



Newsletter of the

Fort Wayne Animal Care & Control

Helping People - Helping Animals

SPRING 2011

Thomas Henry
Mayor

A Division of Public
Safety Serving the
City of Fort Wayne

Meeting Standards
for Animal Sheltering
and Control
Set Forth by the
Humane Society of
the United States

FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE

Children, dogs and abundant family at a holiday get-together usually mean a great time for all. The joyous Christmas season can bring many delights, but for one small dog the holiday gathering of 2009 spelled disaster.

Doug Shumate had traveled outside of Markle, Indiana towards Huntington just days before Christmas to enjoy a holiday dinner with family. He was joined by his beloved companion, a 9 year old female Cairn terrier named Seventh Heaven, to share in the festivities.

As is common with large gatherings, doors are opened, people come and go throughout the day and that is likely how little Seventh Heaven managed to slip away unnoticed from the home. When she was discovered missing, everyone began a frantic search, but she was nowhere to be found. Doug was forced to leave without his dog to make the drive home alone.

Heaven's story from that point is a blank page. Where was she? Would she survive the cold? Was she hurt or hit by a car? Had someone picked her up and kept her? All of those questions weighed heavily on Doug Shumate's heart and mind until she suddenly reappeared almost nine months to the day of her disappearance.

Mr. Shumate answered a call from our department on September 22nd of 2010. We informed him that we were in possession of a stray Cairn terrier with a microchip identifying him as the owner. He, of course, agreed to drive to the shelter to see the dog, but he was certain it would not be his dog.

We explained that the dog had been reported to us by a woman who discovered the dirty, scraggly stray resting on her porch. When Doug first saw the Cairn's condition he said no, it was not her. But with a second look he spotted his little Heaven beneath that rough-looking exterior. What an emotional reunion for us all and what a great testimony for a pet microchip!

The most amazing part of the story is that somehow this brave little dog had traveled such a distance to end up on the front porch of a home in the same housing addition and within the same one hundred block as the Shumate home.

Tightly holding his little dog, Mr. Shumate was clearly baffled by the mystery. He stated, "When you live by yourself, they become your companion. They look forward to you coming home at night. I missed her and I'm happy to have her back."

So, how on earth did the aging Cairn terrier get home? How did she manage to travel the 30 to 40 miles from outside of Markle, IN to just blocks from her home in northwest Fort Wayne? We don't know . . . Heaven only knows.



Our Mission:

Guided by the humane ethic and livability interests within our neighborhoods, the mission of Fort Wayne Animal Care & Control is to ensure public health and safety as well as prevent pet overpopulation, animal neglect, and animal cruelty through education, rescue, and law enforcement.

"We place more pets with people than any other business or organization in Northern Indiana."

ANIMAL CARE & CONTROL

3020 Hillegas Rd
Fort Wayne IN 46808
Business Office (260) 427-1244
Fax (260) 427-5514
www.fwacc.org

ADOPTION OFFICE:

427-5502
Recorded pet information line:
(260) 422-PETS

BUSINESS HOURS:

11 a.m.-5:30 p.m. weekdays
and until 7 p.m. Wed.

ADOPTION HOURS:

12 p.m.-5 p.m. weekdays
and until 7 p.m. Wed

Also open for adoptions the first
and third Sat. of each month from
11 a.m.-3 p.m.

Animal Control Officer Assistance:
Mon-Sun, 6 a.m.-1 a.m.

Emergencies only:
1 a.m.-6 a.m.

FROM THE DIRECTOR



Belinda Lewis, Executive Director, and her new adopted puppy Jinks

Stopping the Cycle of Abuse

Chico came to us yesterday, almost dead. As I write this story, it is a risk because we still do not know if he will live, still do not know if his ending will be a happy one. Warrants officers serving a search warrant found him abandoned, near death, and in skeletal condition due to his level of neglect. A toddler was removed from the home as well. Cruelty in its many forms is something we see at Animal Care and Control more often than anyone should see. You would think we would become steeled to it. We do not. Chico represents all those animals that we have not been able to save.

He is a great hope and that warm success that our staff need in order to know they are doing the right thing by staying in this profession. When you see what they see, sometimes it is hard to stay.

