



Little Shelter, Big Results

Paw Prints

Newsletter of the Brown County Humane Society October 2019

SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY EDITION Serving Pets Outreach Team *Ten Years of Excellence in the Community*



The sun is barely up on a hot July morning and the shelter lobby is full of dogs crates. They take up every inch of the floor, little ones stacked on bigger ones, and the noise from barking dogs is deafening. In the hallway, cat crates line the entire wall, two or three high.

It's SPOT day at the Brown County Humane Society and these cats and dogs are being prepared for the ride to a nearby clinic where they will be spayed/neutered. Today is particularly busy as customers take advantage of one of several specials that SPOT runs throughout the year. The cost: just \$5.00 per pet.

SPOT (Serving Pets Outreach Team) is the community outreach program for BCHS and the spay/neuter services are its cornerstone. Subsidizing low-cost spay/neuter of public pets has been a major factor in the decrease of animals entering the shelter by 58%. On this day, 49 pets will be transported.

Meeting Them Where They Are

In 2008, BCHS had its best year and its worst year. After major efforts were put into place, more pets were adopted from the shelter than ever before. Yet more animals came into the shelter also. So, on December 12, 2009, SPOT was born.

SPOT was first developed to address two key needs: education about, and affordable options for, spay/neuter; and assistance for those who needed help to keep their pets at home. Since then, the program has grown to include a yearly low-cost vaccine clinic, trap-neuter-return (TNR) of feral cat colonies, and educational materials for students. SPOT provides straw for outdoor pets in the winter, helps residents find alternatives to keeping dogs on chains, and assists residents who may have become overwhelmed.

The success of the SPOT program has since been recognized by national organizations and animal welfare advocates alike, with invitations to speak at national conferences and requests for guidance on how to set up similar programs in other communities.



From the President

It's hard to believe 10 years have gone by for the Serving Pets Outreach Team. SPOT has been the driving force to reduce the pet overpopulation problem in Brown County and for controlling the unwanted pets coming into our shelter. Through our grass root efforts of taking the shelter to our residents, SPOT has made an impact like no other program in our organization's history. The SPOT team collaborates with our local Animal Control Officers, staff and residents of our county to look out for the best interest of our pets.

In 2010, I can remember a family living in the county that found a pregnant momma cat. She just showed up one day--an all too familiar story. Within a year, they were feeding up to 16 feral kitties. With the help of SPOT, we were able to trap all the kitties, and have them altered. The feral cats were returned to their home after their surgeries and lived a wonderful life under a covered porch with lots of cat houses to sleep in.

I'm humbled to work side by side with many dedicated volunteers that take time out of their personal lives to support the mission of our SPOT program. Congratulations to all of the amazing volunteers and staff that have made SPOT a great success. As we look to the future, SPOT plans to continue the tradition of helping our community provide care for their pets.

Sue Ann Werling,
Board President



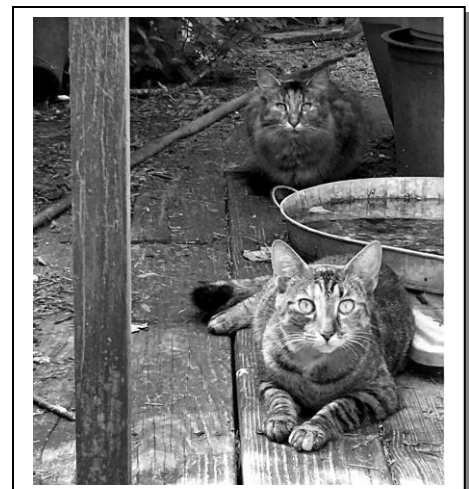
Home is Where Their Hearts Belong

On a bright, sunny morning, two SPOT volunteers load up the van for a field run. This is one of two field runs that volunteers will make this month. There are just eight stops today, but they are located at all four corners of the county and the trip will take most of the day. They will deliver 581 pounds of dog food and 291 pounds of cat food to county residents who have requested assistance.

At the first stop, they visit Lori. In many ways, Lori is typical of many SPOT clients. She and her husband once had a working farm, but when he passed away, it became too difficult to manage and she lives on a modest income. Her companions are now her three little dogs. She also cares for a colony of outdoor cats that she worked with SPOT to trap-neuter-return. She provides the cats with a home and care, while making sure that their population will not continue to grow.

While the team unloads bags of pet food from the van, Lori's little brown dog runs around excitedly. He knows what the big white van means. Luckily for him, there is a box of treats on board, too.

To Lori, SPOT is "the biggest blessing ever." Her pets mean the world to her and she fears that without assistance, she would not be able to keep them. We know that the little bit of help she receives helps keep those same pets out of the shelter and in a home where they are already loved.



To make a memorial or honorarium 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 with the name written in the "gift note" box

Donations Were Made in Honor of...

