



It's a brand new year, a time for looking back on the old year and assess, and to look forward to the coming year and plan. Here at the Brown County Humane Society, we are pretty darned happy with all that we were able to achieve in 2007. In fact, we are delighted to announce that we were able to meet each of the three goals we set for ourselves:

1) Help families in the community to have their pets sterilized—We helped families get **126** pets altered

2) Spay or neuter every shelter pet prior to adoption—Not a single pet that left our shelter will be adding to the pet population problem

3) Maintain our "Out Alive" rate at 82% or better—Our rate was **84%**; when you realize that the national average is about 50%, you know our little shelter is doing a tremendous job of finding homes for all the pets that come to us! In fact, every healthy and behaviorally sound pet that enters our shelter has a great chance to find a new home.

While we've taken the time to pat ourselves on the back for meeting our 2007 goals, we are not resting on our laurels. Our board of directors is already hard at work planning even more aggressive goals for 2008.

One of the ways we determine how best to improve our service to the community is to compare our progress with that of other shelters. Below is a table comparing national shelter statistics with our own. In its data we find reasons for both celebration and contemplation.

The obvious item to celebrate is our very low euthanasia rate (and consequently our high Out Alive rate). We've made tremendous strides in the last six years to achieve this. Thanks to some very progressive programs, such as the foster, breed rescue and shelter transfer programs, we are successfully finding homes for just about every dog and cat that can be rehomed. Because these programs are resource intensive we hope to work on reducing the number of animals entering the shelter so that these programs become less necessary.

Looking at the national statistics, one of the items to contemplate is the fact that we have many, many more pets entering the shelter per 1000 people than the national average (**81** vs. 24). This indicates that we still have a huge pet overpopulation problem in our community. We are eager to tackle this issue. When we get this statistic in line with the national average we will have far fewer animals entering the shelter (**360** vs. **1200**). That will be a dream come true. Additionally, we believe reducing pet overpopulation will help get our "percent of animals reclaimed by owners" numbers in line with national averages.

These numbers tell us there are just too many stray animals running loose and breeding with no owners to claim them. So in 2008 we will continue to promote the spaying and neutering of dogs and cats to reduce the number of unwanted animals in our county. And we are pleased to tell you that we have recently received several grants

to help with our community outreach spay/neuter program. So if you or someone you know needs financial assistance to get a pet altered, just call the shelter. We can help.

Although 2007 was a very successful year, our job will not be done until we become a no-kill community where no dog or cat is euthanized just because there are not enough homes to go around. With that ultimate goal in mind, our 2008 goals look much like 2007's. We want to continue having one of the best Out Alive rates of any open admission shelter in the United States and we want to continue helping our Brown County neighbors spay and neuter their pets.

Perhaps our most difficult challenge in 2008 and beyond will be raising the funds needed to maintain—and build upon—the successes we have so far achieved, including our tremendous "Out Alive" rate. Keeping pets alive costs more money than the alternative would, but the price of *that* option, as any animal lover knows, is far too great.

So, we now know how to keep more of our Brown County pets alive; the continuing challenge is how to raise the funds needed to sustain this progress. The Brown County Humane Society is a private non-profit organization and does not receive any funding from national humane organizations. Every penny we spend must be raised through our services, fund raising events, and donations. Which means *your* support saves the lives of the homeless pets in our community.

Feels great to be able to make such a difference right here at home, doesn't it?

Measurement:	United States, per year:	Brown County (2007):
No. of cats & dogs entering shelters	6-8 million*	1216
% of cats & dogs euthanized by shelters	50% *	16%
No. of pets entering the shelter per 1000 people	24	81
% of cats & dogs "out alive" from shelters	50 %*	84 %
No. of pets reclaimed by owners	30% dogs*; 2-5% cats *	14% dogs; 3% cats
% of dogs in shelters who are purebred	25%*	25%

* Humane Society of the United States estimates (Oct. 12, 2006)



Upcoming Events

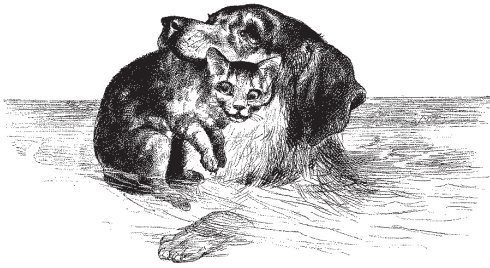
A fun way to show your support of the shelter is to participate in our fund raising events. Scheduled events are:

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With a Little Help from Our Friends...

The following volunteers were instrumental in helping pets at the shelter find new homes. They helped with a variety of tasks from walking dogs to fostering pets to working at fund raisers and much more. If you'd like to join our volunteer team, contact Todd & Ann at 988-8750.

