

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 is
June 6, 2015!



Do you have male cats hanging around your house? Are you having trouble with your cat spraying? Do you have a nickel?

If you answered yes to any of these questions then this may be the event for you! In an ongoing effort to reduce cat overpopulation in our community we are once again offering the very popular event, Neuter for a Nickel. Please call 260-739-2385 to schedule your appointment today!



**Humane Society
of Whitley County, Inc.**
www.hswc.org

Upcoming Events

Neuter for a Nickel
June 6, 2015
Call 260-739-2385 for an
appointment today!

Plant Sale May 9, 2015 9-5
Tractor Supply in Columbia City
Beautiful plants, Nelson's Chicken,
and baked goods!

May 9, 2015
Kroger in Columbia City
Carnations are being sold for \$1
each!

Our annual live auction will be
held November 14, 2015 at the 4-h
Center

Insane Inflatable 5K Obstacle Fun Run is coming to
Fort Wayne. Enter code WCHS at check out and
the shelter receive \$5 from every entry.

*"We pledge to assure sanctuary for homeless
animals and encourage responsible pet
ownership."*

April Showers Bring May Kittens!

Every spring, animal shelters across the country are overwhelmed with cute, fuzzy kittens to care for. While they are fun to hold and cuddle, caring for hundreds of extra animals can really put a strain on resources.

Kittens need high quality wet food to really gain weight and thrive so they can go to adoptions as

quickly as possible. The ground, pate style food is the easiest for them to eat. We also feed a mixture of pumpkin, yogurt and meat based baby food to help with digestion. The kittens go crazy for meat based baby food and it's easy to feed with a syringe if they are a little slow to eat on their own! Donations of any of these items would be greatly appreciated!

Whitley County All Stars

This amazing girl's name is Myriah and she would be a fantastic addition to your household. Her beautiful green eyes will impress all your friends! She has extra toes so she makes an excellent assistant for math homework. She loves lounging around and being fabulous in general. She has been waiting for her new family since February and she is reaching out to her new home!



This beautiful girl is Willow. She is a little shy at first but if you just give her a little time she will melt right into you. She loves to cuddle and be near you. Her floppy ears and big adorable eyes are so endearing there's no way you could resist if you just come on in and give her a snuggle! She is so special her adoption fee is half off so that she will have the most opportunity to quickly find a loving family.



Fabio is a 12 week old mini rex rabbit

Fabio is such a handsome man! At only 12 weeks old he is still young and full of silliness. He loves to be held and cuddled and has the softest coat! Do you have room in your family for such a sweet heart?



Top Ten Rabbit Basics

MARY E. COTTER, ED.D., LICENSED EDUCATOR, HOUSE RABBIT SOCIETY

Pine and cedar shavings are not recommended for use with rabbits and other small mammals. Inhaled phenols (the substances that make pine and cedar “smell good”) can cause liver changes in rabbits. Clay litters (clumping or non-clumping) are also not recommended. The “clumpers” can clump in the rabbit’s GI tract, and dust from plain clay litters can exacerbate respiratory problems.

Spaying and neutering is recommended for all rabbits. Rabbits can have a litter every 30 days, and can get pregnant within minutes after giving birth. Not only does spaying/neutering prevent unwanted litters, but it also protects female rabbits from uterine cancer (the rate as females grow older ranges from 50-80%), and permits male/female pairs to live happily together without being driven by their hormones.

Rabbits can easily be litterbox-trained—but you and the rabbit must “negotiate” this process. Start in a small area. Watch to see which corner the rabbit wants to use for urination, and place a litterbox there. Some rabbits need several litterboxes to start.

The primary component of a mature rabbit’s diet should be grass hay (Timothy, Brome, Orchard Grass, etc.). This should be given fresh daily, in large quantities. Hay can be ordered over the internet from various companies (see <http://www.rabbit.org/links/mail-order-resources.html>). Using hay as a litterbox material is ideal; it cushions the rabbit’s feet so they stay dry, and encourages the rabbit to munch on hay while he’s doing his business. To supplement hay, feed a daily salad of dark green leafy vegetables. Rabbit pellets should be given only in very limited quantities. The unrestricted feeding of pellets leads to obesity and often to bladder sludge. If you use pellets, buy only perfectly plain ones; do not be tempted by the “fancier” pellets with their eye-catching seeds, nuts, corn, and other “tidbits.” These ingredients are simply not good for your rabbit over the long term, and some of them are downright dangerous.

