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ANIMAL WELFARE LEAGUE Happy Tails

Spring 2023



**Come and visit
The Cat House**



"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

***There is a whisper in the air.....They're coming!
Are you ready? It won't be long!***

If you have female cats and or teenage kittens hanging around your house, bring them in, lock your doors, bar up those windows, and get your spay appointments made.

Yes, It's Kitty Palooza time. Spring is here and moms and kittens are arriving daily. I know they are cute, but they multiply quicker than we can find them homes.

We are doing our part within AWL by spay and neutering every cat or kitten that is adopted. If you need spay/neuter resources, please give us a call and we can offer some low-cost resources.

In December, we moved forward with the Cat House just a bit slower than we planned. All our cats and kittens are currently all snuggled in their very own peaceful place to call home until they find their fur-ever homes. The Cat House provides them with lots of sunshine, free roaming time with the other kitty tenants, and NO barking dogs. The Cat House is currently housing over 70 stress free cats and kittens. I welcome you to come out for a visit and kitty snuggle.

Spring is the time of year we also reach out for foster families. A foster family is a family or person that is willing to take on the responsibility of opening a room in their home for a mom waiting for her precious cargo to arrive or a mom that has delivered her kittens in our care. We have experienced fosters willing to offer you help and support. A foster gives the kittens time away from the shelter for socialization and one on one time with their mother. We like the kittens to be held and snuggled and this all comes from within the foster families. Fostering is about a 2-10-week commitment if the kittens are newborn. If you and your family are interested in more information, please contact the office, or stop in for a tutorial.

Animal Welfare League could not be what it is today without a passionate staff, our foster team, volunteers and a supportive board of directors.

Gratefully,

Tonya Blanchard, Executive Director

April Microchip Events

Every Saturday in April from 11:30 to 3:30 -
\$30.00 first pet, \$20 each additional pet

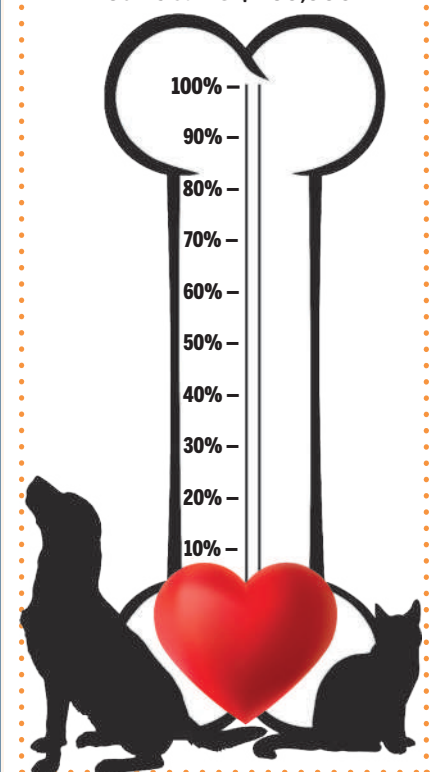
**Microchipping - \$30.00 - Microchipping
when reclaiming a pet - \$15.00**

Many have been misled to believe a microchip is a way to track a pet, but this is not completely true. The microchip has to be scanned by a veterinarian, animal shelter, or any animal care provider that has the correct equipment. The microchip is roughly the size of a grain of rice, and is placed under the skin in between your pets' shoulders. This is an easy access area on your pet and can be conveniently reached with the scanner. If the microchip is registered to the owner, the pet professional can look up the microchip number and receive the needed information to get the pet back home RIGHT AWAY! If the microchip is not registered to the owner's name, it makes this process much more difficult and can result in a pet staying in the shelter for longer than necessary. It is important to always keep your pet's microchip up to date, so we can get them back home right away if they end up lost.

We are starting a new visual aid to track our "mortgage" fundraising.

It will be a slow process but we want to share this progress with our community.

