

HUMANE SOCIETY OF WHITLEY COUNTY

951 South Line Street, Columbia City, Indiana

Hours: Tues, Wed & Fri 12-5pm, Thurs 12-7pm, Sat 11-4 pm



“What’s Happening” at the Shelter

March-April, 2014

TIME TO “THINK SPRING”!

It’s been a long, cold winter and everyone is looking ahead, anticipating spring flowers and warmer weather. When the shelter staff thinks of spring, we know that means “kitten season”. Did you know more kittens are born in the months of March and April than any other time of the year? “Kitten season” overwhelms shelters and animal welfare organizations. There are simply too many kittens and not enough homes.

To help prevent unwanted litters, the shelter aims to have every animal spayed or neutered before they are adopted. While we’ve made progress in this area, we haven’t reached 100% yet. Meeting this goal takes continuous funding, and that’s where you can help!

Our **POP (Pet OverPopulation) Fund** is a designated fund used strictly for spays and neuters. Making a donation to this fund helps us advance toward our goal and ensures that more animals are spayed and neutered before they leave the shelter. Donating to the **POP Fund** is an excellent way to make a real difference by reducing the number of homeless animals.

Another way you can help end pet overpopulation is by participating in the shelter’s second **“Neuter For A Nickel” Day, Saturday, March 22**. This is a one-day event when cat owners can bring their male cats to the shelter in the morning for neuter, then pick them up in the afternoon. Last year we were able to neuter 141 male cats in one day. This year, we hope to accomplish more, possibly as many as 200 neuters!

Studies show that neutered cats are healthier and live longer than un-neutered cats. The risk of testicular cancer is



eliminated and marking behavior is drastically reduced or eliminated. Neutered males have less desire to roam, thus reducing their exposure to cars, animal attacks and other potential dangers. And most important, the ability to reproduce is eliminated.

If you own unaltered male cats (both housecats and barn cats accepted) and want to participate in “Neuter For A Nickel”, call **260-212-2324** for an appointment. Space is limited so please call as soon as possible. You’ll be making an important contribution to curb pet overpopulation.

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*As you read through this newsletter, you’ll see photos of shelter dogs and cats currently available for adoption. They all need loving homes. If any of these animals tug at your heart, please call the shelter at **260-244-6664** and ask for more information.*

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LET ME INTRODUCE YOU...

You’ve found the perfect kitty to bring home and you can’t wait to snuggle with them and smother them with love. But don’t expect it to be a mutual feeling right away.

If you’ve just introduced Felix to his new home, and he doesn’t want to have anything to do with you, don’t worry. Like any relationship, you have to get to know each other, nurture each other, and understand one another.

Here are a few tips on how you can make a relationship between two perfect strangers turn into a match made in heaven!

Respect Their Space. We all have personal bubbles and so do cats. Cats are territorial and will size you up before they make their move and pass judgment on whether or not you are a foe or friend. By casually surrounding yourself around them and not smothering them, it gives them the chance to decide whether you’re a threat or not.

Play Hard to Get. Once your pretty kitty decides you’re safe, let them approach you. By letting them make the decision to make contact, they’ll be less stressed, and you’ll be more likely to make a better impression on them and win their trust.

Don’t Make Sudden Moves. If you see your feline friend coming your direction and freeze suddenly, don’t overwhelm them by making a move. They may be nervous and by staying still, you won’t scare them and lose your trust they’re testing. Allow them to relax and proceed to approach you and continue to slowly and gently approach them as well.

Making Contact. Once you’ve made contact with your cat, it’s not a done deal yet. When petting your pretty kitty, don’t go straight for their head, start with their shoulders or back. Imagine if you were in their situation and instead of a handshake, someone goes straight for your face. Uncomfortable, right?

Slowly work your way from their shoulders and along their back. Before you know it, they will welcome you with open paws for a gentle pat on the head.

