



Progressive Animal Welfare Society Adoption Center, Inc.

A no-kill, non-profit animal shelter

August 2011



Rachel Heidtman (center) and her mother, Brenda Heidtman, meet television's famous Dog Whisperer, Cesar Millan.

## Dreaming yields big results for young 'whisperer'

Ask 10-year-old Rachel Heidtman the question "If you could do anything in the world, what would you do?" and she'll tell you she's already done it.

Rachel was recently chosen among thousands of youngsters to work with world-renowned dog trainer Cesar Millan in an episode of National Geographic's "Dog Whisperer" to air in January 2012. Her two-minute audition tape showing why she would make a good "Junior Dog Whisperer" caught judges' eyes because it embodied the "calm assertiveness" that Millan teaches, said mother Brenda Heidtman.

A PAWS employee, Brenda accompanied her daughter on the once-in-a-lifetime trip in June 2011. Brenda said she and Rachel began studying Millan's methods when Rachel was five years old and announced she "wanted to be Cesar Millan." Since then, they have teamed to correct unpleasant, annoying behavior in numerous dogs.

"We incorporate exercise - to wear them out because they are usually overly excited when we get there. We incorporate discipline - which really means teaching. And, finally, we incorporate affection," Brenda said.

"Most of all we show owners how to be respectful toward the animal, while getting the animal to accept that you are the leader," Brenda added.

According to Rachel, that's why the term "whisperer" is used. "We use body language and energy - and convey the message to the dog in a way the dog understands."

The Heidtmans, who presented Millan and crew with PAWS t-shirts and hats, said they were treated "like family."

So what are Rachel's words of wisdom to all the world's 10 year olds who like to dream big?

"Keep believing," she said.

## Dog of the Month



Meet lover boy Ringo, who can't keep from showing Deaana Tucker how infatuated he is. He is such a playful dog who loves life. Best with older children eight years and up just because he may play too much for younger children.

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## Upcoming Events

(for more details, visit the PAWS calendar on our website at [www.pawsadoptioncenter.org](http://www.pawsadoptioncenter.org))

### Tuesday, Aug. 2

National Night Out  
Middletown's Sunset Park  
5 to 9 p.m.

### Saturday, Aug. 6

Summer Picnic  
LOCATION - PAWS  
3:00 Set Up  
4:30 Board Hosted Picnic  
5:30 Games, Fun, and Entertainment  
6:30 Fire Pit  
(Please bring your own lawn chairs.)  
RSVP (call or sign up at PAWS)  
The PAWS office will close at 3 p.m.

### Saturday, Aug. 13

Operation Show Our Love  
Honoring U.S. Military  
Reyton Inn, Middletown  
2 p.m.

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## PAWS Wish List

Dog Food - All breeds, both



Rachel Heidtman presents Cesar Millan with a PAWS t-shirt.



PAWS' Facility Manager Stephanie Michna displays only a small portion of the premium Hill's Science Diet food donated by Mike and Dr. Liz Gigis of West Chester Veterinary Center. Located at 7330 Liberty Way, West Chester, Ohio, this veterinary service is one of PAWS' trusted sources for animal care.

## Meet PAWS Facility Manager Stephanie Michna

New to PAWS as of January 2011, Stephanie Michna comes to the adoption center with a life-long love for animals.

Michna said her passion is "to educate the public about the importance of spaying and neutering to reduce the unwanted pet population." In addition, she is an advocate for responsible pet ownership including continual veterinary care.

Michna has over 12 years experience in veterinary clinics and management of boarding and grooming facilities. She shares her home with a Great Dane named Archie and five rescued cats, one of which is a PAWS' foster named Butters.

Her greatest challenge at PAWS is "having to turn away so many animals -- it's a horrible feeling. If we could save them all we would, but there is only so much money and space available for these poor unwanted pets," Michna said.

"The economy has really hit people hard and, unfortunately for the animals, it affects them directly. Although we do everything we can to help, it just makes you feel terrible when you can't help another one."

Her message to those who come into the shelter to view prospective pets is a serious one. "Having an animal is a life-long commitment -- they become part of your family. If they are abandoned or dumped on the side of the road, they feel that pain and confusion of 'what did I do, why did they leave me?'

