler and Chelsi said that Forest loves peanut butter and sleeping



After a few weeks of wholesome food, good antibiotics and wound care, Forest was ready to make his debut on the adoption floor. It didn't take long for someone to fall in love with the sweet face and loving demeanor that Forest had to offer. On December 26, one day after Christmas, Tyler and Chelsi wanted to give Forest

under the covers in bed. He also gets a Bark Box every month! Tyler stated, "It can be difficult at times caring for a rescue dog and their special needs, but the love and loyalty you receive in return make it worth every second."

AWL

ANIMAL WELFARE LEAGUE

Location:

812 Youngstown-Kingsville Road SE, Vienna, Ohio 44473

Mailing:

P.O. Box 66, Vienna, Ohio 44473

Phone: **330.539.5300**

Fax: 330.539.1519

www.AWLrescueme.com

Email: info@awltrumbull.com

Follow us on FACEBOOK:

www.facebook.com/AWLTrumbull

AWL Adoption Center Hours:

Tuesday through Saturday from
noon to 6:00 pm. Adoptions close at 5:30 pm.
Closed Sunday & Monday.

Bark Park is open daily from dawn to dusk

Have-A-Hart Pet Store:

Located at the entrance of the AWL Adoption Center
Open Tuesday through Saturday noon-6pm
Closed Sunday and Monday

AWL Board of Directors

Bob Hotchkiss – President

Rufus Sparks, DVM – Vice President

Kim Tomlinson, Treasurer

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Other Board Members:

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Ruggieri, Andrew Thompson, Ashley Walley

Executive Director Gary Pilcher

2018-2019 AWL EVENTS - Save the date!



Saturday, June 23, 2018

**4th Annual Volunteer Appreciation
Party at AWL**

Saturday, July 21, 2018

**Rockin' on the Ridge presented by
Ridge Ranch Campground**

Saturday, August 4, 2018

**Steel Valley Woofstock at
Yankee Lake Ballroom**

Sunday, August 5, 2018

Wings & Wheels at SLOAS Airfield



Friday, August 10, 2018

**AWL's 21st Annual Golf Classic at Avalon-Squaw Creek
Country Club**

Thursday, November 8, 2018

Annual Wine Tasting Event at The Ski Chalet in Niles

Tuesday, November 20 &

Wednesday, November 21, 2018

Annual Bake Sale at The Menagerie Thrift & Gift Store

Saturday, December 2018: DATE PENDING

**Holiday Extravaganza & Photos with Santa at the Have A Hart
Pet Store**

Friday, January 25, 2019

AWL's 7th Annual Wine & Chocolate Event at Leo's Ristorante

Sunday, April 7, 2019

AWL's 35th Annual Fashions for Compassion at The Avalon Inn

THE BARK PARK! MEMBERSHIP

Annual Membership to the Bark Park is for the calendar year, January 1 to December 31. The Annual Membership is \$240 with annual renewals of only \$120! Thank you for your support.

Membership includes:

- Use of all Bark Park Play Areas
- The Jeanne Tyler Pupp Pupp Play Area
- The Lil Pup Play area
(for dogs less than 25 pounds)
- The Frisbee Park

Each family membership includes a pet bandana for the registered dog(s) that must be worn while the dog is in the Bark Park play areas. Bark Park is open 7 days a week from dawn to dusk. In addition to enjoying the quiet country setting of the Bark Park and experiencing the enjoyment of pet socialization and meeting other pet enthusiasts, members of the Bark Park also get to experience the joy of supporting the shelter pets in the AWL Adoption Center as all proceeds from the Bark Park help support the daily operations and care for the AWL shelter.



Visit the Have a Hart ♥ Pet Store

Located in the Main Entrance of the AWL Building

Store Hours: 12PM-6PM Tuesday thru Saturday
Closed Sunday and Monday



(330) 539-5300
haveahartpetstore@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/AWLPetStore



We carry:

- Dry and Canned Dog and Cat Foods from Fromm Family Foods, Earthborn, Acana and Purina.
- Made in the USA Dog and Cat Treats
- Collars, Harnesses, and Leashes
- Food Bowls and Mats
- Crates and Pet Carriers
- Cat Litter, Scoops, and Litter Boxes
- Health and Grooming Products
- Dog and Cat Toys
- Wild Bird Foods and Feeders
- Room Scents and Candles
- Pet-Inspired Jewelry and Gifts

All Proceeds Directly Support the AWL and the Shelter Animals



A Special Thank You to...

Two Brookfield Elementary School friends, Ryland Mihalcin and Madisyn Fisher, had an idea they called "Save The Petz". According to the GoFundMe page, their idea was to help encourage pet rescue. All proceeds were to benefit the AWL. In March, they graciously came to our shelter to donate the \$150 they had raised for us! Thank you, Ryland and Madisyn!!

HOARDING

KISS (Keep It Simple Stupid) is a useful guideline when making a sales presentation. But life is very complex, and messy.

Until very recently, hoarding behavior was barely studied. But the Hoarding of Animals Research Consortium (HARC) collaborated from 1997-2006 “to define and better understand the problem of animal hoarding.... and ... its sentinel role for elder abuse and neglect, child abuse and neglect, and adult self-neglect.” (Tufts University, Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine website. At the same website, see “Animal Hoarding: a Neglected Problem at the Intersection of Psychiatry, Veterinary Medicine, and Law – Findings from the Henderson House Workgroup.”)

Findings of HARC include the following: “... poorly understood phenomenon. The majority of cases satisfied criteria for adult self-neglect.... Hoarding behavior in humans ... is associated with a variety of psychological conditions, particularly obsessive-compulsive disorder.... This public health problem knows no social or economic boundaries....(The results of two recent studies: 83.1 percent were women.... The total number of animals... per case ranged from 10 to 918. The mean and median ... were 55.8 and 47 respectively, for men and 90.1 and 50, respectively, for women. Women ... were more likely than men ... to have more than 100 animals....Nearly three-quarters ... were single, widowed, or divorced....The hoarders’ justification...varied....Although love for animals was a ubiquitous theme, the role of animals as children or surrogate family members was also common.”

“In a typical case, household interiors were coated, often several inches high, with human and animal urine and feces, sometimes to an extent that the floors buckled. When animal control or humane society agents entered these homes ... the contamination and toxic atmosphere sometimes made it necessary to wear protective clothing and a breathing apparatus.”

See also TuftsNow - The Hoarding Gene, by Nicholas Dodman, May 24, 2013. “The shoes, newspapers or other items that hoarders collect can eventually take over their homes. Some people have even been crushed to death when towering piles of their collectibles have fallen on them.... (T)he tendencies that lead to such situations may have evolutionary roots. We are hunter-gatherers....It shows up in the animal world: while there are many examples of animals whose gathering is functional and adaptive – squirrels burying nuts for the winter, for instance - irrational gathering goes on, too. Cats of the short-legged Munchkin breed, for example, collect jewelry and small shiny objects and do little with their stashes. And certain mice compulsively bury marbles.”