As easy as these steps may sound, we’ll admit they are not. But keep them in mind to try, try again. It won’t always happen the first time around but once you make these steps routine and allow your new found feline friend to get to know you, you’ll be snuggling side by side like you’ve always been two peas in a pod!

by Allison Espiritu



Abba, spayed, declawed female, available for adoption



Bailey, spayed female, available for adoption



Scooter, male Terrier mix, available for adoption



Tyrone, neutered male American Foxhound, available for adoption

“What’s Happening” at the Shelter

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DID YOU KNOW?

- * The Whitley County Humane Shelter opened its doors for the first time in August 2004. This year, we celebrate 10 years helping homeless animals find loving homes!
- * Puppies have 28 teeth and adult dogs have 42 teeth.
- * A cat rubs against people not only to be affectionate but also to mark out its territory with scent glands around its face. The tail area and paws also carry the cat’s scent.
- * Dogs and humans have the same type of slow wave sleep (SWS) and rapid eye movement (REM), and during this REM stage, dogs can dream. The twitching and paw movements that occur during their sleep are signs that your pet is dreaming.
- * A cat usually has about 12 whiskers on each side of its face.

OUR WISH LIST:



Hand soap refill
Paper towels
Bleach
Dish soap
AAA batteries
Canned dog food
Lysol spray disinfectant
Letter-size copy paper
Letter-size manila file folders



STAY IN TOUCH WITH OUR i-PHONE APP

Have you downloaded our iPhone app? The shelter’s iPhone App is free at the Apple iTunes store. Just search for Humane Society. If you have a smartphone, but not an iPhone, you can view it at <http://wchs.mobi>. All the adoptable animals can be viewed here.



HAPPY TAILS...



Oreo was adopted in mid-January and now calls Columbia City her permanent home

STILL WAITING...

Darby was featured in the January-February newsletter and is still waiting for her perfect match. Could that be you?



2014 Board of Directors

Loretta Benner, Treasurer
Mark Espich, President
Sandi Gray
Kayli Roop
Dan Stauffer
Laurel Steill
Katie Sweeney
Laura Underwood
Kevin Vaughn

"What's Happening" at the Shelter

March-April, 2014

UPCOMING EVENTS

Kid's Club!
Monday, March 10, 6:00 pm
and
Monday, April 14, 6:00 pm

At the Shelter, 951 South Line Street
Join us on March 10 and/or April 14 for a fun evening at the shelter. Kids in grades 2-6 can spend time learning about animal care and behavior and create great craft projects.

Call the shelter, 260-244-6664, if you have any questions or need more information. Hope to see you at **Kid's Club!**



Neuter For A Nickel!
Saturday, March 22, 2014

Do you have a male cat in need of neutering?
Call **260-212-2324** for an appointment at the second "Neuter For A Nickel", Saturday, March 22nd. Male cats only will be neutered for the unbeatable price of 5 cents each! **Space is limited and appointments are required, so call soon to guarantee your spot on the schedule.**

PLEASE NOTE: The shelter will be closed during normal business hours on Saturday, March 22. The entire day will be devoted to the Neuter For A Nickel event.

Harley, male Lab mix, available for adoption



Nala, spayed female, available for adoption

Volunteer Orientation
Saturday, March 1, 9:00 am
Saturday, April 5, 9:00 am
Saturday, May 3, 9:00 am

At the Shelter, 951 South Line Street
The first step toward making a difference in the lives of homeless animals is attending a Volunteer Orientation meeting, held the first Saturday of each month at 9:00 am. Come in and see what it's all about and how you can use your talents to make the lives of homeless animals better!

4th Annual Plant/Craft/Bake Sale!
Saturday, May 10, 9:00am to 5:00pm
At Tractor Supply Company
North Main Street, Columbia City

Rain or shine, gardeners don't mind the weather! Bring your green thumb and your sweet tooth to the 4th Annual HSWC Plant-Craft-Bake Sale, held in the parking lot of TSC in Columbia City. This popular fundraiser offers gorgeous plants, crafts and delicious baked goods for sale. This year, Nelson's Chicken is also joining the event, so help us celebrate spring with new plants, crafts and great food!



