

BCHS Joins National Pet Adoption Program for Military Veterans



We have an exciting program to share. We have been accepted into the Pets for Patriots partnership! This is going to be a huge win for the most overlooked pets at the shelter and for heroic veterans who may benefit from a new furry friend.

The program is open to any veteran who qualifies no matter where they live. Pet adoptions will be 50% off plus they will get a \$150 gift card for pet supplies, discounted veterinary care at participating veterinary practices, ongoing discounts on supplies and other perks.

Animals eligible for adoption through Pets for Patriots include dogs and cats who are over 2 years old, have special needs, have been homeless for six months or longer, as well as larger breed dogs. The program is open

to veterans from WWII to those in active duty.

We hope that by offering this service to our veterans, it will not only help them to find a companion, but it will also help some of the animals who have been in our care for far too long waiting for a loving a home. Animals like Mardi (*pictured*), who has been waiting six months for the right person to walk into her life.

Veterans must first apply to Pets for Patriots online and provide relevant eligibility documents. Approval typically takes no more than two business days, after which veterans can visit the shelter to find their new best friends.

For more information about this great program, stop by the shelter or visit www.petsforpatriots.org.



Nicky

8 years old

Waiting
85 days

Charming,
affectionate
love bug!



Waylon

3 years old

Waiting
171 days

Goofy, fun-
loving
adventurer



The Value of a Close Relationship with Your Veterinarian

The number of animals coming into the shelter with a preventable illness is on the rise. Like their human counterparts, dogs and cats benefit greatly from routine medical care. It is crucial for pet owners to establish close relationships with their veterinarian and take their pets for yearly visits. There are many benefits to ensuring your pet gets preventative care from a veterinarian you trust.

An established relationship helps the veterinarian become more familiar with the pet they are treating and personalize their care based on the pet's needs, leading to better outcomes. Your vet knowing what your dog or cat needs ahead of time will lead to easier, more productive visits.

A common reason pets may not see the veterinarian yearly is the cost of the visit. Having a relationship with your vet can allow for transparent conversations about sensitive issues like the cost of services. Your vet may be able to inform you on options for affordable care if you have an open and honest conversation.

Annual visits to the vet are the best way to prevent health problems before they arise. Pets don't always show symptoms of health problems they may be experiencing. Routine tests and examinations can help find hidden health problems and treat them before they get serious. This includes keeping your pet up to date on vaccinations and other preventative care options.

Annual visits also provide a great opportunity to bring up any questions or concerns about your pet's health and behavior. Having a time to address these concerns allows the veterinarian to give recommendations to keep your pet healthy.



Beyond your pet's physical health, annual vet visits can also help with anxiety about going to the vet. Annual visits are opportunities for your pet to visit the vet when they are well, not just when they are ill. This creates a positive memory of the vet and help your pet feel less nervous.

A close relationship with your vet and taking your pet for annual visits can help them live healthy and happy lives. Annual visits to your trusted vet can also take stress out of getting veterinary care. Most importantly, routine preventative care can help your pet live a longer life and give you more time with them.



Volunteers Make All the Difference in Lives of Shelter Animals

Volunteers provide over 15,000 hours of unpaid labor to help BCHS function every single year. Without volunteers, our organization would look very different. Our save rate of over 98% would be impossible. Animals would not receive the attention they do now because staff would be stretched to the max to complete the bare minimum tasks. An amazing mix of volunteers, donors and staff are truly what make our shelter work.

We currently have many openings for volunteers both at the shelter and from home. If you would like to interact directly with the animals, we can make that happen. If you would prefer a less hands-on position, no problem. We have an opportunity for everyone!

To learn more about our volunteer openings, visit our website at www.bchumane.org/volunteer

SPOT Demands Grow as Food Supplies Dwindle

The SPOT food assistance program relies solely on community donations. Providing food for a pet in need can be the difference between him staying in a loving home or being surrendered to the shelter.

If you would like to help, the program is completely out of dry dog food and we are not able to meet the demand of those in need.

Any brand of dry food can be used.



Food donations can be dropped off at the shelter or shipped to
Brown County Humane Society
128 S State Road 135
Nashville, IN 47448.