“In our work on Doberman pinschers, my colleagues and I have begun to uncover clues to the mechanisms behind hoarding in animals. The results may help researchers understand hoarding in humans.”

“In one revealing study, we focused on a bizarre behavior called flank sucking. An affected Doberman will put its open mouth on its flank, clamp down softly and ... begin sucking.... (F)lank suckers also have a strong penchant for gathering, mouthing and ingesting non-food substances.”

“Granted, many dogs do such things, but these Dobermans do them persistently and compulsively, in much the way that humans suffering from obsessive-compulsive disorder might repeatedly wash their hands.”

“They fetishize a wide variety of materials, including fabrics (blankets, socks, toy stuffing, sneakers and crate pads), organic matter (dirt, leaves, branches and twigs), paper products (sheets of paper, paper towels, cardboard, dryer sheets, cotton-tipped swabs and cigarette butts), plastic and vinyl (toys, jump drives, cell phones, pagers, pens, electric toothbrushes, shavers, eyeglasses and remote controls) and metal (nuts, bolts and keys).... Doberman owners call this behavior “shopping.”

“After much searching, we have found the flank-sucking/shopping gene, neurocadherin, on canine chromosome seven. This gene sheds light on the biological pathways that may be involved in compulsive collecting. That, in turn, could help scientists develop new treatments for both dogs and humans.”

“For both us and our pets, behaviors that once staved off death now do nothing more than bring short-lived relief from stress. They’ve become a driving force to spin our biological wheels. If we did not live in the concrete jungle of modern life, we might never have developed our compulsions in the first place.”

Chromosome seven. Huh. How about that. (Judge not, lest ye be judged.)

- Gary Pilcher

OUR NEW HUMANE AGENTS



Pictured:
Tara Girty, Robin Stowe and
Maria Lemmon



EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE

We are so excited to announce that we have teamed up with Jenny Falvey and her team from Dogsmartz Unleashed to offer dog training, obedience and behavior classes here at the AWL! To get your dog(s) signed up, please call Dogsmartz Unleashed at 330-707-4160. They will be handling all of the scheduling and can answer further questions about what each class entails. You can also visit their website for more information as well. www.dogsmartzunleashed.com

Jenny and another trainer for Dogsmartz Unleashed, Heather Huff, have also been overseeing both of our dog training programs, the Caring Companion Program and the Dogs in Prison Program, which are held at Trumbull Correctional Institute. Through a joint venture with TCI, six dogs are selected every nine weeks to enter each program and live

with inmates. Each dog is assigned to two inmate handlers who teach the dogs basic obedience, crate training and house training during the animal's stay. Approximately three weeks prior to entering the training, AWL staff begins to select dogs for the program and pinpoint dogs with behavior issues such as poor leash behaviors or jumping that they feel will benefit from the program. Once selected for the program, the dogs can be pre-adopted by potential families and at the end of the nine-week training, the adoption is finalized and adopters are able to take their newly trained pet home. The adoption fee for a prison trained dog is \$200. The pet will be current on all applicable vaccines including rabies, current on heartworm-flea/tick prevention, is spayed/ neutered, and will be microchipped with the registration of the new owner's information. For more information about how you can adopt one of these specially trained pets, [call 330.539.5300](tel:330.539.5300).

CLASSES LISTED BELOW ARE AT OUR VIENNA LOCATION

812 Youngstown-Kingsville Road SE, Vienna, Ohio 44473

AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy Class

Sunday 6/3/2018 @ 1:15 PM with Heather Huff
Monday 8/6/2018 @ 6:00 PM with Heather Huff

Beginner Obedience - Level 1

Thursday 6/14/2018 @ 6:00 PM with Missy Schmid
Week 1 6:00 to 8:00 PM, Humans only, no dogs.

Monday 6/25/2018 @ 6:00 PM with Heather Huff
Week 1 6:00 to 8:00 PM, Humans only, no dogs.

Sunday 7/15/2018 @ 12:00 PM with Heather Huff
Week 1 12:00 to 2:00 PM, Humans only, no dogs.

Tuesday 7/31/2018 @ 7:15 PM with Heather Huff
Week 1 7:15 to 9:15 PM, Humans only, no dogs.

Wednesday 8/15/2018 @ 6:00 PM with Matthew Ward
Week 1 6:00 to 8:00 PM, Humans only, no dogs.

Sunday 8/26/2018 @ 12:00 PM with Heather Huff
Week 1 12:00 to 2:00 PM, Humans only, no dogs.

Intermediate Obedience - Level 2

Monday 6/11/2018 @ 7:15 PM with Heather Huff
Sunday 7/15/2018 @ 2:30 PM with Heather Huff
Thursday 8/9/2018 @ 7:15 PM with Missy Schmid

Advanced Obedience - Level 3

Tuesday 7/24/2018 @ 6:00 PM with Heather Huff
Sunday 8/26/2018 @ 2:30 PM with Heather Huff

Puppy Open Enrollment

Sunday 6/3/2018 @ 1:15 PM with Heather Huff
Monday 8/6/2018 @ 6:00 PM with Heather Huff

Get Control!

Thursday 6/21/2018 @ 7:15pm with Missy Schmid
Sunday 7/22/2018 @ 3:45 PM with Heather Huff

"Brain Works for Dogs" - Level 1

Tuesday 6/12/2018 @ 6:00 PM with Heather Huff

Noseworks and Scent Games

Sunday 7/8/2018 @ 5:00 PM with Heather Huff

Clicker Fun and Games

Sunday 8/19/2018 @ 5:00 PM with Heather Huff

Walk with Me

Sunday 6/3/2018 @ 10:45 PM with Heather Huff
Thursday 8/2/2018 @ 6:00 PM with Missy Schmid

Confidence Building—Level 1

Monday 7/30/2018 @ 7:15 PM with Heather Huff

Outdoor Confidence Building

Tuesday 6/19/2018 @ 7:15 PM with Heather Huff
Wednesday 8/22/2018 @ 7:15 PM with Matthew Ward

Therapy Dog Prep Course

Sunday 7/8/2018 @ 10:45 PM with Linda Gentzy



PLEASE CALL US AT 330.707.4160 TO REGISTER
Refer a friend and receive a \$10.00 off coupon.

Notes FROM THE Executive Director

Kent State University Vet Tech Program

This is an exciting time to be at the Animal Welfare League. Our building has 47,000 square feet, but only about half of it has been finished for use. Most of the unfinished portion has been tentatively earmarked for use by the Kent State University veterinary technician program, which for various reasons did not progress until the first week in June, when Kent State announced a firm partnership with AWL. Now it is full steam ahead into the future.

KSU vet tech students have been holding some classes here since late 2013. The state-of-the-art enhancement will provide a joint use medical and surgical area, including a laboratory, a recovery and treatment area, a radiology room and a pharmacy, all of which will be completed for use by the beginning of the fall term on August 23. A multi-use educational center will follow. Students will now complete their clinical requirements at AWL. "The partnership we have with the AWL really sets our program apart," said Melissa Best, program coordinator. KSU signage will appear in addition to existing AWL signage. About 40 students are enrolled in the Associate Degree of Applied Science in Veterinary Technology degree program.



