



Paw Prints

Brown County Humane Society
Little Shelter. Big Results.

October, 2014
FREE

Little Shelter. Big Results.

How do you define an organization? How do you boil down the essence of your work, your success, your heart? That's the question we tried to answer recently as we embarked on an effort to develop a tagline.

The purpose of a tagline is to quickly identify an organization in a way that lets the public understand who you are, what you promise to do and to set yourself apart. "A mind is a terrible thing to waste" (United Negro College Fund). "The toughest job you'll ever love" (the Peace Corps).

So who is the Brown County Humane Society? What exactly do we promise to our community and to our supporters? How are we defined by the public? What makes us stand out?

If you've ever been to the shelter, you've seen how small it is. We have no real office space. Our lobby serves as the office, cat room, meet & greet room, animal surrender room, adoption room, training room, spay/neuter drop off and pick up room. Our clinic also does duty as the lunch room and overflow dog kennel. We have one bathroom, and there's usually a dog (or two) in there. Our vans, our materials, and our event supplies are all kept at various volunteers' homes, and yet...

We've developed an excellent reputation for how the shelter is run: the cleanliness, the customer service, the care for the animals, the knowledge of the staff and volunteers, the support for the community. Our programs have reduced the number of animals entering the shelter by over 50% in five years. We've provided low-cost spay/neuter services for over 3500 animals. We no longer euthanize any healthy animals.

Our success continues to be recognized on a national level as we've been asked to share our story at several national conferences.

Our building might be little, but our impact is big.

We're the Brown County Humane Society. Little Shelter, Big Results.



Our building might be little, but our impact is big

A Vision for the Future

We talk a lot about the success we've had, because we're very proud of what we've accomplished so far. However, we know that the work isn't done, and if we pause to congratulate ourselves too long, our progress will stop. We all see a future that is even bigger and more far-reaching. There are still far too many homeless pets, in Brown County and beyond.

We're working toward a day where we have enough room to house the animals in the most comfort. Where we have space to educate and train younger volunteers so that they can take up the challenge of ending homelessness. Where we can share our successful programs with other organizations and can learn from them as well. Where we can provide more training for our shelter animals and for the public's pets. Perhaps there will be a day where we can help to alleviate the burden of other shelters by taking in some of their animals. We'll never be a BIG shelter, but there's still room for growth and, with your help, we'll be working toward that goal every day.

Just Call My Name and I'll Be There

For two nights in September, volunteers gathered at the library in Nashville, cell phones at the ready, to conduct our 2014 Phone-a-thon event. This year's event was to raise money to support our Medical Fund, which provides for care above and beyond the standard vaccines and spay/neuter surgeries that all of the shelter animals receive. This includes vet visits, surgeries, special medications, x-rays and other tests. We currently spend an average of \$1,000 a month from this fund, and it was empty.

Just as the fund was running out, we received a dog at the shelter that we named Gabby. Gabby arrived with a severely injured front leg which needed amputation. Thankfully, her surgery was successful and she was quickly back chasing toys and asking for tummy rubs. She's healed well and is ready to find her forever family, where she can share her love for many years to come.



A happy Gabby, post surgery

Every day, many shelters are faced with having to euthanize animals like Gabby because the expense of care is just too much. The Brown County Humane Society's Medical Fund provides help for pets that have treatable conditions, like Dutch, the kitty that was wasting away from hyperthyroidism, but is now healthy because of his treatment, or Missy, the three-legged kitty who is the joy of her new family's life.

For this year's Phone-a-thon, we had three generous donors who offered to match any money raised up to \$10,000. Over two nights, we called 555 people. As always, our supporters were so kind and generous. Not everyone was in a position to give, of course, but they still took the time to listen.

If you'd like to make a donation to the Medical Fund, you can go online to www.bchumane.org/donate. Be sure to put "medical fund" where it says "special instructions for this donation." Or you can mail a check to Brown County Humane Society, P.O. Box 746, Nashville, IN 47448 and put "medical fund" on the memo line.

