



NEWS FROM THE ADOPTION FRONT

The Lucky Ones

Jasmine and her kittens probably had a somewhat difficult life to begin with. Their owner, an elderly widower, had been letting his cats breed indiscriminately. Neighbors didn't want to guess how many cats had been born on that property or what had happened to them all. Some thought that Animal Control had been called periodically and had taken untold numbers of cats away.

When the widower passed away, his numerous cats were left with no caretaker. Frightened and starving, many had begun to stray away from the house. Several had been hit and killed by cars.

At this point a concerned neighbor, who had seen a relative of the deceased man trying to chase the remaining animals off the property, called ARPO for help.

When we got to the scene, we learned several more cats had died mysteriously. It became apparent that these had been poisoned. A pair of newly arrived relations, horrified at the circumstance of these

Indy Feral
www.indyferal.org

beleaguered animals, advised us that the first relative claimed to have taken "a bunch of" the cats to the municipal pound, but that they were skeptical. Perhaps "the pound" was this man's euphemism for kitty heaven, because some retired neighbors next door had been watching and they knew what we suspected - that he was lying.

We quickly realized that this reconnaissance mission was going to have to turn tactical if we were going to save these cats.

ARPO is not set up for emergency situations, so we called our friends from Indy Feral. Alex Reynolds, Indy Feral's cat-catching answer to the Crocodile Hunter, was at the sight almost immediately. In all, we rescued five terrified felines - a tom, a mama cat, and three of her kittens. Sadly, the fourth kitten we caught didn't make it.

The emergency vet confirmed our fears that she was just too far gone and we knew that the only humane thing to do was to put an end to her suffering. It was clearly the right decision, but it was a truly wretched moment nonetheless.

After she died, we named her Kaiya - a Japanese word that means "forgiveness." As we returned to the scene, we surmised that the little population that we had saved was only a fragment of the original colony. How many had been lost in the road, or gone to the so-called "pound" through one uncaring man's cruel designs, we could only

guess. We heard reports of others, and are still trying to round them up as I write, but we think they got wise and scattered. As such, we are faced with the mortality of these anonymous cats, the few that we found and buried and the many whose fate is unknown.

As for the lucky ones, the tom, a very friendly but malnourished orange tabby, is recuperating at Alex's house and will be ready for adoption through ARPO very soon; Jasmine, the mama cat and her three kittens, Lucy, Ming and Mia, are in loving foster care recovering from their ordeal.

Check out our adoptables page where you can read more about these gorgeous girls and find out how Ming got her name.

Ultimately, it will be the happy endings to these sad stories that will make it worth living through the ugliness of these events. Meanwhile, we can celebrate the little victories won by rescue groups working together.

Thanks again to Alex and Linda at Indy Feral for their aid and support!

Check out www.indyferal.org to learn more about what they do.

Wish List

- Office space
- Foster homes
- Volunteers for the Fundraising Committee
- Cleaning supplies, (antibacterial multi-purpose cleaner, paper towels)
- Premium puppy, dog, kitten and cat food
- Copy paper
- Stamps
- Dog and cat carriers and crates

Items may be dropped off at Castleton Petsmart on Saturdays from 12-4 p.m., or contact us to arrange a drop-off time.

Upcoming Events

An Evening of Giving: A special evening of private shopping at Keystone at the Crossing. Every store and restaurant will be open and many will feature special sales and activities. There will be entertainment as well as dozens of door prizes. Tickets for 1 admission are \$8. Of the tickets that we sell, \$6 will go to ARPO and \$2 will go to the Simon Youth Foundation. Please call or e-mail us if you are interested in purchasing tickets.

Home for the Holidays: Please join us in participating in this city-wide adoption drive starting at Thanksgiving and lasting through New Year's Day. Traditionally shelters and rescue groups have discouraged adoptions around the holidays even though many families are looking for a new pet at this time of the year. If they cannot adopt from us then they'll turn to the pet stores and breeders to find their companions. Help us to place more of our pets in loving homes for the holidays. Volunteer and spread the word!

