

Happy Tails



HOPE: Helping Over Population End

HOPE Spay Neuter Clinic
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Versailles, Kentucky 40383
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hopespayneuter.org

The Newsletter of HOPE Spay Neuter Clinic

Fall — Winter 2020

Lucy Bassett, the beginning of HOPE



HOPE Spay Neuter Clinic would likely not exist without Lucy Bassett. At a time when no one else did, she had the foresight to recognize the benefit of spaying and neutering and the dedication to create a program to address the massive overpopulation problem.

In 1982, litter after litter after litter of unwanted pets were either given away, surrendered to local shelters or worse. The vast majority of dogs and cats were intact and

reproducing and shelter numbers were unmanageable. Euthanasia was the only known solution. It was in the midst of this disaster that Lucy Bassett stepped forward to offer another path: she proposed proactively spaying and neutering community animals so that shelters were not overwhelmed. Those many years ago, she raised money to start the Elizabeth Simms Gay Endowment Fund, named in honor of her Mother, to be used for spaying and neutering community pets. Still managed by the Woodford Humane Society, it was the first fund of its kind in Kentucky and instrumental in setting a new – and wildly successful – direction for how to stem the tide of unwanted pets.

When Lucy started the ESG fund, it provided for 50 free spay and neuter surgeries a year through vouchers made available to the community. However, that was just the beginning. In the summer of 2002, it became clear that 50 surgeries per year were not enough. By way of example, one Woodford County resident surrendered 13 litters of kittens to Woodford Humane Society. That's 65 kittens!

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Board of Directors

DeeDee Lloyd, President

John Kennedy, Vice President

Jennifer Hertweck, Treasurer

Gail Prewitt, Secretary

Marie Preston, TNR Coordinator

Charlie Goggin, Clinic Manager

Kat Waldvogel

Kathy Naber, Editor



19,469

HOPE continues to make a difference!

We have now performed over 19,469 surgeries on animals from 78 of Kentucky's 120 counties since opening on September 28, 2010!

The HOPE Spay Neuter Clinic's mission is to end over population and unnecessary euthanasia of companion animals through high-quality, low cost spay and neuter, education and community involvement.

Our vision is to elevate Kentucky to the top ten best states in which to be a dog or cat by lending our knowledge and experience to assist other organizations and by providing high-quality, low cost spay neuter surgeries to everyone.

HOPE is a 501c3 non-profit organization.

Volunteer Spotlight on Terry Stahler

HOPE is delighted to shine a spotlight on Terry Stahler, whose ten years (so far) of volunteer service has been essential to the success of clinic operations. Terry has been with HOPE since its beginning, joining the board of directors in August 2010, and working in the clinic when it opened the following month.

On HOPE's schedule for each Tuesday clinic, Terry's responsibility is listed as "Rabies." That is be-



Far from Lawrenceburg

cause Terry is responsible for compiling information and preparing immunization certificates and rabies tags so that they will be ready when clients arrive to pick up their pets. She is responsible as well for transferring veterinary notes onto discharge instructions and for insuring that take-home medications are filled before clients arrive.

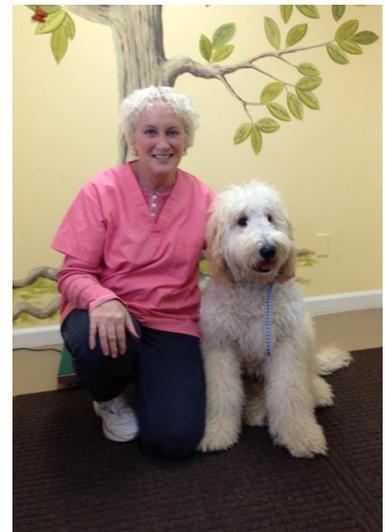
Beyond her board and in-clinic contributions, Terry collects mail from HOPE's post office box three times weekly, and she organizes and distributes information about donations. It is no surprise that Terry's HOPE colleagues describe her as conscientious, versatile, and loyal.