The results of animal neglect have disastrous consequences. The reasons for its inception are complex and have been found to branch out to children and other victims in a family. It is called the cycle of abuse. To stop the cycle, we have to catch and stop the abuser. The state has a guideline for criminal prosecution of animal cruelty. In general, a defendant has to have committed cruelty or neglect "recklessly, knowingly, or intentionally". The reason Chico is different than many of our cases is that he was found before it was too late and the officers had the owner right there on the spot. Far too often the neglected animals we find in the course of our work who are emaciated, dehydrated, or sometimes already dead cannot be connected with a responsible party or we cannot prove it at a level required for prosecution. The animal is dead and the responsible individual moves along in life. That hurts us as we know we have not stopped the cycle and another animal or child may come our way from this same person in the future. Sadly, for all law enforcement agencies, we have our "frequent flyers".

Those who are not confronted with the appropriate ramifications for their actions may simply move on to repeat another day. For us that means another emaciated, beaten, or fought animal in our care. Animal

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WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Take animal cruelty and neglect seriously. It's not only a crime but also a warning of other possible violence.
- If you suspect animal neglect or cruelty, call our office at 260-427-1244. Neglect includes depriving an animal of food, water, shelter, and veterinary care. Intentional cruelty includes maliciously torturing, maiming, beating, mutilating or killing an animal.
- Support strong laws against animal cruelty.
- Support humane education in our schools and community by joining Walk for Animals on October 9, 2011.



Dear FWACC Staff,

It's been a whole year since we came to meet the Vizsla "Kona". We know him as Kava and he adapted to his new name really well. We were a little worried since our Weimaraner was already named Kona.

Kava has been a wonderful addition to our home and been out on many adventures with us. We've gone hiking, boating, and on a trip to Illinois. He even joined me at the Halloween Pet Parade this year! Here are a few photos for the staff and volunteers to enjoy.

Thanks again for giving us this wonderful member of our family. I wish I could remember the name of our adoption counselor, but if you could give her special thanks from us, I would really appreciate that.

Warmest Regards,
Angela Monteith &
family



Thank you AC&C.

We just added Lucas to our family. He and his brother, Wrigley, are getting along great. He has made a great addition to our family. We love him very much, and he is really taking a liking to us as well. He says he cannot wait to spend time with his family at the lake this summer and is really hoping that his big bro will teach him how to swim.

Thank you.
Matthew, Brandi and Wrigley

WISH LIST:

If you are looking for a worthy service project for a club or if you are a pet lover willing to lend a hand, the following list of items is much needed by our department. We cared for 16,516 animals last year, so supplies are always on our list. Any donation is immensely appreciated by staff, volunteers and of course, our animals.

- Canned food for puppies and kittens and adult dogs and cats
- Gift certificates to purchase supplies as we need them.
- Plain clay kitty litter
- Bags of pine bedding
- Towels, blankets, or bath mats for bedding
- Blank note cards
- Sturdy chew toys
- Dog crates and cat carriers
- Feed for guinea pigs, hamsters, parakeets and ferrets

Above all, we appreciate cash donations to help us secure medical needs for sick, injured, and underweight animals and to support special programs benefiting animals.

HOP TO ADOPT A RESCUED RABBIT

At Fort Wayne Animal Care & Control, we love rabbits. We just hate to see rabbits become homeless. With a little research and preparation a pet rabbit can be part of your family to enjoy a long happy bunny life. Rabbits have a life span of ten or more years, so research is critical. They have special needs to thoroughly understand before making that long-term commitment.

Here are some tips to consider...

- Domestic rabbits will quickly succumb to extreme temperatures, so inside living is essential
- Electrical cords are dangerous to a chewing rabbit, so bunny proof play areas and supervise well
- To determine cage length, multiply the rabbits length time five. Be sure he can stand on his back legs without bumping his head on the top of his cage.
- Use proper bedding in the rabbit's cage such as Care Fresh. Avoid pine and cedar.
- Rabbits have complex digestive systems. They need Timothy hay, timothy-based pellets, a variety of dark green vegetables and they enjoy fruits and carrots as occasional treats. Fruits might include: apples, peaches, blueberries and melon.
- Supply ample fresh water daily and keep plenty of chewing toys and untreated wood blocks available for your rabbit.