Picture Your Pet with Santa Claws: Please join us at Petsmart to get your pet's picture taken with Santa Claws! For just \$9.95 you will get 2 polaroid photos, an exclusive holiday ornament and a holiday frame for your pictures. We will be at the College Park Petsmart on December 14th from 11-5 and the Castleton Petsmart on December 15th, 21st and 22nd from 11-5.

Pet Food Pantry

As you may know, during the school year ARPO supports a Pet Food Pantry at an IPS school. Donated food goes home with the kids on the bus for their own pets. If you would like to donate food to the pantry please put any dry food in ziplock bags. Canned food, treats and toys are also very welcome and much appreciated by the under privileged pets and their families. Items may be dropped off at Castleton Petsmart on Saturdays from 12-4 p.m., or contact us to arrange a drop-off time.

Letter To the Editor

From **Jim Atterholt**, State Representative, House District

I would like to praise the members of the Alliance for Responsible Pet Ownership for promoting civic involvement in your last newsletter. As a state representative, I hear from hundreds, maybe thousands, of citizens each year, whether by mail, phone calls or e-mails. Some of this correspondence deals with problems involving state agencies or other branches of government, but often citizens contact me to share an opinion about a particular issue. For example, in this year's legislative session, I worked to pass Spirit's Bill into law. This law, named for a local dog who survived after being horrifically burned with a firecracker, makes extreme cruelty to an animal a Class D felony instead of a Class A misdemeanor. Without the outpouring of support from citizens, this bill might have never made it to both the House and Senate for a vote.

Receiving correspondence from citizens is extremely important for the success of an issue. Personal, handwritten or typed letters are the most effective form of communication, and if an elected official receives five or more letters from individuals on the same subject matter, that issue will most likely become a higher priority. However, mass-reproduced, photocopied, generic letters are not as effective as putting your thoughts in your own words. An issue we must now begin working on is encouraging our local city and county officials to implement low-cost spay and neuter programs. I share the concerns of the folks in the animal-rights community who believe that more citizens would have their pets spayed or neutered if it were less costly.

Get to know your local officials, and let them know that humanely controlling the animal population is important to you. Thanks to all who have contacted me about Spirit's Bill and other issues important to our community.



Horizon Printing Company

"Service is Our Product"

Full Service Printing
Were printing is more the ink on paper

1618 Shelby Street
Indianapolis, IN 46203
317-635-9748
fax 317-685-0650

hpc@horizonprinting.com

www.horizonprinting.com



ARPO SPECIAL
Free Large Cupcake

with any purchase | Expires November 30, 2002
Limit one per visit | Valid only in Indianapolis

844 Broad Ripple Avenue | (317) 466-1646

A Very Lucky Hank!

Hank was in a litter of three puppies that came from Fortville. He was adopted in May 2001 and celebrated his first birthday in style thanks to his family Matt, Ann and Carter Sifferlen!



Personal Ad

Meet Fuzzy, he's a single, neutered, heinz 57 mix puppy that's looking for just the right family. He's 9 months old and crate trained. He enjoys playing with other dogs and taking naps in the sun. He is the comedian of his litter and loves children. Call Fuzzy for a good time 774-8292!



Special Thanks

We'd like to thank the following people and business' for all of their support and generosity so far this year:

To Mr. and Mrs. Steve Riha who rescued Brownie after he wandered away from his foster home. He has since been adopted to a loving permanent home!

To everyone who helped out and donated items for the August Garage Sale. You made it a record breaking sale for us! We raised a whopping \$1663.42 for the animals.

To Joyce Yake and the Earl's who donated paper for the newsletter.

To Suzanne Lincoln, graphic artist, for designing the Trunk Show postcard invitations that were a big hit.

