



Newsletter of the

Fort Wayne Animal Care & Control

Helping People - Helping Animals

Fall 2008

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

HOME FORECLOSURES HURT PETS

Animal shelters across the United States are reporting a rise in the intake of pets in the first four months of 2008. Here in Fort Wayne we are reporting a 2.5% increase in incoming animals. Indiana is one of the states where mortgage foreclosures are highest, along with Illinois, Ohio, Massachusetts, Nevada, California and Arizona. And, according to financial professionals, the problem of high mortgage foreclosures affecting people and their pets is unlikely to improve in the near future.

As the mortgage crisis has devastated homeowners and the economy, it has brought with it a troubling trend: pets abandoned after home foreclosures. Just this week our officers rescued a mother cat and her newborn kittens from a home where the owners had been forced out. Across town we removed a parrot and a dog from a similar scenario. These types of cases are becoming far too common in our community.

Pets who are the casualty of foreclosures are often left indoors, without food, water or the comforts of a temperature-controlled environment. Experts say a dog will become dehydrated within 24 hours without water and could die in extreme heat within a few days. Like humans, dogs and cats can go for a long time without food but will quickly die without water.

We urge pet parents faced with foreclosure to bring their pets to our department or other suitable shelter if unable to place them with friends or family. With the increasing numbers of property abandonment, more and more animals are being left behind to fend for themselves. We find dogs chained up outside or left in the yard and cats simply set free as their owners are forced to abandon their homes.



What can you do right now to help?

If you know that a home in your neighborhood is being foreclosed upon:

- Ask the occupants if they have made plans or need help for their pets.
- Offer our phone number (260-427-1244) to the owners.
- After the owners have moved, check on the home to see if any pets were left behind or tied up in the back yard.
- Report to Animal Care & Control if you suspect an animal has been abandoned or if you see an animal in need of provisions. Call 260-427-1244.
- Make a donation to our animal care fund or pet adoption fund to help an animal in need.

Speak for a helpless animal.

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

The 311 Call Center -
Helping Customer with "One Call to City Hall"

One of the greatest difficulties for a citizen calling Animal Care and Control over the last several years has been the frequency that they experience a busy signal. Our agency has four incoming lines, and keeping those lines open for callers needing an officer dispatched, it has often been difficult due to the volume of general informational calls received. "What are your hours?" "I lost my pet, what do I do?" "Is that cute poodle still available in the adoption program?" These are all very important questions but are not at the same priority level as a dog fight in progress or a dog locked in a hot car.

It was no surprise to us when we were informed by the director of the 311 center that research estimates indicated eighty percent of calls received are generally informational only. Since we are dispatching between 20,000 and 23,000 calls for service annually, they are estimating our overall call volume around 100,000! No wonder we have busy signals!

After extensive discussion and evaluation of processes, the Animal Care and Control Commission voiced their concerns about the concept of law enforcement dispatches being handled at the same level as general informational calls. The compromise reached by all parties was to transfer officer dispatch calls directly to our agency and to have informational calls handled by the 311 call takers. I think we now have the potential for a win-win situation. With informational calls being handled by 311 call takers, the busy signals at Animal Care and Control should be diminished for those needing critical assistance, as well as for those with some of the common basic questions. At the same time, citizens needing an officer will receive immediate transfer to an Animal Control dispatcher without having to repeat their needs twice to two different parties.

How 311 Will Work With Animal Care and Control

- The planned cutover date is September 9, 2008.
- FWACC staff will work with 311 call takers to ensure correct informational training.
- 311 staff will come to the shelter to observe business in our environment.
- All incoming calls to FWACC will be routed directly to the 311 center at cutover.
- The caller will hear: "311 can I help you?"
- Call takers' first question will be, "do you need an animal control officer dispatched?"
 - o Yes: The citizen will be transferred immediately to an AC dispatcher.
 - o No: 311 call takers will use their extensive "knowledge base" to assist the caller.
- Animal Care and Control hours are not changing. During evening, night, and weekend hours when the 311 Center is not open, the phones will have been routed back to Animal Care and Control.

Belinda Lewis



To everyone at FWACC:

Lenny, formerly Fido, the little terrier that we adopted in May, is adjusting really well to our home. He is super happy and he puts a smile on our faces every day. His first swim was just yesterday at the lake! I don't think he will be a full blown water dog, but he did okay. He and Ollie also like to nap together on the couch on the porch at the lake. They get along just fine!

He probably never had a chance to do this for you guys there, but every morning when he wakes up, he is a holy terror! He shoots through the house like a rocket just growling and barking the whole time! He's a hoot!

