



# Paw Prints

Newsletter of the Brown County Humane Society January 2010 FREE

## S.P.O.T. – Serving Pets Outreach Team

2009 ended on one of the most positive notes we could have hoped for. Our mobile outreach program, SPOT, had its debut on Dec 12, 2009. The first activity was to deliver straw to needy outside pets, just in time for a cold snap that rolled through Brown County. The program had been in the thoughts and dreams of BCHS board members and volunteers for several years. Due to the generous support of the Brown County Community Foundation and a local philanthropist, SPOT was implemented.

**SPOT's objective: to get out into the community, offering help to dog and cat owners.**

Instead of waiting for people to come to us, we are going into the community and seeking out those individuals who might not know how we can help. Our first SPOT outing resulted in delivering 53 bales of FREE straw and several bags of food and treats to outside dogs and cats. We have at least three more straw deliveries scheduled in January. SPOT has allowed us to meet pet owners that might need help in other ways – spay/neuter assistance, behavior modification counseling, housing for their pets, food assistance, etc.

**The ultimate goals of SPOT are 1) to decrease the number of unwanted pets in our community and 2) to ensure dogs and cats can live happy, healthy lives in their current home.**

Right now Brown County receives 4X the number of animals into its shelter (97 pets/1000 people) as the national average (24 pets/1000 people). Other communities have implemented programs similar to SPOT and had resounding results. Using models from those successful programs, we are confident that we will eliminate pet overpopulation in our community within the

foreseeable future. The first three years of this program are crucial to its success and we will be asking you, our valued supporters, to help fund the program.

Fundraising for SPOT will be going full-throttle in February when we will be holding a phone-a-thon. We will call those people that we know care about homeless pets and ask them to financially support the SPOT program. This program, through its aggressive spay/neuter initiative, has the potential to drastically reduce the number of unwanted pets in Brown County and thus reduce the number of pets coming to the shelter. **This will be the most important program that the BCHS has ever implemented.** We hope you feel as strongly as we do about its significance and will give generously when our volunteer calls.

Be on the lookout for the SPOT van as it delivers supplies and help to dogs and cats throughout Brown County. If you know of a family who has a dog or cat that they need help with, have them call SPOT at 812-703-0797.

## SPOT Mission

- S**trengthen the bond between pet guardians & pets
- P**romote spay/neuter to eliminate pet overpopulation
- O**ffer education to support responsible pet ownership
- T**ogether Saving Lives



The Brown County Humane Society, 128 South SR 135, Nashville, IN 47448

812-988-7362

www.bchumane.org

Open 12-5 M,W,F,Sa,Su

## Where Do Your Dollars Go?

Running an animal shelter is expensive. Running one with a 90% Out Alive rate, as our organization does, is even more costly. We very much appreciate every dollar that is donated to the BCHS and we work very hard to be sure it is spent the way you want it to be spent – to save animals.

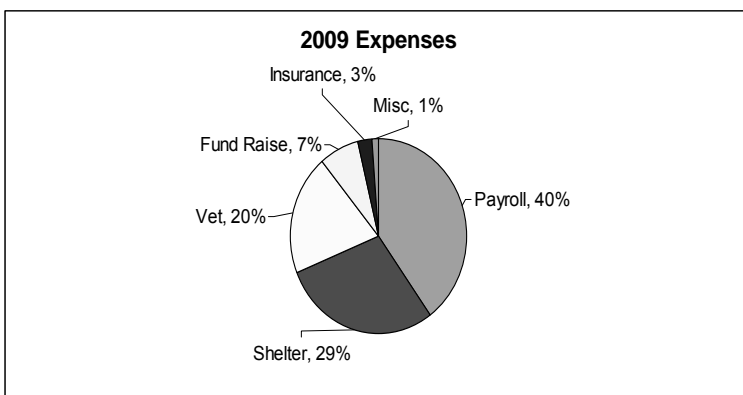
As with most organizations our biggest expense is payroll – 40% of expenses. We have three full-time employees and three part-time employees. These folks work very hard—more for their love of animals than for their paychecks. Salaries in the animal welfare field are typically low compared to the responsibilities these caring people take on.

Shelter operation, including utility costs and supplies, are the next biggest expense – the endless cat litter, dog food, kitten chow and cleaning supplies that it takes to care for the 1400+ pets that come our way each year along with gas, electricity and water amounts to 29% of our expenses.

