

March 2023



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Shelter dogs thrive with enrichment activities

By Mary Ann Garber



Sleepy Charlie, a Lab / Hound / German Shorthair Pointer mix, lies on his bed in the kennel while Dog Program volunteer Nikki Hunter pets him during quiet time at the shelter.

Day trips on leashes with volunteers to shop for toys at pet stores, enjoy a cheeseburger in the car or hike in nature parks. Walks with volunteers near the shelter for exercise and leash training.

Treat boxes and home cooked meals brought to the shelter. Plenty of pets and hugs and interaction. Lots of balls tossed in the play yards to chase, find and retrieve or carry around during exercise times twice a day. Quiet time sitting in a kennel or Meet and Greet room with a volunteer for comfort and companionship. Calming music played in the kennel area during the day.

These are only a few of the ways that HSforBC Dog Program volunteers show their love for the canine shelter residents awaiting their forever homes.

But it's not just fun and games at recess. There are lessons too. Experienced volunteers work with the dogs on positive reinforcement behavior training that includes how to sit, stay and walk well on a leash, which helps them learn how to be "good boys and girls" and prepares them to live in a forever home.

Home cooked food and special treats are often provided to the dogs for variety in their daily routine as are cardboard enrichment boxes filled with cream cheese, peanut butter, dry kibble, cheese spread or cheese pieces. Bully sticks are one of their favorite treats.

Dog program volunteers commit to 2 to 3 hour shifts in pairs during the early morning or late afternoon weekly, and complete online educational training programs about how to socialize and work with dogs. Clicker training, a positive reinforcement method, also helps teach appropriate behaviors.

"We are always trying to find new and interesting things for them," said volunteer Adrienne Urbanek. "Frisbees with a little peanut butter or cream cheese smeared on them then hung on their kennel gates for them to lick have been introduced in the last few months. Just giving them their regular meal in a different way can be an effective enrichment opportunity."

Volunteers try to figure out what each dog likes, she said, which can be challenging because the dog may be anxious, stressed or scared while adjusting to the new kennel environment.

"Some dogs enjoy down time just sitting with someone in a separate room where it is quiet," Urbanek said. "Others enjoy taking a walk along the path behind the shelter."

Continued next page

Shelter dogs *continued*



Former HSforBC rescue dog Hermes, a Pit Bull mix who now has a fantastic forever home, picks out a few toys at a pet store during an afternoon outing with volunteers as part of the enrichment activities for dogs living at the shelter.

Some really like a good game of tug or fetch. Some just need time to sniff around with breaks for some petting or belly rubs. Others would really love to play with another dog. We have had some good dog matchups in the past and are always on the lookout for that possibility."

Volunteer Nikki Hunter likes to work with the dogs on basic commands like "sit, down, paw, stay," and reinforce good behavior with treats.

"It's a lot of repetition and patience," she said. "Some dogs pick things up quickly. Others take longer. Leashing them up and taking them for a walk is important as well. It takes time and treats for some dogs to learn how to walk well on a leash."

Dog volunteers also clean the kennels—which can be very messy sometimes—as well as change water buckets, feed them

meals, change their bedding, administer medication and take them out to the play yard or for a walk near the shelter in rain or shine and heat or cold.

Shelter dog care requires watching for and recognizing stress behavior signals, longtime volunteer LeAnn Melichar said, as well as providing positive reinforcement lessons with clicker training and enrichment opportunities tailored to the needs of each dog.

"Leash walking allows for a connection to occur between the handler and dog, which is extremely beneficial in the long run for these dogs when adopted," Melichar said. "Our goal is to help prepare them for when they do get their forever family."

Whether it is enjoying a treat box or a walk or working on basic commands with volunteers, all of these shelter activities are enrichment experiences for a dog's brain and help them become the best possible dog for adoption.

(If you would like to volunteer for HSforBC's Dog Program and help with shelter dog care or dog foster care, log on to the website at hsforbc.org and click on the Volunteer link to fill out an application.)

Boone County Animal Control

Office: 765-482-1412, option 4

email: animalcontrol@co.boone.in.us

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

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

Fur Ball raises more than \$72,000 to help homeless dogs and cats

By Mary Ann Garber



HSforBC Board member and Cat Program foster Kat Bowers of Brownsburg describes the heartache of fosters after 19 kittens who were critically ill with feline infectious peritonitis died last year.

