Looking Back at 2015 and Forward to 2016

Here is what the Pet Pantry of Lancaster County was able to accomplish in 2015, thanks to your support.

411 Pets Adopted by New Families, Exceeded Our Goal of 400!
301 Families Receiving Support through the Pet Pantry Food Bank Program
76,951 Pounds of Dry Food Distributed to Families in addition to Various Cat and Dog Supplies and Treats
Food Support to Families with Small Animals and Birds
1,127 Surgeries Performed through the Lower Cost Spay/Neuter Program
770 Surgeries Performed through the Trap-Neuter-Release Program (TNR)/Feral Cat Program
Continued Discounted Services of Vaccines to Ensure Healthy Pets and Microchip Clinics to Ensure Safe Return of Lost Pets
Expanded Hours of Pet Pantry Adoption Facilities
Opened a Thrift Shop to Further our Ability to Meet the Need
And here is just the start of all the things we have planned for 2016

**Calendar of Events**

**January**
- 22: TNR Clinic
- 23: Vaccine Clinic
- 29: TNR Clinic
- 30: Vaccine Clinic

**February**
- 5: TNR Clinic
- 12: TNR Clinic
- 13: Lititz Fire & Ice
- 19: TNR Clinic
- 26: TNR Clinic
- 27: TNR Clinic

**March**
- 4: TNR Clinic
- 11: TNR Clinic
- 12: Cat Vaccine Clinic
- 18: TNR Clinic
- 19: Leo’s Birthday Bash
- 25: TNR Clinic

**April**
- 9: Yard Sale at Pet Pantry Millersville Road
- 16: Shop for a Cause at Park City Mall

**May**

**June**
- 14: Dog Vaccine Clinic
  Proud Pet Day at Lancaster Polo Club, Rothsville.

**July**

**August**

**September**

**October**

**November**

**December**
- 6: Pictures with Santa
- 6: Light the Way
- 6: Raffle Winners Selected

**Special Event being planned for July. Stayed tuned for further details!**

**World Mutt-i-grees Rescue Month!** Reminds us there are millions of healthy & happy animals, we call Mutt-i-grees, waiting to be adopted at a shelter near you.

**18: Puppy Mill Awareness Day at Buchanan Park, Lancaster, 10am-3pm**

**24: Pet Pantry Open House; Raffle Items on Display**

**16: 24 Hour Feral Cat Spay/Neuterathon**

Look for Pet Pantry in the Millersville Community Parade

**12: Primitives by Kathy Event**

**18: Extraordinary Give**

* TNR (Trap-Neuter-Release)/Feral Cat Clinics: Appointment Required. Call 983-8878 to schedule an appointment. Appointments scheduled no more than 2 weeks in advance. 5 cats per person limit. Please remember, although Pet Pantry will perform as many surgeries as possible during each clinic, the availability of appointments is limited due to size limitations of our facility. $30 per cat, includes surgery, rabies vaccine and distemper vaccine. Ask for details on additional services available.*
Don’t Overlook the Joys of Adopting Senior Pets

The joys of a kitten! Kittens provide so much entertainment for us as they scamper across the floor, over the lay-z-boy and up the curtains in their quest to capture the elusive imaginary mouse. We cannot help but be humored by their utter silliness. Oh and then there are puppies! They make us laugh with their play until they collapse into sleep and what is more precious than a sleeping puppy.

When looking for a new addition to the family, it is easy to think puppy or kitten, and yes every adoption is so important as it saves another life, however don’t overlook the possibility that you and your household may be better suited for an older pet. The youthful way of an older pet may be a thing of the past, however they offer qualities of their own. An older dog will be calmer companion understanding the importance of you and your kindness to provide a home to them and will repay you with steadfast loyalty. An older cat has few demands but will be more apt to quietly sit on your lap, purring contently.

Making a lifetime commitment to any pet through adoption is a wonderful, life changing event for both you and the pet, but don’t overlook an older, more mature animal which may be your next best friend.
Thank you to everyone who supported the Pet Pantry of Lancaster County by Lighting the Way to Meet the Need.

