

## Welcome Fall!

It's hard to believe that we're already heading into the last few months of 2013. The spring and summer months were a busy time for the Brown County Humane Society (BCHS). Our adoption numbers are looking good, our partnerships are stronger than ever, our SPOT program has reached a special milestone, and we've had some great events so far (with more to come!). We can only imagine what the rest of the year will bring.

## We're All in This Together

The Brown County Humane Society has been nationally recognized for the work that we've done to achieve success in a rural community. For the 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive year the BCHS will present a workshop at the Best Friends No More Homeless Pets Conference in October. Earlier this year a presentation about S.P.O.T. was given at the Humane Society of the United States conference. One thing we know for sure is that our success depends on the help of our partners, donors, and volunteers.

## Partnerships

Over the years, we've developed strong partnerships with several groups that make it possible for us to find even more homes for our animals. Some enable us to have more space to show cats or dogs, others help us transport animals to other shelters for adoption, and still others give us resources to make improvements at the shelter.

This year, we've had assistance getting through an always busy kitten season because of additional adoption space made available to us. **Petco in Bloomington** has space for us to show cats or kittens year round. **Kritzer's Feed Store in Gnow Bone** has been showcasing kittens for us and the employees have done a fantastic job caring for and promoting the kittens. With the assistance of these 2 businesses, we were able to adopt out over 25 kittens in August alone.

Other partnerships help us to find more homes for the dogs. Every Saturday we hold an off-site adoption event at the **PetSmart in Greenwood**, which has been very successful. We recently had a day where every dog we took was adopted. Another very successful partnership is with **Canine Express**, which transports dogs from BCHS to other shelters in the country for adoption. With their help, we've been able to find homes for more than 40 dogs so far this year.

## Donors

BCHS also receives assistance in other ways. Recently, **The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS)** provided BCHS with a grant in order for our SPOT program to mentor other local communities as they set up their own successful

## New Program – Behavior & Manners Training

BCHS started a behavior and manners training program for shelter dogs. Sean Medina, our new behavior coordinator, works with dogs to teach them manners and obedience, as well as behavior modification to help prepare them for adoption.

Using positive reinforcement, Sean teaches basic manners, such as "sit," "down," "come" and "stay." He also helps dogs modify any negative behavior. The training can even help nervous dogs overcome their fear so that they begin to enjoy attention, rather than shy away from it.

The program also provides resources after the dogs have been adopted. Adopters can call the shelter with questions and Sean can help with the transition of a dog into its new home or provide information about local resources for further training and help.

This program helps make dogs more adoptable and reduces incidences of dogs being returned to the shelter. Sean will soon be working with cats, too.

spay/neuter programs (more details below). In addition, the **Brown County Community Foundation** provided a grant, which will enable us to dry up our field and install a play area for the dogs. This makes for a healthier environment for both pets and people and the dogs will greatly benefit from more exercise and socialization.

Of course, we receive much needed donations from individuals and small groups as well. These come in all forms: money, tickets purchased to our events, supplies for the shelter, food and toys for the animals, blankets for the dogs, handmade quilts for the cats. We even had a few groups who used their summer projects to either raise money or buy supplies for the shelter. We are continually gratified (but not surprised) by the generosity of the people of Brown County and beyond.

## Volunteers

We've said it before, and we'll say it again: we absolutely could not do the work we do without our volunteers. We are very fortunate to have an excellent staff managing our day-to-day operations and care of the animals, but it truly takes a village to handle all of the work that goes into finding great homes for our cats and dogs. Our volunteers serve on the Board of Directors, work on special committees, staff events, provide medical care, foster animals, manage our social media, design and update our web site, walk the dogs, socialize with the cats, clean cages, mow our grass, help with adoptions, create marketing materials, take photos, and much, much more. Last year, our volunteers gave over 15,000 hours of their time. In fact, the Chocolate Walk alone requires over 70 volunteers each year, and our Barn Sale this year had 24 volunteers giving 611 hours of time.