Our Goal is \$460,000



Shelter Statistics

January 1 - December 31, 2022



749
**Total Spayed/
Neutered Surgeries**
Cats - 473 total
Dogs - 276 total



\$92,540.42
**Total Animal Care
Expenses for 2022**



1664
Total Intakes
Cats - 940
Dogs - 724



112
Total Returns
Cats - 31
Dogs - 81



1017
Total Adopted
Cats - 609
Dogs - 408



201
**Total Reclaimed
by Owners**
Cats - 16
Dogs - 185



67
**Total Died
in Shelter**
Cats - 62
Dogs - 5



38
Total Euthanized
Cats - 29
Dogs - 9



63
**Total Pets
Transferred Out**
Cats - 34
Dogs - 29



1478
Total Pets Out

*These are sick or injured
pets that despite our
medical efforts and
veterinary care, just
could not be saved.*

*These are pets that
were brought to us
terribly injured,
terminally ill, or very
aggressive having
attacked another pet
or a person.*

NEW ADOPTION PRICES

When it comes to animals, it is hard to put a price on them. How can you look at such a sweet face and say exactly how much they are "worth?" We have decided to change some of our adoption fees based on the amount of care they receive while in our care. When calculating how much we spend per pet, it racks up quite the bill! We vaccinate, spay/neuter, microchip, and provide flea and tick preventive along with heartworm prevention so all of our pets are happy and healthy when they are welcomed into their new homes. Since we depend on our adoption fees to be put back towards our current residents, we have had to adjust the adoption fees, so we can continue to provide for all the pets in our care. Let's take a look at those new adoption fees:

Nursery Nanny Kittens/Puppies also have a security deposit of \$150 along with the adoption fee, to ensure they are going to attend all their scheduled medical appointments with us! If all appointments are attended within the specific time frame, the deposit will be refunded at the time of finalizing the adoption.

Rodent Ranger Cats are those who came from outdoor living conditions, and would prefer to stay outdoors. These kitties make great working cats if you have a mice problem! We assure you they receive the same treatments as any other pet in our care, but sometimes these outdoor cats do not acclimate to indoor life well. Though we would prefer all our pets stay indoors, we can recognize that not all cats want this kind of lifestyle.

AWL'S NEW ADOPTION PRICES	
EST. APRIL 2023	
PRICELIST AND SPECIAL OFFER	
KITTENS	\$105
ADULT CATS	\$95
SENIOR CATS	\$65
LONG TERM CATS	\$25
RODENT RANGERS	\$25
PUPPIES	\$180
ADULT DOGS	\$150
SENIOR DOGS	\$75
LONG TERM DOGS	\$75
OPEN HOURS TUES - FRI 11:30 - 5 SAT 11:30 - 4	
1048 S 325 E PIERCETON AWLWARSAW.COM	

Shelter Buddies Literacy Program



Kids' Reading Out Loud to Shelter Pets

3rd Saturday of each month

Noon to 3:00

at the AWL Shelter

BUSINESSES!

Sponsor a pallet of Wood Fuel Pellets - \$240.00
40 lb. Bags from Tractor Supply company.
(We use these as cat litter)

A pallet lasts us just under a month.

SKU: 319516399



"Sheltering is a Community Issue"

By John Lantz | Board President

Friends of the Shelter,

You should know by now how I love to talk about our animal shelter. I am constantly challenged by family and friends **NOT** to talk about AWL when I go anywhere. **That's impossible!** Dinners out, holidays, I just cannot help myself.



I'm relatively new to our Kosciusko community and animal shelter life. Although this is my 8th year in the nonprofit world after my retirement, I'm just shy of 2 years with AWL and shelter pets. I have learned so much from Tonya and her staff, our Board Members, and those connected with us in community. I learn every day.

Please take a look at our impressive 2022 shelter stats on page two. We had a **97.7% save rate for the second year in a row**. Last year we also experienced a **28.3% increase** in companion pet intakes totaling 1664 pets. This increase added **367 additional pets** over our 2021 intakes. **We were overwhelmed at times.**

Some National Pet Rescue Organizations are calling 2022 a "crisis year" for animal shelters across the country. Shelters were overcrowded, understaffed, and underfunded. Some shelters were euthanizing to save costs and make room. **We do not euthanize for space.**

I want to shift for a minute to puppy mills in Indiana. Humane Fort Wayne CEO Jessica Henry-Johnson recently published a great article on puppy mills as the new "enemy" for nonprofit shelters. Many puppy resellers are marketing themselves as nonprofits. Others sell these puppies at swap meets and retail pet stores. Looking at statistics from the Humane Society of the US, Indiana has the **4th highest number of puppy mills in the nation**. Indiana is 2nd in the nation for breeder licenses. Our state has **24 out of the 100 worst ranked puppy mills in the entire country**. Indiana Lawmakers are trying to prohibit local governments from making their own decisions to regulate retail sales of puppy mill pets.

