



Paw Prints

Newsletter of the Brown County Humane Society

July 2009

FREE

Too Many Pets, Not Enough Homes

We've heard it so many times that the phrase seems to have lost its impact. But is it true here in Brown County? How could that be true and yet the humane society has a 91% Out Alive rate?

Is it true here? - - On a recent Friday in June, the shelter staff counted the number of cats (just cats, not dogs) in the shelter. The count that morning was 143--but throughout the day another 30 cats were surrendered to the shelter. Thirty cats in one day! *Holy moly!* Yes, there is definitely a pet overpopulation issue here in Brown County.

How does the pet population in the county compare to other communities? It seems logical that the problem might not be as severe here since the BCHS has managed a 91% Out Alive rate while other shelters are languishing with 50% or lower Out Alive rates. Perhaps other communities have a bigger pet population problem than Brown County.

That's what we set out to examine. What exactly is pet overpopulation? How does our pet population compare to other counties?

Results of these queries were as much a surprise to those of us deeply involved with animal sheltering as it probably will be to you.

What we found was shocking – **Brown County is the very WORST** of all other Indiana counties we compared ourselves to as far as the number of homeless pets per human population. The chart below illustrates that Brown County receives significantly more pets than

any surrounding county in relation to the number of people in the county.

What's truly amazing about this is that we are able to attain such a high Out Alive rate while dealing with far more animals than other shelters. Although we know what some of the other shelters' Out Alive rates are we chose not to publish that information. It is a sensitive issue and we strive to work closely with neighboring shelters. Suffice it to say that Brown County's is the highest. Keeping that high Out Alive rate with the incredible number of animals coming in to the shelter is labor and resource intensive.

We dream about what it would be like to receive ¼ the number of pets we currently get. Life would be so much easier. Our staff and volunteers would be much less stressed. We would have time to actually walk every dog every day. We could spend quality time with each and every cat. We could do more community outreach programs. We could rehabilitate pets with behavior and medical problems. The list goes on and on about how much better life would be if the number of incoming animals was more manageable.

The Humane Society is forming a closer partnership with the Brown County Animal Control Commission to find ways to reduce the pet overpopulation. We hope to use both a carrot and a stick approach. Other communities, especially those in Northeast US, where the dog population is under control, have paved the way for us to follow. Various strategies are involved, but the answer is obvious: **Pet overpopulation will decrease if Spay and Neuter is accessible and affordable.**

Although for many years we have helped people with a financial need to spay/neuter their pets, we need to do even more. We need to make it so easy and so affordable that **no one has an excuse to not spay and neuter.** We need to help make it socially acceptable to have a pet altered (the carrot). We need to make sure that those who allow their pets to breed and are responsible for bringing unwanted litters into the world pay the price for letting their animals breed. It needs to be more painful to *not* spay/neuter than it is to spay/neuter (the stick).

You can help. **Tell your local County Commissioners and Council that you support a county-wide spay/neuter program.**

Keep an eye on our website, www.bchumane.org for more information as this program develops.

Community Service Award

The Brown County Rotary Club recently honored Jane Weatherford, President of the Brown County Humane Society, with its coveted Community Service award. This award is presented to a non-Rotarian who provides outstanding volunteer service to Brown County. Jane's hard work to help homeless animals was recognized as being an important part of the great community that is Brown County. This award validates the important place animals have in our lives and reinforces the valuable service our humane society provides to the community.

Many thanks to Jane for her hard work, and to the Rotary Club for recognizing her contribution to the community.

Locality	# Pets Entering Shelter per 1000 People	Out Alive Rate
Brown Co.	97	91 %
Switzerland Co.	61	NA
Bartholomew Co.	48	NA
Monroe Co.	39	NA
Johnson Co.	26	NA
United States	24	50 %

Upcoming Events

A fun way to show your support of the shelter is to participate in our fundraising events:

- Sept. 12-13, 2009 – Puppies & Pumpkins at the Art Gallery
- Sept. 18-20, 2009 – Barn Sale at the BCHS barn
- Nov. 14, 2009 - Chocolate Walk in downtown Nashville

The Brown County Humane Society, 128 South SR 135, Nashville, IN 47448

812-988-7362

www.bchumane.org

Open 12-5 M,W,F,Sa,Su



Meet the Staff

Sherry Lane joined the staff at the Brown County Humane Society animal shelter two years ago. In addition to working at the shelter Sherry is a bartender and server at Smith's Row in Columbus. She is the proud mom of two grown sons and a grandmom to three grandchildren. Sherry is also the proud parent of two adopted pit bulls, Little Pickles and Luther, and one lucky Rottweiler named Violet. In her home live seven fat, happy cats and five more cats share the barn with her horses and chickens (but not with the mice!!). Horses are Sherry's true passion. Sherry was born in Indiana, but later moved to California where she lived for 20 years breeding, training, raising and providing injury care to Arabian horses. She returned to Indiana to raise her children. Caring for her animals and working two jobs keeps Sherry busy, but she always makes time for foster animals - kittens and cats, and sometimes dogs. Sherry is known at the shelter for always being the voice of the frightened and abused animals. Sherry's dedication to homeless pets is one of the reasons our shelter is able to keep our euthanasia rate so low.

