



Paw Prints

Newsletter of the Brown County Humane Society

January 2011 FREE



The volunteers and staff at the Brown County Humane Society are doing a **Happy Dance** into 2011. We are elated with the successes in 2010. Many heartwarming stories of homeless to happily-homed pets are shared with you in this edition of our newsletter. For those of you more into the facts, here's how 2010 went:

- S.P.O.T. rolled out an aggressive spay/neuter program which resulted in 835 Brown County pets being fixed; thus preventing the births of over 5000 unwanted pets
- Intake numbers were significantly lower in 2010 vs. 2009. We received 33% fewer cats and 12% fewer dogs!
- We had an AMAZING 96% Out Alive rate (our highest ever)—a statistic that rivals many limited-admission, no-kill shelters!
- Over 13,000 volunteer hours were donated! The incredible 2010 successes are due entirely to our dedicated staff and volunteers—and to you, our loyal supporters

Some of our favorite 2010 adoption moments:

426!

That's how many days Fred was in our shelter, waiting patiently for the right person to adopt him. He watched dog after dog get adopted, but he knew his chance would come. That day finally arrived in December and Fred not only got a home for the holidays, but a home forever!



Spot and Julia

These 2 sisters were best friends and constant companions—sleeping curled together, eating from the same bowl and constantly within sight of each other. When a lady came in to adopt Spot, she didn't realize the close bond Spot had with her sister. Without a second's hesitation, she said, "I'll take both." And now the sisters will live together forever in a loving home. Adopting siblings or best friends together is incredibly rewarding—twice the fun, love and happiness.



Kit

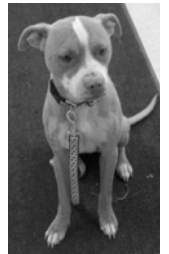


Kit was found living in a car last January. She had a broken front leg from years earlier, and after arriving at the shelter, tested positive for FIV which is similar to human HIV, but not transferable to humans. Knowing that FIV cats can live with healthy cats in the household, we knew someone would love her just as much as we did. Now Kit lives with non-FIV cats in a house and doesn't let her leg get in the way of playtime.



Dawn

Dawn was abandoned at the shelter, left tied to our fence. There was practically no hair on her body. It all had been replaced by bloody scabs. She was frightened, emaciated and anemic. She had mange. There was never any question—WE WERE GOING TO FIX HER. Dawn symbolizes many things for us: compassion, commitment, perseverance and most of all, hope. To see Dawn's journey: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SxnfaMRrR4E>



Sampson

Sampson was a kitten who tested positive for Feline Leukemia—an automatic death sentence at some shelters, but again, not at BCHS. We didn't see the disease, we saw the most loving, sweetest kitten who just wanted a chance. It was a bit of extra work in terms of our cleaning routine, but it was worth it when we held Sampson and he melted into our arms, purring. It took 10 months, but Sampson found the best "mom." Sampson's full story, and a further explanation of Feline Leukemia is on our website at <http://www.bchumane.org/animals/happytails/index.html>



Felix

Felix arrived at the shelter heartworm positive. Shelter life was hard. He stopped eating and started pacing. He was sick and very skinny. After a couple of months, he started his heartworm treatment and went to live in a foster home for a month. There Felix thrived. He learned new things daily. His foster family was able to find a perfect home for him not too far away, joining a family with three daughters and a Jack Russell Terrier. Felix, now Seeley, enjoys walks with his new dad and snuggling with his doggy sister. Life couldn't be better for this sweet boy.



Special Animals That Came Through Our Doors...

We don't take the easy way out and we won't back away from hard-to-place pets. We just smile because we know that in the long-run everyone comes out a winner—our staff, our volunteers, and of course, the homeless pets. In 2010, BCHS took in 1100 homeless cats and dogs. For such a small shelter, this is an incredible number. But more amazing is that we achieved a 96% Out Alive Rate! But we cannot do any of this without the wonderful support from all of you. Thank you! You trust us to do what is right for the animals and we're determined never to disappoint you or the cats & dogs in our care.