Good Fences

We received some other wonderful support recently when the Brown County Community Foundation (BCCF) awarded us a \$2,000 grant to build a new fenced enclosure behind the shelter. Our friends from Bone Dry Waterproofing generously offered to match the BCCF grant and the enclosure went up just in time for fall weather, when the dogs (and people) love to be outside.

The new enclosure has a double gate, which allows for much safer entry and exit with the dogs. With a couple of picnic tables, we'll have an additional place for potential adopters to meet the dogs and for the dogs to exercise and have training. All of this provides opportunity for even greater adoption success.



Keep in Touch

We'd love to hear from you. Here's how you can keep in touch:

- É Become a Facebook friend -facebook.com/bchumane
- É Sign up on our website to receive our email newsletter – bchumane.org
- É Visit the shelter
- É Leave a review on our website or Facebook page

As always, we thank you for your support.

Put a Little Love in Your Heart

Just like Gabby, some of our animals need special care or extra time before they're ready to move on to their forever home. For animals that are sick or recovering, kittens and puppies that haven't yet developed a strong immune system, or animals with behaviors we're trying to monitor, the shelter may not be the best place. Sometimes, it's better to have the animal in a home environment until it's ready for adoption. This is where our foster families come in.

Without our foster families, we wouldn't be able to save as many animals. It's not just a matter of space, although that helps a lot (where else were we going to put 69 kittens?). Foster homes can provide an added level of care that just isn't possible at the shelter. A dog needing quiet and gentle exercise to recover from heartworm treatment; a feline leukemia cat that can't be let out to play with the other cats; a small dog that's just too overwhelmed by all of the noise and activity that comes at the shelter...these are all animals that would do so much better in foster care.

We have a very dedicated network of foster homes, and they would all tell you how rewarding it is to see the dogs and cats they've helped move on to their forever homes. We're always in need of new volunteers to join our foster program. Some animals just need a couple of weeks, some might need a few months of foster care.

Because the program is an extension of the shelter, we do make a home visit in order to be sure that volunteers are able to accommodate the needs of the individual animal. BCHS provides plenty of support for our foster volunteers, including regular check-ins from our coordinator and a vet tech available to answer questions or provide help if needed.

If you're interested in learning how you can become a foster family, email foster@bchumane.org.

Sit Right Down and Stay a While

Have you been interested in volunteering at the shelter, but were concerned about the physical requirements? Do you want to offer your time, but can't spend the weekly or twice-monthly time needed for many positions? We have a new volunteer program for you.

Shelter life can be difficult for a lot of animals. Not only are the surroundings unfamiliar at first, but it's a place full of noises, smells, new people, and strange animals. Getting the dogs out for regular walks makes a big difference. Providing comfortable bedding, soft music, and fun toys is helpful. But what some dogs really need is just more love and attention in order to feel safe and comfortable.

To help the dogs while they're in the shelter, we've started a new program called "Sit With Me." Volunteers come in the afternoon and spend time in a kennel with one of the dogs, talking or singing or reading (dogs love to be read to!). Or maybe they just sit quietly. They pet the dogs, or play, or give them treats. It's amazing what a difference it makes, and it teaches the dogs that being calm has its rewards. It's not so bad for the people, either!

5 Reasons to Become a Foster Home

- É **You will free up space at the shelter for more animals.** The more animals we can take in, the more we can save.
- É **You will increase an animal's chance of getting adopted.** We can learn things about the animal that will help us find the right home.
- É **You can see whether you are ready for a pet of your own.** If you're not sure you're ready to commit to a pet, this is a great way to see what it takes to be a good pet owner.
- É **You can travel more often when you have "temporary" pets.** You can schedule your foster care around your travel schedule.
- É **You will know that you are saving lives.** When you adopt an animal, you are saving a life. When you foster, you are saving many.

