

Shelter News

Puppies, puppies, puppies! Kittens, kittens, kittens! We've had so many of them this year! As I write this, there are 3 litters of puppies and three litters of kittens for a total for 41 babies in our shelter waiting for homes. That's 41 more good homes we'll need to somehow find, just because 6 people failed to spay their pets. And it's not just pups and kittens we're getting in every day, but adult pets, too. From January through August, 874 pets have come through our doors. It looks like '04 will set a new record for the most animals we've cared for at our shelter in any single year. Looks like the pet overpopulation problem is still getting worse. Now you, our members, already know the importance of spaying and neutering pets. So we ask you to please help us spread the word: tell your friends, neighbors, family, and coworkers how important it is. Tell them it is nearly impossible to find homes for all these pets and that we all need to do what we can to reduce the number being born.

New Manager Hired

In August we hired a new shelter manager, Sandi Nichols. Sandi comes to us with extensive experience in the animal welfare field. She's worked in veterinary hospitals and with animal control organizations in Texas; in animal control for the city of Indianapolis; and with the Johnson County Animal Shelter.

Sandi is supported by a terrific staff including Nikki Simmons, Christina Hen-

"An Evening of Fine Art & Fine Wine"



Sponsored by
Salt Creek Golf Retreat

Saturday, October 2 *Domestic & Imported Wines*

At the
Brown County Art Gallery *Entertainment*
Hotels d'oeuvres

Admission \$12

Tickets may be purchased
at the door or in advance from:

Tri-Kappas • Salt Creek Golf Resort Clubhouse • Humane Society
Shelter • BC Convention & Visitors Bureau • Wild Hair Salon • BC
Antique Mall

Proceeds benefit Tri Kappa sorority & Brown County Humane Society

erson, Bethany Fulps, and Jaime Robbins. Stop by the shelter and meet this fine group of hard working, dedicated, animal lovers.

Oldies But Goodies

Many of our older animals end up staying in the shelter too long. There's nothing "wrong" with them—they are perfectly healthy, loving animals—but because they aren't bouncy, frolicking, youngsters, they just don't attract much attention.

So in June we tried to level the playing field a bit by reducing the adoption fee for our "experienced" pets (those 5 years and older) from \$75 to \$35.

These pets are a real bargain because they have already been spayed or neutered, vaccinated, wormed and microchipped.

We are hoping that this reduction in the adoption fee will encourage people to consider the merits of an older pet. Like the

fact that, for many of them, someone else has already done the hard work of house training and teaching them good "indoor" manners; and that many of the older dogs and cats are quite content to act like unique couch pillows or attractive rugs as they snooze for a good part of the day. Larger, lawn-ornament sized dogs are also available.



Committees at Work !

Teachers' Pets

Since our last newsletter, Education committee members have participated in the Helmsburg Fair, the county fair, the Real World Reality Store, the Spring Blossom parade, and "Chicago" at the Fig Tree coffee house.

The committee also donated 6 books on pet-related topics to the Brown County library, and has once again sent a free year's subscription to *Kind News*, a monthly newspaper about caring for pets, to every 1st, 4th, & 6th grade classroom in Brown County. Committee members are also posting pictures of our available shelter pets at area stores.

Adventures in Fundraising

Our fundraising committee folks continue to stay *very* busy, too, averaging about one major event per month. The pace is exhausting but necessary; their efforts make it possible for us to keep taking care of the ever-growing number of homeless animals that come into our shelter.

Upcoming events include:

①A HUGE yard sale at the shelter the morning of Saturday, Sept. 25. For more information or to donate items, please contact Debbie Matz at 988-1710.

②Then, from 1-3 PM on the same day as the yard sale, a microchip clinic will be held at the shelter, too. If you'd like to get your dog or cat microchipped, the cost will be \$10.

③A brand new fundraiser will be held on Saturday, Oct. 2 from 6-8 PM at the Brown County Art Gallery when the BCHS and Tri-Kappa sorority will co-host a Wine Tasting. Several wines will be available for tasting along with tasty hot and cold hors d'oeuvres. Tickets are \$12 and may be purchased at the shelter or at the door.

④On the last weekend in September we will be parking cars at the County Office Building. If you have friends coming to Nashville for the fall experience, please send them our way. The \$ will go to a good cause, and it sure beats circling town for an hour looking for parking!

⑤And finally, in November, we will have our annual Xmas Pet Portrait day. Professional photographers donate their time and talents to getting that perfect picture of you and your pet. You could use yours to make your seasonal greeting cards extra special this year! The price is a bargain and the pictures are precious. For more information, look for the ad in the *Democrat* just before Thanksgiving time.

