



Newsletter of the

Fort Wayne Animal Care & Control

Helping People - Helping Animals

FALL 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



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THE GIFT OF FOSTERING

Every animal deserves a chance – a chance for a wonderful family to love and cherish them, a chance to grow and become a family friend that will remain in our memories forever. That is the “Gift of Fostering” that is given by volunteer foster families every day at Fort Wayne Animal Care & Control.

In the state of Indiana, an animal must be at least eight weeks of age to be legally adopted from a shelter or rescue, or sold by a breeder or pet store. Many animals come into our shelter between four and seven weeks of age in need of additional time to grow. Some animals are dropped off because they are ill or injured and need special attention before they can become a member of an adoptive family. These are the special circumstances that occur on a daily basis in every animal shelter across the nation.

Here at Fort Wayne Animal Care & Control, we are fortunate enough to work with more than a dozen volunteers who are trained in the special care these animals need and deserve to become wonderful family pets. Our foster families open up their own homes to these animals in need; Animal Care & Control gives them all of the supplies needed to make these animals comfortable. We supply their food, treats, toys, litter, bedding, puppy pads, newspaper and more. Many of the supplies we use are donated from pet lovers in our community. The foster volunteer provides all the love and attention, as well as a safety-proof space to keep their foster animals during their stay. In talking with one of our foster parents about the joys she gets from fostering the many litters of puppies that she has cared for in the past three years, her comments made me realize it definitely takes a special person to open up their home and family to these amazing animals awaiting adoption.

“When I get them they are babies. I get to cuddle them, they follow me around, and they think I’m their mom. I get to take care of their illnesses and get them all better. I get to watch them sleep all on top of each other (soooo cute!) and I get to introduce them to friends, neighbors and co-workers, and they get some cuddle time, too. But when it’s time to go back, they have grown into toddlers. Toddlers that need to be trained and learn manners. I don’t want that job! Others are better at that. So I get to do what I love and the puppies and FWACC just happens to benefit, also. I learn something new with every foster. I learn about breeds or how to make things easier for clean-up or how to give medicine or what type of water bowl is best. It keeps me active and learning. And taking care of puppies is a very active activity! I think it teaches my kids that hard work and fun can go hand-in-hand.”

-- Colleen Bolger



“It’s like having new babies of your very own and watching them as they grow – it’s always hard to bring them back.”
Susan Marqueling, volunteer

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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 adopted puppy Jinks

Teaming Up to Save Money and Animals' Lives at the Same Time

Several years ago we began investigating the possibility of adding mobile computers to our officer's vehicles. The gains are immense for both animals and citizens when we can put data at the fingertips of the officers. Animals wearing identification that is registered with our department can receive a trip straight home. We do not want these pets to have to come into our building any more than the pet owner does. Currently, this

is an opportunity only when a dispatcher is available in the office. It is rarely possible at night or on the weekends. Officer safety would also be enhanced by having violator information right in front of them as we share many of our clientele with the police department.

At this point we are the last public safety or field services department working out there without this efficiency enhancement on board. Why the hold up? Times are tight and we have been leaning out our operations budget each year. Mobile computers simply have not been in the budget and grant dollars for capital are rare in the animal control profession.

After examining the issue, Chief Rusty York had an idea. When the police department mobiles are out of warranty, why not bring them over to Animal Care and Control? The police department's mobile support staff embraced the idea, and their help has been amazing. The Controllers Office and Chief Technology Officer assisted with the ancillary requirements of the project, and the radio shop jumped in with the mounting. This was a team approach that could not have happened without some remarkable people and true concern for the welfare of both animals and their owners while ever mindful of the current economic environment.

The monetary savings to the city are several-fold. The obvious is the hardware savings realized by sharing used equipment across departments. When this building was

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WHAT YOU CAN DO

Any pet could slip away from home. Protect them with a city pet registration tag required for all cats and dogs living in Fort Wayne and made available to county pet owners.

- Keep your address information current. If you move, update your file by calling our business office at 427-1244.
- If you were given a pet from a previous owner, be sure the registration tag, personal ID, and microchip traces to you and not the former owner. To update ownership information, call our office.
- If your cat or dog slips away from home, search our shelter right away and file a lost pet report. A delay can hinder your chance of being reunited with your pet.

