



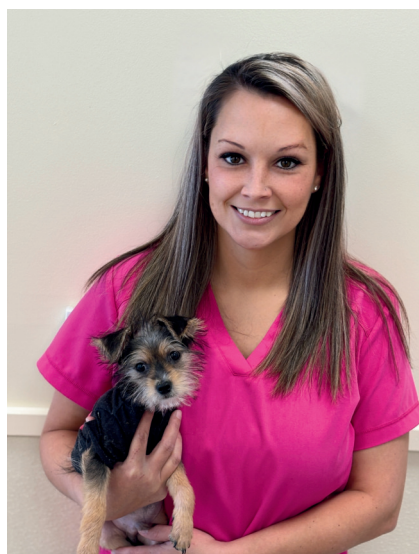
Monthly Newsletter

January 2025



Happy New Year from Monroe County Friends of Animals

Welcome Kola: Our New Vet Care Supervisor



Monroe County Friends of Animals is thrilled to announce the newest addition to our team, Kola Murphy, who has joined us as the Vet Care Supervisor. With over six years of experience in animal welfare, Kola brings a wealth of knowledge and a deep passion for animal care to our organization.

At home, Kola enjoys a bustling household with her fiancé Steven, their four boys, four dogs, and two cats. Her personal and professional life is dedicated to advocating for animals, whether it's through rescue missions or enhancing

shelter operations. Kola's hands-on approach and dedication to animal welfare make her an ideal fit for overseeing the daily care activities at our center.

Kola's role will involve enhancing our current care practices, implementing new health and wellness protocols, and training our staff to ensure the highest standards of care are met. Her leadership is expected to bring a fresh perspective to our operations and help us expand our services to meet the needs of more animals in Monroe County.

We are excited to see Kola apply her skills and enthusiasm to her new role. Please join us in welcoming Kola Murphy to our team! We look forward to the wonderful contributions she will undoubtedly make to Monroe County Friends of Animals.

In this newsletter you can expect:

Jilaine Burley - Volunteer Spotlight

Annual Membership Meeting

Winter Pet Safety

MCFA Pet Food Pantry- Donations

Kola: Our New Vet Care Supervisor

A Heart for the Overlooked

Snowflakes at the Shelter



Jilaine Burley: Steering Volunteer Efforts with Passion at MCFA

Monroe County Friends of Animals (MCFA) is proud to spotlight Jilaine Burley, our dedicated volunteer coordinator. She plays a significant role in the daily operations of our center and is also a cashier at the Thrift Store. She would love to talk to you if you're interested in volunteering your time at the Center or the Thrift Store! Please reach out to her at: jburley@mcfriendsofanimals.org!

After her retirement in 2022, she decided to share her time and her love of animals by working at our shelter; she cleaned the cat condos and then added the cashier job to her volunteer hours. Jilaine's friendly demeanor have made her a favorite among both customers and fellow volunteers. Her passion for animal welfare isn't new having been a cat adoption counselor for 15 years at a shelter in Delaware. She now oversees the coordination of our volunteer activities, ensuring our daily staff needs are met and our animals receive the best care.

Jilaine lives in Tellico Plains with Ed, her husband of 34 years; their blue heeler Bean; pit bull mix Britt; and cats Holly, Peanut, and Baby Girl. Ed and Jilaine have a daughter who lives in St. Louis, MO. When Jilaine is not volunteering, you can find her on her motorcycle, enjoying beautiful roads near and far. Again you can contact her at: jburley@mcfriendsofanimal.org.



Support Our Pet Food Pantry This Season

As the new year starts, we're reaching out for support for the MCFA Pet Food Pantry. This program is crucial for helping families in Monroe County keep their beloved pets during challenging times by providing them with necessary food supplies.

How to Help:

- **Donate Pet Food:** Drop off unopened and unexpired cat and dog food at Eastbourne Animal Center, located at 130 Kefauver Ln, Madisonville, TN, seven days a week, 11 am-4 pm
- **Monetary Contributions:** Financial donations help us purchase food when supplies are low. Donate online or send a check to our center.
- **Spread the Word:** Share our mission with your network or on social media using #MCFAnimals.

Your support directly contributes to keeping pets in their homes and preventing them from entering the shelter system. Every donation, no matter the size, makes a difference. Thank you for your generosity and helping us ensure that no pet goes hungry in Monroe County this holiday season.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR! SAVE THE DATE!

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING is
MONDAY, MARCH 24, 2025

As per our By Laws each year we hold a meeting inviting all current Monroe County Friends of Animals members to attend and hear about what MCFA did in the past year and our plans for the future. It is also the time to elect people to any open positions on the Board of Directors. Please note per our By Laws only current members as of the 15th of February 2025 can vote. More information will be coming out on our web site and in the February newsletter. If you are interested in becoming a member of our Board of Directors, please read the article included in this newsletter for more information. Cutoff to express your interest is February 7, 2025.

A Heart for the Overlooked: Stacy's Journey with Senior Pets



Hello! My name is Stacy Wooliver, and my family and I moved to Monroe County in December 2024. As we've been settling into our new environment and home, I felt a strong desire to adopt another dog to complete our family. I've always had a soft spot for older animals. Having been raised in foster care, I understand how challenging it can be for those who are often overlooked. Just like older children in the foster system, senior pets in shelters are frequently passed over in favor of younger ones. Everyone adores the cute little puppies and kittens, but if you take a moment to observe, you'll notice the older animals. They've experienced so much heartache and disappointment, yet all they yearn for is to share their abundant love with a forever family.

With this in mind, my family and I were determined to adopt an older dog, a dog that didn't get a foster home or was being overlooked for whatever reason. That's when we met Emma, a lovable, brown dog with a perpetually sad expression that tugs at your heartstrings. Emma has taught us that regardless of who we are, we all need love and care.

