

## Dear Supporters - Our Year In Review

Each year poses its own challenges, and 2025 was the year of survival. Some of you may recall that in 2024, we were pulled into several hoarding cases. We wrote about it in the 2024 mid-year newsletter and made countless Facebook posts about our work on those cases. This year, we were pulled into more abuse cases than ever before, starting with Alicia and Alan, who were cats that were surrendered at the end of 2024 due to horrific injuries caused by the male adult in the home. Both had extensive medical needs, surgeries, and specialist visits in order to recover. We also bottle-fed a litter of puppies who were abandoned in a box next to a dumpster on the day they were born. We tried to save bottle baby kittens who were born and neglected at the home of one of the hoarders we helped in 2024. Sadly, they did not make it despite our best efforts. We took on skinny dog, after skinny dog, after skinny dog. We continued our fight for the poisoned cats in Gahanna, we advocated for the removal of a dog being abused by his owner, and ultimately outed the abuse on social media to get the case investigated. We had a dog dumped by its owner at our doorstep, and we spent countless sleepless nights watching our security cameras, trying to trap another loose dog that was very likely dumped, until he was finally caught 2 weeks later. We helped Eli & Wiggles find their new family after their owner passed from cancer, we rescued kittens from rooftops, and took in a litter of blind kittens, two of which passed away from panleukopenia.

On top of all the battles we are fighting every day, we have also been hit hard by the economy. Adoption numbers are down across the country, donations are down, and volunteers are decreasing their available hours as they tighten their belts as well. The number of stray/abandoned pets has increased, the cost of goods and veterinary care has also increased, and every day presents a new challenge with one of the pets in our care.

Through all of these challenges, you have been there, you have commented on our social media posts, you have sent us Wishlist items, you have told your friends and family to donate, and you have shared our adoptable pets' profiles, vaccine clinic fliers, and told your friends and family about our spay/neuter surgeries. It is because of you that we continue to survive this storm.

Sincerely,  
The Staff of Columbus Dog Connection



## Spay/Neuter Program Update

We have completed 927 surgeries this year.

- 486 Spays: 280 cats, 206 dogs
- 441 Neuters: 247 cats, 194 dogs
- We have been able to subsidize 274 surgeries for rescues & trappers thanks to the Ohio Pet Plate Grant, CDC Spay It Forward Fund, and a grant from a private donor.



Starting in January 2026, we will return to having surgery twice weekly at our office with plans on adding travel clinics again as we have hired a new Registered Veterinary Technician - Welcome Grace Collignon to the team! We also have 2 Veterinarians committed to giving us additional surgery days. We are excited to get our surgery program back to where it was prior to the Covid pandemic.



## Vaccine Clinic Update

This year, we held 12 vaccine clinics and saw 977 patients in total! Our low-cost clinic is our way of helping our community keep their pets healthy and in their homes, while providing much-needed funding to support our programs. We enjoy seeing our repeat patients each year.



## Community Cat Outreach

- TNR and the daily care of colonies with an average of 25 cats at two different locations, including the establishment of a new colony with 18 cats. All were fixed; shelters set up; and we share feeding duties with the property owner. It is a great partnership.
- Wrapped up rescue efforts at prior locations. In addition, we provided cat food, shelters, and spaying/neutering services to various community citizens who have mobility issues, no resources or transportation, are seniors, or are experiencing hard times.
- Assisting the community by following up on reported cases of animal abuse and neglect, and advocating and ensuring that the animals were removed.



## 2025 Rescue Statistics

### DOGS:

- **17** dogs in foster care/boarding at beginning of 2025
- **30** dogs taken into our program
  - **13** strays
  - **11** owner surrenders
  - **2** from other rescues/shelters
  - **4** returned pets from previous years
- **34** adopted
- **3** euthanized for aggression
- **1** returned to the owner
- **10** carried over into 2026



### CATS:

- **90** cats in foster care/office at beginning of 2025
- **111** cats rescued
  - **35** strays
  - **13** from Hoarding situations
  - **9** dropped off at our office
  - **35** from Trailer Park colonies
  - **19** from New Colony
- **64** adopted, including some long-term residents
- **22** Trapped- Neutered- Vaccinated-Returned
- **7** returned to owners
- **15** passed or euthanized due to medical issues
- **2** euthanized due to behavior
- **91** were carried over in 2026



JOIN COLUMBUS DOG CONNECTION IN THE

# RESCUE RIVALRY

A FUNDRAISER BENEFITTING OUR FOUR-LEGGED FRIENDS

2025 MATCHUP

## OHIO VS MICHIGAN

From kickoff on 8/30 to the final whistle on 11/29, every dollar you donate helps Columbus Dog Connection AND brings us one step closer to victory.

The team that raises the most wins bragging rights and gets to choose a friendly punishment for the losing organization.



### Introducing The Fowler Fund

In memory of our longest resident office cat, Fowler, this fund was established to provide care for the senior, hospice, and other permanent cats that reside at our office. In rescue there is a lot of heartache, life lessons, challenges, and some very rewarding experiences. We rescue to save lives. Often, poor, senior, and ill souls in need of rescue cross our paths. We welcome them with open arms as they are the survivors, the ones possessing the stuff that legends are made of. We heal them medically and emotionally.

Some are blessed to be adopted by those that see beyond the exterior. And their new humans are rewarded with the love, trust, and friendship that these souls still have to give. Their years of pain and struggle melting away as they are enveloped in loving arms. But there are some that never find their forever family, and that is where we best serve our purpose, providing them with everything they need. We can only do this with the help of our supporters, and they stay with us until their end of life on this plane.