"Before deciding on bringing a pet into your home, be 100 percent sure that

small and large dogs -- especially lams green bag/mini chunks

Puppy and adult formulas- lamb and rice or sensitive stomach

Cat and kitten food - both canned and dry

KMR brand powdered kitten milk replacer

Any type cat litter (clay litter is desperately needed)

Paper towels

Mops and brooms

Odoban Concentrate Cleaner (Home Depot)

Lowe's, Target, Wal-Mart gift cards

HP ink cartridges #920

Staples and Office Depot gift cards

Gas cards for PAWS mobile van

Cat cage(s) [www.petedge.com](http://www.petedge.com) (\$89.99) (DESPERATE NEED)

Rugs for cat rooms (bath mats work especially well)

Hand sanitizer

Dog leashes - 4 ft. and 6 ft.

Training treats for dogs such as Bil-Jack, Pup Pepperoni's

Nyla bones for large and small dogs

Large dog beds

Kuranda beds

Kitty condos and towers

Feliway plug-ins and refills

Jumbo litter boxes (Lowe's)

Rake style pooper scooper/blade scraper

Wall mount hose wheel

Trash bags (55 gallon size-heavy duty contractor style)

Laundry detergent - High Energy (HE)

Bleach

Industrial size squeegees

Mop heads - O'Cedar

Recycled copy paper

Postage stamps

you and your family can commit to that pet for 10, 15, even 20 years -- through all the good and the bad. If you can't make that 100 percent commitment, don't just 'try.' Then, if you decide that you can take on that commitment, please adopt, don't shop for, a furry friend," she added.

When Michna is not overseeing the day-to-day operations of the adoption center, she can be found removing "Booger," the office cat, from her keyboard.

## PAWS' new building plans underway

*by Sue Hutson, PAWS President*

With fall quickly approaching, you're probably wondering, "Where's that new building we keep hearing about?" Rest assured, the new building is still on the horizon, but the PAWS Board of Directors is taking baby steps to ensure we are being judicious with the community's donations.

As many of you know, the Robert Wise family has graciously allowed PAWS to occupy the current space for the past 30 years, but they have made an economic decision to put the property up for sale. Unfortunately, the current building is slowly deteriorating and lacks much needed space for things like "meet and greets," something the new building will be designed to accommodate. We have been very fortunate to have sustained over 30 years in the Middletown community in our current location. The great news is that we own about 10 acres right across from our current site, so the timing seems right to build.

The new building is projected to be approximately 4700 square feet and will house roughly the same number of dogs and cats as our current facility. We are very close to wrapping up the preliminary design and getting our engineering drawings out for general contractor bids. We will have at least three general contractors bid on the project, and we will include as many local contractors as possible. Once we have those bids, it is our goal to be able to project a final completion deadline.

We are still looking for your help, as we move forward with this project. We currently have funds to allow us to begin the building process, but would like your help in bringing this new building to fruition. It is our goal to raise additional capital in order to preserve some of our existing monies for our operating budget. We are being very cautious with the overall spending on this project and will attempt to use volunteers where we can. It will truly be a community project from beginning to end. Please join us in supporting this effort ... It's a New Day at PAWS ...



*The Company You Keep®*

## Charity can begin with the gift of life insurance

*by Jim Barnes, Registered Representative, New York Life*

Even in a tough economic environment, with a little foresight and creativity, there are many ways you can support worthwhile endeavors and gain satisfaction knowing you'll be able to contribute for the long term.

Regardless of your income level, you can continue to support your favorite philanthropic organizations by donating through life insurance. When you name your chosen charity as the beneficiary of your policy (must be a qualified charity), you are contributing to a worthy cause and can benefit from potential tax deductions.

There are several methods of gifting life insurance as a charitable donation:

- **Designate a charity as owner and beneficiary.** This benefits the charity and gives the donor a bonus in the form of income tax benefits. Premiums on such a policy are deductible to taxpayers who itemize their deductions. Consult a tax professional for details.
- **Designate a charity as beneficiary.** As policyowner, you retain the right to make changes to the policy including changing the beneficiary. While premium payments are not tax deductible, upon the donor's death the estate receives a charitable estate tax

Canon S35 Toner cartridge

Digital camera

Bottled water

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New fundraiser

Visit [ForMyGoodCause](#)

PAWS announces an exciting, new fundraising program.

