



Fort Wayne Animal Care & Control

Helping People - Helping Animals

Thomas Henry
Mayor

A Division of Public Safety Serving the City of Fort Wayne

Our mission is based on public health and safety, animal welfare, and education.



Make a difference for animals with a planned giving will or bequest. Tax ID/EIN: 35-6001029

It's easy to join our email club
Text
FWACC
to 22828 to get started
*message & data rates may apply

Follow us on Twitter:
@FWAnimalControl

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www.facebook.com/FWACC

If you are already plugged in, share our pages with your friends!

LEARNING VALUABLE LESSONS



Cory Fagg, Zookeeper Fort Wayne Children's Zoo with Jelani, 18 years old resident Giraffe, he is 16.5ft tall and 2500lb, his head is 250lb!

On my first day working in the Education Department at Fort Wayne Animal Care and Control (FWACC) I had no idea of the impact that we could make in children's lives and how much we could learn from them.

The Education Department consists of a supervisor and two part-time assistants. Our mission is to reach a multitude of children and adults with our shelter's safety messages of bite prevention, responsible and compassionate pet care, and the prevention of pet overpopulation, animal cruelty, and neglect.

We offer scheduled tours to classrooms, scout troops, and small private groups. While interacting with the kids we are oftentimes shocked by some of their responses. One child asked, "Why are all dogs mean?" And when asked how to be a responsible pet owner, a little girl responded, "Don't put your dog in a box and leave it in the middle of the road?" Many kids have never had a positive experience with owning a pet; we consider it our responsibility to challenge that perception. Seeing a scared child excitedly reach out to properly greet an adoption dog or hearing their happy giggles when a kitten

starts purring as they pet it is as rewarding for us as it is for those we are teaching.

Adult education is accomplished through public seminars, tours, media, newsletters, in-house video productions, public service announcements, and community outreach, including events.

Our staff and resources are limited; therefore, fund-raising is also a task of our department in order to support the distribution of our educational messages. KIND news, a publication produced five times per year by the Humane Society of the United States, is 'gifted' from FWACC to over 14,000 students in Allen County through the cooperation of teachers and area school systems. We

also have the daily responsibility of promoting adoptable animals through local newspaper(s), television, and the shelter's website. We are so fortunate to be a part of such a supportive community.

Our Animal Care Teens program (A.C.T.) provides exposure to careers in animal-related professions to area youth twice per month during the school year in our education center. Several graduates from the A.C.T. program have pursued careers in animal related fields. Dr. Stresemann, a veterinarian at Northeast Indiana Veterinary Emergency & Specialty Hospital, participated in the Explorer (now known as A.C.T.) program. Dr. Stresemann graduated with a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from Purdue University in 2006. Dr. Michelle Hendrickson graduated from Purdue University School of Veterinary Medicine in 2012. She has always loved animals, and discovered she wanted to be a veterinarian while being involved in FWACC's Explorer program during high

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Our Mission:

Guided by the humane ethic and livability interests within our neighborhoods, the mission of Fort Wayne Animal Care & Control is to ensure public health and safety as well as prevent pet overpopulation, animal neglect, and animal cruelty through education, rescue, and law enforcement.

Renew your pet registration online. Fast, easy and convenient:
www.fwacc.org

ANIMAL CARE & CONTROL

3020 Hillegas Rd
Fort Wayne IN 46808
Business Office (260) 427-1244
Fax (260) 427-5514
www.fwacc.org

ADOPTION OFFICE:

427-5502

BUSINESS HOURS:

11 a.m.-5:30 p.m. weekdays
and until 7 p.m. Wednesday

ADOPTION HOURS:

12 p.m.-5:30 p.m. Tuesday-Friday
and until 7 p.m. Wednesday

Also open for adoptions the first and third Saturday of each month from 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

Animal Control Officer Assistance:
(260) 427-1244

Monday-Friday 9 a.m.-8 p.m.
After 8 p.m. and on weekends and holidays, call (260) 449-3000 for office assistance.

Emergencies:
(260) 449-3000
1 a.m.-6 a.m.

LEARNING VALUABLE LESSONS

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school. Both veterinarians contract with FWACC to perform spay/neuter surgeries on our adoption animals.

“Working with animals has been my lifelong dream. With the help of the Animal Care Teen program my eyes were opened to a multitude of jobs related to working with animals, as well as jobs you wouldn’t think of. With this newfound knowledge I was able to adjust my course; I graduated from Purdue in December 2015 with a degree in animal science. For now I work at the Zoo and live here in Fort Wayne. Without this program I really don’t think that I would have been able to focus my mind on what I wanted to do with my dream, career, or school.”