Puppy Mill Dogs:

This past year was another bad one for puppy mills. As we all know the dogs in these places are in horrible shape, kept in disgraceful conditions and don't know how wonderful people can be. Enter BCHS. When the call comes from a puppy mill raid, our shelter manager, Jaime Robbins, is the *last* to answer the call—last because Jaime takes the dogs that no other shelter wants—the old, the unhealthy, the depressed—all of the dogs that are harder to adopt. But we love a challenge. With Jaime leading the way, the staff and volunteers do whatever we can to get these dogs healthy (mentally & physically) so they can find a loving home. In 2010 we took in 25 puppy mill dogs and adopted out every single one.



Seniors:

2010 was also a bad year for people surrendering their senior pets. Sometimes the reason for surrender is understandable (can't afford medical care) but other times (getting a new puppy) seems thoughtless. A shelter is a difficult place for a senior animal who is used to being in one home, with one



family for many, many years. Change is hard on anyone, but it's the hardest on senior cats & dogs. They get depressed, stop eating and are just sad. Our staff and volunteers work one-on-one with these pets, trying to get

them to purr or wag their tails again—not often easy. And when we find the right person who is willing to let a senior animal live out their remaining years in a happy, loving home, we know that, despite the few bad eggs, we have a wonderful, caring community that loves animals no matter how old they are.

Have Some Free Time? Volunteer!

Our wonderful team of volunteers is a key part of our success. From dog-walking to playing with kitties, from fundraising to greeting people as they walk through our doors, we are always looking for more help. It's the reason we are so successful at finding animals homes. Please call 988-7362 or e-mail kcramer9@indiana.edu.

Special Needs:

One of the qualities that makes BCHS a unique place is the way we treat pets with special needs. We take pride in showing people how wonderful they are when given a chance.

• Betty was found half-starved and pregnant at the side of the road. After having 10 puppies, we noticed a growth on her leg. It turned out to be cancer. Once the tumor was removed, and she recuperated at a foster home, Betty showed us the meaning of perseverance. Despite cancer and a horrible beginning, she knew the best was yet to come. She finally got it—a forever home with a new family who adores her.



• Bray had allergies. Most people who came into the adoption room assumed that Bray had a cold and didn't want him, even after we explained his condition. But we knew someone would discover the wonderful spirit of this sweet boy. Bray didn't have to wait too long. He now lives with a wonderful family who doesn't even notice when he sneezes now and then.



• Ford had ringworm. Some shelters automatically euthanize any cat with ringworm because it is highly contagious. To us, this is not acceptable. Ringworm is easily treated, but kitties must be isolated while they heal. We see the potential in an animal and we'll work harder to prove it was worth it. And we haven't been wrong yet! Ford is at the shelter, wanting to show you that he's worth it too!



• Audi came to us because his owner couldn't afford medical care for her. Audi had kidney stones that had to be removed surgically, and would then have to be on a special diet for the rest of her life. This is where your wonderful donations come into play. Your donations to our medical fund allowed us to get Audi healthy while she waited to find the person who could afford the extra money needed each month for special food.



• Honey was a little...overweight, but we gave her special food, extra exercise and found her the right home that would help her get healthier.



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, P.O. Box 746, Nashville, IN 47448**

~~ IN HONOR OF Kim Junion's Birthday~~

Roxann Nys

~~ IN APPRECIATION OF Tom Mitchell~~

Louray Cain

~~ IN LOVING MEMORY OF "Frisky Roth"~~

Amanda Roth

~~ IN CELEBRATION OF

Kim Zimmerman's Birthday~~

Jennifer Nolden

~~ IN MEMORY OF Charlotte Wyatt~~

Jane Weatherford

Brenda & Frank Zody

~~ IN LOVING MEMORY OF "Mr. B"~~

Rick & Stephanie Dean

~~ IN MEMORY OF ~~

Judy Schnur – Kathi S. Smith

"Sam & Jake" – Cora & Herbert Miller

"Augie" – Ray and Doris Jones

George – Pam & Jerry Simo

Maurice Tourney – Lori Pierce

"Greta" – Bev Bishop

"Lotus" – Patty Peaker

"Wrigley Bunny & Bootsie" – Rosemary Rybicki

Rascal – Doris Waldschmidt

Karen Bishop – Wendy Witherspoon Rock

**S.P.O.T
2010—What a year!**

What an incredible launch for S.P.O.T! With the support of BCHS staff & volunteers, as well as our Brown County community, we couldn't have had a better first year for our Serving Pets Outreach Team.

