



1048 S 325 E
Pierceton, IN 46562
574-267-3008
awlwarsaw.com
info@awlwarsaw.com



Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Milford, IN
Permit No. 2

ANIMAL WELFARE LEAGUE Happy Tails

Winter 2022

Sheltering is a community issue

The Animal Welfare League is a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization serving all of Kosciusko County

A Message from our Executive Director



Tonya Blanchard

2022 has been a whirl wind for all of us, especial for your friends at AWL. I know you have heard me say a hundred times ... "I want AWL to be a staple of our community." We were blessed this year with invitation after invitation to be present for Kosciusko Community Events, Business Fundraisers, and Town Service Groups.

We continue to work with Court Ordered Community Service. We have had over 1,000 hours of Community Service help in 2022. The additional help means so much to our Furry Friends, with additional walks and snuggle time, and one on one time.

Our number one challenge remains the same, and that is to pay off/ pay down the mortgage on our beautiful facility. This means getting highly creative with fundraising. If you or your business has an interest or ideas for fundraising, we are always available to discuss your ideas and would appreciate any input.

We currently have 390 pets in our care. We took in 161 pets in November, which is a record high for a one-month period. We had three hoarding cases in November that added to our normal intake numbers and overtime hours. I have a very enthusiastic/passionate team along with community support that sticks together when times are rough and tough, and November was tough. We were blessed with donation after donation of food (dog, cat, and kitten), blankets. It is amazing what the community can do when we reach out and ask for help.

\$100 Challenge, for 100 People

Join the Animal Welfare Leagues \$100 challenge. One hundred people at \$100. We have added an entire new facility for the cats of Kosciusko County. We are challenging you to help us keep them warm and keep their bowls full for the winter.

If you have adopted your best friend from AWL or had to re-home your best friend or surrendered a litter of kittens or puppies someone left at your door. If you are enjoying our social media and news articles. We challenge you to join our \$100 challenge.

1. Donate in person and grab a quick snuggle from one of our furry friends.
2. Mail your \$100 gift or call in a credit card gift.

We have tears of laughter and sorrow but at the end of the day it is all about LOVING THEM TO THE POINT THEY FORGET THEIR BROKENNESS.

We have finally created an Amazon Wish List that the public/our community can donate to! Here is the link: <https://a.co/8VZhbif>. See the list on page 2.

I want to Thank Kosciusko County for the support we have received thus far for 2022 and look forward to 2023. We have so much hope for the future and the remarkable things we are doing to continually improve the lives of those pets entrusted to our care with the support of our community

Gratefully,
Tonya Blanchard, Executive Director

After

AWL '22 Winter Newsletter Cat House Update

Before



Our Cat House remodel project has made progress over the summer and fall months. We have 2 new HVAC systems, new metal siding and metal roof, new windows and entry doors, and a load of electrical work done. We are still raising funds for new gutters and downspouts. We are in need of volunteers to help cut pass through holes in stainless steel cat kennels.

This will allow for cats to have twice as much space. Next, these kennels need to be moved into the Cat House, have bases built, and then mounted to the wall.

We do have quite a few cats already moved into the finished areas inside the Cat House. There are moms and their kittens, adult cats, and some in a quarantined area, because we are at maximum capacity both in our shelter and foster homes.

Watch for our Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting coming in spring of 2023.



- Purina Fancy Feast Kitten Dry food
- Purina Friskies Kitten Wet Can Cat Food
- Purina Fancy Feast Dry Cat Food, Filet Mignon Flavor With Real Seafood & Shrimp
- Purina Friskies Pate Wet Cat Food Variety Pack, Seafood & Chicken Pate Favorites - 5.5 Ounce (Pack of 40)
- Purina Friskies Party Mix Adult Cat Treats Extra Large Pouches
- SmartyKat Organic Catnip for Cats & Kittens

- Yeowww! Cat Catnip Made in USA
- PEDIGREE Chopped Ground Dinner Wet Dog Food
- Any Dry Dog food with no coloring or dyes is acceptable
- Dog Treats Any Brand Chicken Flavor /Grain Free
- TagME 6 FT Slip Lead Dog Leash for Puppy/ Small/Medium/ Large Dogs, 12 Colors, Reflective Strong Rope Slip Leash with Padded Handle, Durable No Pulling Pet Training Leash
- PoyPet No Pull Dog Harness, Reflective Vest Harness with 2 Leash Attachments and Easy Control Handle for Small Medium Large Dog
- Big Dog Harness No Pull Adjustable Pet Reflective Oxford Soft Vest for Large Dogs Easy Control Harness



Old Friends' Cottage

At the animal welfare league, it is our responsibility to care for surrendered, abandoned, stray, and neglected pets, regardless of their age. It can be hard for any pet to transition to the shelter environment, but senior animals seem to struggle the most. They have had an entire life full of experiences and are left with lots of memories of life before us.

