



# Paw Prints

Newsletter of the Brown County Humane Society

July 2010

FREE

## S.P.O.T. – Serving Pets Outreach Team

### Update

The seed was planted nearly 10 years ago when a few humane society board and staff members learned of a mobile community outreach program, Training Wheels®, in rural upstate New York. Several volunteers attended workshops devoted to the concept and kept the idea alive, just waiting for the right circumstances to exist to create a similar program in Brown County. It all came together in 2009 when:

- A bighearted animal welfare partner, Rescue Farm, donated a used van to us.
- The Brown County Community Foundation believed in the idea and through a generous grant provided supplies for the program.
- Local philanthropist, Howard Hughes, looking for a way to help the humane society solve the problem of pet overpopulation at its core, helped us create a business plan and then generously offered a matching funds initiative.
- Volunteer, Sue Ann Werling, searching for a way to really make a difference for the humane society, offered to use her experience as a successful business owner to lead the effort.
- Board member, Leigh Ann Hoffacker, wanting a job that would use her extensive skills in animal welfare, accepted the position of SPOT program manager.

After those important pieces came together SPOT was off and running and has produced outstanding results.



**Crates Ready for a Spay/Neuter Day**

### S.P.O.T.'s Accomplishments in Six Months

# of spay/neuter events	21
# public-owned pets altered	500
# SPOT volunteers	40
# Brown County residents visited	200
Lbs of pet food donated to needy families	3000
# straw bales given to outside pets	193
# enclosures erected to free dogs from chains	3
# pets re-homed through SPOT	42
# community events attended	7
# presentations given to community groups	3
# dog houses provided to outside dogs	5

Although spay/neuter and reducing pet overpopulation is a key SPOT focus, our outreach efforts have multiple goals:

- We also work with people to help keep their pets in their home instead of bringing them to the shelter
- If families have temporarily come on to hard times, we supply pet food
- We provide behavior training tips to help pets stay with their families
- When folks realize they have more pets than they can manage, we are there to help
- We serve as a clearinghouse for pet supplies by accepting used dog houses, crates, etc. and providing them to others who need them

Our fundraising efforts for SPOT have been extensive. We held a phone-a-thon on four evenings in May and called more than 350 humane society donors and adopters. The response was wonderful! Spending money on this public outreach program is the best use of our resources.

**As the number of pets in our county decreases, so will the number of pets coming in to the shelter.**

We need to continue operating at this level of success, if we are to help transform Brown County from having 4 times the national average of abandoned pets to a community that is a national leader in its humanitarian treatment of pets.

## New Leadership at the Humane Society

At the April annual meeting, Rebecca Robertson was elected as the Brown County Humane Society's new President. Rebecca's family has been deeply rooted in Brown County for several generations. She is a life-long resident of Brown County. After graduating from Brown County High School, Rebecca went on to Indiana University where she graduated with a double major in English and Political Science. Rebecca works for RR Donnelley, a Chicago-based printing company, as an Employee Relations Manager. She has served on several nonprofit boards in Jackson, Jennings and Shelby counties. Rebecca joined the Humane Society board of directors in June 2008. Rebecca and her husband Galen are owned by two cats named Francesca and Max and they "share" a dog with Rebecca's parents who live nearby. They also have a miniature horse farm and currently have nine minis. When Rebecca is not working or caring for her pets she enjoys gardening, boating, reading and any outdoor activities.

Others serving as Officers for the 2010-2011 period are Agnes Unger, Vice President; Greg Bennett, Secretary; and Sallianne Zody as Treasurer.

## Let Them Be Free

*It is a bright, sunny day, the birds are singing, and a slight breeze rustles the grass. Your ears perk up when you hear children's voices laughing and realize that they are playing in the yard close to where you are standing. Since you are a "kid" too, only eight years old in dog years, you are excited to go join in the fun. You take off in anticipation, but you have gone only a few steps when, suddenly, you are jerked backwards so violently that you lose your footing and fall. You look around in shock thinking, "What was that?" Then you remember all too well – you can't go play with them because you're stuck here, on a 15-foot chain connected to a stake in the ground. The ground around you is only dirt, the grass long ago worn away by your enthusiasm and desire to interact with the family that loves you.*

### **They do still love you, right?**

*You are pretty sure they loved you only a few months ago. When you came home with them, the kids played with you for hours a day, sometimes hugging and squeezing you until you thought you might burst. But, that was okay, you*

*didn't mind, you were just happy to be there, with them, your new family. You tried really hard to make them happy, licking them with kisses, bringing them things like shoes and socks that you thought they might need, jumping on them as you tried to hug them back. As hard as you tried, though, it seemed like they played with you less and less—until one day, they put you out here by yourself, and things were never the same after that.*

*Now you only see them once or twice a day when they bring you food and water, and that's only for a few minutes at a time. If only you could figure out what you had done wrong, maybe you could make them happy again, and they would pay attention to you.*

Seeing the world through the eyes of a dog confined to a chain 24 hours a day is pretty bleak; yet, **there are many dogs in our community who are destined to live out their days without ever being taken off their chain.** As pack animals, dogs have been bred for thousands of years to form a strong attachment to a human family. An otherwise friendly and happy dog, when kept in solitary confinement, often becomes resentful, neurotic, anxious, and aggressive. Studies show that an isolated, chained dog is almost three times more likely to bite a person than a dog that is not permanently confined to a chain. In fact, in 2009, more than one quarter of all of the reported dog attacks in the U.S. took place while the dog was still attached to a chain. Permanently chaining a dog is not only detrimental to the dog's well-being, it increases the potential danger for humans who come into contact with the dog. This is especially true for children as they may attempt to pet or play with an aggressive chained dog. If the dog were free, he or she would often run from the child, but in the absence of this option, the dog attacks the child.