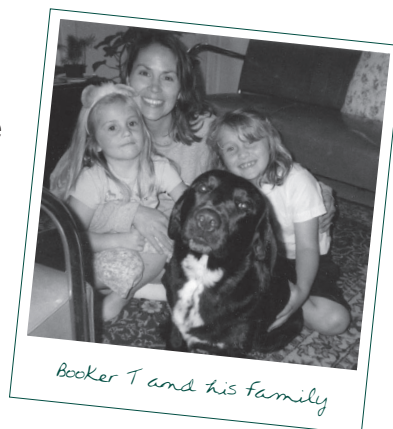
Thank you so much for the love and attention he was given while there – it is a joy to have him in our family.

Purkiser Family



Dear Adoption Center,

It has been over a year now since we adopted Booker T. I would just like to thank you. He is the most wonderful dog. Our whole family loves him so much. He is the best dog we have ever had, so gentle and affectionate.



Enclosed is a photo of Booker T. with my wife and our two children. We hope you remember Booker, for he makes an instant impression on everyone who comes in contact with him. Thank you.

Keep up the great work.
The Barlow Family

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 15,919 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.

NO-SEW FLEECE KITTY BLANKET

Make and donate no-sew blankets!

We use no-sew fleece blankets for kitty bedding here at Fort Wayne Animal Care & Control and at our three off-site kitten adoption centers.

Supplies:

Scissors— sharp sewing or craft scissors to cut the fleece

Ruler— even a little 6-inch ruler is fine to mark the “cut-to” line on the fleece.

Tape— narrow, light-adhesive tape works well. Use inexpensive tape that doesn’t have much stick, so you can easily remove it when you’ve finished tying the no-sew blanket.

Fabric— you’ll need two pieces of fleece the same size to make each no-sew blanket. For a kitty blanket, start with an 18-inch or 24-inch square. Kitties don’t care about the colors or prints, although animal prints look really cute! You can use two different colors or prints, or even the same fabric for the front and the back. Fleece usually comes in 60-inch wide rolls.

Instructions:

Begin by laying out your two fabric pieces on a table or clean floor. The bottom piece should have the “good” side facing down, while the top piece should have the “good” side facing up. (The two “wrong” sides will be against each other in the middle.)

Stick a piece of masking tape 4 inches in from each edge of the blanket. This will be your “cut-to” line. Each corner will end up with a square where the tape crosses. Cut out that square through both layers of fleece and discard it. (Or save the squares and use them for kitty catnip toys. Fill the squares with cotton and catnip and sew shut.)



Now, with the no-sew blanket still laying out flat, start cutting the fringe around the edges. Cuts should be 1 inch wide and cut up to the tape line. You don’t have to be exact! No stress, just be as consistent as you can. Cut all the way around all four sides of your no-sew blanket.

Next, starting at one corner of the no-sew blanket, gently lift the first set of fringe (you should be holding one of each color.) Tie together. Once you have all the tying completed on your no-sew blanket, peel the tape guide-lines off of the fleece.

You’re finished! Wasn’t that easy?



