

## Shelters Around the Country Need Your Help - Including Us

A disturbing trend is happening across the nation in animal welfare and Brown County is not immune. While our adoptions are holding steady compared to recent years, the number of animals coming in is increasing and the number of animals being reunited with their owners is half of the usual. Many days more animals come in than go out.

We need your help to avoid the crisis level that so many around us are experiencing.

### *Here's what you can do to help:*

1. Adopt or foster an animal. Stop by to meet them and learn more about who may be a great fit for your family. Even if it's just temporary, fostering can save a life. Learn more and apply to be a foster by visiting [www.bchumane.org/fostering/](http://www.bchumane.org/fostering/)

2. If you need to rehome a pet, consider doing so privately instead of bringing your pet to the shelter. We can offer resources and suggestions for rehoming your pet safely. Give us a call at 812-988-7362. We will gladly partner with you to make sure your pet goes to a safe and loving family.

3. If you find a stray pet, hold on to it for a few days to see if you can find the owner. This helps us out and keeps the animal from going through the stress of coming to the shelter. If you find a lost pet, here are some suggestions to help locate his home:

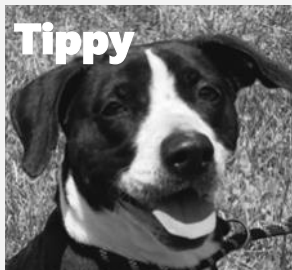
- ◆ Use social media to locate the owner. Post found animals (with photos) in your local Nextdoor, Facebook groups or any other local pages you can think of. The Facebook group "Critters of Brown County Indiana" is active locally.
- ◆ Call the shelter to report the found animal. (812) 988-7362
- ◆ Have the pet checked for a microchip at a veterinary office or animal shelter
- ◆ Create brightly colored flyers and hang in the area near where the pet was found
- ◆ Show the flyers to your delivery people and ask if they know where the pet belongs
- ◆ Drive around the area the animal was found and check with homeowners. Remember – we live in a rural community, a pet can easily trek through woods and be found a road or two from their own.

4. Spay/neuter your pet (including the outdoor cats in your area). Preventing unwanted pets is key to lowering the number of animals entering shelters everywhere. Our SPOT program offers bi-monthly transports! Call 812-703-0797 to sign up your pet today.

If you are not able to open your home to a new pet, spreading the word can play a huge part in saving a homeless pet's life. You can even virtually foster a pet! Simply share posts on social media to help more people see the animals looking for their new home. A simple post/share can be all the difference in an animal's life.



**Available  
for  
Adoption  
Now!**



**Tippy**



**Clementine**





**Helio**



**Patches**

# Now This is the Tale of Our Castaways...

 *They're here for a long, long time They'll have to make the best of things, It's an uphill climb.*   
*The first mate and his Skipper too, Will do their very best, To make the others comfortable, In their tropic island nest."*

Hopefully you read that with the Gilligan's Island theme song music playing in your head. A community room here at the shelter may not be a tropical island nest, but it is where this Gilligan (*top left*), Skipper (*right*) and their brother Cayenne (*lower left*) have been stranded for over 100 days waiting to find their new family.

They are playful, cuddly and a barrel of laughs at all times. But, unfortunately, something out of their control has led to their lengthened stay with us. They are all positive for the Feline Leukemia Virus (FeLV). While this may sound scary, much has been learned about this disease. Just like human diseases, this knowledge has allowed us to better understand the condition and how to ensure an infected cat has the best life possible.

FeLV can weaken a cat's immune system, making him more susceptible to other illnesses. However, The Brown County Humane Society believes that these cats deserve the same chance at a happy life as other cats and research has shown that, with good care and a low-stress life, many FeLV+ cats live long lives.

Here are a few of the most common questions about FeLV:

- ◆ **Who can get it?** FeLV is only transmittable among cats – humans and dogs cannot catch the virus.



- ◆ **How is it spread?** This virus is spread through close contact, usually involving saliva. It can be spread by grooming, shared food bowls, bites and other forms of close contact as well as passed from mom to kittens. Ideally, infected cats should only live with other infected cats or in a home with no cats. They can still live with dogs and other pets!