If you're interested in volunteering in any capacity, or in learning more about the volunteer program, our volunteer coordinator, Valerie Foley can match you with the perfect job. Even a few hours a week can help our homeless pets. Email Valerie at [bchumanevolunteer@gmail.com](mailto:bchumanevolunteer@gmail.com) for information.



## S.P.O.T. Highlights

Through 2013, S.P.O.T. has continued to serve Brown County by providing low-cost spay/neuter, food assistance and helping those who have pets. Should you have an interest in volunteering or donating supplies to the S.P.O.T. program, please call 812-703-0797.

The SPOT Spay/Neuter program hit a major milestone in September, providing its 3,000th surgery since launching in 2010. Due to this success, the Humane Society of the United States recently awarded the SPOT program a \$12,000 grant to help fund and mentor spay/neuter programs in surrounding counties. These funds will help provide assistance toward addressing the pet overpopulation problem that exists in these counties. (Pictured at right: Sue Ann Werling presents Kelly Buddridge with a gift basket for being the 3,000 SPOT client).



Pictured at left are Evan and Sue Ann Werling, matching donors for the 2013 SPOT Phoneathon, which raised funds to help support the Brown County Humane Society's SPOT program, whose efforts include its county-wide, annual Rabies Clinic and its low-cost spay/neuter program that is directed at eliminating pet overpopulation in Brown County. Jeanne Skillman and Diane Pettiner pictured are part of the SPOT Team, accepting the generous donation from the Werlings.

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, P.O. Box 746, Nashville, IN 47448**

We also have a **Memorial page on our website**, where you can honor your pet by submitting up to 5 photos, as well as up to 500 words of text, telling their story. We will create a custom webpage to honor your pet. Each memorial webpage can be created for a \$50 donation and will stay on our website for one year from the date it is published. Please visit our website for more details: [www.bchumane.org](http://www.bchumane.org)

**In Honor of Judy Stewart**

Rob and Anna Gartner

**In Honor of Gladys**

Cheryl Rapp

**In Honor of Evan Werling**

Michael and Deborah Farabaugh

**In Honor of Jane Weatherford**

Judy and Jim Reichert

**In Honor of Sue Ann Werling**

Rotary Club of Brown County

**In Memory of Alfiel**

Linda McQueary

**In Memory of Bailey**

Vern and Phyllis Sindlinger

**In Memory of Alvin Black**

Debbie Cascardo  
Edward Schwering

**In Memory of Brandy**

Darlene Jaehnke

**In Memory of Wanda Bruner**

Nancy Morrow  
Vicki Nebes  
Ruth Williams  
Themen & Constance Danielson  
Wishard Hospital Pathology  
Brown County Garden Club  
Carl and Julia Ottenweller

**In Memory of Bubba**

Richard Lahann

**In Memory of Frank Bunge**

Kenneth and Wanda Bunge

**In Memory of Buster**

Phillip Smith and Sue Ahbe

**In Memory of Cassie**

Sharon Lunde

**In Memory of Cassie**

Rochelle Banziger

**In Memory of Charley, Buster,  
Jackson, and Narfertiti**

Meredith Woodard

**In Memory of Betty Clayton**

Mark and Janet Lawrence

**In Memory of Cocoa**

Cheryl Rapp

**In Memory of Bailey Jaxon Cook**

Christina Cook

**In Memory of David Dewey**

Betty Markley

**In Memory of Fluff**

Kelly and Chuck McPheeters

**In Memory of Don Going**

Suzanne Kelly

**In Memory of Hannah**

Christopher Flook

**In Memory of Jaz**

Hills O' Brown Realty, Inc.