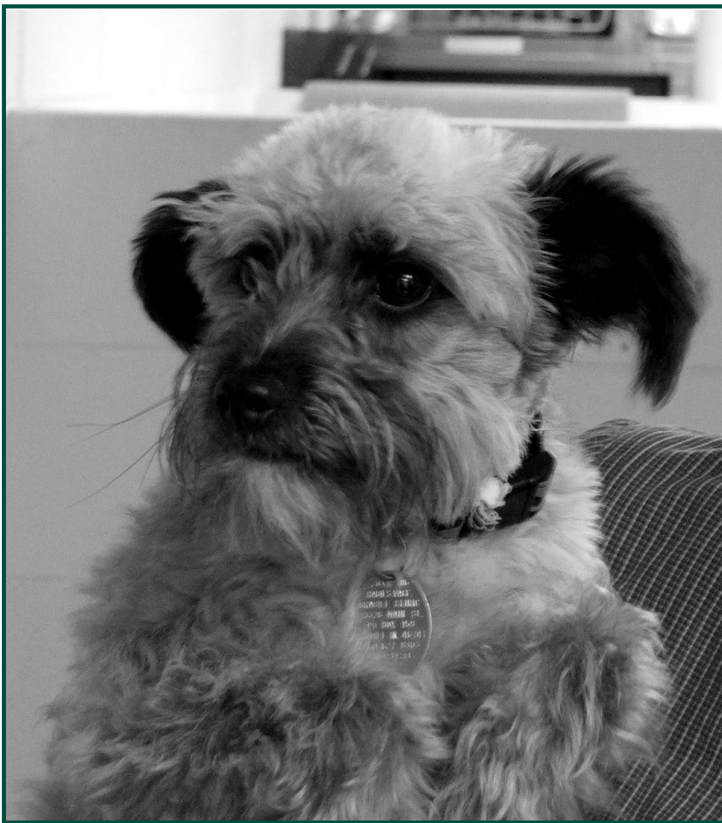
FOOD PROGRAM HELPS HUNGRY PETS

The rising cost of gas and a tough economy has some pet owners struggling to keep quality food in the bowls of their pets. To help feed hungry dogs and cats and to better ensure that pets stay with their owners our department has launched a food for pets program using donated dog and cat food.

When a request for free pet food is made, we ask the pet owner to complete a short survey. The process takes just a few minutes and helps us track the number of pets in the home, the vaccination and spay neuter status of the animals, and the frequency of requested assistance. We help families in need when donation food is available. A family is eligible to receive one bag of dog or cat food per month. Owners do not need to receive government assistance to request help.

We hope that offering this food program will keep pets and families together during these difficult times. Donation food can be brought to the shelter weekdays 11 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Wednesdays until 7 p.m. and on the first and third Saturdays of each month from 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

WE ARE RESCUE FRIENDLY!



Fort Wayne Animal Care and Control is proud to work with many generous and devoted breed rescue groups who partner with us to help homeless animals. We appreciate their good will, time, and effort. These groups do make a difference for ani-

mals and by becoming a partner with our shelter; they expand our resources, which are often limited.

Partner agencies are established, not-for-profit animal protection organizations incorporated for the purpose of preventing cruelty to animals. Such agencies either have animal sheltering facilities or use “foster” or “haven” homes to house animals awaiting permanent placements. In just over two years, 376 animals from our shelter have benefited from our partner agencies.

Groups interested in working with our department go through an application process to determine how and where animals are housed and placed. We gather veterinary information, references, placement guidelines, and regional or national affiliation. All of our animals are microchipped, heartworm tested and spayed or neutered before being transferred, and the partner agency pays the fees for those services.

We applaud the hard work and commitment of these groups. Working together, we make great futures for animals that count on us all. For further information on becoming a placement partner, please call our adoption office at 260-427-5502.

WE'RE GROWING

Our department is pleased to announce the opening of two new adoption centers for our cats and kittens. You'll find them inside PetSmart located at 10260 Maysville Road and inside the PetSmart located at 10035 Lima Road. Customers now have additional choices that we hope are convenient for location and extended hours.

And, remember we still have cats and kittens available to adopt from Kitty City located inside Pet Supplies Plus, 4714 Coldwater Road!

Those interested in adopting a cat or kitten can complete an application profile at the store where the kitten resides. Applications are then faxed to our shelter for processing.

Once finalized, the adopter will return to the store the next business day to sign their contract, pay the \$65 cat adoption fee and then take home their new cat or kitten. Be sure to say thank you to the store management for hosting Animal Care & Control felines!

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

Dear Animal Care & Control;

We want to thank you for your care and concern and for having the Neuter for a Nickel Program during Spay Day USA. Two of our cats we found last spring when we cleaned out the fence row, and they were starving and abandoned by their mother. Later in the fall, three little ones appeared in the same condition. They all found a place in our hearts. Our household would be a less happy place without them.

If Animal Care & Control had not had the Neuter for a Nickel Program, I don't know what we would have done. One of us is unemployed and we could not really afford to have the neuter procedures done at a vet clinic, even as badly as we knew it needed to be done.

I compliment your staff and your volunteers as it is obvious they are all caring and concerned individuals. They made sure that everything was organized and the animals comforted as best they could be with the amount of cats there. I cannot tell you how much we appreciate all that was done.

We believe so much in what you are trying to accomplish that we are sending this contribution plus cans of cat food. Thanks again for everything.

Sincerely,

The Case Family – M2, Bootsie, Blackie, Tanker and Scooter

NEUTER SUCCESS

Words of thanks and gratitude were expressed all weekend long by Allen County pet owners who received help from Neuter for a Nickel, our Spay Day USA event held last February. This was a tremendous coming together of the community to help families in need and to alleviate additional unwanted births.

Everyone gave their time to the weekend. In all, 3 veterinarians, 21 staff, 12 shelter volunteers, and 10 other volunteers gave their time to the event. When finished, we had helped 176 families and neutered 258 male cats in our surgical suite that was added to our building in 2004 by local residents Helen Adams and Clara Bloom.

