

December 2022



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The Joy of Fostering Kittens

By Mary Ann Garber



Longtime kitten foster Anne Oberg poses for a photo with 4-month-old siblings Mayberry and Ellie, who are a wiggly armful.

Thirteen years ago, HSforBC Cat Program volunteer Anne Oberg opened her heart and home to foster homeless kittens and prepare them for adoption.

Since then, Anne and her husband, Denis, have welcomed more than 300 cats and kittens, lovingly nurturing them and even providing around the clock nursing care for tiny kittens with health challenges.

“The obvious enjoyment of snuggling and playing with the babies is just the beginning,” Oberg said. “It’s so much fun to watch them develop and grow. It’s also rewarding to see the transformation from scared and withdrawn kittens to happy socialized kittens as well as sickly kittens to healthy kittens. It’s a joy to see them get adopted and witness the happiness of the new adopters. Seeing the smiles on everyone’s faces—sometimes even the cat’s—makes the labor of fostering so worthwhile.”

She also loves to provide care for Mama Kitties on their journey through pregnancy, birthing, nursing and weaning babies as well as when they are spayed after raising their kittens then adopted too.

“I always tell them that the hard part of their life is over,” Oberg said, “and now they get to be pampered!”

Socializing kittens “mainly takes time and patience to get these animals to trust,” she said. “Food and playtime are great ways to a kitty’s heart. Eventually, touches and pets are welcomed.”

HSforBC provides food, supplies and veterinary care, Oberg said, and fosters offer loving care each day so the kittens will thrive until their adoptions.

“I would encourage anyone to at least give fostering a try,” she said. “You’ll never know if it’s for you or not until you do. Even if it turns out to be only a one-time experience, you have saved the lives of those you served. If it does turn out to be ‘your calling’ then you will find tremendous rewards in helping these babies move from foster care to enjoying a full and happy life in their ‘forever’ homes.”

As a volunteer, “I am so blessed to be surrounded by other like-minded people,” Oberg said. “I couldn’t keep fostering without their support. Our HSforBC animals are very, very lucky!”

HSforBC Wish List

Click [here](#) for HSforBC Wish List at **Amazon**.

Click [here](#) for HSforBC Wish List at **Chewy**.

The Joy of Shelter Dog Care

By Cheryl Stone



Dog Program volunteer Cheryl Stone pets Oscar, a shelter dog, in the play yard.

I have been volunteering at HSforBC for a little over a year, mainly at the shelter helping with dog care.

As you can imagine, dog care is not glamorous. The dogs at the shelter need to be cared for rain or shine and in the heat or freezing cold. Volunteers come in every 12 hours to feed them, refill water buckets, scrub each indoor kennel and outdoor run, and let them out into the play yard for exercise. That's the best part of the evening for me because it's where their personalities shine as they run and play.

Each dog comes to us with a different story. Some want a ball thrown to re-

trieve a dozen or so times. Others just want some pets and love. And some need space and time to adjust to their new surroundings. We take their lead. I am just happy to be a part of their journey.

Another benefit of volunteering at HSforBC is meeting and working with such amazing people. Over the last year, I have seen many acts of kindness to the animals from donations like cream cheese, sliced cheese, chewy toys, raised beds and homemade meals to many hours of one-on-one training.

It does take a village to help these animals adjust and prepare them for adoption. The hearts of these volunteers are enormous, and I am very fortunate to be a part of this community service organization.

Spread the joy. Adopt. Foster. Donate. Volunteer.

Thank You

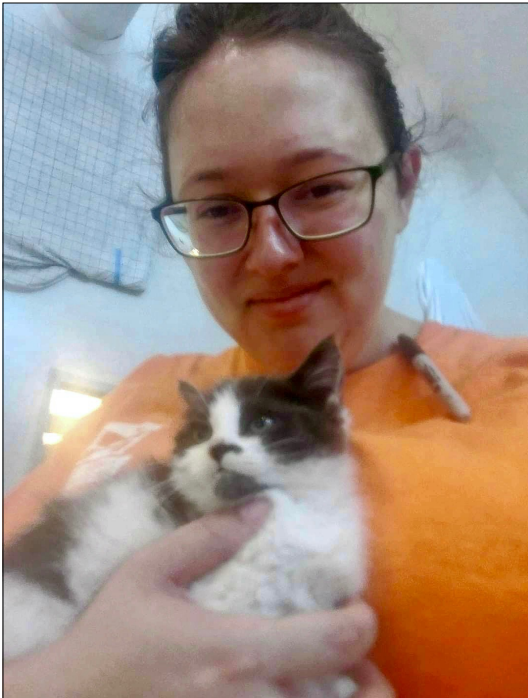


**Thank you
Boone County Professional
Fire Fighters Union
Local #5195**

They raised \$7,500 for
Humane Society for Boone County
at their recent golf event.

