

# What's Happening at the Shelter?

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

## Neuter for a Nickel was a Huge Success!



This year's neuter for a nickel was wildly successful! The talented team of vets, techs, and volunteers was able to neuter 160 cats!

We would like to send a special thank you to everyone who volunteered. We never could have done it without you!



## Upcoming Events

Our 17th annual auction will be held at the Whitley County 4-h center on November 14th. Doors will open at 4:30 with food being served and a silent auction. The auction will start at 6:00 PM

Please visit [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) and choose our organization. We will receive .05 from every purchase. It really adds up over time!

Make sure to register your Kroger Card with Kroger Community Rewards and choose our organization!

*Our mission is to assure sanctuary for homeless animals and encourage responsible pet ownership*

## Why are spay and neuter programs so important?

Spaying and neutering your pets not only makes them better housemates but it allows your family to be a part of the movement to eliminate unwanted pets in the community. Even if you don't intend to breed your animal, without being spayed or neutered their hormones can drive them to behave in some wild ways. Pets who are intact are more likely to roam the streets looking for a partner and you may be

surprised by a litter of puppies or kittens to take care of. Nowadays there are more resources for spaying and neutering than ever before. While it is important for your pet to have a regular veterinarian to see annually, if that just isn't possible at this time there are several options for low cost spay and neuter in our area. A simple Internet search can reveal many options, even for barn or feral cats.

## Featured Furry Friends

### Sweet Natalie

Natalie has been patiently waiting for her new family since January. She was a little shy at first but she is really coming out of her shell. Natalie has a very important set of skills that would be a great addition to any household. She prides herself on her ability to inspect boxes. She will put forth a great deal of effort to ensure that any box in your house is safe for resting and relaxation.

Our best guess puts her around two years of age, leaving you with many years to gaze into those beautiful green eyes. She is already spayed and microchipped. She has had vaccinations and flea prevention. She is FELV / FIV negative. Basically, she is a complete package.

You're never going to believe this, but for the month of July she can be yours for the low, low price of just \$5!!



*This beautiful girl has been patiently waiting for a new family since January. Do you have a spot for her in your home?*

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### Eager Ellington



*Ellington can't wait to meet his new family! Could you be it?*

Ellington is a handsome young, neutered terrier mix looking for my forever home. He is a little unsure of his surroundings sometimes so he is looking for someone who will help him experience the world. He loves people and getting to meet to new people so please come in and meet him soon! He enjoys walks and going on bicycle rides.

All of our dogs are up to date on vaccinations, given prescription strength wormer and flea preventative, heartworm tested and microchipped. All dogs are temperament tested prior to becoming available for adoption. Individual results of these tests are on file at the shelter.





## Whitley County Humane Society Got a New Ride!

Our gold van served us well but it was time to retire the old girl. Fort Wayne Animal Care and Control was generous enough to offer us an amazing deal on one of their vans that was being replaced. Our animals will now be traveling in style. The van is fitted with special kennels that can safely transport several animals at a time. We are so thankful to them for this opportunity. We would also like to thank Espich Printing for sponsoring the lettering. It looks very professional and we were definitely set up for success as parade season came upon us.

We would also like to thank our volunteers who helped us showcase our animals in parades recently. We traveled in style as we sauntered through Columbia City during Old Settler's Days and Churubusco during Turtle Days.



## Four Ways Your New Cat Could End Up Homeless

By Steve Dale, certified Behavioral Consultant and host of [Steve Dale's Pet World](#) from Petfinder.com

Someone must love cats – after all, by pure numbers – they are man's best friends. There are 86.4 million pet cats in the United States, compared to 78.2 million pet dogs according to the [American Pet Products Association 2011-2012 survey](#). (Learn more about pet statistics in our gallery of infographics.) Still, far too many cats end up in shelters each year. And when pets are lost, far fewer cats are ever returned to their people when compared to dogs ([ASPCA](#)). So how could any cat, even yours, end up in a shelter some day?

### 1) Cats Get Lost, Even Indoor-Only Cats

According to the [National Council on Pet Population Study and Policy](#) 1997 survey (NCPSP), only 35% of cats that ended up in shelters were relinquished by owners. People sometimes assume that because their cat is indoors, kitty will never get out, therefore never get lost. Dr. Linda Lord at the Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine has studied the issue. She's demonstrated that indoor cats do get out. In one community she found that about 40 percent of lost cats were identified as indoor cats. ([AVMA](#))

Once outdoors, most cats either hide or run for their lives. The lucky ones are obviously found, or the next best thing is that they find themselves at an animal shelter. Others may have a difficult time finding food, may need to deal with very cold or very hot weather, fend off savvier outdoor cats, or may lose their lives to coyotes, birds of prey or cars.