Because there is training and staff time involved, we do ask for a commitment of at least twice per month, but once trained, volunteers are able to come to the shelter in the afternoon whenever they have time. They choose a dog to sit with from a list put together by the shelter staff (not all dogs are appropriate for the program), then spend as much time as they have available. There's no need to sign up for a specific day or time of the week, any afternoon between 1:00 – 4:30 will do. Volunteers can spend 30 minutes or two hours, whatever they have free.

If you'd like to learn how you can volunteer for the “Sit With Me” program, email volunteer@bchumane.org. A similar program for cats is ongoing and also requires scheduled training and a specific time commitment.

Peach for Paws – Wine for a Cause

On October 4th, we gathered at the Brown County Winery in Nashville to kick off our first official company partnership, “Peach for Paws—Wine for a Cause.” The Brown County Winery is donating 10% of the sales of their new peach wine in support of our programs. It was the perfect day to relax and taste award-winning wines, play games like Toss the Dog Collar (on the wine bottle) or Pin the Tail on the Puppy (paper, of course), listen to music by Sarah Flint and Jeff Foster, and meet a few adoptable dogs.

To see how to buy the peach wine, visit the winery’s website at: www.browncountywinery.com.

We also want to thank **Bone Appetit** in Nashville for their continued support. Not only do they regularly bring items to the shelter animals, they’ve given us the use of one of their windows for a special display about the Humane Society. This gives us the opportunity to introduce BCHS to the many visitors to Nashville, to showcase our adoptable animals and upcoming events, and to educate people on how they can become involved.

Bone Appetit sells several items on our regular wish list and, of course, our dogs *love* their all-natural and gourmet special treats. We hope you’ll visit them whenever you’re in Nashville to thank them for their support. You can also shop online at www.barkinggood.com

If you know a company that might like to partner with us, contact jane@bchumane.org.

More than a Pretty Face

We all knew that Manny was a special cat. A true people cat, he was outgoing, handsome, friendly, gentle, and so sweet. We weren't surprised that he found a forever home quickly.

Little did we know, there would be much more to his story.

The young woman who adopted Manny unfortunately developed an illness that keeps her at home most of the time. Manny provides so much comfort and stability for her, he's been registered as an official emotional support animal. Now, Manny can be right at her side whenever, and wherever, she might need him.

That's a special bond we can all appreciate.



Manny, with his official ID badge

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.*

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

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| <p><i>In Memory of Randy Sadowski</i> James & Debra Skowvron Jonathon & Natalie Stavnheim Jill & Steven Stanton Scott McAlister Marianna Sadowski Clinical Solutions Patricia Moore Thomas & Jeanne Alfieri Jennifer Bailey Charles & Sally Davis Hodnet Family</p> | <p><i>In Memory of</i> Nancy Nixon – Annella Hamilton Mary Seibert – Carl Lowry Ruth Percifield – William & Virginia Percifield Kathy Kirk – CE & Janice Willis Joshua Fittz – Stephen & Sandy Fittz Gene Blocker – Pat Blocker Fern Smith – Thomas & Pamela Crawford David Hudson – PBS Contractors Carol Plank & Buddy – James & Barbara Wittwer Audi Thomas – Levi Thomas & Larry Yeager Howard Hughes & Oscar Ayres – Mark & Jan Larkin Roxy – Janet Wilzbacher Rosebud, Wolfie & Roscoe – Todd Baker & Ann McAnn Sammy Boy – Jerry & Jana Curry Sinky – Pat & Kendra Loyal Mia – Joe & Sandra Ridenour Lily – Community Closet</p> |
| <p><i>In Memory of Mo Skirvin</i> Bob & Cheryl Snyder Donald & Marcia Moore John & Beverly Todd Nancy Thomas Maureen Anderson NextGear Capital</p> | <p><i>In honor of</i> Jon & Sarah Millikan wedding – Kevin & Patricia Allison Evan & Sue Ann Werling – Jenny Johnson Sam – M. Owczarzak Maggie (Squigels) – James & Samantha Lax Dr. Mike Day – James & Judith Huber Dr. Brester – Mark & Jan Larkin Tinka – Christi Reynolds Danielle Wilcox – Steven & Suella Prosch</p> |
| <p><i>In Memory of Mary Louise Eggers</i> Kristin & Robert Todd Scott & Claudia Hein James Vandivier Dianne Vandivier Gary & Christine Eickleberry</p> | <p><i>In Memory of Mr. Wiggles & Jackie Chan</i> Verne & Phyllis Sindlinger Joe & Sandra Ridenour</p> |
| <p><i>In Memory of Hoagy</i> Verne & Phyllis Sindlinger Joe & Sandra Ridenour Dave Gore</p> | <p><i>In Memory of Mary Jo Robbins</i> Dan & Geraldine Thurman Amanda Kutoloski</p> |
| <p><i>In Memory of Jack Justus</i> Brown County YMCA John & Ann Deweese Kenneth Riggen</p> | |

