



Newsletter of the

Fort Wayne Animal Care & Control

Helping People - Helping Animals

SPRING 2012

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



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latest news!

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THE JOY OF SPECIAL PEOPLE

Have you ever woken up in the morning and wished you had just one hour a week where you could disconnect from the hustle and bustle, enjoy a walk in the sunshine, or talk to a great listener who didn't offer advice? Maybe spend time with a friend who loves running around in circles, chases a ball or just walks quietly beside you? At Fort Wayne Animal Care & Control, a chosen few have decided to do just that!

With well over a dozen volunteers leading the pack, we have been able to transform our adoption area into a hub of never-ending interaction between our adoption animals and potential adopters, all through our volunteer dog walking program! Whatever the weather, our dogs need exercise and mental stimulation to stay happy, healthy and safe while they wait for their loving forever homes.

The dog walker volunteer program was born out of necessity. Our kennel environment is pleasant, well-lit, and comfortable. One visit and you'll agree, but there had to be more too it. What could we do to help the adoption dogs in our care become "happier" dogs while they wait for adoptive families to call their own? A walk a day can make an anxious barking dog into a peaceful resting dog and all it takes is YOU and one hour a week! Since our dog walking program began, we have noticed a significant drop in basic behavior issues such as jumping and barking.

A few short years ago, the adoption program was able to save enough donation dollars for the amazing addition of our Pooch Playground. This extremely large, fenced-in area enables our dog walkers to walk our dogs outside and take them into an enclosed area to really get some energy burned off. The addition to our Pooch Playground has been a true joy! Volunteers and dogs can now spend their time playing fetch, running around or just sitting underneath a shade tree and enjoying one another's company.

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Suzana Bacon walks Debbani



Lee Theobald walks Wendell; Keileigh Brumbeloe walks Freddie



Lisa Sorge walks Wego

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 adopted puppy Jinks

Although we are feverishly working on some new projects, I wanted to write this note and take a minute to reflect on the amazing accomplishments from our past year. We began the year with further support from our Animal Care and Control Commission. With their help, we were able to fund special programming in our adoption area this year, including our Feline Frenzy and our Ambassador Pit Bull Program. (Take a look at our year-end adoption report for more details about these exciting programs.) Community outreach has exploded with the incredible level of support our volunteers bring to this agency. Adoption appearances about town with the Whisker Wag'n, at the ballet, Mad Ants, and Tin Caps could never happen without their help.

Our enforcement division continues to work toward ensuring the welfare of our community's animals and the safety and livability of our neighborhoods. Teamwork with the Fort Wayne Police Department and fantastic support from the Allen County Prosecutors Office has increased the ability of this agency to do its utmost when it comes to animal neglect and cruelty. Domestic violence-related animal cruelty is consistently worked as a felony violation in Fort Wayne and advanced animal neglect or cruelty is not tolerated at any level in our criminal justice system. Sixty six cases of cruelty or neglect were heard in the Allen County court system this year using either state laws or local ordinances. Our ultimate goal is resolution through education for long-term gain, but we are fortunate in Fort Wayne to have the overall support of the courts when the educational approach fails or the crime is just too heinous. On a happier note, our installation of recycled computers into the officers' vans has increased the direct return of pets to owners in the field by an incredible 241%. If pets are wearing identification, it qualifies them for a direct ticket home, keeps the pet and owner less stressed, and keeps kennel space open for adoptable animals in our building.

As the officers continue to maintain safety in the community regarding animal bites, they receive special assistance from our education department. Fort Wayne has been identified as having a reverse statistic when it comes to animal bites and children. While most communities across the U.S. see more children bitten than adults, we see the opposite here. In 2011, 196 juveniles were bitten by animals while 404 adults were injured from animal bites. Of our most severe cases, 10 of our victims were adults and four were juveniles. Furthermore, the majority of bites in most communities happen from animals running loose. In Fort Wayne, just 26% of our bites occurred from animals that were not legally restrained at the time of the bite.