COME WALK FOR ANIMALS

Join our 24th annual **Walk for Animals** and enjoy a two mile autumn walk through Franke Park and raise much needed funds to fight animal cruelty and neglect through education and community outreach. Six fantastic prize packages will be awarded based on top dollar amounts raised and turned in at the walk. Everyone supports the cause by registering and turning-in a minimum pledge requirement.

Help celebrate the joys of living with pets while raising funds to create a better future for all animals. With or without a pet, you'll have a great time and make a difference for animals that are counting on YOU!

Support our 24th annual Walk for Animals by registering and turning-in a minimum pledge. Information and registration forms are available at www.fwacc.org, area veterinary clinics and at the shelter. For additional information or vendor inquiries, please call 260-427-5508.

PLEDGES & REGISTRATION:

Individual

- \$33 per person
- \$25 minimum pledge
- \$8 registration fee
 - Earn a t-shirt, sweatshirt, hoodie or fleece jacket based on dollar amount raised.

Family

- \$120 per family (4 or more)
- \$100 minimum pledge
- \$20 registration fee
 - Each family member will receive a t-shirt!

Save the Date

WALK FOR ANIMALS



 Sunday, October 9, 2011

 Registration Inside Pavilion One: 11:30-12:45

 Walk begins: 1:00

 Prizes and refreshments: 2:00

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.

2nd Annual

Halloween Pet Parade

Saturday, October 15th
Headwaters Park West

Pets are invited to show off their best Halloween costumes. \$20 entry per pet includes a custom color, framed picture. \$25 entry after 8/12 or at the event.



A CHANCE FOR HARLEY

Harley is a charming black Labrador retriever that came to our department in September of 2010 after her owner left her with a friend and never returned. Harley was an awesome dog from the start. Our staff instantly fell in love playing ball with her and discovering all the tricks she enjoyed showing off. She was an easy choice for our pet adoption program.

Prior to moving her into adoptions we performed a routine medical exam and, to our disappointment, we discovered a mammary tumor. Harley was such an agreeable dog; we easily elected to use donation dollars from our Angel fund to cover her surgery expenses. We have successfully removed mammary tumors from past adoption dogs, so we felt secure allowing potential adopters to consider her. As anticipated, Harley was quickly chosen by a great family with small children. We seemed to have reached a happy ending for our Harley. At least we had hoped.

Days later, Harley was returned. The family discovered an allergy with one of the children. To compound our frustration, we received a lab result from Harley's biopsy stating that her tumor involved a lymph node, which

is a poor prognosis. If I used the word devastating, I don't think that would still describe how the staff felt when we shared the results of Harley's biopsy. We now had Harley back in our care knowing it was only a matter of time before we would face putting her to sleep.

Standing at a cross roads can be a challenge for any agency. What resources do we have and how can we responsibly allocate those resources to help the animals in our care? A staff member suggested that she could try caring for Harley in a "hospice" status at her home. It was a generous offer by a great staff member, but unfortunately her dog was not accepting of Harley. Fights ensued and Harley was returned once again.

Cancer will continue to spread in Harley. Our doctors feel it could be a year or less until the cancer will migrate into her lungs or affect her central nervous system. If you saw her today, you would have no idea this is happening inside her body. We know the end results are not positive, but we wanted to share her story because she means so very much to us all. Sheltering homeless



animals is always a challenge, but it is because of your generous donations that differences are made for animals that need it most.

We are happy to report that Harley is still with us today in a hospice home with our generous friend Tammy Dereckson. We visit with Harley and we are happy knowing that her days are comfortable, loving and supportive. At some point we will say our good-byes to Harley, but for now she lives and she loves.



Hello!

My fiancé and I adopted 'Igy' last fall and we just wanted to give everyone an update. He is doing great and loves his big brother, Baxter. We actually changed his name to Archie.

Besides the normal puppy chewing, he has done really well and fits right into the family.

Let's just say that the boys keep our lives pretty exciting! Archie will be attending puppy classes very soon.

We are both so happy to have Archie in our lives!
Thanks for everything!

Lauren Gilbert and Eric Exner

Before and after of Archie the dog.