The Pantry offered delicate white lights for purchase. Each light honored or remembered a person or pet’s life during the holiday season. On Saturday, December 5th Chance flipped the switch and turned on the holiday lights for the first time, Lighting the Way to Meet the Need. Over 250 lights shown bright as we continue to work to Meet the Need.

Santa stopped by to visit with Chance and admire the lights as Pet Pantry, along with your support, Lights the Way to Meet the Need.
Puppy Mills...Be Informed

A puppy mill is a commercial dog breeding facility that is operated with an emphasis on profits over the welfare and health of the dogs. They are operated at substandard conditions of care. Puppy mills usually house dogs in overcrowded and unsanitary conditions, without adequate veterinary care, food, water and socialization. Puppy mill dogs do not receive adequate attention, exercise or basic grooming. To ease waste cleanup, dogs are often kept in cages with wire-mesh flooring that injures their paws and legs. It is not unusual for cages to be stacked up in columns, which allows for waste to pass downward from the top of the column. Breeder dogs are generally destroyed when they reach 4 years of age. Breeding females are usually bred every time they are in heat to increase profits, resulting in gradually decreasing size and health of their litters and sadly their puppies are weaned from their mothers well before the recommended 8 to 10 weeks of age. Bark Rescue in Belleview, IL explains, “Puppies are taken from their mother when they are 5 to 6 weeks old and sold to brokers who pack them in crates for resale to pet stores all over the country.” Only half of the puppies survive during this exhausting travel only to make it to a pet shop to be sold. There are an estimated 4,000 puppy mills in the U.S. that produce more than half a million puppies a year. If you are disturbed that puppy mills exist, you can do your part.

1. Adopt your next pet. You may have your heart set on a puppy or a particular breed, but please don’t support puppy mills by buying pets online or in stores. The pet you are looking for is waiting for you at one of the thousands of shelters or rescue groups across the country - and they’re not hard to find. First, visit your local shelter. If you don’t find the right pet there, visit www.petfinder.com. You can also find a dog of a particular breed by contacting a breed-rescue organization. To find breed rescue groups, do a search online, enter a city or state, the name of the breed you are looking for, and the word "rescue."

2. Don’t buy a puppy online or from a pet store. If you buy a puppy online or from a pet store, you are most likely supporting the puppy mill industry because these are the two ways that puppy millers sell their dogs. If you intend to buy a puppy, do your homework to find a reputable breeder which will ensure your newest family member is not a puppy mill dog.

3. Take action against pet stores that sell dogs. Ask pet stores to consider switching to a humane business model, one that promotes adopting instead of selling puppies from breeders.

4. Support legislation that regulates and reduces breeding of animals.

5. Become an expert on the subject. Get familiar with how the puppy mill industry works.

6. Know the existing laws. Many states have laws that regulate breeders and/or retail pet sellers.

7. Get involved. Ask government officials to pass stricter laws for pet stores and dog breeders. Write or call your city, county, state and federal officials and ask them to take these issues seriously.

8. Speak out in your community. Write letters to the editors of newspapers about puppy mills and breeders who keep their animals in unacceptable conditions. Note how many ads for dogs, puppies, kittens and other animals there are in the paper's classified section, while shelters overflow with unwanted pets.

9. Elect animal-friendly candidates. Before any election (local, state or federal), ask candidates if they would support laws regulating commercial breeders and what they would do about puppy mills in the community.

10. Raise awareness and spread the word. Educate your friends, family and coworkers - especially those looking to obtain a pet - about the cruelty of puppy mills and the joys of pet adoption. Share adoption websites, such as Petfinder.com, and breed rescue websites with people looking for purebred dogs.

11. Don't give up. The fight against puppy mills and bad breeders has been going on for decades. Things won't change overnight, but we are making progress and each little change helps. If you educate just one person about the horrors of puppy mills or convince just one person to adopt rather than buy a pet, you've made a difference.
Spaying or Neutering Your Pet

Spaying and neutering is one of the greatest gifts you can provide your pet, your family, and your community. These routine medical procedures not only help control pet overpopulation, but they may also prevent medical and behavioral problems from developing, allowing your pet to lead a longer, healthier and happier life.

What is spay/neuter? The word “spay” refers to the sterilization of female pets. The term “neuter,” while more commonly used to refer to the castration of male pets, can be used to describe the sterilization of either female or male pets. The term ‘fixed’ is commonly used when referring to an animal that has been spayed/neutered.