Terry, as would be expected, is an animal lover. Before starting her work with HOPE, Terry volun-

teered with the Woodford Humane Society, fostering kittens and helping with trap-neuter-return clinics for feral cats. She and her husband, Paul, have shared their home with dogs and cats throughout their marriage and are currently living with two cats. Our spotlight should widen here to include Paul, who has given many "handyman" hours to HOPE, including the construction of much-needed storage shelves.

Outside of HOPE, Terry enjoys spending time with her grown children and their families.

Thank you, Terry—and Paul—for all you have done to help HOPE continue to offer low cost spay and neuter services to pets and their families!



Terry and look alike



Rocky from Berea

Some Questions for our Veterinarian

How long before I can release an outside cat after surgery?

It takes about 7-10 days for healing of your pet's surgery site. If you have a way to keep them up and not outside for that period of time, wonderful! It would be the safest option for them. Male cat's surgeries are not as invasive and could be turned out safely within two days provided they seem healthy otherwise. Especially, during inclement weather, it is best to keep pets up the full period of time for healing.



Lorie Fuller, DVM

How long do I need to wait to have my cat or dog spayed after they have had a litter?

Great question! Puppies and kittens are usually weaned from their mothers at 6 weeks of age. We like to wait at least two weeks after the puppies or kittens have fully weaned from their mother to spay them. This allows time for the mammary glands to stop producing milk and not be a potential hazard with leakage of milk into the surgery site. It also allows the uterus time to return to a more normal state and not be so friable when handled (easy to fall apart when touched.) It is important to separate the mother from the puppies or kittens so that they do not continue to suckle some on mom and stimulate milk production during the weaning process. We spay them at 8 weeks post-partum if puppies and kittens are weaned at 6 weeks.

Cover Story—Continued

Just think, if the Momma cats had been altered, there would have been no need to find homes for those 65 kittens nor the next 65 kittens those same Momma cats would produce before the year was out. And that was from only one household. In March of 2003, Lucy's program was significantly expanded to cover more surgeries per year at either no or very low cost. Before HOPE opened, the ESG Fund was the only spay neuter assistance program in Woodford County and provided for up to 800 surgeries per year for local pets. In March of 2004, Lucy's work inspired a Trap-Neuter-Return Program to spay and neuter feral and free roaming cats. Today, no cats or dogs are euthanized in Woodford County due to overpopulation.

HOPE Spay Neuter Clinic opened its doors for the first time on September 28, 2010 with the intention of expanding Lucy Bassett's vision to counties outside of Woodford. To date, we have spayed and neutered over 19,000 pets from 78 Kentucky counties, several surrounding states and even a dog from Taiwan! People drive from far and wide to come to HOPE because we have low fees and because we have built a reputation of doing good work and caring about the animals. Everyone except the vet and vet tech are volunteers. Each volunteer has a specific job to do and does it well.

Lucy Basset was right in 1982: it is not possible to transport, rescue or adopt our way out of the overpopulation problem. Stopping reproduction before these precious pets reach shelter doors is the only true answer. We thank you, Lucy Bassett, for your foresight, your wisdom and your leadership. That tiny seed you planted so many years ago has grown into a mighty oak.



Lulu from Nicholasville



Voodoo from Radcliff



Moose from Georgetown

It's easy for you to make a difference.

Support HOPE's important spay and neuter programs.

The "For Pitties' Sake" Fund provides free spay and neuter surgeries for pit bulls and pit bull mixes.

The **Oliver Rugby** Fund helps those who can't afford our low spay and neuter surgery fees.

The **Wildcat** Fund provides services for feral and free-roaming cats with our TNR (Trap Neuter Return) program.

To Make Your Tax-Deductible Donation:

⇒ **MAIL** your check to HOPE Spay Neuter Clinic, PO Box 23, Versailles, KY 40383

⇒ **ONLINE** at hopespayneuter.org

⇒ **CALL** (859) 873-HOPE (4673)



Kroger Community Rewards® is committed to helping us continue our important work.