Thank you for giving them the life line they so desperately deserve.

This year we had some amazing Fundraisers. We would like to extend a special thank you to Land Grant for allowing us to set up an adoption table and collect donations for our Rescue Rivalry Fundraiser. Thank you to Mutts & Co, all of our donors, and volunteers for helping us win the Rescue Rivalry against the Humane Society of Monroe County, our Michigan Rival!

## Petals & Paws FUNDRAISER

Please join Columbus Dog Connection at its annual fundraiser!

Enjoy the beautiful Alton Farmstead Flower Farm while raising money for our foster dogs and cats.

SUNDAY, SEPT. 28

4-7 PM

1200 Alton Rd., Galloway, OH 43119

CATERED DINNER • SILENT AUCTION  
LIVE MUSIC • ACTIVITIES • RAFFLE  
ADOPTABLE PETS

COLUMBUS DOG CONNECTION

Please visit [columbusdogconnection.com](http://columbusdogconnection.com) to purchase tickets.



### Vaccine Clinic Sponsors Needed!

We are in need of sponsors and vets to help our vaccine clinic keep running! It is an expensive endeavor for our very small organization, but we know how important it is to provide this much needed resource to the community. We need your help!

#### Vaccine Clinic Sponsorship Options:

- For Veterinarians: Consider donating your time of only 3 hours once or twice a year to work our vaccine clinic. **Free!**
- Sponsor a vet: This will cover the cost of us to hire a vet for one vaccine clinic. **\$250**
- Sponsor a vaccine clinic: This covers all the costs associated with running a vaccine clinic. **\$3,000**

Please email [miraabowman.cdc@gmail.com](mailto:miraabowman.cdc@gmail.com) for more information.



### ITEM OF THE WEEK!

PURINA ONE DRY ADULT CAT FOOD



KINDLY DIRECT YOUR DONATIONS TO:  
Columbus Dog Connection  
2761 Johnstown Rd  
Columbus, OH 43219  
Mon-Fri 10am-5pm  
[www.columbusdogconnection.com](http://www.columbusdogconnection.com)

We held our annual fundraiser at the beautiful Alton Farmstead this past September, and the weather, atmosphere, band, and attendees were all amazingly perfect! Special thank you to Natalie for hosting us and allowing us to come out to several BYOB Wednesdays with our adoptable dogs! What a lovely evening spent with friends.

# thank you



We'd also like to thank the members of our Fundraising Committee, Volunteers, and Board members for all your hard work to support our mission and help fund our work here at Columbus Dog Connection. We could not do it without you!

Once again, our friends at Pet Palace and Top Dog, have made it possible for us to take in so many dogs when foster families are not available. We are so grateful to both facilities and cannot say enough good things about them.





## In Memory: Agnes



Agnes represented the thousands of community cats that have been discarded or born outside. Both struggle for survival from disease, injury, starvation, cruelty, and indifference.

Agnes was rescued from the street on a bitter cold day where she was huddled waiting to take her last breath. Even with all the medical measures taken, she was with us for only 8 months. Her years on the street took their toll on her and sadly she passed away on July 4th. Her passing deeply affected staff and reaffirmed our commitment to continue helping these poor souls.

Rest in Peace Agnes. You were loved by your CDC family.

## Our Mission Statement:

The mission of Columbus Dog Connection is to improve the lives of cats and dogs in Ohio by focusing on:

- Ending the overpopulation of unwanted cats and dogs through high-quality, low-cost spay/neuter services.
- Impacting the lives of unwanted and homeless dogs and cats through rescue, foster, and adoption.
- Providing support and resources to our community and other animal welfare organizations in need.

Our programs include:

- Rescue/Foster and Rehome unwanted and stray dogs and cats
- Permanent foster care or hospice to elderly, ill, unadoptable dogs and cats
- Operate as a quasi-cat shelter
- Spay/neuter clinic and vaccine clinic for our community
- TNR and colony caretaking
- Food and supply pantry
- Community Outreach to assist and promote animal welfare by educating the public and working with other agencies

Interested in learning more  
about us?

columbusdogconnectioninfo@gmail.com  
2761 Johnstown Rd, Columbus, OH 43219

614-471-9000

www.columbusdogconnection.com

Special **thank you** to Hollywood Feed, Tom for the driveway, fostering, donations, & diesel, Ed and Donna for volunteering and donating, ASPCA, Bow Wow Buddies, and Ohio Pet Plate for grants this year. Nancy Culbertson, for all your support. Vaccine clinic sponsors - the Folkerts, Andrew Stern Family, & Idexx. Fundraiser sponsors, Facebook donors of pet food and supplies, and funds raised for birthdays/special occasions, as well as donations to fundraisers for unexpected veterinary emergencies. Due to your ongoing support, the in-kind donations are responsible for supporting 100% of the food and supply budget for the cat and dog program.

We'd also like to thank some special donors who do not wish to receive public recognition. Without their tremendous support, we would not be able to offer our various programs.

There is no possible way for us to thank everyone in this newsletter, but we hope you know how much your support means to us!

A 501(c)3 org.  
Donations are  
tax deductible

Please be part of our lifesaving team.

\$25\_\_\_ \$50\_\_\_ \$75\_\_\_ \$100\_\_\_ \$ Other\_\_\_

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Donate online by visiting our website and clicking "Donate Here"

WWW.COLUMBUSDOGCONNECTION.COM