

What's Happening at the Shelter?

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

Special Thanks to Three Rivers Federal Credit Union!!



The wonderful team at Three Rivers Federal Credit Union spent their President's Day at the animal shelter helping to change the lives of our animals. The team was able to get a lot of projects done that we just don't have the resources to get to on a

regular basis. Their contribution has helped the shelter run smoother which in turn allows us to spend more time saving lives! Thanks again, everyone!



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

Upcoming Events

Kid's Night

March 9th from 6-7 PM

April 13th from 6-7 PM

Grades 2-6 welcome for a night of educational fun!

Schwan's Fundraiser

<https://www.schwans-cares.com/campaigns/16713-pawsitively-friends>
Shop through this link and HSWC gets some of the proceeds!

Plant Sale

Keep an eye out for information about our upcoming plant sale!

You all put the FUN in fundraisers!

We have had several small fundraisers over the past few months, which have added up to a huge success! Our hearts are warmed by the support we see from our community at events like; Paint your Pet, Pizza Hut Night, and "Chews Life" with Bob Evans. Representatives from companies like Pampered Chef, Jamberry, and Schwan's have donated a portion of their monthly sales. The Marathon on Connexion

Way raised an amazing amount of money to support our animals. Even seemingly small things like watching our Facebook account for our weekly needs and bringing in a bottle of bleach or paper towels makes an immeasurable difference in the day to day operations of our shelter. We just want to make sure you all know how much we, and most importantly, the animals, appreciate you!

In Search Of: Warm Laps and lots of Snuggles

We had a great year in 2014. We were able to find loving homes for 164 cats and 230 dogs! Way to go Whitley County adopters!

Every week we receive new dogs and cats from members of our community. Some are strays and some have owners who have fallen on hard times. We even take transfers from more crowded shelters in Fort Wayne when we have space.

Natalie came to us in January as a stray. She has been overlooked because she has a shy, timid nature. She knows the right person will come along, and she's trying her best to wait patiently. She just needs a little extra time and then she blossoms into a very sweet and loving kitty. She is around two years old and ready to find her forever home.



Natalie

This beautiful girl can't wait to find her forever home. Could you wake up to these beautiful green eyes every morning?

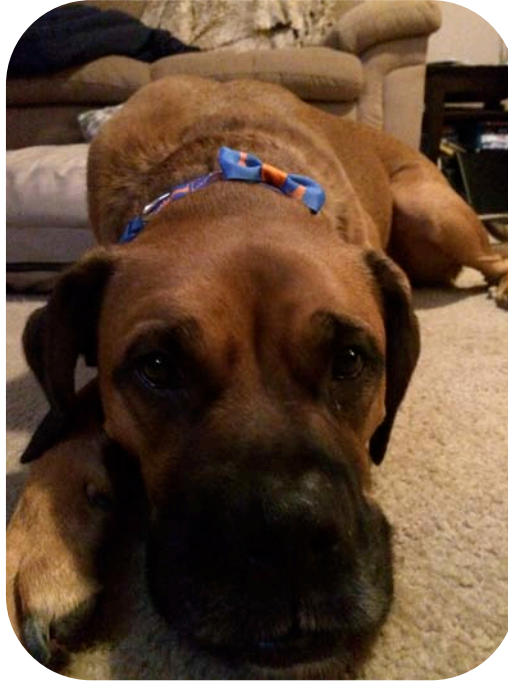
Looking to Fetch a Forever Home



Rose is one year old and despite her small size she has plenty of love to give!

If you're looking for an active young pup with lots of love to give, Rose may be the girl for you. She loves to play and is a very active girl. Spring is just around the corner and if you're looking for a new walking partner she is the perfect candidate.

Will you take a gander at that smile!!! This supermodel could be the next star of Instagram! Come on in and visit with her today!



Microchips, Are They Necessary?

By: Holly Kimpel

Have you heard friends talking about having a microchip implanted into their pet? Have you thought, "That's weird? No way am I going to do that!!" Well think again, folks. Microchips can be one of the most important tools there are when it comes to finding a lost pet, or (heaven forbid) proving ownership in the case of a stolen animal. Everyone thinks they will never lose their pet, but the fact is 1/3 of pets will become lost during their lifetime. That is a huge number! Don't wait until something has happened to wish you were better prepared.

Implanting the chip doesn't require anesthesia and only takes about a second. The chip is inserted between the shoulder blades and will last the lifetime of the pet. Your veterinarian can implant the chip during a routine visit. Local rescues or low cost clinics also offer the service. Whitley County Humane Society can microchip your animal for \$35. The cost of the chip is negligible when you consider the life saving benefits it will provide.

Microchips can save lives in many ways. When someone finds a lost pet they should immediately take it to an animal shelter or vet clinic to be scanned. Many times once a chip is located, the finder will gladly return an animal they had considered giving a home to.

When injured or sick animals are brought into an animal shelter or vet clinic, staff members can quickly decide a plan of action for treatment if they can contact an owner. It is easy for collars to be lost or removed but the microchip is a permanent form of identification.

