

# Wagging Tales

PAWSIBILITIES®, HUMANE SOCIETY OF GREATER AKRON



FALL 2015

## A Day in the Life of a PAWSibilities Shelter Dog...

As the morning sun peaks through the dew covered windows, another day starts at PAWSibilities, Humane Society of Greater Akron. Much like any other day, staff arrives early and starts the daily routine. With sleepy eyes, the dogs, cats, rabbits, and guinea pigs slowly come out of their peaceful slumber and greet the morning staff. Many of our animals have never felt compassion or love, so the joy of being cared for every day never gets old.

Banjo, a three year old hound mix, excitedly wags his tail and hops down from his Kuranda Bed to meet the staff at his kennel door. He knows his hearty breakfast meal will soon be arriving and looks down the aisle in eager anticipation. Like clockwork, the food cart rounds the corner and soon after, his food bowl is filled with Hill's Science Diet Adult dry food. His water is freshened, and Banjo knows it's going to be another great day.

With a full belly, Banjo waits patiently for his first walk of the day. Here at PAWSibilities, our dogs are taken for at least three quality walks a day by staff members. In addition, volunteers supplement additional walks and play sessions! Liz, one of Banjo's favorite staff members, hooks her leash to take him out of his kennel and showers him with praise and affection. In a whirl of excitement, he steps out of his kennel and joyfully skips to the outside door for his morning exercise.

After enjoying the morning air, Banjo returns to his kennel to find it has been cleaned from top to bottom and he has a fresh set of linens and blankets. Every kennel is thoroughly cleaned and sanitized daily, providing animals with an unsoiled and comfortable environment. Staff members and volunteers work tirelessly to provide the best quality care for our animals. As Banjo settles back down on his bed and blankets, he enjoys a treat filled Kong for enrichment and mental stimulation. He zealously plays and navigates his Kong toy, enjoying the challenge of finding hidden treats. Satisfied, Banjo nods off for a nap in preparation for his fun filled day.

Throughout Banjo's afternoon, he is visited by many volunteers and taken to play in the outside off leash play area. He enjoys the beautiful sunshine while getting love, pets, and attention from devoted volunteers. While in his kennel, shelter visitors pass by and hand him treats as they tour the facility in search of a new furry friend. Banjo watches and waits with a hoping heart that today a family might choose him. Most of our animals have never experienced the love of a family, and we work hard every day to try to find them permanent homes.

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**Banjo shows off his tricks**



**See Banjo's full bio on page 4**

# FIGHTING FOR A SECOND CHANCE

It is hard to believe that almost a year has gone by since the night our two Humane Officers, along with local law enforcement and the FBI, arrested 48 people, 47 for felony dog fighting, in the City of Akron. For the past eight months, the dogs rescued from that horrific scene have been in our loving care. After a long court process, PAWSibilities, Humane Society of Greater Akron has finally been awarded legal custody of these dogs and is working to find them forever homes. These dogs have seen the worst of humanity, yet they still have endless amounts of love to give.

Since the dogs arrived at our facility last November, they have received thorough medical care by our veterinarian. Upon arrival, the dogs were not only injured from puncture wounds but also severely emaciated and malnourished. They have survived so much, and we are happy to report that they have been cleared medically for adoption. Through all of the scars, their adorable smiles still show through and they are eager to have a loving family.

With themed names like Grasshopper, Firefly, and Cricket- the dogs have been enjoying a life free of pain and suffering here at our facility. Like any other dog in our care, they are walked at least three times a day by staff members and also get the opportunity for off leash play time outside in the dog runs. They are fed multiple meals a day, and enjoy yummy treats and toys for enrichment. During the healing process, not only do we focus on an animal's physical and medical needs, but also the mental and emotional aspect of rehabilitation. We have developed a weekly training class specifically for these dogs, cleverly titled 'Bug Club' after the dog's names. In class, staff and volunteers work with the dogs on basic obedience and manners. They are all eager to learn and have already mastered 'sit' and 'lie down'! This mental stimulation through class gives them the confidence they need and the extra love and attention that they deserve.

When meeting these dogs, you would never know that they had a traumatic past. Each dog has a unique personality, and is energetic and enthusiastic about life! It is a common misconception that these dogs cannot live a normal life focused around a loving family. Certified dog trainer Kristin Branagan comments, "The amazing thing about these dogs is that they live in the moment. Despite their past, they do not let the trauma they experienced determine who they are. My hope is that people will mirror these animals in the same respect, and not allow the dogs' pasts to affect how they are viewed in the future." We have had many dogs in our care from similar situations that end up in a loving home and get along great with other furry family members, dogs and cats alike!

We are grateful to have been able to save these dogs from a horrific life, and with your support, we can continue to rescue, heal, and adopt the abused, abandoned, and neglected animals of Summit County.



*Firefly enjoys some outside time*



*Cricket smiles for the camera*



*Grasshopper cuddles with staff member, Ashley*



# save the date

## 15th Annual PAWSibilities Ball honoring Buckingham, Doolittle & Burroughs, LLC and Dr. Thorson – Boston Heights Veterinary Hospital as the 2015 Animal Hero Award recipients

The PAWSibility Ball is the shelter's signature fundraising event. Tickets are \$150 for a night of pure entertainment including live and silent auction items, delicious food and adoptable animals!

**September 12 | 6pm – 10pm**

**Hilton Fairlawn/Akron, 3180 W Market St, Akron**

To purchase tickets visit our website at [www.summithumane.org/events](http://www.summithumane.org/events) or call (330)487-0333 ext. 461. Tickets must be purchased by September 4th, 2015.

