



Paw Print

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Friends of the Shelter, Inc. (FOTS) is an all-volunteer 501(c)(3) organization, a Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) Kentucky

Inside this issue:

- Kitten Season **2**
- Local Events
- PetFest **3**
- Calendar **4**
- Membership

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THE SAGA OF THE PIT BULL



Thousands of years ago humans started breeding certain breeds of dogs to be fighters. Pit Bulls and Bull Terriers were bred for the ruthless sports of dogfighting and bull baiting. They were chosen for their ability to clamp onto a foe with powerful jaws, holding on with relentless power.

People still breed them to be killers, but they don't begin life as an aggressor. They can be socialized as puppies to get along with children, adults, even cats and other animals.

People that breed Pit Bulls for fighting turn innocent dogs into killers by abusing them. Puppies are never allowed to be puppies. The owners will start smacking them in the head at an early age, put hot sauce on his food, tease him, let him be attacked by a bigger dog; all because they believe this will make him tough. They will punch him and pinch him repeatedly until he bares his teeth, at which point they stop. In this way he learns to bare his teeth for self-preservation.

They buy live chickens and let the dog chase one while praising him. Then they'll tie the chicken up so the dog can learn to kill. The dog has no choice in the matter. And when the dog is no longer useful to the owner, they'll discard him like trash - often dumping him in a

vacant lot or leaving him by the side of the road.

The term Pit Bull is loosely used to describe three types of breeds: *American Pit Bull, The American Staffordshire Terrier and the Staffordshire Terrier.*

The *American Pit Bull* is considered the poster child of the fighting breeds and the bull terriers class. Loved or hated it is barred from housing complexes, parks, cities, and even some countries. His history is connected to the American Staffordshire until the mid 20th century, when the two split.

Being the largest of the three, he stands at 18-22 inches and typically weighs between 50-80 pounds and can be any color. They are too often bought as a macho accessory by owners who encourage aggression. They are dog aggressive unless socialized at an early age, but are very loyal and loving to their human handlers.



In fact, the Pit Bull is too set on pleasing his owner, and ironically this is the root of his own undoing. Besides this need to please are remarkable abilities of all kinds. Pit Bulls excel in practically every canine task; including herding, guarding, hunting, policing and ratting. By no means are these dogs people haters or people eaters. They are quality companions for quality owners!

Continued Page 2

The *American Staffordshire Terrier* was brought to the United States in the 19th century and kept as fight and farm dogs. In fact sharecroppers often used them to guard their young children while both parents worked the fields. In the 20th century, with fighting outlawed, some turned respectable as Staffies - with American added later to avoid confusion with the British breed.

Larger than the British breed but smaller than the Pit Bull, they stand 17-19 inches high, weighing between 40-50 pounds and can be any color, with or without white. Despite their fighting history and criticism of being vicious, these dogs are loyal, trustworthy, and above all affectionate. AmStaffs are known as pleasers and not maulers. Their willingness and ability to achieve the desired goals of their master are renowned.

The *Staffordshire Bull Terrier* stands 14-16 inches high, weighing 24-38 pounds and can be any color

except liver. Originating in the United Kingdom, this little Staffie has so far not been subject to breed legislation in its homeland and most of Europe. It may look and walk like a little thug, but it can be a pushover. This breed has its roots in dog-fighting and ratting, but the Staffie became a respectable recognized breed in the early 20th century.



At one time he was known as the nanny dog; sitting with small children. Although there is a tendency to joust with fellow canines, this is one of the friendliest of man's best friends. He is forever devoted and faithful. If properly reared, he is an affectionate, outgoing, even witty pet that promises years of delight. For those folks who know and love the Pit Bull: lets become their champions!

By Pam Patterson



KITTEN SEASON IS HERE!

Fostering a cat is one of the most rewarding experiences you can have (other than adopting). By taking an animal in need temporarily into your home you're:

- freeing up a spot so the shelter or rescue can take in another animal
- giving your foster the time and socialization it needs to be ready for their Forever Home.

