Rescue at Hoarding Home

SICSA staff drove 2 hours to northern Ohio at the request of the Ohio SPCA to help with an animal hoarding situation. Fifty dogs were found at the home, and the owner agreed to relinquish the dogs to several rescue organizations, including SICSA. “When we arrived at the farm home, we saw dogs everywhere, even spilling out of the open windows of the home”, explained Renee Grant, SICSA’s Foster Coordinator. Like many hoarders, the owner changed her mind about surrendering all of the dogs once rescue groups arrived, but SICSA was able to bring back 4 puppies and 5 dogs.

It didn’t take long for many of the adorable dogs to be adopted once they received veterinary care, a good shampoo, and some much-needed TLC at SICSA. However, one of the dogs has not fared as well as the others. Rembrandt, an adorable Beagle blend, suffers from several health problems including a heart murmur. This endearing hound requires a hospice home. We are sure there is a loving home out there for him. If you can open your heart and your home to Rembrandt, please call Renee at 937-294-6505 or email her at RGrant@sicsa.org.

Join Us at The Cat’s Meow

Please join us for an extraordinary affair with a festive, 1920’s Creole atmosphere. James Beard award-winning chef and restaurateur Anne Kearney of Rue Dumaine will provide a shrimp boil feast sure to get every cat meowing! Era-specific appetizers and spirits, dancing to the beat of Eddie Brookshire Quintet and Brenda Flowers, a themed photo booth, a spectacular raffle, and an exciting live and silent auction made up of unique and enticing packages. You will swear you have been transported back to a 1920’s Louisiana back yard. The festivities will be held at Benham’s Grove in Centerville on Friday, September 18 with cocktails beginning at 6:00 PM. Seating is extremely limited, so please don’t wait to make reservations! Purchase individual seats or a table at www.sicsa.org. If you would like to become a Ticket Ambassador to help sell raffle tickets, or for more information about The Cat’s Meow, please contact Julie Crusenberry at 937-294-6505 ext. 15 or jcrusenberry@sicsa.org. You won’t want to miss this fantastic event!
As I stare out my office window, I see our flowers on the corner stretching to access the sun. As I write this, the rain has been almost non-stop for weeks. It feels like we are all stretching and yearning for sun. At the same time, there have been several bright spots at SICSA for which we are forever grateful. They include:

- A second, larger van for animals we transport from rescues or to larger off-site adoption events. Having two vans will also allow us to transport to and from more than one activity on the same day.
- New staff positions including a first-ever Veterinary Clinic Manager and feline and canine Enrichment Specialists. These new positions will enhance the quality of services SICSA provides to animals and the community.
- A new Voice over IP phone system which will increase internal efficiency as well as our ability to provide excellent customer service to those calling for information and assistance.

All of these upgrades were just pipe dreams four years ago, with none of them possible without the generous support of our donors. So even though I too long for days without the threat of rain, I want to take a moment to say thank you to our donors who help to make so many bright days possible with their gifts. As you will read in the following pages, there are many bright spots in the lives of the animals we serve, which certainly could not happen without you!

**Champ**

**Soldier’s Dog’s Story Is Bittersweet**

Champ is a beautiful black and white Basenji/Pit bull blend whose owner was recently deployed to Iraq. After many failed attempts to find him a home, Champ was surrendered to SICSA. The soldier loved him very much but with time running out she turned her trust to SICSA, who she knew would take the time to find him the perfect family.

When Champ first arrived, he was so frightened he would not come out of his kennel and would not eat. We needed a specific foster family who was dog savvy and would know how to help Champ adjust to his new situation.

One of our own dedicated foster families, Carolyn and Dan, took 8-year-old Champ into their home, and he responded very well. Champ had never been around other dogs but has found comfort being part of a family of dogs and humans.

