



2025

Barbara Miner Morton Play Park Opens at Portage APL!



We are so pleased to announce the grand opening of the *Barbara Miner Morton Play Park* at the Portage APL. Barb spent the first 65 years of her life in Ravenna before moving south. In 2014, she reconnected with and married her high school friend, Greg Morton. While living in Ravenna Township, Barb lived on Infirmary Road near the Portage Animal Protective League. She spent many happy times visiting the dogs and cats and has always wanted to do something to benefit the animals, so she contacted the Madonio Animal Trust to work together to fulfil that wish.

With the happiest memories of Ravenna and the APL in particular, and through the mentoring of the Madonio Animal Trust, Barb is pleased to sponsor the Barbara Miner Morton Play Park, a large fenced in an all-weather play area at the APL. This gives dogs room to run and play in a safe environment and also have outdoor opportunities to meet with their future families and dog siblings.

Thanks to everyone who came out to help us dedicate the area. The dogs are outside every day enjoying this special space. Look how much fun Dexter, Snoopy, Niko & Sasha are having! And thanks to the wonderful APL volunteers like Jeff & Marla Barkey and Mike & Tracy Ozinga who love to come out and play.



So.....what else is new???



Santa Paws - We wanted every good boy and girl to get a gift for the holidays – even if they are a dog or a cat! Thanks to all who helped us collect toys and treats for our new Doggie Bags - Santa Paws holiday gift donations program, which was administered through Family & Community Services. Due to our amazing group of donors, so many puppies & kitties had something special to enjoy. (PS – we accept these donations throughout the year!)

Paw It Forward – Not all households have the same opportunities to provide for their four-legged companions, so we partnered with Kent Social Services, the Center of Hope, the Kent Area Chamber of Commerce and the Ravenna Chamber of Commerce to launch the Paw It Forward Food Drive this spring. We plan to make this an annual event!

It was raining cats & dogs (or at least just dogs!)

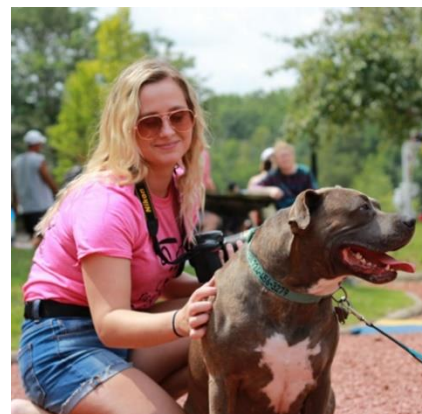


We've been pretty lucky with the weather on the third Saturday in August through the years. And we ALMOST made it out of 2024 intact. Congratulations to Jackson, son of Sherry Rose, for being the top earning Top Dog candidate of all time! Unfortunately, the downpour at 3:30 prevented him from having his "15 minutes of fame", but he's still a winner in our book. Thanks to North Water Brewing and Rootstown Veterinary for co-sponsoring him. And thanks – AS ALWAYS – to our tremendous sponsors, volunteers & supporters. We couldn't do what we do without ALL OF YOU, and we truly appreciate you! Please check our website for our corporate sponsors and thank them by doing business with them.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT – The Hartmans



Dog Days just wouldn't be Dog Days without the Hartman Family! Michelle has been with us since the very beginning back in 2015, when she was with the Burbick Foundation. Each year, she and Darrin are there delivering and setting up tables and tents. They volunteer at the main booth all day, and they stay until the last vendor has packed up and gone home. EmiLee volunteers her time as a photographer, capturing the moments as dogs and their owners enjoy the day. Here is a rare shot of EmiLee – she is hardly ever in FRONT of the camera! We cannot thank Michelle, Darrin & EmiLee Hartman enough for their immeasurable contributions to the MAT and the Dog Days of Summer!



Missing Skye & Duncan

It is with heavy hearts that we share the loss of two of our most loyal pups. Skye & Duncan, parented by Sandee & Robert Reid, have played a major role in helping us fundraise for less fortunate pets over the years. Skye & Duncan were inseparable, doing everything and going everywhere together. They were crowned *Buddy Sessions Top Dog* in 2017, took 3rd place in the *Perfect Pooch of Portage* contest in 2019, and were named #1 - Dog Category in the *Perfect Pet of Portage* in 2022. Never ones to seek fame, Skye & Duncan were just happy for a scratch on the head and a "who's a good pup?" when out and about. Thanks for everything Skye & Duncan! Hope you're having fun with Murphy & Bonnie over the Rainbow Bridge.



How Much Is That Doggie in the APL Window?

We love when our rescue groups bring adoptable pups to Dog Days because it makes our day any time we can be part of a pet finding his or her furever home. You may remember the adorable brother & sister who the Portage APL brought to the event last summer. They were both scooped up before the end of the day, and we recently caught up with their families to see how they were doing. We also wondered if they would share some similar traits, even though they were “separated at birth”. Thanks to the APL and all our wonderful local animal rescues for your important work.

Adopting a dog is COOL!

Bella



She rubs her face allllll over the ground after every walk! She also tends to drink water a little too fast... and then she burps it up.

Tennis and racquet balls. She goes crazy for them!

On the couch with her grey blanket, between her parents.

She loves to fetch, go on walks, and play with her dog cousins! She is very sweet & gentle, LOVES kids, and is such a good learner. She'll eat about any people food (including the spicy stuff). She's also definitely a dog raised by cats- she uses her paws for everything!

Oliver



He army crawls a lot. He tries to steal cat food when he hears us go into the garage and pretends he's asleep when he doesn't want to get up.

Nerf rings for tug of war and tennis balls to play fetch.

On the couch or bed, curled up next to his favorite people.

He loves the cats and playing with his brother (Baker, a 6 year old yellow lab). You have to watch out because he is very quick to give kisses. He loves bacon. He barks a lot! He likes to be outside, especially around the garden, and likes to eat tomatoes & strawberries off the vine.

Funny habit(s)?

Favorite toy(s)?

Favorite spot?

Favorite activity?

Special Thanks

Thank you to Marlene & Ed Gomez, Rev.Nathan Howe, and the members of the United Methodist Church of Kent for choosing our Doggie Bags program for their *Loving Our Neighbors Collection* for May. Wow, we were blown away by their generosity and so happy to deliver over 500 lbs of pet food to the Center of Hope. As a reminder, you are always welcome to drop food off at the Center of Hope in Ravenna or Kent Social Services for this vital pet food support program.

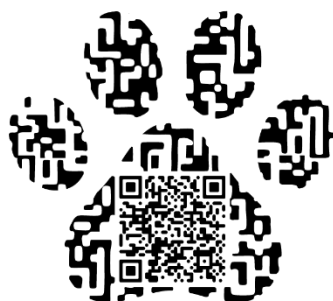


How Can You Help?

If you are interested in making a donation, either towards the general fund or to be dedicated to a particular project, checks can be made payable to the Portage Foundation, indicating Madonio Animal Trust in the memo line, and sent to: The Madonio Animal Trust • 1204 Tallmadge Road • Kent, Ohio 44240
All donations go into the Trust or to one of our charities ~ All expenses, including this newsletter, are covered by the Madonio family.

If you would like to volunteer at the next Dog Days of Summer, contact us at 330-673-4919 or madoniofamily@gmail.com

Check us out! madonio-animal-trust.org - facebook.com/madoniofamily – instagram.com/themadonioanimaltrust



Scan Me!



*Daisy and Jeff & Blue &
Shiloh Kurtz can't wait to
see you on August 16th for
Dog Days of Summer
2025.*

It's our 10th Anniversary!