THE GIFT OF FOSTERING

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Our fosters become attached to the many animals they care for and on special occasions they are fortunate enough to know what the future holds for their cuddly friends. Marty LaBarbara, who has fostered more litters of puppies than we could track during the past 10 years, has one happy ending that has stayed with her:

"We fostered Wookie in November 2003 – a six-week-old black terrier mix. We fell in love with her, but she was such a sweet puppy we decided to give someone else a chance to adopt; so we took her back. We delivered her to the shelter on a Wednesday at 5:30 p.m., decided to eat out and come back. If she wasn't adopted, she would be ours. When we arrived back at the shelter we discovered she had been adopted at 6:00 p.m. by a lovely older couple.

To this day Wookie (now called So-Mi) has a wonderful home with Animal Care & Control Director Belinda Lewis's aunt, and we get frequent updates on our little foster baby. When customers tell me they could never foster because they could not give the puppies or kitties up, I tell them there are so many good people who need puppy and kitty love that I am just babysitting, waiting for them to come in to adopt. Makes the job a gift of love. Fostering gives you kitty purrs –puppy breath – and a morning greeting gift of a new day integrated in love, even though they're traipsing through litter, wet food, water and some poo, too. Evening offers quiet cuddles. These little hearts wrapped in fur are a foster's gift of care to be passed to the new adopters."

-- Marty LaBarbera

We are fortunate to have so many loving volunteers who give of their time and their hearts to care for these, our special friends. We are always in need of volunteers (18 years or older) willing to give of their time. In order to become a foster parent, we require that our volunteers help with other tasks such as dog walking, kennel cleaning or cat socializing for a minimum of 90 days prior to becoming a foster parent. This allows the volunteer time to become acclimated to our environment and our animal handling rules, as well as learning to deal with the emotions associated with caring for homeless animals. Please contact me, Jodi Hamilton, if you wish to become a volunteer with Fort Wayne Animal Care & Control. The animals can't wait to receive your love.

Perhaps one day we will no longer need foster families for unwanted litters or for injured animals in need of care, but until that day, we are lucky to have these amazing angels among us who share their lives, their homes and their hearts.

-- Jodi Hamilton, Volunteer Coordinator

FROM THE DIRECTOR

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renovated from a church to an animal shelter in 1998, we took animal intake projections to city council as we discussed square footage. We were asked to scale back the project as they did not feel our numbers were accurate and animal volume would not likely be that high. Unfortunately, we have already surpassed our animal handling plan to the year 2020. The economy and current societal ownership trends are not accommodated by available shelter housing space in our community. The more animals we can get directly back to owners, the more space we keep open in the shelter for adoptable pets in need of new homes! Daily care, cleaning, and feeding all cost money. Get those pets home!

Efficiencies gained are also broad in this approach. We currently make between 22 and 24,000 runs annually handling just under 16,000 animals a year. The officers will receive their runs directly through their computers and be processing their paperwork as they go. End of shift paperwork backlogs that result in overtime should be gone. The dispatchers will be able to get to the phones with a quicker turn around as they are not radio dispatching. The communications call takers who handle our after-hours and weekend calls will be able to input the runs directly, bypassing the need for radio dispatch. Citizens will be saved the trip into the shelter and so will their pets providing identification is kept current and owners are at home to receive their pet.

Our thanks go to all those in the administration that teamed up to help make this project happen on a shoestring. Keeping streets safe and future expansions of the shelter at bay by keeping animals in their homes is the ultimate goal for all players.



FOLLOW OUR WHISKER WAG'N



Location	Day	Time
PetSmart in Apple Glen	1st Friday of each month	5:30 to 8:30 p.m.
PetSmart on Marysville Road	Last Saturday of each month	10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
PetSmart on Lima Road	Last Sunday of each month	1 to 4 p.m.
PetSmart on Coliseum Blvd	3rd Friday of each month	5:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Pet Supplies Plus on Coldwater Road	2nd Sunday of each month	Noon to 4 p.m.

NEW CITATION PROCESS SAVES MONEY AND TIME

In an effort to reduce the amount of time, money, and effort it takes to summons citizens to court once they fail to comply with initial enforcement action, the Enforcement Division at Animal Care and Control (ACC) and Allen County Superior Court (ACSC) officials collaborated to introduce a process that is proving to save time and reduce cost to the city.

