



Newsletter of the

# Fort Wayne Animal Care & Control

Helping People - Helping Animals

WINTER 2009

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

## PET ADOPTIONS REACH ALL-TIME HIGH

Our fantastic pet adoption volunteers and staff continuously strive to make Animal Care & Control the first place anyone thinks to visit in their search to add a new pet to their family. Their training, professionalism, and commitment cannot be beat. With such determination it's no wonder that our pet adoptions have reached an all time high.

In total, 2,529 happy animals found loving, generous families to join in 2008. Many of these animals overcame hardships or experiences best described as remarkable. We witnessed those that came to us malnourished, and we gave them our best as they struggled to gain weight and thrive. We gave comfort to those with injuries and marveled at their ability to work through their pain and trust again. We found volunteers to foster those animals that needed a little extra help. Others were here because their families fell on hard times and chose to do what they felt best for the pet's future.

Like any shelter, we receive puppies and kittens from unplanned litters and adult animals whose owners lack commitment. Whatever their story, we see the potential of these animals to be someone else's next best friend. Thanks to all who choose pet adoption, and who make a difference for deserving shelter animals.



### 2008 Adoptions

Dogs adopted:	1,017
Cats adopted:	985
Small pets adopted:	188
Animals sent to rescues and adopted:	339

## 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

### 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**

We launched into 2008, working with our local judges to institute the newly passed Dangerous Animal Ordinances drafted and presented by a community input group in 2007. The institution of the new laws began slowly to ensure consistency, but all parties are now on board with the new processes and we'll be reviewing results for safety impacts.

In the Enforcement Division, we began with a new supervisor for the officers and immediately jumped into a record-setting year for animal hoarding cases and volumes of animals in individual investigations.

After seeing 206 cats come out of a county home and 53 varied species including reptiles in a city case, we are going to reinstitute some of our hoarding training for both our own staff as well as adjunct agencies in the community in 2009. With a 100% recidivism rate for this type of violator, there is too much potential for animal loss of life and human self-victimization not to address this as aggressively as possible.

While we address some of those tough issues, we have exciting news on the adoption front. With voluntary shifting of schedules, we have been able to accommodate opening the shelter for adoptions every first and third Saturday of the month. Additionally, we opened up at a second off-site adoption location for cats. Combined, this moved us toward record-setting adoption rates in 2008 with 2,529 animals finding new homes, an increase of 16% over 2007! We have also worked over the last couple years to rekindle our relationships with the Allen County SPCA, and in those efforts, we have begun an animal transfer program to save as many lives as possible for our community as a whole.

While saving lives is our ultimate goal, we see the solution is to prevent the animal from coming through our doors in the first place. Our efforts to bring awareness to the issue of pet overpopulation and the importance of spay/neuter were showcased this past year through the "Neuter for a Nickel" program. Over a two-day period of time, 259 cats were neutered. With so many more veterinarians volunteering this year, we hope to double that number. This program is donor dollar based and all involved are volunteers, including the City employees who assist. No taxpayer expense! Cheers to a community wide effort by volunteers to accomplish good things!

Speaking of saving lives, we began a new donor-based program that blossomed in 2008. When an injured animal has been rescued by our agency and cannot be reunited with its owner, we have not had the resources to provide care beyond basic life saving stabilization. This year, donor dollars saved eighteen animals through our "Angel Fund" program for special adoptable animals with issues like broken limbs, heartworm disease, or similar treatable conditions. We cap the funding for this program in order to ensure we do not lose donor dollars in our critical medical supply area of funding. But every shelter, including ours, needs some special successes.

*continued on page 5...*



My name is Moe. I was adopted on Sept 29th. This is my big brother Duff. He takes really good care of me. I try to do everything he does. He is teaching me really neat stuff like to shake and speak. Thank you for finding me such a good home.



Hi! My name is Precious (formally know as Mopsy)! I was adopted in May and I love my new home. My mom and I were meant to be together because we make each other very happy. I am so glad we found each other. I have found my forever home.

## Picture Your Pet

It's not too early to mark your calendar for our annual Picture Your Pet event coming July 14 & 15 during Three Rivers Festival. This popular professional photo shoot features families with pets to benefit animal safety education.

Join us at Lakeside Park pavilion #2 between the hours of 3-8 p.m. We'll have plenty of shade and water, and for a nominal fee, you'll receive a beautiful studio-quality photo to enjoy for years to come.



