



2017 Gratitude Report



A WORD FROM OUR DIRECTOR



As I reflect on this past year, I find myself simply in awe of what our agency has accomplished. Being an open access shelter, we are often seen as an animals' last chance for rehoming. Animals found in our after-hour depository were some of the most difficult to rehome. At one time the depository was crucial to our community. It was the space citizens could use to drop off a stray animal they found or a pet they could no longer keep yet couldn't surrender during our business hours. Sadly, more than 80% of individuals who dropped off animals didn't fill out the paperwork to accompany the animal.

We never knew where the animal came from, why they were being turned in, or even if they had bitten recently. The lack of information led to us having to house these animals through the legal hold process which ultimately delayed the evaluation process for potential placement. The most disheartening situation was those that were geriatric or extremely ill. These owners were more than likely intending to surrender their pets for euthanasia, but for whatever reason did not complete the paperwork to share those requests with us.

In early 2017, we made the decision to close our after-hours depository. Many open access shelters had already closed theirs a decade ago. We finally felt ready to follow the trend because we have field services as well as office hours to take in animals found as stray or needing rehomed. Our main goal is to provide resources for people to keep the pets in their home. When that isn't possible, we will take the animal and make the best decision possible regarding its outcome.

Jeremiah

Our cover dog

Jeremiah was chosen to represent Fort Wayne Animal Care and Control for 2017 because his story exemplifies working together to save lives. Our entire community rallied around this dog and helped him find his perfect home.

Read on to find out more about his journey and to learn how we're helping people and helping over 12,000 animals who came through our doors in 2017.



Top 3 owner
surrender reasons:
Responsibility- 374
Too Many- 358
Move- 257
We plan on working
hard to provide
educational
resources to our
community to help
with these issues.



55,878
phone calls
taken

over
2,110
hours
on phone

2,092
Animals
Returned to
Owner

Our front office staff serves as the first line of communication with citizens both in person and on the phone. They tackle many different situations from dispatching officers for aggressive dog calls to consoling citizens who have had to make the difficult decision to put their beloved animals to sleep.

They try to get as much information as possible from owners or finders to help expedite the animals' time at the shelter. Informing citizens about the resources for pets available in our area is also an important part of their job as we try to keep pets in their homes where they're already loved whenever possible.


Often, they are able to alert animal care staff when they notice an illness or injury at the time the animal is brought in to the shelter.



Our animal care staff works tirelessly to ensure the needs of the animals in our care are met. They were the first to notice something wasn't quite right with Jeremiah. They brought it to the attention of the Operations Manager who immediately began working to make him more comfortable.



Over
80 Angel
Fund Cases



3,266
In house
surgeries



1131
Community
Cats

The animal care division over sees the transfer of animals to partner shelters and rescues. The Allen County SPCA welcomed 264 dogs and 721 cats from our shelter. Whitley County Humane Society took in 9 dogs and 11 small animals from us. Our rescue partners accepted 22 cats, 190 dogs, 56 small animals and 1 farm animal. Without these partnerships we would be unable to place all of these animals through our adoption program. We love working together to save lives!

The animals in our care are given daily enrichment toys to stimulate their minds and alleviate some of the stress of being kept in a kennel. They also get potty breaks, toys, and fluffy blankets.



CENTURA

IN HOUSE VET

Our coalition partner, H.O.P.E. for Animals, has contributed to our decrease in overall intake by providing low cost spay/neuter surgeries. By having more animals sterilized in our community, we have seen a reduction in the intake of unwanted litters. We utilize them weekly for sterilizing animals going into our adoption program, but still had a bottleneck for processing more animals to be adoption ready.

We have always had contracted veterinarians that would come to the shelter and spend some time performing surgeries on a part-time basis. With us implementing the same day send home process of adoption animals, we needed to have a veterinarian full-time so there was less wait time for animals to be 'ready'.

In March of 2017, we hired Dr. Andrew Riebe who had previously volunteered for us prior to him graduating from vet school.

