



Newsletter of the

Fort Wayne Animal Care & Control

Helping People - Helping Animals

FALL 2009

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



Ready...Set...Go!
Walk 2008 gets underway.

Join us at
Walk for
Animals 2009!

Find the details
for this great event
on page 6.

STAFF DONATES TIME TO HELP GRAND BAHAMA'S ANIMALS

As part of the Humane Society of Grand Bahama's ongoing spay/neuter program, seven amazing volunteers made their way from Indiana and New Mexico to lend a helping hand to spay/neuter initiatives. Fort Wayne Animal Care & Control's own Animal Care Supervisor Laura Rowe and Animal Care Specialist Jennifer Cherry joined Veterinarians Dr. Ray Hudgell, Dr. Dan Dessauer, Dr. Kim Hamel, and licensed vet technicians Angie Cherry, and Shaunessy Nadeau who all took their precious vacation time and paid their own way to the Bahama Islands to assist the program. They also donated many medicines and supplies needed to perform surgeries and benefit shelter animals.



Two pups awaiting surgery

In a statement made by HSGB, "We appreciate the selflessness of these incredible people, and their understanding of our mission. The staff of the HSGB is tired of the endless intake of surplus dogs and cats, and tired of having to make difficult choices that no living being should ever be forced to make on behalf of another. We know there's a better way, and intense spay/neuter combined with education on responsible pet ownership and law enforcement is what's called for."

At the end of the week, 112 animals had been spayed or neutered. About half were shelter animals, and half were privately owned animals whose owners would not be able to afford the surgery privately, or would not bother to have it done. Many shelter animals also received minor surgeries and treatments that HSGB otherwise would not have been able to afford for them.



Front row, Tip Burrows and Laura Rowe, Back row, Lisa Lockhart, Dr. Ray Hudgell, Dr. Kim Hamel, Angie Cherry, and Jennifer Cherry

Congratulations to all the volunteers who gave their time and talents to make a difference for animals in other parts of the world. And thanks to our many supporters here at home who financially support Fort Wayne Animal Care & Control's initiatives to spay and neuter animals in our community. Your contributions save lives and educate the public to increase responsible animal ownership. We might sound like a broken record at times, but perhaps if we say it enough it will sink in!

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

Recently our agency was formally recognized by the Humane Society of the United States as a progressive leader among US shelters and for our unique approach to saving the lives of animals "outside the governmental box". According to HSUS Indiana State Director Anne Sterling, "Fort Wayne Animal Care & Control managed by Belinda Lewis and her team in Fort Wayne should serve as an inspiration to other animal control departments looking for ways to expand their services, serve the community, and save more lives. Under Belinda's leadership, Fort Wayne has developed one of the more progressive, community-friendly animal control departments in the country."



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

Years ago, more than twenty but no one is counting, I was contacted about the prospect of coming to Fort Wayne Animal Care and Control. I had been the director of a small humane society and at the time was the Director of Animal Control in Evansville. I was not happy and was still looking for that place in my career to "land".

In the mid-eighties Fort Wayne had been in turmoil over the shelter but they were coming out the other side with a positive direction. A citizen's movement had forced the city to recognize the importance of a professional and humane animal control program and they had begun the long and arduous process of that transformation. Wow! Some cities would not come to this realization until over a decade later and some still have not to this day. It was easy to say yes to Fort Wayne. Who would not want to be on the ground floor of an enlightened change in their own profession!

We have a triad of support here in Fort Wayne that many agencies do not. We have highly educated staff who are very dedicated, a supportive administration, and a volunteer base that helps us every day to cover those areas that are outside that "box". Animal Care and Control under the humane ethic was our initial goal but these tiers of support have allowed us to do so much more. It's also easy to see it's not about me, it's about this enormous community following we have that have recognized the importance of a society that respects the care of their animals and expect that in this City.

The citizen's movement may have started the ball rolling but the momentum had to come from within. We have focused on using service and education to create opportunities for long term successes in our daily contacts made by Animal Control Officers, escalating to law enforcement as needed rather than as an initial response. Our city administration has never met me with a negative when requesting permission to start new and different programming! The catch to that is always going to be money.

