Dear Friends,

As we anticipate the upcoming holiday season, we often think of all of the wonderful things that the holidays include: time with families, wonderful food, gathering with friends, warmth, comfort, peace and love. As we also know, many in our communities do not get to experience these wonderful aspects of the holiday season. While I know our dog Ralph will be part of our family celebrations and will have his own gifts under our tree, many animals will not see that this year.

Let me share a story about one of the animals who came to Atlanta Humane Society recently: her name is Lizzie. She is a three-year-old Beagle mix. She and her seven puppies, only a few weeks old, were picked up by county animal control outside of a home where they had been neglected by their owners. Once at AHS, Lizzie and her puppies were placed in a loving foster home. Initially, Lizzie and her pups were afraid to go inside as they had never been indoors. Once the puppies were old enough for adoption and Lizzie had recovered from the difficult process of heartworm treatments, they were all adopted into forever, loving homes.

Because of your support, Lizzie is home for the holidays! Thankfully, the Atlanta Humane Society can be here for Lizzie and thousands like her every day of the year. To all of you who continue to remember us on a regular basis, THANK YOU! We can’t make these happy endings a reality without each and every one of you. May you have a wonderful and peaceful holiday season!

Sincerely,

Cal Morgan
President and CEO

Thank You To Our Corporate Champions

MERIAL
A SANOFI COMPANY

PURINA

VCA
Honey Bun’s Sweet Story

When Honey Bun was brought to us in April, she was emaciated and had significant hair loss. She weighed only 26 pounds.

The owner said that a friend had given Honey Bun to him but she kept losing weight, and he couldn’t afford any more veterinarian care.

Honey Bun clearly needed extra tender loving care. One of our amazing fosters took Honey Bun home right away and started working her magic to nurse Honey Bun back to health. After two months, Honey Bun was up to 42 pounds, looked great, and was an active, thriving pup. Tests revealed that she has a pancreatic enzyme deficiency and will need the replacement powder forever, but that’s a minor price to pay for this precious girl’s life.

This is a wonderful recovery story for Honey Bun and also speaks to the great importance of our foster program and the incredible love our fosters give to our neediest animals. Our wonderful Shelter Medicine team also plays a vital role treating the animals who come to us with life-threatening health issues.

And the sweetest part of all: Honey Bun was adopted by a young couple whose goal is to spoil her rotten!
Because You Care,
This Year They Are Home for the Holidays

One of the most heartwarming moments at Atlanta Humane Society (AHS) is seeing our dogs and cats leaving in the arms of their forever families to go home. That’s our ultimate goal . . . to save homeless animal lives and place them in happy homes. With the help of our thousands of friends and supporters, so many animals who were once abused or abandoned will be in happy homes for this holiday season.

Lizzie’s Story

Lizzie is a three-year-old Beagle mix who had a very rough start in life. Despite her early abuse, Lizzie has a very sweet, calm temperament. She looks up at you with beautiful, trusting brown eyes and loves people and animals. Lizzie and her seven young puppies were picked up by county animal control outside a home that had multiple female dogs who were not spayed and several pregnant and nursing dogs. The owners weren’t taking care of them, so they turned the dogs over to the county. Leia (the brown pup in the cover photo) was lost when the dogs were picked up and was on her own for several days until she was found and reunited with her family.

Due to overcrowding at the county shelter, our Transport Coordinator brought Lizzie and her young litter to us. AHS partners with about 80 shelters throughout the state, to take in dogs and cats who need care which smaller shelters do not have the resources to provide.

Lizzie was in very poor health and her pups were younger than eight weeks old, so they were placed with a foster family to get the extra care they needed. Lizzie’s amazing foster mom has fostered more than 20 litters for us in the last 11 years. Besides loving and caring for them, her foster mom also socialized Lizzie and her pups. They had never been indoors and were afraid to come inside. She taught them to come into the house, as well as basic commands like “sit.” She socialized them with her cat, three dogs, children and family.

In addition to having numerous consecutive litters of pups which greatly weakened her, Lizzie was also heartworm positive. Once she had been nursed back to health by the AHS vet staff and care and love from her foster mom, Lizzie was spayed. She also began the difficult process of heartworm treatments.

