

Happy 2014!

The Brown County Humane Society (BCHS) wishes you a Happy New Year. This is the time when we naturally look back on the highlights of the previous year, and look forward to everything planned for the year ahead. It's also an opportunity for us to let you know how your support helped save lives and to anticipate the many ways in which we'll interact in the coming months.

2013 Adoptions

The most important focus of BCHS is finding homes for the cats and dogs in our care. 2013 was a fabulous year for adoptions. We had a total of 727 animals come into the shelter and 709 have left. Of those 372 were adopted at the shelter, 134 were adopted at one of our off-site adoption locations (Kritzer's Feed Store, PetCo and PetSmart), 113 were reunited with their owners and 60 were transferred to other rescue groups where they found homes. That resulted in a fantastic 95% out alive rate, compared to the national average of about 50%. This is the 4th consecutive year that the BCHS has had an Out Alive rate greater than 95%. This great success is only possible due your support - the wonderful community of people that donate their time and money to the shelter.

We are always thrilled when one of our "guests" goes to their forever home, but there are some stories that are especially heartwarming.



Missy: Missy arrived at BCHS in terrible shape, with a badly injured back leg needing amputation, and a litter of kittens needing care. Missy took great care of her kittens, which were all adopted, but she was very shy and tentative. She spent several months in foster and at the shelter, learning to run and climb and trust. Eventually, a family came wanting to adopt her, but they had several cats and dogs already and we felt Missy would do better in a quiet home. But this family didn't give up on Missy, and after more conversations, they adopted her. With their care, she's doing fantastic, and even likes to cuddle.

Vera: Vera arrived at the shelter as a kitten, and spent over a year waiting for a home. She was a sweet and friendly cat, but kept getting passed by. Living at the shelter was the only life she knew. We decided to put her story on Facebook and begin a focused campaign to get her a home. Our fans shared Vera's story, and the next day a woman came in and adopted her. Vera got a great home, and our fans proved the power of community support.



Arthur: Arthur was a repeat guest at BCHS. Animals come back to BCHS for various reasons, often because a guardian can no longer care for them. Imagine finding a home, then having to come back to the shelter again. Although Arthur was a shelter favorite, (even the other cats loved him!), as a senior cat, it was more difficult to find him a home. This once affectionate, happy cat became depressed and withdrawn. One day a woman came in looking for a cat for her young daughter. Arthur climbed right into her lap and she fell in love. Her daughter came to meet him, and he went home as a very special birthday present.

Toby: Toby was a sweet dog, and a lot of people came in to meet with him. But Toby had some inappropriate behavior that made it challenging to find a home. He jumped on people. He showed guarding behavior toward his food and his toys. He was excitable around other dogs. Our behavior coordinator and volunteers spent a lot of time working with Toby: teaching him how to be calm, how to play well with other dogs, not to guard his food. It took time, but eventually Toby was able to go to his forever home, armed with the behavioral tools he needed to be a positive member of the family.



Spanky: Spanky lived a life of luxury. His guardian made him a special breakfast every morning and lavished him with attention. They were constant companions. Then Spanky's guardian passed away and Spanky was taken to live with family, who left him chained outside all of the time. Eventually, he was surrendered to BCHS. When he arrived, Spanky just didn't care about life. He had no enthusiasm, no energy, no joy. Staff and volunteers worked for months to show him love and affection, to give him time in

puppy playgroups, to train him in basic manners. Spanky eventually transformed back into the loving dog he'd been. But still no one came to adopt him. Spanky watched 413 dogs come to the shelter and leave for new homes during his time at the shelter. Volunteers and staff went all-out to promote Spanky. Finally, after a story was posted on Facebook and shared by our fans, after 374 days, Spanky was adopted. He once again provides constant companionship to a loving family.

Some of our guests find their new homes quickly, and some take more time, but we don't give up on any of them. We are committed to finding good homes for them all and you can help. The last page of this newsletter is a flyer created specifically to find one of our "long-term" cats a home. Please post this flyer and spread the word to all you know. **Let's get Luna home!**

2013 Roundup

2013 was a busy year for BCHS. In addition to the regular work of the shelter, we held a number of special events (some new), added a new program (reading at the library) and even made some improvements to the shelter property. Our staff members were busy as well: one got married, one had a baby, one had a heart attack, and one is getting ready to begin work with the Peace Corps in a few months. Through it all, they continued to provide excellent care for all of the animals.

