

The Pet Dispatch



The Official Newsletter of Bond County Humane Society
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Happy Tails

Stories of recent happy adopted endings.



Kell (shortened from Keller) is an 11-12 year old, blind Shih Tzu who was found wandering Greenville. When a couple found her she was matted and had a skin infection. We didn't have room in the dog kennels for Kell, so a neighbor of the couple who found her was

willing to foster Kell in her home. Kell was with them from September 2008 until she was adopted February 2009 through the Purina Pets for Seniors program. The man who adopted her writes to say: "Kell is very smart and a quick study. She had me

trained in no time.... If you remember that day at PetSmart (Valentine's Day) there was little hesitation on my part and I have not looked back since. Kell and I were in the right place at the right time. Thanks for taking her in and caring for her until we were united."

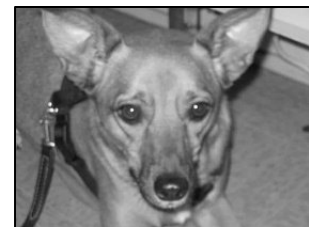
Dennis and Rachel,

We received your phone message last Friday. Thanks for taking the time to tell us that you enjoyed the Christmas card and photo. It means a lot to us to knowing that there are people like you that appreciate things like that.

Emma is really settling in as a member of our family. She and Piper are getting along better now. She really looks forward to her walks every day and absolutely LOVES Frisbee. After that, she is just content laying around the house. (Especially near Mommy so she can get rubbed!)

You will never believe what Mike is building. It's a 4 Doggie Kennel/Entertainment Center out of solid oak. The base will be 4 kennels with the TV and shelving etc up above. I will have to send you a pic when it is complete. It's our very own design!!

You guys have a Merry Christmas and Best Wishes for 2009.
Mike, Cindy, Piper, Abby, Tanner, and Emma



Emma is one of a litter of six puppies who were surrendered to BCHS from another shelter to avoid being euthanized. She was adopted when she was about three months old but returned to BCHS less than two years later because the owners moved and could not take Emma

with them. Emma spent time in a foster home and was fearful when placed in new environments and situations. And then the right family came along. The new adopters, Mike & Cindy Lotz,

came to the 5th Annual Paws-In-The-Park event. They had previously adopted Emma's sister, Abby, at about the same time Emma was adopted the first time. They saw Emma and decided to add her to their family of three other dogs.

2008 ADOPTIONS

72 kittens/cats
49 puppies/dogs

Autumn was a stray, a Domestic Short Hair cat brought into BCHS. Her new family writes: "I just wanted to drop you a quick note to let you know that Autumn is doing great. We adopted



her at the Adopt-a-pet Day at the Petco in Fairview Heights. She is very loving and friendly. She has adapted to our house and our golden retriever puppy very well. Thanks again for a good adoption experience. -Don and Nicole"

Announcements and News

Low-Cost Spay/Neuter Program Delivers and Grows

City feral cat colony reduced

I am Doris Rench, a Vice President with Bond County Humane Society, and I am very proud to be responsible for administration of our low-cost spay/neuter program. We have awesome programs to assist Bond county residents and residents of surrounding counties with reducing the expense of spaying and neutering cats and dogs. The scope of our spay/neuter programs include pet owners with companion cats and/or dogs, people who feed stray or free roaming cats and feral cat colonies. Special pricing is also available for families that are considered low income.

The spay/neuter program is funded through the generosity of several organizations. Some of these organizations are: Build-A-Bear Workshop Bear Hugs Foundation, PetCo and PetSmart Charities to name a few. Without this funding we would not be able to offer the programs we have available.

We have established cooperative working relationships with local Greenville veterinarians and the Animal Protective League (APL) Spay/Neuter Clinic in Springfield. With the veterinarian resources available to us we are able to offer a low cost solution for spay/neuter. The local veterinarians are typically used to provide surgeries on companion animals. The Animal Protective League is used for our free roaming/feral cat spay/neuter program. For those of you who are asking the question - What is a feral cat? It is a cat that has never been touched by humans. They can be very vicious and dangerous because of their fearfulness of being captured.

