



Little Shelter, Big Results

# Paw Prints

Newsletter of the Brown County Humane Society      October 2016

## Celebrating 50 Years Saving Lives Together

In 1965, a small group of Brown County residents realized that something needed to be done to help the homeless animals of Brown County. In January of 1966, the first organized meeting was held and by-laws were written, officially forming the Brown County Humane Society (BCHS). Now, through 50 years of hard work from thousands of volunteers, and the generous support of donors, BCHS has become known as one of the most successful shelters in the United States.



It hasn't always been easy. That first group of volunteers fostered animals in their own homes. In 1976 the group was able to lease a small building but, due to financial difficulties, they were forced to close that shelter just six years later. For a while, a phone answering service was installed at the sheriff's office where people could leave messages. Volunteers would return phone calls and try to help re-home animals whenever they could.

In 1987, a building was built on donated land, and BCHS opened the shelter where it is today. That first year, 434 animals were taken in. Just seven years later the intake had doubled.

## A New Focus for a New Millennium

With the beginning of the new millennium, it became apparent that simply housing the county's homeless animals wasn't enough. With four times the number of pets-per-person entering the shelter than the national average, there were simply not enough homes available in Brown County. Something more needed to be done. Only 30% of the animals entering the shelter were getting homes.

In 2000, a grant from the Brown County Community Foundation and other donations provided funding to make renovations on the shelter building, adding six new dog kennels and a larger lobby, and reconfiguring some of the space. That building is the one that is still used today, with space to comfortably house just 20 dogs and 50 cats.

Over the next several years, more progressive programs were put into place and a commitment was made to do everything possible to save each animal. Volunteers and staff studied what other organizations around the country were doing that was working and started trying new ideas.

In 2002, BCHS started spay/neuter of all of the animals before adoption. In 2005, donors stepped forward again to help establish a medical fund to pay for some of the more complicated medical cases, and a foster

## 50 Years of Progress

1966	First meeting; by-laws written
1976	First shelter building
1979	149 animals saved
1982	Shelter building closes
1984	Phone answering system installed at sheriff's office
1987	New shelter building opens at current location
1987	434 animals taken in; 35% save rate
1988	First animal control officer named
1995	838 animals taken in; 36% save rate
2000	Renovations completed
2000	First website launches
2002	All pets fixed before adoption
2005	Foster program begins
2005	Medical Fund established
2006	1,434 animals taken in; 82% save rate
2009	S.P.O.T. makes first trip
2011	All healthy animals saved
2011	BCHS invited to speak at first national conference
2013	727 animals taken in; 95% save rate
2015	752 animals taken in; 98% save rate

program was started to allow sick and very young animals a more peaceful place to stay as they recovered or grew. Partnerships were developed to transport dogs to shelters in other parts of the country where there was a lack of adoptable dogs. Animals were taken off-site for adoption events. In 2002, BCHS started listing adoptable animals on a new website called PetFinder, which allowed people to see adoptable animals from around the country.

In 2006, 1,434 animals came into the shelter with an 82% save rate. Through the work of donors, volunteers and staff, in just six years, BCHS had gone from saving only 30% of the animals, to a save rate 32% above the national average.

### A Community Revolution Begins

With everything being done to save the animals, something needed to happen to reduce the number coming in. In 2009, the **Serving Pets Outreach Team** (see page 4) made its first trip into the community, and a revolution began. Through an aggressive spay/neuter program, support to help people keep their pets during difficult economic times, and education about responsible pet ownership, intake was reduced by 50% in just 3 years.

In 2011, BCHS was invited to speak at a national conference to show other shelters how to increase their save rate. We've continued to present at that conference, and others, several times.

### Major Milestone

One of the most important milestones of all was met in 2011: BCHS no longer had to euthanize any animals due to lack of space or funds. Every healthy animal that came to the shelter, found a home.

**In 2015,  
BCHS celebrated a  
97.7% save rate.**

**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**

**Or donate online at: [www.bchumane.org/donate](http://www.bchumane.org/donate) with the name written in the "special instructions" section**