There are requirements of any community to meet their obligations surrounding public health and safety with regards to animals. Usually that is viewed as the

continued on page 5...

(This letter is in regards to the Passage of House Bill 1468 Commercial Breeders & and Cruelty to Animals Law passed in the 2009 Legislative Session)

June 19, 2009

Dear friends, the “silent” army, and those I have never even met,

Well, here we are in a special session and it is giving me the time to actually sit down and send all of you wonderful people that coached me, guided me, encouraged me and supported me during this wild and crazy session a love letter, and I do love you all.

I will not use any names and I will not call anyone out specifically for fear of leaving anyone out, but I was only the “town crier”. You were the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps...and you kicked butt!!!

This one will go down in history as the “Puppy Mill” session. It was just about all anyone spoke about during our time in Indianapolis and after. We made a difference in the lives of hundreds, if not thousands of our four-legged friends. I can’t and will never be able to thank all of you for phone calls, emails, rallies, letters, time, testimony in committees, and energy. You have educated me, consoled me, given advice, and let me cry when I needed to.

I want you all on my side whatever the issue, whatever the fight. Your passion and fearlessness was contagious and got me through some pretty tough times.

We didn’t get everything we wanted, but there were many times I didn’t think we were going to get what we did. We need to be vigilant, keep up the fight, and stay committed to the long-term goals.

Dear friends...never, ever, ever will I be able to thank you enough...you are the everyday-in-the-trenches heroes and heroines, and I am proud, proud, proud to serve you!!!

Sincerely,

Representative Linda Lawson

200 W. Washington Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204



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 16,608 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
- ❑ 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.

UNPRECEDENTED NATIONAL CAMPAIGN TO SPOTLIGHT SHELTER ADOPTIONS



Photo by Judy Evancho

We've all read the reports: Around 8 million dogs and cats enter shelters and rescue groups every year, and an estimated 3 million healthy and treatable pets never find a loving home.

The Shelter Pet Project (SPP), a national Ad Council campaign sponsored by Maddie's Fund® and The Humane Society of the United States in partnership with the

entire Animal Welfare Movement, is going to change that.

Developed pro bono by Drafftcb Chicago, and with an annual commercial value of tens of millions of dollars, the campaign will utilize TV, print, radio, and outdoor public service advertising, along with an interactive website, to encourage millions of people who are looking for a companion animal to make shelter and rescue dogs and cats their first choice for adoption.

One hurdle that all shelters face is negative perceptions. Some people worry that shelter pets come with health problems or behavior issues. Others fear that making a trip to the local shelter will be too depressing or overwhelming for their family. The Shelter Pet Project's national campaign will combat these misperceptions and you can help here in Fort Wayne. If you have adopted a pet from

ours or any shelter, be sure to share your story of love and joy with others. Be a voice that encourages people to adopt. Take a few minutes to upload a picture of your adopted pet to local media websites such as www.journalgazette.net/critters, which is the pet section of the Journal Gazette website. Let people know that a shelter is the first and best place to find a new four-legged friend.

For more information on the Shelter Pet Project campaign, go to <http://www.theshelterpetproject.org> and sign up to receive regular updates. The campaign was launched in August of 2009 and marks the first time in its more than 60-year history that the Ad Council has taken on an animal welfare cause. Join us in spreading the word that pets from Fort Wayne Animal Care & Control are great!

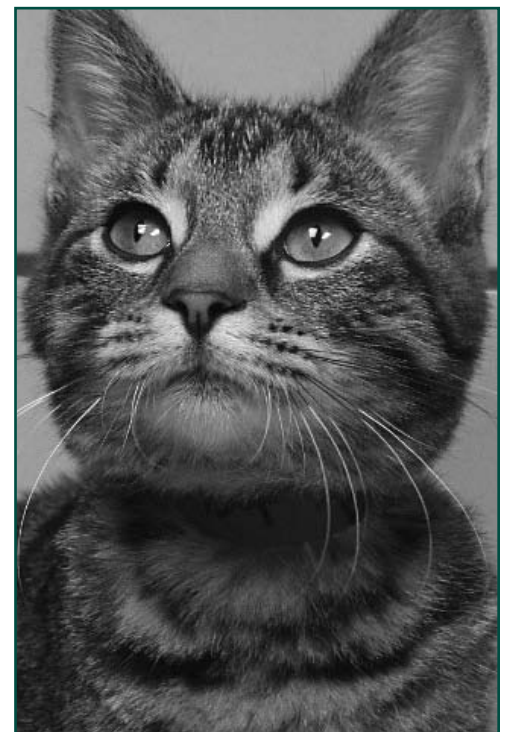
WE'RE FINDING HOMES FOR PETS!

