



Newsletter of the

Fort Wayne Animal Care & Control

Helping People - Helping Animals

SPRING 2010

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

MAN CONVICTED FOR DOG BLUDGEONING

Previously, we shared that our Department spent a significant amount of time enhancing its crime scene response and handling team in order to equip our staff with the skills needed to carry a felony cruelty case to the prosecutor's office. With the help of the Fort Wayne Police Department, we were able to deliver that training in early 2009. That was none too soon for an upcoming call our officers were about to receive.

On June 18th we dispatched animal control officers to the 700 block of Third Street for an apparent stabbing of a dachshund. Upon arrival, our officers found that Fort Wayne Police were also called to the scene. The animal victim, a dachshund named

Oscar was at one address and the alleged perpetrator was being held at another nearby home. Our officers, Randy Thornton and Trent Hullinger, quickly photographed the dog at the crime scene location; a back yard on Third Street before transporting the dog to NIVES for emergency medical care. As officers from both departments spread out and conducted initial interviews, it appeared that this may have been a "heat of the moment" crime escalating from the perpetrator's little girl being bit by the dachshund. While our Enforcement Supervisor was on scene, our Animal Care Supervisor assisted with the dog and documenting photography during emergency medical care provided by the veterinary staff at NIVES.

As often happens with advanced investigation, clues did not add up to the complete picture at the scene. Our officers did an excellent job with their initial interviews, documentation, and evidence collection. When all parties were brought together the following day, it became apparent that this was a criminal act, it was premeditated, and there was a lot more work to be done. The dog had been restrained on a leash in a care takers yard at the time of the bite, the bite to the child was very minor, and the father of the child proceeded to the caretaker's yard after the fact, bludgeoning Oscar with a four sided battle axe!

The advanced training received earlier in the year coupled with the extensive experience of all those involved proved invaluable. Officers Thornton and Hullinger returned to the crime scene for further diagramming and documentation in the daylight. That involves measuring distances to buildings, points of evidence, fences, drives, etc., and reproducing the crime scene in a diagram format. Photos must support the diagram to be able to tell the whole story, as contained in the final case summary that gets submitted to the prosecutor.

Their additional interviews included the caretaker, the animal owner's adult daughter, and the neighbor involved who had called 911 for emergency response on behalf of Oscar. The perpe-

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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

We began 2009 by debriefing from the late 2008 December ice storm and the need for us to open an emergency shelter for pets at the coliseum. No snow melted under our feet though, as we recovered from that and moved toward some long term goals that we had set for ourselves earlier in 2008. Staff improvement and training has to be done in a Midwest shelter in the winter months after the holidays. That gives us a three-month window for staff development annually. We had set a plan in motion to increase the investigative knowledge-base and forensic processing of our crime scenes in our front line staff, to be able to confidently carry felony

cases directly to the Prosecutor. With the assistance of the Fort Wayne Police Department, we set up a four day crime scene investigative school specific to animal cruelty and dog attack cases. Officers were extremely receptive and we were proud to see them hit the ground running immediately after the school with some high profile and successful felony prosecutions. The Enforcement Division's call volume has gone up; right along with it, so has the quality of their investigations!

The Animal Care Division not only ramped up their medical and exam training to accompany the enforcement training, but they simultaneously increased their basic triage and assessment skills to better evaluate and respond to sick and injured animals' needs. The staff manning our phones and dispatch in the office has also become investigators, as they pull together the initial information needed by an officer and maintain the organizational flow both on the street and in the building. They are all a crucial part of the team when it comes to any field investigation and their interdependence became very apparent this year as these cases progressed.

Sometimes when it rains it pours and this year was no exception. As the CSI programming was going strong, we continued to work with other organizations and the state legislature to address some weaknesses in our state laws. The cruelty and neglect laws for animals needed immediate attention, while another long-term goal has been to address the lack of regulation for commercial breeders, often referred to as puppy mills, in our state. With tireless attention to the issue by many in our state, and lobbying phone calls from many of our own volunteers and local citizens, we successfully saw some modernization of our state laws. This provides a few more tools to our law enforcement officers to address issues of cruelty and neglect.