In the area of community relations and education we saw an astonishing 425 hours of cable broadcast time including our Kind Club Show and specialized video productions. Videos for adoptions and education aired on specialty venues such as Comcast Pets on Demand, City TV, and FWCS-LTV. Our website is nationally recognized and exceeded 548,000 "hits" in 2011! Exposure of our adoption pets and education messages through all these media portals ensures the word gets out.

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NEUTER FOR A NICKEL NEWS

a note from Laura Rowe, Animal Care Supervisor

Every year in the weeks before the Neuter for a Nickel event, I think repeatedly to myself, why in the world am I doing this? After the event, the staff is exhausted, our building smells like cat pee, there is cat fur everywhere, and I find myself continually sneezing for several days. Again, I wonder what I am possibly thinking...

Then I take my morning walk through the building and enter our cat area which houses hundreds of cats, a place where every day I have to make tough decisions. During those moments, Neuter for a Nickel pops into my head and I know without a doubt why this important event exists.

Although I may be the person who makes the decisions and takes the heat when things go wrong during Neuter for a Nickel, we wouldn't have made it to the five-year mark without each and every volunteer. Every single person who helps out is essential. This year we had some very brave volunteers at 6:30 in the morning standing in 20 degree weather, all for Neuter for a Nickel and keeping the parking lot under control. It was amazing how much smoother things went when the parking lot was under control.

The cat runners this year got their workout throughout the day. I am not sure how many calories you burn per hour carrying cats but it sure seemed like a lot. The send home areas went smoother than ever before and surgery was fast and efficient.

Of course, every year, a sprinkle of crazy comes through Neuter for a Nickel in one way or another. Whether it is swapping cats into the wrong carriers, cats getting loose in the parking lot, or simply people who can't control themselves in an adult-like manner, it is all in the name of neutering!

My deepest thanks to the to all of you, nearly 150 volunteers, for supporting Neuter for a Nickel year after year.

Laura

P.S. Our total count for neuters: 789!

VOLUNTEERS MAKE NEUTER FOR A NICKEL POSSIBLE





KAHLUA (JENNY)

Just wanted to let you know that Kahlua (Jenny) is doing great! Such a little bundle of energy and so loving. She will be playing and then come to me and rub all over me and want to be cuddled and then it's back to play again. One of her favorite toys right now is this red octopus.



She did really great at the vet's last night and everyone thought she was so adorable and she is! She

is a non-stop purring machine and at the vet's, they had to put an alcohol-soaked cotton ball in front of her nose to get her to stop purring long enough to listen to her heart! She was a little lethargic this morning from the shot she got, but she is back up to full speed this afternoon. Thank you for such a great little kitty!

Judy Whitton



ODIE

Almost a week ago my boyfriend and I adopted "Odie." He's adjusting well and enjoys living at our apartment. There are a lot of other dogs living at the apartment complex too, and he loves the fact he gets to play with them when we go out for walks!! Just wanted to say thank you for helping me adopt my new best friend.

Megan Reust
WANE TV

LET'S GET READY TO WASTE AWAY

Although we were fortunate to not have as much snow this winter, the cold temperatures often lessen our interest in clearing pet waste from our lawns. Now that spring is here we will have plenty of rain that could wash pet waste from our yards and into storm drains. That might sound rather convenient, but pet waste, along with the bacteria and other pollutants that it carries, flows with the stormwater directly into our streams, ponds, lakes and rivers without first being treated. Storm water starts off relatively free of pollutants, but as it flows over the landscape it picks up substances from our roads, parking lots and, of course, your dog's lawn and carries these substances into our streams and lakes.

An issue of great concern is that animal waste decomposes once it enters a water body and it depletes the oxygen that fish and other aquatic life need to live. Nutrients from decomposed pet waste also contribute to the growth of algae that further reduces oxygen levels. The high bacteria levels of animal waste make our waterways unsafe for swimming or fishing.