Donations and volunteers are needed for this event. If you can donate baked goods, perennial or houseplant divisions, homemade crafts, or time to help with the event, please contact the shelter at director@hswc.org or call **260-244-6664** and ask for Sandy. This event is a lot of fun, all items are donated and all proceeds go directly to the care of homeless animals at the shelter.

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IRENE’S STORY

She’s a truly beautiful dog! Meet **Irene**, a spayed female Rottweiler. Irene came to the shelter in mid-January as a stray. She is a large girl, weighing 90 pounds. Due to her size, she will be best suited for a family without small children.



Irene is a smart dog. She walks very well on a leash and knows basic commands like sit, lay down, shake and come. She loves to play with toys and knows how to “fetch” extremely well.

If you have room in your home and heart for Irene, please come meet her soon. She is a lovable girl and will be a great companion for the right person or family!

Did you Know? Rottweilers were originally bred to drive cattle to market. Later they were used to pull carts for butchers. They were among the earliest police dogs and serve with honor in the military. Most important, they are popular family guardians and friends.

SAGE’S STORY

Sometimes a cat comes to the shelter and quickly becomes everyone’s favorite! That describes **Sage**, a tortoiseshell female, now about 8 months old.

Sage came into the shelter last September as a stray kitten. She was tiny and adorable and quickly adjusted to living with other kittens in Kitty City. At that time, she had lots of company. About 15 kittens were already calling the shelter home when Sage arrived, and before the month ended, more kittens were taken in.



Gradually, the cat population changed. Kittens were adopted or moved to other cat rooms as they grew bigger. Sage continued to grow also, playing with toys, meeting visitors and accepting new cats as they were introduced to the room. But that “special someone” eluded her. Today, Sage is still waiting to meet her perfect match.



Sage is one of the first cats to greet visitors entering Purr Paradise. She is friendly and affectionate. Her tortoiseshell coat has grown more beautiful with time and her clear green eyes reflect her gentle personality.

Sage is spayed and ready to settle into a permanent home. She will be a warm, loving companion.

Come and visit Sage in Purr Paradise soon. You’ll quickly discover what a sweet girl she is. Maybe she will find a loving home with you!



“What’s Happening” at the Shelter

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WHY CANINE VACCINES?

Lucky for us, there are vaccines to help prevent many illnesses that affect dogs. Vaccinating your dog has long been considered one of the easiest ways to help him live a long, healthy life. Not only are there different vaccines for different diseases, there are different types and combinations of vaccines.

What Exactly Are Vaccines?

Vaccines help prepare the body's immune system to fight the invasion of disease-causing organisms. Vaccines contain antigens, which look like the disease-causing organism to the immune system but don't actually cause disease. When the vaccine is introduced to the body, the immune system is mildly stimulated. If a dog is ever exposed to the real disease, his immune system is now prepared to recognize and fight it off entirely or reduce the severity of the illness.

What Are Core Vaccines?

In 2006, the American Animal Hospital Association's Canine Task Force published a revised version of guidelines regarding canine vaccinations. The guidelines divide vaccines into three categories—core, non-core and not recommended.

- Core vaccines are considered vital to all dogs based on risk of exposure, severity of disease or transmissibility to humans. Canine parvovirus, distemper, canine hepatitis and rabies are considered core vaccines by the Task Force.
- Non-core vaccines are given depending on the dog's exposure risk. These include vaccines against Bordetella bronchiseptica, Borrelia burgdorferi and Leptospira bacteria.

Your veterinarian can determine what vaccines are best for your dog.

Are Any Vaccines Required By Law?

Each state has its own laws governing the administration of the rabies vaccine. Some areas require yearly rabies vaccination. Other areas call for vaccines every three years. An up-to-date canine rabies vaccination is a legal requirement. Be sure to keep proof of your dog's rabies vaccines with his medical records.

THEY ARE WAITING FOR A FOREVER HOME...

Alison, spayed female Boxer mix, available for adoption



Junior, neutered male Shih Tzu, available for adoption

Ava, female, available for adoption



Bear, neutered male, available for adoption

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VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Meet Bobbie Alexander and nephew Spencer Foust, age 12. Here’s their story...

