



# Paw Prints

*Newsletter of the Brown County Humane Society*

May 2014      FREE

## At Long Last, Spring!

The frost has finally lifted, the flowers have pushed their way out of the ground in all their colors, the buds on the trees have burst, and we're all breathing a sigh of relief that the long, cold winter is finally over. This time of year brings a wonderful feeling of rebirth, of possibilities yet to be realized, and new challenges to conquer. This is how we approach every day at the Brown County Humane Society (BCHS), but there's something special about this time of year. We focus on moving forward, building on our successes, and continuing to find even more ways to help the homeless pets of Brown County.

### Renewed Purpose

Spring always means the time for our Annual Meeting and election of officers. BCHS is incredibly fortunate to have a very knowledgeable and committed board of directors. This is a true "working" board. Some of our board members put in as many as 60 hours per week just on BCHS work. Others volunteer many hours on top of full-time jobs, busy family commitments, and other volunteer work.

The Board of Directors determines the vision and goals of the organization, as well as providing oversight of all of the various programs. Board members bring crucial expertise in areas such as human resources, finance, and animal welfare. They lead the committees that provide the foundation for our fundraising efforts, our marketing, resource management, facilities maintenance and improvements. All of this is done on a completely volunteer basis.

Just because we've got a great group of leaders doesn't mean we're not always looking for more, though. We always look for people who are willing to share their knowledge and help us continue to move the organization forward, perhaps becoming one of the leaders of the future. If you're interested in learning more about how you can share your own expertise and experience on one of our committees, contact our President, Sue Ann at [sawerling@gmail.com](mailto:sawerling@gmail.com).

Last year, some of our board members attended a Nonprofit Board Certificate Program conducted by Dr. Al Lyons from Indiana University's nonprofit faculty at SPEA. The program covered topics such as finances and fundraising, legal responsibilities and liabilities, roles and responsibilities, and how to be a good board member.

We felt that the program was so beneficial that we wanted the rest of the board to have the chance to take it. We invited Dr. Lyons to present the session for us here in Nashville, and then also invited board members from other community nonprofits to attend as well. The more we all know, the better we'll be able to serve our community.

### Teaching Old Dogs New Tricks

We're always looking for more ways to help our homeless pets find their forever homes. Last year, we focused on providing additional behavioral and enrichment training for the dogs while they are at the shelter. Using positive reinforcement, our staff and volunteers can work with dogs who have behavioral challenges, increasing

their chances of adoption. The training also provides enrichment for the dogs, most of whom enjoy the one-on-one time (and the treats).

The program has been very successful so far. It's even made a difference ***in the shelter***. In the past, potential adopters would walk into the kennels and be greeted by an ear-splitting noise level of barking bouncing off the walls. Now, a staff member or volunteer can walk through the kennel and "treat for silence" and most of the dogs will remain calm, silent, and focused, giving both dogs and people a much better experience. We've even been using training on some of the under-socialized cats, to help them learn trust.

To build on this success, we've started a new program called Camp Canine. A shelter dog is enrolled in the program and trained for basic manners by volunteer "Camp Counselors," who learn to do the training from our Behavior Coordinator, Sean. The volunteers spend at least one hour per week training enrolled dogs. Dogs can be enrolled for \$25 by owners that relinquish them, or by donors or volunteers who take a shine to a dog but can't adopt it. If you'd like to sponsor a dog, just contact the shelter at 812-988-7362.



*Sean training Ginger*

### **Using Technology to Find Our Furry Friends**

Another success we're building upon is the use of micro-chipping. With micro-chipping, a tiny chip is injected into the animal, between the shoulder blades. The chip corresponds to a number, which is associated with the contact information for the owner. If a lost pet is brought to a shelter, or a veterinarian, the animal can be scanned to see if a chip is present. If it is, the associated contact information is used to get in touch with the owner.

Last year, we were able to reunite 113 pets with their owners, many times because the pet had been micro-chipped. We now implant micro-chips in every cat and dog at the shelter before adoption. At our recent Rabies Clinic, we provided micro-chipping for just \$5 and over 50 pets were micro-chipped for the first time. We also offer the service at the shelter for \$15 at any time.