Another large expense is our veterinary costs (20%). This includes the surgeries to spay and neuter all the shelter animals, as well as the veterinary products (vaccines, antibiotics, dewormers) that we buy to ensure our animals remain healthy while at the shelter. We are very fortunate to be working with several compassionate veterinarians that give us the best of deals to help keep our costs down.

Other smaller expenses include fundraising (7%), mostly for advertising, and insurance (3%). Fortunately we've got some great fundraisers that pay off really well.

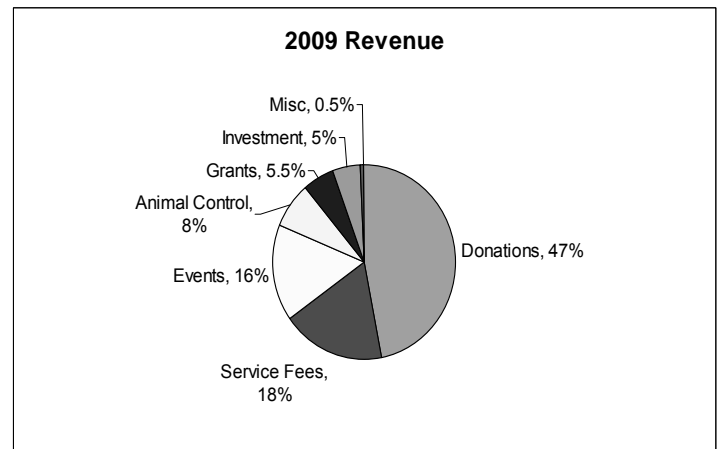
Overall we run a very frugal organization and spend the dollars you donate to us with care, always keeping in mind your priority – saving animals.



## Where Do the Dollars Come From?

The percent of revenue from our various sources changes from year to year. Our largest sources of income are typically: 1) Donations, 2) Shelter services, 3) Fundraising Events, 4) Animal Control and 5) Grants.

Because the revenue from grants and donations is a bit unpredictable from year to year, no year is exactly like the previous. In 2009 Donations resulted in 47% of total revenue. Shelter services, which includes adoption and return-to-owner fees, yielded 18% of revenue. Our fun fundraising events—Chocolate Walk, Dog Walk, Chocolate! Chocolate! etc. yielded 16% of revenue. Our contract with the Brown County Animal Control Commission, which obligates us to house and care for all animals picked up by Animal Control, contributed 8% of revenue and Grants resulted in 5.5% of revenue.



## The Result of Dollars Spent

A home was found for every healthy and behaviorally-sound animal that entered the shelter in 2009.

## 2010 BCHS Events

A fun way to show your support of the shelter is to participate in our fundraising events:

- Feb 14 – Chocolate! Chocolate! at The Seasons
- Apr 24 – Plant Sale at Shelter Barn
- May 15 – Dawg Gone Walk at Deer Run Park
- Aug 27-29 – Barn Sale at Shelter Barn
- Sep 11-12 – Puppies & Pumpkins at Art Gallery
- Nov 13 – Chocolate Walk in Nashville
- Dec 19 – Open House at Shelter

To make a memorial 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, 18 Redbud Lane, Nashville, IN 47448**

**~~ IN HONOR OF~~**

**Jan Larkin** – Julie A. Larkin  
**Koshi, Kami & Paddy** – Karen Hasenstab  
**Suzannah Levett-Zody** – Kathryn Richardson  
**Frank & Brenda Zody** – Kathryn Richardson  
**Pat & Kendra Loyal** – Kathryn Richardson  
**Fred & Sereta Andrews** – Janet Enochs  
**Gary Emmons** – Designscape, The Glusenkamps  
**Wanda Jones** – Michael & Jaydene Laros  
**Janet Enochs** – Fred & Sereta Andrews  
**Elisabeth Bosh** – Cheryl Paul

**~~ IN LOVING MEMORY OF~~**

**Frisky Roth** – Amanda Roth  
**Maggie Mae** – Pat & Kendra Loyal  
**Molly** – Carol Sipes  
**Aggie McHugh** – John & June Dever  
**Betty Perry** – Gary & Christine Eickleberry  
**Bob Nixon** – Brown County Lion's Club  
**Brian McKown** – Beverly Shea McKown  
**Dan Smitley** – Paul & Carole Page  
**Harry Snow** – Ada M. Jones  
**James L. Gregg** – Rochelle Banziger  
**Martha**, my sweet Bull Terrier – Claudia Davis  
**Wrigley** – Carol Routh  
**Zoe Baker** – Paula Trzepacz & Robert Baker  
**Charlie, Barney & Buffy** – Danna Moore