To the Northside Animal Hospital, Fort Harrison Veterinarians, Allisonville Animal Hospital, Parkside Animal Hospital, Best Friends Pet Resort and Salon in Casteton, and Dapper Dog Grooming.

To Andrew Duncan for organizing and putting together the ARPO Newsletter.

And last but not least, everyone who bought and sold Yankee Candles. Another great fundraiser thanks to you! We raised \$ 1807.70.

Welcome New Board Members

Congratulations and Welcome to the Board of Directors for 2002-2003:

President: Trish Main

Vice President: Stephanie Clancy

Secretary: Shannon Bahler

Treasurer: Linda Coyne

Web site Coordinator: Debbie Haynes

Volunteer Coordinator: Shirley Thompson

Foster Coordinator: Kelley Hinkle

Fundraising Co-chairs: Laura Gonzo and Alicia Freed

Memorials

Thank you to Mary Kroll for donations in memory of Josh for their good friends Jerry and Feather Le Seure and also in memory of Oreo for the Cooke family in Carpentersville.

Animal Rescue - People Rescue

Who is Rescuing Who?

by Warren G. Patitz

“There is little that separates humans from other sentient beings – we all feel pain, we all feel joy, we all deeply crave to be alive and live freely, we all share this planet together.”

Mahatma Gandhi

“Not to hurt our brethren is our first duty to them, but to stop there is not enough. We have a higher mission...to be of service to them, where ever they require it.”

St. Francis of Assisi

Dave Wintz of Animal Care and Control put the little Shih Tsu into my wife’s care for bathing and grooming to become more attractive for adoption. This little guy smelled so bad that you needed a handkerchief over your nose on the drive home with the windows down, otherwise your nausea center would be triggered. His hair was long, matted and dirty. You couldn’t see his face. When I first saw him and experienced the aroma I called him “Stinky”. Still, he wagged his tail.

He had every right to not be the excitable puppy you would expect for his approximate age. During careful bathing and grooming, Karen discovered that he had an injured eye and the eyelid, injured as well, had grown to what was left of the bad eye. When he blinked, the whole eyeball would move with the lid. (Remember, this guy wags his tail. Can you imagine that?) “Stinky” became “Winky.” He melted right into our heart and there was no way he was going anywhere but here.

One-eyed, stinky dogs don’t make it very far on the road of life in this world. Frankly, over 12 million medically healthy dogs/year don’t make it very far down the road of life in our culture.

We adopted “Mr. Winkster” (I like to call him that sometimes) and took him to veterinarians Drs. Shari and Rick Lyons at Zionsville Country Veterinary Clinic. For the great care they gave “Mr. Winkster” (and *all* of our animals for that matter) we are most grateful. Their skills and kindness are blessings. They worked in tandem and removed the injured eye, cleaned out the infection, removed three sebaceous cysts and made his testicles disappear. “Voila!” He was put on antibiotics and in 48 hours was a new guy, in need of nutrition, but “good to go,” further down the road into our life.

There is a poem that, for the life of me I thought I had saved somewhere in a file, but of course I can’t find it now. It must be with one of my socks. It is entitled, “The Man in the Looking Glass”. It is about a fellow looking at his reflection in a mirror and what and how he sees and thinks of himself, ...about how everyone thinks he’s a great guy. The “gist” of the poem is that what *really* matters is what the fellow staring *back* at him really sees.

We have all noticed what happens when we shift our focus when looking into a reflecting surface like a pane of glass or the eyes (or *eye* as the case may be) of another living creature. We see either beyond the surface to the other side and/or we see our own reflection. A somewhat tangible analogy is that authorities in animal behavior tell us that much of our companion animals’ behavior is a reflection, or compliment, of our own inadvertent and unconscious reinforcement.

Why people acquire animals is open to discussion, but I suspect a reason is that we want to reconnect with a place inside ourselves that is primal, a place close to the source of our being. Animals live in “the moment” and the magic of that place is the magnet that attracts us. Our perception of the creatures that share the earth with us determines how we treat them. The translation of *how* we treat them reflects where we are in ourselves and where we see ourselves in the universe.