Rabbits are fun, social animals that bring laughter and companionship to the home. Research, planning and supervision can make all the difference and it's the best formula for success. When you are ready to add a rabbit to your family, visit us at Animal Care & Control.

CHILDREN LEARN VALUABLE LESSONS IN SAFETY

Animal Care & Control's Education Department was pleased to partner once again with Student Focus on Health, a Midwest Alliance for Health Education, in an effort to keep children safe. The community affairs project targets elementary through high school age students with presentations traditionally offered in the fall.

The ultimate goal is to encourage healthy lifestyles beginning in early childhood in hopes of promoting a long productive life. With age-appropriate topics, students are made aware of the impact of unhealthy habits, and are taught alternative choices to improve their health and well being.

Fort Wayne Animal Care & Control's emphasis is to teach students safe and respectful behaviors when they interact with animals, and, more specifically, how to avoid being bitten or scratched by an animal. Through pictures of dogs in various stances, students better understand potential threats when they see stiffness or staring, a lip curl, or various signals that indicate a stressed animal. Our goal is to teach students what to do, what not to do, and to assess a dog's body language in time to remove themselves before it elevates to a bite.

In total, 1,960 middle school students and 1,077 4th and 5th grade students were educated on many different aspects of health including bite safety education.



Sharmalene Gunawardena, Animal Care & Control Education Assistant, teaches Village Elementary students how to avoid an animal bite.

WHISKER WAG'N

Taking Pet Adoptions on the Road

In our mission to find more homes for homeless animals in Fort Wayne, we proudly present a new and exciting venture for pet adoptions. We call it the Whisker Wag'n!

The Whisker Wag'n is a mobile adoption unit that is allowing our department to showcase some of our most adorable pets in hopes of reaching potential adopters throughout our community . . . wherever they are! This unit, the only one of its kind in Allen County, hit the road in November of 2010 and immediately broadened our outreach to new venues and new hours. Pet loving fans were excited to find dogs, puppies, cats, kittens and even pocket pets aboard the vehicle. All eagerly awaiting adoption into new and loving homes!

The Animal Care & Control Whisker Wag'n is always looking to "get its paws" involved with new and exciting events that offer substantial adoption opportunities! If you have an event that matches our criteria, call us to schedule a Whisker Wag'n appearance.



The sponsorship fee of \$250 includes a maximum 4 hour appearance and helps to offset expenses as we hit the road to showcase animals that might not otherwise be seen as extensively throughout the community. If you would like to underwrite an appearance, give us a call at 427-5511 to make a sponsorship donation.



FROM THE DIRECTOR

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cruelty and neglect requires intervention and the eyes of the community are the only way we can stop it. Hopefully Chico can be the catalyst that the next family member, neighbor, or friend needs to see in order to make that phone call regarding a neglected animal. The reward we see in Fort Wayne is in knowing that all agencies at all levels in our community will not tolerate this kind of treatment of animals and will work together to prosecute it to it's fullest.

There is a warm side to all of Chico's misery. After the news coverage of his plight, the community outpouring has been enormous and the prosecutor's office is already working the case with the Sheriff's Department and with us. I noticed our own staff going above and beyond to be sure Chico's needs were being met and his veterinary care requirements were being passed along to each shift with extra attention. In spite of his current medical condition, he is snuggling with his caregivers and giving kisses this morning. Tragedy can bring cohesion to a mission. Chico is that reminder for us all as to why we are here and why we stay. Make him the reason you pick up the phone.

Belinda Lewis

KEEP DOGS LEASHED IN CITY PARKS

We have seen considerable attention given to our community parks and the heightened initiatives taken to keep them safe and enjoyable for everyone. We particularly applaud efforts to safeguard children and provide them with a wholesome experience while they play and learn in our parks. In that same light, Park Department officials, Animal Care & Control, and numerous members of the public have raised concerns regarding unleashed dogs in the parks.