Who can resist a fluffy puppy face or an adorable kitten purr? Well, it seems that many people here in Fort Wayne can't resist!

Thanks to an overwhelming community support, our Pet Adoption Center has been busy, busy, busy! Between January and June of this year, our Pet Adoption Center found homes for 1,321 pets and had over 11,000 visitors. Some visitors fell in love with our frisky kittens, and others fell in love with our friendly dogs.

Others found the new companionship of a cheerful bird or a beautiful bunny, while others keep checking back and watching for the perfect match for their family. We feel proud knowing that the community of Fort Wayne supports our efforts to find loving homes for our homeless pets.

Remember, adoption is the best option!



RETURNING LOST PETS HOME



If you have lost a pet, then include Fort Wayne Animal Care & Control in your search. Lost pets arrive daily, so your pet could be here waiting. To claim your pet, you'll need your driver's license or picture ID. That helps to ensure that our department is returning pets only to their legal owner. Bringing a picture of your pet or records of your pet's vaccinations can help verify legal ownership.

The first time you claim your lost pet from the shelter, the fee is minimal. For those animals that are frequent customers to the lost and found, the fee does go up. Call ahead if you have questions at 427-1244. A check, credit card or cash will be accepted.

All dogs and cats within the City of Fort Wayne are required to wear a city pet registration tag for identification. If your

pet has been spayed or neutered, you'll be able to purchase the \$5 pet registration tag when you claim your pet. Any animal that comes into the shelter without a current pet registration (or traceable tag if a resident of Allen County living outside the city) will be required to be microchipped upon redemption. For those dogs or cats that are not altered or are not currently vaccinated against rabies, the owner is allowed 30-days to get everything needed for their dog or cat.

Remember, your pet is counting on you to find him and your search can be made much easier by starting at Fort Wayne Animal Care & Control!

FROM THE DIRECTOR ...continued from page 2

need to investigate cruelty and neglect, perform rescues, pick up strays, handle bite cases, and shelter animals. Pet overpopulation control comes with that but is often a last in the area of financing. When it comes to medical care, matchmaking for adoption animals, educating the public with regards to these issues, preventive health care in the shelter, and so on; many governments simply cannot justify the funding. There are many demands upon the taxpayer and city administrators have to balance those obligations.

Here in Fort Wayne we have met some of those challenges with the use of fund-raising, grant writing opportunities specific to animals, and with volunteers; another reason we have been identified as unique in this field. Our fund raising touches all that is important to animals in our community that is not tax base funded. For example, just having volunteers here requires a structured program. Then we can launch forward into all the wonderful things that happen here solely due to citizen support through volunteering. They welcome our adoption customers; assist with lost and found pets and in our surgical suite. We have volunteers performing as adoption counselors, send home counselors, maintenance of our off-site adoption locations, and so much more.

If you have ever had the opportunity to attend one of our community events, there is just a couple staff there. Everyone else is a volunteer, helping us to keep the money coming in that provides the special attention for animals and efforts in adoptions that we're able to provide with their help.

Who could know we would have morphed so strongly in the last twenty years? It was easy to say yes then and I am extremely proud to be part of this environment of community support now.

Belinda Lewis

PET ADOPTION LETTERS

Chandler

Thank you for keeping us up to date with your monthly e-newsletters of upcoming events at Animal Care & Control.

We adopted "Chandler" the Old English sheepdog

from your facility. He is a nut and tons of fun, although he did not respond to the name Chandler, so we now call him Auggie Doggie.