It is always a priority for our enforcement division to use education with citizens. When a citation is issued, every effort is given for a citizen to correct the violation to avoid fines and a court appearance. Prior to April 2011, our process was lengthy, cumbersome, higher in cost, and limited in overall effectiveness. We challenged ourselves to develop a new and improved process. In the past, when a citizen received a citation, they were given an initial thirty days to comply with the violation and contact our department with their information. As contact and compliance were met, we would void the citation and no further action was taken. A real win-win for everyone.

If the 30 days lapsed, the citizen was then sent a final notice letter stating they had an additional 30 days to comply and contact our department to avoid being summoned to court. If they complied and made contact with us prior to their new deadline, we would void the citation and no further enforcement action was taken. The cost of the final notice is a first class stamp. We average at least 20 per week. Once this time frame lapsed and no contact was made, the citizen was then summoned to court.

The summons process added more time and cost. It entails a search of the database to ensure the citizen did or didn't comply but failed to contact the agency. Next, a summons is created, notarized, signed by the City Attorney, and then packaged as a certified restricted letter that is delivered to the Post Master location to be sent out to the citizen. Each letter costs the City \$9.45 per mailing.

Once the individual has been summoned to court, the clerks at the Criminal Justice Center are responsible for entering the data into their court system for the designated date. Should the individual fail to appear on their designated court date, which is traditionally another thirty to forty-five days, they would receive a letter from the court providing them with a second court date. If the individual still failed to show to the second court date, the judge would issue a warrant for their arrest. In 2010, the total number of cases heard at ACSC was 730. There is approximately 30 percent that never appear and result in warrants being issued.

The biggest improvement to our new process is that our citation now includes a potential court date. The citizen is still provided with their initial thirty days to reach compliance of the alleged violation. As long as the citizen contacts our agency and provides proof, we void the citation and no further enforcement action is needed. If the initial thirty days is lapsed, ACC initiates a final notice letter providing the citizen with fourteen days to show compliance and have the citation voided. Failure to do so will result in the citizen automatically being summoned to the court date that was included on their original citation. Using the approximate costs above, we are projecting a savings to the City of at least \$8,968 per year by no longer needing the certified restricted letter process. The original citation process could take as long as 150 days before the person was summoned to court. By this time, people had moved, failed to claim their summons at the USPS, or complied during the time they were being processed to their court date. With the new system, the individual is processed within a 90 day window to potentially avoid any of the prior problems along with reducing the costs and manpower to complete the summons process.

In this current day initiative to do more with less, ACC is striving for efficiency and cost savings. We feel we are on a great track with our new citation process.

WHEN RACCOONS INVADE YOUR HOME

Imagine the scare of hearing something creeping around your home in the early morning hours. That's precisely what happened with Pam Messman, a city resident who discovered she had a posse of raccoons throwing a small party in her kitchen. The raccoons were smart to choose a great food source, but Pam didn't toss down a welcome mat for the three wild critters that had entered from a hole beneath her kitchen sink. Fortunately she knew to call our department for service. In a case like this, even if our officers have gone home for the night, we will dispatch an officer to run the call. Our officers who are on call have take-home vehicles so they can respond quickly to what is considered a public safety emergency.



Some types of wildlife inside your home put family members at risk. The normal course of action is to see if the animals can be lured outside. In this case the raccoons went into hiding, so a live trap was the next best option. As soon as the raccoons went inside the trap to eat the bait, Pam called us to return and remove the animals from her home.

We know that raccoons rarely exhibit a fear of people because they are born and raised in neighborhoods. They have replaced their former nesting places with attics, crawlspaces, chimney dampers, hot tubs, decks, tool sheds and storm drains. Dog and cat water bowls, swimming pools and ponds have replaced water sources such as creeks and springs. Raccoons are nocturnal animals that roam neighborhoods at night looking for food. They are opportunistic feeders, dining on insects, fruits, vegetables, acorns, seeds, fish and small mammals, as well as dog and cat food and garbage left out overnight. Litters are usually born in April or May and range in size from one to nine, although the average is four. By mid-June, most young raccoons accompany their mother on food searches and begin to learn survival skills.