HSforBC's 10th annual Mardi Gras themed Fur Ball on February 25 was a historic night to remember for supporters and volunteers. The Humane Society's largest fundraiser of the year set a record by raising more than \$72,000 in gross income through donations for animal welfare needs and the purchase of donated auction items.

It wouldn't be a Mardi Gras "pawty" without a king or queen, executive director Susan Austin told the guests, and the two women honored as queens this year are longtime volunteers who are dedicated to rescuing homeless dogs and cats.

Canine Program director Christy Brubaker and Feline Program director Dawn Walker, both of Lebanon, "perform miracles every single day for the dogs, cats, puppies and kittens of Boone County," she said, and help deliver dog and cat food to pet parents in need of assistance.

During the eight-month-long shelter renovation project, Austin said, "they overcame the obstacles of a building under construction and still saved almost as many [dogs and cats] lives as they did the

previous year. Without them, our work would not happen. Without them, dogs, cats, puppies and kittens would suffer."

The Brubaker family has fostered dogs and puppies since 2008, and Christy has coordinated the Canine Program since 2017. The Walker family has fostered cats and kittens since 2013, and Dawn has directed the Feline Program since 2015 in addition to bottle feeding dozens of newborn kittens every two hours around the clock during those years.

Emotional testimonials from a volunteer and an adoptive family were other Fur Ball highlights.

Kat Bowers of Brownsburg, an HSforBC volunteer who serves as a Board member, cat foster and clinic assistant, shared a heartbreaking story about fosters caring for critically ill kittens as well as a heartwarming story of fostering healthy kittens now in loving forever homes.

"2022 was a really rough year for our [cat] fosters," Bowers said. "We lost 19 kittens in our care [from one cat colony due to feline infectious peritonitis] and it about broke us all. We worked really hard to keep them happy and healthy. One cat had a fatal, communicable disease that was being passed on to all the kittens."

On the day the last sick kitten died, she said, three abandoned kittens needed to be rescued and their foster journey with Bowers and Vanessa Shumate led to wonderful adoptions.

"As much as we loved those 19 kittens—and our hearts broke for them—we saved and found homes for 247 kittens and cats last year," Bowers said. "We always need cat fosters and dog

Continued next page

Fur Ball *continued*



Longtime volunteers Christy Brubaker, left, and Dawn Walker, both of Lebanon, were honored as queens of the Fur Ball for their many years of dedication and service to HSforBC.



Zach and Melissa Isbell of Lebanon pay tribute to their beloved dog Diesel, a Pit Bull mix adopted from HSforBC, who died of cancer last July. They recently adopted Hermes, also a Pit Bull mix, who will be trained as a service dog for their son.

fosters. It's a really rewarding experience. We can save more animals if we have more fosters."

Zach and Melissa Isbell and their four children of Lebanon adopted Diesel, a Pit Bull mix diagnosed with cancer, from HSforBC five years ago. After he became terminally ill last summer and had to cross the Rainbow Bridge, they welcomed Hermes, also a Pit Bull mix, into their family two months ago.

"We had three amazing years with Diesel," she said. "That dog went with us everywhere. Diesel won our hearts, and very, very sadly in July of last year we had to make the choice to let him go. The cancer had returned. ... We loved that dog more than anything in this world. He loved everybody."

The Isbell family didn't think they were ready to adopt another dog until they met Hermes, who was struggling with anxiety at the shelter.

"Hermes' story is just beginning with us," she said. "We've had him about six weeks. We are so pleased to say that he will be starting service dog training. ... Twice the perfect dog found us when we weren't even looking. None of this was possible without all of you. To all the volunteers, we thank you. ... From the bottom of our hearts—and from both Diesel and Hermes—we thank you for giving us an opportunity to love them and for them to love us."

During the program, Austin thanked "the volunteers that help make everything happen—who care for the dogs and cats, the building and transport animals all over the area, our fosters who take our babies into their hearts and homes, [and] our Board members who help keep the focus on growing for the future and doing it well."

She also expressed her gratitude to "our veterinarians who help us give the care needed and our adopters who give our babies forever homes. Without all of you, none would be saved."

All the event sponsors—Denton's Bingham Greenebaum, D.R. Horton Homes, TDS, DKP—D.K. Pierce, Tito's Handmade Vodka and Ridings Realty Group—attended the Fur Ball.

Continued next page

Fur Ball *continued*

“My deepest thanks go to our sponsors for supporting our mission, our vision and helping HSforBC save more lives,” Austin said. “Your unrestricted financial support allows us to put resources where they are needed most—food, vaccinations, spay / neuter, housing and more medical care—and that makes a difference.”

