

Temporary Homes Can Mean the Difference in Pet's Future

Animals come to BCHS in various degrees of distress. Some are owner surrendered, others are lost and some never had a home. When special needs are identified, it is an army of foster care volunteers that answer the call for Brown County Humane Society.

Foster care gives animals a better chance for a new life because it offers those who need it a place to grow and heal. Puppies and kittens (*like Sunbeam and her babies pictured here*) need time for their immune systems to develop. Cats and dogs recovering from illness need a quiet, comfortable place to rest and heal. Some animals find the noise and size of shelter life stressful and benefit from a quiet home.



For some animals like Clementine, (*shown below, top dog with spot on her head*) foster homes provide us with much-needed information to help that pet find her forever home. Before fostering, we weren't sure if Clementine would do well in a home with other dogs. But, she quickly bonded with her new foster sibling and this opened a whole new world of possibilities for Clementine.

Fosters play an instrumental role in not only providing basic care, but also helping to socialize and getting to know the unique personality of each animal in their care. It can be hard work, but the reward of seeing an animal thrive and grow makes it all worthwhile.

The benefits of being a foster care volunteer include:

- * Meeting lots of dogs and/or cats. Rescued animals can be the most appreciative animals you ever meet.
- * Creating space in shelters for other animals in need while providing valuable insight into what type of home the foster pet will thrive in.
- * Creating memories you won't forget and knowing you have positively impacted the lives of the animals you help.
- * Time spent with dogs and cats is proven to reduce stress in humans.



Each animal's situation is different. So not every home is the right fit for every dog or cat. Our foster care coordinator works with each volunteer to ensure the right fit.

Life can change and vacations happen and that is okay! Fostering can be tailored to your lifestyle and schedule. You are able to decide when you want to foster and how long you are able to provide care.

Volunteers receive a detailed manual and regular check-ins with our foster care coordinator. They are supported every step of the way. Learn more about this special program on our website:

<http://www.bchumane.org/fostering/>.

Kitten Season is Approaching - Know the Best Way to Help

When you see a litter of young kittens, or even a single kitten, out on their own, your first instinct might be to scoop them up and bring them to the nearest Humane Society or rescue organization. However, in some instances, this might actually do more harm than good.

In most cases, a kitten's best chance is to stay with mom; separating them too early can be life-threatening. Even with 24-hour bottle feeding, a kitten is less likely to thrive without mom to care for it. Just because mom isn't there at that moment doesn't mean she has abandoned them.

If mom is not seen, chances are she is still around! She may be off hunting, or could simply not trust people. It is best to not touch the kittens and instead watch from a distance for several hours to see if mom returns. The key is to stay away from the area (out of sight is ideal) to allow mom to feel safe enough to return. An easy trick is to spread a ring of flour around the kittens and then return later. This can let you see mom's footprints if she comes to check on her babies.



If, after an extended period of time, there is still no mom to be found, reach out to the Brown County Humane Society (or your local shelter) before moving the kittens. Calling ahead is very important as there are several considerations for ensuring the likelihood of the kittens surviving. Unless you feel they are injured or in immediate danger, it is best to leave them be until a plan is established.

It can also be tempting to separate kittens from mom cat as soon as they start eating solid foods (typically around 5-6 weeks). Even though they may no longer be nursing, they are still growing and learning key life lessons from mom. It is recommended to wait until the kittens are at least ten weeks of age before removing them from their mom.

Brown County Humane Society is always here to help! If you find kittens, please give us a call (812-988-7362) and we can help you to determine the next best steps in caring for them. Snapping a couple of photos that can be emailed or shared via Facebook messenger is also a great way to help staff establish the age of the kittens and provide the best guidance possible.

Please reach out before you kitten nap! Their lives can depend on it.

ESTIMATE THE AGE OF THE KITTENS



0 2 Weeks Old

Eyes closed or barely open



2 4 Weeks Old

Eyes open and alert; becoming mobile



4 6 Weeks Old

Very mobile and often talkative; can eat food



6 8 Weeks Old

Very active and playful; around 1 2 pounds



8+ Weeks Old

Very active; 2 pounds or more; ready to rehome

Foster to Family Continues to Provide Chances for Long Stay Pets

Last year, we launched our Foster to Family program in hopes of helping long-stay pets find the opportunity for their forever homes. To date, 12 dogs and cats have found just that by utilizing this program.

