



## Monthly Newsletter

December 2024



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from Monroe County Friends of Animals

## A Letter From Executive Director – Elena Gowe

Dear Friends,

As this year comes to a close, we enjoy the holiday season filled with family, friends, and our beloved pets. It is a time of peace and reflection.

2024 has been a year of transformation and hope for the Monroe County Friends of Animals/Eastbourne Animal Center. Our journey has been **nothing short of extraordinary**, and none of it would have been possible **without you**. Whether you adopted a pet, volunteered your time, shared our mission, or donated to support our cause, your **kindness has made all the difference**.

Our beautiful new center has become a haven for homeless pets—a safe and loving space where second chances begin. This year, we expanded our outreach, welcoming families to adopt, foster, and volunteer while launching programs that keep pets where they belong: in loving homes. Initiatives like the Pet Pantry and low-cost vaccine clinics have empowered families to care for their pets despite life's challenges.

**Thanks to your unwavering support, 1,023 pets found their forever homes in 2024.**

We are excited to announce the opening of our low-cost veterinary clinic. This clinic will help offset routine veterinary medical expenses, including spay and neuter services, vaccines, and routine care. It will also **ease the burden of medical costs** for families in our community, ensuring that community pets receive the care they deserve.

Reflecting on all we have accomplished, we recognize that this work is only possible because of you. While our center is no longer fully county-funded, your generosity—through donations, volunteer hours, and support—sustains our mission: **"To provide for and continuously improve the health, happiness, and fortunes of the homeless and abandoned cats and dogs in Monroe County."**

We are deeply grateful to the individuals, partners, and community that enable our work. Your kindness motivates us every day and reinforces our purpose. From the depths of our hearts, thank you for being part of our MCFA family.

We wish you peace, joy, and blessings this holiday season and the year ahead.

Warmly,  
**-ELENA**

In this newsletter  
you can expect:

New Clinic

Year in Review Stats

Christmas Pet  
Safety

MCFA Pet Food  
Pantry- Donations

Giving Tuesday  
Recap

A Christmas Tale of  
Paws and Love



## New Veterinary Clinic Opens at Eastbourne Animal Center

We are thrilled to announce the opening of our new veterinary clinic at the Eastbourne Animal Center, a significant milestone made possible by our community's collective efforts and generosity. Our community's dedication and support have been instrumental in bringing this project to fruition.

We are also proud to report that, through the hard work and commitment of Dr. Rachel Ripley and our diligent staff, the clinic has passed the rigorous state inspection required to operate. This approval is a testament to their expertise, attention to detail, and unwavering dedication to animal welfare.

The clinic will offer a range of low-cost services to the public, making essential veterinary care more accessible to the pets and pet owners of Monroe County. This initiative aligns with our ongoing mission to enhance the health and happiness of animals in our community.

Stay tuned for more updates and exciting news as we prepare to launch these services. We are eager to begin this new chapter at the Eastbourne Animal Center, where we will continue to serve and support the animals of Monroe County with the highest level of care.



## Support Our Pet Food Pantry This Season

As the holiday season approaches, 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.

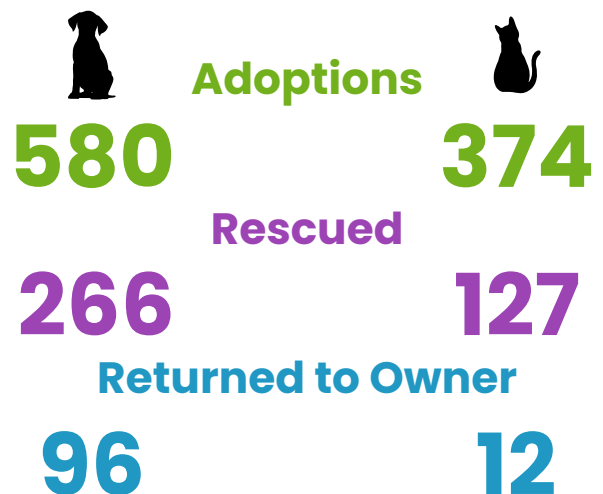
How to Help:

- **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.



2024 Has been an amazing year! From the opening of the new Eastbourne Animal Center to 100s of adoptions! (Stats are Jan-Nov 2024)





# Beyoncé: A Call for Love and a Forever Home



In our shelter lies a hidden gem named Beyoncé, a white and brown pit mix with a heart as grand as her namesake. Rescued by animal control and brought to us under a court order, Beyoncé and seven other dogs were seized from challenging conditions. She has been with us for over 120 days, making her the longest onsite resident.