The Joy of Community Service

By Mary Ann Garber



Claire Haughton holds Goober, a kitten she rescued in Lebanon.

It was getting dark and HSforBC volunteer Claire Haughton had been sitting in her car watching four humane traps for several hours. She had placed the traps in a small wooded area near a community cat nesting site to try to catch stray or feral adult kitties for TNR—Trap / Neuter or Spay / Return and Release—and rescue four kittens from a difficult life outdoors.

Her patience and perseverance paid off when a fluffy gray and white kitten lured by the smell of tuna entered a small trap and stepped on the trip bar that closed the door. Success! No adult cats were caught that night, but the hungry kitten was on his way to a transitional life as an HSforBC foster named Goober.

After more than 13 hours of watching traps that week, Haughton was able to catch three cats for TNR and rescue two more kittens. The following week, she caught the fourth kitten.

“It’s an amazing rush,” Haughton said about the long hours required to humanely trap cats. “Spending days

trying to catch cats can be discouraging, but it’s all wiped away when I hear that trap door shut. The life of an outdoor cat is difficult and short so knowing that I’m taking kittens from a hard life outdoors to a long cushy life with a loving family is just the best. When I catch them, I always promise them that they’re going to be loved, safe, warm, and never know hunger again. When they’re adopted, I feel like I’ve fulfilled that promise.”

After the trap door closes, she said, “kittens are always understandably scared, but they have no idea that their life is about to get way better. If I catch an adult cat that would be happier continuing to live outdoors, I’m still glad they’re getting fixed because it helps stop overpopulation of stray and feral cats and prevents a lot of health problems.”

Haughton started volunteering for HSforBC in 2021 as a kitten foster then began helping with TNR projects in Boone County.

“We do not need more animals in shelters,” she said. “In most cases, cats and dogs are far better off if they’re spayed or neutered.”

HSforBC promotes responsible pet ownership with educational efforts about the necessity of spaying or neutering cats and dogs, vaccinating pets and safe re-homing tips.

While volunteering for HSforBC, Haughton said, “I’ve gotten the chance to meet people who love animals as much as I do. It’s so rewarding, and you will never run out of love to give.”



Goober’s brother Barney was also humanely trapped by Haughton.

The Joy of Partnering with HSforBC

By Tracey Coussens



Muttcracker Calendar 2023

Village Dance Studio in Whitestown recently experienced the joy of partnering with HSforBC when they created a “Muttcracker” calendar featuring their dancers and HSforBC dogs and cats.

Village Dance traditionally incorporates a community service aspect in their annual Nutcracker Short & Suite performances, and after one ballet teacher shared pictures from a professional studio’s photo shoot with rescue animals, director Traci Broman decided to help local furry friends this year. Giggles, smiles and a puddle or two filled the October 1 photo shoot of costumed Nutcracker dancers and HSforBC alums and adoptable dogs and cats.

The resulting photos of dancers and HSforBC animals fill the pages of “Muttcracker” calendars, available through Village Dance Studio. All profits from calendar sales will be donated to HSforBC.

“Our dancers had such a great time working with the animals from HSforBC for the photo-shoot. I had no idea how it was going to go, but the animals were incredible!” said Broman. “This was a really fun and wild collaboration that I hope we can do again.”

“I love working with people who are passionate about what they do so getting to pull together two organizations that care deeply about what they do was so much fun,” explained “Muttcracker” photographer Jon Ellegood. “Talented dancers mixed with adorable puppies and kittens is a ridiculous way to spend an afternoon, but one I really enjoyed!”

For more information about how to purchase your own “Muttcracker” calendars, visit <http://www.villagedancestudio.com/muttcracker-calendars.html>.

Did your pet go missing?

Take these four steps to help find them.