Lord reported finding that nearly half of the lost cats she studied were never found and only 7% of cat parents who recovered their pet found him or her at the shelter.

### 2) Microchipping Can Help, But Only If The Chip Information Is Up-to-Date

One savior for pets is the [microchip](#). Another study by Lord highlighted in Ohio State University's [Research News](#), showed that shelters were able to locate owners for 72.7% of stray pets who were microchipped.

[Editor's note: The same study found that microchipped cats who came into the shelter as strays were twenty times more likely to be reunited with their families than unchipped cats.)

While microchip numbers for cats in recent years has skyrocketed, cats started from pretty much ground zero. So, despite the trend – most cats remain without a microchip. The Petfinder, the ASPCA and others now endorse that cats also wear a collar with an ID as a secondary form of identification, but that idea has yet to catch on with most cat parents.

Remember: Having a microchip is a necessary start but means nothing unless there's up-to-date registration

information in the microchip provider's database. Having a microchip without registration is like having a phone without a phone number. There's no way for anyone to find you. (Learn more about [keeping your microchip information up-to-date](#).)

### 3) What If Something Happens to You?

In recent years, the economy has been an increasingly common explanation for pets relinquished to shelters, though some communities are now experiencing a positive turn-around as the economy improves. Still, there are people who lose their jobs, and their homes and just can't afford to relocate with a pet. There are a handful of shelters and organized networks of foster homes that provide a temporary safety net. Still, these options aren't abundant, and if there's no family or friend to take over a pet's care, the shelter is the only hope. [Editor's note: According to the [NCPSP](#), 43% of cats were relinquished to shelters for reasons unrelated to the specific cat, such as moving, too many cats in the household and the owner having personal problems.]

Sometimes issues are just unavoidable, such as when a pet's caretaker dies. Sadly arrangements aren't always handled in advance for the pet, and there's no willing or able family or friends to save the day. (Learn more about [providing for your pet's future](#) in case something happens to you.)

### 4) Breaking Down the Human-Pet Bond

Medical and behavioral problems can certainly affect your bond with your cat. The truth is that with appropriate medical care or a different family, for many cats, those behavioral issues won't re-occur. For example, a cat may urinate outside the litter box. Finally when diabetes is diagnosed and treated, the cat's aim reverts to 100 percent.

Or another example may be merely providing appropriate scratching posts located in the right places, cats may be far less likely to scratch in the wrong places. Or with two daily sessions with an interactive toy and another cat to chase, a cat deemed aggressive may suddenly become benevolent.

The point is that with appropriate help, most behavior problems can be rectified before it comes to giving up the cat. What may be a real behavioral issue for one family may be no issue in another. Of course, when there's a medical explanation for "poor behavior" treatment is crucial.

The very bottom line is that when the bond is broken between family members and their pet – for whatever the reason — the animal is at risk. If you've noticed a change in your cat's behavior, contact your veterinarian. Behaviors don't 'just change' without an explanation.



## Tips for the First 30 Days of Dog Adoption

By: Sara, Shelter Outreach Director from Petfinder.com

The first few days in your home are special and critical for a pet. Your new dog will be confused about where he is and what to expect from you. Setting up some clear structure with your family for your dog will be paramount in making as smooth a transition as possible.

### Before You Bring Your Dog Home

- Determine where your dog will be spending most of his time. Because he will be under a lot of stress with the change of environment (from shelter or foster home to your house), he may forget any housebreaking (if any) he's learned. Often a kitchen will work best for easy clean-up.
  - If you plan on crate training your dog, be sure to have a crate set-up and ready to go for when you bring your new dog home. Find out more about [crate training your dog](#).
  - Dog-proof the area where your pooch will spend most of his time during the first few months. This may mean taping loose electrical cords to baseboards; storing household chemicals on high shelves; removing plants, rugs, and breakables; setting up the crate, and installing baby gates.
  - Training your dog will start the first moment you have him. Take time to create a vocabulary list everyone will use when giving your dog directions. This will help prevent confusion and help your dog learn his commands more quickly. Not sure which commands to use? Check out [How to Talk to Your Dog](#).
  - Bring an ID tag with your phone number on it with you when you pick up your dog so that he has an extra measure of safety for the ride home and the first few uneasy days. If he is microchipped, be sure to register your contact information with the chip's company, if the rescue or shelter did not already do so.
- First Day:
- We know moving is stressful — and your new dog feels the same way! Give him time to acclimate to your home and family before introducing him to strangers. Make sure children know how to approach the dog without overwhelming him. Go here for more on [introducing dogs and children](#).
  - When you pick up your dog, remember to ask what and when he was fed. Replicate that schedule for at least the first few days to avoid gastric distress. If you wish to switch to a different brand, do so over a period of about a week by adding one part new food to three parts of the old for several days; then switch to half new food, half old, and then one part old to three parts new. For more information about your dog's diet,

check out our section on [Dog Nutrition](#).