We do transports once a month to the Animal Protective League. The cats must be in wire crates or traps to minimize the danger to the veterinarian staff when they are trying to prepare the cats for surgery. The people who bring the cats to us are required to bring the cats to the BCHS office on a designated day by 7:00 a.m. The cats are transported to APL for surgery and are returned the next day to BCHS for pick up. The feral cat/free roaming cat program helps tremendously to cut down on the unwanted litters of kittens.

In January BCHS assisted Greenville Regional Hospital in a TNR (Trap, Neuter, Return) program at the Hospital property. BCHS volunteers set the live traps, checked the traps that night and if a cat was in the trap it was placed out of the weather for pick up the next morning. The cats were transported to APL for spaying/neutering and then returned the next day. When they were returned an employee of the hospital took the cats to his farm to live.

In the year of 2008 we were able to be a part of spaying/neutering 201 cats and 187 dogs. That may not seem like a lot to you, but let's do the math. If you take the minimum amount of puppies and kittens in a small litter - let's use 4 - and multiply that number by 187 for dogs and 201 for cats, if these animals had not been spayed or neutered, they could have had a total of 1552 unwanted descendents in the year of 2008.

Please spread the word about spay/neuter. It is a much better solution than euthanasia. Currently it is estimated 4-6 million animals are euthanized every year because there isn't enough room in shelters and there aren't enough homes for all of them.

If you have a friend, neighbor or an acquaintance that you believe is in need of financial assistance to have animals altered, by all means have them call our office at (618) 664-4068 for information. Someone will be glad to answer questions about any of our programs.

Awareness Walk Highlights Link Between Animal Abuse and Domestic Violence

Bond County Humane Society received an invitation from the Third Judicial Circuit Family Violence Prevention Council to participate in their Awareness Walk and to "Say NO! to Domestic Violence." On the 17th of October a group of 6 BCHS members joined the community's citizens on a short walk across Greenville downtown to the Bond County Courthouse. At the Courthouse, speakers from local law enforcement agencies presented a program aimed at creating an awareness of the crime of Domestic Violence, its signs, prevention and how to assist those suspected of suffering. One sign BCHS knows all too well: studies have documented a connection between domestic violence abusers and animal abuse.

Valentine Cat Special Promotion

In honor of Valentine's Day, from February 9-13, volunteers Nancy Machmer and Janice Perkins decorated the cat shelter with hearts and cat pictures while BCHS offered a reduced adoption fee for any adult cat. Kittens rarely need Cupid's help, but cats over one year old often stay in shelters longer. As a result of the promotion, two cats found their forever homes. Congratulations on your idea, efforts and success, Nancy and Janice! Originally meant to be a one-time special, this February's achievement could lead to another Valentine Cat occasion next year. But do not wait! Your future feline companions need their loving homes today.



BCHS Web Site Unveils Its New Look

The brand new, custom design at www.bondcohs.petfinder.com went live in April 2009. Check it out online for current news and adoptable pets, event calendar dates, program information, happy tails, easy and creative ways to contribute, and so many helpful resources.

Fundraising Events

Alco's Cute Baby Photo Contest

BCHS was named the recipient of proceeds donated by people voting for the Cutest Baby Contest held at the Greenville Alco store. Thanks to everyone that voted for the Cutest Baby and helped the animals at BCHS.



Pennies for Puppies



Greenville Elementary School kids really broke the piggy banks this year during the March 'Pennies For Puppies' campaign, bringing in \$300 dollars more than last year. Thanks to Scott Pasley, Principal, for his support for the Pennies for Puppies campaign, all the students for their contributions, and Dee Pruitt for counting pennies.

Second Annual "Big" Danny Brassel Memorial Benefit Show & Dinner - March 29, 2009

The Second Annual Danny Brassel Memorial Benefit Concert was bigger and better than the first even with the untimely dusting of snow the night before the event. This year's event brought in

\$1,000 more than the year before. This event is held in memory of Danny Brassel who was an animal lover and big supporter of BCHS. Danny & Cheryl Gaddy organized several fundraisers for BCHS because they wanted to help. After Danny's death from cancer, Elmo Linton, a friend of Danny's and a name synonymous with great entertainment, recruited multiple bands and entertainers to donate their time for a benefit show in Danny's memory. All the proceeds from the show and food sales are donated to BCHS. This year there were also 20 gift baskets available for purchase through a silent auction. Here are some photos taken that day.