1. Report your pet missing for free at petcolovelost.org.
2. Print free lost pet fliers and share them around your local community.
3. Organize a lost pet search in your neighborhood.
4. Call your local animal shelters and rescues to let them know your pet is missing.



The Joy of Fostering Dogs

By Mary Ann Garber



HSforBC foster dog Bernard enjoyed road trips with Liz and Dan Allen before his adoption.

The rocking chair at Dan and Liz Allen's house gets a workout. Since they started fostering dogs for HSforBC, Liz has often rocked them in her arms at night.

"We began volunteering for HSforBC after we lost our 14-year-old Pug mix," Liz said. "We have had the privilege of fostering 17 dogs. The joy that we experience when we find the perfect 'forever' home for them is a gift. It never ceases to amaze me how quickly you can tell they have chosen their human."

Fostering a dog is a remarkable experience even though it can be challenging at times, she said. Some of the dogs need to be house trained or have a hard time learning a new daily routine.

HSforBC provides veterinary care that includes spay or neuter if necessary as well as vaccinations, deworming and blood tests. Sometimes dogs need additional medical care while living in their foster homes.

"We fostered two dogs that were heartworm positive and had to go through painful treatment," Liz said. "You have to keep them calm with no running or jumping. I have always had my dogs on flea, tick and heartworm prevention, but until I fostered Gus and Bernard during their heartworm treatment I didn't fully grasp how important it is."

People often ask Liz how she and Dan are able to give up their foster dogs for the right adoption opportunity.

"I have loved every one of them," Liz said. "Some fosters are harder to let go than others. I remind my heart that their family is out there. I am the one chosen to get them ready for their 'forever' family."

The Allens also help other Dog Program volunteers by temporarily caring for their foster dogs during family vacations or other reasons to travel away from home.

"It has been a wonderful journey," Liz said. "Having only had small dogs as pets, it has been fun fostering so many different breeds ranging from a 6 lb. Dachshund mix to an 80 lb. Pittie. The Pitties have been my favorites. They are such good snugglers. We fostered one for four months and I rocked him like a baby every evening."

The Allens hope more dog lovers will fill out the online application to become fosters at hsforbc.org under the Volunteer and Foster links.

"It is so hard seeing so many dogs being surrendered or coming in as strays," Liz said. "I am thankful for the HSforBC volunteers who care for them at the shelter and fosters that take them into their homes."

The Joy of Shelter Cat Care

By Tiffany Byers



Sterling, a former shelter cat, makes biscuits with his paws on a blanket in the free roam room before his adoption.

I adopted a cat from HSforBC in March 2020. Kahlua brought so much joy and light into my life as the world was slowly shutting down during the beginning of COVID-19. She helped me get through an unbelievable amount in those few short months we were home together every day.

After I adopted her, I learned about everything that HSforBC did to help her find a new home. Since the shelter helped me find the sweetest cat, I knew I wanted to help cats like her find great homes. I started volunteering in June 2021.

While shelter cat care does require the basics of feeding them, giving them water, cleaning kennels and scooping litter boxes, it also provides opportunities for enrichment to help these cats find homes. Most often, several new cats would be there every time I went to the shelter.

Occasionally, there would be the same cat I had seen two weeks earlier. These cats tended to be more shy and apprehensive—like the one I adopted from HSforBC. Seeing the difference in their character during every

visit warmed my heart. They were more playful, more trusting and more open to people with each visit.

This is a testament to the work that the volunteers do with the cats—taking care of their basic needs and giving them the love and attention they need to feel safe in a new place.

Helping these cats feel safe is one of the biggest joys that comes from working with them. I know that I am helping them grow in order to have a better life by simply taking care of their basic needs in addition to giving them the time and attention they need to grow and thrive!

Boone County Animal Control

Office: 765-482-1412, option 8

email: animalcontrol@co.boone.in.us

website: <https://www.boonecountyindianasheriff.com/divisions/animal-control/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1754434438198357>

Our Featured Adoptables

Visit www.hsforbc.org for information on these and other animals.

If you would like to foster an animal or schedule a Meet and Greet, call **1-877-473-6722** (877-HSforBC) or fill out the form on our website.



