



Little Shelter, Big Results

# Paw Prints

Newsletter of the Brown County Humane Society

June 2015

## Because of You, Tucker Knows the Comforts of Home

In 2012, the Humane Society of the United States rescued over 100 cats from a hoarding situation in Indiana. The cats were taken in by shelters and rescues all over the state and BCHS agreed to help. That's when we met Tucker and his friends.

Tucker was essentially an indoor-only feral cat. Finding homes for feral cats isn't easy. Preferably, they can be returned to their original outdoor location after being spayed/neutered. Or, they can go to a barn home, where they will be safe and cared for, but not have to be a social family pet. Few people want to adopt a feral cat as an indoor pet. Even *fewer* want to adopt a feral cat with a raw, hairless patch of skin on his side.

### Tucker's Road to Recovery

Moving into the shelter was a very stressful situation for Tucker and his friends, and Tucker seemed to take it the worst. Almost immediately, he began stress grooming in an effort to comfort himself. It's not an uncommon behavior for highly stressed animals, but Tucker had soon developed hair loss and a raw patch of skin almost 4 inches in diameter.



Tucker

After medical tests to be sure he didn't have any other health problems, a lot of work by the shelter staff and volunteers to teach him to trust, and a few months in foster care with our shelter manager, Tucker finally started to emerge from his bubble. In foster care, he was able to relax and discover that he liked to play, he loved to get his neck scratched, and he'd do almost anything for a cat treat. Away from the stresses of the shelter, he began to heal. When he came back to the shelter, he had proven that he would be able to be a great family pet.

### Tucker Finds a Friend, and a Home

At the recent Indy Mega Adoption Event (more below) Tucker was paired in a cat kennel with one of our very shy cats, Sunny. It was like love at first sight. Tucker and Sunny immediately bonded and curled up together, each giving comfort to the other. The next day, they were adopted together by a couple who admired Tucker's tenacity and understood his needs.

Not many shelters or rescues have the chance to save a cat like Tucker, but because of supporters and friends like you, Tucker got the time and care he needed to overcome his fear, and learn to trust and enjoy human companionship. Now he and Sunny will be able to experience the happiness that comes from being "home."

## 27 Adoptions in Two Days

On June 20-21, more than 800 cats and dogs from Indiana found their forever homes at the Indiana State Fairgrounds.

Based on an event held in Jacksonville, Florida, the Indy Mega Adoption Event is now held twice a year. It brings together shelters from all over central Indiana for two amazing days of adoptions. More than 20 shelters and rescues brought cats and dogs, set up their booths and kennels, and waited for the 2,000 potential adopters to come in and find their new family members.

This is the first time that BCHS participated in the event. On Friday morning our shelter manager and several volunteers loaded up the van with lots of supplies and 22 cats and drove to Indianapolis. There they set up the cats in their cozy kennels, where they would have time to relax and get used to their new surrounding before the crowds arrived the next day. On the other side of the building, rows and rows of kennels were being set up for the hundreds of dogs that would arrive early in the morning.

At 5:45 on Saturday morning, volunteers arrived at the shelter to make sure all of the dogs were walked and then loaded up in the van for *their* trip to Indianapolis. Altogether, 14 dogs made the journey.

By the time our dogs arrived at 8:30 Saturday morning, people were already standing in line for the event, which didn't even start until 11:00. We'd been warned that would happen, but it was still a surprise. We'd been warned about a lot of things: the crowds, the noise, the fantastic animals, the lines, the joy, the paperwork, the exhaustion, the camaraderie, and the many wonderful adopters.

By 3:00 on Saturday, all but one of our dogs had been adopted, and he had a home visit scheduled for the next morning with a potential adopter. By the end of the day Saturday, 6 of our cats had also gone home. On Sunday, we were able to send home 7 more cats for a total of 13 cat adoptions (exceeding our goal of 10). All in all, we found homes for 27 animals in just two days!

The next Mega Adoption Event will be in October, and we'll be there. It's a great chance for us to introduce our animals to a far larger audience than might normally see them at the shelter. After all, that's where we were able to find the perfect couple who wanted to give Tucker and Sunny a home.

### You're Saving Sick Dogs

Heartworm. It's a word we dread hearing. So easy to prevent, and so difficult to treat.