The Brown County Humane Society has the solution. Through our SPOT program and support from generous, caring citizens, we are reaching out to members of our community who would like to give their pets some freedom but do not have the resources to make this possible. In addition, we support legislation that would end the cruel practice of permanent dog chaining. **Being free to run and play with loved ones, even if it's only for a few hours per day, can make a big difference in the life and temperament of a dog.** In the end, it will result, not only in a happier, healthier dog, but also in a safer, healthier community.

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~~**

**Dr. James Brester** – John & June Dever  
**Jane Weatherford** – Susan Moore  
**Pat Loyal's Birthday** – David & Kathy Cuppy

**~~ IN LOVING MEMORY ~~**

**Maggie Mae** – Susan Ahbe  
**Clara Bunn** – Betty Weatherford  
**Hugh Jones** – Jean Jones  
**Patty Nolting** – Bill & Jackie Phillips  
**Ray Brant** – John & Adella Wood  
**John & Marilyn Shepler** – Charley & Margel Knowles  
**Mike West** – Richard & Kate Haggard  
**Buzz Settles** – Glenn & Marilyn Mcatee  
**Judy Schnur** – Brenda & Frank Zody  
**Russell Robbins** – Donald & Marcia Moore  
**Sascha Boylan** – Eric Gaylord  
**Hannah, Comet, Halley & Barn Kitty** – Mary Jane Richards  
**Jake Ridenour** – Pat & Kendra Loyal  
**Lightening** - Kimberly Zimmerman  
**NEB** – Pat & Kendra Loyal  
**Pedro, the parrot** – Pat & Kendra Loyal  
**Auri** – Pat & Kendra Loyal  
**Josh** –Pat & Kendra Loyal  
**Raven** – Pat & Kendra Loyal  
**Vanessa** – Pat & Kendra Loyal  
**William** – Pat & Kendra Loyal  
**Sami Ahbe** – Pat & Kendra Loyal  
**Augi** – Ray & Doris Jones

**~IN LOVING MEMORY of John Ison~**



Gene & Carol Schnyder  
Janet Houghtelin  
Bill & Linda Wilson  
Cheryl McDonald  
David & Sharon Hobson  
Leonard & Carolyn Sweet  
Lewis Malamed  
Charles & Marcia Johnson  
Paul & Yvonne Frenkewich  
Harold & Kay Harrell  
Dina Krieg

**~ IN LOVING MEMORY of  
Jeremy McQuery~**

Kenneth Houser  
Hills O' Brown Realty  
Christine Beach  
Michael & Jaydene Laros

**~ IN LOVING MEMORY of  
Regan Forest~**

John & Adella Wood  
Marianne Ackerson  
Paul & Ora Beth Cesarini  
John & Donna Foose

**~~ IN LOVING MEMORY of Roxie~~**

Michael & Heather Newton  
Marjorie Cook  
Darrel & Janet Kramer

~~~~~  
**Until one has loved an animal, a part of  
one's soul remains unawakened.**

*- by Anatole France*



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## Meet Our Staff

**Heidi Duncan** has a life-long passion of helping animals. She's volunteered at various animal shelters for over 15 years. After she and her husband, Devon, moved to Brown County from Arizona in 1996 and got settled into their new community, Heidi began volunteering at the BCHS shelter. She even worked here briefly, about nine years ago, before being injured in a car accident. Heidi is happy to be back helping the animals who end up in our care. Heidi also works part time at Jeepers Miniatures in Nashville and helps with her husband's automotive repair business. Heidi's hobbies include working in stained glass and singing.



**Heidi and shelter kitty, Clarisse**



**BCHS MISSION:** *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.*

### **Board of Directors**

*Rebecca Robertson – President*

*Agnes Unger – Vice President*

*Greg Bennett – Secretary;*

*Sallianne Zody - Treasurer*

*Vicki Bennett, Linda Moeller, Marcia Moore, Anna O'Neill,*

*Judy Stewart, Jeanne Turner, Betty Weatherford, Jane*

*Weatherford, Sue Ann Werling*

## **2010 BCHS Events**

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

- Aug 27-29 – Barn Sale at Shelter Barn
- Sep 11-12 – Puppies & Pumpkins at Art Gallery
- Nov 13 – Chocolate Walk in Nashville
- Nov 19 – Appreciation Event at Art Gallery
- Dec 19 – Open House at Shelter