### **Donations Were Made in Honor of...**

#### **Riley Bupp's Birthday**

Kim and Suzanne Haug

#### **Ian Fleaser's Birthday**

James and Judith Huber

#### **Linda Ellis**

Judith Spencer

#### **Evan and Nikki James' Marriage**

Daniel and Ruth Johnson

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

#### **Athena Weatherford**

Betty Weatherford

#### **Barbara Jean Kenealy**

Ginger Christie

#### **Baxter**

Doug and Lou Anne Denny

#### **Bill Hamilton**

Larry and Rebecca Turner

#### **Blue**

Mark and Jinny Thompson

#### **Chang**

James Lynch and Craig Bowerman

#### **Charles "CW" Folkening**

Donald and Sharon Props

#### **Charlotte**

Evan and Sue Ann Werling

#### **Charlotte Wyatt**

Robin Wyatt

#### **Cynthia Dale**

Riverside Avenue Baptist Church

#### **Darrell**

Rebecca Meyer

#### **Dave**

Mark and Jinny Thompson

#### **Dazy**

Dave Gore

#### **Dick Ferrer**

Brett and Julia Johnson

#### **Janet Reynolds**

Carolyn Biggs

#### **Lon Turner**

Jeffrey Callahan

#### **Low Rice**

Rochelle Banziger

#### **Mandee Troyan**

Ron and Terri Troyan

#### **Martha Allis**

J. Douglas and Martha Bartlow

#### **Mary Pipik**

Edward and Margaret Pipik

Miles Smith and Jane Pipik

#### **Max**

Doug and Lou Anne Denny

#### **Nancy Ratliff**

Lorraine Reigner

#### **Noam**

Julissa Moskalick

#### **Norm and Mary Louise Eggers**

Thomas and Molly Rizol

#### **Pee Wee**

Phillip Smith and Sue Ahbe

James and Judith Huber

Jenny Johnson

Robert and Donna Ormiston

Joe and Sandra Ridenour

Pat, Kendra, Anton, and Dean Loyal

Rich and Sally Greeno

#### **Queen Gracie**

Phillips Smith and Sue Ahbe

Pat and Kendra Loyal

Robert and Donna Ormiston

James and Judith Huber

Rich and Sally Greeno

#### **Ray Jones**

Richard and Kathleen Haggard

#### **Raymond McClanahan**

William and June Dunham

#### **Shirley Brown**

Karen Snead

#### **Steve Treese**

Country Gospel Music Church

#### **Sugar**

Linda and Mike Volland

#### **Tasha**

Doug and Lou Anne Denny

#### **Tesh Wickard**

John and Pamillia Cavosie

## Serving the Community

**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 has always had a history of offering support for residents that might need temporary help for their companion animals. In the past, programs often relied on people having to ask for help that they often didn't even know existed.

Then, former board member Linda Moeller, presented the idea for volunteers to go out into the community to provide assistance. Based on a program in upstate New York, Linda's idea was to develop personal relationships with community members to learn about their needs and concerns for their pets. Volunteers share information about the work of the Humane Society and the services that are available, with the goal of keeping more pets in their homes, and preventing the overpopulation of unwanted pets.

On December 12, 2009, the newly-named S.P.O.T. (Serving Pets Outreach Team) volunteers set out on their first of thousands of trips, delivering free straw to people to keep their outdoor dogs warm during the cold weather. In the years since, S.P.O.T. has provided more than 60,000 pounds of pet food for low-income families, straw and dogs houses for outdoor pets, trap-neuter-return assistance for feral cats, educational resources for school children, and so much more. Most importantly, by funding and facilitating low-cost spay/neuter services, S.P.O.T. has fixed more than 4,500 pets, helping to reduce the number of unwanted animals entering the shelter by 50%.



## 50 Years of Critical Support – Donors Save Lives

Throughout the years, BCHS donors have been there when the animals have needed them most. Bingo nights, book sales, and dances were popular ways to raise funds in the early years. The Chocolate Walk, Dawg Gone Walk & Fiesta, and Barn Sale have become hugely popular special events in recent years. Whether it's the yearly Phone-a-Thon, special bequests, corporate sponsorships, food drives, or Facebook requests, our amazing donors find ways to provide the critical funds necessary to save lives.

### Dawg Gone Walk & Fiesta



### Chocolate Walk



**Claudia Davis Estate Auction**  
to benefit Brown County Humane Society  
Antiques, furniture, tools, and more!

Sat., June 13th  
at 10 a.m.  
Humane Society Barn

Click here  
for details.



### Bequests

### Food Drives

### Local Business Support



### Corporate Sponsors

## 50 Years of Hard Work – Volunteers Make the Difference

From those first committed founders, thousands of people have volunteered their time to do the life-saving work of the Humane Society, contributing more than 10,000 hours of time every year. Working side-by-side with staff, they serve on the Board of Directors, provide direct care of the animals, organize special events, and so much more. Volunteers are the backbone of the Brown County Humane Society.



## Looking to the Future

There's still more work to be done. Almost 30 years of wear and tear on the shelter building will need to be addressed. The current facility hinders the ability to provide the best of medical care and enrichment to our animals and it lacks appropriate space to serve our visitors. And although shelter intake has decreased by half because of S.P.O.T.'s great work, the shelter still receives almost double the number of animals than other shelters per capita. Therefore, the spay/neuter program will continue to be a major focus.

It will take each and every one of us to meet these challenges, but we know that with the support of the great BCHS community, we can get them all home.

Until next time,

Visit us online at: [www.bchumane.org](http://www.bchumane.org)  
Like Facebook at: [facebook.com/bchumane](https://facebook.com/bchumane)

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### **BCHS Staff**

Shelter Manager: Sharon Hensley

Animal Care Staff: Brian Blessing, Valerie Foley, Jackie Jones,  
Meischa Lacy, Stephanie Shelton, Brandon Shoobridge

SPOT Coordinator: Red Nastoff

Volunteer & Communications Manager: Erika Imhoof

Development Manager: Megan Gushwa

### **Board of Directors**

President: Sue Ann Werling

Secretary: Greg Bennett

Treasurer: Jane Weatherford

Directors: Ruthann Berck, Marcia Moore, Jeanne Skillman