Have you signed up with a shelter or rescue group to foster? Maybe you're not sure what it involves. There's a FREE downloadable program that will give you all the information you need in an easy, interactive format. Visit <http://www.bapcentral.com/Pets/FosteringKittens.htm> to download your copy.

Local Events

June 21 Friday — **Campbell County Animal Shelter's** Golf Outing 1pm-6pm

June 30 Sunday — **PETFEST 2019** Boone Woods Park, Shelter #3 Burlington 11am—4pm



Feeders Pet Supply, 13270 Towne Center Dr, Walton, KY 41094

Visit our adoptable pets at our Adoption Events

Boone County Animal Shelter: Saturdays from 11 am to 3 pm.

Grant County Animal Shelter: The third Sunday of the month.

WHAT YOUR SUPPORT MEANS TO US

The primary focus of FOTS is our Spay/Neuter program. In 2018 we paid for **436 dogs** through the UCAN Transports. The breakdown per county shelter is: Boone 110, Campbell 73, Gallatin 15, Grant 83, Kenton 59 and Pendleton 96. You can help us spread the word that we subsidize the costs for spay/neuter when the UCAN transport is used from each shelter.

The funding for this program comes from your membership dues, donations, and most of all—our fundraisers. PetFest generates a big part of this income. Please visit your local businesses to make this year even more successful. You can download flyers and solicitation letters from our website.



Your help to make PetFest a great fundraiser means a better life for animals in the Northern Kentucky counties.

You can help by asking local businesses to:

- Donate items for our Silent Auction or Raffle
- Sponsor the event
- Advertise in our program
- Rent a booth

You can personally help :

- Volunteer your time at the event
- **ATTEND the event with your family**

HIGHLIGHTS

- Adoptable pets from local shelters and rescues
- Silent Auction & Raffles
- Contests for your dog
- Demonstrations
- Refreshment Booth
- Information Booths
- Pet Psychic
- Animal-related products and services
- And more . . .



Visit our website for more details.

<https://www.friendsoftheshelterky.org/Events>

***Bring your family, bring your dog,
have a great time!***





A Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA), Kentucky

Friends of the Shelter, Inc.—SPCA KY
P.O. Box 93, Union, KY 41091-0093

Address Service Requested

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US Postage Paid
Florence KY
Permit #200

Address:



We're on the WEB

www.friendsoftheshelterky.org

Mark Your Calendar

MAY

National Pet Month
Chip Your Pet Month
5th—Cinco De Meow
14th—Mother's Day
28th—FOTS Meeting



JUNE

Adopt a Shelter Cat Month
4th-10th—Pet Appreciation Week
25th—FOTS Meeting
30th—PETFEST

County Shelters

Boone County Animal Shelter
5643 Idlewild Road
Burlington KY 41005
(859) 586-5285

Campbell County Animal Shelter
1989 Poplar Ridge Rd
Melbourne KY 41059
(859) 635-2819

Gallatin County Animal Shelter
4550 Hwy 455
Sparta KY 41086
(859) 643-3647

Grant County Animal Shelter
218 Barnes Road
Williamstown KY 41097
(859) 824-9403

Kenton County Animal Shelter
1020 Mary Laidley Dr
Ft. Mitchell KY 41017
(859) 356-7400

Pendleton County Animal Shelter
1314 Bryan Griffin Rd
Butler KY 41026
(859) 472-5400

JOIN US! Become a Member—Renew Your Membership

Membership / Renewal / Donation

Please include the above label if present.

Fill in name/address below if incorrect on label and complete remainder of form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

(Your email address and personal information is never shared with anyone outside our organization)

How do you want to receive our **Newsletter**: Mail: Email:

Do you want to receive the FOTS Car Magnet: Yes No

(Add \$1.60 for magnet & shipping)

Membership: \$10.00 annually for one person _____

\$15.00 for a family of two or more _____

List other names (optional): _____

Additional Donation: \$ _____

Donations & dues are fully tax deductible as allowed by law. We are a 501(c)(3) organization. **Mail with your check to:** Friends of the Shelter, Inc., P.O. Box 93, Union KY 41091 or Complete this form online and pay through our website: www.friendsoftheshelterky.org