*- Cory Fagg, Animal Care Teen 2007-2011, A.C.T.
Vice President 2009-'10 and President of A.C.T. 2010-'11*

Every week a child or group of children brings in donations to help the animals. Some give up their birthday presents, asking guests to bring gifts for the animals, others ask friends, neighbors or local businesses to help with their cause. Some have even had fundraisers in the form of a garage sale or bake sale to earn funds for animals in need. Large or small, each donation has made a difference. Working with the students and young children has given us all a new perspective. It has taught us that no one is too young to make an impact.

Thanks to our donors, dedicated pet owners and their children along with everyday concerned citizens, we spread our messages of safety, positive pet relationships and compassion for all.

WISH LIST

If you are looking for a worthy service project for a club or if you are a pet lover willing to lend a hand, the following list of items is much needed for our department. Fort Wayne Animal Care & Control takes in over 12,000 animals per year, and the items on this list are not provided for by tax payer dollars. Any donation is immensely appreciated by staff, volunteers and, of course, our animals.

Canned food (puppy, kitten, dog, & cat)

Timothy Hay for our small animal friends

Scoopable cat litter

Peanut Butter (creamy style any brand /no xylitol)

Puppy Pads

Forever stamps

Ask where your financial donations can be directed to help the animals in our care!



RETURNING LOST PETS HOME

Of the many services our staff facilitates at Fort Wayne Animal Care & Control, returning lost pets to their owners is one of the most gratifying. While lost pets arrive daily, our department traces identification of every pet that is picked up or enters our shelter. If one of our officers finds a pet running at large, we are able to notify an owner immediately if that pet is wearing appropriate identification. Our officer will take it directly to its' home without it ever having to enter the shelter. If someone has lost a pet, we require them to come in to fill out a lost report and look for their pet in person; after all, collars can be removed and microchips can be missed. When a pet is turned in as a stray, our department will scan for a microchip and check tags for ownership information.

Keep your pets identification current! All dogs and cats within the City of Fort Wayne are required to wear a city pet registration tag for identification. City pet registrations are only \$5 annually for pets that are spayed or neutered and \$30 for a lifetime tag. It is very important that you keep your information with us current. Fort Wayne Animal Care & Control also offers microchips to the public for only \$15 with proof of rabies and an owner I.D.

We want to keep your pets safe at home, but should they get away, we want to be able to return them to you safely and as quickly as possible. Current identification will allow us to do just that!

Chi-Chi, reported missing over a year ago, reunited with her owner thanks to her microchip.



FINDERS KEEPERS?

Many people find pets roaming and never give it a second thought. Others find them and immediately think: "This poor creature must need a home, a family and a warm place to stay". A pet left to roam is not safe. It could become sick or injured, get attacked by indigenous wildlife or worse! The truth is a domesticated animal (cat or dog) on the loose is likely lost. It may have darted out the door when the family went out to start the grill for dinner, or slid out the open gate when the child ran to the bus stop. The escaped pet is terribly missed and loved by their family. So what SHOULD you do if you have found a pet? Here are some simple steps you can take to help reunite lost pets with their families:

- Bring the pet to Fort Wayne Animal Care & Control within 48 hours of finding to have the pet scanned for a microchip and to file a FOUND report.

If the pet has identification, we can contact the owner and get the pet home right away! If the pet is not

wearing identification or the I.D. information is not traceable, you have a few options as the finder.

You may choose to hold the animal in your own home. If no one comes forward to claim the pet within 30-days, you can become the legal owner. You can also choose to leave the pet with Fort Wayne Animal Care & Control. This will allow the owner 3-business days to come in and claim their pet.

- (After reporting you found a pet) Post the found pet on Lost Cats or Lost Dogs of Fort Wayne on Facebook and other social media to spread the word that you have this pet in your possession or that it has been taken to Fort Wayne Animal Care & Control.

Everyone loves their pets and if everyone takes responsibility, our pets can be kept safely at home or returned to home as quickly as possible.