Sincerely, Jeanne Nelson

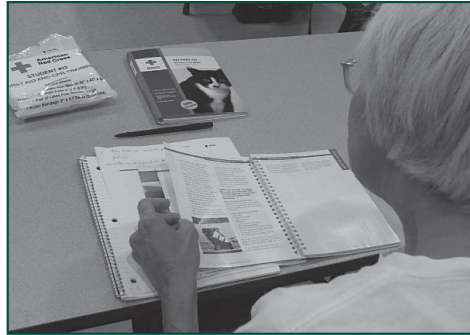
(To add your name to our e-newsletter list of upcoming Animal Care & Control events, send your e-mail to peggy.bender@ci.ft-wayne.in.us)

Sara



Here is a picture of our Sara that we adopted about a year ago. We are very proud of her and as you can see, she is a very happy camper. She loves to go boating with our family!

FIRST AID CLASS PREPARES PET OWNERS FOR EMERGENCIES



Dogs and cats are more than pets—they're family. And just like any other member of the family, they deserve to be cared for and protected. That's why we now offer a First Aid class here at the shelter every six to eight weeks, designed just for pet owners. The class takes four hours to complete and is limited to a small group of people to allow time for hands-on bandaging and CPR training using animal manikins.

Registered veterinary technician Beth Tropp gears her instruction toward dog owners, but takes time to include plenty of cat care information and stresses prevention. Students pay \$55 for the class to receive a Dog First Aid manual and DVD set and the Pet First Aid Completion Card. A Cat First Aid manual and DVD set can be purchased for an additional \$17.

Join Animal Care & Control for this American Red Cross sanctioned class and learn critical First Aid to keep your dog healthy and safe. Build First Aid skills and receive the guidance needed for emergency situations until veterinary care is available. Call 260-427-5508 for the next available class or go to our website at www.fwacc.org.

CLASS TOPICS INCLUDE:

- ▷ Urgent care situations, including wounds, electrical shock, eye, paw, and ear injuries
- ▷ Administering medications
- ▷ Managing breathing or cardiac emergencies
- ▷ Preparing for disasters
- ▷ Symptoms and care for common ailments and emergencies
- ▷ Creating a pet First Aid kit
- ▷ Tips on maintaining your pet's health and well-being

WALK-FOR-ANIMALS 2009



Plan to join us at our ever-growing Walk-for-Animals to be held at Franke Park on Sunday, October 11. Registration begins at 12:30 p.m. and the walk begins at 2 p.m.

All participants who attend the walk are required to turn-in a minimum pledge of \$25 per person and pre-register \$8. (For a family of up to 5 members, registration is \$20 and the minimum pledge is \$100 collectively). In return, walkers earn a shirt based on pledges collected, can win prizes, enjoy snacks, and receive free samples from our many vendors. New this year is a raffle of items from local merchants.

This is a fun afternoon of celebrating the love you have for your animals, while raising money to fight against animal cruelty and neglect through education and community outreach.

Help us tackle a serious cause. Print a brochure from our website, collect pledges, and join us on October 11. www.fwacc.org or call 427-2590.

SPOTLIGHT VOLUNTEER

DONNA EHINGER



Benjamin Franklin questioned, “Dost thou love life? Then waste not time; for time is the stuff that life is made of.”

Donna Ehinger certainly does not consider her

10-12 hours per week volunteering at Fort Wayne Animal Care & Control a “waste of time”.

Donna grew up on a dairy farm and learned compassion for animals from her parents. Her father often brought home baby raccoons, and even baby skunks, for Donna’s mother to nurture.

A stay-at-home mom, Donna spent years volunteering at her children’s schools. As a matter of fact, she was there so often that many people thought she was one of the teachers. Donna also took care of her aunt for fifteen years, the last five of which her aunt suffered from Alzheimers. With her children off to college, Donna determined to volunteer at something she loved.

She had read an article in the newspaper about the shelter. She was impressed by the fact that no homeless animal is turned away from Animal Care & Control. Reading about the tenderness with which the animals are treated by the staff touched her. She wanted to be a part of it.

Donna now performs an important function by assisting the veterinarian with the spay and neuter surgeries each Tuesday. On Thursday afternoons, she can be found at the shelter’s welcome desk.