By city ordinance, every pet owner is responsible for cleaning up after the pets they own. Remove pet waste before it can attract flies or cause unpleasant odors. Pick up pet waste from public parks, areas where children play, from easements and other common areas. It's just common courtesy.

Here are three quick tips to waste away.

1. Always carry a bag with you when you walk your dogs. Biodegradable bags are great and they can be attached to the handle of your dog's leash with a rubber band.
2. Always pick up pet waste by putting the bag over your hand to use as a glove. Pick up the waste, turn the bag inside out and secure the bag shut.
3. Dispose of pet waste by burying it or putting it into the trash. It can also be flushed without the bag.

NATIONAL PROTECTION AGENCY AWARDS GRANT TO FWACC

You can only imagine our excitement when we received the announcement that our shelter was one of five animal welfare and law enforcement agencies in the country chosen to receive a grant of \$8,000 from a national animal welfare organization, the ASPCA® (The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals®). The grant to Fort Wayne will fund supplemental equipment to our enforcement division for animal cruelty crime scene investigations.

As expressed by our Deputy Director Amy Jo Sites, “The generosity of this national organization headquartered in New York allows us to enhance our investigative skills and to further achieve our mission for prevention of animal neglect and cruelty.”

“Through these grants, the ASPCA is able to empower agencies to investigate and bring justice for animal cruelty victims in their communities,” added Allison Cardona, grants officer for the ASPCA’s Field Investigations and Response team. “It’s encouraging to see that more groups such as Fort Wayne Animal Care and Control are recognizing the importance of addressing animal cruelty and allocating resources to further advance their capabilities in responding to incidents on a local level.”

Animal Care and Control officers respond to a multitude of calls within the city every day. In 2011, officers completed 22,660 total calls for service. Of that total, 6,262 were investigations that included concerns of cruelty, neglect, or animal bites.

Examples of the type of equipment purchased include crime scene photography scales, blood detection equipment, laser measuring devices, a cadaver storage refrigerator, evidence storage and other items.

The supplies and equipment will allow our department to further advance our case quality for animal cruelty investigations. We are extremely grateful to the ASPCA® for helping us fulfill our mission with funding that goes beyond the reach of our departmental budget.

About the ASPCA®

Founded in 1866, the ASPCA® (The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals®) is the first humane organization established in the Americas and serves as the nation’s leading voice for animal welfare. One million supporters strong, the ASPCA’s mission is to provide effective means for the prevention of cruelty to animals throughout the United States. As a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation, the ASPCA is a national leader in the areas of anti-cruelty, community outreach and animal health services. The ASPCA, which is headquartered in New York City, offers a wide range of programs, including a mobile clinic outreach initiative, its own humane law enforcement team, and a groundbreaking veterinary forensics team and mobile animal CSI unit. For more information, please visit www.aspc.org.



FROM THE DIRECTOR

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All these exciting things we do are really designed around one ultimate theme, one common thread: saving the lives of unwanted animals, preventing the birth of unwanted pets, and ensuring the welfare of citizens and the animals currently owned in our community. We have a magnificent, caring staff and an unsurpassed cadre of volunteers working at these tasks every single day. Sadly, the economy seems to be impacting pet retention, along with the pursuit of spaying and neutering of pets. We look to the near future for new opportunities to team with other area organizations to address some of these worries so we can do our best for both the pets and the people here in the Fort.

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 to help us care for more than 15,700 animals each year.

- Canned pet food
- 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

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.

SHELTER INITIATIVE HOMES MORE RABBITS

Rabbits have not actually replaced the Labrador Retriever as America's most popular pet. But their popularity as household pets is definitely on the rise. Rabbits are active, social animals which are fun to watch, and they enjoy spending time around their owners. They can also be trained to use a litter box.

Animal Care & Control's total small animal intake was 550 in 2011. Rabbits made up at least 45% of that number while guinea pigs, hamsters, and pet rats were among the others we received. The trend reflects the average rabbit intake of 250 plus per year to our department.