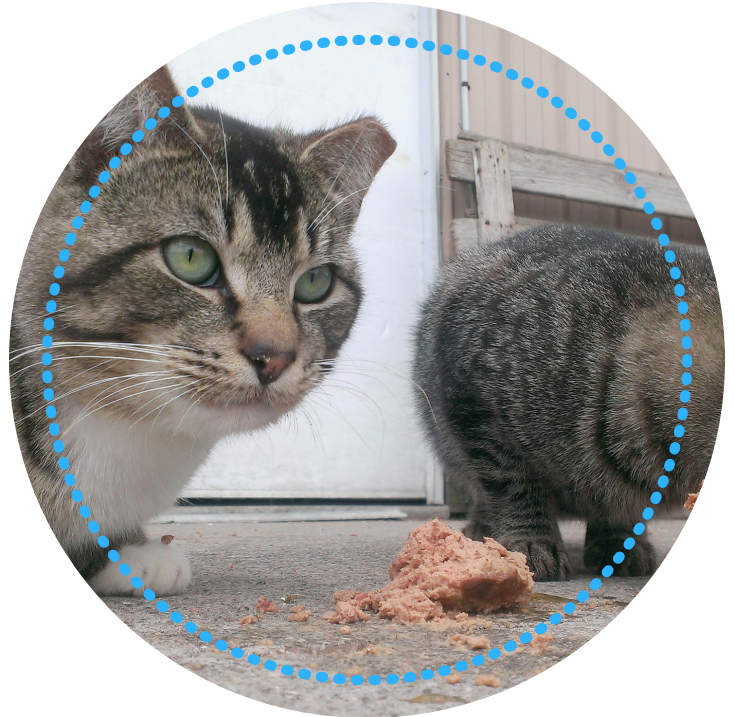
Shortly after, we hired a veterinary assistant who had worked with Dr. Riebe in private practice. Along with our dedicated surgery volunteers, our veterinarian and vet assistant have been able to get triple the amount of animals sterilized compared to 2016.

COMMUNITY CATS

2017 marked the third year for the community cat program. We along with our coalition partners, Allen County SPCA and H.O.P.E for Animals were awarded a \$60,000 grant from Best Friends to process 1,000 community cats. Not only were we successful in achieving this goal, but we doubled the number thanks to other grant dollars.

These cats were already roaming free in our community. Now they are still roaming but aren't able to produce litters. We still have our challenges with cats. There are never enough homes to place the adoptable cats.

Though we do have resources for people to work through any behavior issues with their cats, we still have 24% of our cat intake surrendered to us for reasons that can be overcome. Our top three reasons for surrendering cats are due to cost, moving, or having too many. We will continue to work towards lowering this number in 2018.



SAVING LIVES IN THE FIELD



901 bite investigations were conducted.

There were 302 animals with identification who were returned to their owner without having to come to the shelter.

Officers went on 204 rescue calls to assist in saving the lives of animals in immediate danger.

Our animal control officers work around the clock to ensure the people and animals in this community are safe. They went on over 19,500 calls in 2017, with 1,465 of those being for cruelty or neglect.

Officers attended training in evidence collection, CPR/ first aid, the dangers of confined space rescue, and safely using advanced capture methods like a net gun and tranquilizer darts (emergency use only). They even attended a training on how to safely de-contaminate animals from houses where methamphetamine had been found.

Officers volunteered in their free time to paint at safety village for Day of Caring, host end of season swims at city pools, and do the Touch a Truck Event at Ivy Tech.

We are working diligently through humane education to prevent cruelty and neglect before they occur. We're always working to help pets stay happily in their homes.

TEACHING RESPONSIBLE PET OWNERSHIP

The Education Department strives to end animal cruelty and neglect before it starts through education. They hosted 81 programs throughout the year including Animal Care Teens, Teen Service Nights, tours and other great programs.

The department also portrays our department to the public through videos and social media. Their department was heavily involved in Jeremiah's story.



Shortly after Jeremiah arrived at FWACC the Humane Education Department grabbed a camera and started following his journey to recovery. His inability to open his mouth, the surgery to repair his jaw, his long recovery and eventually finding his forever family were all documented and shared on social media.