On the home front, our economy seemed to be having an impact on the number of pets released to animal shelters across the state and the country. We have always been careful not to let an isolated situation become a trend in reporting and we may still have to question the overall economic impact on pet relinquishment. In 2008, 25.7% of our pets received were surrendered by their owners, while that figure actually decreased in 2009 to 23%. With our overall animal handling down by 603 animals in the dog and cat category, we may have a stronger dedication to privately owned pets in our community than

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I just wanted to share some photos of Sandy with you and your wonderful staff. My family and I adopted Sandy on Feb 9, 2009 and she has been a great addition to the family. She runs right along side me every other morning when



I go for a jog; my wife takes Sandy on walks with her, and she LOVES the tennis ball. Sandy was 45 pounds when I picked her up and 8 months later we have finally added 6 pounds to her Greyhound-looking frame. Best of all, my kids cannot get enough of her. Again, thanks for the wonderful pet and fantastic experience of adoption.

The Hellers
New Haven, IN



My little Janie passed away on October 25, 2009 and my heart is still broken. By adopting this little one-eyed cat, I initially rescued her, but through our many years together, she rescued me several times. She was always there for me during the bad times. Very shortly after she passed away, I went to your website to see about memorials and was so happy to learn of the memorial plaques. Actually, I dropped some no-sew fleece kitty beds off at the shelter last Wednesday evening and got to see Janie's plaque in person. (Allison had sent me some beautiful photos of it beforehand.) I sat on the bench near the kitty room, looking at her plaque

and remembering her. She was one-of-a-kind!!!! It helps to know that perhaps another kitty will be helped and/or adopted in Janie's memory.

Gail Kieler

PET ADOPTIONS ONDEMAND

Fort Wayne Animal Care & Control is among shelters chosen from 27 cities across the country to highlight adoptable pets on Comcast. The relatively new "Pet Adoptions on Demand" airs video profiles of adoptable animals in local shelters which viewers can access with a click of their remote. The short videos include the animal's name, tag number, history and temperament.

We began working with Comcast Pets on Demand in June of 2009 and were honored when several months into the project Comcast granted permission

for us to produce and supply our own video profiles produced in-house by are education department. "By producing our own videos, we have the freedom to really showcase the special features that we come to see and love of the animals in our adoption program, stated Peggy Bender. "We hope viewers will agree." The series has profiled more than 17,000 dogs and cats at shelters nationwide.

You can view the channel by going to the OnDemand menu, selecting "Get Local," then "Pet Adoptions."

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.

SAVING GRACE

Day by day, animals arrive through the doors of our shelter to receive whatever level of care we can provide them through donations. Some animals bounce back under the caring hands of our staff and veterinarians, while others thrive from the diligent attention of our volunteers. Others may be sent to a partner agency for rehab and to be eventually placed into a permanent, loving home. We never take for granted the amazing work of partner agencies, such as New Beginnings Shih Tzu & Friends Rescue, in creating miracles for dogs on the brink of death.

This past May, Allen County Animal Control Officer Vinson brought a small stray dog into our medical triage. The distressed dog, a four year old Shih Tzu, was matted, sickly, and suffering from an advanced skin condition. Our staff removed as much hair as possible from the dog to relieve the constant pulling of matted fur, and wrapped her in a cozy sweater for warmth. Her new name would be Grace.

Next, we placed a call to New Beginnings Shih Tzu & Friends Rescue, hoping that a foster home might be located for a dog that would clearly



Gracie when she arrived.

need extensive, long-term care. New Beginnings took up the challenge and transported Grace to a veterinarian in Columbus, Ohio for further tests and evaluation. Her condition was so grave that she required two weeks of hospitalization before she could travel on to an experienced Pennsylvania foster home.