Our goal here at the AWL is to properly care for all pet's needs, including their emotional well-being, until they can be placed in a forever home. We have made lots of changes to our shelter in the last few years to better serve our pets. Our cats now have the cat house, where they can roam freely and socialize with others. Our dogs have outdoor runs where they can be off leash to play with staff and volunteers. The one thing we are missing is a safe "get away" for our senior pets that may not be interested in anything other than lounging around.

We have created a plan for our current cat adoption room, once all cats are moved to the cat house. After we remove the kennels, we will renovate the room into our "Old Friends' Cottage." In this room you will find comfortable recliners, customize bedding, an entertainment set, and lots of plushy blankets. This may sound like the perfect break room for our staff, but it will be pre-occupied by our senior pets!

Though their stay with us is often brief, we want to make their stay as stress free as possible.

Shelter Buddies Literacy Program

Kids Reading Out Loud to Shelter Pets
All Kids Are Welcome!

This is such a special day for our fur babies to have one on one time!

3rd Saturday of each month 12-3
Animal Welfare League of Kosciusko County
1048 S 325 E, Pierceton, IN

We have a library of books to share.



Our Story Today

By John Lantz | Board President

This has been a pretty remarkable year for us despite some hurdles. It's been a challenging year financially and we are working hard to break even at year end despite inflation and increased costs. Right now, we are projecting that we will take in 300 plus additional pets over last year's total number. These pets all require food and shelter, vaccines, spay/neuter, microchips, plus additional healthcare for the sick ones. We're looking at roughly an additional \$90,000 to care for them.

Next year we will celebrate 25 years as a nonprofit organization and so we continue to remind everyone that Sheltering is a Community Issue. Our Board of Directors continues to grow and get stronger, providing the leadership needed to steer AWL through challenging times.

I can't say enough about our awesome Executive Director Tonya Blanchard and her exceptional efforts at the shelter. She goes above and beyond. Thank you, Tonya for all that you do!

I also want to recognize the amazing staff we have. They are passionate about their jobs and they work extremely hard for these shelter pets. Thank you for all your efforts!

You will read in this newsletter about our prestigious Touchstone Award. One of 5 animal shelters in the country to receive this award from Best Friends Animal Society. We are proud.

We have been working on a complete website overhaul and that process has been a bit of a nightmare, but we're getting closer and our efforts will pay off. We're also looking forward to sharing our second ever Annual Report in 2023. As I have said before, our mission with this report is to show gratitude, transparency, and trustworthiness, to our Kosciusko Community.

During this year we have been out in the community quite a bit. Our message is to show people how much we care for these pets' that are in need of forever homes. We are also sharing how much it takes to provide these services. So far, I have had 17 speaking engagements talking to councils, service organizations and clubs of all different ages. If you have an organization that I am able to come and share with, please email us at info@awlwarsaw.com.

I've been reaching out to local companies in Kosciusko County to organize one day employee pet food drives for our foster homes and shelter pets. If your company or organization would like to hold a one day "Stuff the Bus" event. Please contact us at info@awlwarsaw.com. We'll bring out our great looking short bus.

And last but certainly not least, I want to take this opportunity to thank Maureen Hall for all her hard work over the years writing and sending thousands of thank you cards out to our donors. Maureen has retired from these duties. Please accept our deepest thanks, Maureen! She is probably going to tan my hide for mentioning this, but I will take that risk.

We want to give our thanks and appreciation for all our donors, our foster homes, and our volunteers. We couldn't do it without your help. Thank you so much!

Respectfully,



John Lantz
Board President



Our thanks and appreciation to our Special Donors for giving us the funds to these fun graphics on our 2013 F350 short bus

ANIMAL WELFARE LEAGUE RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS AWARD

The Animal Welfare League of Kosciusko County has been awarded the 2022 Best Friends Animal Society Network Partner "Touchstone" award. This Lifesaving award was announced at the Best Friends Annual National Conference.