Lizzie’s pups were available for adoption at eight weeks old, and the cute pups were all adopted into happy homes immediately. Lizzie was also soon adopted into her forever home, where she is now adored and spoiled. She loves to play and will sit to be petted for hours. This holiday season, Lizzie is in a home filled with love.

From Leia’s new Dad: “Leia is a full-on puppy. She likes to sniff, lick, chew, and play with everything. She is extremely energetic with lots of life and keeps me going. I love her to death. I am soooo happy with my decision to adopt her!”

Leia and Dad
HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

The Cat’s Pajamas

This holiday season, 80 cats who were rescued from a St. Marys, Georgia large-scale cat rescue during the summer are almost all Home for the Holidays. AHS’ H.E.A.R.T Rescue Team transported the cats to our shelter and set up the Howell Mill auditorium as a free-roaming adoption center, as the cats had been accustomed to being sheltered together and were highly socialized. They were fairly healthy, and after relatively minor medical treatment, most were available for adoption at The Cat’s Pajamas – a unique, weekend adoption event. During the special event, the Howell Mill shelter was open later into the night, staff wore their pajamas, and we set up a live “Cat Cam” video for 24/7 public viewing of the fascinating free-roaming cats. All cat and kitten adoptions at both shelters were fee-waived for the weekend and the following week.

More than half the cats were adopted over the weekend, and most found families soon after. Boogie was one of the cats who will be sharing this holiday season at home with his forever family. Here’s what his new mom has to say about this special cat:

“Boogie is a sweetheart! When I saw his picture, my heart melted. He is a tuxedo like Sam, who I had for 16 years. Boogie was 12 and declawed, so I knew he would have some issues. I didn’t know if he would live a year or eight, but I decided to provide him a great old age.

The vet declared Boogie to be in tip-top health. I got him toys and we play a lot. He loves being brushed. He is learning words like ‘brush’ and ‘no.’ He is glued to me and follows me everywhere. He enjoys watching Pet TV and National Geographic. He loves to cuddle and is just the sweetest cat ever.

I love him so much! He is a good boy, and I think he loves me too. I don’t think of it as ‘rescuing’ Boogie. He rescued me from feeling so alone and blue about losing Sam. So I guess we sort of rescued each other.

Thank you again for everything the Atlanta Humane Society did for him. Without your care and love, he may not have lived. Today he is a healthy, happy kitty, with some quirks. But I have quirks too! So that’s ok. We will grow older together and have fun. And that’s what life is all about for everyone, really!”

You can ensure warm and safe holidays for animals in Atlanta by making a lifesaving gift right now: www.atlantahumane.org/homefortheholidays

Just $10 a month saves animal lives all year long!
Atlanta Humane Society (AHS) assisted in the rescue and transport of dozens of dogs and cats from life-threatening flooded areas of Louisiana the week of August 15.

In the first transport, AHS worked with Acadiana Animal Aid of Lafayette, LA, to take in 70 dogs and cats. Acadiana focuses on rescuing animals who are of the greatest need from shelters that are overcrowded, overwhelmed or under resourced. In the second rescue, AHS transported 14 dogs from the Tangipahoa Parish Humane Society, working with the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS). The first group of 53 dogs and 10 cats arrived at a Gwinnett County VCA Animal Hospital on the morning of Friday, August 19, after being transported with the help of volunteer firefighters. VCA Animal Hospitals is a primary AHS corporate partner and sponsor and had space to house the animals on short notice.

The second group of dogs was transported from Tangipahoa Parish to the Howell Mill AHS Campus and arrived the evening of Saturday, August 20. The transport was led by AHS Director of Operations Diane Robinson. The dogs were examined and treated by AHS veterinarians and were available for adoption as soon as they were medically cleared.

AHS assisted in rescuing animals from Louisiana shelters in their time of great need while also maintaining the important work we do of accepting animals from local Georgia shelters. The dogs and cats brought to Georgia were the legal property of the Louisiana shelters they came from. These animals either exceeded their stray hold period or were relinquished to the shelter. We were asked to help by moving these animals from local shelters in order to make room for the new flood victims so that as many as possible could be reunited with their owners.