Heartworm is caused when a dog is bitten by an infected mosquito. If left untreated, it can easily lead to a dog's death.

Heartworm can be prevented with medication. Unfortunately, we see dogs coming into the shelter already infected.

Treating a heartworm positive dog involves a 5-week-long round of expensive medication, rest, and quiet. Dogs with heartworm shouldn't get much activity or stress, so we try to get them into foster homes whenever possible.

As with any expensive or time-consuming treatment, many shelters just don't have the resources to help these dogs and many wind up having to be euthanized.

Your donations have made it possible for us to successfully treat all of the heartworm positive dogs this year.

Pippi, Connor, Roger, Lucy, Echo, and Monty will all be able to go to wonderful, loving homes, because of you.

Thank you.

**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.*

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**

**Donations Were Made in Memory of...**

**Ed Lucas**

Jim & Barb Stinson

**Al Pockevich**

Harold and Janet Hurwitz

**All our friends**

John & Pamela Cavosie

**Callie**

Butch & Susie Cottongim

**Charlotte Wyatt**

Robin Wyatt

**Chloe**

Jane Langan

**Claudia Davis**

Betty Weatherford  
Jane Weatherford  
Phillip & Ruthann Berck  
Joleen Curley & Kevin Walsh

**Dan Smitley**

Carole Page

**Donnie**

Pat and Kendra Loyal

**Ed Fleming**

Friends of the Brown County  
Library  
James and Judith Huber  
J Davis  
Allan & Linda Taylor  
Verne & Phyllis Sindlinger  
Donald & Marcia Moore

**Fern Smith**

John and Patricia Smith

**Frank Plaustic**

Bob & Mary Tryon

**Frank Wicker**

Jacquelyn Young

**Gayle Norton**

Agnes Unger

**Gayle Rae Shafer**

Charlene Marsh

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**George Blair**

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Robert & Nancy Coulter

James & Linda Shackelford

Gloria Berryman

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Michael Gunn & Judith Bentley

Robert & Donna Ormiston

Charlene Jones & Tam Miller

Juliet Winterberg

**George Gould**

Margaret Cleveland

**Huck**

Vern & Phyllis Sindlinger

**Janet Reynolds**

Steven & Kathleen Sharp

Marietta Henry

Fred & Marilyn Bryant

**Jean Harmon**

Jess & Andrea Findley

Bridget Kern

Indian Village Of Cave Creek

Judy Zimmerman

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**Jeannie Brush**

Tyna Hunnicutt

Marisa Exeter

Barbara Elswick

**Jeremy McQueary**

Dog Tag Brewing

**JoAnne Cardwell**

Valerie & Donald Foley

**Josephine Cueto**

Gretchen Dunham

Richard & Laura Vannote

Shirley Boardman

Lisa Tupper

Bruce & Janet Tupper

**Joy Forman**

Kimberly Zimmerman

**Joyce Reskin**

Harry & Susan Hicks

**Justice**

Ann Kenney

**K.C. Press**

Neal Press

**Kate Comiskey**

Steven & Nancy Comiskey

**Kenn Underwood**

Phillip Smith & Sue Ahbe

Rich & Sally Greeno

James & Judith Huber

Pat & Kendra Loyal

Anton & Deon Loyal

Valerie & Donald Foley

**Kent Norman**

Sarah Williams

**Leo Leap**

Ron & Marilla Schwomeyer

**Lina**

Jane Weatherford

**Lucy**

Darlene Meyer

**Lynda Sereno**

William Lloyd  
Lawrence & Julie Ness  
Clara Young  
Orville & Olivia Toler  
Joseph & Barb Balcerak

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Carl Lowry

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Phyllis Risky

**Mobley**

Betty Weatherford

**Molly**

Joe & Sandra Ridenour

**Montana & Maggie**

Steven &amp; Kathleen Sharp

**Neil Cox**

Pamela Ann Cox-Smith

**Patty Nolting**

Bill &amp; Jackie Phillips

**Penny**

Judith Poling

**Petee**

Phillip Smith &amp; Sue Ahbe

**Ranger & Zora**

DeAnne Weaver

**Razz**

Steven &amp; Kathleen Sharp

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**Tigger**

Cheryl Fleming

**Tom Carollo**

Denise Scofield

Fair Oaks Community Assoc.