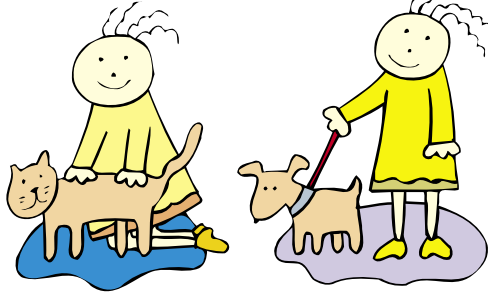
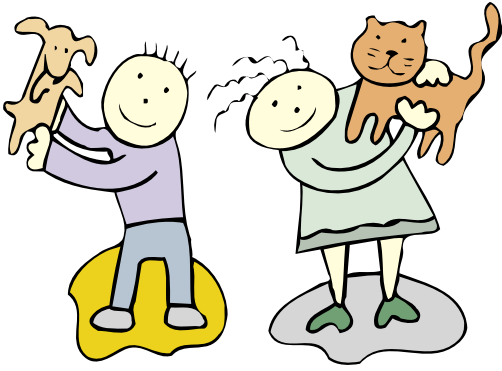
Organizing Volunteers

Over the summer Amanda Smith, an IU-PUI graduate student in Philanthropic Studies, did an internship with us working on developing our Volunteer Program. She did a thorough job of researching our needs, then developed a volunteer manual tailored just for us.

We'd like to thank Amanda for all her hard work, and ask that you keep on the lookout for folks who might want to do volunteer work for us. You'll find details about how to volunteer on the back page of this (tiny) newsletter.



VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!



The last time you visited an animal shelter, did you find yourself wondering, “How long do the animals have to stay in their cages? Do all the dogs get walked enough? How can the people here find time to play with all these dogs and cats? With all the phones ringing, people coming and going, constant cleaning chores, and caring for animals who need medical treatments, how can the staff have time to do it all?”

Good questions. And the answer to all of them is: *YOU*.

Yes you and others like you, people who care about animal welfare and care about their community, people who volunteer to help their local humane society.

The Brown County Humane Society *depends* on its VOLUNTEERS to keep it all going.

There are some age restrictions, but for the most part anyone can apply to volunteer for us. We welcome people who love animals; who have special skills, like tradesmen; who are thinking about careers in the veterinary sciences—those who want to

The Answer Is “YOU!”

help however they can, by walking a dog, passing out treats, helping people pick out just the right pet, helping with paperwork, phones, speaking to civic groups and school children, or helping us raise funds to help the homeless animals in Brown County.

Won't you please consider joining our volunteers? Just call Marcia DeBock, our Volunteer Coordinator, at 812-988-6910 to talk about donating a few hours each week, or each month, to help the BCHS. Or stop by the shelter and fill out an application. In return we offer you education, fulfillment, community. Oh, and quality time with lots of wonderful, sweet dogs and cats who are just aching for your attention.

Brown County Humane Society
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A locally owned and operated, full-service
human resource provider helping people
succeed in work and in business.



Shelter Success Story:

“KATYDID” COMES HOME

She was such a frail little creature.

When she was brought to the BCHS Shelter, she was immediately fostered because she was so vulnerable and needy. You could count every rib in her body. She had obviously recently given birth to a litter of puppies—which were nowhere to be found. Her skin was raw and bleeding from all the flea bites and flea treatments she'd had before she was brought to the shelter. Her dark eyes were always round and wide, filled with...what? Fear? Physical pain? Longing? I put my hands out to her and she didn't shy away. Not fear, then. She didn't wince when I picked her up, so it wasn't physical pain either. I hugged her to my chest and she wrapped her front legs around my neck and buried her head under my chin. Ah, then it was longing!

On the first day she lived with us, we put her on a leash and walked her. She never once needed the slack in the six-foot leash because she was always right at our ankles. So we put the leash away. Each day she

gained a bit of confidence and would walk a bit farther away from us. But if we were ever out of her sight she panicked, searching frantically for us, and could only be comforted by being held and tucking her head under a chin. And that pain was still in her eyes.

For months we called her the Velcro Dog. She constantly begged to be held and when we tried to put her back down, she hung on for dear life. Never more than a few steps behind us, she cried when she was left alone. The other dogs in our family accepted her more than she accepted them. It wasn't that she didn't like them, but she needed, no, craved human contact more. And that pain in her eyes was a constant reminder that she didn't feel like part of our family—but like it was only temporary. As if she feared that the care, attention and love she so needed would disappear at any moment. Again.

After awhile we accepted that we would always have a highly dependent dog who suffered from separation anxiety. And constantly the pleading eyes that begged Please love me! It makes one feel very important to be so needed, but it is also achingly sad to realize that sweet, innocent creatures like Katy are so often ignored, abandoned, or mistreated to an emotional breaking point.

Always she was with us. Then one day, we suddenly realized Katydid was not nearby. Panic! Did we accidentally let her slip outdoors alone? What could have happened? A quick search and we found her—curled up with one of the other dogs!

“Oh Katy, thank goodness! It's okay honey. You can come with me!” She raised her head to look at me with sleepy, contented, pain-free eyes, then snuggled up closer to her bedmate, and went back to sleep. Katy was home.

I like to think of that as the day she finally realized that unconditional love really can work both ways.