



Newsletter of the

Fort Wayne Animal Care & Control

Helping People - Helping Animals

Fall 2007

Graham Richard
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

PET PARENTING CLASS KEEPS DOGS AND OWNERS TOGETHER

Bringing home a new dog or puppy is a special time. Making certain your home and family are prepared for the pet is paramount. To help keep dogs and owners together, Animal Care & Control launched a new pet parenting class held once a month in the Mary Koons Education Center. Pet parenting doesn't come easy for everyone, especially a novice pet owner that might not understand normal stages of dog development.



Allison Miller and Rebecca Gremaux

Duke's family attended to learn about using a crate for housetraining. They were worried that using a crate might be cruel, but had heard that a crate could be equal to a dog's den. The Harvey family recently adopted Ginger, a small terrier mix with a big personality. She hadn't done anything the family was overly concerned about, but said they wanted to be sure to be prepared.

Adoption Supervisor Allison Miller and volunteer Rebecca Gremaux created the parenting class, to target new dog owners with basic animal care information. At this stage, it's important to focus on consistencies. The lecture with video covers crate training, housetraining, chewing, jumping, and other basic house manners that every dog and owner should learn. Of course it wouldn't be an Animal Care & Control presentation if we didn't also share information on spaying and neutering, City pet registrations, City leash laws, and pet vaccinations.

Pet Parenting sessions are offered the first Monday of each month from 6–7:30 p.m. and are free to the public, although donations to the adoption program are welcomed. While reservations are not required, seating is limited to 65 attendees. Dogs should not be brought to the program. For additional information, call 427-5511 or watch for sessions to be listed on our website at www.fwacc.org.

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

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
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

It is amazing to see some of the progress we have made in saving animals' lives in our community; our spay and neuter initiatives, HeadStart training program, pet parenting classes, web site and education outreach, and let's not forget an amazingly successful adoption program. All are doing wonderful things! Most of these specialty programs are accomplished with your donor dollars. We have long been a leader in our country with legislative and programmatic activity designed to create a safer community and prevent unnecessary euthanasia.

The sad reality to that happy news is that too many cats and dogs are still dying in Fort Wayne in spite of all our efforts. It was very telling for us when we recently offered a four-day Spay Day USA promotion to spay or neuter fifty pit bulls at absolutely no charge and only 18 pet owners wanted to take us up on the deal! There is always a silver lining though, as our total cats and dogs altered through the event came to 126.

It is still not enough! We are embarking on some new initiatives here in Fort Wayne to attempt to quell the stream of animals into the shelter. While we can find homes for many of these unwanted furry friends, the demand cannot begin to meet the supply of homeless pets. Where do they all come from? As we seek to increase spaying and neutering in our community pets, do we have the big picture? Are we doing all we can?

We will be teaming with other animal-related organizations this year to move toward more collaborative initiatives in the fight against pet overpopulation in Fort Wayne and Allen County. The formula to success may be the coalition approach. We are not even sure we have a handle on where all these animals are coming from right now.

Other communities have addressed this issue with strong ordinances, as we have here in the Fort. While that is a help, it is still not the only answer when the intake of dogs and cats to this shelter still exceeded 14,000 in 2006. One thing we see in successful communities is the partnership between the legislative authority of the government based animal shelter and a larger volume of non-profit groups with animal related missions. We seem to be missing that non-profit collaborative component in Fort Wayne and hope to see some excitement build with future opportunities.

We continue to work toward betterment for animals here in the Fort and can only do that with your help! Thank you for helping us help the animals.

Belinda Lewis



Dear Animal Care & Control,

My family adopted Lover Boy this past June and all I can say is WOW. He is a great dog. I can't believe someone gave him up--how fortunate for us. We are going to rename him, but haven't found that perfect name yet. He loves his new yard. He minds so well--even leaving the wild baby rabbits alone when he is told "no."

We stopped at my mom's already, so he could meet his new playmate and they had a blast running around their 2-acre yard. Needless to say Lover Boy was exhausted. Oddly enough, he was up at 6:30 the next morning ready to start over.

He never barked until last night when there was some action in a lot across the street, and then, I appreciated that meaningful bark. I think he'll be a great watch dog. He never even barked at the neighbor's dog when it was raising heck at the sight of him. Also, he seems to be completely housetrained--I hope that's true. Anyway, so far, everything is great. What a perfect fit.

Thanks so much for allowing us to adopt Lover Boy!

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.



ADDED HOURS AND VOLUNTEERS BENEFIT ADOPTIONS

The Animal Care & Control Adoption Center is now open the first Saturday of every month from 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. to increase the chances that pets will be adopted. Saturday hours are made possible by numerous volunteers clamoring to help us place pets into loving homes. Fifteen volunteers are needed to run each weekend adoption event that can draw upwards of 120 families to our adoption center in a four-hour span. By increasing our hours, we have seen a steady increase in the number of animals adopted.

While not every municipal animal control department has a volunteer program, we feel it is worth seeking the donations that it takes to bring volunteers in contact with our animals. Volunteer Coordinator Courtney Fanning has what it takes to organize troops of volunteers, and has expanded our program by 39% since taking over the coordinator position in January 2007.