Rummage Sale - April 4, 2009

The 5th Annual Rummage Sale was held at the Presbyterian Church on Idler Lane. Another great success. Thanks to Dee Pruitt, Event Chairperson, and her family for all their hard work making this event happen. Unfortunately, we will need a new Event Chairperson for the Rummage Sale next year. If you know someone who would be willing to organize and run next year's rummage sale please have them call our office at (618) 664-4068. This event provides a big part of our annual fundraising income.

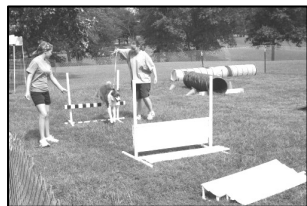
Spaghetti Dinner – May 15, 2009

Italy meets the Midwest! The Spaghetti and all food was wonderful thanks to Doris Rench, Event Chairperson, and all the volunteers that either helped serve or provided desserts. Every year the number of meals served has increased. The Spaghetti Dinner has become an expected event and the people who come always come back for more.

Upcoming Events

September 12, 2009 – 6th Annual Paws-In-The Park. The event held every year at Patriot's Park in Greenville starts with the popular "Wag-N-Walk" at 9:00 a.m. The walker that collects the most money from sponsors will win a grand prize. Registration for the numerous dog contests start at 11:00 a.m. We have made some exciting changes and additions to the list of contests for 2009. The Prettiest Pure Breed will be split into two groups: Large (40+ pounds) and Small (less than 40 pounds). A new contest "Dog/Owner Look-A-Like" has been added. The Agility Course opens at 11:00 a.m. and stays open until the end of the day. Micro-chipping for \$15 for your feline or canine friend will start at 1:00 PM. You can have a photo taken of your canine or human family members for \$5.00. Food and drink is available for purchase. Mark September 12 on your calendar and join us for a fun filled day.

Here is a sampling of photos from the 5th Annual event in 2008:



December 2009 – Pictures with Santa Claws at PetCo and PetSmart.

In Loving Memory

Honor a departed loved one, animal or human, with a donation to helping the animals at BCHS. Recent donations have been received in memory of...

Margaret Taylor
Eileen McDonald
Kristen Unterbrink
Michael, beloved cat of Rebecca Clausen
Jim, beloved dog of R. Randall Neumann
Abbie, beloved Jack Russell Terrier of Gail Harnetiaux
Mary Jane, beloved dog of Dena Westerfield
Dakota, beloved parrot of Cindy Thomas-Griffith

In Celebration

Celebrate a special event by making a donation to BCHS. Recent donations have been received in celebration of...

The Katie & Steve Weiss Family by Stephanie & Shani Weiss

Memorialize a relative, friend or animal companion with a plaque on Bond County Humane Society's Memory Wall. The name will be inscribed on a brass plate mounted on the wall in our office. Your donation will create a lasting tribute to your loved one and help extend the lives of animals in BCHS's care. There are three donation categories of plaques: Animal Friends (\$25 - \$100) Animal Lovers (\$101 - \$500) Animal Sponsors (\$501 and up).

Volunteer Corner

Volunteer Appreciation Party

On Sunday, November 2, BCHS President, Rachel Hundsdorfer, and her husband Dennis held a picnic at their property. There were 34 volunteers and their families in attendance. Certificates and awards for volunteerism were presented to those volunteers donating 100 or more hours:



Al Warren, Martha Grossheim, Kay Anna Warthen, Mary Kasmak, Jackie Gruner, Melissa Meller, Danielle Parker, Janice Perkins, Stephanie Sizemore, Mary Wade, Elizabeth Deeba, Mallori Harris, Brittany Jackson and Stephanie Weiss.