The National Association of Veterinary Technicians in America (NAVTA) is promoting the title "veterinary nurse" in place of vet tech, in recognition of the high level of medical expertise that this profession provides, and because it more accurately reflects the nature of their responsibilities. For more information about the KSU Trumbull Vet Tech Program, please visit this website <https://www.kent.edu/trumbull/veterinary-technology>



"Pictured left to right: Dr. Brad Bielski, Dean and Chief Administrative Officer, KSU at Tuscarawas; Bob Hotchkiss, President, Board of Directors, AWL; Dr. Lance Grahn, Dean and Chief Administrative Officer, KSU at Trumbull; and Melissa Best, BGS, RVT, RN, and Program Coordinator, Veterinary Technology."

Charitable Giving is Down (HELP !!)

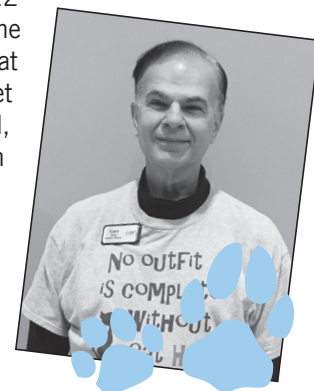
The Associated Press recently reported that "for 2017, giving by individuals represented 2 percent of total disposable income - down from 2.4 percent in 2002 and the same as in 1978. Similarly, total charitable donations have hovered around 2 percent of the gross domestic product for many years; for 2017 that was 2.1 percent.... (T)he percentage of U.S. households making donations has declined steadily in recent years, from about 67 percent in 2000 to 56.6 percent in 2015." 6/13/2018

Changes in tax laws that affect the deduction for charitable donations could further hurt charitable giving. The Tax Policy Center projects reductions from 37 million households to 16 million in 2018, and the Council on Foundations projects annual reductions of \$16 billion.

See your tax advisor regarding tax-smart charitable giving strategies such as charitable gift annuities, bunching of deductions in alternate tax years, donor advised funds and tax-free transfers from an IRA.

Why did the raccoon climb the skyscraper?

To get to the top, of course. On June 12-13, Indy the raccoon (I picked that name as short for "indefatigable - a being that does not tire out) climbed from the street to the top of the UBS Tower in St. Paul, Minnesota. That's 305 feet. Though no Edmund Hillary or Tenzing Norgay (the first to climb to the top of Mount Everest - 29,029 feet), you gotta love this 2 year old gal. You just can't keep a good coon down.



21st Annual



August 10, 2018
to benefit the Animal Welfare League



Volunteer Spotlight



AWL would like to honor two of our animal care team volunteers, Kim Skiba and Sheila Lamb. Sheila has been volunteering with AWL since October 2015 and has donated well over 200 hours and Kim began volunteering in February 2017. Since then, Kim has donated approximately 150 hours.

Both ladies have been excellent additions to our organization and we are so pleased to have them as part of our volunteer team. The dogs currently residing at AWL while they await a new homes can always count on seeing Sheila and Kim at least one day a week and the dogs sure do get excited to see them! Not only do Kim and Sheila help out around the shelter, they also attend and assist at many AWL annual fundraisers with overseeing auction items or selling raffle tickets.



Kim Skiba



Sheila Lamb

AWL is so lucky to have you ladies on our team! The staff and animals can't thank you enough for your dedication to our mission and to bettering the lives of the pets in our care throughout the years.

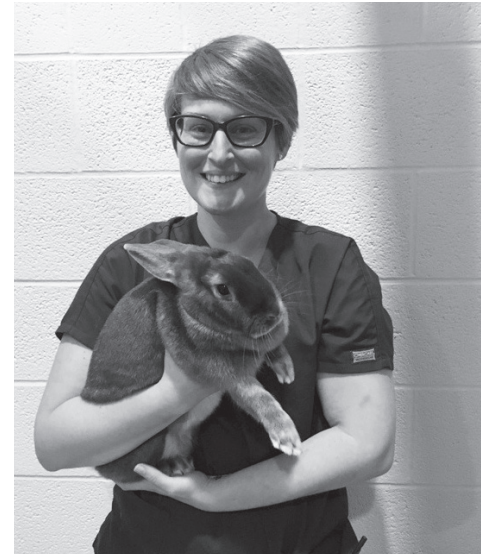
If you are interested in fostering or volunteering, please stop by AWL for an application! We are always accepting new volunteers and have many different opportunities such as dog / cat socializing and exercising, grooming/bathing, cleaning cages, and attending fundraising and other local events, just to name a few. We also have volunteer opportunities at our Have A Hart Pet Store.

Want to get involved?... VOLUNTEERS ARE ALWAYS NEEDED

Employee Spotlight

EMILY GREVE has been employed with Animal Welfare League since November 2014. Emily brought years of exotic animal experience with her when she joined the AWL team. There's a good chance if you adopted a reptile or small critter from us, Emily was your adoption counselor. Her elite customer service skills, animal handling experience and substantial knowledge about non-domestic animals are just a few of the many qualities that have made Emily an essential part of our team. As well as being an animal caretaker and adoption counselor, Emily also oversees our READ program, a children's volunteer project in which kids from our area stop by once a week to read aloud to better the lives of our shelter pets. Thank you, Emily! We are so grateful to have you on our team.

Thanks for doing a great job Emily!



CAT & KITTEN FOSTER PROGRAM

While the need for foster homes is year around, it is particularly necessary this time of year, as we near the end of kitten season. Currently our shelter is in the greatest need for cat and kitten foster homes.



AWL at times receives nursing mother cats as well as orphaned baby kittens.

Our foster volunteers are essential in keeping these animals healthy and thriving by taking them out of the shelter environment and into their homes temporarily. The length of time cats and kittens need in a foster home depends on their age and condition but is usually about two to eight weeks as kittens need to be healthy and a minimum of 2.5 pounds before they can be spayed or neutered. AWL takes

responsibility for all veterinary care and can provide the basic needs of care. By becoming a foster, you can help these homeless cats and kittens in need by housing and caring for them until they are healthy enough to be placed for adoption and find their permanent homes. For more information about fostering, you can contact Shelter Manager, Kayley Frost at **330-539-5300**.

ADOPTABLE ANIMALS AT AWL

These special pets have been at AWL the longest and are patiently waiting for a furr-ever home.

If you are interested in adopting any of these animals, please contact AWL at 330.539.5300.



SCOOTER

We are so proud of how far Scooter has come since her arrival at the shelter. She has transformed from a nervous and insecure cat into a confident, cuddly social butterfly. Scooter came to the Animal Welfare League the day after Christmas 2017 with her friend Tailey. Their previous owner was moving into

an assisted living home and the cats could not accompany her. When Tailey was adopted, Scooter became even more reserved and the staff decided it was time to try something different. The seven year old was placed into a room where she could freely interact with older cats like herself and little by little she began to open up. Scooter is now an outgoing socialite who enjoys meeting new friends both human and feline. The ideal home for this sweet tabby would include the company of other cats. An adopter who understands that she may experience an extended adjustment period would be beneficial for Scooter. Come cuddle up to Scooter at the Animal Welfare League.