“It’s both the animals and the people,” Donna explains. She loves seeing the animals get adopted, and she really enjoys being around people who understand her passion; people who have that same level of love for animals. “When my father died, animals became my source of comfort.”

Donna lives with her husband, two dogs and four cats. Obviously, animals remain a source of comfort.

EMILIE BEARD



The adoption lobby at Fort Wayne Animal Care & Control bustles with activity throughout the week and during our twice a month Saturday adoption events. Each person who visits the shelter has their own story, their own special

circumstances, and, most often, their own idea of the perfect pet for them.

Emilie Beard, a volunteer at Animal Care & Control for three years, welcomes the many visitors to the shelter. A warm and welcoming smile is easy for Emilie. She chose to volunteer at the shelter because she has had a life-long love for animals. Emilie had been a visitor to the shelter herself when she adopted Boo and Roo, her two kittens. “I adopted here and realized what a terrific shelter this is and saw their need for help.”

Besides working the welcome desk, Emilie has progressed to the demanding function of adoption counselor. When asked what “makes your day” at Animal Care & Control, Emilie responded, “To make that perfect match-up of animal to adoptor.”

It’s that “perfect match-up” Emilie strives for that gives the homeless animal the opportunity for success with the adoptor and, therefore, the opportunity for a permanent home and family.

Emilie takes her work home with her. Literally! Over the last three years, she has fostered at least twelve litters of kittens, which equates to about 40 or more kittens.

Fostering is necessary if the kitten weighs less than 2 ¼ lbs. It often takes two to four weeks to accomplish the weight required for the kitten to be in the adoption program, but Emilie keeps them as long as it takes. She says, “It’s wonderful to see them go from frightened little things to bouncing puff balls.”

After a busy career in the commercial loan business and raising a son, Emilie is not resting on her laurels. She has people to see, places to go, and.....deserving, sentient beings to place in loving arms.

LOCAL DOG WINS FAME AND FORTUNE

Well, not necessarily fortune.

Okay, not even fame.

But Boo Radley, a resident of Three Rivers North right here in Fort Wayne, Indiana, has won SOMETHING.

Boo Radley, an albino Pekingese, is a shelter dog and proud of it. He was adopted from Fort Wayne Animal Care & Control when about three months old. He looks out at the world through pale blue eyes, sniffs food, friend and foe through a pastel pink nose, and has a wobbly gait due to a neurological problem. He frequents Animal Care & Control, often incorporating himself into the safety programs held for scouts and school children. He is a regular at Headwaters Park in his free time.

Boo Radley's picture was chosen as a winner in the Xerox Free Color Printers Adoptable Animals Calendar Contest. He also won \$50.00, which was donated to the shelter. Although the grand prize went to a Blueberry of Fountain Hills, Boo takes great pride in representing Fort Wayne Animal Care & Control on the calendar. In a letter



from Xerox, their marketing manager stated:

"The many photos and pictures we received warmed our hearts, yet illustrated the prevalence of homeless animals. Your dedication to animal welfare and finding them forever homes is appreciated by many!"

Boo Radley plans to remain in Fort Wayne in spite of his notoriety.

**Find your new best friend
at Fort Wayne Animal
Care & Control!**



**Where Friends
Become Family!**

ADOPTION HOURS:

**Noon - 5 PM Monday through Friday,
Noon - 7 PM on Wednesdays,
11-3 PM the 1st and 3rd Saturdays
of every month.**

**Visit us at 3020 Hillegas Road
or visit us online at www.FWACC.org**

Pet Parenting Class Offered

**First Monday of Every Month
6:00 - 7:30 P.M.
FREE Admission
Location: Animal Care & Control**



Bringing home a new dog or puppy is a special time.

Making certain your home and family are prepared for a four-footed friend is paramount. To help keep dogs and owners together, Animal Care & Control offers a Pet Parenting class the first Monday of every month to help dog owners brush up on the latest tips and tricks for raising a dog successfully.

Call 427-5511 to reserve your seat in an upcoming class sponsored by Pet Supplies Plus. Dogs should not be brought to the program, but all participants will be given a free dog toy to take home.