ALL ACCESS PASS

Fort Wayne Animal Care & Control (FWACC) is very unique in its set up. We are a municipal, law enforcement, all access shelter. What that means is that our doors are open to any type of animal that is brought to us including various species, all forms of wildlife, pocket pets such as hamsters and guinea pigs, dogs, cats, ferrets, rabbits and many other animals. Whether sick, injured, or healthy, FWACC's doors are open to receive them. We cannot deny any animal for any reason. Our city tax payer dollars function for food, water, and shelter – the basics in animal care. Donor dollars provide all of the feel-good extras it takes to keep our animals healthy, happy and safe and, very importantly, adoptable! If you visit FWACC, you'll see that all of the animals in our care have toys, blankets and even enrichment items such as rawhide chews. Our volunteer dog walkers arrive daily, harness, collar and leash- ready to be sure our dogs get the appropriate amount of exercise. Pets that enter with medical needs get the care they so desperately need, all thanks to donations brought in from our supportive friends. We are even able to provide specialized training and tools for our staff to increase their ability to help the animals in our care. Donor dollars help with our enforcement, volunteer, humane education, adoption, and medical fund. Donations even help animals in more dire need through our Angel Fund. It provides help for pets that may need a surgical procedure or other intervention to become healthy enough to place into a rescue, transfer to a partner shelter or place into our adoption program.

Donor Dollars are protected by our city ordinance assuring top of the line care for homeless pets in our

community, giving them their next best chance at life and a family that cares!

All money received by the Department of Animal Control through donations, gifts, bequests or devises shall be payable to the city controller and deposited into a dedicated animal care fund to be used to promote the safe and humane treatment of animals in the city and county, to pay for any reasonable expenses incurred promoting the proper care, treatment and sterilization of animals and education the public regarding the same. No expenditure may be made from the dedicated animal care fund unless first approved by a majority of the Animal Control Commissioners. The expenditure of funds from the dedicated animal care fund shall be subject to all state and local appropriation and purchasing requirements. Any funds donated for a specific purpose shall be used only consistent with the donor's specific request.



FORT WAYNE ANIMAL CARE & CONTROL COMMISSION:

A lot of Fort Wayne Animal Care and Control's success comes from what goes on behind the scenes, and that includes the service of the Animal Care and Control Commission, a citizen's advisory group originated to represent the interests of the community with regard to the shelter's activities.

The Commission is comprised of a five-member board: Two seats are appointed by the mayor and three are City Council appointments; all positions are three-year terms, and board members serve on a volunteer basis. Members meet monthly with the management staff of the shelter.

The purpose of the Commission is two-fold: 1) Direct the use of the donation based dollars in the Animal Care fund 2) Serve as an advisory board to the Director of Fort Wayne Animal Care and Control on procedures pertaining to the operation of the shelter. The goals of the Commission are to reduce the number of animals

processed through the Shelter, reduce animal related problems in the community, and educate the public on the responsibilities of pet ownership and how to properly care for a pet; these goals serve not only the Shelter but the community as well. Often important projects, such as the Shelter's ever-growing volunteer program, Pick-Your-Price Adoption fee and the annual Christmas Open House which generates much-needed donations, professional staff training, care items for animals, and others are possible because of the Animal Care and Control Commission.

The Fort Wayne Animal Care and Control Commission is dedicated to continued positive, forward thinking progress in shelter operations and projects, which allows staff to better care for our animals and better serve the public. The Commission and Fort Wayne Animal Care and Control work hand-in-hand to help our Shelter be the best it can be!

AVOID A TRIP TO COURT

Sometimes, something as innocent as a cuddly, lovable dog or cat can land people in court. It's not uncommon for someone to forget to get the yearly vaccinations and pet registration tag required for all city dogs and cats. It can happen to any pet owner.

On the surface, it might look as if someone is in court for not purchasing a city pet registration tag. Failure to spay or neuter a dog or cat that was picked up for repeatedly running through the neighborhood can also be a ticket to court.

Many citations are void of compliance because once the pet owner takes care of the circumstances of the ticket and notifies the shelter, the ticket is void and fines go away.

So how then do people end up in court over pet registration tags or other violations of city law? According to shelter officials it happens because of three scenarios:

- The pet owner ignores the ticket
- The pet owner gives away the animal and thinks the ticket goes away
- The pet owner fails to call FWACC before the date specified on the ticket

It's certainly easier to comply than to pay the penalties. Any confusion can be cleared up with a simple phone call to FWACC.

Without a doubt pet ownership can be a joy, but it comes with work and responsibility. Cleaning up after them, daily walks, scooping the litterbox, grooming, the cost of yearly vaccinations, spay or neuter surgery, an obedience class, preventative medicines, a registration tag and a microchip come at a price. Pets simply need us to be responsible and, in return, their unconditional love and companionship makes it worth the cost and the effort.

COMMUNITY CAT PROGRAM - SOPHISTICATED STRAYS, A NEW WAY OF THINKING.

In 2014, Fort Wayne Animal Care & Control, H.O.P.E. for Animals and the Allen County SPCA formed a coalition, teaming up to decrease feline euthanasia of unowned, feral cats called The Community Cat Program.