The Foster to Family program allows qualifying dogs and cats to go home with approved fosters for a maximum of two weeks to give everyone time to adjust and see if it is a good match. Once the two-week period is over, the foster can complete the adoption or return the pet.



The wonderful part is even if it does not work out with a specific family, it gives the animal a much-needed break from the shelter. It also provides valuable insight into that pet's behavior in a home to help find its match in the future.

Foster applicants will follow the standard application approval process. Approved fosters will be required to complete a foster contract and pay a \$50 deposit that will either be refunded or go toward that pet's adoption fee when finalized.

As of the time of print (May 3rd), the following pets are currently available for our Foster to Family program: Zoomer, Inga and Aria Jo.

To learn more about them and see additional photos, visit our website at www.bchumane.org.

Or, better yet, stop by the shelter to meet them in person!

Annual Clinic Provides Vaccines to Keep Community Pets Healthy

Our annual Rabies Vaccination Clinic was held on Sunday, April 16th. The Clinic served 337 dogs and cats during the three-hour event. It is a great feeling to know that this clinic allows local pets to get the basic vaccinations they need.

We would like to thank the dozens of volunteers who helped make the day possible as well as the veterinarians who donated their time to ensure the health of the pets in our community—Drs. Finney, Funk, Hennessy and Soto.

Thank you as well to Diane Brubaker for providing nail trims for 90 dogs. Finally, this event would not have been possible without the support of Susan Armstrong and Corey Frost at Brown County Emergency Management as well as Christian Webb from BC Music Center.

To all who attended the Clinic, we are grateful for your support and cannot wait to see you again next year!



Don't Forget! Memorial and honorarium gifts are now published on our website. To view the current listing of memorial and honorarium giving, visit www.bchumane.org/memorial-giving/.

SPOT Program Continues Making Difference for Community Pets

Since its beginning 14 years ago, the Serving Pets Outreach Team (SPOT) has provided spay/neuter surgeries for over 8,800 community dogs and cats. It has prevented tens of thousands of unwanted pets from entering the shelter. Without this program, our community would look very different today.

In addition to spay/neuter services, SPOT has also provided over 5,000 pounds of food assistance already this year. A bag of food can mean the difference between a loved pet remaining in its home or being surrendered to the shelter. And, it looks like this year will be one of the biggest in terms of demand for this much-needed service.

The SPOT food assistance program relies solely on community donations. If you would like help, the program is in need of donations of dry cat food. Any brand can be accepted for this program.

Food donations can be dropped off at the shelter or mailed to BCHS
128 S State Road 135
Nashville, IN 47448.

You can also visit our website at www.bchumane.org/donate/wishlist/ for easier ordering.



Barn Sale

Away A Day Campground
5515 State Road 46,
Nashville

Donation Drop off dates

Friday, Aug. 4th through Sunday, Aug. 6th
9am to 4pm

Sale Dates

Thursday, Aug. 10th to Saturday, Aug. 12th
8am to 4pm daily

Chocolate Walk

Saturday, Nov. 11
10am to 5pm

Tickets will go on sale online on August 1.

Stroll through the town of Nashville enjoying treats from over 30 participating shops and restaurants. Music, shopping and more!

Learn more about these events by visiting www.bchumane.org or following us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/bchumane.

Until next time,

Visit us **online** at: www.bchumane.org | on **Facebook**: facebook.com/bchumane | on **Instagram**: bchumane

BCHS Staff

Shelter Manager: Caity Friedersdorf
Veterinary Assistant: Sheila Storm
Animal Care Staff: Brian Blessing, Valerie Foley
and Gracie Riggen
Community Relations Manager: Megan Gushwa
SPOT Coordinator: Patty G

Board of Directors

President: Sue Ann Werling
Secretary: Greg Bennett
Treasurer: Jane Weatherford
Directors: Pam Clark, Rebecca Meyer and
Marcia Moore

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.*