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| <p><u>Staff</u> Shelter Manager: Sarah Armstrong Shelter Staff: Brian Blessing, Valerie Foley, Destiny Myers, Jackie Jones, Brandon Shoobridge Behavior Coordinator: Sean Medina SPOT Coordinator: Red Nastoff Volunteer Program: Erika Imhoof Newsletter: Erika Imhoof</p> | <p><u>Board of Directors</u> President: Sue Ann Werling Vice President: Julie Ness Secretary: Rebecca Robertson Treasurer: Jane Weatherford Directors: Greg Bennett, Ed Fleming, Marcia Moore, Jeanne Skillman, Ingrid Skoog</p> |
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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.

In the last newsletter, we introduced you to our Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) program for feral cats. If you have feral cats, our TNR program can supply you with live traps, canned food and training on how to properly trap the feral cats that are in your neighborhood. Through our low-cost spay/neuter services, we will help get them fixed and vaccinated before returning them to their home area.

Through the month of October, we will provide FREE spay/neuter services for any feral cats from Brown County.

One feral female cat can have up to 3 litters a year and as many as 18 kittens. Please help us build a healthier and safer environment for our feral cats. If you have a colony you care for, or know of a colony of feral cats, call S.P.O.T at 812-703-0797 for assistance. If you'd like to know more about feral cats and TNR, visit our website at: <http://www.bchumane.org/trap-neuter-return/>



A feral cat with the tell-tale ear tip

Also, winter is coming. If your pets need a warm shelter or straw, call S.P.O.T. to arrange a delivery of straw, or to sign up for an outdoor shelter.

All Together Now

We're very excited to introduce our new shelter manager, Sarah Armstrong. Sarah brings with her 15 years of animal welfare experience. She grew up in a county with no animal control and no humane society and realized early on the desperate need for an animal welfare community who could care for homeless animals. She and her family recently relocated to Brown County and, after working from home the past few years, she felt the desire to return to the work she loves. Sarah and her husband Tad, and their daughter Josephine, live on a farm just outside of Nashville, where they have dogs, cats, a miniature horse, chickens, turkeys, and dairy goats. They recently opened Hesitation Point Brown County Bikes in Nashville.

Help Us Find Homes for These Very Special Pets

Sometimes, for reasons we don't always understand, an animal is at the shelter much longer than average. We love having them with us, but we know they would have much better lives in their own homes. Please spread the word and help us find homes for these long-term guests.



Kiki has been at the shelter for over a year. She was given up because her owner felt like Kiki reminded her too much of her ex-boyfriend. Kiki doesn't hold a grudge, though. She is full of love and affection. Her favorite pastime is sitting on

your lap. She would love a home where she would be a single kitty with a soft bed and loving family.

Links has been at the shelter since early spring. He's a big, huggable, calm guy. He just does not "show" well in the kennel. He barks very loudly to get attention which can make him seem scary. Actually, he's a big sweetheart.

He loves to go to town to the dog bakery and get treats! Links just needs someone to take time to get to know him.