To conclude the festive evening, auction team Steve and Jeryl Cross of Lebanon, who also volunteered at the Fur Ball in previous years, helped raise funds for shelter needs including the “Fund the Need” effort to buy sound dampening baffles that reduce noise in the kennels.

Jackie Nowinski joins HSforBC as Volunteer Program Manager



HSforBC’s search for a Volunteer Program Manager has concluded with the hiring of Jackie Nowinski, who is experienced in animal rescue work.

Her wealth of experience includes positions as an Animal Control Officer and Animal Control Supervisor. She previously worked at the FACE Clinic, in Johnson County and at Indianapolis Animal Care Services.

She has three pets—Jazz the German Shepherd, Dario the Pibble and Gilbert the cat—as well as Vinnie, an outdoor kitty shared with her neighbors. Gardening is her favorite hobby.

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.



HSforBC Wish List

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

Shelter renovations include redesigned cat care facilities

By Tiffany Byers



HSforBC's cat kennel room was moved to the back of the shelter where it is quieter and less stressful for the kitties.

After eight long months, the cats and cat care volunteers are finally back at the shelter!

At the beginning of March, I got to join the other cat volunteers at the shelter. Dawn Walker, who leads the cat care efforts at HSforBC, retrained volunteers and gave us all a tour of the new space. Dawn ensured that we would be prepared for cat care by showing us what was updated and where all the essential cat care items are located.

It was wonderful to see the new space for the cats. One of the most notable changes is that cats are now located in their new room. Prior to the renovations, cats were located in a room in the front of the shelter and could hear people coming in and out as well as hear the dogs. They are now located in their own room where it is much more quiet.

The shelter cats and volunteers are very excited to be in the new space. I've completed one day of cat care in the space and can already see what a difference it has made for the cats and volunteers.

Check out next month's newsletter for more news on all the shelter renovations!

Upcoming events

Trivia Night at Moontown

Tuesday, March 21, 2023

Golf Scramble

Golf Club of Indiana

Monday, May 15, 2023

HSFORBCgolfsramble.givesmart.com

2023 CALENDAR

RESCUED
2023 12 Month Calendar
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
Just \$10 plus shipping

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

HUMAN SOCIETY FOR BOONE COUNTY

Cat Program director is overjoyed with new facilities

By Mary Ann Garber

It's a dream come true for Dawn Walker, HSforBC's Feline Program director.

Extensive shelter renovations have dramatically improved the cat care facilities, and Walker is overjoyed about every new detail, including the sinks!

"The new cat spaces allow more efficient care so more time can be spent on interacting with the kitties," she said. "The sinks in the rooms have made a huge difference for volunteers. I have received such positive feedback from the volunteers on how the spaces flow and work well together."

Relocating the cat kennel room from a space next to the busy lobby to the rear of the building has created a quieter environment, Walker said, and the cats seem calmer now that they are living farther from the sounds of barking dogs and noises from people coming and going through the front door.

"The kitties seem to adjust more easily and are ready to engage in people interaction quicker, mostly due to the noise level, which has decreased greatly," she said. "I couldn't be happier with the new cat space designs within the building. The new catio space / free roam room was expanded during the renovations with more windows for the cats to enjoy the wildlife activity outside."



Tuxedo boys Teddy, left, and Felix, right, are fun cats. Teddy is about a year and a half old, has beautiful black and white fur, and is sweet, friendly and curious. Felix, right, is a 3-year-old gray and white kitty who enjoys getting pets and loves attention from his people.

Cover Photo

Beans is a 3-year-old male Tabby cat and loves playing with the laser pointer. He would prefer to live in a home with older children. (Photo by Trung Chenh)

Thank You



An act of care, compassion and giving. Thank you so much for choosing our volunteers to gift with your love.



Thank you, Boy Scout Troop #358. They toured the shelter and learned about proper animal handling. Thank you all for the donations.



Volunteers from Forum Credit Union came to the shelter with donations. They also organized our towels, dusted and helped with Fur Ball related tasks. Thank you all!