Once Grace was healthy enough to travel to PA, she was entrusted to Larry and Suzan, a fantastic foster family with a special touch for animals with skin conditions.

According to Suzan, "It didn't take long for us to be captured under Grace's spell. She was a happy little girl, even though we knew she didn't feel good. The longer she was here, the more we were falling in love with her. I knew first that Grace was going



Gracie (foreground) with Sophie & Edy

to stay here permanently. It took Larry a little longer, but I think in the back of his mind, he knew Grace was staying, too. So it is our absolute pleasure to announce that we have adopted Grace and she has been given the name of Grace Lynn Koczka. She shares our home and spends time with our two dogs Sophie and Edy. The three of them can create quite a lot of fun together. Grace is quite bright and is learning some basic obedience. She loves to go for walks and now looks for our neighbors, so she can get some pats. She can hear a bag open from anywhere in the house and waits patiently and hopefully for us to share the contents with her. She is a good dog and willing to share her affection. Thank you NBSTR and Fort Wayne Animal Care & Control for rescuing and helping Grace have the life she deserves."

MAN CONVICTED ...continued from cover

trator was called in for interview, advised of his rights, and under Miranda explained fully why he really did not think he had done anything wrong that night and at the time of the interview with our director, still did not. In fact, his parting statement was that he "intended to kill the dog".

Sadly for Oscar, his injuries included multiple punctures, lacerations, bruising, a broken right front leg, broken neck, and extensive head trauma. The veterinary recommendation that night was to euthanize Oscar to prevent further suffering. X-rays and a thorough exam had provided enough information to know that he was not going to recover from this terribly cruel act. At that time and over the next few days the veterinarian proceeded with a necropsy, or animal autopsy, and was able to provide advanced reporting for the case. This process also required photo documentation by our Animal Care Supervisor to assist, document, and maintain what is called continuity of the evidence. In this case, that was Oscar's body.

Much of this process is long and tedious for the investigators, the veterinarian, and the supervisory staff pulling together the case package. The witness statements, the weapon seized as evidence, the supporting documentation of the crime scene, and ultimately the confession of the perpetrator allowed this case to come together in support of criminal charges through the prosecutor's office. All their hard work paid off as the man who bludgeoned Oscar, ultimately to his death; plead guilty to the crime of Cruelty to an Animal, a class D felony. He was sentenced to 1 ½ years in jail and no animal ownership while he remains on probation.

While Oscar did not have a happy ending, we hope the light brought upon animal cruelty by work and results such as this may serve to prevent future acts of this nature. We're very proud of the professionalism shown through this case by our staff, who could not achieve convictions of this nature without the valuable help of the Fort Wayne Police Department, Allen County Prosecutors Office, and Veterinarians from Northern Indiana Emergency Services (NIVES).

PATCHES GOES TO ITALY



Here at Animal Care & Control, we have the joyful opportunity of placing great pets into wonderful homes on a weekly basis, but it's rather unusual

for us to find a home for one of our pets overseas. A number of months ago, our adoption team received an inquiry through our help line at adoptionhelp@

cityoffortwayne.org. Cynthia Abbott, a former resident of Fort Wayne now living in Italy, wrote to express her interest in adopting one of our cats. Her note explained that she frequently returns to Fort Wayne to visit family and was hoping to meet and explore possibilities upon her next trip to the Summit City.

It was such a pleasure to meet Cynthia and to hear her talk about her two male cats that she adopted from a farm in Fort Wayne 13 years prior. One of the cats had recently passed away and the

remaining was quite lonesome without his buddy. She met with numerous animals in our adoption center, finally selecting a 7-year-old spayed calico named Patches whose previous owner could no longer provide for her care.

Now Patches has a new home in Italy and we smile knowing that Cynthia chose our shelter to adopt from.

Bene futuro Patches and Cynthia!

FROM THE DIRECTOR ...continued from page 2

previously thought, in spite of job loss. Sadly though, the volume of domestic pets our shelter receives annually would belie that idea, as other parts of the country who have received involvement from local non-profits in pet overpopulation efforts have greatly reduced their intakes.