Volunteers have many positions within our department. Some feed animals and clean adoption rooms while others greet customers or serve as adoption coun-

selors. Volunteers care for our adoption cats at Kitty City, which is our off-site adoption program located inside Pet Supplies Plus on Coldwater Road. Dogs that need an introduction to good manners get training from volunteer HeadStart trainers, and dogs that need baths get cleaned by volunteers during Monday night dog wash. From fundraising and education events, to assisting shelter veterinarians with spay/neuter surgeries, volunteers line up to lend a hand. In the end, animals and their new owners are the better for it.

STOLEN DOG RECOVERED IN FORT WAYNE

Bobby, a small two-year-old brown beagle/terrier mix was missing and reported stolen from an Arizona trailer court by his 80-year-old owner, Lillian Brown. Bobby was Lillian's constant companion after losing her husband of 48 years and then losing their dog of 16 years. Lillian adopted Bobby from a local animal shelter and quickly bonded to the lovable little dog.

Then on April 2, 2007, Lillian arranged for a neighbor to watch Bobby while she went to a doctor appointment. The neighbors told Lillian that they had returned Bobby to her trailer, however, when she came home, Bobby wasn't there. What Lillian didn't know is that her neighbors had

hidden Bobby and had planned to bring him to Fort Wayne.

On June 2, 2007, Bobby was recovered from a Fort Wayne home by City police and Animal Care & Control officers. He was recovered after a newspaper reporter, Jill Jones with The News in Apache Junction, Arizona, traced the dog to Fort Wayne.

Lillian Brown told the reporter that she was never quite certain if Bobby had been stolen or if he slipped out a door without anyone noticing. She suspected the neighbor who watched Bobby might have taken the dog. The neighbor rented space in the trailer park but lived in Fort Wayne.

Bobby was taken to Animal Care & Control for a medical exam and received a donated microchip for identification. Enforcement Supervisor Chad Schiebel worked with Continental Airlines to secure a free flight for Bobby back to Arizona.

Our employees fell in love with Bobby, and remind pet owners of the importance of microchips for identification. Without the confession obtained by the Fort Wayne Police Department, ownership of Bobby might have been harder to establish. Lead Animal Control

Officer Roger Wilson drove Bobby to Indianapolis on Wednesday, June 6, 2007 for his flight home, where Lillian was waiting with open arms.



Enforcement Supervisor Chad Schiebel worked with Continental Airlines to send Bobby home



Lillian Brown and Bobby reunited

CALLING ALL TEENS

If you are an animal-loving teen at least 13 years old or more, then you are eligible to join our Exploring Animal Careers program. As a member, you will join other teens who share your career goal or hobby interest in animal welfare.

When you join, you instantly have an opportunity to interact with adoption animals, explore various animal careers, and work on service projects that benefit homeless



Explorer listens to a heart beat at Purdue open house

animals. Older students are eligible for leadership roles and can donate time to our adoption center after school and during summer months.

Meetings are held on Tuesdays twice a month, 6-7:30 p.m., from September to May. Call 427-2590 to request an invitation to the first night enrollment meeting scheduled for August 28, 2007. Enrollment is limited to the first 65 students who sign-up.

ANIMAL CONTROL FIREFIGHTERS TEAM UP TO RESCUE DOG

When animal control officers responded to a call from Gaylord Gaines, reporting that his dog Lady had wedged her head inside a tree, we had no idea how severe the case would become. Upon arrival to Gaines' home on East Douglas Avenue, animal control officers Robert McCullough and Randy Thornton found the medium-sized border collie mix with her head completely trapped

inside a large tree in the backyard. Lady was hot and clearly in physical distress.

Animal Care Supervisor Laura Rowe consulted with Gaines' veterinarian before administering a light tranquilizer in hopes that Lady's head could be freed. According to Rowe, Lady was in serious danger from possible heatstroke or strangulation and had been stuck in the base of the tree for about 45 minutes.

After relaxing the dog and still not being able to release her, we called the Fort Wayne Fire Department for assistance. Firetruck 1 and Rescue 1 arrived with the equipment needed to enlarge the hole. Rowe supported the dog's body and noted that Lady still attempted to wag her tail at the sound of her owner's voice. About 30 minutes later, Lady was



Lady recovers after successful rescue

free and appeared to be in relatively good condition.

"It was tense, and I'm glad we were all available to give Lady and Mr. Gaines the help needed to make the rescue," Rowe said. "At one point I wasn't sure Lady was going to make it out alive."

Lady has recovered and is safe to play in her yard now that the hole in the tree has been patched.



Rowe and McCullough support Lady's body during rescue

CALENDAR

PET PARENTING CLASSES

at Animal Care & Control
Oct 1 & Nov 5
6-7:30 p.m.

WALK FOR ANIMALS

at Franke Park Pavilion #1
Oct 7, 2007
12:30 p.m. – 4 p.m.