*I have a certain fascination for the backward spelling of **d-o-g**.*

Why people get into animal welfare is open to discussion, also. I suspect that we don't have a choice because it is part of the journey of discovering ourselves. I have observed that some people use the animal welfare arena as a theatre for satisfying a need for "power" and "control" by making life and death decisions based on a narrow criterion with little, if any, affection for the mission. Others are involved because we perhaps see the animal's plight as a reflection of failed accountability due to humane ignorance. By extending the safety net of "rescuing" the animal to avoid homelessness or death we perhaps also relieve the collective cultural guilt that we might have regarding the throwaway mentality rehearsed with God's creatures. In summary, it boils down to genuine caring.

The **National Council On Pet Population and Study** reports that 40% of dogs will be rehomed or surrendered within 6 months, 60% within one year, and 66% by the second year. 94% of dogs and 81% of cats surrendered to shelters are more than 4 months of age. The problem of unwanted companion animals is no longer just an issue of pet overpopulation; it is also an issue of a failed relationship or "broken bond" between a human and their companion animal. Animals in homes for 4-6 months have already had some degree of bonding. Successful relationships, whether with another person or another animal, are based on mutual *respect* and *trust* and these are cultivated in the context of each individual's spiritual growth and development.

Realizing our efforts to improve the journey for companion animals on the road of life is relative to the character of the reflection that looks back at us because this is a mutual journey. In a more generalized context the success of an animal welfare organization or rescue group is relative to the character of the individuals who represent that organization. Careless decisions regarding life and death and withholding simple medical treatment embarrasses the spirit in the journey and threatens the fabric of opportunity at the expense of the animals which it is suppose to serve. Listening, we hear the animals' voice within the one heart that we all share. When a façade of sincerity exists, it is as obvious as a person changing clothes in a glass house. The community witness is on alert and the mission of the agency is compromised. Only a genuine leader with clear vision will recognize and correct such a travesty by breathing *integrity* into the sails. A definition of *integrity* that I embrace is: "Doing what is right when no one is looking."

Whenever Winky has his blind side to me, I am reminded that what he sees is not limited to his one eye and I do not escape his inner vision.

I am infinitely grateful for the privilege the animals offer us to visit the moment in time where they live and may we be thoughtful to acknowledge the reflection looking back at us to acknowledge, "who is rescuing who?"

PS: Winky and I have a little routine where I tell him, "Hey! You look suspicious. I need to 'search you.' Put your paws on the wall." He puts his paws on the wall, (and gets a little treat) and I proceed to gently 'pat down' his tiny body. I then say, "OK, you're clean" and he gets down, looking at me with his one eye, waiting to be held 'under suspicion' again.

Biography

Warren G. Patitz was introduced to "dog training" in 1980 and has been offering training instruction in the Indianapolis area for over 20 years. He grew to realize that training occurs between *our* ears, listening with an open heart, being humble and that much of the dog's behavior is a reflection of our own doing.

Warren's interest is to help people and dogs enjoy a relationship of mutual *trust* and *respect* and to reduce the number of abandoned and relinquished animals.

BECOME A MEMBER

The Alliance for Responsible Pet Ownership (ARPO) invites you to join us in our fight against animal neglect, abandonment, and unwanted companion animals by becoming an ARPO member today. Dues are tax deductible (consult your tax advisor). Thank you for your support!



(317) 774-8292
www.adoptarpo.org
adoptarpo@hotmail.com

Annual Membership (check one)

Individual: \$35.00 _____

Family: \$65.00 _____

Corporate: \$100.00 _____

Donation: \$_____ _____

I have enclosed a check _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

E-Mail: _____

Please mail to: Alliance for Responsible Pet Ownership, P.O. Box 6385, Fishers, IN 46038



P.O. Box 6385, Fishers, IN 46038