TOBY

If you're looking for a gorgeous cat with a dash of sass, look no further. Toby is one handsome medium haired cat and he knows it. On account of his owner's declining health, Toby was surrendered to the Animal Welfare League on December 22, 2017. The tabby and white cat has done well at the shelter, but he's more than ready to find a home of his own. At eight years old Toby knows who he is and what he wants. This occasionally translates to a bit of attitude, but nothing outside of ordinary cat behavior. Toby enjoys being pet, yet he will let you know when he feels like it's time to move on to another activity. Call the Animal Welfare League to learn more about this confident cat.



FROSTY

This young cat is still looking for her forever home. At two years old, Frosty is the youngest of our long-term residents. She has lived with other cats in a previous home and would be a good option for those who already own animals. Some say that Frosty has a permanent scowl, but that does not reflect her mellow disposition. This petite grey, short haired cat would do best in a quieter home where she could be free to

loungue about or cuddle with her owners as she pleases. Frosty will be waiting at the Animal Welfare League for the right family to come and meet her.

ELROND AND FIGARO

What's more fun than adopting a furry friend? Two new friends! Elrond and Figaro are two short haired siblings that arrived at the shelter on January 27, 2018. These young brothers have slowly come around to the staff and volunteers at the shelter. They are gaining confidence daily, but still rely on each other for support. The staff would love to see Elrond and Figaro placed in a home together. They seem to get along well with



other cats and do enjoy being pet. Figaro is more outgoing than Elrond and will approach potential adopters almost immediately. Elrond typically waits to see how Figaro reacts to a situation before he decides to interact with new people. Given some time, these two year old brothers become quite snuggly and playful. They would most likely do well in a home that could give them some time to quietly adjust to their new environment. Once acclimated to their new home, the staff feels confident that the



playful, loving nature of these cats will be revealed. You can meet Elrond and Figaro in person at the Animal Welfare League.

BUSTER

Buster is a middle aged shepherd mix who has been waiting to find a family since August of 2017. Coming up on his one year anniversary at the shelter, Buster is anxious to find his family. A transfer from the Trumbull County Dog Pound, Buster was found to have heart worm. Buster will be a foster to adopt animal meaning an adopter will take him home, care for him, and transport him to veterinary appointments until he has been cleared of his heart worm by a veterinarian. Animal Welfare League will pay for the remainder of his treatment. This process will take a number of months to complete. Buster seems to enjoy children and adults alike though he does not really enjoy other dogs. Contact the Animal Welfare League for more information about this happy, handsome dog.

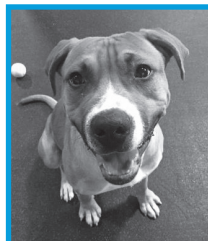


GOLDIE

This devoted mother has seen all ten of her puppies go to good homes and is now ready for a home of her own. Goldie was brought to the shelter with her litter of nursing puppies. This loving Pit Bull mix was an attentive and devoted mother to all of her babies. Goldie is very playful and affectionate with a lot of love to give. Goldie has some experience with obedience training and has learned a few basic commands during her time here at the Animal Welfare League. Every person she meets quickly becomes her friend, but she can be more selective with dogs. Four year old Goldie prefers the company of male dogs over female dogs. Learn how you can adopt Goldie by calling the Animal Welfare League today.

ADDIE

Big, beautiful Doberman mix Addie is looking for her forever home. In 2015 Addie came to the shelter as a stray. Though well-mannered and friendly to all, Addie is quite large and strong and was sent to be trained through the shelter's training program, the Caring Companion's Program. She was housebroken, taught basic obedience commands, and crate trained. When Addie graduated from the program she was adopted into a loving home. Unfortunately, Addie's adopter's health declined and she came back to the shelter in November of 2017. Addie has been waiting for a loving family ever since. The staff believes she is often looked over because of her large size and the fact that she is 7 years old. Despite her size, Addie is gentle and well-behaved when she is given the appropriate amount of exercise. Addie hopes to see you soon at the Animal Welfare League.



SCOUT

If you're looking for a hiking or running partner look no further than Boxer mix Scout. This one year old male dog is full of fun and energy. Scout was transferred in February of 2018 to the Animal Welfare League from the Trumbull County Dog Pound in order to attend the Dogs in Prison Program. He was trained over the course of nine weeks on basic obedience, leash walking, and house breaking. Although Scout knows his commands, he is a hyper dog who would benefit from a regular exercise routine. Scout is a happy dog who loves people and dogs alike. His enthusiasm is contagious and he would be an entertaining and loyal addition to an active family. Come play with Scout at the Animal Welfare League.

COME HAVE YOUR BIRTHDAY PARTY AT THE ANIMAL WELFARE LEAGUE!



Imagine gathering with your friends in the pet store and opening gifts right in front of the cat showcases. For early arrivals, there are blanket games, books, and a place to put your shelter donations. Once all have arrived and gifts have been opened by the birthday person, the group is led downstairs to a room which has already been decorated by the family, who also brought whatever foods and drinks they wanted.

Depending upon the pre-planned schedule, the party continues with food, drinks, and cake OR the birthday party people gather for an educational program to learn about the shelter, to practice safety and dog bite prevention techniques, and to learn about caring for family pets. The first “game” is a Scavenger Hunt while on the shelter tour to find everything from the dog bathing area to the new construction site. Depending on time, there are team games to play such as human tic-tac-toe, animal relays, shelter charades, and more!

Can you imagine having a party at AWL? **There is a choice of four options at various prices for the party packages offered at AWL.** There are two different-sized rooms available with tables and chairs provided. The party can be held with or without the education person providing assistance. **For more information or to book a party date**, please call or email Mrs. France at education@awltrumbull.com.

Food, drinks and decorations must be brought in by family.
Call AWL at 330-539-5300 for more information or to book your event today.

The Pet Awareness Class (PAC) program has been educating students and adults for about 3 years now! The wall along the ramp leading to the downstairs level of the building displays the four words that make up AWL's Mission Statement: Rescue, Rehabilitate, Adopt, and Educate. This instructional PAC program supports the “Educate” portion of that Mission Statement.

It is never too early to teach children to be compassionate and caring for animals while still being safe. Young children who become members of the Pup Club enjoy a session that includes a fingerplay with a song to help them remember when to keep their fingers to themselves while giving animals their personal space. Preschoolers through second graders practice what to do when a strange and possibly dangerous dog approaches as well as how to safely greet a dog that is new to them. Basic ways to keep a family pet happy and healthy are learned through an age-appropriate lesson that encourages participation. After the 35-40 minute program, children receive a coloring book containing pages to remind them of the lesson as well as a keychain with the PAC logo.

