



Paw Prints

The Brown County Humane Society is serious about doing everything in its power to help Brown County become a No Kill Community – one where no healthy, behaviorally sound pet is killed for lack of a home. Through the innovative dog transport program and by working with many other rescue organizations we have achieved that goal for dogs. Unfortunately, the same cannot be said for cats. As we've looked at our statistics it is evident that the cats we are failing are feral cats and their offspring.

A feral cat is an unsocialized cat. Either she was born outside and has never lived with a human family, or she is a house cat that strayed from home and overtime has become profoundly distrustful and afraid of humans. Adult feral cats are usually impossible to tame and are not suited to cohabiting with people. They live in family groups called colonies that form near a source of food and shelter. Feral cats can survive almost anywhere.

A stray cat is a domestic cat that strayed from home and became lost or was abandoned. Because a stray cat was once a companion animal, he or she can usually be resocialized and placed in an adoptive home.

Each year, spring at the shelter brings the arrival of hundreds of cats and kittens. Many of the kittens are the offspring of feral cats. With lots of time and patience feral kittens can be socialized and adopted. However, preventing the birth of these feral cats is a wiser use of resources. According to the latest research a program called Trap-Neuter-Return is the best way to manage feral cats.

Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) is a nonlethal sterilization method to reduce the number of feral cats in the environment both immediately and for the long term. It is a comprehensive, ongoing program in which stray and feral cats already living outdoors are humanely trapped, then evaluated,

vaccinated, and sterilized by veterinarians. Kittens and tame stray cats are adopted into good homes. Healthy adult feral cats are returned to their familiar habitat under the lifelong care of volunteers.

TNR and colony management are effective in reducing the number of cats. The use of other lethal methods to eliminate feral cats actually allows the population to continue to multiply. This is called the "vacuum effect". Feral cats establish territories based on availability of food sources and shelter. When the cats are removed from this environment, more cats quickly move in to take advantage of those resources. These new unsterilized cats will breed to the capacity of the site. The vacuum effect has been documented around the world.

A comparison of the results of these two different methods of feral cat control can be made by looking at a few university campuses. In Stanford a TNR program was implemented in 1989. Since the implementation of the comprehensive program, the number of homeless cats on campus has declined through natural attrition and the adoption of tame stray cats from an estimated 1500 at the program inception to approximately 200 cats currently living on campus. This successful program has been recognized nationally as a model for the care and management of homeless cats.

In contrast, in 1993, both Sonoma State University in California and Georgetown University in Washington DC decided to trap and kill the feral cats on their campuses. One year later, an influx of new unsterilized cats was seen at both campuses. Due to uncontrolled breeding, both campuses exceeded their previous number of cats within a few years. Why? Feral cats are prolific breeders and they rapidly reestablish their numbers. Simply removing cats only makes territory and food resources available for other cats to move in (vacuum effect).

TNR has been used in many communities in the US and throughout the world and has proven to be the most effective way to manage feral cats.

The topic of wildlife predation by cats is usually a very emotional issue between cat lovers and bird lovers and is often cited as a reason to not pursue TNR. However, managed feral cat colonies provide food to cats so they do not have to prey on wildlife. In addition cats have low success at bird predation. Most scientific studies indicate that cats have very little effect on bird populations and that habitat destruction, pollution and pesticides are the major reasons for declines in bird populations. TNR makes sense because it is:

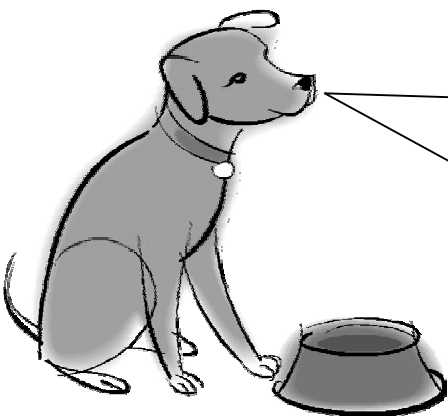
- 1) Non-lethal – cats do not have to be killed
- 2) Less expensive - TNR averages one-third the cost to trap, hold, euthanize and dispose of feral cats.
- 3) Lowers the population of feral cats by preventing births
- 4) Reduces cats coming to the shelter

The Brown County Humane Society has assisted several people with setting up feral cat colonies. We know other people are feeding feral cats and we would like to help them manage a feral cat colony. We can:

- 1) Provide traps & volunteers to capture feral cats
- 2) Find low cost spay/neuter
- 3) Assist with the cost of sterilization (when funds are available)
- 4) Offer expertise on colony management

If you are feeding stray cats, be sure they are sterilized. Don't wait until they have kittens. **ESPECIALLY** don't wait until the cats have kittens and then those kittens have kittens. Before long the population will be out of control. Two cats will be 10 within a year and 50 the next year. Call the shelter at 812-988-7362 and ask for help.

TNR information from Alley Cat Allies



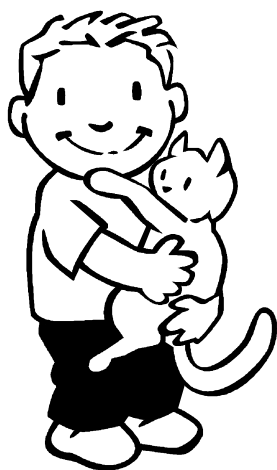
To all who donated to help fill our bowls,
Thank You?

Upcoming Events

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

- 🐾 Plant Sale – April 26, 8-3 pm @ BCHS Animal Shelter
- 🐾 Dawg Gone Walk & Fiesta – May 18, 1-4 pm, Deer Run Park
- 🐾 Chocolate Walk – Nov. 15, 10-4 pm, Nashville
- 🐾 50/50 Raffle Drawing – Nov 2008

Lot of
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 fund raising and much more. If you'd like to join our volunteer team, contact Todd & Ann at 988-8750.