The goal is to diminish the overwhelming stray cat population through spay and neuter programming. Prior to 2014, FWACC, as a public safety agency, had no other option, but to euthanize "feral" cats that came into the shelter. There was no other possible outcome, no one wanted to adopt an unfriendly cat and the City Ordinance did not allow for free-roaming or stray, unowned cats.

Citizens would live-trap feral populations and bring them, one at a time to FWACC where no owner would come to claim them and behavior made them unadoptable. Although removing cats and euthanizing them temporarily reduced the outdoor cat populations, two things were happening: intact survivors continued to breed, and other cats moved into the now-available areas. A phenomenon we now know as the vacuum effect.

A change in city ordinance making it 'ok' for unowned cats to roam free allowed for this progressive community cat program to take root.

Thousands of cat's lives have been saved by our three organizations working together. Here's how it works: Cats that enter the shelter with no identification and from a known address or cross street location may become a community cat. For the shelter, this means that unowned cats no longer have to sit in the shelter, we assess their health immediately and if healthy, can transport to H.O.P.E. for Animals for the spay or neuter surgery, rabies vaccination, ear-tip, and microchip, all of the procedures are done while under anesthesia. Then our coalition partner, the Allen County SPCA, will return the cat to its known address.

The efforts of our Community Cat Program are creating healthier outdoor cat populations. All of which were there prior to the pro-

gram, but now means they will not be contributing to the hundreds of unwanted litters that enter FWACC annually and are easily identifiable from a distance as community cats, due to the ear-tip.

As for our indoor cuddly kitties, the rules haven't changed. Keep identification on your owned cat and have it microchipped for a small fee of \$15 at Fort Wayne Animal Care & Control. You will need proof of rabies and a legal form of identification. If you are a city resident you will also need to purchase a registration tag. For an altered cat, it is \$5 for an annual or \$30 for a lifetime tag, a small price to pay for the safety and assurance that your owned cat will make it home safely. For more information about Community Cats and how you can help save lives, visit our website at www.fwacc.org and click on the Community Cat Program link.



Community Cats

These cats are free-roaming un-owned cats

- microchipped (to the area they were from)
- rabies vaccinated
- spayed or neutered
- Ear-tipped for visual identification





VOLUNTEER TO WALK THE WALK

*Volunteer Rebecca Gremaux with Bo
(1 year old lab mix) and Mr. Magoo
(1- year old dachshund) both adopted
from FWACC*



In my ten year experience as a volunteer at Fort Wayne Animal Care and Control, I am continually impressed with the level of care and professionalism that is evident every day. I don't think that most people in Fort Wayne realize how profoundly lucky we are to have this shelter serving our community. Except that it isn't luck, it was innovative thinking and planning. FWACC has been recognized as one of the finest in the country because of its approach to donation, volunteering, adoption and animal policing.

I began volunteering after I retired because I have always felt I wanted to give back to my community. Since I have a connection with animals, I chose FWACC. I began volunteering a few hours a week giving adoption dogs a bath. I quickly found myself looking for more ways to help out because as anyone who volunteers knows, the need is always greater than the resources. The more I learn, the more impressed I am with the quality, integrity, and dedication of those who do this work for our community. They are constantly working to improve their knowledge and ability to provide the best care for the animals they are charged to serve. In my ten years I've witnessed a dramatic change in the numbers of animals taken in, the numbers adopted and the numbers euthanized. This change did not come about by just doing the status quo. It came about by educating the public, changing policies and supporting external organizations to address the challenges of pet over-population. FWACC has always been about innovation and providing the best care and service to this community.

Recently FWACC was asked to support another local community by accepting 26 dogs that were living in

undesirable conditions. Accepting that many animals at once would be challenging at any time of the year, but the weeks before the Fourth of July made it a critical situation. All these animals needed to be medically and temperamentally evaluated. They needed to be spayed and neutered, as well as other medically necessary procedures. Just the amount of laundry that was required to care for these animals was huge. Every part of this organization was stressed to the max. Whether staff or volunteer, everyone stepped up to the task. By the 4th of July, when the intake of animals naturally goes up due to their fear of the fireworks, most of those animals were either adopted or sent to other rescue organizations. I was so impressed to see how everyone, including the community at large, stepped up to make sure that these animals were given a second chance. The Fort Wayne community really did their part by donating food and funds and by opening their homes to many of these animals. The resources are always less than the need. I'm proud to be part of a community that cares and acts on that caring.

