



Newsletter of the

# Fort Wayne Animal Care & Control

Helping People - Helping Animals

Spring 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

## SOME ENCHANTED EVENING



Volunteer Coordinator Courtney Miller and Abby toss the puck

How do people meet and fall in love? No doubt, timing is everything - to be in the right place, at the right time, to notice the absolute right one. As the song goes, "Some enchanted evening you may see a stranger across a crowded room."

For dogs and owners, it can happen the very same way. At least that's what our adoption staff and volunteers are banking on in a new outreach program called Paws and Pucks. It entails taking dogs by invitation to select Komet Hockey games at the Memorial Coliseum.

Thousands of hockey fans receive a warm greeting by Animal Care & Control adoption dogs at the entrance gate. Tails wag, people smile and stop to say hello, and there you have it again - the right family, at the right place and time, to meet that absolute right dog.

We applaud the volunteers and staff members who are giving their time to this cause. Most of all, we thank Komet Hockey Hall of Fame Member Robbie Laird and his wife Madeleine for putting it all together.

We introduced seven dogs at the first two events, and thanks to Komet Hockey fans all were adopted within a few days following each event. Fans loved watching Abby, a special Labrador retriever mix, toss the game puck with volunteer coordinator Courtney Fanning. Look for us at future games March 28th and April 13.



Madeleine Laird and Abby

## 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.

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*"We place more pets with people than any other business or organization in Northern Indiana."*

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### **ANIMAL CARE & CONTROL**

3020 Hillegas Rd  
Fort Wayne IN 46808  
Business Office (260) 427-1244  
Fax (260) 427-5514  
[www.fwacc.org](http://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.



**Belinda Lewis**  
Executive Director

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

While we still wrap up all our work from 2007, we're leaping into 2008! Our accomplishments from 2007 have served as a launching pad for the new year and we're excited about some new opportunities. You have a lot to do with that!

In 2007, our Animal Care and Control Commission ramped up its fundraising to support the non-tax based programming that our department pursues. The reason we are able to do so much more for our city than common governmental shelters is seated in our citizen community involvement. Your donation dollars are keeping some of these extra lifesaving programs moving forward.

Our volunteer program, a completely donor-supported entity, is teaming with the Fort Wayne Komets and Coliseum to increase adoptions and shelter exposure by attending local games during the '07-'08 season with adoption animals. Go volunteers! With almost 900 hours of volunteer service monthly, this shelter would not function as we do without their involvement in all that is positive!

New legislation was passed in Indiana last year making animal cruelty a felony when connected with domestic violence. That level of case work was just the incentive we needed to advance our crime scene processing in order to stop this kind of violence. Outfitting our officers with appropriate crime scene "toolkits" and the training to use them during advanced cruelty case investigation will be a goal that requires some of that community support we so cherish here. All animals benefit when we provide training and equipment to ensure that we're getting the job done right and providing something the prosecutors can support in the court system.

February is the month we honor Spay Day USA and you can read more about "Neuter for a Nickel" here in the newsletter. With the assistance of some local veterinarians and your donation dollars, we will be preventing the birth and potential euthanasia of unwanted cats and kittens in our community. We will continue our efforts at outreach and partnerships with the local veterinary community to encourage spaying and neutering of pets as a preventive approach to pet overpopulation here in Fort Wayne.

In late 2007, a community input panel on dangerous dogs was convened to examine the impact of biting dogs and whether or not more could be done to ensure safety while protecting responsible pet owners. In order to dedicate our energies to the panel, we put a plan on hold which was to work toward animal organization coalition building. Little did we know the start of our coalition building was happening right in that room! As we move into 2008, we already have some strong direction in those efforts to save more animals' lives here in Fort Wayne using the theory that we are all much stronger when united. While we may have varying missions between public safety demands and adoption as a sole purpose for existence, we can benefit animals and one another with better organizational relationships. The word for 2008 is synergism!

*Belinda Lewis*



Thank you FWAC&C staff and volunteers,

We are so thankful for our cat family. They bring us so much joy. And we think they are enjoying themselves too.

We adopted Sophie and Rosie and three months later they

were right at home. They spend their days playing kitten games with each other, taking plenty of cat naps and hanging out with the kids. They don't want our other cat, three-year-old Sally, to feel left out and often look for ways to tease their big sister. Sally seems to enjoy the excitement the kittens bring to our home as much as we do.