Jody Rainbolt ✂ Cathi Eagan ✂ Marge Cook ✂ Levi Thomas ✂ Mary George ✂ Dr. May Alice Cox ✂ Dr. Jim Koch ✂ Dr. James Brester & Staff ✂ Dr. Robert Gillespie ✂ Ruth Riley ✂ Dr. Sue Whitman ✂ Ray & Sarah Smith ✂ Jim Hahn ✂ Tony West ✂ Bob Bowers ✂ Taylor Politan Marilyn & Glenn McAtee ✂ Sharlene Wozniak ✂ Emily & Carol Cameron ✂ Nicole & Kelly McPheeters ✂ Mary Lou McCann ✂ Todd Baker ✂ Ann McCann ✂ Mary Jo & Bob Conley ✂ Red Nastoff ✂ Pat & Kendra Loyal ✂ Suzannah Zody ✂ Juanita Boles ✂ Susie Woodall ✂ Tabby Davis ✂ Wanda Jones ✂ Kathy Sharp ✂ Sue Ann & Evan Werling ✂ Debbie & Mike Pope ✂ Patricia Madden ✂ Jeanne Snow ✂ Becky Stepf ✂ Dee Sutherland ✂ Carrie Fleener ✂ Stephanie Losey ✂ Gwen & Larry Blair ✂ Amber Means ✂ Larissa Cox ✂ Ali Hinderlighter ✂ Sabrina Ward ✂ Chrissi Hodapp ✂ Kasisha Smith ✂ Karen Arnold ✂ Deanne, Mallory & Alex Baker ✂ Emily Long ✂ The Spiegel's ✂ Donald Moore ✂ Eric Rardon ✂ Stacy Fletcher ✂ Amy Hatchett ✂ Greyson & Kate Schatz ✂ Justin Waterman ✂ Michael Law ✂ Cami Moore ✂ Brandi Lacefield ✂ Joe Long ✂ Hilary Webb ✂ Amber Franklin ✂ Kathy Robinson ✂ Dyllon Sizemore ✂ Madilynn Hicks ✂ Jeff Myers ✂ Bobbi Monroe ✂ Brandon Vaught ✂ Angie Walker ✂ Kara Nicely ✂ Randy with Quickcare ✂ Jason Wimmernauer ✂ Joyce McCoy ✂ Becky Burr ✂ Betsy Kolar ✂ Sabrina Harel ✂ Michaela Adams ✂ Christian Hess ✂ Kori & Camille Waelbroeck ✂ Mary Ann Soll ✂ Patty Peaker ✂ Kristen May ✂ Chris Abbott ✂ Becca Seeley ✂ James Sizemore ✂ Paige Vinson ✂ Sarah & Hannah Partridge

Meet the Staff

We think have some of the best people in the world working at our shelter and we'd like you to get to know them.

Lanie is a biology major studying at Indiana University. She has worked at the shelter for over two years. Animal welfare is very much an integral part of Lanie's life. When Lanie's family moved from Chicago to Indianapolis she wanted nothing more than to work with dogs. She joined the Humane Society of Indianapolis (HSI) and was able to spend lots of time with dogs. She quickly became an adoption counselor at HSI. Lanie has been hooked every since! After moving to Bloomington she searched for a job where she could continue to help homeless pets. Lucky for the Brown County Humane Society - Lanie found us! Lanie enjoys the challenge of fostering the shelter's most difficult cases - Pitbulls and tiny kittens. She frequently takes those that need a little extra TLC home to nurse them to health and help them learn to be good family pets. Lanie is now the proud mom of two cats and Scout, a Pitbull x Aussie mix, that she adopted from Brown County Humane Society.

In Lanie's free time she enjoys spending time outdoors and reading. The Harry Potter series is a favorite of hers and Dumbledore is her hero.



Lanie with buddies Mercy, Scout and Emma

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 MEMORY OF ~~

Chance – Glenn & Marilyn McAtee
Joplin – Kimberly Zimmerman
Luck Lee the Bunny – Claire Thomas Mitchell
Amos & Pete – Erica Deglandon
Chuck Stringer – Jeth & Michelle Sears
Dan Smitley – Paul & Carole Page
Ida Speigle – Mark & Hanna Warren
Joanne Carpenter – Karen Brauer
John Rudd – Loren & Georgia Cannady
Kathy Shirley – Greentree Asst Living
Keiko – Tina & Charles Beaver
Kirby Shanklin – Carol Routh
Lillian Starost – Charles & Nancy Hudson
Lorena Davis – Larry & Barbara Messer
Larry Ryser – Patti Fleetwood
Mother, Lorena Davis – Claudia Davis
Norma Zipoy – Pat & Kendra Loyal
Patty Nolting – Bill & Jackie Phillips
Shadow, Lucy, Pocket & Little Bit
 – Gerald & Linda Broussard
Bill Knieper – Glenn & Marilyn McAtee

~~ IN HONOR OF ~~

Barb Kinsey – Kelly McPheeters
Jane Weatherford – Steve & Danna Moore
Fred & Sereta Andrews – Janet Enochs
Pat Loyal's Birthday – David & Kathy Cuppy
Debbie Cascardo – Sherrie Wittenberg
Nancy Krebs' Birthday
 - Renee Buening
 - Eric Whitlock & Sharlene Wozniak
Our Critters, past & present
 - Eric Whitlock & Sharlene Wozniak
Rich & Sally Greeno's Birthdays
 - James & Judith Huber
Steve & Stephanie Gore – Kevin Gore

Board of Directors

Jane Weatherford – President
 Marcia Moore – Vice President
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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.