What are some benefits of spay/neuter?

- Healthy Pets. Spay/neuter improves your pet’s health, reducing or eliminating the risk of certain cancers and other diseases. Because spay/neuter often reduces the tendency to fight with other animals, it also protects your pet from fight-related injuries and dangerous viruses spread through bite wounds. Spayed/neutered animals wander less and stay closer to home. As a result, they are less likely to be lost or hit by cars.
- Happy Families. Spay/neuter reduces or eliminates spraying (marking objects with a spray of urine), yowling/howling, escaping, and other troublesome behaviors. You won’t have to deal with the mess or the inconvenience of a pet in heat (or a male pet reacting to a female in heat). You’ll be saved the considerable amount of time, money, and hassle (not to mention property damage!) involved in raising litters of puppies or kittens.
- Healthy Communities. Spay/neuter has a direct impact on the incidence of dog bites in a community. The majority of dog bites (60–80%) are caused by intact male dogs. Pregnant or nursing female dogs are more likely to bite as they protect their offspring. Reducing your pet’s likelihood of biting or fighting may also help protect you from potential legal action. Spayed/neutered pets are less likely to engage in behaviors that could cause problems with neighbors.
- No More Homeless Pets. Spay/neuter directly impacts the number of animals that lose their lives in shelters and on the streets because there are not enough homes for them all. Having your pet spayed/neutered prevents additional puppies and kittens from needing homes, freeing up those homes for homeless pets that are already born. By getting your pet spayed/neutered, you are part of the campaign to reach the day when there are truly no more homeless pets!

Will my pet’s behavior change after the surgery? Yes, you may see some behavioral changes – for the better! Spayed/neutered pets are often less aggressive, more relaxed, and even more affectionate. Contrary to what some people fear, pets show no signs of “missing” mating or breeding. Rather, they are more content without those raging hormones!

Will my pet become fat? Just like people, pets become overweight when they eat too much and/or exercise too little. An appropriate diet and sufficient activity will keep your pet slender and healthy.

How young can a dog or cat be spayed/neutered? Puppies and kittens can now be spayed very early – as young as eight weeks. Though they may seem fragile at that age, healthy puppies and kittens are actually quite strong and recover quickly from the surgery. If your veterinarian is trained in early spay/neuter, the procedures are fast and easy. In addition, the cost for spaying or neutering a dog is often based on the weight of the animal and increases along with the dog’s weight.

How long does it take for an animal to recover from the procedure? Depending on your pet’s age, size, and health, he/she may be kept at the vet’s for a few hours or overnight. Your veterinarian can give you more details. The surgery is routine, and they generally bounce back quickly.

Isn’t it healthier for my pet to have one litter? Medical evidence indicates just the opposite. In fact, the evidence shows that females spayed before their first heat are typically healthier. Cats can go into heat and get pregnant as early as five months of age, so it’s important to spay early.

How much does it cost? Cost varies, but spay/neuter is a one-time cost, a bargain when you consider the cost of taking care of litter after litter of puppies or kittens. The Pet Pantry of Lancaster County offers lower-cost spay/neuter.

But, what if I want my kids to have the experience of raising puppies or kittens? Contact your local shelter or rescue group and ask if you can sign up as a foster family for expectant or new mothers. While most mothers prefer not to have an audience while they are actually giving birth, your family may be able to play an invaluable role as a foster family for newborn puppies or kittens.

So, make an appointment today to spay or neuter your pets. They’ll be happier, and so will you!
When It Really Is Not Funny

A new trend has surfaced on the internet and this one isn’t funny at all. If you are a lover of animals, you will not view or share these videos.

The premise is a cat is quietly eating at their food bowl. A person places a cucumber behind the cat — yes, a cucumber. The cat finishes the meal, turns around and is horrifically frightened at the sight of the vegetable. The whole encounter is videotaped and put on YouTube, where it’s shared thousands of times.

Others viewing the video do the same to their cat hoping their cat will also become a ‘star’ of YouTube. Soon the internet is flooded with videos of poor frightened cats.