## 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 16,608 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.



## PERSISTENCE PAYS OFF



***The ad read: Hi - my name is Lucy . . . and I'm lost. Please help me find my way back home.***

Described by her owner as a friendly female Jack Russell Terrier with a little graying around the eyes and nose, Lucy

went missing from her home on a warm summer evening. Frantic that the 9-year-old dog had not been located and had not returned on her own, Lucy's owner contacted our shelter.

We escorted Lucy's owner through our stray wards where kennel after kennel presented many a lost dog, but no Lucy. Without identification on her, anyone finding Lucy would have no way of knowing to whom to return the "white dog with dark specks". It was now a process of searching and waiting to see if Lucy would turn up.

For weeks the persistent owner made daily trips to the shelter, combed her neighborhood, posted fliers and placed ads to help in Lucy's recovery. By the middle of the following month persistence paid off. Lucy was

found and we were thrilled to place the call to Lucy's owner. Only Lucy knows the extent of her journey and the trials she experienced before being recovered. With a pet registration tag or a microchip, her recovery could have been quicker. Fortunately for Lucy, her owner had the diligence to search for her, and with everyone's help, we were able to send her safely home.

Stories like Lucy's are frequent here at Animal Care & Control, and reuniting lost pets with their owners is a top priority. We administer a pet registration program mandatory for city pet owners, and open to all who want to take advantage of our 24-hour recovery process. For more information on registering your pets with our department, call our office at 427-1244.

## NEUTER FOR A NICKEL GROWS



In February of 2008 Animal Care & Control held its first Neuter for a Nickel event, which provided neuter surgery for male cats at a remarkably low cost, just 5 cents per cat, with the goal of reducing the probability of spring kittens. With the help of three veterinarians and 43 staff, volunteers, and technicians, we neutered 258 male cats in two days.

The event was so well received by Allen County pet owners, that our 2009 Neuter for a Nickel event grew bringing together seven veterinarians and numerous staff, volunteers and vet technicians to alter 600 male cats in two days at Animal Care & Control!

All expenses for the Spay Day USA event were covered by private contributions and by everyone donating their time and professional training. This was a tremendous coming together of the community and local business to help families in need and to alleviate additional unwanted births of kittens in Allen County. Our gratitude goes to all who helped Neuter for a Nickel.

### Participating clinics

St. Joe Center Veterinary Hospital

Northeast Indiana Veterinary  
Emergency Services (NIVES)

Allen Vet Hospital

Westside Vet Hospital

Southgate Veterinary Clinic

Staff and Volunteers of Animal  
Care & Control

Indian Creek Veterinary Hospital

Decatur Veterinary Hospital

Southtown Veterinary Hospital

Staff and volunteers of the  
ACSPCA

## SASSY'S STORY



Sassy, a pretty little Pomeranian mix just 2 years old, was hit by a car and injured last October, and was in need of immediate medical attention. The Animal Care & Control night officer rushed the cream and red colored dog to Northeast Indiana Veterinary Emergency and Specialty Hospital (NIVES), where they bandaged and stitched her wounds and reported minor head trauma and breaks in both front legs.

Once stabilized, Sassy was transported to the shelter where our officer traced her registration tag and called the owner, who surrendered the dog to us, saying she could not afford the necessary medical expenses to save her dog.

Animal Care Supervisor Laura Rowe knew that Sassy needed help and only our Angel Fund would save her, so she sent Sassy to Allen Veterinary Hospital for a more thorough evaluation. She had her legs re-bandaged, and the vet confirmed the injuries to both front legs were severe and he was unsure if one leg could be saved. Over the weekend, the leg became infected and Sassy began to chew on it. Clearly she was in a lot of pain. She was kept on antibiotics and pain medication until the vet could see her again. Upon recheck the vet confirmed that Sassy's leg would need to be amputated.

After surgery, Sassy needed a lot of love and care and special attention while her wounds healed and she recovered from the trauma. Warmhearted Sue Lauguell, a volunteer

at the shelter, took her into her loving home to be fostered for two months. Sassy has made a remarkable recovery and is due to go to rescue where she will find a suitable home to fit her upbeat, strong and energetic personality – *which possibly contributed to her getting away and being hit by a car in the first place!* The Angel Fund made it possible to give Sassy a second chance. Good luck Sassy Girl. You deserve it!

