



Spartacus



Welcome to the October issue of LOHS Pawprint! This month, we discuss the rising costs of veterinary care, express our gratitude for community support, and celebrate the success of our adoption program. Thank you for being part of the LOHS family. Enjoy the October Pawprint! Happy reading!

-Your LOHS Team

## DIRECTORS CUT: VETERINARY RISING COSTS By Diane Robinson

I am sure everyone is all too aware of the higher cost of everything, from groceries to building supplies to fuel, clothing, and more. Medical and drug costs are also at an all-time high, with the trend including vaccinations, regular, and emergency medicine for our pets.

During the pandemic, pet guardianship increased significantly, with 66% of US households owning at least one pet in 2024 compared to 56% in 1988. Bureau of Labor Statistics data shows the price of urban veterinarian services increased by 7.9% from February 2023 to February 2024, more than 2½ times higher than the average of all consumer items. Compared with two years ago, urban vet care is up 11%, and over the last decade has soared by nearly 60%.

We are fortunate to have a veterinarian volunteering his time for our animals, saving us from some of the higher costs. However, this is not the case for altering our animals or public animals through our low-cost spay/neuter program. Thanks to grants, we are able to cover some of the costs for this program, but not all. So, what is the benefit to us for having a low-cost spay/neuter program? Altering these public animals helps to reduce unwanted litters. It, along with our food distribution program, helps to keep pets in their homes. Often, the mother cat or dog is surrendered with their litters, adding to pet overpopulation and shelter overcrowding. In conclusion, the rising costs of veterinary care and other essentials highlight the importance of our low-cost spay/neuter program and other supportive initiatives. By continuing to support these programs, we can help reduce pet overpopulation, keep pets with their families, and ensure a better quality of life for both pets and their owners. Your support and contributions are vital in making this mission a reality. Thank you for being a part of this important effort.

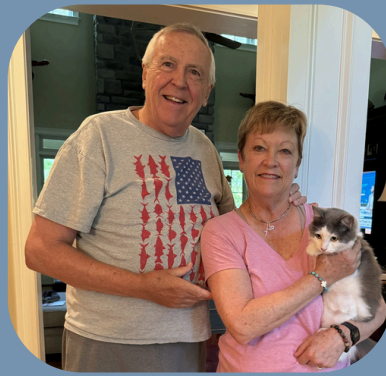
Meghan



Cali



Zelda



Thumbelina



## FUREVER HOMES FOUND

**LOHS HAD 8 CATS AND 7 DOG ADOPTIONS FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER!!**

Lifesaving adoptions are truly transformative, offering a second chance at happiness for countless animals. At LOHS, we are thrilled to share that in September alone, 8 cats and 7 dogs found their forever homes. This incredible achievement wouldn't have been possible without the unwavering dedication of our staff and volunteers. Their tireless efforts in getting these pets "home ready" and showering them with love have made all the difference. Thank you for your compassion and commitment to giving these animals the loving homes they deserve.



Bleu



Iris



Miles



Ladybug

### MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS 🐾🐾🐾🐾🐾🐾🐾🐾🐾🐾

We are deeply grateful to Jan and Fred Harris, as well as Andrea and Dick Wuori, for their heartfelt donations in memory of Dougal, the beloved dog of Susan and Gary Strack. Additionally, we extend our sincere thanks to Andrea and Dick Wuori for their generous contribution in memory of Sweetie, the cherished cat of Donna McCollum and Howard Goldstein. These memorial donations not only honor the precious lives of Dougal and Sweetie but also support the ongoing mission of the Lake Oconee Humane Society to care for and find loving homes for animals in need. Your kindness and compassion are truly appreciated.

## WHEN WE ASKED FOR HELP, YOU ANSWERED!

Thank you

BY: CATHERINE MOORE

As Hurricane Helene approached Georgia, we watched the forecast closely, knowing that this powerful storm could potentially impact our area. The safety of our animals was our top priority, and we quickly organized an emergency meeting with our dedicated staff to devise a comprehensive plan. Our program managers, Dreama and Lily, worked tirelessly to ensure we had a solid strategy in place. They coordinated efforts to shelter our cats in place and arranged for some to go to foster homes. For our dogs and puppies, the goal was to find temporary foster homes to keep them safe during the storm.

In an impressive 24-hour timeline, we successfully placed every single dog and puppy into foster homes with the help of our amazing volunteers and staff members. This incredible feat ensured that none of our pups were at the center during the storm. We are immensely grateful for the swift and generous response from our community—thank you!

