



# Canine Connection



Shelter director Lisa Wahoff has three dogs of her own and has been a foster "Mom" to dozens of shelter dogs. Lisa, pictured here with her most recent foster, "Joy" who is recovering from a gunshot wound that shattered her front leg.



Franklin County Dog Shelter volunteer and foster Mom Jodi Flaherty and dog Thunder.



## The Franklin County Dogs Need Your Voice Now!

Creative Solutions p. 2

Alumni Success p. 3

Critical Needs p.4

### *An Appeal from Shelter Director Lisa Wahoff*

Following is a quote I found in a calendar. It's taped to my computer where I can see it every day. It helps me remember how important it is not to abandon the dogs and pups in our care that have already been left behind by others.

"The fate of animals is of greater importance to me than the fear of appearing ridiculous; it is indissolubly connected with the fate of man." Emile Zola

Sometimes I wonder if we are doing the "right thing," by pushing for a new shelter when so many other areas in our community need financial support. However, I realize that we as a community brought the problem upon the dogs in our care and got ourselves into this mess of caring for over 13,000 dogs and puppies a year.

The care of our community's homeless dogs brings with it problems and questions of morality. I am proud to say that the Franklin County Dog Shelter

*continued on p. 2*

## Your Voice *from page 1*

is not taking the easy or convenient way out. Instead, we create programs to give the adoptable dogs in our care, a life that they deserve. And, it's important to note all of this good work is done with zero tax dollars.

From the largest Foster Program in Central Ohio, to an innovative Offsite Boarding Program giving sick dogs a second chance and the only low cost spay/neuter program run by a shelter in the county.

Thanks to your support, these programs are making a difference! However, we are at a crossroads where we have des-

perately outgrown the current shelter on Alum Creek Drive.

Built in the 1970s, our building was not designed to be an adoption facility. It is too small for administrative needs not to mention the care of 200+ animals. It is difficult to keep clean, and the small spaces result in the unavoidable transmission of illnesses among the dogs.

Making the plans for a new shelter a priority in the county budget has been a significant challenge. Your vocal support has never been more important in bringing the issue of a new building to the forefront of

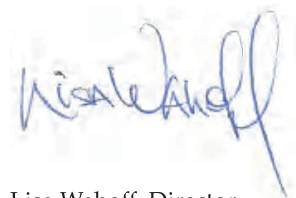
our local politicians and county planners.

Our community is supporting sensational growth in the Arena District with the construction of a new ballpark for the Clippers, downtown development of housing and business opportunities, new court buildings and administrative offices. This growth is important and necessary for central Ohio.

But what about the treatment of our animals, our pets, the four-legged members of our families? If we don't speak up and make it known that we care about how our animals are treated, and we want change, conditions

will never improve and our efforts to support and save the dogs will languish. Our pets don't have a voice of their own; help us speak for them, make it known you want the shelter dogs to be a community priority.

For more information on how to help educate our community about the services we provide and the need for a new shelter, please contact me at lawahoff@franklincountyohio.gov or 614 462-5606.



Lisa Wahoff, Director,  
Franklin County Dog Shelter

## You can "Be a Friend!"

*Be a Friend* supports our infirmary care program, which requires \$4,000-\$8,000 per month. This is our largest monthly expense, but to our shelter staff and volunteers, represents the foundation for which Friends of the Shelter was established... saving lives.

A cooperative venture with off-site infirmary, Creature Comforts, has allowed us to offer treatment, and ultimately adoption, to dogs even when the shelter infirmary is at capacity.

Dogs are treated for routine infections



such as coughs and colds, while other dogs need more complex medical care. Last year approximately 500-750

dogs were treated in the shelter infirmary (45 a month) and an additional 250-300 dogs received treatment at Creature Comforts.

For more information on the *Be a Friend* program, see [www.friendsoftheshelter.info](http://www.friendsoftheshelter.info) or [www.franklincountydogs.com](http://www.franklincountydogs.com).