Be sure to “bunny-proof” the areas where your rabbit will exercise. Many—though not all— rabbits are prodigious chewers. They will chew electrical wires, carpeting, and other objects commonly found in any household. Although many people keep rabbits outdoors, this is not recommended. Indoor rabbits live healthier, happier, longer (7-10 years or more) lives.

Never attempt to “punish” or “discipline” a rabbit. These tactics will often create fear and defensive biting. If you need help with a behavior problem, contact your local HRS representative or visit the HRS web site: www.rabbit.org. Rabbits need veterinarians skilled in rabbit medicine. Many wonderful vets are expert with other species, but are not knowledgeable about rabbits, and may administer inappropriate or harmful drugs in their efforts to help. To find a rabbit-savvy veterinarian in your area, contact your local HRS representative, or search the HRS web page: www.rabbit.org. Anorexia and/or watery diarrhea in rabbits should be considered emergencies. Seek expert veterinary care immediately.

Rabbits are not recommended for small children. Rabbits are prey animals by nature, and are easily frightened by children’s handling. Rabbits are often dropped by children, resulting in broken legs and backs. An adult should always be the rabbit’s primary caretaker, and should carefully supervise any children interacting with the rabbit.

3. The most common rabbit veterinary problems are: ear mites, ear infections, urinary tract infections, abscesses, tooth problems (incisor malocclusion and/or molar spurs), uterine cancer (in unspayed females), upper respiratory infections (watch for sneezing or runny eyes/nose), gastrointestinal slowdown or stasis, changes in balance or gait. A skilled rabbit veterinarian should be consulted for any of these problems.

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When to Phone the Shelter for Advice About Your New Dog

By Sue Sternberg from Petfinder.com

At Whitley County Humane Society our number one goal is to place animals in a loving, safe environment. Sometimes there can be a settling in or an adjustment period as your new pet settles into your home. Please do not hesitate to call if you have any questions about your new pet!

Here are some great reasons to call and ask for advice:

Any signs of physical rough play from the dog towards the child

Any signs of displays of rough, physical strength from the dog towards the child

Any growling (even during play)

Any snapping or nipping

Any humping or mounting of the child OR adults

Any avoidance or resentment of physical contact (dog backs off or leaves room when child hugs or pets or gets close to dog)

Any signs the dog is afraid of the child (dog backs away or tries to escape when the child appears or gets close)

Dog seems "jealous" of intimacy or physical affection between parents or especially between child and parent (dog barks or cuts in between people during intimacy)

Any signs the dog is guarding his food bowl, his bones, his toys, or "stolen" items (dog may tense up, freeze, stiffen, growl, snap, show his teeth, snarl, or just give a 'hairy eyeball' to anyone approaching or coming to near the dog's item)

Your dog is tied out, chained or cabled, or penned outdoors in the yard where he has visual access to running, playing, squealing children

Your dog seems out of control or disobedient and "wild" with children who are playing or running around

It is important that your dog truly adore, worship and almost PREFER children to adults. This is because no matter how well behaved and gentle your child is, there will come a time when a child will push a dog to its limits – push the dog past his tolerance threshold. A dog who starts out with a huge buffer of love, affection and adoration of children is apt to tolerate much more before reaching that threshold. Likewise, a well-behaved, well-supervised, gentle child is less apt to push a dog to its limits.

During the first few days and weeks of the adoption, we would like you to be vigilant and very observant of the developing relationship between your child/children and your new dog.

We can help prevent, thwart, re-direct many potential problems IF WE HEAR FROM YOU AS SOON AS YOU HAVE A QUESTION OR SUSPECT A PROBLEM.

Your child's safety is of the utmost concern for us.

If you have any concerns at all please call us at

(260) 244-6664 or email director@hswc.org



Why is My Kitten Biting Me!?!

Understanding why kittens bite

Biting in kittens is similar to biting behavior in puppies. It's not about aggression, it's about youngsters using their mouths to explore their environments. If we're lucky, their mothers or litter mates teach them to inhibit this behavior. But sometimes they don't learn from their litters that this is not acceptable



How to stop your kitten from biting

The next time he bites you, say "OW!" loudly and get up immediately, walk away and ignore him. You are teaching him that biting leads to a loss of your attention. Second step, whenever he doesn't bite you when you play, praise him for this with a treat, toy or anything he likes. Eventually he will learn that play with biting leads to a loss of you and play without biting leads to continued fun and attention.

Mychelle Blake, MSW, CDBC

Pet Trainer and APDT Deputy Director

Las Vegas, NV

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