

## NEWS RELEASE

**Ilene Shapiro – Summit County Executive**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Date: March 2, 2023**



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### **Over 200 households served by Community Pet Food Pantry event**

**SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIO**—Hundreds of Summit County residents participated in Animal Control’s first monthly Community Pet Food Pantry event of 2023 on Tuesday evening. During the drive-thru distribution, Animal Control staff provided pet food and supplies to 221 households.

“There is clearly a significant need for pet food and supplies in our community. We are pleased to be able to offset some of these costs for vulnerable residents. We do not want anyone having to give up a pet or cut corners on bills because they are struggling to purchase food or litter,” said County Executive Ilene Shapiro. “In light of the popularity of this event, we ask residents to remember it is intended for those who are truly struggling to make ends meet.”

Residents in need are invited to join the next drive-thru distribution of free pet food and supplies on Tuesday, March 28 from 4:00—6:00 p.m. at the Animal Control facility. To avoid traffic build ups in the area, Animal Control asks that residents do not start lining up until 4:00 p.m. The distribution line will close at 6:00 p.m. Animal Control reminds residents this event is sourced with donations, and supplies are provided on a first come first serve basis.

Last year, Animal Control worked with local organization, Peanuts Pet Pantry, to create a Community Pet Food Pantry to help residents offset the costs of pet products, especially food and cat litter. Moving forward, Animal Control will host a monthly giveaway on the last Tuesday of every month. The Community Pet Food Pantry is made possible by Animal Control’s GOODS program, a partnership with Greater Goods Charities. The GOODS program provides pet supplies like food and litter to distribute to local rescues and pantries to stretch dollars and assist more pets and people. More information on this program is available at: <https://co.summitoh.net/pages/Greater-Good-Program.html>.

Since launching the program, Animal Control has received 115,715 pounds of food, litter and supplies. It has placed over 80,000 pounds back into the community through public events and through donations to local non-profits including, One of Kind Pets, Meals on Wheels and Summit County Humane Society.

**What:** Community Pet Food Pantry

**Who:** County Executive Ilene Shapiro and Summit County Animal Control

**When:** Tuesday, March 28 from 4:00-6:00 p.m. and now regularly the last Tuesday of every month

**Where:** 250 Opportunity Parkway in Akron

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