AWL was one of 5 shelters in the country, out of 3700, to receive this award. The 5 shelters that won were based on their intake size, for saving the lives of cats and dogs at an unprecedented rate and for using creative solutions to maximize lifesaving in their community.

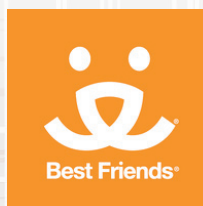
"Along with our Amazing Staff, Executive Director, and Board of Directors, we are committed to working for — and engaging with — our Kosciusko Community through educational programing, reuniting pets with their owners, a robust kitty fosters program and innovative adoption promotions. These are all key pieces of our lifesaving strategy for abandoned and unwanted pets from Kosciusko County." — AWL Leadership Team

The Animal Welfare League was selected for the Touchstone Award based on national shelter data and work from calendar year 2021. National, state, and

shelter level data can be found on the pet lifesaving dashboard published by Best Friends.

"It's incredible to see so many shelters around the nation taking dramatic steps to increase lifesaving," said Brent Toellner, senior director, national programs for Best Friends Animal Society. "Whether it be through new programming, progressive leadership or better collaborative partnerships, these groups are showing that lifesaving success is possible regardless of a shelter's size or location."

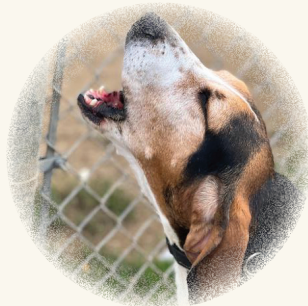
About Best Friends:



Best Friends Animal Society is a leading animal welfare organization working to end the killing of dogs and cats in America's shelters by 2025. Founded in 1984, Best Friends is a pioneer in the no-kill movement and has helped reduce the number of animals killed in shelters from an estimated 17 million per year to about 355,000. For more information, visit bestfriends.org.

GIVE THE GIFT OF A HAPPY LIFE

When you make a donation to AWL, you are contributing to the care and well-being of Kosciusko's homeless animals. Every donation makes a difference, regardless of size.



Enclosed is my gift of:

☐ \$15 ☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$ _____
(other amount)

☐ Utilities ☐ Vaccines ☐ Dog Collars and Leashes ☐ Other _____

☐ Please bill my credit card ☐ Check is enclosed _____

Credit Card # _____

Exp. Date: _____ CVC#: _____

Signature: _____



Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

Give online at awlwarsaw.com



Please cut out this form and mail to:

Animal Welfare League
P.O.Box 1906
Warsaw, IN 46581



Estate Planning

We often think of the Beneficiaries of our estate as loved ones. But a Beneficiary can be any person or entity you choose to leave money or assets to. This can include nonprofit organizations and charities. The Animal Welfare League of Kosciusko County is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization and are always very thankful to our wonderful donors.

Estate planning is an important way for those who have lived in a community to provide for its future. By entrusting gifts to the Animal Welfare League of Kosciusko County, donors can ensure that their contributions will be used wisely to address future needs of the "shelter" and that their personal legacies will be extended far beyond their lifetimes.

We serve the entire county and work faithfully to improve the lives of those pets entrusted to our care. Each pet receives any necessary medical care, is microchipped, and spay/neutered if required. Our staff works continuously to maintain a clean, healthy facility.

Our goal is to find every shelter pet a forever home. Donors help us carry out our mission. When pets are lost and brought to us, we work tirelessly to reunite them with their owners. In 2021 we reunited 214 pets with their families.

Our Shelter Pets thank you for considering us in your Estate Planning.

Please let us know if you would like us to come and speak to your company or organization.

HELP!

We are collecting email addresses and names to help us reduce the enormous mailing and printing costs for our newsletter. Also, to help us keep in touch on important shelter news and events.

We will not share your information - PROMISE!

Please send a **"please add me"** and **"your name"** email to Executive Director Tonya Blanchard, tonyab@awlwarsaw.com

Thank you soooooo much!

Shelter Hours:

Sun. and Mon. Closed, Tues.-Fri. 11:30 to 5:00, Sat., 11:30-4



PO Box 1906
Warsaw, IN 46581
574-267-3008
info@awlwarsaw.com
awlwarsaw.com

Executive Director:
Tonya Blanchard

Board Members
President: John Lantz
Vice President: Kris Underwood
Treasurer: Dan Woods
Secretary: Kierstan Yates

AWL Directors
Dr. Carla Carlton, DVM
John Hall
Lauren Klusman
Liz Harkness
Megan McAndrews
Tom Tearney