



# Medina County Auditor

## PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Aliah's Top Dog, Heisman, Kicks Off Dog-licensing Season!**

Aliah Yappel's dog, Heisman, has been recognized as the Top Dog in Medina County for the coming year! Aliah's essay on why her dog is the best was chosen from hundreds of other fourth grader writers, and she was recognized in a ceremony on Friday, Dec. 3 along with four other children whose essays were the best in the county. This marks the 27th year that Auditor Mike Kovack has sponsored the contest to kick off the 2021 dog-licensing season.

Aliah, a fourth-grader at St. Francis Xavier School in Medina and the daughter of Matt and Jess Yappel, visited Auditor Kovack's office last Friday to read her winning essay. Aliah's teacher is Stephanie Baker. Aliah told Heisman's story from the dog's point of view, which detailed his diagnosis three years ago with Addison's disease, a hormonal issue that can cause serious problems. Heisman spent three days at the veterinarian's office before they could diagnose the issue, and he didn't like being without his best friends Aliah, her sister or "the tall people," otherwise known as the parents. "When I got home, I got snuggled like I was the fluffiest thing on earth," the essay read. Heisman also told readers that his experience at the vet's office made him "brave enough to do anything." Aliah and Heisman were rewarded for their victory with county's first dog tag of the 2022 season, Dog Tag Number One; 30 pounds of dog food and a bag of treats from Medina County manufacturer Bil-Jac; a Rinky Dink Family Fun Center gift card; a free ice cream cake from Dairy Queen and a free donut from Circles on the Square in Medina. In addition, Aliah and the other winning authors received a gift basket of prizes for their pets from Kitten Krazy, a local cat shelter and adoption center.

The Top Dog Essay Contest awards ceremony marks the beginning of the dog-licensing period in the State of Ohio, which runs through Jan. 31, 2022. During this time, all dog licenses must be renewed or new tags must be purchased. The cost is \$14 for a one-year tag, \$42 for a three-year tag or \$140 for a permanent tag with all proceeds going to fund the Medina County Animal Shelter. Licenses may be purchased online at [www.medinacountyauditor.org/licenses](http://www.medinacountyauditor.org/licenses), at satellite stations throughout the county or at the auditor's office. Licensing your dog is a state law and fines are levied for untagged dogs. The dog tag is a dog's best chance of being reunited with his family should they get lost.

Four other fourth-graders from Medina County were also honored for their outstanding essays. They received prize packages as well as dog license numbers two through five for their dogs. Read the winning essays here: [www.medinacountyauditor.org](http://www.medinacountyauditor.org).

The winners are:

2 <sup>nd</sup> :	Kayli Angus Dog: Kujo Cloverleaf Elementary Teacher: Karen Byers	4 <sup>th</sup> :	Lena Riffle Dog: Titan Waite Elementary School, Medina Teacher: Megan Stayer
3 <sup>rd</sup> :	Eddie Casciano Dog: Fiona Memorial Elementary, Brunswick Teacher: Miss Bierman	5 <sup>th</sup> :	Kylie Sibits Dog: Elsa Huntington Elementary, Brunswick Teacher: Michelle Slosier