- On the way home, your dog should be safely secured, preferably in a crate. Some dogs find car trips stressful, so having him in a safe place will make the trip home easier on him and you.
- Once home, take him to his toileting area immediately and spend a good amount of time with him so he will get used to the area and relieve himself. Even if your dog does relieve himself during this time, be prepared for accidents. Coming into a new home with new people, new smells and new sounds can throw even the most housebroken dog off-track, so be ready just in case. Need more housetraining tips? Check out our [Dog Housetraining](#) section.
- If you plan on crate training your dog, leave the crate open so that he can go in whenever he feels like it in case he gets overwhelmed. Also, be sure to check out the do's and don'ts of [crate training your dog](#).
- From there, start your schedule of feeding, toileting and play/exercise. From Day One, your dog will need family time and brief periods of solitary confinement. Don't give in and comfort him if he whines when left alone. Instead, give him attention for good behavior, such as chewing on a toy or resting quietly (Source: [Preparing Your Home For A New Dog](#)).
- For the first few days, remain calm and quiet around your dog, limiting too much excitement (such as the dog park or neighborhood children). Not only will this allow your dog to settle in easier, it will give you more one-on-one time to get to know him and his likes/dislikes.
- If he came from another home, objects like leashes, hands, rolled up newspapers and magazines, feet, chairs and sticks are just some of the pieces of "training equipment" that may have been used on this dog. Words like "come here" and "lie down" may bring forth a reaction other than the one you expect. Or maybe he led a sheltered life and was never socialized to children or sidewalk activity. This dog may be the product of a never-ending series

of scrambled communications and unreal expectations that will require patience on your part.

### Following Weeks:

- People often say they don't see their dog's true personality until several weeks after adoption. Your dog may be a bit uneasy at first as he gets to know you. Be patient and understanding while also keeping to the schedule you intend to maintain for feeding, walks, etc. This schedule will show your dog what is expected of him as well as what he can expect from you.
  - After discussing it with your veterinarian to ensure your dog has all the necessary vaccines, you may wish to take your dog to group training classes or the dog park. Pay close attention to your dog's body language to be sure he's having a good time — and is not fearful or a dog park bully. If you're unsure of what signs to watch for, check out this video on [safety at the dog park](#).
  - To have a long and happy life together with your dog, stick to the original schedule you created, ensuring your dog always has the food, potty time and attention he needs. You'll be bonded in no time! For more information on creating a feeding schedule for your dog visit [How Often Should You Feed Your Dog?](#)
  - If you encounter behavior issues you are unfamiliar with, ask your veterinarian for a trainer recommendation. Select a trainer who uses positive-reinforcement techniques to help you and your dog overcome these behavior obstacles. Visit [Dog Training](#) for more information on reward-based training.
- Congratulations! If you follow these tips, you'll be on your way to having a well-adjusted canine family member.



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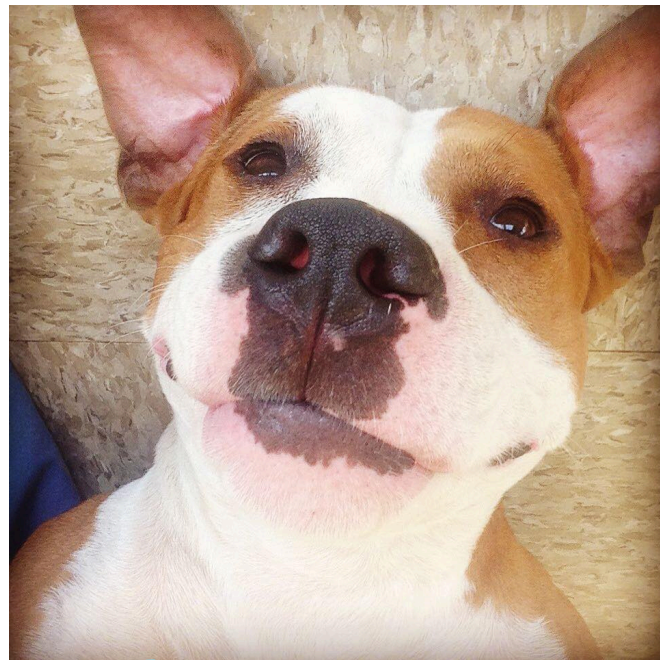
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