When did you start volunteering at WCHS?

Bobbie: We both took the Volunteer Orientation class in August 2013.

How often do you volunteer?

Bobbie: It varies, but typically we go every Saturday for 2-4 hours at a time. Sometimes we go during the week if we have free time.

Why did you decide to volunteer at WCHS?

Spencer: I wanted to care for animals so they can get homes and a better life.

Bobbie: I've always been passionate about caring for animals. When you hear the horror stories on the news about abuse and neglect situations involving animals you feel so helpless and that you as one person can't possibly make a difference. Volunteering at WCHS makes me feel like I can at least make a small difference each time we show up and do whatever task needs to be done.

What types of tasks do you perform while volunteering at WCHS?

Spencer: Sometimes we scoop kitty litter boxes, wash and fold laundry, play with and care for the animals, or wash the dishes.

Bobbie: There is always something to do, however, it really doesn't feel like work because you know it's a necessity for the health and safety of the animals. Let's be honest, nobody enjoys washing dishes, but I've made it very clear from day one with

Spencer that we always work first and play last, and we will always work as much as we will play. I want him to understand that having a pet is a great privilege and responsibility.



What is your favorite activity to do while volunteering? Your least favorite?

Spencer: Playing with the animals. Definitely doing the dishes!



Does volunteering interfere with your schoolwork or other activities?

Spencer: No, not really. I have to do all of my homework and my chores before I can come to the shelter to volunteer. So I make sure they're done!

Bobbie: Volunteering actually seems to have motivated Spencer quite a bit and given him a goal to work towards. He has improved on completing his homework on time and even doing his chores.

How do you think you could convince other kids/people to volunteer?

Spencer: Let them know that they could really make a difference in the life of an animal just by being there.

Bobbie: I think if more people realize they don't have to make a huge time commitment and the benefits they would reap from volunteering are absolutely priceless then there wouldn't need to be any convincing. There's no therapy like being covered in a room full of energetic, playful kittens in Kitty City!



What would you like people to know about volunteering at WCHS?

Spencer: It's really fun but work sometimes too. Also, every donation helps and if you can't donate money then you should donate some time because you will really like it.

Bobbie: It's truly one of the most rewarding things I've ever been a part of. The people here are welcoming, and very dedicated to the health, safety, and well being of every animal.

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WANT TO HELP?

Join Us, Be a Volunteer

*Those of us who do it, love it!
It's a great feeling to help enrich the lives of
homeless dogs and cats. There's so much
you can do to make a difference...*

*walking dogs, cuddling cats
washing dishes, folding laundry
answering phones, making copies
writing grants, organizing fundraisers
running errands, stuffing envelopes*

*Come to the shelter and find out how you
can help! **Volunteer Orientation** is held on
the first Saturday of every month at 9:00
am. You'll learn about shelter operations
and how volunteers are so important for the
care of the animals.*

Let us sell your items on Ebay!

*Looking for a tax deduction?
Bring your gently used items such as
antiques, old working computer games, old
unique toys, used working cell phones,
anything with at least a \$25 value (no
clothing or personal items). We'll sell them
on Ebay for you. All proceeds go to
support the shelter and all tax deductions
go to you!*

Licence Plate Frames

*"Save A Life, Adopt a Homeless Pet".
Show your support for our shelter.
Purchase a HSWC license plate frame for
\$10! On sale now at the shelter.*

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

We are so grateful to everyone who has contributed time, supplies, or cash to help support the shelter's cause. We could not continue to care for the animals without your support!

New Friends of the Shelter, Welcome!

Donald & Sharlene Berkshire
Barry & Louise Hill

In Loving Memory

Barb Deck Tom & Leanna Andreas
Beth & Tim Bloom
Dave & Susan Murphy

Dorie Daniel Donald Armstrong
Daniel Daniel
Mr. & Mrs. David Daniel
Gerry & Emily Deutsch
JoAnn Geiger
Charles & RaeEllen McCay
Mary Alice Pugh
West Noble Teachers Assn.