In 2013, we held several special events. There were the traditional favorites, featuring the Dawg Gone Walk & Fiesta in May and the Chocolate Walk in November, as well as a couple of new events, like Artists for Animals and Hogs for Hounds. Our aim is to provide an opportunity for the community to interact and have fun, while also providing support for the shelter. We always welcome suggestions for different types of events, so if you have any ideas you'd like to share, we'd love to hear them.

Here's a rundown of the events from this past year:

- **Chocolate Chocolate:** Our phantasmagoria of chocolate offerings saw 200 people in attendance and raised about \$4,000. This event was made possible with the help of 25 volunteers.
- **An Artful Paws:** Artwork from the Howard Hughes estate was donated to the BCHS and sold at silent auction, raising about \$10,000. Howard was a wonderful friend of the BCHS and is dearly missed.
- **Dawg Gone Walk & Fiesta:** Our annual outdoor event for dogs and their companions raised over \$23,000 and there were 80 dogs in attendance. This event was made possible with the help of 35 volunteers.
- **Artists for Animals:** 125 people attended this joint event supporting BCHS and Pets Alive. \$2,500 was raised for BCHS and we were able to introduce our work to a lot of new people.
- **Hogs for Hounds:** 25 bikes were registered for this poker run event through Brown County, raising \$1,000 with the help of 10 volunteers.
- **Barn Sale:** Over three days, 2013's barn sale raised \$18,000. This took the tremendous effort of 25 volunteers working 611 hours.
- **Chocolate Walk:** With people in attendance from all over Indiana and beyond, the Chocolate Walk raised just shy of \$30,000. 1250 tickets were sold, 33 Nashville shops generously participated, and it wouldn't have been possible without the help of 80 volunteers.

BCHS Accomplishments Nationally Recognized

For the 3rd year in a row, the BCHS was invited to speak at national animal welfare conferences. In May of 2013, a presentation was given at the Humane Society of the United States conference discussing the S.P.O.T. program. In October of 2013, a presentation on how to reach No Kill in a Rural Community was given at the Best Friends No More Homeless Pets Conference.

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.*

S.P.O.T. Highlights

As we look back to 2013, the S.P.O.T. program hit a milestone by providing its 3,000th surgery, since its launch in 2010. This accomplishment was recognized by our State Representative Eric Koch, who joined us in celebrating our Volunteer Appreciation Event in September. S.P.O.T. will continue to serve Brown County in 2014 by providing low-cost spay/neuter, and food or other assistance for those who need help with their pets. Should you have an interest in volunteering or donating supplies to the S.P.O.T. program, please call 812-703-0797.

We are thrilled with the progress we made in 2013. Listed below are the stats for the year.

Spay/Neuter	Home Visits
657 Spay/Neuter of public owned pets	195 Visits to Brown County Residents
26 Spay/Neuter days	10,103 pounds of pet food delivered to needy families
10 Feral Cat Colonies Sterilized	115 bales of straw distributed to outdoor pets
3000+ volunteer hours!	

One of the original goals of the S.P.O.T. program was to reduce the number of unwanted pets coming into the shelter. **The results are amazing.** In 2009, the year before S.P.O.T. was implemented, the shelter cared for 1420 pets. Last year almost 50% fewer pets came to the shelter. In our eyes S.P.O.T. is a roaring success!

Others have recognized the importance of these achievements and in recognition, the Humane Society of the United States provided a grant which will allow us to mentor other local communities in setting up their own successful spay/neuter programs.

Sit, Stay, Read

In conjunction with the Brown County Public Library, a program was started in 2013 called Sit, Stay, Read. This is an opportunity for kids to practice their reading skills by reading to one of two certified therapy dogs, Mocha and Daisy June. Children can improve their reading, enjoy good books, and spend time with the dogs in a relaxed, friendly atmosphere. Programs like this have been shown to help children who might normally be too shy to read aloud. The dogs and the kids love it! We're very excited by these opportunities that let us partner with other organizations to help the community through animals. The program continues at the library once a month.