The second most important part of the microchip, after having it implanted, is registering it with the microchip company and keeping your contact information up to date. Many people don't realize that their pet's microchip will not trace to their information unless they register it. Microchips are

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pretty straightforward. When a pet comes into an animal shelter or vet's office, someone will scan the animal between its shoulder blades. If a number pops up they will call the microchip company to find out the owner's information. If the chip is registered the microchip company will provide the owner's address, one or two phone numbers, and possibly an alternate contact.

If the microchip is not registered the company will usually know who they sold the chip to. The person tracing the chip will then have to call the vet's office or rescue who will then track down the owner's information. If the office is closed they will have to wait until it opens again to find any owner information. This can make all the difference in a life and death situation. Even in a non-emergency any delay in returning a pet home can result in extra stress for everyone involved. Your vet's office or any animal shelter can help you get your pet's chip registered.

While microchips are instrumental in reuniting lost animals, unfortunately, microchips are not GPS tracking devices. They only work once someone finds your animal and takes him/her to be scanned. A microchip also should not replace having a collar and tags on your pet at all times. The more identification on your pet, the more likely he will find his way back to you!

Five Ways Big Cats are Just Like Yours By: Mike Paul DVM

1. Big or small, cats like to rest
 - a. Ever notice how much time your cat spends sleeping or resting? What's the reason for all this sleeping? Cats don't have the sleep/wake cycle that we and many other animals have. This is because cats in the wild need to hunt as many as 20 small prey each day; they must be able to rest between each hunt so they are ready to pounce quickly when prey approaches. Clearly, our domestic cats have held on to these unique traits.
2. Big or small, cats like to groom
 - a. That amazing tongue was in part designed as a combined washcloth, comb and hairbrush. Grooming serves to keep wild cats clean and free of food or blood that would attract flies. By keeping themselves clean, they also reduce their scent, which might alert a range animal in danger. Additionally, grooming one another serves as a sign of respect and affection and may help maintain peace in the group.
3. Big or small, cats love heights or at least the perception of heights
 - a. Domestic cats love to sit up high where they can observe their surroundings as well as be let alone. Big cats often climb a tree for a vantage point, to protect their kill from thieving predators and of course to get away from danger. Some cats are excellent climbers while some are weak climbers. The important thing to remember is that domestic cats have these same instincts as we need to provide them with climbing choices.
4. Big or small, cats are principally carnivores
 - a. Though they consume grasses from a variety of sources, wild cats naturally prefer meat. Domestic cats too are carnivores and the principal ingredients in their food should be meat based. There are no vegan cats and so in spite of our potential personal desire to pursue a meat-free diet, please don't force your cat to live without meat.
5. Big or small, cats will hunt
 - a. Hunting and predatory behavior skills are learned skills that may begin with chasing a blowing leaf or a butterfly only to graduate to a small prey animal and ultimately to hunting larger animals. Our domestic cats are not often forced to hunt for their lunch, but they enjoy few things more than chasing a ball, feather or laser light across the floor. These hunting expeditions keep them alert and stimulated.

Ten Simple but Effective Dog Training Tips

By: Mychelle Blake, MSW, CBDC, CAE

1. Always be positive when working with your dog.
 - a. Dogs enjoy learning if they don't feel unduly stressed and you want to focus on building a positive relationship with your dog.
2. Remember your dog wasn't born understanding human speech and can't read your mind
 - a. Dog's "speak" to each other using body language and various types of vocalizations so learning to understand what your dog's signals mean can lead to stronger relationship.
3. Understand the basics of how animals, including people, learn
 - a. Behaviors that are reinforced are more likely to be repeated, and behaviors that are ignored are more likely to be stopped because they bring no benefit to the dog.
4. Keep your training sessions short and train in small increments throughout the day
 - a. Dogs learn best in small increments, and by making sessions shorter it becomes more likely you'll find the time to train your dog every day.
5. Make training part of your daily routine
 - a. Ask your dog to sit before going in and out of doors, have your dog do down stays while you're watching TV, etc. By asking the dog to do these behaviors as part of "daily life", the dog will learn to offer these behaviors without prompting.
6. Teach your dog new behaviors in quiet, low-distraction areas
 - a. Once your dog is doing them well, slowly add in distractions. Don't be surprised if you have to go back to square one with some behaviors once distractions are added in.
7. Make sure everyone in your household is on the same page
 - a. Be sure everyone uses the same words and hand signals that you use with the dog for each behavior. Being 100% consistent helps the dog learn faster and find training less confusing.
8. Always focus on teaching what you want
 - a. It's much easier for the dog to learn to "do" a behavior than to learn to "not do" a behavior. So a dog that jumps up could be taught to sit, or a dog that pulls can be taught to look at you and give eye contact before moving forward.
9. Use what your dog finds reinforcing
 - a. Every dog is different. Potential motivation may include food, treats, toys, petting or getting to play with another dog. Treat your dog as an individual and use what he loves best.
10. If you find you need help with basic training, or start to see behavioral problems appear, do not wait to see a trainer or behavior consultant
 - a. Visit www.apdt.com to find a qualified professional near you who can help you and your new friend work through his or her issues for a long, happy life together!

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