# Alumni Success Story

*Imagine not being able to hear, having no way to communicate with the people in your life.*

That was the plight of Hilton, a Franklin County Dog Shelter who arrived in October 2005.

After months of medical care for an infection and kennel cough, Hilton was finally available for adoption, but didn't know how to capture the attention of would-be new families. He whined. He barked. He jumped. But he never interacted when people spoke to him nor did he follow commands. Luckily, Janel Boglin, the shelter's behaviorist, noticed and wondered if Hilton might be hearing impaired. Tests confirmed her suspicion and she asked the shelter's veterinarian to of-

ficially diagnose him. And she was right—Hilton was almost completely deaf.

Rather than simply writing him off as a lost cause, Janel began teaching him hand signals.

"It wasn't a difficult transition, because I use a lot of hand signals as a means to teach verbal cues," Janel said. "Hilton made great progress in his training, but continued to have poor cage behavior, unless the person looking at him knew how to get his attention."

The kennel attendants told Janel that Hilton would "light up" when they communicated with him in the sign language he understood.

"He was great if you were able to communicate with him, but adopters that walked past his cage were unable to see that," Janel said.

She worked with the shelter's marketing representative, Susan Smith, to let adopters know that Hilton was a special dog with unique communication needs. Photos of the hand signals Hilton understood were hung on his cage to promote communication.

And, our friends at WSYX Channel 6, featured his story on the news, which ultimately connected him with his adoptive family—the Zangaras.

The family of five—parents Mark and Darlene, two boys 8 and 10 years old, and an adult female shepherd mix named Cara adopted Hilton on April 3, 2006. Because Mrs. Zangara is deaf the whole family already knew how to sign and could easily communicate with Hilton.. The whole family loves its new-



**Hilton with his new family--the Zangaras.**

est addition—Hilton!

Hilton is one example of the challenges the Franklin County Dog Shelter sees every day. He is also an example of the Shelter's commitment to giving all dogs a second chance. After nearly five and a half months of medical treatments and a unique communication predicament the shelter faced the issue head on to help Hilton succeed and find the perfect, loving, forever home.



**Interested in adopting a homeless pets at the Franklin County Dog Shelter?**

*You can see all of our adoptable dogs at [www.franklincountydogs.com](http://www.franklincountydogs.com). Call us 614.462.4361 or e-mail [AdoptADog@franklincountyohio.gov](mailto:AdoptADog@franklincountyohio.gov).*





# How You Can Help

***You can make a difference in the lives of homeless dogs!*** Help Friends of the Shelter by making a donation to help fund medical procedures, enrichment activities, and emergency care. All donations are tax deductible.

- \_\_\_\_\_ \$15 buys a Kong and treat for three dogs
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$25 buys grooming for one dog
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$35 Sponsors a Labrador
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$50 buys one extra kennel for foster care
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 affords diagnostic and medical care for one dog
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

Make a donation on-line at [www.friendsoftheshelter.info](http://www.friendsoftheshelter.info) or cut out this form and mail a check payable to Friends of the Shelter to:

Friends of the Shelter  
5852 Heritage Lakes Drive  
Hilliard, OH 43026

## Contact Information

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

**We want to let you know how we are helping the dogs!** Learn about programs, events, and the dogs we are saving. Register for e-mail from Friends of the Shelter.\*

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

\*Friends of the Shelter respects your privacy. We will not share or sell your e-mail address, phone number, or mailing address.

***Thank you for investing in happy, healthy dogs!***

Friends of the Shelter is an all volunteer organization established to coordinate fund-raising activities that directly benefit the dogs of Franklin County Dog Shelter. Money raised by Friends of the Shelter is allocated to funds (such as diagnostic, medical/dental, grooming, and training) that directly benefit the dogs of Franklin County Dog Shelter. A 501c3 non-profit group, donations are tax deductible.