Mother's Day for Elizabeth Hanson

Jody Hanson

Angelina May and all shelter babies

Yvonne Tidd

Banjo

Phil and Cindy Krueger

Barbara Mote's Birthday

Linda Butler

Carol Zapapas

Sue Engledow

Chester

Phil and Cindy Krueger

Conor Hanlon's 1st Birthday

Karen and Jim Abbott

Derek Bucholz

Daniel Saffert

Evan and Sue Ann Werling

Anonymous

Jenny Johnson's Birthday

Carol Zapapas

Kim Cornelius

Oliver Winery

Luna Bean Cole-Furminger

Veronica Cole

Stephanie Sharp and Richard Bennett

Stephanie Sharp

Ben Anderson

Cooper Sullivan

Thomas and Sharon Sullivan

Frankie and Meegie Marsh

Cathy Kammer

Gilbert

Barbara Benson

Gulliver

Phillip and Ruthann Berck

Mother

Jan and Cheryl Clark

Ike

Sue Reddy

Izzy

Kermit and Fenella Flinn

Joe Ridenour

Steven and Kathleen Sharp

Steve Hilton

Jeff and Marie Mooney

Harvey and Barbara Ranard

Mike Lemonds

Joe and Carolyn Giblin

Curtis and Lisa McCloud

Gretchen McFarland

Juneau Houdek

Daniel and Ruth Johnson

Kenneth Vowels

Rick and Judy Vowels

Jeffrey Schafer

Kid Love

Capricorn Dog Training

Little Guy

Ginny Kelleher

Lon A. Turner

Jeffrey Callahan

Margaret Clark

Jennifer Wright, Aad Burgman and

Amanda Crafton

Margie Ison

Teresa McKnight

Her friends at Closure Systems, Inc.

Carolyn Reddy

Ed and Pat Kirby

Pegg McCrary

Ann Wroblewski

Gary and Barbara Lewis

Lawrence Davis

Margaret O'Donnell

Marla Bailey

Martin and Ruth Ann Bailey

Julia Meyers

Robert and Nancy Coulter

Bill and Jackie Phillips

Donald and Gloria Sooby

Marley

Doug and Lou Anne Denny

Michael B. Blake

Steven Dreyer

Kathryn Wilkins

Murphy Shipman

Cathy Kammer

Phil Fox

Cathy Kammer

Art, Irma and Hayley Ramsey

Jim and Toni Taylor

Mike and Xzyondra Hutt

Glen and Diane Smith

Mary Nunn

Russell and Gloria Allman

Jeni Sprague

Real Tree

Jerry and Jana Curry

Rue

Kathy and Michael Boyce

Sandra Sage

Clara Gunter

Shelley Seitz

Jim and Betsy More

Snickers

Debbie McDermott

Sparkle

Linda Butler

Trixie

Daniel Sparks

Wolfie

Joan Goodman

Donations Were Made in Memory Of...

Aggie

Damon and Romayn Dorsey

Alberta Schrock

Donald and Gloria Sooby

The patients no longer with us

Hope Veterinary Clinic

Bear

Doug and Lou Anne Denny

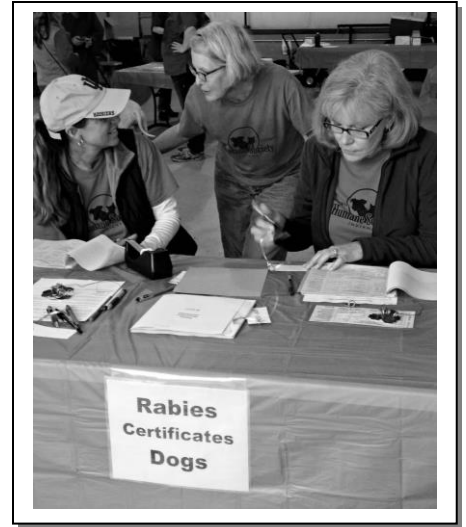
Bradley Strausburg

Ingrida Ozols

Carly Jean

Philip and Janice McCord

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.*



A Healthier Community for Everyone

The more the SPOT program grew, another problem became clear—as medical costs increase for people and animals alike, even the most basic care is out of reach for some pet owners.

So SPOT began a yearly, low-cost clinic providing rabies shots, basic vaccines, nail trimming and microchipping. Open to any county resident, hundreds of people line up to see the veterinarians and vet techs who donate their time and services. The pets often receive a quick, basic exam to make sure there are not any obvious problems that they may need to be followed up on.

Your generosity and support of the SPOT program has already had a tremendously powerful impact in just ten years—reducing the number of unwanted pets by the thousands, keeping pets with the people who love them, and creating a safer and healthier community for our pets and people.

To the Future and Beyond

As we look to the future, we are excited about what we will continue to do together. Our new shelter building is designed to allow us to finally store all of the SPOT supplies in one location. We will have an educational room where we can invite other animal welfare advocates to learn about how they can implement similar programs in their communities, saving the lives of even more animals.

We hope you will continue with us as we continue to serve pets and unleash a brighter future for Brown County animals.

BCHS Staff

Shelter Manager: Caity Robertson
 Registered Vet Technician: Lindsey Levine
 Animal Care Staff: Brian Blessing, Valerie Foley,
 Linda Hampton, Jackie Jones,
 Jacque Nikitaras, Kaitlin Pearce
 Vet Assistant: Darcy Miller
 Volunteer & Comm. Manager: Erika Imhoof
 Development Manager: Megan Gushwa
 SPOT Coordinator: Patty Gushwa

Board of Directors

President: Sue Ann Werling
 Secretary: Greg Bennett
 Treasurer: Jane Weatherford
 Directors: Rebecca Meyer, Marcia Moore,
 Jeanne Skillman

SPOT By the Numbers 2009 - 2019