Beyoncé's spirit remains unbroken, showcasing her sweet nature daily. She is eager for some training to become the perfect walking companion. This lovely girl desperately needs a loving forever home or a foster family to offer her a break from shelter life. If you're looking for a loyal friend to add to your life, consider Beyoncé. Her resilience and affection make her more than ready to be part of a caring family.

Please help us find Beyoncé the loving home she deserves. Come meet her and let her sweet demeanor win you over!



Thanks to your overwhelming response, we raised over double that amount! This incredible achievement will significantly enhance our medical capabilities, ensuring we can continue offering our shelter animals and the community pets the best possible care.

#### **Pet Food Pantry Stocked**

The donations didn't stop there. Our pet food pantry, a crucial resource for pet owners facing financial hardships, received enough contributions to sustain its operations for another month. This support means we can ensure that no pet in Monroe County goes hungry this season.

#### **Coats for a Cause**

Additionally, our thrift store's influx of coat donations has been truly astounding. These contributions not only help keep our community warm but also raise funds that directly support our animal care initiatives. Your kindness and eagerness to help have filled our hearts and our shelves!

#### **A Community United**

During times like these, our community's strength and spirit are most visible. Your Giving Tuesday participation has shown how much can be achieved when we come together for a common cause. We are deeply grateful for every donation, large and small, and for the continued support that helps us make a difference in the lives of animals and those who love them.

We look forward to putting these funds and resources to good use and continuing our mission with your support. Thank you, from the bottom of our hearts, for making this Giving Tuesday a monumental success. Stay tuned for more updates and stories of how your contributions are making an impact at Monroe County Friends of Animals.

## Giving Tuesday Success: A Heartfelt Thank You to Our Community

This year's Giving Tuesday was a resounding success for Monroe County Friends of Animals, and it's all thanks to you—our incredible community of supporters. Your generosity has not only met but greatly exceeded our expectations, bringing vital resources to our beloved animals and their caregivers.

#### **A Surge of Support for Medical Needs**

We set a goal of \$5,000 to help fund our medical suite, which is essential for providing quality care to animals in need.



## Celebrating Safely with Our Furry Family Members Christmas

The festive season is here, and as we deck the halls, it's important to keep our furry friends safe. Here are quick tips to ensure a pet-safe holiday:

- **Avoid Toxic Plants:** Many holiday plants like poinsettias, mistletoe, and holly are toxic to pets. Opt for pet-safe decorations.
- **Watch the Wires:** Keep electrical cords from lights and decorations out of reach to prevent chewing, which can lead to electric shocks.
- **Secure the Tree:** Ensure your Christmas tree is stable to prevent it from toppling over if an adventurous pet decides to climb.
- **Careful with Candles:** Never leave lit candles unattended. Pets can easily knock them over and cause a fire.
- **Holiday Treats Out of Reach:** Chocolate and sweets can be dangerous for pets. Keep all festive treats away from curious paws.

By following these simple tips, you can make sure that your holiday season is safe and enjoyable for every member of your family, including the four-legged ones!



# A Christmas Tale of Paws and Love

In a corner of the shelter, quiet, soft, and deep,  
Lay a whiskered watcher, curled in gentle sleep.  
Frosty windows whispered of a world so crisp and white,  
But for one little feline, it was just another night.

Snowflakes danced like ballerinas past the chilly pane,  
As Christmas Eve whispered through the world again.  
Garlands graced the hallways, twinkling lights did shine,  
Amongst the sounds of joy, a wish whispered, "Be mine."

Not far from merry laughter and the jingles in the air,  
A family came with hope, in this magic to share.  
They wandered through the shelter, many tails did sway,  
Until their eyes met hers, where she quietly lay.

"Oh look!" cried out a child, as pure as falling snow,  
"To our home for Christmas, this cat must surely go!"  
Her eyes, a spark of emerald, met theirs with soft delight,  
As if she always knew they'd walk through the door that night.

With a box now lined with velvet, red as Santa's coat,  
They lifted her so gently, and a lump formed in my throat.  
This Christmas she would snuggle, by a warm and crackling fire,  
In a house now filled with love, the home of her desire.

So, here's a toast to all the hearts in search of homes so true,  
May Christmas bring you joy, and a loving family too.

For each cat in a corner, and every dog alone,  
May you find a lap for purring, in a place that you can own.

*Thank you for your support!*

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