ANIMAL CONTROL COMMISSION MEETINGS

at Animal Care & Control
Oct 10 & Nov 14
4 p.m.

CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE FOR THE ANIMALS

at Animal Care & Control
Dec 12, 2007
3-7 p.m.

ANIMAL CAREERS EXPLORER MEETINGS

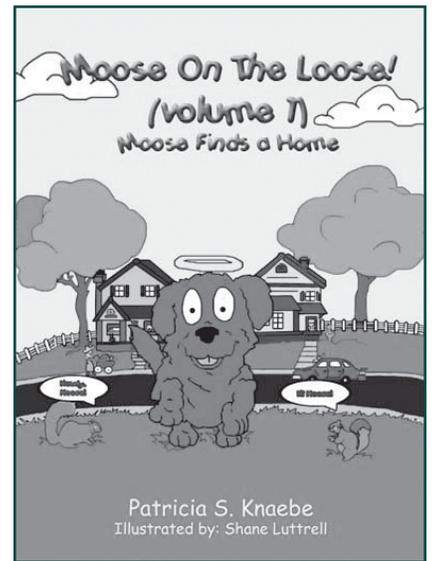
at Animal Care & Control
Oct 2 & 16, Nov 6 & 20
6-7:30 p.m.

ADOPTED IDOLS

When animals are adopted from our shelter, they become household celebrities in the eyes of those who love them. Owners frequently write to tell us about their famed adopted pets. They are pampered, adored, and celebrated. They bring years of joy and laughter to families, comfort to seniors, and friendship to children. Many are the superstars of their neighborhood.

We hear that some of our adopted dogs hold prominence with customers where they accompany their owners to work. One teen entered his family's adopted cat into a 4-H cat show and won first place. We are told that some of our adopted dogs have become service dogs, while others have been featured in print ads and television commercials.

And now, we have one of our adopted dogs being featured in a published children's book. *Moose on the Loose*, written by Patricia Knaebe, is a charming story of how a lost puppy finds a loving home. The real Moose is a golden-eyed, toy-loving, gentle giant that was adopted by Patricia Knaebe and Bill Hadlock seven years ago. Patricia's book about Moose celebrates their special puppy's journey from the shelter, to a new home, to receiving his name. We at Fort Wayne Animal Care & Control are smiling at yet another shelter animal turned adopted idol. To purchase a copy of *Moose on the Loose* call 427-5508.



SPAY NEUTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

SNAP, Spay Neuter Assistance Program is a donation based fund that provides financial assistance to low-income residents of Allen County to help cover the cost of altering a pet. For more information call (260) 427-1244.

- Applicants must be the legal owner of the animal and show verification of need.
- Applicants may apply for assistance for no more than two animals in a five year period.
- Applicants must show proof of current rabies vaccination for each animal.
- A co-pay is required:
 - \$10 per male cat
 - \$15 per female cat, or male dog, or female dog weighing less than 89 lbs
 - \$20 per female dog weighing more than 89 lbs

WALK FOR ANIMALS 2007

Biscuit-crunching, treat-munching, four-legged fidos are sitting up and begging to join Walk for Animals 2007 scheduled for Sunday, October 7. With pet owners in tow, dogs everywhere are invited to take a 2-mile non-competitive autumn stroll through Franke Park as a special fundraising event for 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 joys of pet ownership while raising funds that will create a better future for 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.

Brochures and pledge sheets are available at Animal Care & Control, local veterinary clinics or online at www.fwacc.org. When a business sponsors you with a gift of \$100 or more, the business will receive a certificate of appreciation suitable for framing. Businesses interested in vendor and shirt sponsor opportunities should call 427-2590 for more information.

DOG PACK TEAMS

Any group of four or more walkers can form a Dog Pack. Organize friends, family, co-workers, or any favorite group. Name your pack, choose a leader, and take on the spirit of the day, raising money to prevent animal neglect and suffering.



Dog Pack members need to:

- Pre-register \$8.00
- Separately check-in upon arrival
- Separately turn in \$25.00 or more in pledges

Dog Pack members receive:

- A shirt based on individual pledges raised
- A gift bag
- A Dog Pack group photo e-mailed to the pack leader
- A chance to win grand prizes based on your individual pledges

Don't miss the chance to double your fun by wearing coordinating Dog Pack gear or by carrying a banner to identify your pack!

Schedule of Walk for Animals Events:

SEPT 28, 2007:

Pre-registrations due: \$8 per individual or \$20 per family.

- **All participants must register and turn in a minimum of \$25 per individual walker or \$100 per family.**
- **A family is limited to five residing in the same household with no more than 2 adults. Children are age 17 or under.**
- **A child under age 14 may register and collect pledges as an individual and have one adult chaperone that registers, but is exempt from collecting pledges.**

OCT 7, 2007:

Walk Day – All donations should be turned in at the walk.

- **12:30 p.m. Vendor booths open, walkers check-in, monies turned in.**
- **2:00 p.m. Walk starts, led by media sponsors and Dog Pack Teams.**
- **3:00 p.m. Refreshments, prizes, and more.**