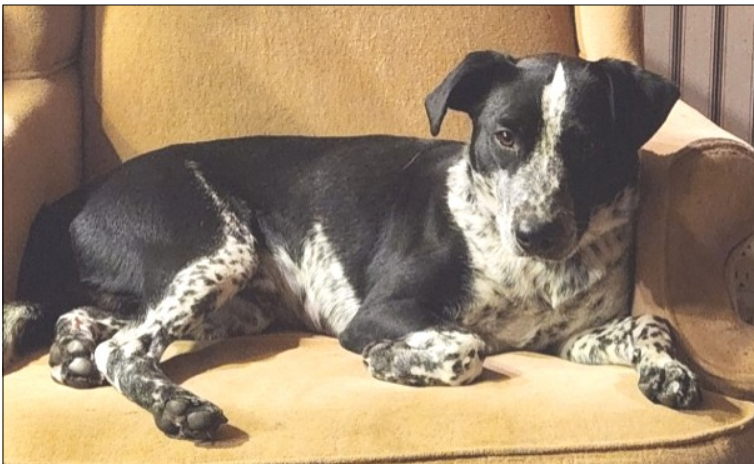
Rayne

Rayne is a 4-month-old Cattle Dog mix that loves attention! She is good with other dogs and cats. She can be a little vocal when she wants attention. Her brother, Ronnie, is featured in the cover photograph with Santa.



Fuji

She is a sweet 5-month-old Tabby looking for a quiet home. She needs patience and understanding of her slow to warm up personality.



Maverick

He is about 35 pounds and currently being fostered with dogs, cats and young children. He is house trained and loves to run. He would make a great 4H dog, obedience dog or agility dog. He is a very nice boy.



Pac Man

He is a sweet boy ready for his home.

Donors honor people and pets with memorial gifts to HSforBC

Donors recently gave HSforBC gifts in honor of the following people:

Laurie and Jeff Durham
John Cowan and Brian Ojala
Kris Baker
Shaun and Catherine Farley
with Max and Hale

Generous donors recently supported HSforBC with memorial gifts in remembrance of friends and loved ones.

Richard Chelf
Kate Comiskey
Marvin Gengler
Dale Johnson

HSforBC supporters sent memorial donations in remembrance of these beloved companions:

Heidi and Gretchen Chida
Chloe and Isaac Lawler
Tessa, a beloved German Shepherd
Sweet Lumen, formerly of HSforBC
Mylo

Upcoming events

Watch for our
January Adoption Event
at Petco

FurBall

Cardinal Room
Golf Club of Indiana
Saturday, February 25, 2023

Trivia Night at Moontown
Tuesday, March 21, 2023

Golf Scramble

Golf Club of Indiana
Saturday, May 15, 2023



2023 CALENDAR

RESCUED
2023 12 Month Calendar
HSforBC.org • (877) HSforBC
Thank you for your support!

ALSO ON SALE AT OUR EVENTS OR AT THE SHELTER BY APPOINTMENT

A Great Gift for the Animal Lovers in Your Life!
For the seventh year in a row, we are offering our calendar of recently adopted and still available rescue animals of Boone County. Each month is filled with animal holidays so you can celebrate your pets all year long! For an appointment, call 877-473-6722 (877-HSforBC).

Order online at [HSforBC.org](https://www.hsforbc.org)
Just \$10 plus shipping

A Special Thank You to
tactive
Proud Sponsor of the 2023 HSforBC Calendar

HUMANE SOCIETY FOR BOONE COUNTY

Cover Photo

Ronnie is a 4-month-old Cattle Dog mix that loves people! He is the brother of Rayne, who is featured on the Adoptables page. Ronnie is good with other dogs.

HSforBC is in need of foster homes

Because of current shelter construction, we are in need of foster homes for both dogs and cats. HSforBC pays for all veterinary care, food, medications, toys, bedding and crates. Visit www.hsforbc.org/foster and fill out the application to become a foster.

The Joy of Giving

By Nancy Comiskey



Former HSforBC foster puppy Rhoades received much-needed nutrition during his blood transfusions.

In November 2004, our 24-year-old daughter, Kate, was on her way to teach high school English when she was killed by an intoxicated driver. That same day, we took her much-loved little Lab mix Lola and her tiger cat Roy into our home. The comfort they brought us was immeasurable.