Students in grades 3 – 8 become participants of the Member Club when they complete a PAC program lasting 45 -60 minutes. Besides all the basic ideas from the younger class, this group learns dog body language and some of the ways dogs communicate their feelings to humans. Being aware of a pet's needs and sometimes fears makes a wonderful pet owner! Responsible pet ownership cannot be learned at too young of a grade level! The older students discuss some hot topic items such as the importance of spaying and neutering, and the need for laws to protect animals. Students in the Member Club receive a workbook containing fun pages to reinforce the ideas presented in the class. They also get a PAC logo keychain.

These two programs are the most often presented at schools that request a visit or to school classes, Scouts, and 4-H groups that come to the shelter. To have Mrs. France, the Education Coordinator, provide a PAC program for your group, please contact her by calling the AWL (330-539-5300) or by emailing education@awltrumbull.com. Since there is not a cost for this educational program, it is suggested that groups make donations to the shelter as noted on AWL Wish List.



In Memory of Beloved Pets - November 2017 - May 2018

Pets teach us to love unconditionally, to be kind, and to be fully present in the moment. When we experience the loss of a beloved pet, our hearts are broken but we take comfort in knowing that our lives were touched by their love and companionship. Pet tributes are vital to the operations and services of the AWL and there are so many pets that need your help. Thank you for your gifts in memory of that special pet and in giving to the AWL to continue to better the lives of our shelter pets.

Dorothy M. Gessler..... "Abigail" Gura - Reha a great Golden Retriever,
owned by Sue Gura and Diane Reha
Jennie Bechtel..... "Allie" & "Trixie" Beloved pups of Rick and
Elaine Chirdon
Julie Jacobs..... "Baxter" Beloved Pet for 15 years
Nina Phillips..... "Blossom" Beloved Cat of Nina Phillips
David & Marilyn Hanton..... "Bo" In loving Memory of our faithful and loving
companion, our yellow lab.
Doris Thompson..... "Cabo" Beloved Pet of George & Trudy Thompson
John & Patricia Ann Heston..... "Caspurr" In memory of our beloved cat of 19 years.
Dorothy Davis..... "Caspurr" Very Brave Kitty of Pat Heston
Dorothy M. Gessler..... "Chloe" - Carm Gutierrez's beloved cat
Mary Frack..... "Chloe" - Carm Gutierrez's beloved cat
Norman K. & Barbara L. Pollock..... "Cindy" "Tosha" "Penny"
Ken & Dianne Ford..... "Dazy", "Rocky", "Rocky II", "Lucky", "Twizzler",
"Susie", & "Dixie"
Margaret A. McCummins..... "Fidget" Precious dog of Collen Crowe and
Melissa Rush
Adeline Tavolaro..... "Ginger" Georgann's beloved dog
Bill & Bobbie Duda..... "Gracie Duda our dear cat
Jennifer Zelinsky..... "Harley" In Honor Of
Judy & Marc Minto..... "Karma" beloved dog of Tracey & Kurt Wright
Mike & Moselle DiCenso..... "Kaylie" our sweet Westie
Barbara & Mary Busko..... "Lucy" Beloved dog of Chloe Book
Bonnie Carmichael..... "Lucy" Beloved dog of Joseph Nemerut
Robert & Linda Sirianni..... "Maggie Doo", "Mamma Girl" & "Bubba Lou"
Albert & Janet St Clair..... "Max" & "Mum" In memory of

Margaret A. McCummins..... "Max" Precious pet Beagle of Al & Jan St. Clair
Carolyn Price..... "Miss Ellie" Beloved Cat of Michele Warholic
Kristine Prince..... "Molly" Beloved dog of Mona Devlin
Margaret A. McCummins..... "Mum" precious Kitty of Jan & Al St. Clair
Stephen & Valorie Dunch..... "Nico" & "Chiara"
Eugene & Rebecca Tropf..... "Nila" Beloved pet of Brenda & Carl Benson
James Palko..... "Old Drum"
Jay & Marlene Lacy..... "Oxnard" Lacy - Beloved Cat of John & Teri Lacy
Neva M. Dionisio..... "Peanut" "Rascal" & "Bella"
Stephanie Nagy..... "Priscilla" Clara Lisko's beloved cat
Nan A. Pretot..... "Rocky" In Memory of Monica and Mark Hall's pet
Michael & Holly Guerrero..... "Rosie"
Bonnie Carmichael..... "Scarlett" Beloved Cat of Nancy Lindsay
Laurie A Phythyon..... "Schuster" Beloved dog of Shirley Osmogroso
Bill & Jo Ann Spurk..... "Sheba"
George W. Brumbaugh..... "Shelley" (Dog) 16 years old - Owned by
Sandi Bonace and Marlene Tenold
Sandra Benko..... "Strudel" Beloved Pet of Shirley, Sally and Bonnie
Golinski - From Sandra Benko, Steve Lehr & Maxx
Audrey Schwebel..... "Thor" & "Zeus" Beloved dogs of Max & Sue Mahkoff
Sandra Benko..... "Tootie" Forever in our Hearts -Beloved pet of
Robert & Sharon Shannon
James & Dixie Mott..... "Tuffy" & "Prissy"
Marcia Van Kuren..... All my beloved pets
Nan A. Pretot..... All our pups that have passed away
Anna Cervone..... For All the Pets I've Owned
Anonymous..... Franklin the Cat

In Celebration of - November 2017 - May 2018

Chris A. & Carol Margrave..... Alma Margrave - Merry Christmas
I.J. Van Huffel Foundation..... Barb & Mary Busko, in honor of
Gail Parker..... Barbara Rzepka
Linda Getz..... Bob & Deb Burnside . . . Merry Christmas!!
Misook Young..... Bryce Allison's - Happy Birthday
Molly Rush..... Cathy J. Ingalls Glorioso - Happy Birthday November 29, 2017
Minnie Burnside..... Deb Burnside -Happy Birthday
Ann Bishoff..... Debra Yenchochik ! Happy Birthday
Cynthia Hirtzel..... Dr. Rufus Sparks in honor of
Holly M Fulford..... Emily & Addison's Happy Birthday
Matt McNany..... Emily & Addison's Happy Birthday
Morgan & Jeffrey Hartzell..... Nikki Greene Happy 6th Birthday
Margaret Krisher-Cliver..... Ron Krisher Happy Birthday Wishes
Patricia Posey..... Heather Campbell - Happy Birthday Wishes
Betty Jane Paroz..... Helen Deane - Happy 90th Birthday
Patty Detore..... In Honor of Patty Gerin - and her work helping
animals from Patty Detore and the Crew

Nina Phillips..... Justin Phillips
Brian & Kimberly Ross & Family..... Kathy Verioti - Happy Birthday!!!!
Aaron Simonik..... Mari Lynn Devine - Merry Christmas
Chris Waite..... Martin & Mary Waite Merry Christmas
Chris Waite..... Mary Waite - Happy Mothers Days
Frank & Jane Busko..... Barb & Mary Busko - Merry Christmas!
Susan Busko..... Barb & Mary Busko - Merry Christmas!
Joy Busko..... Barb & Mary Busko - Merry Christmas!
Norman S Glorioso..... Molly Rush - Merry Christmas
Michele Krisher..... Ron Krisher - Happy Birthday
Bill & Carol Gordon..... Sue Sperling - Happy Birthday!!!!
Harry & Deborah Shields..... Suzanne Wilcox Thank you for all of your help with the Smith's!
Marcia Berry..... Ted & Karin Berry

Tributes to a Loved One, a Friend - November 2017 - May 2018

Tributes to a loved one or a friend say something special about them. The Animal Welfare League is always deeply honored to be named by someone as their charity of choice. And, when tribute gifts are given, the families also receive that feeling that that person mattered. A legacy of caring is one that we all take pride in and can feel good about. Tribute gifts are so important to providing the operations and services of the AWL. So, to those special people, we take a moment to remember them and to say thank you for caring. May the wonderful tributes and memories of those special people live on in our hearts and in the lives of the many pets that they have helped.