*Sophie and Rosie*

The Deeter Family

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Dear Fort Wayne Animal Care & Control,

Here's another great success story! I adopted a dog from you in November. His name is Keno and he is a three year old neutered male Australian Shepherd. As you can see he has settled right into my home. He is bright, loving, playful and very well-mannered.



*Keno*

He has become acquainted with my two horses and they play nose tag. He loves to go for rides in the car or truck and he loves to run. I have about 20 acres so he can run and run and run. He also had his first bath and trim and he was a perfect gentleman.

Please extend my sincerest gratitude to all the staff that helped us help Keno. We greatly appreciate them. It's always a wonderful thing to know you saved another animal and that they are healthy and happy.

Lisa, Jasni, Angel, and Tyler

## 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.

## GRANT HELPS FORT WAYNE DOGS

Fort Wayne Animal Care & Control was fortunate to receive a \$12,600 grant just in time for winter to launch a program targeting the health and welfare of dogs living within the City of Fort Wayne. S.C.O.R.E., Stop Cruelty through Officer Referral and Education enables animal control officers to assist city dogs that live outside in substandard conditions. The funding allows for the purchase of doghouses, flea treatments, straw, and appropriate collars, while offering spay/neuter assistance where officers have assessed need.

This initiative addresses multiple issues and goals, which is to bet-

ter educate dog owners, make referrals where there is need, and improve the relationship between dogs and people. It's a winning merger of officers assisting families with practical solutions that keep dogs healthy, safe, and in their homes.

To date, the program has helped about 200 area dogs.

We recognize that hard times can affect any family, but we don't want people to be forced into giving up their dog. If you know a family and dog in need of our assistance within the city of Fort Wayne please call our main office at 427-1244.

**About PetSmart Charities:**  
Since 1994, PetSmart Charities, Inc. (PCI) has helped save the lives of more than 3 million homeless pets and has given more than \$52 million to animal welfare programs. PCI works to improve the quality of lives for companion animals by creating and supporting programs that save the lives of homeless pets, facilitating adoptions through in-store programs, raising awareness of companion animal welfare issues, and promoting healthy relationships between people and pets. To learn more about how PCI is working to help find a lifelong, loving home for every pet, visit [www.PetSmartcharities.org](http://www.PetSmartcharities.org) or call 1-800-423-PETS.

## SUPER HEROES

Fort Wayne Animal Care & Control is grateful to have caring, devoted volunteers who handle a variety of important jobs at the shelter. In 2007, our volunteers donated 10,216 hours of service.

Amazing! Without them, we could not offer the level of outreach that we currently provide to help animals. A person must be at least 18 years of age to volunteer and they must be able to master safe animal handling skills for the well being of animals and people in our building.

Teens from our Animal Careers Explorer Scout Program earn the

opportunity to lend a hand after school and at special events. They are energetic and compassionate. Even younger children from the community play an important role collecting care items and coins for our animals.

We meet young people who have given up birthday presents and Bar or Bat Mitzvah gifts in exchange for items that they can donate to help

animals in need. Jordan Lentz is one such example. She took up a collection with the help of her friend Monica Starr. When asked why they wanted to help, they replied, "Just because we love

animals." Two other caring young ladies, Madeline Falls and Madeline Nirmaier, collected coins that helped purchase medical supplies for injured animals.

Fort Wayne Animal Care & Control is thankful to be part of a giving community, one that sees super heroes in the loving actions of children, teens, and adults.



Jordan Lentz



Madeline Falls and Madeline Nirmaier

# TETHERING LAWS GIVE RELIEF TO FORT WAYNE



Not everyone agrees on whether dogs should live inside or outside the home, but as of January 2008 City Council agreed that Fort Wayne dogs are better off when not tethered outside for extended periods of time. The new tethering law will impact public nuisance barking and public safety.

Between the hours of 11 p.m. and 6 a.m. dogs are no longer allowed to be tethered, a dual benefit as dogs get relief from being chained

and neighbors get relief from nighttime barking.

Other provisions in the law target the aggression that builds in dogs when they are chained, which is a leading factor in dog bites. No dog under the age of six months and no dog that hasn't been spayed or neutered can be tethered at any time, day or night. Fenced yards and kennels are acceptable providing the dog has access to a proper shelter and provisions such as potable water.

