



# Paw Prints

Newsletter of the Brown County Humane Society

Oct 2009

FREE

## LOST DOG

This is the poster we all hate to see—or even worse, put up ourselves. Those hours spent searching and waiting seem like weeks. You hope that someone will find your beloved family member, but sometimes—here's where the wait gets even longer—your dog had no collar or tags.

The first step, call us! Many people will take a collarless dog to our shelter or call Animal Control. Others will see no collar and assume the dog has no home and will take it in to keep. And then other people ignore the lost pet and hope it finds its way home.

Ironically, while planning this article, the sweetest 2-year-old male Beagle—without a collar and tags—came wandering across my path. I took him to the shelter, where he is patiently waiting for his owner to come find him. But, like most animals that come through our doors with no collar, tags or microchip, what is the Humane Society to do? We can only hope an owner comes forward to claim his pet. Unfortunately, that doesn't happen often enough.

**Dog Return to Owner Stats:**  
**National Average = 16%**  
**Brown County = 13%.**

There is such an easy preventative to this heartache. We all need to put collars and tags on our pets. A simple collar with your phone number written in permanent marker is a quick—and cheap—solution. And there are so many stores that offer tag-making machines for only a few dollars. Think about how quickly a person can read the tag and call you to let you know your dog is safe.

But we all know how collars can break or slip off. An alternate solution is microchipping.

## WHAT IS MICROCHIPPING?

A microchip is a small transponder, about the size of a grain of rice, that is inserted under the skin with a needle. It has a number on it that can be read by scanners in both shelters and veterinary offices. That number is matched in a computer database to

the owner name and phone number. A quick scan, a quick call, and your dog is home again.

It costs \$15 at BCHS to microchip your dog. What you pay for is a microchip certificate with the microchip info, the dog's info, the microchip, insertion of the microchip (which takes about 20 seconds to put in) and a microchip tag. This also includes registration in our computer at the shelter. You can pay an additional \$18.50 to the microchip company (AVID) to register the chip with them.

## HOW IT WORKS

When someone finds your animal, they take it to the vet or to the shelter to be scanned. If there, the microchip number comes up and they call the microchip company who sold the microchip. The company keeps a record of all of the places they sold chips to. If the chip is not registered with them, they will give out the contact info of the place they sold the chip to, such as BCHS. If the chip is registered, they pull up the contact info and give it directly to the finder. Registration cuts out the shelter as the middle man. The shelter is not a 24/7 operation, but the microchip company is. If the shelter is closed, there may be a delay in getting your animal returned to you. If the chip is registered with the company, there will not be a delay, as the company will have the owner's information registered in their system.

## LOST CAT

It's not only dogs that need to be microchipped. Cats are known wanderers. It's their curious nature that keeps them on the go. And, as we all know, cats are also notorious for pulling off their collars. Microchipping is the answer. This past July we received 100 cats—and only 1 was returned to its owner. How sad is that? And there's no reason for it.

**Cat Return to Owner Stats:**  
**SAD SAD SAD**  
**National Average = 2%**  
**Brown County = 2%**

## PROS AND CONS OF MICROCHIPPING

*Pros:* It's a fast and painless procedure, so there is no need for an anesthetic. It can be done at BCHS or other shelters, as well as at your vet's office. Because of the tiny size, the microchip does not bother the animals. Incredibly, it is a 1-time only procedure that lasts 75 years, and cannot be dislodged or tampered with (collars and tags can be removed.)

*Cons:* Microchipping is more expensive than a collar and tags, costing \$15 at BCHS plus another \$18.50 to register the chip in your name. Microchips are not standardized yet. There are a couple of different registries for microchip scanners. And many people don't realize they should take found pets to their vet or shelter to be scanned. But most importantly, when people move and forget to update their contact info, the microchip becomes useless.

**With collars, tags and microchips, owners are reunited with their beloved pets so much faster.**

## THEY REALLY WORK!

A man and his family were visiting Brown County and their dog, Rocky, jumped out of the car window. A year later Rocky showed up at our shelter. We were able to reunite him with his family because he was microchipped. A happy ending. We've had several microchipping success stories over the years—and would like to see a lot more!