People love to have their dogs with them when they play, walk, jog, and picnic. On any given day you'll see an assortment of delighted canines joyfully accompanying an owner on a park outing. Dogs are welcome in the parks, but making certain they are leashed and under control is required.



Please be respectful by keeping your dog properly leashed.

Before heading out for quality park time with your dog, here are important guidelines for everyone to follow:

- Without exception, dogs are to remain on a standard six-foot leash. Parks contain resources that can be seriously damaged by dogs that are not properly restrained.
- Joggers, hikers, and bicyclists should be safe to enjoy the parks without being confronted by an off-leash dog no matter how personable the dog may be.
- Supervise your dog and don't allow them to dig or destroy vegetation.
- Sanitation is the responsibility of each dog owner. Keep a bag attached to the handle of your dog's leash, so that you will be prepared to clean up after your dog. Your cooperation in keeping the parks clean will add to the health and enjoyment of people and other dogs.
- If a dog bites a person or animal while running loose on public property, the owner receives a summons to court and the dog is quarantined by state law for ten days. In Allen County, animals in these circumstances are quarantined at our shelter.

Please be respectful by keeping your dog properly leashed.

A HEART WRAPPED IN FUR

Sometimes you get a second chance in life; our dog, Toby, certainly did.

We adopted the one year old, long-haired, skinny, untrained, abused mutt from the Animal Shelter 13 years ago. He spent his entire life bringing calamity, chaos, character and charm into our home.

In Memory of



Toby

We figured he had never been in a house before. The table, especially with food on it, was within reach and his. Couches and chairs, especially occupied, were a joy to share, a true 85 pound lap dog. Manners and restraint weren't in his "vocabulary" but he learned.

His insecurity required his human to lie beside him on the floor for a year until he trusted us.

A walk was only good at 50 mph. And after being brushed and a good shake, he was back to being shabby chic.

On February 15, 2011, with arthritis, lumps and bumps, and failing health, Toby was put to rest. His devotion cannot be measured or merited. He was truly a "Heart Wrapped in Fur".

His gift of devotion and love inspired us to shelter volunteering and fostering. Please use this donation for the Angel Fund, a second chance for another animal.

Sincerely,

Marty and Vince LaBarbera

SPOTLIGHT VOLUNTEER - NANCY BROWN

How long have you been volunteering?

I hadn't worked in 10 years, my daughters had moved out and on with their lives, and the last straw was losing Lucien, my boxer. He was 8 ½ years old and had deterioration of the hips. We had to let him go when he could no longer stand up. I was having a difficult time dealing with the loss of my beloved Lucien and finally decided I needed a diversion. I've been volunteering since May 2009.



What inspired you to volunteer with FWACC?

I have always wanted to volunteer and work with animals. At that particular time in my life, I knew that's where I had to be...around animals. I was spending time with other animals that I felt needed love and attention, and in return I was healing. This experience has definitely increased my knowledge on how the shelter actually works. There is so much hard work that goes into taking care of all these wonderful animals.

What do you do with the animals and in what events have you been involved?

My main function is to clean and prepare the dog areas for adoptions. On occasion, I have cleaned the cat rooms and the cages of the small animals, i.e. rabbits, guinea pigs. I especially enjoy taking the adoption dogs to the Pooch Playground. It's great to see them running and playing.

I have participated in Neuter for a Nickel. After the male cats came out of surgery, I transported them to the room where the owners were to pick them up. I have also been a greeter in the male ward during the shelter's Christmas Open House for the Animals. At the annual Walk for Animals fundraiser, I have helped with registration and collecting the pledges.

What do you find to be the most rewarding part of volunteering?

I am very passionate about the well being of all animals. It is a great reward to meet and work with so many people that share that same passion.

EVENTS CALENDAR

APRIL 23

Easter Bone Hunt at Franke Park, 12-3pm

APRIL 30 & MAY 1

Northern IN Pet Expo at the Memorial Coliseum, 11am-6pm

MAY 1

Mayfest Benefit at Soup, Salads, and Spirits, 1915 Calhoun Street. 1-6 p.m. Supports FWACC and ACSPCA.