Home Improvements

For any of you who have been to the shelter, you know that we're fortunate to have a large field between the shelter and the barn. The unfortunate part is that the land has been prone to frequent floods and drainage problems. In 2013 we received a grant from the Brown County Community Foundation which will allow us to dry out the field and create a play area for the dogs. Work has already started, beginning with regrading the land. It's going to be a great gift for the dogs, for the volunteers who walk them and for potential adopters to meet them.

Thanks Be Given

2013 also saw the continued support of our many donors, fans, volunteers, and supporters. Our new Amazon.com wishlist allows people to send supplies to the shelter and the response was wonderful. Our Facebook fans have grown to over 2,800 and they have rallied around our cats and dogs by sharing posts and helping us spread the word. Our donors pulled together several times to send extra money for emergencies. Our community generously donated space, time, money, and items for events. Our staff members worked under often challenging conditions with grace and compassion. And our volunteers...our volunteers are the backbone of the organization, giving their time, their talent, and their tenacity to make everything possible.

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

In Honor of Baci & Bella

Sue Holmes

**In Honor of Daniel Bradway, Barbara
Bradway & Patricia Trevino**

Keith Bradway

In Honor of David Sindlinger's Birthday

Verne & Phyllis Sindlinger
James & Judith Huber

In Honor of Jennifer's Birthday

Steven Dreyer

In Honor of Marcia Moore & Sue Ahbe

Michele Burlew

In Honor of Marsha Wood

Brenda Waddell

In Honor of Roger Sisson's Marriage

Laura Kao

In Honor of Simon Brown

John Collins

In Honor of Sue Ann & Evan Werling

Jenny Johnson

In Honor of Winnie, Olive, Abner & Lucy

James & Betsy More

In Memory of Anita Platte

James & Betsy More

In Memory of Bob More

James & Betsy More

In Memory of Kathy Kirk

C.E. & Janice Willis

In Memory of Buddy Ferro

Cynthia Temple

In Memory of Cassie & Spencer

Carl & Barb Lunde

In Memory of Dan Smitley

Carole Page

In Memory of Dr. Paul Page

Carl Epler

**In Memory of Frederick & Mary Jane
Lorenz**

Lorenz Family Charitable Trust

In Memory of Fritz

Janet Wilzbacher

In Memory Henry Sindlinger

Mark & Virginia Thompson

In Memory of Jason

Jerry Keller
Harry & Marilyn McKinney

Allison McKinney

Tonda Schaefer

Janet Mathis

Dale & Mary Marsh

John Knoke

In Memory of Karen O'Hara

Craig & Mari Anne O'Hara

In Memory of Kate Comiskey

Steven & Nancy Comiskey

In Memory of Ken Tuxhorn

Ray Coffey

Michael Coffey

Jeffrey Maudlin

FIGGAZIGA

John Davis

Annella Hamilton

In Memory of Leon Rose

Galen & Rebecca Robertson

Darrell & Evelyn Kent

Debbie Beasley & Terry Cummins

Doug & Maggie Kent

In Memory of Mary Seibert

Carl Lowry

Angela Gioe

In Memory of Mugsy

Pat & Kendra Loyal

In Memory of Norman Howard

Nancy Nicholson

In Memory of Tracey Shepherd

Raymond Baker

In Memory Zoe

Paula Trzepacz & Robert Baker

In Memory of Bob Johnson

Thomas & Sharon Sullivan

In Memory of Alvin Black

Thomas & Sharon Sullivan

In Memory of Kendall Kritzer

Marilyn Rudd



Looking Ahead

As long as there are homeless animals, there's more work to be done and challenges to face. As with most non-profits, resources are limited. We work hard to use our donors' contributions wisely. Our staff and volunteers continue to educate themselves on best practices in shelter management, animal care, non-profit organization and other important issues. We will be expanding our reach into other communities to find even more homes for the BCHS animals, and to develop new partnerships with businesses and organizations. We will continue to advocate on behalf of the animals in our community and in our state. We will educate, and partner with, the community regarding animal welfare and spay/neuter.