**Please have your dog and cat microchipped, as well as providing them with a collar and tags.**

## Upcoming Events

A fun way to show your support of homeless animals is to participate in our fundraising events:

- Nov. 14, 2009 - Chocolate Walk in downtown Nashville
- Nov. 20, 2009 - Appreciation Event at the Art Gallery
- Feb. 14, 2010 - Chocolate! Chocolate!

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

Dianne Steinmetz began working at the shelter in September of 2008. Prior to joining the BCHS staff, Dianne worked for 7 years as a Veterinary Technician in Indianapolis at Michigan Road Animal Hospital and for 4 years as a Certified Surgical Technologist at St. Vincent Hospital. Dianne has been the proud mom of three wolf hybrids, whom she raised from bottle babies at 13 weeks old. She currently has one spunky pug named Chloe, who she adopted from our shelter. She also has a cat (Miss Kitty), a 17-year-old Cocker/Chow mix, Amy, who is one of the best dogs she's ever had, and a Husky named Cyprus, from Husky Rescue, who is an escape artist. When Dianne isn't figuring out new ways to keep Cyprus from escaping from her yard, she is raising chickens and tending a big garden. A few years back, Dianne studied music at Indiana University and grew to love this area. After traveling all over the Midwest, she has decided that Brown County is just the place to be!

## Brown County Community Foundation Partners with the Humane Society

Thanks to a generous grant from the **Brown County Community Foundation**, the Brown County Humane Society will be implementing a mobile outreach program. Utilizing a van, our Mobile Outreach Team will be visiting and working with residents throughout Brown County, to help people improve their lives with their pets. A wide variety of services will be offered. Among these, we will donate straw for doghouses to keep animals warm, provide emergency supplies of pet food to families in need, and offer advice and training to those who would like to take their dogs off of chains but feel the dog's behavior won't allow for that. We will visit community groups, such as senior citizens, to offer assistance with pet-related issues. **Our objective is to take the shelter to the community.** We hope that the Outreach Van will become an instantly recognizable and welcome vehicle in the county, sort of like the ice cream truck of an earlier era. Be on the lookout as our van travels around the county helping pets and people in need.

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 ~~

**Dave & Marta's Anniversary** – Kathy & David Cuppy

**Marcia Moore** – Patti Fleetwood

**Sallianne Zody** – James Moore, Jay & Ellen Carter, John Davis

**Marjorie Tissot** – Roger & Marjorie Woodbury

### ~~ IN LOVING MEMORY OF ~~

**Gertie** – Nancy Nixon

**"Lyla" Smith** – James & Judith Huber

**"Sugar" Oliver** – James and Judith Huber

**Donna Satler** – Pamela Ann Cox-Smith

**Elizabeth Perry** – Annella Hamilton

**Jimmy Brock** – Sharlene Wozniak & Eric Whitlock

**Kate Comiskey** – Steven & Nancy Comiskey

**Marge Overmyer** – Kimberly Zimmerman

**Mary Phelps** – Earl & Sherry Richhart

**"Shadow" Unger** – Jane Weatherford

**Buddy** – Stephen & Trudy Calvert

### ~~ IN LOVING MEMORY OF ~~

#### John Shepler

Gary & Joyce Clark

Nancy Schlangen

Charley & Margel Knowles

Edward Furlow

Wayne & Helen McKeehan

Jane Weatherford

Ruth Hoskins

Daniel & Kitty Burkhart

Judith Bates

Wible Hiner

Agnes Unger

Donald & Marcia Moore

### ~~ IN LOVING MEMORY OF ~~

#### Barry Swift

Jeffrey & Rhea Ellen Boley

Liana Franklin

Gary & Ann Schepper

Brown County Recorders Office

Karen Zody

Glenn & Marilyn McAtee

John & Sara Walbridge

Brown County Court House

Mike & Judy Ford

Lars Halvorsen

William & Kathy Wilson

Sue Whitman

Salt Creek Golf Course

#### Bob Nixon

James & Diane Day

Ralph & Marijane Litz

Woodland Lake Property Owners Association

Margaret Ebberts

#### Shirley Cummins Tranberg

Thomas & Gloria Carollo

Salt Creek Golf Resort

Darrell & Evelyn Kent

Thomas & Sylvia Valler

#### Carol Charon

Cambridge Square Apartments

Ray & Doris Jones

Sal & Karen Elkott

#### Harry Snow

Michael Hughes

Dale Busse



## Board of Directors

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*Turner, Betty Weatherford, Adam Young*

*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.*