- ◆ **What is the life expectancy?** FeLV positive cats can lead very happy lives. Some may have a shorter life span due to their illness, yet others may live long healthy lives. A key for keeping a FeLV cat healthy is to ensure his life is stress-free. Also quickly addressing any health issues with a veterinarian is important.

The most important thing to know is that FeLV+ cats are just as loveable as any other cat. They can be cuddly, playful, independent or chill just like anyone else. We encourage people to consider a cat's personality when adopting and don't want anyone to miss the chance to have one of these wonderful cats in their life. We would love for you to stop by the shelter to meet Gilligan, Skipper or Cayenne.

Don't Let a P+itive be a Negative...adopt an FeLV+ cat.



# Chocolate Walk Sells Out in Record Time - Volunteers Still Needed

It only took 28 days for the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Chocolate Walk to sell out! That is the fastest it has ever sold out. We are so grateful to everyone who supports this amazing event and shares in a day of fun and chocolate for the animals.

We would also like to thank our sponsors who make the event a great success. This year's Dark Chocolate sponsors are Bean Blossom Animal Clinic, Brown County Music Center, deTours of Indiana Wines, JB Goods, Jones Law Office, Nashville Spice Company, Naughty Dog Books, Sam's Club #4926 and A Stone's Throw Home Stay.



If you missed out on getting tickets, but would still like to help with the event, volunteers are needed to pass out chocolates. Volunteering allows you to share in the excitement of the day and give back to the homeless pets. Volunteers are needed for the morning shift from 9:30am to 1:30pm as well as the afternoon shift from 1pm to 5:15pm. If you would like to learn more or sign up, please reach out to Megan Gushwa at [volunteer@bchumane.org](mailto:volunteer@bchumane.org) or 317-946-8235.

Tickets for the 2024 Chocolate Walk will go on sale August 1<sup>st</sup>. You can also visit our website ([www.bchumane.org](http://www.bchumane.org)) and sign up for our e-newsletter to receive an exclusive pre-sale offer in late July for next year's tickets.

## Annual Barn Sale Brings in over \$63,000 in funds for homeless pets

The second weekend of August saw the return of our annual Barn Sale. This is one of those events that we never know what to expect as there are so many variables that go into it. We are thrilled to report that this year's Sale raised over \$63,500 and all those proceeds go directly to supporting the homeless animals in our community.

During donations we received a very, very large stuffed dog named Mikey (*pictured*). Mikey was with his family for 16 years when they chose to donate him so he could bring some cheer to another family. Instead of selling Mikey, we decided to "put him up for adoption".

Families were able to enter a drawing with the winner getting to adopt Mikey and take him home the final day of the sale. To say his new owner was happy to be selected is an understatement. Having fun and spreading some happiness



is a key component of all our fundraising events!



A huge thank you goes out to the over 50 volunteers who put in over 1,000 hours to make this event happen. The weather threw us several curve balls and yet this group stuck with it and kept a smile on their face the entire time.

Finally, thank you to our community - both those who donated their items and those who shopped the sale. We couldn't have done this without you, and we are so grateful for your support.

**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/](http://www.bchumane.org/memorial-giving/).

# The Smiles Say it All - You Help to Create New Beginnings

Everything that we do (both BCHS and our supporters) is for the dogs and cats that we care for every day. And, when their day comes to go off to their new families, their smiles say just how much our efforts mean to them. These are just a few of the smiling faces that remind us, no matter how long it takes, there is a family out there for every pet. Thank you for all you do to help make these happily ever after's possible.



Until next time,

Visit us **online** at: [www.bchumane.org](http://www.bchumane.org) | on **Facebook**: [facebook.com/bchumane](https://facebook.com/bchumane) | on **Instagram**: [bchumane](https://instagram.com/bchumane)

## **BCHS Staff**

Shelter Manager: Caity Friedersdorf  
Veterinary Assistant: Sheila Storm  
Animal Care Staff: Brian Blessing, Jacqui Button,  
Valerie Foley, Judy Getts, 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.*