Starsky & Hutch’s Journey Home

Their belief was the thing. Their belief in each other. That as long as they stuck together, their tale would end up a happy one. When a Butler County shelter official found Starsky and Hutch, they had been helping each other survive on the streets. While unfortunately, stray dogs are not an uncommon story, theirs was unique. Starsky is blind, with Hutch acting as Starsky’s very own “seeing-eye dog”.

When Renée Grant, SICSA’s Resource and Intake Coordinator, came to pull animals from Butler County (SICSA regularly pulls from open admission and limited resource shelters to help keep the community’s euthanasia rates as low as possible), she knew SICSA was the perfect place for this bonded pair. “As soon as I met Starsky and Hutch, these two stole my heart. I knew that SICSA was just the place for this dynamic duo to get a second chance,” Renée shared.

At the same time she also knew the cold facts. Starsky and Hutch are both seven years old, a seasoned pair in the life cycle of dogs. Starsky has a permanent medical issue. They are a bonded pair, which means, their next home needs to be one where they can live and be together. All variables which individually can be stumbling blocks for finding the right home for any pet, but with the combination of all three, it was going to take time to find that special adopter. So while the average length of stay for our available pets is under 10 days, special needs pets like Starsky and Hutch often require months to find their perfect fit. Fortunately for them, they were with the right pack. At SICSA, pets are given all the time, care, and love they need to complete their journey to their new home.

While we waited for their forever family, we found out new facts about these cuties. Their SICSA foster found them both to be champion snugglers. Their Paw Partner Social volunteers; who took them out to We Care Arts and Greene County Inc.; found that they never met a stranger and did well with all kinds of people. The pair quickly became a staff and volunteer favorite, often missing from their kennels only to find them hanging out in the back office or in meeting. All critical information in helping us find their special adopter.

Sixty days later, their belief in a happily ever after became reality. Thanks to our whole SICSA Pack working together, including the donors and supporters like you, this dynamic duo became a trio; finding their special adopter and forever family. It is your care, dedication and support that literally saves lives, provides second chances, and creates families, right here in the greater Miami Valley. During this time of thanks and year-end reflection, we want to thank you for being a part of our pack. For helping us save thousands of lives like Starsky and Hutch, year after year.

Visit smile.amazon.com & choose SICSA as your charity. Enroll your Kroger club card online once per year & just swipe it at check out! Volunteer! SICSA loves our volunteers. For more information on how to get involved, visit www.sicsa.org/volunteer. Enroll your Club DLM card online & just swipe it at check out!
Like many of the staff and volunteers at SICSA, I often take my work home with me – literally. My family has had the fortune to foster over 50 cats and dogs for SICSA, not including the animals who stay the night with us prior to early morning TV pet segments. Caring for these animals takes the entire Vondrell Village as often, we foster litter mates which outnumber the humans residing in the household. It is a living example of how the entire SICSA Pack is needed to help the thousands of animals (and people) we serve each year.

As another year comes to an end, we want to thank you for being a critical part of SICSA’s life-saving success. Not everyone is in the position to open their homes to homeless cats and dogs. Given that SICSA is a private, not-for-profit charity which does not receive any government or contracted funding, your donations are critical support which provide the foundation in which all services can function. You open your hearts and yes, your wallets. We say it often, we could not save these lives without you!

So as we enter this time of thanks and giving, we don’t want to let a minute go by without thanking you again. As well as reminding you to please, do not forget your furry friends at the SICSA Pet Adoption Center. The Vondrells will keep doing our part and we pray, you will as well. Together, we make the season brighter for thousands of animals and people. Together, we save lives and share love.

Nora’s Notes

Meet MacArthur - MacArthur has been at SICSA for just under a year. Although we enjoy having him here at SICSA, we really want him to find his furrever home. MacArthur is not only handsome, he loves to play, cuddle, hang out on our catio, and chase a laser pointer. He would do best in a home where he could be both indoors and outdoors. This means, his outdoor time needs to be safe from predators, cars, and other dangerous situations. MacArthur is just shy of 2 years old. Check him out on our website: www.SICSA.org/viewour-cats or just come on in and visit him today!

Meet Ivar - Ivar has been at SICSA for about 3 months. Ivar believes in living life to the fullest! He is always up for a good time! Some other dogs might think he’s a bit rowdy (he’s a big guy!) but he just wants to be friends. Ivar is such a good boy-he gets good grades, loves to play, and gives great kisses! Check him out on our website: www.SICSA.org/viewour-cats or just come on in and visit him today!

At SICSA, animals are given all the time they need to find their forever families. Our staff and volunteers work diligently every single day to make each animal’s stay – no matter how long it may be – as comfortable and loving as possible. We also do all we can to highlight each animal’s uniqueness, as well as emphasize those special qualities which we believe will make them great additions to someone’s family.

While SICSA’s available length of stay is under ten days, for some animals, finding a forever home isn’t immediate. As animal adoption experts, we get that. Which is why being part of the SICSA Pack doesn’t come with an expiration date. Today, we share with you two of our favorites who we want to see go home for the holidays.