We are especially working to educate people on the need to have their cats micro-chipped, as well as their dogs. So often, people assume that cats won't wander far from home. Unfortunately, we see so many friendly cats arrive at the shelter every week, obviously someone's pet, but we're unable to locate their family. Even cats that are believed to be indoor-only can escape by accident and get lost.

In Brown County, it's the law that all dogs and cats must be identified with a tag and/or a micro-chip.

### **New Partnership**

One part of our success with cat adoptions recently has been due to our partnership with Petco in Bloomington, where we usually have 3-5 cats available for adoption. Our amazingly dedicated coordinator and her team of additional volunteers put in so many hours choosing just the right cats to take from the shelter--making sure they stay healthy and well cared for, are creatively promoted, and find wonderful new homes. In one recent month, we actually had more cats adopted from the Petco location than from the shelter.

That's why we're excited to announce a new partnership with the PetSmart in Martinsville, where we are now also showing BCHS cats for adoption. This not only provides more space for us to show adoptable cats, but also gives us additional exposure to county residents. We're grateful to the management of PetSmart for asking us to be part of their store and for the help they'll provide in caring for and showing the cats for us.



## S.P.O.T. Highlights

BCHS isn't just concerned with finding homes for the homeless pets of Brown County. We're also dedicated to helping our community keep and care for the pets they already have. This is where our Serving Pets Outreach Team comes in.

So far this year, S.P.O.T. has provided the following services to Brown County residents and their pets:

- 180 Dog & cat sterilizations
- 11 Spay/neuter clinics
- 2 Feral cat colonies sterilized
- 71 Visits to Brown County residents
- 3182 Pounds of pet food distributed
- 30 Bales of straw distributed
- 1250 Volunteer hours

In April, we held our annual Rabies Clinic, where 235 pets received their yearly vaccines, 55 were micro-chipped and another 52 got their nails trimmed. Each service cost just \$5, a huge savings for pet owners. Altogether, 127 Brown County families benefited from the clinic and a total of 188 dogs and 52 cats received services. We couldn't have done this without the help of many dedicated volunteers and, especially, the work of Dr. Khalil and Dr. Medlock from Bloomington Veterinary Hospital, who volunteered their time for this great event. We also thank Brown County Emergency Management for letting us once again use their building.

In recognition of the success the S.P.O.T program has had in just a few short years, we've received two grants that are targeted to us sharing what we've learned more widely.

The first grant, from the Humane Society of the United States, helps us develop a program to mentor other local communities in setting up their own successful spay/neuter programs. We're proud to be working first with Jackson County, where we'll share our experiences and encouragement so that they, too, can reduce the number of unwanted pets entering their shelter(s) each year.

The second grant, from Bernard Foundation, is targeted at expanding our community education and assistance with feral cats and Trap-Neuter-Return.

Feral cats are cats that have lived outdoors all of their lives without human interaction. They often live in groups, called colonies (six cats or more). Because these cats are not socialized to humans, they are not candidates for adoption. If left unsterilized, these cats will continue to breed, producing thousands of new kittens each year.

With TNR, cats are humanely trapped, taken to a vet to be spayed/neutered, given rabies vaccines, ear-tipped, and returned to their original location, where they are ideally supervised by a caregiver. Any friendly cats, or kittens who are young enough to still be socialized, may be taken to the shelter for adoption.



*Ear-tipped cat*

**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. helps with TNR by loaning out humane traps and giving instructions on how to use them, assisting with trapping if necessary, providing low-cost spay/neuter services, helping to educate the community about TNR, and providing shelter for feral cats as a last resort. Since S.P.O.T. began in 2010, we have done TNR on over 50 colonies in Brown County.

This grant will help us to expand our assistance for feral cats and their caregivers, to educate residents on the place these cats have in our community and how they can help, and to work to end the overpopulation of cats in a humane and successful way.

Our first big step has been to create a flyer that was mailed to all Brown County residents, explaining what TNR is, how to tell the difference between a feral and a stray cat, and how S.P.O.T. can provide assistance. We are creating more educational materials for our website and will be continuing to add to the program as we go.