With your financial support and over 3000 volunteer hours, we surpassed every one of our goals!

Spay/Neuter Results

- From February 1 to December 31, we surpassed our target of 200—by getting 835 pets fixed!
- Held 31 spay/neuter clinics
- Numerous "low-cost" vouchers handed out for spay/neuter services at Bean Blossom Animal Clinic

Field Visit Data

- Number of trips out into the community = 24
- Number of homes visited = 321
- Number of animals served = 2,126 +
- Pounds of food distributed = 4,786
- Bales of Straw distributed = 328
- Number of enclosures erected to get dogs off chains = 4

Community Events

To spread the word about what SPOT offers our community, we participated in a variety of events, including: Health Fair@YMCA, Junior High Career Day, Tractor Pulls, Spring Blossom Parade, BC High School Spay/Neuter Awareness, 4-H Horse and Pony Show, 4-H County Fair, Mother's Cupboard & Triad Gift Baskets

2011 is going to be an even better year!

We have a new set of goals and objectives—and can't wait to get started!

We have an amazing team and would love for you to join us. Or if you can't spare the time, how about sparing some items for donations, like dog houses, fencing, pet food, etc. Please call 812-703-0797.

BCHS Events Roundup

For detailed information on our events,
go to our website: www.bchumane.org

Our fundraisers are one of our main sources of income. It costs over \$17,000 a month (\$224,000 a year!!!) to run our shelter. Thank you for coming out and helping us raise money. Hope to see you this year too! We've got some great things happening. The dates for our 2011 events are:

Feb 13: Chocolate! Chocolate!

Last year: A variety of over 60 different chocolate treats were served and we made over \$2000!

This year: Spend Valentine's Day with your sweetie and help the homeless pets at the same time!

May 15: Dawg Gone Walk & Fiesta

Last year: Over 100 dogs joined in the fun and despite the late afternoon rain, everyone had a wonderful time. We raised almost \$17,000!!!

This year: We want every dog in Brown County to join us for a fun-filled afternoon that they will never forget!

Aug. 19-21: Barn Sale

Last year: Everyone was incredibly generous with their donations, allowing us to raise \$2397!!! for homeless pets.

This year: Please remember us for donations when doing your spring cleaning, then in August, come and shop!

Sept. 10-11: Puppies & Pumpkins

Last year: A great event at the BC Art Gallery. Lots of people got wonderful puppy kisses and everyone had a blast!

This year: We'll have more super-cute puppies looking for new homes

November 12: Chocolate Walk

Last year: We sold out all 1250 tickets, making this our biggest fundraiser of the year! We raised over \$18,000!

This year: We can't wait for you to see which shops/chocolatiers will be participating!

Dec. 18: Open House

Last year: Your generous donations for our homeless cats & dogs were piled high, giving them a holiday to remember

This year: We hope to give the animals another holiday to remember as they await their new homes.



Winning Prizes at
Dawg Walk



Sleepy pups at
Puppies & Pumpkins



Chocolate Walkers



Buddy and Grace received the most votes during our
Open House and were treated to a day of pampering



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.*



*Thank you for your
support!*

Shelter Staff

Jaime Robbins – Shelter Manager

Amy Sizemore – Canine Coordinator

Sherry Lane – Feline Coordinator

Heidi Duncan, Claire Mitchell,

Eliot Reynolds, Karen Westfall

Board of Directors

Rebecca Robertson – President

Agnes Unger – Vice President

Greg Bennett – Secretary

Sallianne Zody – Treasurer

Vicki Bennett, Michael Jeffries, Linda

Moeller, Marcia Moore, Anna O'Neill,

Judy Stewart, Betty Weatherford, Jane

Weatherford, Sue Ann Werling