Dr. Jen Stresman, DVM with Mrs. Peabody

As part of Fort Wayne Animal Care & Control's continued effort to save lives, we began research on the protocols of spaying and neutering rabbits. Besides the obvious benefit of reducing unwanted litters, the behavioral issues are greatly improved. It curbs the male rabbits' urge to spray and mark their territory, and it alleviates female aggression. The spayed or neutered rabbit is less likely to develop testicular or ovarian tumors and, therefore, adds to the lifespan of these wonderful little creatures.

Specific surgical equipment is needed to accommodate the spay/neuter procedure on small animals. Laura Rowe, Animal Care Supervisor, secured that necessary equipment this past March, so we are now able to spay or neuter every adoptable rabbit.

This new initiative will greatly improve a rabbit's chance of being adopted. Adopters will not have the concern or expense of having the spay/neuter procedure done on their own. Depending on the type of rabbit, their life expectancy ranges from five to 15 years. With medical and behavioral issues eliminated, the rabbit has a better chance of remaining in the same home for its lifetime.

Rescue groups will also be more likely to accept rabbits from us because they will be more placeable with people who want to share their home with a bouncy bundle of fur.

Jessica Hill, Animal Care Specialist, and a very knowledgeable person about 'all creatures small' is very pleased with the new program launch.

"It will make us more competitive in the rabbit market. When people buy rabbits from pet stores it encourages commercial breeding. The spaying and neutering of rabbits is a movement of our agency as a whole to do better by small animals with the benefit going to the adopter."

Animal Care & Control's adoption fee for rabbits will remain just \$10.00.

FORT WAYNE ANIMAL CARE & CONTROL

*Helping
People...
Helping
Animals*

- Animal Rescue
- Lost & Found Pets Service
- Family Ready Pet Adoptions
- Volunteer Opportunities
- Animal Cruelty Investigations
- Pet Registration Services
- Spay/Neuter Assistance
- FREE Pet Parenting Classes

Donations Online at www.fwacc.org

260-427-1244
3020 Hillegas Road

EXPERIENCE IS A WONDERFUL THING

Once a family makes the decision to adopt a dog, they naturally start looking at either puppies or younger adult dogs. Let's face it. Puppies steal the show and young adult dogs look like the very solution to forcing us off the couch and into the park for daily walks. Plus, it's logical to want to adopt a canine friend that will be with us for as long as possible, which is never long enough.

Here at Fort Wayne Animal Care & Control, not every dog falls into the category of puppy or adolescent. Barney, a nine-year-old Beagle lost his home when his owner moved into an assisted living center. Without any other family members to move in with, Barney came here. He was charming and ever so cuddly. He was active and definitely deserving of a second family for whom he could display his loyalty.

Giorgio, a 10-year-old Lhasa-Apso didn't arrive looking fashionable, but after a shower and a shave and a new collar he looked like a new man. He stole our hearts and we knew it wouldn't be long before he would find his perfect match, even at a distinguished age.

So what special quality must one have to open their heart and home to a senior animal? I would venture to call it benevolence. Yes, it still exists and we see it every time someone is bighearted enough to choose a dog or a cat of advanced age. We smile when someone says yes to the old dog that needs multiple teeth pulled because dental care was never provided. Someone is willing to adopt a senior dog with a heart murmur and someone else falls in love with the gray muzzle of an old friend with arthritic hips.

These generous individuals know that they won't have 15 years of memories with their adopted friend, but they seem to look beyond their own loss to give the best years ever to a deserving senior. These are people who have learned that experience is a wonderful thing. Here is one such adoption letter that we would like to share.

Here is a picture of 10-year-old Eli that I adopted last Friday afternoon. He and the other two dogs are getting along so well – after the first afternoon of nerves and sniffing parts, they were old friends.

They eat side-by-side; no growls or fights about food. Lucky the Rat Terrier lunged once at Eli, and Eli let him know that was not kosher. No repeat of that behavior. In fact, Lucky had to come and get some comfort from me, as his feelings were rather hurt by the incident.