JULY 13 & 14

Picture Your Pet at Lakeside Park, 3-8pm

NORTHERN INDIANA PET EXPO

APRIL 30TH & MAY 1ST

DAILY ADMISSION

Adults: \$5.00

Seniors & Children (6 to 12): \$3.00

Children (5 & under): Free

Healthy & Altered Dogs & Cats: \$1.00



Does your best friend have four legs? Do you consider your pet part of the family? If so, grab your entire family and come on out to Northern Indiana's Pet Expo at the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum. Enjoy a weekend of celebration, education, demonstrations, and entertainment with national and local pet enthusiasts. This will be a weekend of enjoyment for humans of all ages and their pets. The Northern Indiana Pet Expo is presented by the Allen County SPCA. Look for the Animal Care & Control booth and meet wonderful animals from our adoption program.

* Pets receive free admission when you bring a 3lb or larger bag of dog or cat food

* Pets attending must be spayed or neutered, be at least one year of age, and have proof of current vaccinations to be admitted into the exhibit hall.

ADOPTION EFFORTS SIT UP AND GET NOTICED!

The 2010 year was filled with creative efforts, unique opportunities, and great successes for the adoption program here at Fort Wayne Animal Care & Control. Overall, we were able to find loving homes for 2,265 pets that needed tender, loving care. Included in our pet adoptions for the year, we also placed 492 pets with rescue groups and found homes for 111 small pets including rabbits, ferrets, guinea pigs, hamsters, gerbils, birds, rats, chinchillas, pot-bellied pigs, chickens, goats and fish. And, to add more excitement to our success for the year, we are proud to say that over 20,000 visitors came through our Pet Adoption Center to see our adoptable pets throughout the year!

REACHING OUT

Thanks to an overwhelming amount of volunteer support, we continued to open our Pet Adoption Center on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of every month. As we had hoped, our Saturday Adoption Extravaganza's were the most successful adoption days of the month. These special adoption days brought in almost 2,000 potential adopters that may not have had the opportunity to find a new pet during our limited weekday hours. Many adorable kittens and puppies found their way into loving hearts during those wonderful Saturday adoption events!

One of our newest creative ventures was a collaborative effort with the Fort Wayne Ballet to include our adoptable dogs in the Nutcracker performances. We labeled these 12 dogs as our "Mutcrackers", and they took the stage with the dancers at 12 performances this past December. It was an overwhelming success, and each of the featured Mutcrackers was adopted either during the event or shortly thereafter. We are looking forward to a long lasting relationship with the Fort Wayne Ballet and jump at unique ventures such as featuring our adoptable dogs in their performances of Coppelia this past March. If you missed any of these performances, keep watch for others that we hope may be coming.

HELPING PAWS

Thanks to a generous Maddie's Fund Grant, we were able to hold a very successful cat adoption event called the Feline Frenzy. In hopes of finding homes for the overwhelming number of cats and kittens we see throughout the summer months, we decreased our cat adoption fee to only \$10 during the months of May through August 2010. The Feline Frenzy was so successful that we were able to place almost 400 cats during that timeframe.

Another way that we are helping paws is through our monthly Pet Parenting Class. This free class is offered the first Monday of every month and is open to anyone in the community who needs help learning how to manage their dog's behaviors. The class is held in an open-forum style and the trainer ensures that everyone gets help with their particular behavior concerns. Last year we had 59 people attend these training sessions.

ADOPTION PARTNERS

Working with local pet stores that don't sell puppies and kittens has been a very successful way for us to bring our mission, as well as our adoptable pets, into the community. We continued our excellent relationship with Pet Supplies Plus through the joint offsite cat adoption center, Kitty City. This relationship has allowed us to find homes for an additional 148 cats and kittens that might not have otherwise found the chance at a new home.

Lastly, thanks to the support from the Fort Wayne Mad Ants and the Fort Wayne Tin Caps, we were invited to bring adoptable dogs to several of their games last year. We attended a number of Mad Ants games where they showcased our dogs on their Jumbotron for all of their fans to see! And the Tin Caps featured us as their Community Organization of the Game and allowed us to throw the first pitch! We will continue to foster our relationships with these groups in 2011 in order showcase more and more of our adoptable pets to community events.

Adoptions By Year