Elaine Borowski.....	Alan Borowski	Warren Junior Women's League	Carry Anne Sullivan	Jeffrey & Trudy Bayman	Fran Todd
Jason Rock.....	Alan Borowski	Nina Phillips.....	Charles Wern	William & Sue Everett.....	Fran Todd
Elaine Borowski.....	Alan Borowski	John & Terra Guerrero & Dawn Holland Cheryl Guerrero		Trumbull County Sports Hall of Fame.....	Fran Todd
D. & Jill Neidig.....	Albert Covelli, Sr	Stephanie Nagy.....	Clara Lisko	Bill & Bobbie Duda.....	Gary Dew
Lorri Matey.....	Alex & Ann Roscoe	George & Anna Halkias	Daniel Pinti	James & Bernadette Keating.....	Gene Cravotta
Induction Professionals, LLC.....	Alex & Ann Roscoe	John R. & Colleen L. Rouzzo	Darlene K. Antoinette	Raymond & Mary Theis.....	Harold Hermann
Dr Rufus & Kathleen Sparks.....	Ali Patterson	Pamela Rintala	David G. Lake	Jerry & Cathy Cox	James D. Ulam
Sam & Caryn Covelli	Ali Patterson	William & Rebecca Smith, Jr.	David G. Lake	Douglas & Stephanie Gabbard.....	James D. Ulam
Dennis & Esther Gartland.....	Ali Patterson	Donald & Sharon Longworth	David G. Lake	Barbara Young.....	James D. Ulam
Warren Junior Women's League	Ali Patterson	Trumbull County Bar Association.....	David G. Lake	Carl & Katherine Reddersen.....	James D. Ulam
Nicole Webeck.....	Ali Patterson	Dorothy A. Butler	David G. Lake	Robert & Anne Schweinfurth	James D. Ulam
William & Sue Everett.....	Ali Patterson	Sharon K Moore	Dennis Stewart	Patrick & Suzanne Aulizia.....	James Dietl
Dr. Jeff Williams.....	Ali Patterson	Nicholas & Mary Granitto.....	Dennis Stewart	Julie Kobie	James Griffin
Donald B. Granda.....	Alice Mandel	John & Marilyn Yensick.....	Dennis Stewart	Melody Hively.....	James Quinlan
John & Kathryn Corcoran	Andrew J. Bayus	Beth Wittenauer.....	Dennis Stewart	Jeffrey & Trudy Bayman	James S. Pipino
Linda Kuszmaul, Harry, Howard & HeidiAngel Pasternak		Gary & Kathleen Reiser.....	Dennis Stewart	Betsy H. Parsons.....	Janelle Linville
Ronald & Catherine Sain	Ann Engster	Mr. & Mrs. Mark Koch.....	Dennis Stewart	Ruth F. Lewis & Ruth Nelson	Janelle Linville
Linda J Adovasio	Anne Adovasio	Mr. Bert Rotunno	Dennis Stewart	Ronald & Jane Midgley.....	Janet Bowers Rose
Rick & Mary Ann Mills.....	Bryan M. Siwicki	Mrs. Geri Murcko	Dennis Stewart	Thomas Okonak	Janet Bowers Rose
Robert & Linda Sirianni.....	Bryan M. Siwicki	Brian & Shannon Waite	Dennis Stewart	Willard & Cynthia Nichols, Jr.	Janet Bowers Rose
Nancy Countryman.....	Bryan M. Siwicki	Richard & Barbara Malin	Dennis Stewart	Ronald C. & Yvonne Loos	Janet Bowers Rose
Richard & Karen France.....	Bryan M. Siwicki	Carl & Patricia Stauffenegger	Dennis Stewart	Rob & Cheryl Knowlton	Janet Bowers Rose
John & Linda Mahan.....	Bryan M. Siwicki	Marilyn Stewart.....	Dennis Stewart	Francesco & Angela M. Restaino	Janet Bowers Rose
Jeffrey & Trudy Bayman	Bryan M. Siwicki	Linda Kuszmaul, Harry, Howard & Heidi Dice Pasternak		Lee & Christine Deaner	Janet Bowers Rose
Dick & Rebecca Lytle.....	Bryan M. Siwicki	Diane Natoli.....	Don Hudzik	Ronald Gordon	Janet Bowers Rose
Dom & Bernice Marino	Bryan M. Siwicki	Richard & Kathern Fetcenko, Jr.....	Elizabeth Prokop	Donald R. & Jayne R. Koski	Janet Bowers Rose
Thomas & Darlene St George	Bryan M. Siwicki	Martin & Mary Waite	Emily Lucas DeMaiolo DVM	Diane M. Chopko.....	Janet Bowers Rose
Minnie Burnside.....	Bryan M. Siwicki	Bruce & Jeanne Geilhard ...Emily Lucas DeMaiolo DVM		Victor E. & Yvette E. Christopher.....	Janet Bowers Rose
David & Diane Starr.....	Bryan M. Siwicki	Eric Hamilton	Esther Hamilton	Glen Warner	Janet Bowers Rose
R W & Jennifer Solomon	Bryan M. Siwicki	Jeffrey & Trudy Bayman	Eugene J. Cravotta	Dawna K. Foster	Janet Bowers Rose
Marty Young.....	Bryan M. Siwicki	Farmers Trust Company.....	Evelyn P. Drevet	James R. Lewis, Diane Lewis,	
Janice Kringeta.....	Bryan M. Siwicki	Jim & Susan Thomas	Evelyn P. Drevet	Carol Hall & Amy Sample	Janet Bowers Rose
Tom & Sandy Caldron.....	Bryan M. Siwicki	Linda Duchnak.....	Evelyn Wright Oberlin	Rich & Karla Edwards.....	Janet Bowers Rose
Barb Sullivan	Bryan M. Siwicki	Dr. Harold & Irene Firster.....	Flora Joseph	Michael & Alice Guerra.....	Janet Bowers Rose
Sue Jackson	Bryan M. Siwicki	Thomas Kaiser	Flora Joseph	Bill Cook, - One of many "grownups" in my life who	
Suzie D'Alio	Bryan M. Siwicki	Paul & Linda Howard.....	Flora Joseph	helped bring joy into my world.	Janet Bowers Rose
Joan Schiavone	Bryan M. Siwicki	Bill & Ann Marie Fritz	Flora Joseph	Nina Phillips.....	Janice Bland
Lilyanna Ricotti	Bryan M. Siwicki	Janet Vogt.....	Flora Joseph	Keith Konopka Family.....	Janice Horton
Richard Kadvan & Michele Philbin	Bryan M. Siwicki	Peter & Barbara Laprocina	Flora Joseph	J.A. & C.J. Carleton.....	Joanne Ashley Miller
Ken & Dianne Ford.....	Bus & Elaine Cleal	Bernice Joseph, David Joseph, Jr.,		Tom Cogley.....	Joanne Ashley Miller
James & Joan Necastro Jr	Bus & Elaine Cleal	& Rhonda Fosburg	Flora Joseph	Todd & Starla Gibson.....	Joanne Ashley Miller
Margaret A. McCummins	Carol Sue Ammons	Sean & Julie Davis & Greg & Susan Davis ..	Flora Joseph	Joseph Miller	Joanne Ashley Miller
Shirley Hryronak.....	Carol Sue Ammons	St. Joseph Warren Hospital Pharmacy.....	Flora Joseph	John & Linda Stiner.....	John M. Conroy
Bonnie Carmichael	Carol Sue Ammons	Sharon Gilmore and the Packard Electric		Linda Ellashek	John M. Conroy
Harry & Jeanne Forepaugh	Carol Sue Ammons	Ladies Golf League	Flora Joseph	Vector Construction, Inc.	John M. Conroy
Dr Dan & Carol Olson.....	Carol Sue Ammons	Deborah Rosasco , In memory		James & Paula Filipowicz.....	John M. Conroy
Laura White	Carol Sue Ammons	of my dearest Aunt.....	Flora Joseph	Michael D. Buzulencia, Attorney At Law ..John M. Conroy	
Dwana Barnhart.....	Carol Sue Ammons	Louise Vett.....	Florence Faler	A dog lover, By the close friends and	
Barbara & Mary Busko	Carol Sue Ammons	Brian Guy.....	Fran Guy	neighbors of the Smith Family	John M. Conroy
Mary Goodman	Carol Sue Ammons	Randy & Suzanne Baker	Fran Todd	Karen McKearan.....	John M. Conroy
Nancy Higman.....	Carol Sue Ammons	Thomas & Janet Groner	Fran Todd	By the Friends and Family of Patty Smith -	
Nancy Ruggieri	Carol Sue Ammons	David & Barbara Summers.....	Fran Todd		
Dawna K. Foster.....	Carol Sue Ammons	Jamie R. Aulet	Fran Todd		
The Historic Perkins Homestead	Carol Sue Ammons	Anonymous.....	Fran Todd		
William & Sue Everett.....	Carol Sue Ammons	Womens Auxiliary at TMH Inc.....	Fran Todd		