Let’s be clear: Intentionally frightening a pet is abusive, and laughing at a frightened pet is twisted. How is this different, in essence, than getting your giggles by frightening toddlers?

It’s just not a good idea. First of all, pets trust their family. Anything that violates that trust erodes the bond between owner and pet. Second, your cat may learn that the food area is no longer a safe place.

Additionally, stress degrades a cat’s immune system and opens the door to other issues. Also anxiety can cause a cat to begin misbehaving such as destructive behavior or not using the litter box. These are among the issues commonly named as reasons why cats are taken to a shelter, which only compounds the level of stress and anxiety.

These videos are not funny to your pet and should not be funny to you. If you know someone sharing such videos, politely remind them that scaring an innocent animal is inhumane and not least bit funny.
How Can You Help?

Making a donation to the Pet Pantry of Lancaster County helps to fulfill our mission of helping families get the food, vaccines and spay/neuter surgeries their pets need. Every year thousands of animals are surrendered to shelters and rescues because their owners can no longer afford the care they require. The Pet Pantry is committed to reducing the number of animals entering shelters. We can only “meet the need” with your help. No donation is too small.

Your tax exempt donation will be used to purchase food, veterinary supplies and other essential supplies necessary to deliver these services to those in need.

If you are unable to make a monetary donation, an item from our wish list is always greatly appreciated.

Thank you to all those who generously support Pet Pantry & the animals of Lancaster County!

WISH LIST

* Dog Food (dry & canned)
* Cat Food (dry & canned)
* Food & Water Bowls
* Kitty Litter
* Leashes & Collars
* Dog & Cat Beds & Toys
* Gently Used Towels & Blankets
* Pet Carriers
* Collapsible Dog Crates
* Gallon Zip Lock Bags
* 5 Gallon Food Grade Buckets w/Lids (clean and dry)
* Copy Paper
* Postage
* Scotch Tape
* Cat Scratching Posts
* 13 Gallon & Smaller Trash Bags
* Dawn Dish Washing Soap
* Paper Towels
* New & Gently Used Items Suitable for Resale in Pet Pantry Thrift Shop

DROP OFF LOCATIONS

**Christiana**
- Atglen Veterinary Hospital, Pine Creek Drive

**Conestoga**
- River Hills Veterinary Hospital, Main Street

**Gap**
- Baldwins Garage, Old Philadelphia Pike
- Fuller’s Floral & Gift Shoppe, Lincoln Highway East

**Lancaster**
- Pet Pantry of Lancaster County, Millersville Road
- Dog Sense, New Holland Pike
- Drakes’ Pet Place, Lincoln Highway East
- Neffsville Veterinary Clinic, Lititz Pike
- That Fish Place That Pet Place, Centerville Road
- Uptown Petz, Oregon Pike
- VCA Bridgeport Animal Hospital, Ranck Mill Road
- VCA Smoketown Animal Hospital, Old Philadelphia Pike

**Kinzer**
- In Grandma’s Attic, Lincoln Highway

**Landisville**
- Complete Canine Center, Elmwood Avenue

**Mount Joy**
- Keystone Pet Place, West Main Street

**Willow Street**
- EM Herr Ace Hardware, Herrville Road
A NEW Way to Help

Just Register, Shop, Save and Good Search will make a donation to Pet Pantry of Lancaster County!

Visit www.GoodSearch.com

Register and choose Pet Pantry of Lancaster County as your cause. A percentage of every purchase you make will be donated to Pet Pantry at no extra cost to you.

Be sure to select Pet Pantry as your favorite non-profit to benefit from your purchase

Who do you want to help?

Search for your favorite non-profit or school or pick one of our featured causes!

Pet Pantry of Lancaster County
More Ways to Help

Volunteer
The Pet Pantry of Lancaster County is a volunteer organization and we are always looking for help. We need volunteers to package and distribute food, assist with fundraising, pick-up donations, staff our rescues, and much more. Our volunteers enjoy the work they do. If you would like to be a part of our hardworking, fun loving organization, please complete the Volunteer Application by visiting www.PetPantryLC.org and clicking on Volunteer.

The Pet Pantry has partnered with Charity Wicks to offer scented and all natural candles. A portion of the proceeds from every candle purchased goes directly to the Pet Pantry of Lancaster County to support our mission.