In short, **with your help**, we will do everything we can to continue to support the animals that end up in the shelter and those in our community that need assistance.

As a start, we have a number of events already scheduled for the year, so here's a chance to mark your calendars. We'll be providing more information about each event as the time nears. First up will be our Chocolate! Chocolate! event on February 9th. Tickets are currently on sale, and we're looking for help in a few ways: homemade chocolate goodies for the event, specialty items for the silent auction, and hungry people with a sweet tooth to attend the event. Visit www.bchumane.org for more information.

February 9:	Chocolate! Chocolate!
April 9:	Annual Meeting
May 18:	Dawg Gone Walk & Fiesta
August 14-16:	Barn Sale
November 8:	Chocolate Walk
December 14:	Open House

A top priority for the new year is to find forever families for some of our long-time guests. We know that the right homes are out there for these wonderful animals. Through all of our efforts, let's do what we can to get them home as soon as possible.

Aggie: Aggie came to the shelter as a kitten and has been there longer than anyone. More than a year and a half. She's always been a strong-willed, funny, affectionate, playful cat. Her only problem is she doesn't like other cats. Whenever she's out around the others, she climbs as high as she can and spends her day sleeping at the top of the cat tree, so people often miss her when they visit. But when she's alone, Aggie loves to play. She'll crawl under a blanket to play hide and seek. She'll roll on her back and let you scratch her head. She'll do almost anything for a cat treat. Unfortunately, Aggie doesn't get to come out on her own very often. She's becoming sad and withdrawn and is losing her spirit. This beautiful cat is watching kitten after cat find their new home while she waits. Please help us spread the word about the amazing Aggie. We know that the right person is out there, waiting for Aggie to become the cat queen she's meant to be.



Keep in Touch

We're excited about 2014 and we hope you are, too. It's important for us to get your feedback, to stay connected, and to know how we can help. There are a number of ways in which you can keep in touch:

- Become a friend on our Facebook page
- Sign up on our website to receive our email newsletter
- Visit the shelter
- Leave a review on our website or Facebook page

Thank you for your support. We look forward to seeing you in 2014!

Shelter Staff

Shelter Manager: Patty Forister

*Kennel Staff: Brian Blessing, Nick Childress, Jackie Jones,
Brandon Shoobridge, Anna Young*

Behavior Coordinator: Sean Medina

Volunteer Coordinator: Valerie Foley

SPOT Coordinator: Red Nastoff

Board of Directors

Sue Ann Werling – President; Julie Ness – Vice President

Rebecca Robertson – Secretary; Jane Weatherford – Treasurer

Greg Bennet, Vicki Bennett, Ed Fleming, Casey Kersey,

Linda Moeller, Marcia Moore, Jeanne Skillman, Ingrid Skoog



LUNA

Hello. My name is Luna, like the moon. My fur is dark as night, but I brighten up every room I'm in. I've been at the shelter for over a year and, although the people are really friendly, I'd love to have a home of my own. It's been hard to find the right family, though. You see, I sometimes test positive for feline leukemia (FeLV), which means my immune system might be weak. It's easy to spread FeLV to other cats (but not people or other animals), so I can't be with other cats who don't have it. But sometimes I test negative, so I can't be with other cats who do have FeLV either.

I don't mind having to be in a home on my own. I think it would be fun to get all of the attention. It might be fun to have a dog friend, too. But until I get to go home, I'll have to stay in my kitty condo by myself... I wouldn't want to get another cat sick. Some days it gets pretty lonely.

If I had a home, I would spend my days rolling on the floor, gazing into your eyes, asking for tummy rubs, sitting in the sun, watching the birds, and taking long naps. If you'd like, I could sleep next to you at night. And I have an excellent purr. Top rate, I'm told. If you come and visit me, I could show you!

SPREAD THE WORD Let's Get Luna Home!

The Brown County Humane Society
128 South State Road 135, Nashville, IN 47448
812-988-9376 www.bchumane.org