Additionally, I had the pleasure of fostering Blackjack, a dog who had never been fostered and was constantly overlooked. Bringing him into our home to prepare him for his forever home was an incredibly rewarding experience. Blackjack quickly won my heart, and the mutual affection was instantaneous. Fostering has shown me that the love and attention we give these animals not only prepares them for a new life but also reminds us of the positive impact we have on their lives.

Fostering and adopting senior pets are profoundly rewarding experiences that allow these deserving animals to understand and enjoy what comes next: love, warmth, attention, playtime, and snuggles. Every moment of affection returned by these animals reassures us that we are making a meaningful difference.



Winter Safety Tips for Pets

As winter settles in with its chilly winds and frosty mornings, it's essential to ensure our furry friends stay safe and comfortable. Pets, like humans, can be vulnerable to the cold and other winter-specific hazards. Here are some vital tips to keep your pets warm and healthy during the colder months:

Keep Them Warm: Not all pets have thick coats to protect them from the cold. Consider fitting your pet with a cozy sweater or a coat, especially when going out. Ensure that your home is warm enough for your pet, particularly at night, when the temperatures drop the most.

Beware of Antifreeze: Antifreeze can leak from car radiators, leaving puddles that may seem tempting for pets to lick due to its sweet taste. However, antifreeze is highly toxic to animals. Always check your driveway and regular walking paths for spills and clean them up immediately.

Check Their Paws: Ice, snow, salt, and chemical ice melts can cause irritation or injury to the pads of your pet's paws. Regularly check your pet's paws for cracks or redness, and consider using pet-safe ice melts on your driveways and walkways.

Provide Shelter: If your pet spends a lot of time outdoors, provide a dry, draft-free shelter that is large enough for them to sit and lie down comfortably but small enough to retain their body heat. The floor should be raised a few inches from the ground and covered with cedar shavings or straw.

Stay Visible: With shorter days and longer nights, your evening walks will often be in the dark. Keep both yourself and your pet safe by wearing reflective gear and using a leash with reflective materials.

Keep a Routine: Cold weather can exacerbate certain medical conditions, such as arthritis. Keep up with your pet's regular veterinary check-ups and maintain a routine that includes exercise and nutrition tailored to their health needs.

By following these tips, you can help ensure that your pet enjoys the winter season safely. Keep a close eye on them, especially in extreme weather conditions, and always be vigilant about their health and comfort.

Interested in being on MCFA Board of Directors?

Here's your opportunity to volunteer for this key role in supporting our mission and our community.

The Monroe County Friends of Animals (MCFA) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) charitable organization located in Madisonville, TN. Our organization was created in 2004 by concerned citizens who recognized a dire need for animal welfare throughout Monroe County. At that time, there was no animal shelter, no place to go to adopt, no place to surrender animals that could no longer be cared for, and stray and abandoned animals were loose throughout the community. Twenty years later, in 2024, MCFA opened the Eastbourne Animal Center, employing 6-8 part-time and full-time staff in addition to a large volunteer base.

We are seeking passionate, skilled professionals to join our Board of Directors and help shape the future of our organization. As a member of the Board, you will play a vital role in advancing our mission to provide for and continuously improve the health, happiness and fortunes of the homeless and abandoned cats and dogs in Monroe County.

Who You Are:

We are looking for individuals from diverse backgrounds who are committed to our mission, with a particular interest in candidates with a background in finance to join our Finance Committee. Prior board experience is a plus, but not required. Candidates with experience in one or more of the following areas are encouraged to apply:

- Veterinary Care, Animal Welfare or Advocacy
- Sales, Marketing, Operations or Project/Product Management
- Finance, Accounting, Human Resources, IT, or Facilities
- Non-profit experience or Small Business Owner of similar size and complexity

What You'll Do:

- Participate in monthly Board workshops and engage in strategic decision-making to guide the direction of MCFA.
- Serve on one of our standing committees:
 - Executive Committee
 - Finance Committee
 - Human Resources Committee
 - Fundraising Committee
 - Operations Committee
 - Programs
- Contribute your expertise to ensure the organization is effectively governed and achieves its mission.

Time Commitment:

- Monthly Board workshops.
- Committee meetings as needed (with teleconference/video options available).
- Assist with special events (i.e. annual gala) or special projects (i.e. annual report).
- Special meetings as needs arise.

Why Join:

- Make a direct impact on the welfare of animals in Monroe County.
- Help shape the future of a prominent non-profit organization.
- Work alongside an engaged group of professionals with diverse backgrounds.

Closing Date: Please submit your interest by Friday, February 7, 2025.

Please contact Deborah Smith: dsmith@mcfriendsofanimals.org



Snowflakes at the Shelter

A quilt of white tucks in the land,
Snowflakes swirl—a waltzing band.
Silence speaks in soft white layers,
Whispering to the quiet players.

Paws and whiskers peek outside,
Where winter's brush did gently glide.
Dogs leap forth with barks of glee,
Rolling, romping, wild and free.

Cats by windows, eyes aglow,
Watch the dance of flurrying snow.
Tail flicks softly, dreamy gaze,
Warmth within shields from winter's maze.

Inside the shelter, hearths alight,
Beat back the chill of snowy white.
Bowls of food on checkered tiles,
Echo with purrs and waggy smiles.

Yet 'neath the frolic, quiet years,
For forever homes each heart still burns.
They play and paw through snowy gray,
Hoping a family will say, "Stay."

Snowman sentries, cold and tall,
Guard the joyful, furry sprawl.
A snowy day at the shelter ends,
Dreams of home where love transcends.

Thank you for your support!

MONROE COUNTY FRIENDS OF
ANIMALS

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MCFriendsofAnimals.org

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