Our adoption and volunteer programs continue to flourish and increase. These two programs are not exclusive of one another, as so much is happening for our adoption pets that simply would not be possible without our volunteers. We saw incremental increases over last year, but a five year look at adoptions gives us a whopping 47% increase in pets going to new homes! Last year's increase to first- and third-Saturday adoptions along with continued outreach has been a big factor.

Talking about factors, the continued efforts of our Education Division create new opportunities through our website and community involvement on a daily basis. Increased fundraising efforts across the department along with an amazing volume of visitors to our website continue to offer new resources to animals in our care.

I'm blessed to work in a career that I am so passionate about and to work with such amazing co-workers and community volunteers! With this kind of team, the sky is the limit.

Belinda Lewis, Director

2010 PET REGISTRATION TAGS

If your pet's registration tag has expired, be sure to visit our shelter or a veterinary clinic to renew for 2010. The required city tag is \$5 if your cat or dog has been altered, \$100 if it has not. Senior citizens age 62+ will receive a complimentary pet registration tag providing their pet is spayed or neutered. Lifetime pet registration tags are available for pets that are both altered and microchipped. It's the only registration your pet will ever need in

Fort Wayne. Lifetime tags are \$30 per pet and only \$5 for the altered and microchipped pet of a senior citizen (age 62+).

While wearing a pet registration tag your pet has tremendous protection. That's because we are able to trace the tag at any time day or night, seven days per week, and notify owners when the pet has been recovered. Indiana state law requires that a current rabies

tag be displayed on your dog's or cat's collar as well. It proves vaccine status, which is important, but don't use it for primary identification. It can only be traced if the veterinary clinic is open. Pets don't come with their own GPS system, so take time to renew their 2010 pet registration tag and attach it to your pet's leather, canvas, or nylon collar. For added protection, purchase a microchip from your veterinarian.

YOUR WILL

One of the best ways to fight animal neglect and cruelties



As a person who has already done much for animals, you may want to consider ways of providing for them after your life. More and more people are finding the satisfaction of knowing that their vision for a more humane world and their love for animals can live on.

Each year Fort Wayne Animal Care & Control receives sustaining resources to our Animal Care Fund through wills and bequests of faithful animal lovers like you.

The Animal Care Fund is a protected account administrated by a citizen's advisory council called the Animal Control Commission, to support all divisions of our department not covered by tax dollars. Some gifts are large bequests; others are small. Some name the Fort Wayne Animal Care & Control Animal Care Fund as a sole beneficiary of their estate; others designate a percentage. However, all are important and all are essential to the creation of a future which is safe and accommodating to animals. If you need additional information, please call me at 427-1244.

Belinda Lewis

CATS ABOUND IN ALLEN COUNTY



Shelters around the country are gearing up for what we all know to be kitten season. At Fort Wayne Animal Care & Control, this is no exception. Just over 58% of all the cats and kittens we handle in a year come to us during the five months between May and September. At an average arrival rate of 32 new cats and kittens per day during these months, we stay hopping to make as many success stories as possible. At other times of the year, we admit an average of 18 cats and kittens into our building each day, but spring truly has the most significant impact as most new kittens are born and abandoned at that time of year.

Helping us to achieve success is Pet Supplies Plus located on Coldwater Road. Their caring staff hosts our off-site adoption center called Kitty City and they are trained to adopt-out cats from their location, on evenings and weekends too! Here's what their staff say about Kitty City:

"It has been our pleasure to support Fort Wayne Animal Care and Control by having Kitty City Adoption Center in our store. Being able to help pair cats in needs with customers able to open their hearts and homes is a great joy. We love having the cats here as a reminder to ourselves and our customers that there are so many more pets in need than just what we see. Kitty City's presence also helps keep in perspective the pet overpopulation problem and is a great way to educate the public to spay and neuter their pet. Helping these cats and Fort Wayne Animal Care and Control is just plain fun too!"