Carolyn and Dan fell in love with Champ, and he quickly fell in love with them. Champ follows Dan around the house from room to room. We are happy to report that Champ is no longer their foster dog, but full-fledged pack member! Although it is a bittersweet story, Champ has a new wonderful home. It took a team to help Champ find his forever home, and you are part of that team. Thanks to donors, volunteers, and foster families, we are able to give pets like Champ another chance for a loving family.

**Starlite, Star Bright**

A sweet cat was abandoned at SICSA overnight last April. We named her Starlite. She had missing hair and fleas, but such a gentle nature. Starlite was content to be touched by SICSA’s veterinary staff, who gave her an exam and medicines. Our veterinarian determined her age to be about 1 year old. Starlite is healthy now and ready for a new home. **We have discovered she loves dogs and children!** She was recently delighted to have 25 youth campers eating lunch (all week) on the cat deck with her. She would be a great addition to any family. Most days, you’ll find her lying in the sun on the cat deck. Meet Starlite and you’ll quickly see why she is a favorite of everyone she meets.

**Decoy Art Classes at SICSA**

- **Drink & Draw** $25
  Aug 27th 6-8 pm, ages 9+

- **Beaded Bracelet** $25
  Sept 24th 6-8 pm, ages 10+

- **Pottery Painting** $35
  Oct 22nd 6-8:30 pm, all ages
Fill Your Heart (And Bathroom) With Love

We are always in need of foster homes, especially during this time of year. Foster families help us save more lives by opening up space at our building to accept more homeless pets into our adoption program. Some foster families only foster a specific type of animal, or they may just foster during certain times of the year, or they may just foster once. Our foster program is flexible to meet your preferences and lifestyle. If you have an extra bedroom or bathroom available, even better! Please consider joining our foster program by completing an application online at www.sicsa.org/foster-care or emailing RGrant@sicsa.org for more information.

Pet Updates

**Dozer**

Dozer is doing wonderful! He is even more perfect than we could hope for. Dozer is so smart and already protective of all of us. We all love him so much, he has adjusted so well it’s almost as if he was born here.

-Karla & Family

**Jezebel**

As you can see, Jezebel is making herself at home. We are thrilled to have her in our lives. Thank you again!

-Louise

**Jake and Lulu**

Jake and Lulu are doing great and absolutely adore each other. If they’re not wrestling, playing tug-of-war or chasing each other around the backyard, they can usually be found snuggling together by the front door. So grateful to you all that you brought these sweet pups into our lives - they brighten our days and warm our hearts constantly!

-Krista and Will Sheehan

Volunteer Spotlight on SICSA Blog

Each month we highlight one of our exceptional volunteers on the SICSA Blog, under “Volunteer Spotlight”. You’ll enjoy reading about these heroes to the animals. From 9-90 years old and every walk of life, our volunteers have one thing in common: they are passionate about homeless pets. Visit our blog online at: sicsa.org/blog

“Katherine is having such a good time! She comes home with fun stories after every shift. This is such a wonderful program for growing our young animal lovers into future leaders. Thank you so much for all you do to make the program such a success!” -Kim Bishop (Katherine’s mom)

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Giving to SICSA

Not everyone can give a home to a homeless pet, but your donation can save a life too! SICSA is a nonprofit, privately funded organization. We do not receive any government funding. We rely solely on the generosity of people like you.

My information:

Name: ______________________________________________________

Address: __________________________________________ City: _________ Zip: _____________

Phone: _____________________________ Email: ____________________________

Gift amount:

[ ] $100  [ ] $50  [ ] $25  [ ] Other _________

[ ] Make this a convenient monthly gift by credit card. Please call us to cancel or change your monthly donation at any time at 937-294-6505.

[ ] Cash  [ ] Check  [ ] Credit card: [ ] Visa  [ ] MasterCard

Credit card# ____________________________

Exp. Date ____________________________

Signature ____________________________

Visit www.sicsa.org/give to make your secure contribution online.

Donations are tax-deductible under section 501(c)(3) of IRS code. Please use envelope provided.