Jack Kneller Deb & Jay Baumgartner
Robert & Pat Groves
Charlene & Darwin Hogenboom
Janet Miller
Janel Miller
Kent & Rita Waugh
Joan Wiegand

James Null Jefferson Chapel Young
Adult Group
Judith Maley



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Thank You For Donated Items

Dakoda Addis
Harold Alexander
Michelle Becker
Brittany Conley
Nathaniel & Abby Correll
Pat Dean
Brent & Tami Drew
Carmen Eger
Mandy Farrell
Kylie Hathaway
Haven House-Fort Wayne
Mary Helfrich
Carol Herron
Garry Hill
Gene Kinney
Isabelle Lane
Ema Lewis
Pat Loe
Kosie Martz
Jaxson Mishler
D. Monroe
Becky Mosier
Helena Palmer
Mary Raber 1st Grade
Mary Raber 2nd Grade
Zoe Rich
Diana & Robert Ritcher
Jenny Spaw
Donna Sponseller
Erika Wolfe

Annual Campaign Donors

Tracey Bade
Myrna Bailey
Steve & Nancy Barcus
Mary Grace Craig
Crystal Greer
Donna Harl
Franz & Stacey Morsches
Jeffrey Mullendore
Marilyn Murphy
Jack Phillipson
Robert Rector
Brian Spencer
Ann Wolfe
Darrell & Linda Yates



General Donations

Arloa Alvey
Jean Bird
Bernard Caley
Alice & John Conrad
Shanna & Joshua Crispen
Becky Curless
Jarin Fry
Fred & Judy Geyer
Robert & Barbara Graham
David & Kathy Hockerman
Roxann Hughes
J&J Insurance
Jefferson
Keith & Kristina Johns
Ann Johnson
Robert Kiel
Robert & Loyda Loe
Natheda Mills
John & Phyllis Myers
Kathy Nicodemus
Mary Phillips
Anna Richey
Raymond & June Rogers
William Scheele
Kelly Shoda
Alaina Stellwagen
Twila Strange
Kevin Studebaker
Linda & Robert Sutton
West Nobe CTA

Thank You

‘Friendship isn’t about whom you have known the longest... It’s about who came and never left your side.’

Unknown



YES, I want to help and become a **Friend of the Shelter!**

Friends will receive a bi-monthly newsletter from the shelter, email updates on the shelter's upcoming events and more!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Yearly Friend Donation:

Individual - \$30

Family - \$50

Corporate - \$100

I also would like to become a sustaining Friend and donate an additional \$ _____ per month.

If donating with a check, please write FRIEND on your check and mail it in monthly. If paying with credit/debit card, monthly sustaining donations will be drawn the first week of each month and a receipt will be emailed to you, or mailed if no email is on

Check enclosed # _____ Make check payable to the: **Humane Society of Whitley County** · P. O. Box 245, Columbia City, IN 46725

Credit Card

I authorize a credit card payment of \$ _____ on my Visa MC Amex

Account # _____ Exp. Date ____/____/____ 3 digit security code on back of card _____

Signature _____

Contact me about volunteering for the Humane Society.

**Join
Now!**

Friends of the Shelter

Help those who can't help themselves . . .



For more information please contact us at 260-244-6664 or www.hswc.org

THANK YOU! Your donation to the Humane Society of Whitley County is tax deductible (we are 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization) and supports our mission of improving **all** life in Whitley County.



951 S. Line Street
Columbia City, IN 46725
(260) 244-6664

- HOURS -

Sunday & Monday Closed
Tuesday & Wednesday 12 - 5
Thursday 12 - 7 Friday 12 - 5
Saturday 11 - 4

What Your Contribution Means

Most of us, at some point in our lives, want to be able to say *I made a difference*. Being able to play a part in promoting community education or knowing that we, in a small way, helped brighten somebody's otherwise lonely day is something to be quite proud of. Knowing that we will give comfort to frightened animals or be responsible for the joy a family feels when they are reunited with their lost pet will let you know that you have done well. All of this, and so much more, is made possible in part by contributions from community members like you. Please donate now so you too will be able to say . . .

I made a difference!