Remember that in addition to our normal adoption hours, the Animal Care & Control adoption center opens from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. on the first and

third Saturdays of each month, and on Wednesday evenings we remain open until 7 p.m. These extra hours are an added convenience for customers and they play a part in boosting the numbers of cats that can be placed into forever homes.

Another avenue for adopting cats and kittens comes through the success of our "Better with a Buddy" program. Whenever a family comes to adopt and they expresses a desire to give a home to two felines at the same time, we can offer to cover the second adoption fee with a grant provided to us by Maddie's fund. This exciting program helped 139 pairs of kittens leave our shelter together in 2009. The grant also supports our "Old Friends" program so that we can lower the adoption fee to just \$25 for any cat that is five years old or older.

Won't you join us in our efforts to help even more cats and kittens find loving families this year? Here's how:

- **Adopt** your next cat from Fort Wayne Animal Care & Control.
- **Tell** everyone to visit our website at www.fwacc.org to search through the many pictures of available cats that we post each day.
- **Volunteer** to be a morning cleaner at our Kitty City adoption center, or here at the shelter
- **Volunteer** to be a foster home for underage kittens in need of extra care.
- **Have** your cats spayed or neutered, so they won't add to the problem.
- **Donate** to SNAP to alter the cat of a family in need.
- **Say** thank you to the fine people at Pet Supplies Plus for allowing us to adopt-out even more cats and kittens through their store.

SPOTLIGHT VOLUNTEER - REBECCA GREMAUX

How long have you been volunteering?

I have volunteered at FWACC for three years.

What inspired you to volunteer with FWACC?

I was looking for a place that my niece, who wants to become a vet, and I could volunteer together. She was fourteen at the time and the Explorer program was the perfect place for her. In addition, I had been excited about working with dogs since having the experience of training my puppy. It was so much fun; I just wanted to learn more.



What do you do with the animals or what events have you worked with?

I started rotating dogs and participating in dog wash. When training became available for the Headstart program, I jumped at the chance to participate. I wanted to learn as much as I could about dog training. I went on to the welcoming desk and finally to becoming an adoption counselor. The staff, the brown bag dinners, all of the trainings that Allison Miller and Jodi Hamilton provide are so informative. I love working with the animals and now I've been given the opportunity to work with the Pet Parenting classes. It's been such an amazing experience for me to see how much people love their animals. We all have places and situations where our pet's behavior is not what we'd like it to be. Some of those situations can be easily resolved with a little knowledge about how to handle it differently. Some of those challenges require professional help. The Pet Parenting class is a place to begin the process of figuring it all out. Allison has put together a program that provides some basic information that we go through. It is my hope that everyone who attends the class leaves feeling like they know their dog a little better and that they can improve their relationship with their dog.

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

Truthfully, out of all the different experiences and opportunities I've had at FWACC I think that participating in the Neuter for a Nickel program is the most rewarding. It's so amazing to see the volume of cats that come into the building at one time. The process has to work like a well oiled machine, and every year it does. I guess it is knowing that for every animal that is neutered, there are generations of animals that will never have to come into the other side of adoptions. That's what makes it so rewarding. It's also working side by side with staff and other volunteers to accomplish something we all care so much about.

NEUTER FOR A NICKEL SAVES LIVES



This year's Neuter for a Nickel campaign was a tremendous success as volunteers throughout the community came together to neuter nearly 800 male cats during two cold days in February. Representatives from: (name vet clinics/agencies, ACSPCA, Animal Care & Control staff and volunteers) took up the task in an effort to reduce the numbers of unwanted spring litters destined to be born and abandoned. "We are so grateful for the donations to this program and for the generous and caring professionals and volunteers who rallied together for this important cause," said Laura Rowe, animal care supervisor and the driving force behind the Neuter for a Nickel program. "We see first-

hand the sad reality of animals no one wants and we are prepared to do whatever we can to get pets spayed and neutered."