**ForMyGoodCause** is new website that sells money-saving offers on good things. PAWS is the featured Good Cause for LuckyPaws PetCakes. We earn 30% (\$1.80) for each PetCakes certificate our supporters purchase.

All you need to do is visit [www.formygoodcause.com](http://www.formygoodcause.com), register and select PAWS as your Good Cause. You will receive emails a couple times a week advertising Good Offers on Good Things. When you see something you'd like to try, buy it and we earn money. There is nothing to sell, just enjoy saving money on things you like or need.

**ForMyGoodCause** is offering generous bonus and sponsor matches for good causes with the most activity. So, please forward this message and Good Offers to all your friends. If you know a business that wants to participate, please let us know and we can earn even more!

[Join Our Mailing List](#)

deduction for the proceeds as allowed by law.

- **Donate an existing policy.** If you own a policy with coverage that is no longer needed, you may consider donating it to a charity. The donor could irrevocably assign or transfer the policy to a charity as owner and beneficiary. This gift is generally not subject to gift tax, and, in most cases, may be eligible for a charitable income tax deduction.
- **Create a charitable remainder trust.** This is a complex planning option for donors with unproductive appreciated assets, such as real estate. This transaction can be structured to benefit the donor, heirs and charity. Consult an attorney or accountant for advice.

*This educational, third-party article is provided as a courtesy by **Jim Barnes**. For additional information, please contact **Jim Barnes** at 513-535-5734, 110 Old St., Monroe, Ohio. His website is: <http://www.jimbarnes.nylagents.com>.*

*Neither New York Life Insurance Company nor its agents provide tax, legal or accounting advice. Please consult your own tax, legal or accounting professional before making any decisions.*

## PAWS in your community

*Light Up the Sky in Monroe, Ohio -- July 4*



*PAWS volunteer Mandy Johnson wraps up the evening with "Light Up the Sky" organizer Mark Bursley, who headed Monroe, Ohio's, Fourth of July celebration. You can thank Mark for his hard work by visiting his restaurant, The Red Onion, located in downtown Monroe.*

*Paint by the Glass features PAWS Adoption Center*



*Paint by the Glass is a trendy painting studio/winebar in West Chester where you can relax, learn to paint, sip your favorite wines and enjoy hors d'oeuvres. Owner Karrie Mushaben recently held a fundraiser for PAWS where these artists celebrated their two loves -- art and animals. Visit [www.paintbytheglass.com](http://www.paintbytheglass.com)*

for more information.

## Cat Lady sets precedent in tax deductions

by Vania Maldonado, Examiner.com

An Oakland, Calif., "Cat Lady" has gone up against the IRS and won, setting a precedent for animal rescuers nationwide. In 2004 Jan Van Dusen, a volunteer for Fix Our Ferals, tried to deduct expenses related to fostering and caring for 70 stray and feral cats. The IRS considered the expenses nondeductible and wouldn't budge, so the case wound up in Tax Court.

According to the June 11, 2011, online *Wall Street Journal*:

**"The Tax Court allowed her to take a charitable deduction for expenses she incurred while taking care of the cats in her home for an IRS-approved charity, Fix Our Ferals. Among the \$12,068 in expenses she deducted: food, veterinarian bills, litter, a portion of utility bills, and other items such as paper towels and garbage bags."**

The decision in Van Dusen v. Commissioner paves the way for animal rescuers nationwide to deduct similar items in their taxes. An animal rescuer making such deductions should keep all their receipts. They must volunteer with an IRS approved charity and deduct unreimbursed expenses that further that charity's mission, such as fostering animals. For deductions of \$250 or more, a valid letter from the charity acknowledging the volunteer work is required. This ruling is a great victory for animal rescuers nationwide, who often spend hundreds or thousands of dollars to help abused and abandoned animals.

(You can find more info at: [http://www.examiner.com/animal-rescue-international/cat-lady-beats-irs-and-sets-precedent-tax-deductions.](http://www.examiner.com/animal-rescue-international/cat-lady-beats-irs-and-sets-precedent-tax-deductions))

### PAWS

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Hours: Tues.-Fri. 12-6; Sat. 10-4

Closed Sun. & Mon.

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