If you are a city resident and a wild animal is inside your home, we can provide you with a live trap to catch and remove the animal. Wild animals that are creating a nuisance outside your home are not considered a threat to public safety. They can be handled by calling a nuisance wildlife removal company or simply removing the conditions that are attracting them to your home.

Keep your chimney capped and secure your trash can lid with a thick rubber strap with hooks on the end. Look for holes that may give wildlife easy access to your home. For additional information, visit our website at www.fwacc.org and click the link on wildlife or visit www.in.gov/dnr/fishwild/2351.htm. To request a trap, call our business office at 427-1244 (option 7).

WILDLIFE REMOVAL

Local Companies
Licensed by the DNR
for Wildlife Removal:

Critter Control:
(260) 625-3099

Naylor and Sons:
(260) 436-2792

Sly Fox Wildlife Control:
(260) 637-8861



CALLING ALL TEENS

It's Time to Act for Animals

Animal loving teens, ages of 13-17, are invited to join the ACT - Animal Care Teen Program at Fort Wayne Animal Care & Control. Learn about responsible animal care, careers working with animals, and engage in service to benefit homeless animals in our community.

Meetings are one hour in length and held twice a month on Tuesday evenings from 5:30-6:30 p.m. For additional information and to request a schedule, call 260-427-2590. Cost: \$20 Sept. - April.

DON'T LOSE MONEY.

Every 40 seconds someone in the U.S. seeks medical care because of a dog bite.



DOG BITE SAFETY

Don't lose money on costly hospital and doctor bills, lost wages or even law suits stemming from a preventable dog bite. Every 40 seconds someone in the U.S. seeks medical care because of a dog bite and 70 percent of dog bites occur on the owner's property.

With a little planning you can avoid being one of the 4.7 million Americans bitten by dogs every year. Keep everyone safe by reviewing the following safety tips.

AVOID DOG BITES

- Call 427-1244 to report a stray dog in the city to the shelter.
- Never approach an unfamiliar dog or an injured dog. The dog may bite out of fear.
- If you can, safety coax a stray dog into a fenced yard or garage, do not play with the dog or allow children to pet the dog. Call the shelter for assistance.
- Always allow a dog to see and sniff you first when meeting someone else's dog.

DOG OWNERS

- Never leave infants or small children alone with a dog.
- Spay or neuter your dog to reduce territorial behaviors.
- Obey leash laws when walking your dog in public areas.
- Don't take dogs to crowded festivals or parades.
- Enroll your dog in an obedience class for socialization.
- Don't chain your dog for extended periods of time as chaining increases aggression.

***A public safety message
from Fort Wayne Animal Care & Control***



HATS OFF TO AREA VETERINARY HOSPITALS

We take our hats off to ten local veterinary hospitals who have each sold more than 200 pet registration tags to their clients during the first six months of 2011.

Thanks for all you do!

St. Joe Center Vet	800 tags
Westside Animal Hospital	493 tags
East State Veterinary Clinic	479 tags
Allen Veterinary Hospital	424 tags
Anthony Animal Clinic	343 tags
Stellhorn Veterinary Hospital	339 tags
Waynedale Animal Clinic	332 tags
Fort Wayne Pet Hospital	311 tags
Indian Creek Veterinary Hospital	231 tags
Aboite Animal Clinic	210 tags

There are 20 area veterinary hospitals and two low cost spay and neuter clinics in Fort Wayne that make the city pet registration tags available as a convenience to community pet owners. Be sure to request a registration tag when you visit your vet and thank them for offering this service to you. It goes a long way in helping our department reunite lost pets with their families.

YEARLY PET REGISTRATION

- \$5.00 annual registration for each neutered/spayed dog or cat over 6 months.
- Free annual registration for each neutered/spayed dog or cat of a senior citizen (age 62+).
- \$100.00 annual registration for each unaltered dog or cat over 6 months

LIFETIME PET REGISTRATION

– the only tag you'll ever need.

- \$30.00 lifetime tag for each neutered/spayed and microchipped dog or cat.
- \$5.00 lifetime tag for each neutered/spayed and microchipped dog or cat of a senior citizen (age 62+).