**Vi Wayman**

Wanda Jones

Claude &amp; Susan Chatum

**Donations Were Made in Honor of...****Christmas gift for Jan Mordarski**

Teresa Russell

**Ann Rotelli & Indy**

Tom Rotelli

**Barb & Carl Lunde's Anniversary**

Pam Jackson

**Beth & Rob Mulry**

Pamela Janos

**Bob and Linda Worland's Wedding**

Thomas &amp; Sharon Sullivan

**Casey Kersey**

Suellen Swaney

**Cathi Eagan's Birthday**

Nancy Carwile

Elizabeth Eagan

**Debbie Fleetwood**

Kathryn &amp; Jeff Richardson

**Jane Weatherford's Birthday**

Stephanie Sharp

**Janet Enochs**

Fred &amp; Sereta Andrews

**Lisa Martin - Merry Christmas!**

Ashley Szekeres

**Marcia Moore**

Shirley Boardman

Delbert &amp; Phyllis Crocker

**Marcia Moore & Sue Ahbe**

Michele Berlew

**Marge Cook**

Walking Women

**Marcia Wood**

Brenda Waddell

**Nancy Gladish**

Jason Brown

**Pam Moorman**

Connie Kindle

**Rob Politan**

Marilyn McAtee

**Ruth Williams**

Roger George

**Sam**

M. Owczarzak

**Sandy Sharp's birthday**

Steven &amp; Kathleen Sharp

**Sue Ann Werling**

Bill &amp; Pat Lloyd

William Lloyd

**The Buck-Nienaber Wedding**

Daniel &amp; Ruth Johnson

**The Drake Family and pets****Stetson, Amelia, Lewis and****Clark**

Joseph &amp; Barb Balcerak

**Carol Zapapas & Anthony Krug****Wedding**

Richard Burkett

Susan Janzen

Jack Engledow

Todd Moody

Haley Combs

Jennifer Haraway

Roger &amp; Winnie Nestle

Ann White

Carol Wilson

Gregory &amp; Nancy Dietz

Bill Weaver

Jenny Johnson

**Tom, Ann & Indy Rotelli**

Matt Rotelli

**Vito**

Kim Giovannini

**Claudia's Legacy**

In December, 2014, a long-time friend and supporter of BCHS passed away. Claudia Davis wasn't just a generous supporter, she was also a personal friend to many at BCHS. We've known her generosity before: it travels around in the form of a new van that she purchased for us in 2011. That same van took the animals to the mega adoption event, where we celebrated Claudia for making it possible.

Claudia left her estate to continue her support of the work of BCHS. Over time, thousands of people and animals will be touched by her legacy. Her gift will make it possible for even more animals to heal, or to find homes, or to remain with their loving families. We will see her in everything we do.

## SPOT Highlights



The first half of the year is always a busy one for the Supporting Pets Outreach Team (SPOT). Winter means regular trips into the community to help county residents create warmer, safer places for outdoor pets. The team delivers temporary pet food assistance and coordinates the twice-monthly, low-cost spay/neuter program.

Spring brought the annual Rabies Clinic in April. At the clinic, county residents are able to get their cats and dogs annual vaccinations for just \$5. They can also get their pets microchipped for \$5. The 2015 clinic saw a 10% increase in attendance over last year. We vaccinated 257 animals, microchipped 51 (including 17 cats, 12 more than last year), and even trimmed nails for 57 dogs. All of this is made possible through the tremendous efforts of many volunteers and the assistance of several veterinarians who donate their services. This year's vets were: Dr. Blake Deckard of the Animal Clinic of Plainfield, Dr. Tyson Medlock, Dr. Joe Wienman and Dr. Jhondra Funk of the Bloomington Vet Hospital.

Summer will bring one of our favorite events, the Brown County Fair, where we'll be signing up county residents for the annual \$5 Spay/Neuter Fair Special.

If you're a Brown County resident and would like assistance from SPOT, or want to sign up to get your pets spayed/neutered, you can call the SPOT team at: 812-703-0797.

## Getting Them While They're Young

We believe strongly in the talents of our young volunteers, and hope that many of them will continue the BCHS mission one day. So we wanted to find opportunities to get them involved, in a way that was beneficial to them, and valuable to the animals.