**The shelter. 2:15pm.**

**The crowd waited in anticipation...**

**Then it happened. Santa's elf, Max, arrived—and everyone cheered!**



On Dec. 20<sup>th</sup> we had our Open House. It was a tremendous success. Thanks to generous people like you, Max arrived with a truckload of donations—everything from food to toys to supplies—all for our homeless pets. It was enough food to feed our cats and dogs for 7 weeks. These “gifts” were chosen from our holiday letter’s catalog. Instead of just a straight donation, people were able to pick the specific gift they’d like to give. Some chose beds, some chose vaccines—and all were greatly appreciated. At the open house we also had hot cider and cookies for everyone to sample while they played with our adoptable pets. Just as we were tidying up, a lady arrived with a lost dog. Luckily, the dog was microchipped and we were able to call his owner and let him know Buck was safe. What a great ending to a fantastic party.



**Max – delivering gifts**

*We who choose to surround ourselves with lives even more temporary than our own live within a fragile circle, easily and often breached. Unable to accept its awful gaps, we still would live no other way...*

—Irving Townsend, *Separate Lifetimes*

## Chocolate = Success

On Nov 14<sup>th</sup> we had our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Chocolate Walk. What a success! **We sold out all 1000 tickets and made over \$18,000!** The sun was shining, chocolate treats were delicious, Nashville was packed and everyone was happy. But it was our shelter animals who were the big winners of the day. It takes approx. \$210,000 a year to run our shelter. (Yes, really!) This is our biggest fundraiser to date. We'd like to thank everyone who came (some from as far away as Rhode Island!) as well as the shops and out-of-town chocolatiers for helping us make this day such a success for the animals. Many out-of-state people are planning to make this event their reason to come back to Brown County year after year after year. So **mark your calendars for Nov. 13<sup>th</sup>** and make our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Chocolate Walk even better!

## Meet Our Staff



Emily Dickison first started as a BCHS volunteer. Several months later, in February 2009, she was hired as a cat caregiver. Emily has always wanted to work at the shelter and be part of making the lives of animals in Brown County better. We are very lucky to have her.

Emily graduated high school in December of 2009. At school she enjoyed the theater program and was awarded Honor Thespian for putting in over 600 hours of after-school theater work. Her plans are to further her education at the Art Institute of Indianapolis, studying computer animation. She plans to continue working at the shelter part-time while earning her degree.

In her spare time, Emily enjoys hiking, cleaning, knitting/crocheting, drawing and hanging out with her animal companions, including a Rottweiler named Nina, a Maine Coon kitty named Leo, a Blue Nebelung cat named Casper and a rabbit named Patches.

## Board of Directors

Jane Weatherford – President; Agnes Unger – Secretary  
Rebecca Robertson – V. President; Greg Bennett - Treasurer  
Vicki Bennett, Leigh Ann Hoffacker, Linda Moeller, Marcia Moore, Judy Reichert, Judy Stewart, Jeanne Turner, Betty Weatherford, Sallianne Zody



## Extra Efforts Help Kitties Find Homes

Did you know that BCHS has 3 offsite cat adoption locations? That's **cat adoptions 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.** Can you think of any other shelter that does that?

In Indianapolis, Close to Home Pet Rescue is a private home that adopts out approximately 200 cats every year. Living up in Indy, but adopting out Brown County cats since 2000 may seem odd, but as founder Jody Rainbolt explains "I have worked with many shelters and BCHS has the nicest staff and takes the best care of the animals." In a home environment, Jody is able to watch the cats run freely, see their personalities, and then make perfect adoption matches. In 2008, Jody received our Volunteer of the Year award as well as being one of the 2008 Animal Planet Cat Hero of the Year finalists.

Two years ago we were invited by PETCO in Bloomington to feature our adoptable cats at their store. They have a wonderful space where an average of 5 cats or kittens are available. In November 2009 we were approached by Bloomington's PetSmart to do the same thing.

The extra exposure for BCHS is incredible. Not only do we adopt more of our sweet kitties, but we are able to let people know about us. We've also been very lucky to have dedicated and loving volunteers who go twice a day to these stores to look after the kitties for us. The staff at both PETCO and PetSmart have been incredible to work with. They care about our cats as much as we do, playing with them constantly throughout the day.

**Over the past 4 years we have adopted out 825 cats, averaging 17 cats a month—from just these 3 adoption sites.** Shelter manager, Jaime Robbins says, "It can be tricky coordinating everything, but the benefits speak for themselves." Just ask Sylvester, one of our first kitties ever adopted at PETCO.



*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.*