VISIT THE CATS

Currently being fostered at Petco in Whitestown

#PetcoLovePartner



petco
love[™]

A NONPROFIT CHANGING LIVES



6398 Mills Dr Suite 300
Whitestown, IN 46075

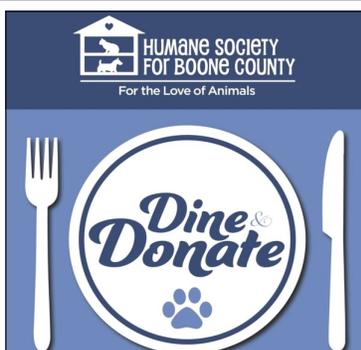


Photos and information on our available felines can be found at

HSforBC.org



"Dine and Donate"



Pub at Anson

Thursday, April 27, 2023

Noble Romans in Whitestown

Thursday, May 18, 2023

1830 Chophouse in Lebanon

Tuesday, June 27, 2023

Thank You



Brownie Troop #486 took a tour of the shelter and learned about safe handling of dogs and cats. Thanks for coming, girls.



Thank you, Paige, for the wonderful donations. She asked that people contribute toward the animals in honor of her birthday.

HUMANE SOCIETY FOR BOONE COUNTY
GOLF SCRAMBLE

Fore The Animals!

MONDAY MAY 15, 2023

10:30 CHECK-IN/WARM UP/LUNCH
12:00 SHOTGUN START
AWARDS FOLLOWING FINAL PLAY

Foursomes \$500 until May 10
\$550 May 11-15

Individual Hole Sponsor \$250
(\$200 with a foursome)

Register your foursome and bid
on auction items at
HSforBCgolf.givesmart.com

Online Auction
Opens May 9-
Ends Noon May 16
You do not need to
be a golfer to bid!

**HUMANE SOCIETY
FOR BOONE COUNTY**
For the Love of Animals

SPONSOR OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE

For sponsorship information or questions contact Susan Austin
877-473-6722 • HSforBC@gmail.com • HSforBC.org

TRIVIA NIGHT

AT MOONTOWN BREWING COMPANY

FUN & PRIZES!

TUESDAY MARCH 21

DOORS OPEN 6:30

MUST BE 21+ YEARS OF AGE

Trivia competition starts at 7:00 pm
Prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place teams

Good will donations for the shelter welcome
Visit HSforBC.org for our wishlist

**HUMANE SOCIETY
FOR BOONE COUNTY**
For the Love of Animals

A portion of the night sales will be
donated to HSforBC by Moontown

345 S Bowers Street
Whitestown

Thank You



Thank you, Girl Scout Troop #3261. These young ladies took a tour of the shelter and learned about proper animal care.



Thank you, Girl Scout Troop #4029, for your service at the shelter. We appreciate your help.



We are honored to be the recipient of these great dog toy gifts from Ellie. Her recent birthday party was hands-on for making gifts for our shelter and our pups—beautiful hand-painted bandanas and two of the many colorful hand-painted rocks to dress up our front walkway. We appreciate the support. We know Ellie will be an awesome volunteer for us someday!



Berri surprised us with birthday gifts for the shelter. She is a repeat gifter. Thank you, Berri.

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.



Trixie

Trixie is heartworm positive and looking for a foster-to-adopt home. She is just over a year old and about 56 lbs. She is currently fostered with dogs, cats and a bird. She may scare some cats at first because she wants to play with them, but won't harm them. She loves to play! She takes correction, walks well on a leash and knows some basic commands. She loves to sleep with her human and thinks she is a lap dog. She is afraid of loud noises like fireworks and thunder.



Butterfly

Butterfly is a 2-year-old female Tuxedo cat. She is affectionate and loves being with people. She will be available for adoption soon.



Axel Rose

This handsome boy is about 2 years old. He is fostered with young children, dogs and cats. He loves when the kids lay on him and tolerates being dragged around by a 4-year-old girl. He is housebroken and loves toys. He would make a great family dog or loving companion for a single person.

What an incredible year 2022 was! Shelter renovations started in July, and our dog and cat leads still helped save an incredible number of lives!

510 dogs and cats were in our care, either in the shelter or in our dedicated foster homes. 434 animals were adopted into loving forever homes.

21 dogs were returned to their owner!

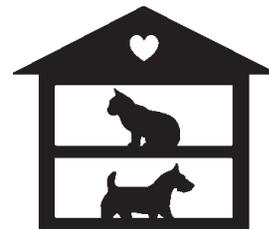
46 animals were housed for the Boone County Sheriff's Department.

109 dogs or cats were spayed or neutered for Boone County residents needing help.

35,476 pounds of dry kibble and 18,545 cans of wet food were distributed by our Pet Panty to Boone County pet parents in need.

These successes are huge! And they all happen with your help—either as a foster, adopter, donor or volunteer. Thank you for supporting our mission!!!

Pawsitively yours,
The Volunteers, Board and Staff of 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

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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.)