We've developed a new program specifically for volunteers under 15, as well as for students who are looking to volunteer for just a few hours for a school project. Now, kids can choose from a variety of activities that will all help the shelter animals. The activities range from creative ways to make toys for the cats and dogs, recipes for making dog treats, suggestions for how to advocate on behalf of the animals, and ideas for raising money.

Brochures for youth volunteers are available at the shelter, or they can go to our website for even more ideas: [www.bchumane.org/volunteer/youth-volunteers/](http://www.bchumane.org/volunteer/youth-volunteers/)



## In Our Memories

Finally, we acknowledge with sadness the passing of one of our board members, Ed Fleming. Ed and his wife, Cheryl, welcomed many animals into their lives over the years. He also put his love for animals into action by serving on the board of BCHS, working with the SPOT Outreach committee, and helping with many special events. Both Ed and Cheryl were instrumental in volunteering monthly for the Sit, Stay and Read program at the Brown County Library (Ed also served on the board of the Friends of the Brown County Public Library).

One thing that many people may *not* have known was that Ed was an especially good kitten cuddler.

He had a knack for getting frightened kittens to curl up and settle in for a nap on his chest. He made a difference in even the tiniest of lives, and he will be missed.

## Success Stories

**Basel.** Basel was a feral kitten whose siblings were also named after cities around the world (Cairo, Vienna, Paris, Oslo). Like many feral kittens, she was very frightened around people. With training, and a few setbacks when she got sick, Basel finally started to show that she was a sweet cat that could do well in a home. By that time, Basel had been at the shelter for over a year. The adoption marketing team put together a special appeal, which was seen by a colleague of one of our volunteers...in Canada! Suddenly, Basel was being driven to the border to meet her new family and BCHS had its first international adoption. We receive regular happy news of our international girl, whose name turned out to be just a taste of things to come.



**Lucy.** Lucy and her nine, two-day-old puppies were rescued from underneath a camper shell in the winter, when temperatures were below freezing. They were taken into foster care, where Lucy went about the job of raising her puppies until they were old enough for adoption. The puppies were adopted quickly, and Lucy was finally ready to get a home of her own. Unfortunately, Lucy tested positive for heartworm, which meant five weeks of treatment and rest. For a young, active dog like Lucy, that wasn't easy. Fortunately, once she finished her treatment, she was quickly adopted by one of our volunteers.



We're grateful to those of you who, like Ed and Claudia, give your time, money, or voice to support the animals of the Brown County Humane Society. These success stories are *your* success stories.

Until next time,

Visit us online: [www.bchumane.org](http://www.bchumane.org)  
Like us on Facebook: [facebook.com/bchumane](https://facebook.com/bchumane)  
Follow us on Twitter: [@bchumane](https://twitter.com/bchumane)  
Email us at: [shelter@bchumane.org](mailto:shelter@bchumane.org)

## Upcoming Events

**August: 2015 Barn Sale** – The sale will be August 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> from 8:00-4:00 each day. We'll be accepting donations for the sale at the BCHS barn August 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> from 9:00-4:00 and August 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> from 12:00-4:00. To learn more about the event, visit our website: [www.bchumane.org/barn-sale/](http://www.bchumane.org/barn-sale/)

**November: 2015 Chocolate Walk:** This year's walk will take place on November 14<sup>th</sup>. Stroll through Nashville and sample different chocolate treats from over 30 shops. Tickets will go on sale August 1<sup>st</sup>. The event has sold out for the last several years, so plan to get your tickets early! [www.bchumane.org/chocolate-walk/](http://www.bchumane.org/chocolate-walk/)

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### **BCHS Staff**

*Shelter Manager: Sarah Armstrong*

*Kennel Staff: Brian Blessing, Valerie Foley, Jackie Jones,*

*Meischa Lacy, Destiny Myers, Brandon Shoobridge*

*Behavior Coordinator: Sean Medina*

*SPOT Coordinator: Red Nastoff*

*Volunteer & Communications Manager: Erika Imhoof*

### **Board of Directors**

*Sue Ann Werling – President; Julie Ness – Vice President*

*Greg Bennett – Secretary; Jane Weatherford – Treasurer*

*Marcia Moore, Jeanne Skillman, Ingrid Skoog*