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April – June 2017

Welcome to the second quarter SNACK, Inc. newsletter!

We are off to a great start on our spay/neuter programs this year! After the National Pet Appreciation Week Fix-it Day this month, our year-to-date total is 133 females spayed and 90 males neutered. Of this total, 213 cats had surgery through the fix-it day program and 10 had surgery through the trap/neuter/return (TNR) program.

We are also happy to report the Ohio Pet Fund has awarded SNACK, Inc. a \$1000 grant for our TNR program.

#### **Welcome new volunteers, J.R., Nicolette, and Robin!**

J.R. and Nicolette are a father/daughter team and are working hard on SNACK's crafting and fundraising efforts this year. Robin is new to volunteering and has jumped into crafting, fix-it days, and can recycling.

Speaking of volunteers and their contributions, the Independent Sector ([www.independentsector.org](http://www.independentsector.org)) estimates the value of volunteer time in 2016 at \$24.14/hour. In Ohio, the estimate is \$22.99/hour. Thank you to all volunteers for your invaluable contributions of time and talent.



#### **On with Crafting!**

We have been meeting every couple weeks to craft some new, non-cat items

for sale for the December Gambier Craft Show. So far, we've made rice bags and catnip cat socks (sorry about that non-cat item) but have plans for much, much more including Christmas ornaments and re-purposed wine cork items. If you are interested in crafting, please check our website, [www.snackohio.org](http://www.snackohio.org) to see when the next meeting is scheduled.

#### **Impressive!**

The Buckeye Brigade 4-H Club of Marengo recently collected nearly 200 pounds of cans, recycled them and donated the money to SNACK. Also, paws up to other dedicated recyclers—Nick's Pizza in St. Louisville, Cheryl, Robin, Marty, Toni M-H, Toni, Carol, Sue, Laurie, Delores. Debi, Greg, and Rita. Our year-to-date total revenue from aluminum recycling is about \$175—over 400 pounds of cans!

**Mark Your Calendars** for the first ever SNACK-A-Palooza! We're planning on a fun afternoon at The Barn (8480 Columbus Road, Mount Vernon) on Saturday, October 21 from 2 to 5 pm. Activities will include a silent auction, food, and activities for the entire family. Stay tuned for more details.

#### **A Cat Tale by Sharon and Robb**

About two weeks ago, we received call requesting emergency shelter for a very friendly black cat in danger on a construction site. We are a multi-cat household and at capacity, and could not bring her into the house. But we had a large cage in our wood shop where the cat could stay safely while we figured out a plan for her. We agreed to take in kitty and Fredericktown Clinic examined and tested the cat (who was a neutered male!) and gave him his vaccinations. We and the clinic doctors noted he had a head tilt but this made him more distinguished. We brought him home to put on weight and he was given free reign in the shop. We named him Bartholomew--a very sweet guy, always willing to be loved and return the favor.

As he was residing in the shop, another volunteer heard the story of Bartholomew and mental “wheels” began turning. This volunteer recalled a good friend and neighbor who lost his cat buddy, Parker, while the friend was in rehab following surgery about a month ago. Could Bartholomew be Parker????

After an exchange of photos and much discussion, we all decided that this was, indeed, the missing cat. The back story is the gentleman's cat, very friendly and black, lived on a farm and loved to hitch rides in either trucks or cars. The missing cat had a head tilt. A

## Cat Tale Con't.



farmer had visited the gentleman's property to buy large hay bales. He had both a truck and trailer to haul the load. This combo was irresistible for a cat with a yearning to ride....and, voila, a free cat vacation to a site several miles from his origin!

Bartholomew/Parker was taken home, took one look at his missing human on the porch, clawed his carrier to get out and, upon release, ran to the porch and the feet of his human. In another irony, the missing cat was adopted from Whisker Connection several years ago.

The pleasure the two had in finding each other?? Awesome!!! This surely makes all our efforts on behalf of Catliness well worth the time and dedication required. So, Bartholomew, in reality Parker, is basking in his home again. A complete circle....

### And another thing...

As an organization, we have been very fortunate to have met many people along the way who have helped us out when we were struggling to find our niche and needed encouragement. We recently learned that Allison, the radio host of AM Knox County, was leaving her position at WMVO to stay home with her young twin daughters. Allison was a wonderful help to us early on and promoted our group's fix-it days on the station and interviewed volunteers prior to some of our special events. We wish her well!

### A final note

Our condolences to Susan Hutt and family over the passing of Bill in early May. Bill was a SNACK volunteer, worked at some of the fix-it days with Susan, and trapped feral cats as well. He enjoyed photography and took some great pictures of the SNACK quilts and crafted beautiful glass spoon rests and lamps from wine bottles for SNACK's silent auctions.

Condolences, also, to volunteers, Robb and Sharon Blaydes on the death of their son, Alan. Alan was a highly decorated member of the Army Medical Corps and served in the Middle East. Alan suffered from PTSD and is missed greatly by his family and friends.

With the qualities of cleanliness,  
affection, patience, dignity, and courage  
that cats have, how many of us, I ask you,  
would be capable of becoming cats?  
Fernand Mery

### Upcoming Events

**Rascal Day with the Humane Society of Morrow County, June 27, Marengo**

**Forget the Dog Days Fix-it Day, July 11,**  
Fredericktown Vet Clinic (FVC)

**International Cat Day (by the IFAW), August 8,**  
FVC

**SNACK-A-Palooza, October 21, 2017, The Barn**



**CAT WISDOM**



Always keep your feet grounded  
When you find sunshine, bask in it—  
it may not be there for long  
Make the most of what you have

Love unconditionally

Take time to play

Ask what you want in life, loudly if necessary

Stay alert and relaxed—  
at the same time, take naps

Have a mind of your own  
Just assume you're lovable  
and to heck with the rest!



(see top of photo)

A few of the 10 cats from a cat colony in Gambier. If you look closely, you will see a different "cat" joining the colony for its dinner.

Wherever you go, go with all your heart.  
Confucius

Enjoy the summer and see you in the fall!