Every year, on special days like Christmas or birthdays, we visit a Humane Society shelter to make a donation in our daughter's memory. Kate loved all animals, but especially those who faced special challenges. For my husband and me, the joy of giving to the Humane Society comes from knowing that new generations of dogs and cats will lead fuller, happier lives. And that's a gift we can still give our daughter.

HSforBC, with a staff of just 1½ paid employees and a band of 75-plus dedicated volunteers, is doing remarkable work in our county. Some hand-feed orphaned kittens, some scrub out kennels, and some set broken bones. Others generously open their homes to foster dogs and cats who might otherwise be lost. During 2022, 491 dogs and cats found refuge here in shelter or foster care. To date,

431 of them have been adopted or returned to their owners. Another 100 pets were spayed or neutered free of cost. Lives are changed every day.

Consider Pumpkin the cat, an orange stray with a badly broken leg who was brought in by the woman who found him. Pumpkin ended up losing his injured leg but finding a forever home when his rescuer adopted him. Or Bernard, a 9-year-old, 80-pound pit bull mix who arrived in an animal-control van. After extensive heartworm treatment and 10 months in foster care, the lovable giant was adopted by a volunteer who couldn't resist his charm. Then there's Rhoades, a 7-week-old part-Chihuahua puppy with severe anemia that left him clinging to life. After three blood transfusions and feeding through a tube, the little fighter is now home with his new family.

The HSforBC renovation project, scheduled to be completed early next year, will enable the staff and volunteers to help even more animals like Pumpkin, Bernard and Rhoades. But they need our support. Inflation has affected everyone, but hit some families harder than others. Evictions are more common, and owners have found they can no longer care for their pets. The shelter's "request to surrender" waitlist is growing.

Donations on Giving Tuesday this month were down from past years. Your gift now—however large or small—could help change the lives of homeless Boone County pets in 2023, providing everything from a simple vaccine for a newborn kitten to life-saving surgery for an abandoned senior dog.

Continued next page

The Joy of Giving *continued*

So please consider adding HSforBC to your holiday to-do list. Whether you give a gift in memory of a family member, friend or pet of your own or just because you appreciate the many ways these animals enrich our lives, the shelter will put your generosity to good use in the year ahead.

This is the season to embrace giving in all its forms. I know our daughter, Kate, would celebrate the bringing of comfort and joy to the dogs and cats who need our help.

Thank You



Kyleigh & Jeremy Crane Memorial Trust donation of \$1,000 was presented during Whiskerfest on December 3, 2022.



Barks of Thanks to Rosie's! HSforBC was the grateful recipient of the proceeds from the Pooches on the Porch fundraiser this past summer. Thank you so much!



We are honored to have received a \$2,750 donation from the 2022 Cody Jedwabny Golf Scramble! Cody was a huge animal lover. His mother and friends make sure he is remembered and good continues in his name!

Santa's Special Wish List

canned pure pumpkin for upset tummies

Size XL unscented puppy piddle pads

ProPlan Calming Care for Dogs

Revival Animal Health Breeder's Edge

Foster Care Feline—Powdered Milk

Replacer for Kittens and Cats

Mini Miracle Nipples for Nursing Bottles

ProPlan FortaFlora for Cats

We hope you enjoy your monthly e-newsletter.

We want to keep you up to date on all things HSforBC because it's your support that makes it possible to save the lives of cats and dogs here in Boone County.

On behalf of all the volunteers, the board and staff at HSforBC, we wish you the Happiest of Holidays and a Very Happy New Year!

Donate to HSforBC



Donate to Humane Society for Boone County

We are a private, nonprofit, 501(c)(3), almost entirely volunteer organization dedicated to preventing cruelty to animals. We serve animals and residents of Boone County by providing shelter and compassionate care for abandoned, abused, surrendered and lost animals of Boone County.

Humane Society for Boone County

P.O. Box 708

Lebanon, Indiana 46052

(877) 473-6722 or (877) HSforBC

Visit our website: www.hsforbc.org

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Please accept my gift of: \$25 \$50 \$100 \$250 Other: _____

Secure online donations may be made via Paypal at www.hsforbc.org

Circle Donation Preference:

Building Renovations and Expansion Fund / Medical Services / General / Other _____

One time / or for recurring monthly donations contact us at HSforBC@gmail.com

(Gifts to the Humane Society for Boone County are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.)