While our cats were safely moved around (you can read more about this below), we couldn't have achieved this without your support. We were incredibly fortunate not to be severely impacted by the storm, unlike many of our neighbors who continue to face challenges.

In the aftermath, we have been using our supplies to support the community through our pet food distribution program. We've even made trips to deliver pallets of pet food to those in need. If you would like to continue helping, we are accepting donations of cat and dog food to keep our pantry stocked and continue our efforts. Donations can be dropped off at the center or shipped in. Every bag and can helps more than you know!

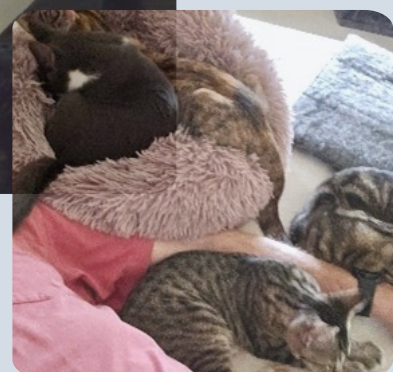
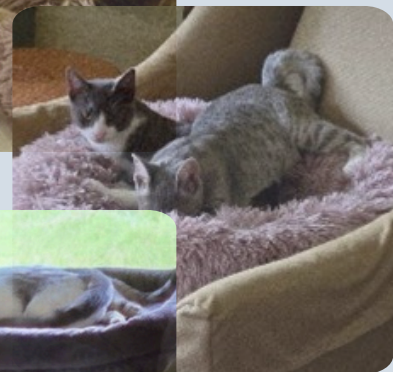
Thank you once again for your unwavering support. Together, we can continue to make a difference in the lives of our beloved animals and our surrounding community.

## KITTEN FOSTER ULTIMATE SHOUTOUT!

BY: DREAMA THOMAS

In preparation for Hurricane Helene, I needed to move the cats in Snoopy's Corner away from the windows across the front of their room. In order to keep their stress level at a minimum, it was better to move them over to Zuri's Playhouse. As I was coming up with a plan for the kittens in Zuri's Playhouse, Joy and AJ Warner came to me and offered to take all 11 kittens into their home! Despite this huge undertaking, the transition went well. As a matter of fact, Joy and AJ made the kittens feel so at home, I was concerned they wouldn't want come back to the shelter! LOL

Our space here at LOHS is limited, but our fosters allow us to take in more animals at risk. If you want to share in helping save animals, become a foster. It is definitely worth your time to save a life and get unconditional love in return.





# STAFF MEMBER HIGHLIGHT: TAMMY ELLIS

## How are you involved with LOHS? / What is your position with LOHS?

Staff, Office Administrator

## How long have you been a part of LOHS?

5 years

## What makes LOHS special to you?

I love seeing the huge hearts of our volunteers and staff working together to accomplish our mission statement. It's truly an amazing thing to be a part of.

## Tell us about your family.

My husband, Todd, and I live in Madison. We have been married for five years and between the two of us we have three grown daughters and a grown son. We also have 3 grandchildren: Colt is 15, Paisley is 11, and Bexley is 5.

## Do you have any pets?

No pets at the moment but I get lots of love, kisses, and cuddles from my grand-pets (horses, pigs, goats, dogs, cats, chickens, ducks, and rabbits) on my daughter's farm in Social Circle. I know you shouldn't have a favorite grand-pet, but I do. Just don't tell the rest of the animals. My special boy is a German Shepherd named Ragnar, but Meme calls him Rags or Ragzie. He is a love bug that thinks he is still a little baby and can still fit on my lap.