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We know that MacArthur and Ivar’s forever families are out there just waiting to be discovered. Until then, the SICSA Pack will take excellent care of them. With your help, we will continue to advertise their availability, provide them with shelter, food and water in their bowls, medical care to protect them from disease, enrichment activities to keep them engaged, soft toys, volunteers to play with, and warm blankets for their beds. With your help and donations, we will continue to care for MacArthur, Ivar, and all of our pets just like them today, tomorrow and into the future until we can get them all home.
SAFE Program Aids Woman & Animals in Need

When people hear the word SICSA, they think animals. We love that, as animals are clearly our jam. We also know, however, that the people attached to (or soon to be) those animals are just as important. In fact, a core part of our mission is to nurture loving, lifelong relationships between animals AND people. If we don’t address the people in that equation, we will fail the animals. This is why we have many programs geared to helping humans too!

Recently, SICSA’s CEO Nora Vondrell arrived at the building and noticed a single car parked in our lot. As she approached, she noticed a woman sleeping inside with her pets. It turns out, this woman had just left an abusive relationship the night before, and was heading to a women’s shelter. The woman was scared for her beloved pets and sobbed as she shared how she had to “give them up” as the shelter would not accept pets. She didn’t want to surrender them, but she believed she didn’t have any other options. Nora immediately asked her to come inside and sit with her. Nora made her a cup of coffee and gave her something to eat. They talked about how the woman’s pets were her sole source of emotional support and love. How the woman was heartbroken over making this decision, but had to do what was best for her furry family. Nora shared that SICSA has a program called Safe Pets which she believed would be the answer to the woman’s prayers. Nora made a call and asked SICSA Kennel and Facilities Manager Emma Blackman-Mathis if she would be willing to come in on her day off and help arrange for the woman’s animals to be temporary sheltered through SICSA Safe Pets program. Emma readily agreed.

Safe Pets is specifically for victims who are fleeing domestic violence. These victims often have to make the difficult choice between leaving a violent situation and ensuring their pet’s safety. They are often left to wonder, what will happen to my pet? Who will care for them? The answer is: SICSA will. Over the next month, the woman’s pets received love and care from our dedicated staff and volunteers, while she worked on living situation and received therapy. She would visit often, always starting and ending with huge thanks and tears for keeping her loved ones safe. And once she found new, safe housing, there was a very happy reunion. Please know, we cannot offer these types of services without you. Your donations to the SICSA animals allows us to occasionally help their people. Your support literally save lives every day, both animal and human.

SICSA Helps Animals Displaced During Hurricanes

Staff from the SICSA Pet Adoption Center traveled to the Licking County Humane Society to help rescue efforts as a result of Hurricane Irma. The SICSA team, along with the Cleveland Animal Protection League, met the Pittsburgh Aviation Animal Rescue Team who had transported 19 dogs from the Charleston Animal Society in order to make room for homeless animals displaced after the Hurricane devastated the community. SICSA was able to help 6 of those 19 displaced dogs.

“The response from the animal welfare community to help the animals affected by hurricanes and other disasters has been tremendous”, states SICSA’s CEO Nora Vondrell. “To be able to take some of the burden of caring for, and eventually finding homes for these pups, has been very rewarding for staff and volunteers who have wanted to help since the first hurricane made landfall earlier this year”, states Vondrell.

“The animal welfare community learned many lessons after Hurricane Katrina”, replied Vondrell. “One of the hardest to carry out was waiting until we were called up to help. Many of us wanted to immediately dispatch teams and send physical supplies such as food, leashes, crates, etc. However, we didn’t want to create work and an eventual rotting mess with which those already exhausted would have to deal”, concludes Vondrell.

The SICSA Pet Adoption Center continues to offer its assistance when needed in tragic situations such as this. Without the support of our community - without you - we would not have the resources to offer this assistance and save the lives of animals in need.
As SICSA’s mailing list rapidly grows, it has become more difficult for staff to discern duplicate mailings. If any reader is receiving more than one copy of SICSA’s mailings, please notify us by emailing info@SICSA.org.

SICSA Happy Tails! Tales from our SICSA Alumni

BUNKER - “Bunker was pretty sad when we first got him - he seemed to miss his family, or at least a special person from his prior family. We spent a lot of time cuddling and reassuring him. We don’t mind that he is older, although we wish we would have had him with us his entire life. Thanks for giving cats and dogs like Bunker second chances!”

EDITH - “I just wanted to let you guys know she is doing well and adjusting beautifully! Edith has blossomed into a chatty, affectionate little lady, and we have officially extended her name to Lady Edith Clawley (or Clawless!) after Downton Abbey. What a difference some time and focused love can make! Best to you, and thanks for what you have already done. Rest assured that Edith has found her forever home!”

Cat - Tastic Pup - Coming Event Calendar

- Furry Black Friday: 11/23
- Friends of SICSA: 11/30
- Holiday Bazaar: 12/01
- Paws to Celebrate: 12/08
- Lift Your Leg: 01/01

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