My journey as a volunteer here has taken many different twist and turns. I've had many different jobs. I've even approached the staff with ideas of my own when I saw a need not fulfilled or an opportunity where I could do more. I have been encouraged to demonstrate my ability to create and maintain my program. Working with the staff, we've been able to create a summer program for teens. It gives them lots of great experience working with the animals, doing service and learning what animal rescue is really about.

FWACC ADOPTION PROGRAM PROVIDES A GLIMMER OF HOPE FOR SECOND

When animals enter into the adoption program at FWACC they are given a second chance at having a new life. While in the program the animals are not only cared for but are approached with compassion and love to help them overcome their past. We provide comfort, rest, and refuge with the opportunity to find a new home. The adoption program at FWACC represents hope. Every day an animal goes home is a victory not only for the animals but for the teamwork it takes to make that happen. Prince's story illustrates this success and how so many people come together to make a difference in the life of one young dog.

One cold day in February, a frail grey and white dog was carried into our building by Officer Hull, one of our animal control officers. Officer Hull had been called out by the Fort Wayne Police Department after discovering him in a basement. The mere sight of Prince was shocking. We had to question, "How was this dog still clinging to life?" The word skinny could not begin to describe the physical appearance of this undernourished dog named Prince. At a mere 34 pounds this large structured dog was unable to walk or stand simply due to lack of strength. As we learned the details it became more apparent his will to live overcame his circumstances. Prince lived in a dark, concrete basement and was fed rations of canned vegetables.

Upon initial exam in the shelter, his critical medical state was apparent. Each bone was well defined as his body was left with no choice but to consume muscle tissue. Unfortunately for Prince his road to recovery was about to become longer. The Animal Care staff began to recognize signs of distress consistent with a foreign object in the digestive track. Prince was transferred to Northeast Indiana Veterinary Emergency and Specialty Hospital (NIVES) for emergency surgery. Dr. Rebecca Essig was the surgeon who took on the medical challenge of performing the procedure on an already critical patient. It was a long shot for Prince, but he had already overcome so much already, we had to attempt to save him.

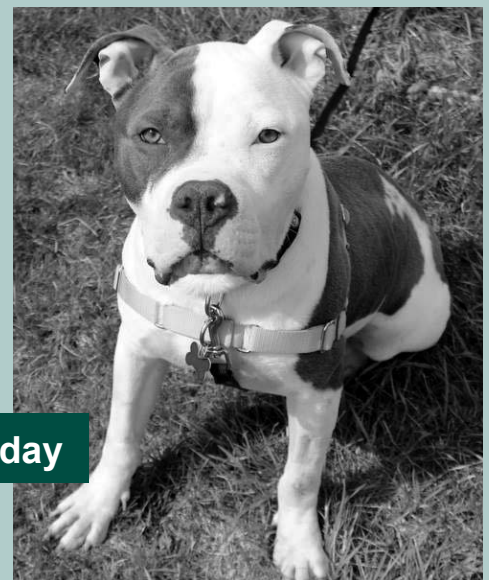
It became apparent during surgery Prince had turned to other objects to satisfy his hunger pains. Several socks were removed from his digestive system along with other various materials. This type of extensive surgery can be difficult for a healthy dog let alone a dog that had other medical concerns. Now there was nothing left to do but wait to see if his fragile body was strong enough to overcome yet another obstacle. Prince

stayed in the Intensive Care Unit at NIVES for several days. Lying in his kennel, he would look up at the staff with his big blue eyes searching for a friend. He easily became a favorite with his loving demeanor. It's a wonder how an animal that has been through so much by the hand of a human could still remain open to loving them.

Prince represents the glimmer of hope that remains alive among dreadful circumstances. He has now gained over thirty pounds and has been adopted into a loving home. The road to recovery will not be smoothly paved as he is now faced with the challenge of learning how to be a dog. We are thankful for the opportunity to help dogs like Prince and for the families willing to adopt.



Prince in March



Prince Today

**Today, Tomorrow, Forever...
Won't you share in the
power of saving lives?**



We Put Our Heart and Soul into the care of homeless, stray, neglected and surrendered animals...

**YOU can too
when you ADD
A "Yes Paws"
Clause to your
will and leave a
lasting legacy!**



Your Endowment can provide:

- Medical care for injured animals
- Special food for sick and underweight animals
- Daily support for pet adoptions
- Funding for spay neuter initiatives
- Foster care for animal rehabilitation
- Backing for animal transports between partner agencies

Fort Wayne Animal Care & Control

3020 Hillegas Road, Fort Wayne, IN 46808

Leave a Legacy Today by calling 260-427-1244

Or visit our website: www.fwacc.org

(click wish list for more ways to help)

Planned giving plus contributions throughout the year from caring donors play a major role in the help that shelter animals receive.