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Meet the Staff

We think we have some of the best people in the world working at our shelter and we'd like you to get to know them. It's best if you stop by the shelter to meet them in person, but in case you can't, we'll take a bit of each of the next several issues of Paw Prints to introduce them to you: **3 TWI WZ** joined our shelter staff in July of 2005. Amber, a single mom, balances a very busy schedule with her daughters Madi & Gwen, her college classes, her work at the shelter, and a seasonal job as a landscape designer. —Oh, yes, and she pet sits too! Amber chose to work in animal welfare so she could make a difference in the world.

She says, "Working at the shelter gives me a wholesome feeling that I've not found with any other job. I love working at the shelter and wouldn't trade it for the world." Amber even takes her work home with her—the four-legged kind! She loves to foster special shelter animals and often takes needy dogs and cats home until they are ready for adoption. Those lucky foster pets join the 7 cats, 3 dogs, 2 horses and 1 hedgehog she already has at home. We hope you can stop by to meet Amber and see for yourself that we do have the BEST staff in the world.



Amber & her best friend, Buck

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- IN MEMORY OF "MOWGLI", GREAT CAT & COMPANION**
—Joe & Sandra Ridenour
- IN MEMORY OF "BETTY-CAT-WHITE"**
—Coretta York
- IN MEMORY OF "BIGS"**
—Pat & Kendra Loyal
- IN MEMORY OF "GEORGE"**
—Carol Sipes
- IN MEMORY OF "HOOK", BELOVED CAT OF SHARP FAMILY**
—Betty Weatherford
- IN MEMORY OF "SERSEE, HONEY & KINKER"**
—Daniel & Nancy Loyal
- IN MEMORY OF "THOMAS" THE CAT OF RAY SCHAEFER**
—Ann Boger
- IN MEMORY OF BETTY WEATHERFORD'S BELOVED "SAMMY"**
—Mike & Red Nasto
—Jane Weatherford
- IN MEMORY OF CHUCK STRINGER**
—Stephanie LaFontaine
—Chris Garrison
—Amy Garrison
—Bonnie O'Connell
—Jeth & Michelle Sears
—Winger Stolberg Prop. Group, Inc.
—Arnold & Toni Carter
- IN MEMORY OF DOROTHY STEWART**
—Monique Cagle

- IN MEMORY OF HUGH JONES & JIM GREGORY**
—Jean Jones
- IN MEMORY OF MADELEINE BACHELIER**
—Robert & Mary Beth Braitman
—Lewis & Terry Mumford
- IN MEMORY OF MARGE COOK'S BELOVED "BUBBA"**
—Mike & Red Nasto
- IN MEMORY OF MARY JANE HARDEN**
—Lois & James Gredy
- IN MEMORY OF MY ANGEL GIRL "CARLY"**
—Bearwallow Gifts, Inc.
- IN MEMORY OF "MELBA & ROCCO" FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS**
—Teresa & Don Anderson
- IN MEMORY OF "MOWGLI"**
—Pat & Kendra Loyal
- IN MEMORY OF ALMA ROGERS**
—John & June Dever
- IN MEMORY OF EMERSON WHEELER**
—Wilma Wheeler
- IN MEMORY OF FRED & MARY JANE LORENZ**
—Alice Lorenz
- IN MEMORY OF "BENTLEY, BEN, LUCKY, TIGGER & DEBBIE"**
—Bill & Norma Jean Boren
- IN MEMORY OF "NELL"**
—Barbara & Carl Lunde
- IN MEMORY OF "HOOK"**
—Steven & Kathleen Sharp

To make a memorial donation, please send a check for any amount along with your name, the name of the person or pet, and a brief message, if desired, to:
Brown County Humane Society
c/o Agnes Unger
18 Redbud Lane
Nashville, IN 47448

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HAPPY BELATED 1ST ANNIVERSARY SCOTT & JANE
—Mike & Red Nasto
- IN HONOR OF DR. ALBERT J. ALLEN, LILLY NEUROSCIENCES**
—Robert Baker & Paula Trzepacz
- IN HONOR OF JIM HUBER ON HIS 60TH BIRTHDAY**
—Pat & Kendra Loyal
- IN HONOR OF DR. SARA ANN CORYA**
—Beverly McKown Shea
- IN HONOR OF JANET ENOCHS**
—Fred & Sereta Andrews
- IN HONOR OF JIM & JUDY REICHERT**
—Michael & Jaydene Laros
- IN HONOR OF JUDGE JUDY STEWART**
—Mike & Red Nasto
- IN HONOR OF KURT & ANN BEHRMAN**
—Frank & Marlene Fulnecky
- IN HONOR OF SHARLENE WOZNIAK'S BIRTHDAY**
—M. Renee Buening
—Fred & Nancy Krebs
—Paul & Maribeth Haulter
—Connie & Debbie



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Leigh Ann Hoffacker; Linda Moeller, Betty Weatherford

The mission of the Brown County Humane Society is to be a community resource dedicated to promoting the welfare of all animals in our county. We provide temporary shelter to pets in need and promote the adoption of homeless pets into loving, permanent homes. We advocate respect for animals through public education about responsible pet ownership. We support and promote the spaying and neutering of companion animals as the best solution to pet overpopulation in our community.