## Yappy Hour

Join us at PAWSibilities, Humane Society of Greater Akron for our Fall Yappy Hour Event! Take a tour of the shelter, visit with our awesome adoptable animals and sample beer brewed by our good friends at Thirsty Dog Brewing Company.

**October 22 | 4pm – 7pm**

**PAWSibilities, Humane Society of Greater Akron,  
7996 Darrow Rd, Twinsburg, OH**

## October is Adopt a Shelter Dog Month!

During the month of October, we are celebrating Adopt a Shelter Dog Month! If you are looking for a new furry family member, come see us! Adopt one of our wonderful dogs for just \$99.

The adoption fee includes the spay/neuter, age appropriate vaccines, microchip, and a 30 day free trial of pet insurance through Shelter Care.

**Stay tuned to our website and our Facebook page for adoption event information!**

## Rummage Sale

*HUGE indoor rummage sale! You won't want to miss the preview sale either! Get first dibs on the best stuff!*

**November 5 | Preview Sale 6pm – 8pm**

**\$10 Admission at door**

**November 6 | 9am – 5pm**

**November 7 | 9am – 5pm**

**Stow – Kent Shopping Center, 4301 Kent Rd Stow**

For information on donating items for our Rummage Sale, please visit our website at

[www.summithumane.org](http://www.summithumane.org).

## Photos With Santa

Get your pet's picture taken with Santa, order custom cards, mugs and other merchandise! Now two sessions for your convenience!

**November 21 | 10am – 12pm AND 1pm – 4pm**

## COMMUNITY EDUCATION OUTREACH BLOG

PAWSibilities, Humane Society of Greater Akron is excited to announce a new Community Education Outreach blog on our website! The goal of this page is to provide relevant and reliable information for you and your pets! We firmly believe that education is a key component to improving our community and preventing animal cruelty, abuse, and neglect. Towards that end, we also provide education programs to the public to promote kindness and the appropriate treatment of animals. In 2014, we hosted over 250 education programs on site and throughout the community. These education programs include, but are not limited to: dog bite prevention, basic pet care, how you can help make a difference, how to treat a dog or cat properly, and canine and feline safety. With an educational blog on our website, weekly education articles on Facebook, as well as monthly education bulletin boards, we are a leading resource for information on the humane treatment of animals! Check out our website and social media for our latest education article!



## BOARD MEMBERS

**Chair:** Lisa Hibbs  
**Vice Chair:** Judy Steiner  
**Treasurer:** Valerie Wawrin  
**Secretary:** Pat Weschler  
**Ex-Officio:** Sheriff Steve Barry

**Directors:** Bob Cailor  
Megan Bobula  
Mark Fechtel  
Kevin McCauley  
Ted Moore

Jim Sebastian  
Judge Mary Spicer  
Erin Wojno Demiray  
Bob Zajac

**President & CEO:** Diane Johnson

**Mission:** PAWSibilities, Humane Society of Greater Akron is the trusted caretaker and advocate for the abused, neglected, and abandoned animals of Summit County.

**Vision:** Create a community where animals are treated humanely.

Follow us on Facebook!



## Adoptable animals



**Lolita:** This beauty is around 7 years old. Lolita is a little on the chunky side (shhh... don't tell her we said that!) but that just means there is even more of her to love! She came to us overweight and due to her size she tends to not enjoy being held or picked up. Lolita is a sweet girl who enjoys head pets and snoozing on comfy cat beds; she could be considered a couch potato. A home with children 13 or older would be best for her because she can take a few minutes to warm up to new people and places. Lolita prefers a home without dogs and with a slow introduction setting her up for success Lolita has potential to co-exist with another cat. Lolita is considered a special needs adoption for seizures that are controlled with an inexpensive medication that she will need to take twice a day; once in the morning and once at night. Lolita is hoping a family with a quiet home comes and adopts her soon!

**Banjo:** Banjo is around 3-4 years old and weighs about 85 pounds. He is an energetic boy that would do best in a home with older children and gets along well with most other dogs no matter their shape or size. He also has great potential with kitties too! This happy boy loves to play and would go great with an active family. Come meet him today!



## A Day in the Life of a PAWSibilities Shelter Dog...

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As the visitor hours come to a close and Banjo finishes his dinner, he readies himself for his favorite activity of the week- Trick Training Class! Every week, PAWSibilities dog trainers hold classes to enrich the lives of our animals and increase their adopt-ability. With a relaxing class for shy dogs, a basic manners class, and a trick class, all different kinds of dogs have the opportunity to learn! Today, Banjo has his favorite volunteer, Jim, in class. Alongside five other dogs, Banjo perfects his set list of tricks ranging from the basic sit, down, and settle to more advanced tricks like shake, high-five, spin, play piano, and more! Jim and the other volunteers follow instruction from our certified dog trainer, always using positive reinforcement to train our animals. The room is filled with praise, wagging tails, and smiles.

After an exciting day, Banjo heads back to his kennel to curl up in his bed for a good night's rest. He no longer has to worry about where his next meal will come from or if he will survive the night. Fighting for his life is almost a distant memory since he first arrived at the shelter emaciated and malnourished. Most of our animals have never experienced the quality of care that we provide and are thankful to always be surrounded by kindness and never go hungry. That being said, these animals deserve the chance to experience a loving home. While we give them a good life, no animal should have to live in a shelter his or her entire life. As Banjo fades to sleep, he dreams about the day he will have a family to call his own. He can relax because he knows that he will always have a safe place to call home at PAWSibilities until he finds his forever home.