



July-August 2020

We certainly live in challenging times and had to cancel this year's Pet Expo due to the pandemic. However, we are determined to maintain and grow existing programs and launch new ones.

For the Love of Pets Pantry...Still Going!

In the wake of COVID-19, the pet pantry continues to operate as a vital resource, providing food for over 200 pets of low-income seniors.

Begun in Sept 2019, we are celebrating a year of helping seniors keep their keep pets fed, healthy and at home. A donation-based program, AC ARF is grateful for the support of our community helping keep the program successful and growing.

This is a needs based program customized for each home. The food distributed is intended to supplement the pet's monthly food needs and reduce the financial burden associated with pet care. Our monthly goal is to provide 50% of the food needed for each pet. Food is distributed 10:00 am – 12:00 pm the second Monday each month.

Eligibility - to participate, you must:

- be an Anderson County resident
- be age 60 years or older
- meet low income guidelines (combined income of \$30,000 or less/year for family of 1 or 2, or \$40,000 or less for 3 or more)
- pick up food every month

Register at the Anderson County Office on Aging and Senior Center at their new location at 96 Mariner Point Drive, Clinton. For more information, call 865-457-3259.

PANTRY DONATIONS ALWAYS NEEDED. The success of the pantry is based solely on donations we receive from people and businesses in our community. As a year-round pantry, the need is ongoing. We distribute ~1,200 pounds of dry food (@ \$1.00/pound) every month. When we fall short, AC ARF must purchase food.

Please consider donating to the pantry. Your support truly makes a difference and our low income seniors appreciate every donation. Food can be dropped off/purchased at one of our Donation Centers (see p2); we have a DONATE button on our website and Facebook pages, or send a check to "AC ARF" to PO Box 181, Clinton TN 37717. See (p2) Pantry Pals – a new way to support the pantry.

FEATURE - TRAP/NEUTER/RETURN - TNR a new program that provides a life-saving solution

Many of our pantry seniors have big hearts for homeless and feral cats, and feed and care for them to the best of their abilities. Most of these cats are intact and continue to reproduce, the colony size increases, and nuisance mating behaviors can annoy neighbors. These cats are struggling and life is not easy.

In May AC ARF, in partnership with Shelter Animals Rescue Group (SARG), launched the 2020 TNR Low Income Senior Citizen Initiative, a humane and effective approach to resolving problems associated with homeless and feral cats. With TNR, cats are humanely captured or trapped, taken to a veterinarian to be fixed and vaccinated and then returned to their outdoor homes where their caretakers continue to look after them.

Sandra was our first TNR program participant. She had been feeding a colony of homeless cats and recognized how quickly their numbers grew as mama cats (still kittens themselves) escorted their babies onto Sandra's porch to eat. With a little guidance and supplies from AC ARF, Sandra learned how TNR works. After recovering from surgery, the cats and kittens that were social went to rescue to be adopted. The remainder returned to Sandra who continues to feed a now stable population of cats. We thank Sandra for being a part of the solution.

No babies for these kittens and they all now have homes of their own!



JOIN US! We believe that kindness to animals creates a kinder world, and that is the world we support. Please help keep our life-saving and community-servicing programs moving forward by donating. You can send us an email at ACARF2018@gmail.com, use the **DONATE BOX** at the top of our Facebook or website pages, or send a check payable to "AC ARF" to PO Box 181, Clinton TN 37717. Together we can do this...we just have to believe. Thank you!

REHOMING

working with rescues to help place animals in need

We love how working together with other rescues helps our community save more animals! HSTV and The Stray Connection fostered, cared for and found homes for over 30 kittens and cats that came through our TNR program.



A couple contacted us about 2 bonded strays in pitiful condition they were not in a position to keep. A vet had confirmed no microchips and vaccinated the dogs and the couple purchased Seresto collars to rid them of fleas and ticks and reached out to AC ARF to help find them a good home together.

With dirty, matted long fur, it was hard to imagine the dogs underneath, and it was clear they were suffering.

Thanks to Clinton Animal Hospital, we were able to have them groomed and they became transformed! We contacted SARG who took them into their rescue and they were adopted together!



Pantry Pals – a new way to support the pantry

Pantry Pals is a special group of supporters committed to the Pet Pantry's mission of helping feed pets throughout the year by making a monthly pledge of support. Recurring donations help ensure our pantry has a consistent, reliable stream of food and allows the program to grow as needed. Please consider joining this group. You can make a difference in the lives of this under-resourced community with this one small step. No monthly donation is too small and you can choose any amount desired. \$10 will feed one small dog or two cats for an entire year! Imagine that, and monthly giving ensures the pantry will continue!

We want take this opportunity to give a huge **THANK YOU** to our awesome **Donation Centers** and their customers/clients for collecting and donating food and supplies each month this past year! We couldn't do this without this support.

AC Office on Aging and Senior Center	96 Mariner Point, Clinton
Agri Feed Pet Supplies	10621 Kingston Pike , Knoxville 5716 Middlebrook Pike, Knoxville
Clinton Animal Hospital	730 N Charles Seivers Blvd , Clinton
Clinton Farmer's Co-op	110 S Charles Seivers Blvd, Clinton
Norris Animal Hospital	15-2683 Andersonville Hwy, Clinton
Pet Supermarket	6704 Clinton Hwy, Knoxville
Southern Bank of TN	151 E Broad Street, Clinton
Take Charge Fitness	1921 N Charles Seivers Blvd, Clinton



We are also so grateful for our dedicated crew of volunteers who pick up, sort, box and distribute donations. This is demanding, heavy, work! In June the Raker family coordinated a Food Drive at Melton Lake Park bringing in ~400 pounds of food and some cash donations!

There are plenty of ways to help...whatever works for you: donate, actively participate or volunteer. Join our community and be part of the solution. For more information, call or text Katrina at 865-414-2491.

Improving Access to Vet Care

AC ARF places special emphasis on the importance of spay/neuter, wellness and prevention. Our Paws for Life Pet Pantry not only supports low income seniors in keeping their pets fed, it also helps us connect owners with sponsored spay/neuter programs and accessible vets. We helped sponsor surgeries for Trixie and Jasmine, pictured on the right, treated 12-yr old DeDo's skin infection and treated a kitten from a cat colony we are working with. All are now doing well. With support from the Clinton Animal Hospital and our community medical care has been provided to 18 dogs and cats.

For pet owners not participating in the pet pantry we help direct folks to local low and no cost providers.