The animals were kept at the VCA location for several days. AHS Director of Shelter Medicine Dr. Jennifer Morris, DVM and a team of AHS veterinarians performed examinations and provided treatment as necessary. Some of the animals were transported to Geauga Humane Society Rescue Village, an AHS shelter partner in Cleveland, Ohio, some were moved to AHS for care and adoption, and others were transported to other shelter partners. Housing the dogs and cats in multiple shelters helps ensure they are adopted into permanent loving homes as quickly as possible.

Animals Rescued From Life-Threatening Louisiana Flood Areas

Photo compliments of HSUS
Haley Hooper used the Fundraise for AHS platform for her seventh annual Kingswood Fun Run, which took place on August 16. Haley recently received the 11 Alive Kids Who Care Award for her volunteer work raising money for AHS. For the past seven years, Haley has raised more than $40,000 to save animal lives. Congratulations on your well-deserved award, and thank you once again, Haley!

Haley Hooper (third from the right) with friends at the Kingswood Fun Run

It’s Easy to Help Save Animal Lives!

We make it easy for you to fundraise for Atlanta Humane Society your way. Here is how you can create your own successful fundraising campaign:

1. Choose Your Fundraiser
2. Create Your Page
3. Add a Compelling Photo & Story
4. Collect Donations on Your Page to Save Homeless Dogs & Cats and Place Them in Loving Homes

Use Our Online Center to Alert Family & Friends, Send Emails and Share on Social Media

START SAVING LIVES NOW! atlantahumane.org/fundraiseforahs

CELEBRITY SPOTLIGHT:

Spec Miata Racer Ashton Harrison

We are now FAST friends with Spec Miata racer and Battery Tender Global Mazda MX-5 Cup Pro Driver Ashton Harrison! Ashton came by our Mansell shelter with fellow racing driver Patrick Wilmot to love on our puppies, dogs, kittens and cats in August. Ashton is not only a rising star in the racing world, racing Spec Miatas for Mazda Motorsports, she also has a big heart and lots of love for animals, especially rescues. She worked at a shelter as a teenager and has three rescue dogs, Macy, Crimson and Lilly. Macy was adopted from our Howell Mill shelter. Thanks for coming by to show us and our waiting animals some love, Ashton and Patrick!
Fee-waived adoptions for veterans

The Atlanta Humane Society has long recognized the value of pet ownership for veterans. In early 2014, AHS co-founded the Pets for Vets program with the Buckhead Rotary Club, and to date this effort has provided more than 300 fee-waived pet adoptions for veterans.

According to a recent report by the Department of Veterans Affairs, 22 veterans take their own lives every day in the United States. A new study by Purdue University shows that service dogs can reduce PTSD symptoms by up to 82% in just one week, proving that the power of a pet can help our heroes heal.

One veteran who has benefited from the Pets for Vets program is Rodney Pinkney-Talbert and his wife JT. Rodney, who served in the Navy as a rank E3 Seaman, adopted Sparky through the Pets for Vets program in 2015.

“We walked into the area where the adult dogs were and began to hear that familiar howling we once heard in our home when we had a beloved Husky,” says JT. “We began abruptly scanning the kennels to see where it was coming from and BOOM there he was – Sparky! When he saw us, he began jumping and howling in his hound-like nature and in an instant we said, ‘That’s him!’ We made sure he would be a good fit with Harley, an American Dingo we’ve had for 12 years. Just as we hoped, both dogs ended up getting along just fine. Sparky even welcomed us with a few jumps, barks and kisses!

Sparky has added so much life to our family from the day we got him! Every day it’s something to look forward to with him - either a new howling tone, facial expression, or game. His personality is high energy (like his master’s) and always happy. He loves interacting with visitors and other dogs as well. We love playing with him in the backyard, and hide and seek with him in the house. Sparky is a fun dog and lifts our spirits if we are feeling down.”

If you are a veteran or know of one who would be interested in adopting through our Pets for Vets program, please visit atlantahumane.org/adopt/petsforvets.

Pets for Vets was co-founded by AHS and Buckhead Rotary Club and is supported by the Rotary Foundation, the Clipped Wings Foundation, Cobb County Honorary Commanders Alumni Association and the Marine Corps Coordinating Council of Georgia.

Watch for more on Lizzie and her puppies coming for the holiday season!