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## FROM THE DIRECTOR ...continued from page 2

Don't stop there; look at our new heights in the volunteering program with 192 active volunteers and over 1,000 hours a month of assistance! We could not function without them. The education program has expanded to new limits. Website hits are now surpassing 56,000 a month, and we now have 41 hours per month of cable television broadcast time and 490 teachers participating in our "Kind Club" programming.

We wrapped up December with a bang in the form of an ice storm. As 98,000 residents went without power, we worked to assist those evacuating from their homes with individual options for their pets. When that approach was no longer viable due to the holiday season, we opened an emergency animal shelter at the Memorial Coliseum. Approaching the Red Cross and the Coliseum opened some new doors to citizen assistance in the future and certainly aided those in need in the present.

*Belinda Lewis*



## MEMORIES OF DEAR PETS

*Sassafras "Sassy"  
Wilson*

*Rest in Peace*

*July 11, 1995 – June 16, 2007*



Beloved friend and fishing and traveling companion. Gone to greener woods, bigger squirrels and muskrats, and freedom from cancer.

Thanks to all who loved her, petted her and fed her treats.

Adopted from Animal Care & Control.

Thank you for the joy she gave me.

L. Wilson

## OPEN HOUSE SUCCESS



Large crowds of pet-loving families and friends flocked to the shelter for our annual open house and a chance to celebrate Christmas with the animals. Everyone brought gifts of pet toys, canned food, cozy bedding, treats, and donations for our medical and spay/neuter funds. Children seemed to head for the trays of cookies while parents talked with staff and volunteers to learn about shelter services. Of course the highlights of the night were the happy wagging tails, sloppy dog grins, whiskers, and button noses waiting to be greeted. In the weeks following the open

house, we noticed a few familiar faces returning to adopt, which truly makes our open house a success.

Donations to our medical and spay/neuter funds are always needed and can be sent to Animal Care & Control, 3020 Hillegas Road, 46808. Make sure to

specify which fund you wish to support.

## VOLUNTEERS MAKE THINGS WORK

Imagine a day when all the services we provide are on hiatus...dog kennels in desperate need of cleaning, kitties needing fresh water, and the stress level of the staff on overload because there just isn't enough time in the day to give every task the proper attention. This is a day without volunteers.

Volunteers in our organization give something much more significant than time, energy, and hard work; they give of themselves, their experiences, and their love of animals. Volunteers are the reason we are able to find nearly nine animals a day a new home; animals that otherwise would have been abandoned, unloved or worse.

People volunteer for all types of reasons. Some want to help the animals. Some have extra time on their hands. Some have lost a pet or are unable to have one of their own for various reasons, and others are interested in learning more for a future career in veterinary medicine. Whatever the reason, the gift of volunteers is truly a remarkable thing.

Each week people of all ages and backgrounds, some with full-time work or busy after school activities, give 370 combined hours for one thing: the health, happiness and safety of every animal in our community that has ever been unloved, unwanted or simply unable to be cared for.

Volunteers are one of our most valuable assets and with the continued help and support of our local community we hope to never see the bleak day, the day without volunteers.

**If you would like more information about joining our volunteer team, call 427-2579.**

# EXCITING, GIVING OPPORTUNITY EXTENDED! HOW YOU CAN MAKE “THE GIFT OF A LIFETIME”

As many of you remember, Congress had included a special, temporary charitable incentive in the Pension Protection Act that allowed you to make a direct transfer of IRA assets to most public charities and exclude that amount from your taxable income for the year. The PPA expired on December 31, 2007. And we have diligently been working to extend this incentive, it's an exciting way that you can help the animals at Fort Wayne Animal Care and Control and get a tax benefit, too!

After much deliberation, the IRA Charitable Rollover extension was signed into law, and even better, it was made retroactive so it will apply to any gifts made from January 1, 2008 through December 31, 2009. The Senate approved H.R. 1424 on Wednesday October 1st, the House followed with approval on October 3rd, and within two hours of that approval, President Bush had signed H.R. 1424 into law.