**In Memory of May Elkins Jester**

Hills O' Brown Vacation Rentals

**In Memory of Lily**

Pat and Kendra Loyal

**In Memory of Mandy**

Phillip Smith and Sue Ahbe  
Nancy Winkley  
Gary and Nancy Parker

**In Memory of Karen O'Hara**

Louis Mundy

**In Memory of Ann Paoletti**

Sue Kraszewski

**In Memory of Pearl**

Pat and Kendra Loyal

**In Memory of Raisin**

Phillip Smith and Sue Ahbe  
Pat and Kendra Loyal

**In Memory of Mary Seibert**

Mary Smith Memorial Ride

**In Memory of Steve Spaugh,  
Honey Girl and Mr. Furley**

Pat and Kendra Loyal

**In Memory of Trixie**

Pat and Kendra Loyal

**In Memory of Dr. Ted and  
Gunner Zaharako**

Gary and Christine Eickleberry

Thank you for your generous support!

# BCHS Events

It costs over \$20,000 a month to run our shelter. Our fundraisers are one of our main sources of income. They wouldn't be successful without your participation and help with spreading the word. We're always trying to mix the popular events from years past with new ideas, so if you have any suggestions for events you'd like to see, please let us know. Here are some highlights from the year so far:

## **Dawg Gone Walk & Fiesta**

Over 75 dogs participated in this year's walk, raising approximately \$20,000 for the shelter. There were contests, such as Best Tail Wag and Best Ears and games like the Hot Dog Bob (what dog doesn't like bobbing for a hot dog in a pool of water?). There were even pampering stations, information booths, and shopping.

## **Artists for Animal**

One new event this year was Artists for Animals, a juried show, sale and live auction of animal related paintings, sculptures, photographs and other art works by local, regional and international artists. This was a joint effort between BCHS and Pets Alive Spay/Neuter Clinic and over 60 people were in attendance.

## **Hogs for Hounds Poker Run**

Another new event this year was Hogs for Hounds, a motorcycle poker run through the hills of Brown County. We had 24 bikes participating and the riders said it was all great fun.

## **Barn Sale**

Of course, one of our biggest events every year is our barn sale, and this year was no different. The weather could not have been more perfect and the sale was a huge success, raising \$18,450, a new record. Our donors provided us with wonderful treasures, including a piano, horse saddles, antiques, and collectibles. Shoppers came from all over Central Indiana, and many shopped more than once.

Our final event of the year is our annual **Chocolate Walk**. This is our most popular event every year, with tickets almost always selling out early. See the enclosed flyer for information on how to get your tickets now.

## **You Can Help With Adoptions – “Like” Us on Facebook**

There are many reasons why it can take time to find a cat a home. Some have to overcome their shyness, some have an injury or illness that needs treatment, and some, no matter how great, still have a hard time standing out from all of the other cats. We have started a new campaign specifically focussed on finding homes for our long-timers, those cats that have been in the shelter for over 300 days.

You can help us find homes for the cats by liking our Facebook page and sharing their stories. One recent success was Vera, a beautiful and sweet kitty who was at the shelter for more than 400 days. One day after Vera's story was posted on Facebook, the information was shared with over 3,000 people and Vera was in her new home by the end of the week.

Visit [www.facebook.com/bchumane](http://www.facebook.com/bchumane) to like our page. In addition to learning about the animals up for adoption, you'll see stories about the cats and dogs who've been adopted, updates on former residents, information about upcoming events and more.

### **Shelter Staff**

Shelter Manager – Patty Forister  
Volunteer Coordinator – Valerie Foley  
Behavior Coordinator – Sean Medina  
SPOT Coordinator – Red Nastoff  
Staff - Brian Blessing, Chelsea Burcham,  
Nick Childress, Jackie Jones, Brandon  
Shoobridge, Anna Young

### **Board of Directors**

President – Sue Ann Werling  
Vice President – Julie Ness  
Secretary – Rebecca Robertson  
Treasurer – Jane Weatherford  
Directors - Greg Bennett , Vicki Bennett, Ed  
Fleming, Casey Kersey, Linda Moeller,  
Marcia Moore, Jeanne Skillman, Ingrid  
Skoog

[www.bchumane.org](http://www.bchumane.org)

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