



Little Shelter, Big Results

Paw Prints

Newsletter of the Brown County Humane Society October 2017

Finding Someone for Everyone

Grouchy. Aggressive. Mean. Those are just a few of the words used to describe Kit Kat. Playful, energetic, and curious could also be said of her. It all depended on the situation and sometimes it was difficult to know which Kit Kat you might meet. One thing was for certain, though: Kit Kat did not like other cats.

Kit Kat's dislike for other cats posed quite a challenge. She spent most of her day in her kitty condo, unwilling to socialize. When she did come out, her pent up energy could result in aggression. She could be sweet and playful one moment, and lashing out the next, often "nipping" at people who tried to pet her for more than a few seconds. As the saying goes, "you only get one chance to make a first impression" and Kit Kat's first impression wasn't always positive.

This isn't uncommon in shelter cats, where the opportunities to be out for play time are sometimes limited, especially for cats like Kit Kat who prefer to play on their own. Unfortunately, in many shelters, Kit Kat would have a limited amount of time to find a home before being labeled as "unadoptable."

We knew Kit Kat's family was out there...we just needed the chance to find them and knew that Kit Kat would need a multi-pronged approach. We couldn't just wait for someone to show up at the shelter. So while the shelter staff and volunteers worked with her to give her outlets for her energy and to teach her that good things (treats) happened when she was nice, our adoption marketing team created an individual plan for Kit Kat so that people could "meet" her before they even came to the shelter.

In the end, it was a flier posted at the local post office that did the trick. Initially attracted by her beautiful tabby stripes and white paws, her adopters actually appreciated that she's a cat with a bit of "personality." They were happy to give her time to settle in and learn to trust them.

Surprisingly, that didn't take long. On the very first night in her home, Kit Kat was sleeping on their bed (at one point on her new dad's chest) and after a couple of days was no longer even "nipping." They're still working on building the relationship between Kit Kat and the dog, though.

Your support gave Kit Kat the chance to find a home where she can be herself, appreciated for her personality and unique qualities. She has a new name now...Mao. It's Chinese, short for Wo men de Mao, which means "Our Cat."



On the Road Again

Twice a month, our Serving Pets Outreach Team (SPOT) makes trips to provide pet food and supplies to county residents with a temporary need for assistance. These deliveries help keep pets in their homes with the families who love and care for them, rather than in the shelter, and the SPOT van is a familiar sight in the community.

On one trip, two of our volunteers were out for a morning shift when smoke and fumes suddenly began pouring into the van.

The van the team was using was donated to SPOT with the hope that it would last at least one or two years. In fact, it had been powering through for eight tough years, delivering as much as 20,000 pounds of pet food a year.

Luckily, our volunteers were able to pull into a local garage where mechanics discovered that mice were taking advantage of the rusted floor of the van to come in and steal food, storing it in the disintegrating exhaust system. They watched as bits and pieces of food could be seen blowing out through the exhaust pipe. The rusted floor was also allowing the smoke and fumes to pour back into the van.

Thankfully, with generous grants from several organizations, (the Petco Foundation, the Brown County Community Foundation, South Central Indiana REMC, and Howard F. Hughes Legacy Passthrough Fund), we've been able to purchase a gently-used replacement van...one which we hope will keep the SPOT team going for many years to come. If you see it driving around the county, give a wave to our volunteers.



2017 Barn Sale Sets a Record

Our 2017 Barn Sale fundraiser set a record this year, bringing in more than \$40,000 to support the animals at the shelter. Once again, we were overwhelmed by the generosity of the community and all of the items that were donated for the sale. Volunteers spent hundreds of hours sorting and pricing thousands of items...everything from furniture to craft supplies. Fortunately, the weather was on our side this year and the rain stayed away. Shoppers came early, and many came again. A lot of people took advantage of the Saturday special...spend at least \$100 and get 50% off.