Each candle features a pet that has been helped by the Pet Pantry.

Candles are available on-line at www.CharityWicks.com/PPLC or at The Pet Pantry’s Millersville Road location.

Did you know that Monday, February 22nd is recognized as “Walking the Dog” Day. So if you haven’t downloaded WoofTrax and started walking for Pet Pantry, this might be the day to start!

For every mile you walk, WoofTrax will make a donation to Pet Pantry of Lancaster County.

Install the app, select Pet Pantry of Lancaster County in the ‘walk for’ option, select enroll and you will receive a validation e-mail. It is that easy.

Now you can ‘start walking for a dog’.

More walkers = more miles = more money for Pet Pantry of Lancaster County!
Visit www.ResQThreads.com, order an apparel item or maybe a bag of Dapper Dog Coffee and a portion of the proceeds from your purchase will go directly to the Pet Pantry.

**Pet Pantry Fashion**

Show your support of the Pet Pantry of Lancaster County by proudly wearing a Pet Pantry of Lancaster County hoodie sweatshirt, long-sleeve or short-sleeve T-shirt.

These items, along with our etched glassware, are available for purchase at the Pantry during open hours or at our various events around the community.

**Become A Member**

“Membership has its privileges” is a slogan used by many. Being a member of the Pet Pantry of Lancaster County is no different. By becoming a member, you are entitled to various ‘privileges’ given to you as a token of our appreciation for your support. More importantly though, your yearly membership gives the Pantry the great "privilege" of being able to use your membership fee to fulfill our mission of "meeting the need" of every animal and their family in Lancaster County.

Annual membership fees range from $50 to $1,000. Please visit www.PetPantryLC.org to view the various membership levels and the services the Pantry will be able to provide thanks to your membership fee. You may submit your membership application by selecting “click to fill out membership form” on the website.

**Sponsor a Cage**

Give the Gift of Kindness & Caring for Animals

- Monthly Sponsorship $25
- Annual Sponsorship $250

Your sponsorship will provide medication, food, and shelter for animals at the Pet Pantry of Lancaster County Adoption Center. Sponsor in memory of a loved one or to honor a friend or family member. Your tribute will be recognized with a card displayed at the adoption center. Monthly & annual sponsorships available.
The Pet Pantry of Lancaster County is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization working to help avoid the surrender of a family pet due to the lack of resources to feed and care for them. The Pet Pantry of Lancaster County lends a temporary helping hand to ease the burden, whether the cause is from trying economic times, health, or emergency related circumstances. It is more evident than ever before that our pets not only bring us companionship and love, but they are sometimes our only source of comfort when facing hardship. Pet Pantry works in cooperation with local animal organizations to do what we can to keep family pets where they should stay...in their forever home.

Pet Pantry also provides lower cost spay and neuter programs to the public, as well as TNR (trap-neuter-release) Programs to address the feral cat population in Lancaster County, in addition to vaccination clinics.

**Pet Pantry of Lancaster County**

**Open Hours**
- Monday Closed
- Tuesday 12pm to 7:30pm
- Wednesday 12pm to 7:30pm
- Thursday 12pm to 7:30pm
- Friday 12pm to 7:30pm
- Saturday 11am to 5pm
- Sunday Closed
  
  (with the exception of appointments)

Located at
26 Millersville Road, Lancaster

**Pet Pantry Satellite Rescue Room Open Hours**
- Monday Closed
- Tuesday 12pm to 7pm
- Wednesday 12pm to 7pm
- Thursday 12pm to 7pm
- Friday 12pm to 7pm
- Saturday 11am to 5pm
- Sunday 12pm to 4pm

Located in
That Fish Place That Pet Place
237 Centerville Road, Lancaster

**Thrift Shop & On-Site Adoption Room Hours**
- Monday Closed
- Tuesday 12pm to 7:30pm
- Wednesday 12pm to 7:30pm
- Thursday 12pm to 7:30pm
- Friday 12pm to 7pm
- Saturday 11am to 5pm
- Sunday Closed

Located at
26 Millersville Road, Lancaster

February 20th is ‘Love Your Pet Day’. Why not visit our thrift shop & pick up a special gift to show your pet just how much they are loved!