Join our Cause on Facebook

Search Facebook for Fort Wayne Animal Care & Control and then join our cause. Look under Applications, Causes, Find Causes. Join our cause to show your support for helping homeless animals in our community.



As pack animals, dogs need companionship and attention just as they need food, water and shelter. Bring your dog inside the house to live as part of your family, and enjoy unlimited, unconditional love your special friend has to give you. For tips on training your dog, attend a free pet parenting class held the first Monday of every month at Animal Care & Control!

HOW DOES FWACC SERVE THE COMMUNITY?

Rescue

Our highly-trained field officers rescue many animals from distress - a dog locked in a car during hot weather, numerous cats living in the squalid conditions of a hoarder's home, an animal hit by a car, strays that roam the streets, or perhaps a dog that has fallen into a river and is unable to get out. Rescues are a dramatic part of our work and new challenges emerge almost daily.

Emergency Stray Animal Transport

Animal Care & Control maintains radio-equipped emergency ambulance service in Fort Wayne for sick and injured stray animals. When an injured animal is found wearing traceable identification, we can often transport the pet to the owner's veterinarian to be stabilized until contact is established with the owner. Other animals are rushed to the shelter for care. We also work closely with the Fort Wayne Police Department in matters involving animals – automobile accidents, house fires, abandonment, etc.

Lost and Found Services

Among the most gratifying services of our department is our Lost and Found program. We trace identification daily and notify owners when their lost pet has been recovered. We have even helped in the recovery and happy return of pets wearing out-of-state tags or a microchip. Our clerks maintain Found Reports of animals that are being held in a private home to assist owners in their search. Our animal care specialists escort owners through the kennels to identify lost pets. Seeing their relieved faces makes our day particularly great!

Receiving and Adoptions

There is never a charge for receiving an animal here at Animal Care & Control. Regardless of the animal's condition, species, age, or temperament, we are here to receive animals that have nowhere else to go. Each animal is examined and those that are healthy and safe are further temperament tested before being moved into our adoption center. Adoption animals are sent to new homes with a spay/neuter surgery, a microchip, initial distemper combination vaccine, and a donated wellness exam provided by numerous supportive veterinary clinics.

Adoption Fees are:

- \$85 dogs and puppies
- \$65 cats and kittens
- \$25 dogs and cats 5 years old or older, as well as previously owned adult dogs/cats
- \$50 ferrets
- \$10 small birds and rabbits
- \$5 for guinea pigs, hamsters, and gerbils



Education

Only through widespread humane education programs and animal care materials can we effectively influence and accomplish our principle purpose of preventing animal cruelty and neglect. We offer our award-winning cable program KIND Club Show and supply materials to 496 local K-6 classrooms each month of the school year. Scout troops and classrooms tour our facility. Teens grow in their pursuit of service to animals through our Exploring Animal Careers program. Our education department maintains our website and works with all media to consistently remind people of their responsibility to properly provide for animals.

Pets in the News and on the Web

Adorable adoptable pets are showcased through the generous support of local media. On radio, listen to the 96.3 Wild Wake-up Show each Monday at 9:30 a.m. Then check out our well known Pet of the Week seen Mondays at noon on WANE TV Channel 15. For those who subscribe to Comcast on Demand, be sure to choose "Get Local" to view our videos of available pets, or go to our YouTube site: fwacc. Of course, you can always check out photos of every adoptable pet on our website at www.fwacc.org and on City TV.

Investigations

We regard animal neglect and cruelty with the utmost degree of concern. Cruelties are investigated by our skilled enforcement division and are packaged for the Prosecutor's office. With strong support from the courts, we prosecute beatings, stabbings, starvations, failure to provide provisions and veterinary care, and cases of abandonment. It is the most troubling duty for our staff, which sees the worst possible torment inflicted by people on helpless animals.

Volunteer Program

By maintaining a top-notch volunteer program with on going training opportunities, we invite the public to get involved by joining our effort to end animal neglect and cruelty while working to find forever homes for animals in need.