~~ IN LOVING MEMORY OF~~

Ali – Maureen Thomas & Jeffery Taylor, Jim & Judy Reichert
Roma – Rich & Sally Greeno, Pat & Kendra Loyal
Bernard Greeno – James and Judith Huber
D O G - Maureen Thomas & Jeffery Taylor, Pat & Kendra Loyal, Judy & Jim Reichert
Elizabeth Perry – Barbara Zieg, Richard Zieg
Glenn Taylor – J. Howard & Linda Pratt
Patty Nolting – Jackie & Bill Phillips
Watson & Paisley – Barbara & Carl Lunde
Sudesh – Pat & Kendra Loyal
Tanner & Ozzie – the Wingers
Hobbes – Tamar Kaner
Remy – Bernie Ringwald
Freckles – Robert & Donna Ormiston
Hershey Malony – Carol Routh
Hickory Foley – Pat & Kendra Loyal
Lucky, Bentley, Ben & Tigger – Bill & Norma Jean Boren
Barbara Bowman – Keith & Kathy Kirk
Bluemey – Jennifer McClean
Madeleine Bachelier – Kathy Anne Norris
Marianne Nixon – Kimberly Zimmerman
Mary Lou Russell – Keith & Kathy Kirk
Mary Phelps – Kris & Brigitte Terrell, Bev Bishop, Tom & Regina Adkins
Bubba – Marge Cook
Robert Montgomery – Mary Jane Richards
Sugar Olinger – Darrel & Janet Kramer
Sonny Bono – Loren & Georgia Cannaday
Zoe – Maureen Thomas & Jeffery Taylor

~~ IN LOVING MEMORY OF~~

Ryan Nichter

Columbus Youth Hockey	James Rhoades
Kathy Anderson	Bradley Bennett
Carl Koontz	David & Laura Haiderer
Experience Technology	Lewis & Sharon Shrader
Ruth Jarrett	Jeffrey & Kathy Hamilton
Nancy Reidy	Meredith & Vivian Nichter
Richard & Ruth Johnson	David & Michelle Nichter
Mark & Julie Tovey	Mike & Barbara Yarnell
Jean Bandos	Brown Hill Nursery
Peter & Alice Leonard	Dennis & Monica Parr
Sherry Lamb	Keith Kelly
John & Jean Nichter	Karen & Greg Nichter
Oak & Christine Hardy	Mary Ann Grogg
Joseph Loughrey	Steve & Angel Schroer
John & Gertrude McGovern	Jim Baker
Garry & Julie Beasley	Jenny Johnson
Overhead Door of Columbus	Nancy Conner
Ryan & Gayanne Ellis	SueTannebaum,
Hanner Financial Services, Inc.	Patrick & Cheryl Shine

To make a memorial donation, please send a check along with your name and the name of the person or pet you want to honor to: **Brown County Humane Society, 18 Redbud Lane, Nashville, IN 47448**

~~ IN HONOR OF~~

Jeanne Turner – Julia Rose
Lady – Thomas & Caolyn Jackson
Pat & Kendra Loyal – Kathryn Richardson
Wanda Jones – Red & Mike Nastoff

~~ IN LOVING MEMORY OF~~

John Grunwald & faithful dog Indy

Ute & Lynn Coyne
David & Beth Mathers
J. Michael & Barbara Walker
Richard & Margaret Frisbie
Shingu Shoko, Ltd
Amy Zore
Victoria Zore
Thiesing Veneer Co., Inc.
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Richard & Barbara Bonebrake
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Columbia Forest Products
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Amos-Hill Associates, Inc.
C.C. & Val Kilpatrick
Robert & Ann Grindstaff
Pike Lumber Company, Inc.
Renaissance Specialty Veneer Products, Inc.
Per & Carol Kalstrup
Yeswood A/S International
Xiaobo Paula Wu
M. Bohlke Veneer Corp
Indiana Veneers
Bradford Forest Products
Jesus & Charmaine Dapena
Stanley & Elaine Hagstrom
National Hardwood Lumber Assoc.
General Woods & Veneers Ltd.
Jack & Linda Hedlund
Vijay & Padmaja Reddy
Edwards S. Kocjancic Inc.
American Forest & Paper Assoc
Hardwood Plywood and Veneer Assoc



Board of Directors

Jane Weatherford – President Agnes Unger – Secretary
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The BCHS is a community resource dedicated to promoting animal welfare. We provide temporary shelter to pets in need and promote adoption into permanent, loving homes. We support and promote spaying and neutering to eliminate pet overpopulation. We advocate compassionate care and respect for animals through public education.