No more than three altered dogs are allowed to be tethered simultaneously on one property. Multiple dogs may not have contact while they are tethered and

the required six foot lead may not reach within three feet of another property, public thoroughfare, or right of way. It is quite common for Animal Control Officers to be sent to a home where chained dogs have become tangled and owners are absent. Therefore, the new law prohibits tethering a dog that officers have had to untangle more than two times in a year.

The new tethering law is a major accomplishment for the welfare of dogs in Fort Wayne and towards the safety and livability of citizens. We appreciate the hard work and support of those that made this law possible.

## ANIMAL CARE & CONTROL ON CITY TV

Keep up with the latest news and meet staff and volunteers by watching *The Scoop on Fort Wayne Animal Care & Control*. This talk show format, which highlights ordinance information, adoption programs, and education activities, can be seen on City TV channel 58 (Comcast) and channel 28 (Verizon) on the following days and times:

- Tuesdays, 8 p.m.
- Wednesdays, 9:30 p.m.
- Fridays, 12:30 p.m.
- Saturdays, 8:30 a.m.

Children and adults will enjoy our award winning pet care program called *KIND Club Show*. This fun and educational video program is developed for classroom use and follows Indiana academic standards. Viewers at home can tune in for training tips, animal care facts, and original children's stories. *Kind Club Show* is seen on City TV channel 58 (Comcast) and channel 28 (Verizon):

- Fridays at noon
- Saturdays 9 a.m.

Also on Fort Wayne Community School channel 54 (Comcast) and channel 24 (Verizon):

- Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2 p.m.
- Wednesdays, 7 p.m.

# CALENDAR

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## SATURDAY ADOPTION EXTRAVAGANZAS

at Animal Care & Control  
March 15, April 5 & 19,  
May 3 & 17  
11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

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## PET PARENTING CLASSES

at Animal Care & Control  
March 3, April 7, May 6  
6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

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## ANIMAL CONTROL COMMISSION MEETINGS

at Animal Care & Control  
March 12, April 9, May 14  
4:00 p.m.

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## ANIMAL CAREERS EXPLORER MEETINGS

March 4 & 18, May 13  
6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

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## EXPLORER TRIP TO PURDUE SVM

April 12

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## PUTT FOR MUTTS GOLF OUTING

at Autumn Ridge Golf Club  
July 26  
1:30 p.m. Tee-Off  
6:30 p.m. Dinner Reception

# IT'S A FACT

Cats are America's most popular pets, but they are also the pet most likely to die prematurely from illness or injury. Most of these untimely deaths can be prevented by simply not allowing cats to roam free outdoors.

- The estimated life span of a free-roaming cat is less than three years
- Cats that live inside have a life span of up to 20 years
- The majority of veterinarians recommend keeping cats indoors
- Fewer than 5% of "found" cats taken in by animal shelters are claimed by their owner

Your home offers a safer, healthier environment than life on the street. Simply provide your cat with the same stimulus that nature would provide. Interactive toys, a scratching post, and a window perch will keep any cat happy. Protect the life of your cat by keeping it vaccinated, registered, and inside your home.

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# NEUTER FOR A NICKEL

During the annual February Spay Day USA our hard-working staff and our veterinarians pulled together with volunteers to offer an event aimed at saving the lives of cats. Allen County residents were given a chance to bring any male cat to the shelter to be neutered for the cost of one nickel during the weekend event. Seven cats per residence were eligible. The initiative to reduce unplanned litters born in spring was funded with private donations. Citizens interested in helping to fund future spay neuter events can contact the shelter at 427-1244.

## DOTTIE'S BANANA BISCOTTI - DOG BISCUITS

5 cups white flour  
¼ cup chopped peanuts  
½ teaspoon baking soda  
1 medium egg  
¼ cup vegetable oil  
1 ½ cups pureed banana  
2 teaspoons vanilla  
Water (as needed)



Preheat oven to 325F/160C. Mix dry, then wet ingredients until lumpy. Add water, one teaspoon at a time as needed. Knead by hand on table until mixed thoroughly. Form into logs approximately 2" - 2 1/2" high. Flatten so that log is 6" - 7" wide by 1" high. Place on non-stick baking sheets. Bake approximately 30 - 40 minutes. Remove and cool for 10 minutes. Slice into 1/2" - 3/4" slices. Place on baking sheets and bake for about 20 minutes or until golden brown. Cool.