# THANK YOU, REYNOLDS LAKE OCONEE PROPERTIES!

By Catherine Moore

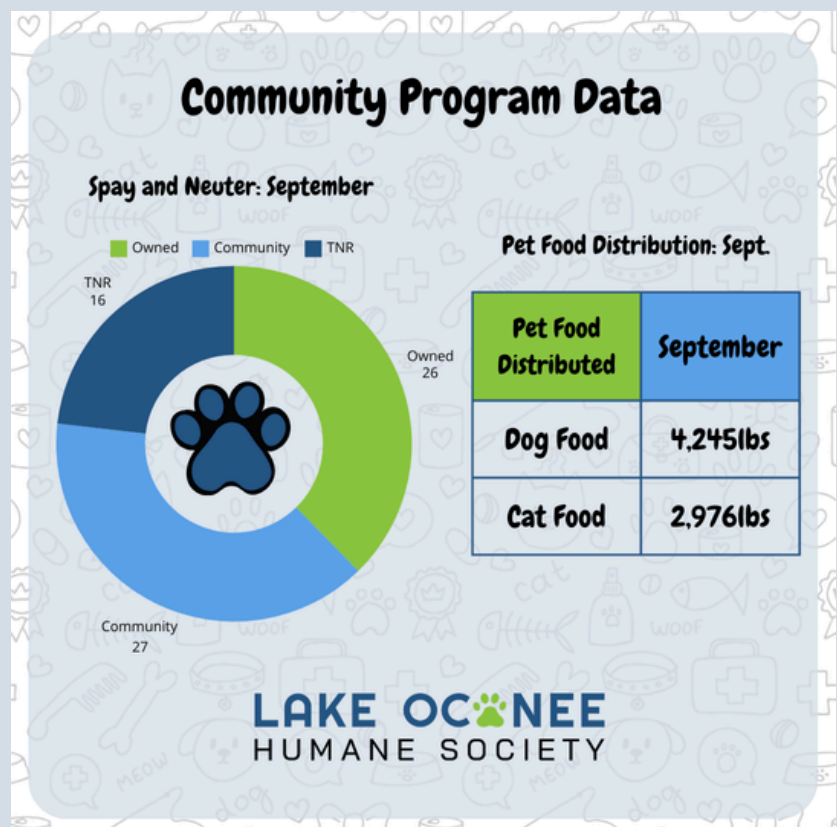
We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Reynolds Lake Oconee Properties, LLC office for their incredible support in the 3rd Quarter of 2024. By gathering and delivering much-needed items from our wish list, they have made a significant impact on the lives of the animals at the Lake Oconee Humane Society. Your dedication to making a difference in our community is truly inspiring. Thank you for your generosity and commitment to helping us provide the best care for our furry friends.



## COMMUNITY PROGRAMS: NUMBERS&CALENDAR

AT LOHS, WE ARE COMMITTED TO MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF PETS AND THE PEOPLE WHO LOVE THEM.

Our Community Pet Programs - Food Distribution, Spay and Neuter, TNR (Trap, Neuter, Return), and our Emergency Medical Care Program - are designed to support families and their furry friends in need and keep those animals in their loving homes. As we strive to expand these programs, our ability to reach more families and animals grows. But with growth comes the need for more helping hands. Volunteers are the backbone of our organization, and as we continue to grow, we need them now more than ever! Whether you're interested in helping distribute food, assisting with our spay and neuter program, or participating in TNR, there's a place for you at LOHS. Your time and talents can make a real difference in the lives of animals in our community. For more information about our community programs, or to join our team of dedicated volunteers, please visit our website at [lohspets.org](http://lohspets.org). Together, we can continue to grow and help more families and their beloved pets. Thank you for your continued support!



[CLICK TO HELP MAKE THE DIFFERENCE BY VOLUNTEERING!](#)



## LOHS STAFF

Diane Robinson  
Dreama Thomas  
Lily Apollony  
Catherine Moore  
Tammy Ellis  
Molly Rowland  
Cole Rohan

Executive Director  
Cat Manager  
Dog Manager  
Community Outreach Mgr.  
Office Administrator  
Animal Care Specialist  
Animal Care Specialist

diane@lohspets.org  
dreama@lohspets.org  
lily@lohspets.org  
catherine@lohspets.org  
tammy@lohspets.org  
molly@lohspets.org



## LOHS BOARD

Barbara Gniewek – President  
Chris Hock – Vice President  
Jeanne Lehmann – Treasurer  
Donna McCollum – Secretary  
Karyn Scott  
Kristina Johns  
Bob Hartman  
Heidi Hausler  
Kevin Aycock  
Howard Goldstein  
John Stenson

## OUR MISSION

LOHS is dedicated to creating a more humane community by reducing pet homelessness and helping pets and their owners have the best quality of life available.

## OUR VISION

A community where companion animals live in a safe and loving home and the human/animal bond is honored by respect and compassion.



LAKE OCONEE HUMANE SOCIETY



## FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA:



[Lake Oconee Humane Society](https://www.facebook.com/LakeOconeeHumaneSociety)



[@lohspets](https://www.instagram.com/lohspets)



[@lohspets](https://www.tiktok.com/@lohspets)

## OUR VALUES

**COMPASSION, INTEGRITY, FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY, COMPLIANCE TO LAWS, TEAMWORK.**

We believe no rehabilitatable cat or dog should be abandoned or unnecessarily euthanized.

- Give a second chance to animals that would otherwise be discarded.
- Set standards for responsible pet ownership through public education.
- Help people and their pets stay together when they have difficulties that are economic, behavioral or medical.