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



Biggest Sale Around Keeps Getting Bigger

Our annual Barn Sale 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 Barn Sale raised over \$73,600 and all those proceeds go directly to supporting the homeless animals in our community.

A huge thank you goes out to the over 80 volunteers who put in over 1,000 hours to make this event happen. The hot weather threw us several curve balls and yet this group stuck with it and kept a smile on their face the entire time.

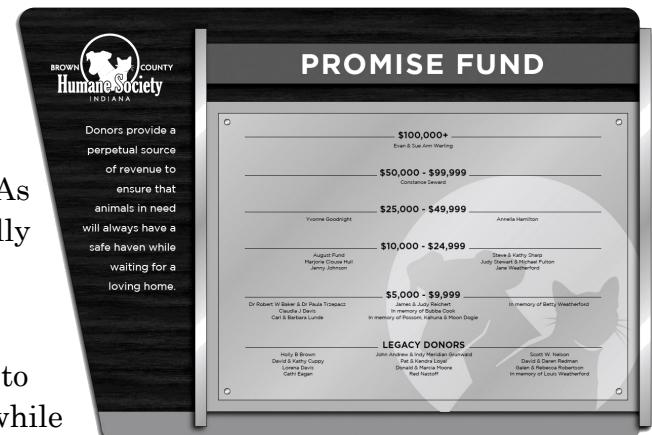
Finally, thank you to our community - both those who donated items and those who shopped. We couldn't have done this without you, and we are so grateful for your support.

Your Support of Homeless Pets Can Reach Far into the Future

Would you like to ensure that homeless pets have a safe place to go beyond your lifetime? Do you have assets that you would like to designate toward saving pets far into the future? The BCHS has an endowment fund, the Promise Fund, that is designed to support the shelter in perpetuity. As this fund grows over the years, a portion can be used annually to care for homeless pets while the remaining assets are retained in the fund to provide for growth over time.

Promise Fund donors provide a perpetual source of revenue to ensure that animals in need will always have a safe haven while waiting for a loving home. If you would like to leave a loving legacy for homeless pets, join the 30 families who have already chosen to be a part of the Promise Fund.

As you think about estate planning, please consider a donation to the Promise Fund. More information is available at <https://www.bchumane.org/donate/promise-fund/>. You can also reach out via email to fundbchs@gmail.com if you would like to talk to someone in person about your planned giving.



Chocolate Walk Tickets

It only took six days for the 17th Annual Chocolate Walk to sell out! That is the fastest the event has ever sold out. We are so grateful to everyone who continues to support this amazing event and shares in a day of fun and chocolate for the animals.

If you missed out on getting tickets, but would still like to help with the event, help is needed to pass out chocolates.

Volunteering is a great time that allows you to share in the excitement of the day and give back to the homeless pets the event supports. Volunteers are needed for 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 317-946-8234 or volunteer@bchumane.org.



BCHS Board Seeks Additional Members to Support Organization

Are you looking for a unique leadership position that will be a fulfilling and inspiring experience? Are you committed to the welfare of animals? If you answered YES! to those questions, we would love to talk to you.

BCHS is seeking enthusiastic and compassionate people with business, leadership, project management or animal welfare experience to join our Board of Directors. Board members are responsible for developing policies and programs to ensure the organization fully realizes its potential.

Our board members are active advocates and ambassadors for the organization and are fully engaged in identifying and securing the financial resources and partnerships necessary for BCHS to advance its mission.



If you are interested in learning more, email Sue Ann Werling, board president, at sawerling@gmail.com or Jane Weatherford, board treasurer, at jane@bchumane.org or complete a volunteer application indicating your interest in a board position at www.bchumane.org/volunteer/volunteer-application/.

Until next time,

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

BCHS Staff

Shelter Manager: Caity Friedersdorf
Veterinary Assistant: Amber Wimmenauer
Animal Care Staff: Brian Blessing, Jacqui Button, Valerie Foley, Judy Getts, Kiersten Glesing and Amy Stover
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, Cheri Flanagan, Rebecca Meyer, Paula Tarankow and Laura Wert

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.*