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The Troutman Drug Company
John Tallman

Odell Poe..... John Zeller
Austin Senerchia John Zeller
Glen & Sandra Edwards..... John Zeller
Nick & Susan Nicholas John Zeller
Timothy & Sheila Bauer John Zeller
Darla Carbone John Zeller
Richard & Sharon Kale John Zeller & his dog Maggie
Mary L. Galloway John Zeller & his dog Maggie
Patrick Hartmann John Zeller & his dog Maggie
Sherman & Sara Dobson..... John Zeller & his dog Maggie
Gerald W. Jones John Zeller & his dog Maggie
Don & Patricia Strock John Zeller & his dog Maggie
Julie Vugrinovich John Zeller & his dog Maggie
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Sarah Kelly, on her Birthday 2/12/1997 Kasey Kelly
Michelle Underwood Kathleen Croft
Bradford J. & Judy Levy Kathy Levy Weinberg
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Mary Frack Kitty Rotar
Laura White Lawrence Drennen
Diane Masaitis Linda Ramos Raub
Tom Dickey Lori A. Martin
Dugald H. & Patricia MacDonald Campbell
..... Louie Ciabattoni and his dog "Bug"
Bonnie Smith & Rob Morris Lucky Florek
From The Dutton Families Lucky Florek
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Laura White Marguerite Bottorff
Nelson & Joyce Beach Marguerite Bottorff
Kurt E. & Rebecca J. Brugler Marguerite Bottorff
David A. & Jill E. Bliss Marguerite Bottorff
Phyllis A. Hammond Marguerite Bottorff
Tom R. & Eileen C. Patrone Marguerite Bottorff
Eric & Christine Brugler Marguerite Bottorff
Thomas & Sandra Maloy Marguerite Bottorff
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From Geuy/Gilardi Family Marguerite Bottorff
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Frank Burke & Patricia Negro Nancy Pipenur
Allen & Shirlee Rindfuss Nancy Pipenur
Robert & Angela Stabile Nancy Pipenur
Thomas & Helen Hileman Nancy Pipenur
From Tom Thorpe, Rich Schuller & Jim Snyder ..Nancy Pipenur
Dennis Sirko Nancy Sirko

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Neil Kennedy Recovery Centers Patricia A. King
Carlene Cage Patricia King
E Carol Maxwell..... Patricia King
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Richard & Mary Anne Kilbert Pearl L. Vehre
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Ted & Katie Alexander Pearl L. Vehre
Rose Ashton Pearl L. Vehre
From Nick & Eady Jibotian & Norma Jibotian . Pearl L. Vehre
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Kouklakis Family..... Peter Orfanos
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Patricia McPherson Peter Orfanos
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Tammy Wibert..... Philip Wibert
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David Szablowski Richard Trill
Neil & Terri Kaback Rivena Dillon
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Missionary Alliance Robert J. Grexa
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 Jeff Hedrich, President Ross Griffin
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 Robert Todd Ross Griffin
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 Carol, Dennis, Ashley & Nicole Glunt Ross Griffin
 Dr. & Mrs. LaPolla Ross Griffin
 Joyce, Erika & Zach Nites Ross Griffin
 Joe & Kathy Aulizia Ross Griffin
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 Carol W. Evinsky Thelma Wogan
 Anonymous Thelma Wogan
 Patrick & Suzanne Aulizia
 Treva Fabec - In honor of Mothers Day
 Patrick & Suzanne Aulizia
 Treva Fabec - In memory of her 92 Birthday
 Molly Rush Verna Flack
 Margaret A. McCummins Verna Flack
 Shirley Hryronak Verna Flack
 Bonnie Carmichael Verna Flack
 Wilda Leek Verna Flack