*So what does this mean for you?*

At age 70 ½, most of us will have to begin making withdrawals from our IRA accounts and pay income tax on those distributions. Under this new law, any individual 70 ½ years or older can transfer any amount up to \$100,000 directly from an IRA to a charitable organization like Fort Wayne Animal Care and Control AND pay no income tax on the distribution! (There is no additional charitable tax deduction allowed for these gifts.)

The donation must be directly transferred from the IRA account to the charity by the IRA trustee.

This is important – you cannot receive a check from the IRA trustee and then make a donation to Fort Wayne Animal Care and Control. You also cannot receive any personal benefit from the gift such as premium seating at sporting events (for gifts to a college or university). The tax exemption will be disqualified under this condition.

The legislation expires on December 31, 2009 unless otherwise extended or made permanent by Congress. To qualify for the tax exemption, gifts must be completed by December 31, 2009.

Your continued support has made our work possible, you have helped us reach out to the neglected and abandoned animals of our community and provide them with love, shelter, and most importantly, a second chance at happiness. Maybe now is the time to make that “gift of a lifetime” and take advantage of this exciting tax benefit....

We encourage you to let us know if you are considering a charitable IRA rollover. Your gift may or may not arrive at Fort Wayne Animal Care and Control with a cover letter, the IRA transfer check may or may not reference your name, a quick phone call will ensure that we credit your gift appropriately. We can also discuss how you would like the gift to be used.

As with all planned gifts, we recommend that you to talk with your IRA trustee or tax advisor to ensure this opportunity is appropriate for your personal financial and philanthropic situation!

## WE'RE GROWING!

On your next visit to Animal Care & Control take notice of our newly installed fenced “Pooch Playground.” The 18,000 square foot outdoor space gives our dogs more area to run, jump, and Frisbee their day away under the supervision of our

volunteers. Safe, interactive play offers dogs a good leg stretch, but also gives them mental stimulation while they await adoption. We are grateful for the private donations that made this long-awaited Pooch Playground a reality.

# COMMISSION CORNER – COMMISSION PROMOTES BEST PRACTICES FOR SHELTER SUCCESS

A lot of Fort Wayne Animal Care and Control's success comes from what goes on behind the scenes, and that includes the service of the Animal Care and Control Commission, a citizen's advisory group originated to represent the interests of the community with regard to the Shelter's activities. The Commission is comprised of a five-member board: Two seats are appointed by the mayor, three are City Council appointments; all positions are three-year terms, and board members serve on a volunteer basis. Members meet monthly with the management staff of the Shelter.

The purpose of the Commission is two-fold: 1) Direct the use of the funds in the Animal Care fund, which is all donation-based dollars, and 2) Serve as an advisory board to the Director of Fort Wayne Animal Care and Control on procedures pertaining to the operation of the Shelter. The goals of the

Commission are to reduce the number of animals processed through the Shelter, reduce animal related problems in the community, and educate the public on the responsibilities of pet ownership and how to properly care for a pet; these goals serve not only the Shelter but the community as well. Often important projects, such as the Shelter's ever-growing volunteer program, Neuter for a Nickel, the annual Christmas Open House which generates much-needed donations, professional staff training, care items for animals, and others are possible because of the Animal Care and Control Commission.

The Fort Wayne Animal Care and Control Commission is dedicated to continued positive, forward thinking progress in Shelter operations and projects, which allows staff to better care for our animals and better serve the public. The Commission and Fort Wayne Animal Care and Control work hand-in-hand to help our Shelter be the best it can be!

**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)**

## **Class Offer**



## **Dog First Aid and Cat First Aid**

**Saturday, March 28**

**9 a.m.-1 p.m. at Animal Care & Control**

**\$55 payable to Animal Care & Control - Education**

Dogs and cats are more than pets—they're family. And just like any other member of the family, pets deserve to be cared for and protected. Join the American Red Cross and Animal Care & Control to learn critical first aid to keep your pet healthy and safe. Topics include:

- Urgent care situations, including wounds, electrical shock, eye, paw, and ear injuries
- Administering medications
- Managing breathing or cardiac emergencies
- Preparing for disasters
- Symptoms and care for common ailments and emergencies
- Creating a pet first aid kit
- Tips on maintaining your pet's health and well-being

Participants receive their choice of a dog or cat first aid manual with DVD that build first aid skills and provides guidance in emergency situations until veterinary care is available.

Class size is limited. Reserve your place by March 19th by calling Peggy Bender 260-427-5508.