Member Corner

News and Announcements for the Members of BCHS

Current BCHS Officers

President: Rachel Hundsdorfer

Secretary: Dee Pruitt

Treasurer: Rebecca Obermark

Vice President - Public Relations: Dennis Hundsdorfer

Vice President - Membership: Nancy Machmer

Vice President - Spay/Neuter: Doris Rench

Vice President - Grants: Vickie Cook

Open Officer Positions: VP - Volunteers; VP - Fundraising; VP - Communications

Membership Meetings

Membership meetings are held the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 7:30 PM at the Free Methodist Gateway Conference Center on Chicago St. in Greenville. All members are welcome!

A Letter From Nancy Machmer:

Being a member of any group is easy... just pay your dues and join, and if that is all you want to do, that is great, because your contribution is a huge help. BCHS Membership, however, can be much more than that. You can see pictures of the cats and dogs currently available for adoption on our web site www.bondcohs.petfinder.com. All these little guys need attention and love; and if you have time to spend, come play with them, or better yet adopt one, as they all need a family of their own.

We need volunteers to help take care of our facilities and come to adoption events on Saturdays, and support our various fund raisers during the year. We are all volunteers and sometimes we are stretched very thin to get it all done. A stray is brought in and somehow we make room for the animal, and we give it a name and it becomes one of our Humane Society Family until we can find a family it can go home with. We believe strongly in the spay and neuter program we offer and all our animals are spayed or neutered before they are offered for adoption. So much more could be said, but, we stop to pet a dog or hold a cat, and we think to ourselves it is all worth it... one more life saved, one more day behind us, and one more dog or cat right around the corner waiting to come to our door. We are there for them and for you, and it all revolves around love for animals.

If you have not yet joined our group, we invite you to do so. If you want to become active, let us know. (618) 664-4068.

Available, Adorable, Adoptable!

Please help us find homes for these wonderful animals, and visit our website for more information and more adoptable pets. It is also possible to Sponsor-A-Pet in our shelter/foster system even if you cannot actually adopt one right now. Visit an online pet profile and click on the banner that says: 'Sponsor Me'. www.bondcohs.petfinder.com



Star is a Domestic Long Hair cat, primarily black with a gorgeous white chest patch. She has been with BCHS since she and her littermates were 4 weeks old and Star is now almost 2 years old. Star is a very special cat, gives unconditional love, and she should be adopted to a family without other cats.

Buttons is approximately 1-1/2 years old and a Tabby/White Domestic Short Hair Mix. She was abandoned by her owners. Buttons is very calm, affectionate and gets along with other cats.



Al is approximately 2 years old. He is a Siamese Flame Point mix. Al was surrendered to BCHS along with 15 other cats by a man who had 32 cats in a motel room. Al was not very sociable when he came to BCHS, but with some TLC from BCHS volunteers Al has

become quite sociable. Al's rear legs are a little unsteady when he walks and runs. A vet examined Al and took x-rays of his back, hips and legs and cannot find a reason for his condition other than that's just the way he is. It doesn't keep him from doing anything he wants. Al gets along well with other cats. In fact, he is the favorite cat in the room to be groomed by the other cats.

Wish List

Volunteers to help with animal care, clerical tasks and fundraising events

Foster Homes

Office Supplies

Bleach

Paper Towels

Pets For Seniors

BCHS offers special adoption discounts for seniors 60 years or older. Senior adopters receive a \$50 discount off of adoption fees. This discount is made available through the Purina Pets For Seniors Program. Standard adoption fees usually start from \$90 for cats and \$100 for dogs and include veterinary testing and treatment, routine shots, alteration and state-mandated micro-chipping.

A big thank you is extended to the contributing staff of the Summer 2009 issue of The Pet Dispatch.

Membership is all about belonging, but it's also about doing! Please consider becoming a member of Bond County Humane Society. If you know someone who is a pet lover and has not yet joined, ask them to do so...

Annual Membership Form:

Yes, I would like to become a member of the Bond County Humane Society:

- \$1,000.00 Lifetime
- \$100.00 Corporation / Organization
- \$50.00 Family
- \$30.00 Individual
- \$5.00 Senior (60 and older) / High School or College Student
- Other (Donation only, non-member)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Home Phone: (____) _____ Work Phone (____) _____

Email Address: _____

Please mail check or money order payable to: Bond County Humane Society