Barbara & Mary Busko Verna Flack
 Nancy Ruggieri Verna Flack
 Gayle Ferguson Verna Flack
 George & Anna Halkias Virginia Rossi
 J David & Marian O'Mahen Wayne Rush
 Marcia Van Kuren Wesley Van Kuren
 Carolyn Moore, Carolyn Urchek,
 Carol Patterson, Jennifer Nelson William H. Knowles
 David Ambrose William L. Countryman
 Joseph & Lynda Siwicki William L. Countryman
 Beverly Hoagland William L. Countryman
 Carolyn Price William L. Countryman
 Nancy Countryman William L. Countryman
 Florence Howard & Susan Hastings William L. Countryman
 Walter W Stoddard William L. Griffiths
 John & Patricia MacDonald William L. Griffiths
 Nina Pykare William R. Coombs
 George Willis, His grandfather William R. Coombs
 Tim Mizer William Taninecz
 Kimberly Walter William Taninecz
 Kenneth & Stephanie Flanigan William Taninecz
 John & Deborah Cotton William Taninecz
 George & Diane Taninecz William Taninecz
 Phyllis Nuzzie William Taninecz
 McKinley Carter Wealth Services William Taninecz
 Richard Tucker William Taninecz
 Magna Seating B Crew Employees William Taninecz
 Nathan & April Taninecz William Taninecz
 Richard & Eileen E. McClellan William Taninecz
 Robert & Carolyn Barrett William Taninecz
 Andrew & Denise A. Timpone William Taninecz



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 (Cash/Credit Card Only)

Featuring authenticated guitars,
 records, lyrics,
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Ticketed Event
 Cost: \$35 per Ticket

Doors Open at 5PM



Steel Valley Woofstock

The Vicissitudes of *Communication*

- Gary Pilcher

I have previously written about pit bulls and breed specific legislation in Ohio. The Supreme Court of Ohio requires that criminal laws that govern dangerous or vicious dogs can only apply on a dog by dog basis, and cannot apply to an entire breed. The “breed” in question that has prompted multiple prosecutions throughout Ohio is the pit bull. Sometimes animal law convictions are overturned because of vague or contradictory wording in statutes or ordinances. (There’s an old joke among lawyers that just as you wouldn’t want to see how sausage is made, you wouldn’t want to see how laws are drafted and passed.) Careful drafting is especially important in criminal law, due to the serious consequences of a conviction.

This issue is further complicated by the fact that pit bulls are not a recognized breed in the first place. It is a grouping of several breeds viz., the American Staffordshire Terrier, the American Pit Bull Terrier, and the Staffordshire Bull Terrier, or any dog with a majority of the physical traits of any of these three. As a practical matter, in the enforcement of statutory and municipal ordinance regulation of “pit bulls”, disagreements often arose among law enforcement officials, veterinarians and dog owners with regard to whether the dog in question was actually a pit bull. Clearly, reasonably believing that your dog is not a pit bull should not place you in jeopardy of violating pit bull regulations.

Questionable language in any legal document, including legislation, contracts, deeds, wills, trust agreements, and articles of incorporation, probably leads to litigation more than any other single cause. But fuzzy communication is problematic in life in general.

The three day Civil War battle of Gettysburg was pivotal. Ambiguous and conflicting orders got the Confederacy off to a bad start near the beginning. General Robert E. Lee had ordered his commanders to avoid a general engagement until his scattered army could bring a more concentrated force against Union troops. Imagine Confederate General Richard S. Ewell’s consternation when he was also ordered to attack certain high ground “if possible” and then later “if practicable.” He did not attack, and never heard the end of it.

Consider next the Civil War battle of Raymond, Mississippi, part of General Grant’s campaign to capture Vicksburg (which is still taught at West Point). As Union and Confederate forces maneuvered against one another, Confederate General John Pemberton ordered Col. William Adams to direct his cavalry “there” (meaning Raymond) to scout the area and keep General John Gregg informed about Union troop movements. Adams interpreted “there” to mean “your cavalry that are there” (all five of them). He realized too late that he was meant to take the entire regiment that he had with him “to Raymond”. Depends on your definition of “there.”

Normally, when lawyers and legislators draft ambiguously, large numbers of casualties and lost wars do not result. Just lost millions of dollars and questionable prosecutions.

Pity the poor comma. (Well, it did have a cameo appearance in *The English Patient*, which won the Academy Award for Best Picture of 1996.) Abused and unused. Seemingly destined to be a punctuation relic, it just won’t flush. Hmmmm. I guess that’s because we need it. The following three cases are good examples of very preventable drafting errors, and their very expensive consequences.

Rogers Communications v Bell Aliant, 2007 [\$888,000 (\$ 1,000,000 Canadian)]

“This agreement shall be effective from the date it is made and shall continue in force for a period of five (5) years from the date it is made, and thereafter for successive five (5) year terms, unless and until terminated by one year prior notice in writing by either party.”

A regulator held that the purpose of the second comma (before unless) was to apply the one year notification to both the initial and subsequent five year terms. Rogers argued it applied only to renewals, and “... commissioned a 69-page affidavit, mostly about commas, from Kenneth A. Adams, a lawyer from Garden City, N.Y., who is the author of two books on contract language. It disputes the regulator’s analysis of what Mr. Adams calls “the rule of the last antecedent.” See “The Comma That Costs 1 Million Dollars” by Ian Austen, New York Times 10/25/2006.

Medfusion, Inc. v Allscripts Healthcare Solutions, Inc., 2015 [\$4,000,000]

“in no event shall either party be liable for any loss or damage to revenues, profits, or goodwill or other special, incidental, indirect, or consequential damages of any kind, resulting from its performance or failure to perform under this agreement ...”

Medfusion sued for lost profits and revenues, which Allscripts argued were barred. Medfusion countered that “or other ... consequential damages” modifies revenue, profits and goodwill, all of which are excluded only if they are consequential or indirect.

O’Connor v Oakhurst Dairy, 2017 [\$10,000,000]

Maine overtime pay statute 26 MRSA Sec. 664 (3) exempts certain jobs, viz., “The canning, processing, preserving, freezing, drying, marketing, storing, packing for shipment or distribution of: (1) Agricultural produce; (2) Meat and fish products; and (3) Perishable foods”

Truck drivers sued for back pay, arguing that without a comma after “shipment”, the exemption was meant to only apply to those persons who pack, for either shipment or distribution. Since they only drive, and driving was not included, they are not exempted and so are entitled to overtime. Ambiguous? Yes, but in labor cases, the general rule is that the ambiguity is resolved in favor of the workers.

(Which reminds me of an old Ohio statutory rape case, in which the key language in the statute was “not over the age of 16.” Applying the rule of interpretation of criminal statutes that provides that ambiguous language in resolved in favor of the defendant, the court reversed the conviction, holding that you are over 16 the day after your 16th birthday. Curiously, a court in another county applied a different rule of statutory construction: ambiguous language is given its ordinary, everyday meaning, held that not over 16 means not having yet attained age 17, and sent that defendant to prison.)

In case you are ever on Double Jeopardy, and the topic is “commas”, the commas in question in the above cases are known as Oxford or serial commas. The legislative style guide for the State of Maine, the AP, and the New York Times generally discourage their use, except where appropriate to avoid ambiguity. The Chicago Manual of Style and the Oxford University Press encourage it, for the same reason.

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