

NEWS RELEASE

Ilene Shapiro – Summit County Executive
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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Summit County Animal Control expanded services, adopting out over 1300 animals in 2023

SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIO—In 2023, Summit County Executive Ilene Shapiro’s Division of Animal Control provided services and care to 1346 cats and dogs. In addition to providing compassionate and effective care to each animal that finds itself in the facility, this past year Animal Control expanded its offerings and services to include microchipping, longer hours, and regular pet food pantry events.

Animal Control is proud to announce that 73 more dogs and 125 more cats were adopted in 2023 compared to the previous year. In 2023, 606 dogs were adopted into their new forever homes, and 182 were redeemed by their owner. 548 cats were adopted into new homes and 10 were redeemed by their owner.

While pets have always been fully vetted, Animal Control expanded their services in 2023 to include microchipping for all adopted pets. This addition helps readily identify dogs and cats should they become lost in the future. Facility hours have also been expanded to include weekday evenings and weekend afternoons, allowing greater accessibility for working families looking to adopt.

In an effort to keep pets from ending up at the facility due to rising costs in pet food and supplies, Animal Control hosted ten Community Pet Food Pantry events. Each drive-thru event served an average of 222 households, helping to feed 700 cats and 500 dogs each month. The pet food and supplies are provided thanks to a partnership with Greater Goods Charities. Since this partnership began at the end of 2022, Animal Control has distributed nearly 300,000 pounds of food and supplies directly into the community.

Throughout the year, Animal Control held six adoption events to lower the cost of adoptions and raise awareness about the large number of animals in need of adoption, including Summit County Purrr-ide!, Clear the Shelters, and Pawlidays event.

“I am so grateful to our Animal Control staff for helping over one thousand animals find new homes in the past year, and giving each pet that comes through the door the compassionate care and respect they deserve.” said Executive Shapiro. “The monthly Pet Food Pantry events and the fun adoption events are game changers for our residents in need. I am so proud of our staff for truly centering their job and operations around the community’s needs.”

2023 ushered in the return of Animal Control's volunteer program, with residents assisting Animal Control staff with walking, grooming, and accompanying pets during their stay. Residents interested in volunteering can apply for the program by emailing your name, age, phone number, and a brief statement of interests and intent to volunteerac@summitoh.net.

Even with higher adoption numbers, new pets enter the facility every day. There are plenty of opportunities to adopt, especially with the current "Wacko for Flacco" adoption event. From now until Super Bowl Sunday, February 11, cat and dog adoptions are \$15 in honor of Browns quarterback Joe Flacco's "couch to comeback" story. Those who adopt a dog are required to purchase a 2024 Summit County Dog License for \$18. All animals are microchipped and fully vetted, which includes bloodwork, flea treatments, intestinal de-worming, spay or neuter, and vaccinations.

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