Each video garnered attention from the media and the public. Soon Jeremiah was well-known and loved. In each video we were able to promote responsible pet ownership and ultimately find Jeremiah a loving home! Videos, like Jeremiah's, are a critical part of the Humane Education Department's mission to create more empathic and compassionate pet owners in our community. In 2017 the department created well over 50 videos.



VOLUNTEERING MAKES A DIFFERENCE



Our volunteers and fosters make a direct difference in the lives of the animals in our care. Without them, dogs like Jeremiah who took a little longer to find their perfect home would struggle with the stress of being in a kennel. Enrichment treats and playtime are invaluable to helping these animals find forever homes. Volunteers help with everything from surgery, to cleaning kennels and cat rooms, and walking dogs.



Fosters also change lives by hosting an animal in their home until it is healthy enough to go into our adoption program. Usually kittens stay in a foster home until they weigh enough to be spayed or neutered.



438
animals
fostered

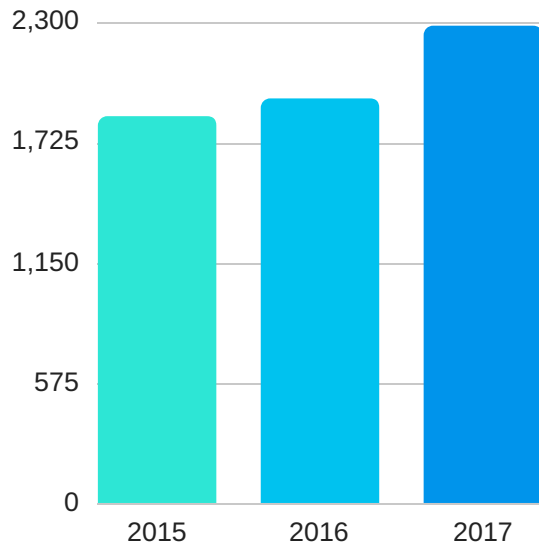
12,815
volunteer
hours

47
foster
homes

172
volunteers

FINDING FOREVER HOMES

Animals adopted per year



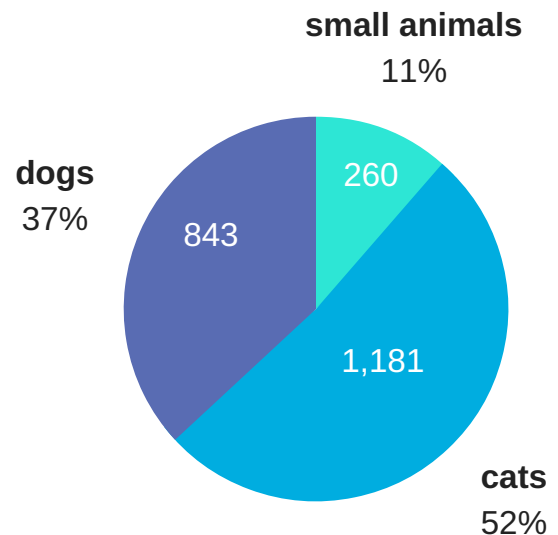
There is so much more to adoptions than simply finding homes for animals. This department focuses on creating a healthy environment for our animals, making great forever matches, and following up to make sure the animal is doing well in the home.

While keeping all of these things in mind we had a record number of adoptions in 2017 and broke 2000 for the first time with 2,284 animals total!