Eli was described as independent – not really a lap dog, they didn't think he'd be playing with toys much due to his age. All of this has been proven untrue in the last couple of days. He follows me everywhere (right behind Biggs, our adopted Shih-tzu); has to sit right next to me or by my feet, if not in my lap; has taken to playing with toys with abandon, sore teeth and all. Screams with delight and tries to get me to pick him up when I first get home. He gets frisky, barks at the squirrels, chases the cat and generally follows the other dogs around to see what the three of them can get into – when he is not following me around.

He starts out the night on the end of my bed, and then opts for the doggie bed a little later – he does not appear to want any part of the crate. He is well on his way to being completely spoiled rotten. He does seem to have a bit of separation anxiety when I leave for work, but the other dogs will help him with that.

Cathy T. Serrano

WHY ADOPT A SENIOR PET?

A senior pet's personality is clear, so you'll know if it's the right one for your entire family.

A senior pet has a greater attention span made for training.

A senior pet may have house manners and know some commands.

A senior pet may already be housetrained.

With a senior pet, you'll know exactly how much size you're getting.

A senior pet is often happy to hang out with you, rather than find mischief.

A senior pet makes a great napping buddy.

A senior pet knows that difference between chew toys and shoes.



ELI

WILDLIFE – TO HELP OR NOT TO HELP

Sometimes we receive wildlife brought to our department by concerned citizens. We encourage people to call us first before removing baby wildlife from a nest. Oftentimes babies are old enough to be on their own and a parent is nearby, although out of sight. By calling our department first, we can help determine if the babies are better left where they are or if indeed they need assistance. As spring babies become a common sight please remember to call us before you move wildlife from an area. Equally important is the reminder not to take wildlife into your home.



Of course, there are times when wildlife truly does need help. Officer Stacy Miller was dispatched to a home where the owner had trapped a neighborhood squirrel that was a frequent visitor to his wildlife feeding station. He trapped the squirrel because it had a plastic ring stuck around its neck. The home owner requested that we bring Mr. Squirrel back to his home if possible and as long as everything was ok with the squirrel.

We could easily see that this squirrel was fine and feisty, so Dr. Jen Stresman, Officer Miller and Animal Care Supervisor Laura Rowe proceeded to anesthetize the squirrel to safely remove the ring. Once Mr. Squirrel was asleep, our staff was able to cut and remove the ring. Mr. Squirrel has been returned to his neighborhood and the feeder he enjoys.



Sometimes wildlife can't escape injury when they have a mishap. Take as an example this turtle that was rescued from a popular Fort Wayne fishing pond. Fishing line and a hook had been left behind for this turtle to discover as he crawled along the ground. The hook pierced through his eye and needed to be removed before infection could kill him. It is not uncommon for wildlife to suffer when they become entangled in fishing line that has been left near river banks and ponds.

Children find wildlife and often want to help. Remind them that handling wildlife can result in further injury. Having a discussion about wildlife is important for the safety of children and prevents you from having a basket of chirping baby birds in your kitchen in the middle of the night.

When in doubt about what to do, give our office a call or Google search answers that will help you ascertain when baby wildlife is old enough to be left alone.

THE JOY OF SPECIAL PEOPLE

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Even our staff has commented on how they may be having a stressful work day and when they look out the window and see one (or many) of our adoption dogs outside enjoying their time with a handful of volunteers, we are all reminded of our real purpose and we are refreshed with a positive outlook and soon, wonderful adoptive families will come in and take these very special animals in our care to their forever homes!

Our dog walker volunteers come in all ages; we have entire families and couples that dedicate their time together to help the dogs in our care. Not only do our dogs benefit, but the volunteers do as well, so if you have one hour a week that you could spare, please consider joining our growing numbers of volunteer dog walkers. All the information on volunteering can be found on our website at www.FWACC.org. We hope you will consider joining us.