If you need low-cost spay/neuter, pet food or other assistance for your pets, or should you have an interest in volunteering or donating supplies to the S.P.O.T. program, please call 812-703-0797.

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## Events

Of course, it also wouldn't be spring without our annual Dawg Gone Walk & Fiesta. So many of you were with us on May 18<sup>th</sup> celebrating the dogs in our lives and seeing which dogs could out-bark, out-wag, and out-slobber the competition. Sneakers were sniffed, hot dogs were bobbed for, and costumes were paraded.

The weather was perfect and over 120 dogs came out to enjoy the day. Jesse Jayne, owned by Red Nastoff, raised the most money for the shelter and was crowned Queen of the 2014 Dawg Gone Walk & Fiesta. Tamika, owned by Terry Heeter, raised the second most in donations and was crowned Princess of the event. Keep an eye on the Brown County Democrat for the list of the winners of all the contests.

Corporate sponsors who made this event possible include: Jones Law Offices, Medical Billing Specialists, Tony Stewart Foundation, Werling Charitable Foundation and Zack's Investment Management.



*Queen Jessie Jayne*

## New Lives

As always, our primary focus is to find new forever homes for the cats and dogs in our care. We never give up, because we know that the right home is out there.

### Dutch

Now and then, an animal comes to us in need of special medical care and we have to reach out to our supporters for extra help. One recent example is Dutch, a sweet young cat who was suffering from hyperthyroidism. This is a disease usually found in older cats, and it can be pretty expensive to treat. However, Dutch is still a young boy, and the disease *can* be treated if the money is available.

We asked and, once again, you responded with immediate and overwhelming generosity. Dutch was taken for treatment and his prognosis is very good. He'll be checked again in a month and if he's doing well, he'll be available for adoption and a happy life with his forever family.



*Dutch*

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 Memory of Michael Murphy***

Jane Beaver  
Sandra Cain  
Chris & Nicole Deter  
Chris Ferry  
Margie Ison  
James & Nancy Jurgen  
Ryan & Kimberly Matkins  
Donna Reardon

***In Memory of Louise Johnson***

Larry Harding  
Daniel & Jeanette Hughes  
Steven & Carol Johnson  
Robert & Shirl Malina  
Thomas & Loretta McMahan  
Matthew Meyer  
Thomas & Sharon Sullivan

***In Memory of Robert & Louise Johnson***

David & Joyce Johnson  
John & Joy Sowinski

***In Memory of Judy Feinstein***

Vincent Bray  
Zivile Norvilaite-Petersen

*In Memory of Rex – Amy Beck*

*In Memory of Ike – Patty Forister*

*In Memory of Howard Hughes – Jan Larkin*

*In Memory of Oscar Ayres – Jan Larkin*

*In Memory of Angel Farias – Jane Farias*

*In Memory of Dean & Lisa – Alma Wooton*

*In Memory of Eric Bailey – Anna & Dwayne Bailey*

*In Memory of Ernie – Robin Parsley*

*In Memory of Hazel Carlton – Rochelle Banziger*

*In Memory of Kaiya – Phil Smith & Sue Ahbe*

*In Memory of Ken Tuxhorn – Mary Falker-Howard*

*In Memory of Larry Meyer – Donna & Stephen Stouder*

*In Memory of Patty Nolting – Bill & Jackie Phillips*

***In Memory of Eddie Jones***

Chris & Whitney Allman  
Gerald & Delores Ault  
Randy & Vickie Banister  
Charlie & Carol Bell  
Bob Brock  
Brian & Carol Brock  
Chad & Rachel Brock  
Joseph & Dana Jo Bullard  
Verdie & Wilma Campbell  
Joe & Nancy Clarke  
Larry Cooper  
Scott Cooper  
Doug & Lou Anne Denny  
Larry & Debby Eggerman  
Alfred & Mildred Fenneberg  
Curt Fenneberg  
Valerie & Donald Foley  
Bob Gallion  
Greg Hatton  
Steven & Billie Jo Jackson  
Jenny Johnson  
Julie Knott & Nancy Walter  
Steve & Teresa Kriete  
David & Shannon Moore  
Donald & Marcia Moore  
Larry & Julie Ness  
Bob & Beth Neudecker  
Mark & Peggy Norman & Hercamp Family  
Norman & Teresa Oestrike  
Jeffrey & Kimberly Ollo  
Paula, Donna, Ashley & Janet  
Leon & Christy Pottschmidt  
Jerry & Dixie Pruitt  
Greg & Alicia Reedy  
Galen & Rebecca Robertson  
Brett & Mindy Roeder  
Max & Connie Roeder  
Marshall Royalty  
Kathy & Mark Smallwood  
Harold & Dorothy Snider  
Marion & Clara Stanfield  
Jim & Barbara Stinson  
John Thomas  
Paul Vice  
Julie Vogel  
James & Sandra Wagoner  
Jane Weatherford  
Evan & Sue Ann Werling  
Tommy Williams  
Rodney & Margie Willman

