



# NEWS RELEASE

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This news release can be found and downloaded from the "News Release" page of the Council for Older Adults web site at [www.growingolder.org](http://www.growingolder.org)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

November 11, 2011

## Council for Older Adults of Delaware County Receives Grant Funding to Provide Pet Care for Older Adults

Recently, the Delaware County Council for Older Adults Nutrition Program (Meals On Wheels) was awarded a \$2,500 grant from the Banfield Charitable Trust, a national organization which provides support to nonprofit organizations that assist in pet care and advocacy. Funds are to provide assistance in keeping pets in their homes and addresses the root causes of the surrender of pets.

Studies have shown that pet ownership provides many physical and emotional benefits however for many older adults living on a fixed income, purchasing food for their pets may create financial hardships. Many clients give part of their Meals On Wheels food to their four-legged friends or feed them whatever food is on hand. Due to the inability to afford pet food, older adults may be facing the difficult choice of giving up their pet to a shelter. The Council for Older Adults Meals On Wheels program will use these funds to assist in the purchase of pet food, water bowls, pet supplies, and mileage paid to our Meals On Wheels drivers for their delivery of pet food and for the meals which they deliver to our clients.

The Council for Older Adults receives pet food donations from individuals in the community as well as from Alum Creek Dog Park, which has provided us with large amounts of both dog and cat food as part of several events held during the year. So far this year, nearly 4,000 pounds of pet food has been bagged for distribution. Over 150 Meals On Wheels clients in Delaware County receive pet food, delivered by Meals On Wheels volunteers.

We are currently accepting donations of any type of pet food or treats, quart sized bags and other pet-related items. For more information, please contact Toni Dodge, Council for Older Adults Nutrition Supervisor at 740-363-6677.

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