All expenses for the event were covered by private contributions and by everyone donating their time. Best of all, countless litters of kittens will have been prevented. If you'd like to get involved and contribute to spay neuter assistance programs, contact our office at 260-427-1244.

OUT AND ABOUT

Summer was a busy time for our department. In addition to the multitude of animals that we cared for, a whopping average of 55 new animals arrived daily; we also took time to participate in community events.

Our education efforts took us to the 2nd Annual Child Safety Fair sponsored by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. We shared animal bite prevention tips with children, while parents learned about pet adoptions. We had a great turn out and children

loved climbing inside our Animal Control van.

At the Weiner Dog Nationals we provided dachshunds and a few other visiting dogs with 40 gallons of fresh drinking water. What fun we had seeing the love and devotion that owners have for these audacious, yet charming dogs. The range of colors amazed us. We were thrilled to be the official water station and to watch owners cheering their dogs at the race lane, while dachshund ears flapped in the wind.



At the Three Rivers Festival we held our annual Picture Your Pet event to celebrate families and pets. Owners came to Lakeside Park with their dogs, cats, bunnies and other small critters. Each received a professional portrait to cherish for a lifetime.



It was a great summer of fun and we even managed to take in a Wizards Game with our adoption dogs. Many were adopted and are now living happy lives with Wizard fans.

DOES YOUR POOCH NEED BETTER MANNERS?

Everybody loves a well-behaved dog. If your pooch could benefit from a puppy class or adult dog obedience class, then give us a call. We can provide you with a list of local schools and instructors. We also have classes that meet in the Animal Care & Control Education Center, taught by My Best Friend Dog Training. Call 260-238-3073 for more information about their upcoming schedule.

Dogs and owners alike will find that obedience classes are a worthwhile choice. Statistics show that a dog that has attended an obedience class is three times more likely to remain with its owner for life. When you consider the years you will have your dog and the cost of attending one class, the money (usually about \$100) will be well invested.

Obedience class will help you learn how to communicate the

house rules to your dog in a manner that your dog will understand. You will also learn how to be instructional with what you say to your dog which is far better than scolding your dog for what's wrong.

Make sure your dog is well-socialized and developing good manners. Enroll in a class to prevent canine problem behaviors and to enjoy the full benefits of a well-mannered dog.

WALK FOR ANIMALS 2008

Biscuit-crunching, treat-munching, four-legged fidos are sitting up and begging to join Walk for Animals 2008 planned for Sunday, October 12. With pet owners in tow, dogs everywhere are invited to take a 2-mile non-competitive autumn walk through Franke Park as a special fundraising event for Fort Wayne Animal Care & Control. Your feet will help us beat animal cruelty and neglect through education. Don't miss this tail-wagging way to celebrate the joy of living with pets while raising funds to create a better future for all animals. With or without a pet, you'll have a dog-gone great time and make a difference for animals that are counting on YOU!

Pledges are required of all who attend! A minimum pledge of \$25 or more per individual or \$100 or more per family is required to participate. In exchange you'll receive a shirt, enjoy free food, qualify for great prizes, and be eligible for our fun contest. Best of all you'll know you contributed to an important effort. Ask friends, neighbors, co-workers, relatives, and businesses to support the cause with a Walk donation. Try to reach a goal of raising \$100 per person.

You can also organize friends, family, co-workers, or any group of four or more people to walk as a Dog Pack. Be sure to name your dog pack to promote the community spirit of your special group.



Visit our website at www.fwacc.org for a printable Walk for Animals brochure or call 260-427-5508 to request a brochure to be mailed to you. Local veterinary clinics also have Walk brochures available. If you cannot join us, call 427-5508 to make a donation to sponsor one of our shelter dogs who will walk in the event. Please join us!

USE A MOUSE TO ADOPT A CAT OR DOG

If you plan to add a pet to your family, just pick up your mouse and log on to the Animal Care & Control website at www.fwacc.org. When you visit our site, click the link "Pets for Adoption" to see pictures of wonderful companion animals waiting to be adopted. For the real ambitious, here are ideas for promoting pet adoptions:

- Download a pet picture from our site to your computer screensaver to share with co-workers.
- Send adoption pet pictures to friends and family that might have interest in adopting.
- Tell everyone that pet adoption is the best option!
- Children can print photos with descriptions to make a poster for school if preparing a persuasive speech on pet adoptions.
- Make a pet adoption poster using photos from our website to make a car window sun shield. Your parked car will be a billboard for pet adoptions.

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**