*In Honor of the Drake Family – Joseph Balcerak*

*In Honor of Dr. Brester – Jan Larkin*

*In Honor of Hazel Penelope – Donna Sisson*

*In Honor of Maggie – James & Samantha Lax*

*In Honor of Nancy Carwile – Ellen Arnholter*

*In Honor of Pat & Kendra Loyal – Kathryn & Jeff Richardson*

*In Memory of Sammie Boy – Jerry & Jana Curry*

*In Memory of Magnolia – Nancy Magill*

*In Memory of Mary Seibert – Carl Lowry*

*In Memory of Mugsy – Anna Riback*

*In Memory of Olive Sullivan – Julie & Mattie Sullivan*

*In Memory of Tracey Shepherd – Corinne Whitehead*

## Going Home

In the last few months, we've had great success in finding homes for some of our longer-term residents: cats who had been with us for a year or more. Two recent examples are cats Aggie and Luna. We've talked often about both girls: Luna, the precious, gentle, FIV+ kitty; and Aggie, a fun, playful, sometimes grouchy, cat, who didn't like other cats at all. Both needed to find homes with no other cats, a tough situation when adopters who like cats often already *have* cats.

Fortunately, a wonderful supporter stepped forward to adopt Luna after seeing our promotions. Now, Luna no longer has to live out her days in a small cat condo. Instead, she can sit in the window and watch the birds, or stretch out for a nice nap in comfort. Best of all, she's getting the daily love she deserves.

Aggie spent most of her life, almost two years, at the shelter. All of the volunteers and staff knew what a great cat Aggie was but, because Aggie didn't like other cats, she'd spend her time in her condo or at the top of the cat tree, avoiding them. That made it difficult for potential adopters to meet her. Then, a new volunteer came on board. She, too, got to know what a great cat Aggie was, and decided to take her home. By the first night, Aggie had already made herself at home on the bed.



*Aggie on her new bed*

Your help in spreading the word about these precious animals is priceless. Without you sharing the posts on Facebook, handing out the flyers we send, sending your friends to the shelter if possible, our job would be so much more difficult. These three cats are just a small example of how your help enables us to continue to have a save rate over 95%. With your help, we do everything we can to save them all.

So now we ask for your help again, to find a home for a wonderful dog that needs an extra special family.

## Beauregard

Beauregard is the picture perfect example of his breed: a bloodhound, of the extra-large version. He has the pendulous ears, the droopy eyes, and the goofy personality that would make him a shoe-in for the old TV show "Hee Haw". It's hilarious to watch him play with Brandy, a little pitty mix; she runs twice as fast as Beau, but he just lopes along trying to catch her, having a great time. Beau is fantastic with other dogs and we often use him to introduce shy dogs to playgroups.



*Beauregard*

Beau's former owners absolutely loved him, but they discovered that Beau can get a bit "possessive" of his human friends. Beau needs a family that can commit to taking him to a positive reinforcement trainer and to having everyone in the family participate in training. Beau will make a great family pet with proper guidance and lot of exercise.

## Keep in Touch

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

## Shelter Staff

*Kennel Staff: Brian Blessing, Jackie Jones,  
Brandon Shoobridge, Ellen Whitty*

*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 Bennett, Ed Fleming, Marcia Moore, Jeanne Skillman,  
Ingrid Skoog.*

As always, we thank you for your support.