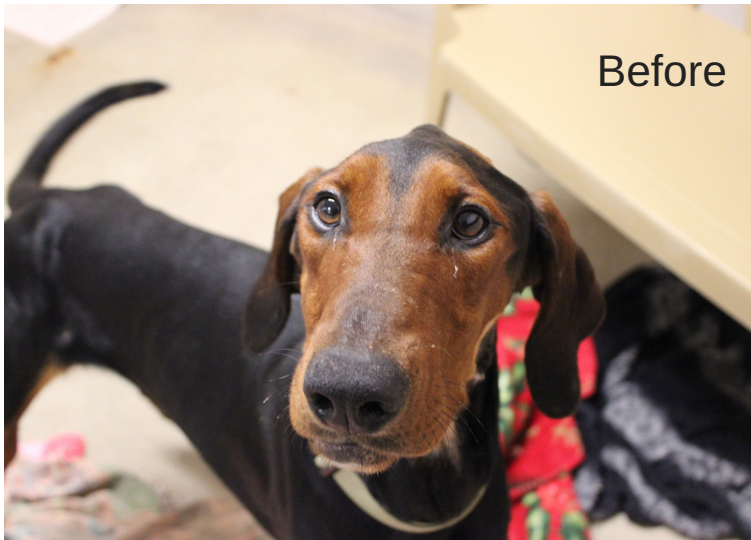


Play groups allow dogs to expend energy in a positive way and are great for mental and physical health! Jeremiah loves playing with other dogs and had many play dates!

Animals adopted by species in 2017



HAPPY AT HOME



Jeremiah, now Jack, was adopted by a wonderful family after two long months in the shelter. He is a high energy dog who did not thrive here in a kennel. Staff and volunteers were able to work together to expend as much of his energy as we could with frequent play dates and walks outside.

His adoptive dad saw a video on social media and thought he may be a good match. With three sons and a young lab his family's energy level was a great fit for Jeremiah!

We could not have found homes for 2,284 animals without the help of our amazing supporters! Thank you for all you have done for these animals!





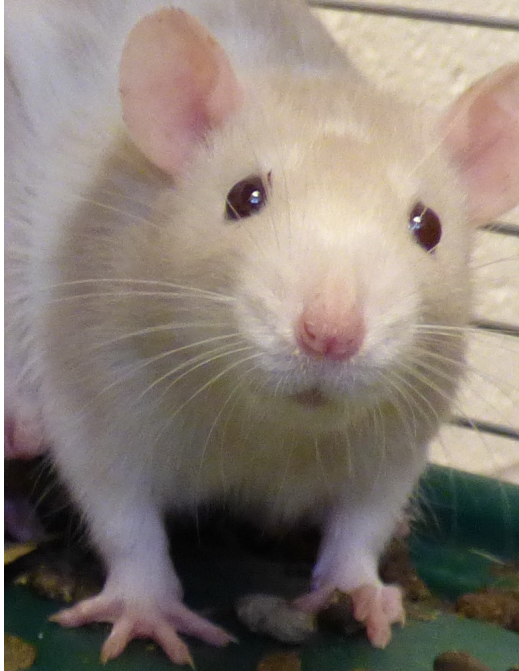
We are working every day to increase our Live Release Rate and we're seeing significant improvement year after year. Thank you for your continued support!



Shelter Animals Count: 2017 Report Fort Wayne Animal Care and Control				
		FWACC		
		Dog	Cat	Total
A	Beginning Shelter Count (1/1/2016) <i>Corrected Totals</i>	47	57	104
Animal Intake				
B	Stray-At-Large	2,305	3,318	5,623
C	Relinquished by Owner	885	1,339	2,224
D	Owner-Intended Euthanasia	261	146	407
E	Transferred in from Agency	10	91	101
F	Other Intakes	836	718	1,554
G	Total Intakes (Not including owner-intended euthanasia)	4,036	5,466	9,502
Live Outcomes				
H	Adoptions	843	1,181	2,024
I	Returned to Owner	1,835	257	2,092
K	Transferred Out	463	743	1,206
L	Return to Field: includes community cats		1,129	1,129
M	Other Live Outcome		50	50
N	Subtotal Live Outcomes	3,141	3,360	6,501
Other Outcomes				
O	Died in Care	5	20	25
P	Lost in Care	16	9	25
Q	Shelter Euthanasia	851	2,095	2,946
R	Owner-Intended Euthanasia	257	146	403
S	Subtotal Other Outcomes (not including owner-intended euthanasia)	872	2,124	2,996
T	Total Outcomes	4,013	5,484	9,497
U	ENDING SHELTER COUNT (12/31/2017)	49	65	114
	Live Release Rate	77.82%	61.47%	68.42%

* Died in Care (Line O) describes animals who entered shelter care with life threatening injuries.

* Lost in Care (Line P) denotes data entry errors/ duplicates, not actual lost animals



THANK YOU!



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or

visit our website at
www.fwacc.org