



MEDINA COUNTY COMMON PLEAS COURT

Probate and Juvenile Divisions

93 Public Square, Room 104, Medina, Ohio 44256

KEVIN W. DUNN
Judge

MEDIA RELEASE

October 19, 2016

Judge Kevin Dunn Appoints Maribeth Flowers as Medina County Humane Agent



Attorney J. Jeffrey Holland, Maribeth Flowers and Judge Kevin W. Dunn

MEDINA – The Medina County SPCA Board of Trustees Board of Directors chose Maribeth Flowers to serve as Medina County Humane Agent in September, subject to approval from the Medina County Probate Court. Judge Kevin W. Dunn agreed with the Board’s decision that Flowers is the best fit for the position and legally appointed her as Humane Agent October 11.

The Medina County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) has been operating as the County Humane Society since March 28, 1985. The SPCA responds to and investigates allegations of animal cruelty, neglect, and abandonment every year with many cases resulting in successful criminal prosecution of offenders.

Flowers, a resident of Medina County, first began working with animals in 2006 volunteering at the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo. She went on to earn promotions to become Zoo Crew Lead and Seasonal Education Interpreter where she educated the public about wildlife and zoo exhibits.

“As young as I can remember, I’ve always loved animals,” Flowers said. “My mom would take me to the zoo every weekend and I knew I wanted to work there and learn more about animals and the natural world.”

In the years since, Flowers has expanded her knowledge of animal handling, conservation and enforcement of animal cruelty and neglect violations. Flowers has experience working as Humane Agent, Field Training Officer for the Cleveland Animal Protective League, and as a Volunteer Consultant to Humane Agent for Lake Humane Society. She also currently serves as a Polar Bears International Arctic Ambassador after traveling to the Subarctic for a week in 2008. Flowers said not only did she study wild polar bears and gather information to educate the public regarding conservation issues, she said her experience in the Subarctic taught her other valuable skills, including effective communication with both small and large audiences.

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“The best part about working with animals is knowing that you’ve made the world a better place than when you walked into work that morning,” she said. “It can get messy, but you have to push through the fleas and the dirty houses. I’ve never come across a situation so bad that it kept me from doing my job. I will help animals no matter the situation.”

Flowers said she wants Medina County residents to know that they have a motivated Humane Agent who will investigate cruelty and neglect of animals effectively and transparently. She also wants county residents to be aware that there are emergency rescue technicians available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

“It doesn’t matter if it’s one o’clock in the morning,” Flowers said. “If an animal needs help, residents can call the Medina County SPCA at (330) 723-7722. Those rescue technicians are the real heroes and we will make sure that any animal is taken care of.”

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