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**MEOW
WOOF
THANK YOU**

SUPPLIES NEEDED

AT HOPE

- 70% Alcohol
- Distilled Water
- Paper Towels
- Liquid Laundry Detergent
- Bleach
- Hydrogen Peroxide
- Toilet Paper
- Pee Pads
- Postage Stamps
- Copy Paper
- Gently Used Cat Carriers

Bring your donation to HOPE any Tuesday!



Helping Over Population End

OPEN EVERY
TUESDAY

7:30 AM—6:00 PM

(859) 873-HOPE (4673)



FEE SCHEDULE

DOGS

Spay \$65

Neuter \$55

Pit Bull/Pit Mixes FREE!

CATS

Spay/Neuter \$35

Feral Cat Package \$35

Feral Cat Package Includes:

Spay or Neuter

Rabies Vaccination

FVRCP Vaccination

Dose of Revolution

Ear Tip

Memorial & Celebration Donations

In Memory of

Hannah McIntyre by *Mada Barnes*

Toner (MR Storage Feral) * by *Harold and Liese Coleman*

Angel Howard * by *Harold and Liese Coleman*

Max and Lily Fiala * by *Dick and Judy Stoops*

Mikey Short * by *Janet Murphy*

Dezi * by *Ronique Cofield*

Bella Rhodus * by *Dick and Judy Stoops*

Toby, Ginny, and Buddy * by *Laura Dake*

Tanner Burton * by *Sandra Burton*

Frankie and Tigger * by *Matthew Neltner*

Tansy * by *Connie Sandrock*

David Lake by *Caring Hearts (Greta Miller and Mada Barnes)*

Abigail Fiala * by *Harold and Liese Coleman, Ron and Mindy Fiala*

Luci Fiala * by *Harold and Liese Coleman, Judy R. Stoops, Ron and Mindy Fiala*

Sandy Davis by *Ron and Mindy Fiala, Duncan and DeeDee Lloyd, Lynsey Miller*

Hunter Craig by *Sherry Lee*

Anthony Johnson by *Michelle Johnson, Ben and Gail Prewitt*

Bogart Parrish * by *Lucy Breathitt*

The Karnova Corgis * by *Carol Ann Novak*

Coco Shepard * by *Sharon Shepard*

Indy Howard * by *Roger and Betty Coleman*

Miss Kitty Stoops * by *Ron and Mindy Fiala*

Chuck Fiala * by *Harold and Liese Coleman*

In Honor of

Libby Welker by *Martha (Marty) Johnson, India Pruitt, Libby Ragland*

Carolyn Puckett by *Marshall and Jennifer Rock*

Jackie Howard by *Roger and Betty Coleman*

DeeDee Lloyd by *Bennett Bell Williams*

Linda Baker by *Carolyn Puckett*
Carolyn Puckett by *Linda Baker*

Kathy Naber by *Ben and Gail Prewitt (twice)*

Mary Nuckols by *D. Adele Dickerson and Daniel A. Roller*

Terry Stahler by *Ron and Mindy Fiala, Ben and Gail Prewitt*

All the HOPE Volunteers by *Kathy Naber*

Sarah Arnold's birthday by *Mary E. Camele*

Liese Coleman by *Ben and Gail Prewitt*

Noelle Gruzesky by *Ben and Gail Prewitt*



Thank you Keeneland for once again partnering with us for the GoodGiving Challenge. (12/1 - 12/7)

Visit www.bggives.org/hopespayneuterclinic to see our portrait.

HOPE is proudly supported by:

Nelson Mead Fund

Pin Oak Charitable Fund at Blue Grass Community Foundation



WOODFORD RESERVE



Pup Pup from Frankfort

A vertical banner containing logos for various sponsors and partners, including ASPCA, Humane Society, Petco Foundation, and Lost Pet U.S.A.