## ANGEL FUND STORY

As designer dogs become more popular and more populated, shelters like ours are seeing them surrendered by owners unprepared to provide either the finances or time for a dog. A common misconception is that pure breed dogs and special designer dogs have a better future because they cost more. In reality, nearly 25% of all dogs entering our department are pure breeds. Once here, they become \$85 adoption dogs.

Lucky, a year-old designer Labradoodle was given up to our



Lucky, year old Labradoodle

department after being hit by a car and suffering a broken leg. Cost was specified as the reason for surrender.

To give Lucky a new leg to stand on, we used our donation-based "Angel Fund" to cover the expenses of surgery. Dr. Gupta offered to perform the procedure at a discounted rate. The Bonor Family stepped up to provide long-term foster care needed for his recovery.

In total, it took ten weeks to bring Lucky back to the road of good health. Lucky has been adopted and his new family is giving him the love and care that every dog deserves.

## POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS DOG LAW

A change to City Ordinance now gives animal control officers a tool to impede a dog's actions that will land a case in court.

The law provides for a classification of "Potentially Dangerous," so that behaviors of a dog can be preempted with proactive measures before a situation becomes life-threatening. What's more is that the Potentially Dangerous classification will work towards reducing

dog bites in Fort Wayne.

If a dog attacks or bites a person or animal while running loose it can be ordered to be spayed or neutered. The owner of the dog may be required to attend a responsible dog care class. Depending on the nature of the attack and the injuries of the victim, other mandates are possible.

The owner may be directed never to tether the dog once declared potentially dangerous, and the dog's confinement can be specified by Animal Care & Control.

Working to create a city where citizens are safe and dogs are responsibly cared for is a goal we can all embrace. The Potentially Dangerous ordinance helps us to do just that.

## BETTER WITH A BUDDY IS BACK



Thanks to our Better With a Buddy program more cats will be able to find homes in 2008. That's news we all like to hear.

Cat enthusiasts are offered the option of adopting two well-socialized cats from our shelter, but only

paying the fee of one. All additional costs are offset by a grant awarded to Animal Care & Control from Maddie's Fund.

The fee for adopting one cat is \$65, which includes a mandatory spay or neuter surgery, the distemper combination vaccination, microchip, flea treatment, and informational send-home package. In addition, local veterinarians donate

the first health exam required within seven days of adoption.

Cats are affectionate, friendly companions that love to play and cuddle with others of their kind. Since many of the shelter's cats are housed together and accustomed to being with other cats, they adjust quicker by going home with a buddy.

# PUTT FOR MUTTS JULY 26, 2008 AUTUMN RIDGE GOLF CLUB



Fort Wayne Animal Care and Control will bring together friends of the animals for a benefit at the Autumn Ridge Golf Club. The day includes 18 holes of golf, team shirts, dinner and events throughout the day.

Your participation in this event will help us to continue to care for animals and serve the city of Fort Wayne. This tournament has a limited number of foursomes. Please return your reservation form by April 26th, 2008 to secure your place on the green.

If you are not a golfer, we ask that you consider contributing through our sponsorship opportunities, donating items for our raffle, or simply join us for dinner. If you have questions, please feel free to call Fort Wayne Animal Care & Control at 427-2579. Thank you in advance for supporting Animal Care & Control.

## VOLUNTEER INTERVIEW WITH JACK SAGER



Jack Sager

**How long have you been volunteering?**

For 2 ½ wonderful years.

**What inspired you to volunteer with FWACC?**

I was prompted to start because of my love of animals. I made a visit to the shelter, and found out I could help.

**What do you do with the animals?**

I am an adoption counselor, Head Start Trainer and I also assist with cleaning in the morning. I come in two days a week for at least 3 hours at a time. My favorite position is adoption counseling.

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

A sense of excitement each time I make a match for an animal and its new family. I would like to add that I also find a great sense of accomplishment when families send us letters with photos and updates of their new pet. I really love to see that my work has paid off.

Jack is an exceptional volunteer! He is incredibly dedicated, he loves helping animals and people. We are very pleased to have his talents here at the shelter.

**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](http://www.FWACC.org)**