To make a memorial or gift donation, please send a check along with your name and the name of the person or pet you want to honor to:

Brown County Humane Society, P.O. Box 746, Nashville, IN 47448

Or donate online at: www.bchumane.org/donate with the name written in the "special instructions" section

Donations Were Made in Honor of...

Sue Ahbe

Thomas and Pamela Crawford

Scott Hashagen

Leah Hashagen

Zoe Wells

Cynthia Wells

Donations Were Made in Memory of...

Andy

W.E. and C.L. Snyder Fund

Angelena May

Mrs. Yvonne Tidd

Arvil Burkhardt, Jr.

Danny and Patty Shepherd

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Pat and Kendra Loyal

CJ Taylor Thomas

Pat and Kendra Loyal

Debbie Knight Brightmire

Brown County Sheriff's Department

Brown County Clerk's Office

Donations Were Made in Memory of...

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Pat and Kendra Loyal

Bill and Jackie Phillips

Philip Smith and Sue Ahbe

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Foster Homes Needed

Do you have a room where a dog can rest for two days following surgery? Or where a litter of kittens can grow for a few weeks? What about a quiet home where a dog can rest during heartworm treatment or a cat can recover from a broken leg? If you can give two days or two months, we need you!

Become a much-needed foster home. Email foster@bchumane.org to learn more.

BCHS MISSION: *The BCHS is a community resource dedicated to promoting animal welfare. We provide temporary shelter to pets in need and promote adoption into permanent, loving homes. We support and promote spaying and neutering to eliminate pet overpopulation. We advocate compassionate care and respect for animals through public education.*

Every Story is Special

Kit Kat's story represents just one of 425 adoption stories you've made possible so far in 2017. Each one is special, to the animal and their family.

Raja – a cat that was at risk of euthanasia at another shelter due to an unidentified mass that was making it difficult for him to breathe. We were able to import him, have him treated for a polyp, and he was quickly adopted. Raja is just one of 53 animals we've been able to import from other shelters this year.



Marta – a sweet black lab that suffered from such severe separation anxiety that her first adoptive family had to return her to the shelter. She's now living in Chicago, with a look-alike doggy sister and a family with the resources and lifestyle needed to make her more comfortable.



We look forward to creating many new adoption stories with you in the future.

Until next time,

Visit us online at: www.bchumane.org
Like us on Facebook at: facebook.com/bchumane
Follow us on Twitter at: @bchumane
Follow us on Instagram at: bchumane

Volunteer Opportunities

Meet new people, learn more about BCHS, and make a huge difference for the animals. Visit the website at www.bchumane.org/volunteer/ to learn more.

For regular weekly shelter volunteers:

Cat Care – Help our morning staff provide fresh food/water/litter/bedding to our cats as we prepare to open the shelter for the day. 9-12 am

Dog Walking – Provide exercise and play for the dogs. Must be 18+ and comfortable with all breeds and sizes of dogs. Between 12-4 pm

For occasional volunteers:

Stuffing envelopes – Join our volunteer list and come when you can. At the library: as needed.

Handy(wo)man – Help us keep the shelter functioning well. Donate your skills and labor to help with occasional plumbing, electrical, carpentry, and other maintenance needs. At the shelter: as needed or as a regular.

Posting adoptable pet flyers – Join our list of volunteers who post our adoptable pet flyers twice a month in the community. We especially need volunteers in Columbus and Bloomington and other locations outside of Brown County.

BCHS Staff

Shelter Manager: Caity Robertson

Veterinarian: Sharon Hensley

Registered Vet Technician: Lindsey Levine

Animal Care Staff: Beth Artis, Brian Blessing,

Valerie Foley, Jackie Jones, Devonne Lancaster,

Stephanie Shelton, Brandon Shoobridge

Volunteer & Communications Manager: Erika Imhoof

Development Manager: Megan Gushwa

SPOT Coordinator: Patty Gushwa

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