Last year we finished just over two thousand dollars on the positive side financially. It's been a struggle for us. We are still paying down our \$460,000 mortgage. From 2020 to 2021 our expenses rose by only +3.3%. From 2021 to 2022 our expenses decreased by -1.1%. When we look at other Indiana counties with similar populations, their nonprofit shelters all out spent us last year by \$124,430 up to \$441,447 more dollars. We are always happy to share our financials with you and we publish them in our annual report for anyone to review. Transparency.

AWL is a hidden gem that provides crucial services **for our entire Kosciusko County** and we need your support! We have 498 nonprofits in our county of just over 80,000 people according to our Secretary of State. We are all asking for the same donation dollars. Animal welfare donations are in the very bottom 3% of how individuals donate according to 2021 Giving USA report. We have our work cut out for us.

"Sheltering is a Community Issue".

Bring your kids, bring your family, bring your friends, to visit us. Walk dogs or socialize cats, it's all needed. You will have a life changing experience to see these shelter pets being taken care of by Tonya and her team. Their work is so important and **we need your help!**

With sincere gratitude,



John Lantz
Board President

Heartworm in Dogs: What's the Big Deal?

We are three months into the 2023 year, and the Animal Welfare League already has FIVE heartworm positive dogs in our care. We will see an increase in the number of heartworm positive dogs as the months get warmer, so this is just the beginning for us.

Each dog that enters our shelter receives a heartworm test at the time of their intake, and is given flea/tick and heartworm preventative whether or not they are heartworm positive.

Heartworm disease is caused by a parasitic worm that inhabits the heart, lungs and associated major vessels, where they cause damage that could be fatal if left untreated. Heartworms can grow and reproduce in an infected dog, so hundreds of worms could be in these dog's hearts and major organs before we find out they are heartworm positive. Can you imagine the amount of pain these dogs could be in?

HEARTWORM DISEASE IS ONLY SPREAD THROUGH MOSQUITOES

When a dog in our care tests positive for heartworm, they are scheduled to go to our vet on the next possible vet run to receive treatment for three days in a row. This treatment process is extremely painful for the dogs, but it is a crucial and major step in getting rid of the parasitic worms in their heart. After they arrive back at our facility, they are on cage rest for 30 days, where the only time they get to leave their kennel is to take a few, quick potty breaks throughout the day. It is imperative that the dog's activity is restricted because increased activity is associated with risk of complications, such as difficulty breathing or death. Even after the 30 days of straight cage rest, the infected dogs will be on restricted activity for another 30 days to ensure the amount of risk is limited as much as possible.

*** These heartworm positive dogs can either spend their 60 days of restricted activity within our shelter, surrounded by the stress of the other barking dogs day in and day out, or they can go into a foster home where they can receive comfort, silence and love as they recover from this disease.**

But we struggle to find foster homes for heartworm positive dogs, resulting in 80% of our infected dogs spending their entire painful treatment cycle in the confines of our shelter.

Want To Help Our Heartworm Positive Dogs But Can't Foster?

- The AWL has what we call our Hope Fund, where we put any undesignated donations into to help cover the costs of heartworm treatments for our dogs. You can donate here through our website, over the phone or in person at our facility.
- The three heartworm treatments are \$300 for each heartworm dog. A donation of \$300 or any amount will help cover these costs!
- Can't donate? SPREAD THE WORD! We want our dogs to recover in a home versus in our shelter.

You Read All This - Now What?

Please give your pets flea/tick & heartworm preventative every 30-45 days (depending on type of preventative) in order to avoid this disease. There are several oral, topical and injectable preventatives out there, as well as flea collars, that can help protect your pet.

To learn more about heartworm disease, consult your local veterinarian or research it on your own (using reliable sources of course).

Educate your friends and family! Our pets are a part of our family and they deserve the best - including the homeless pets here at our shelter.

SAVE *The* DATE



August is National Dog Month the Universal Birthday for Shelter Dogs on August 1st. This special day was created to honor the pups in our lives who were adopted or rescued. We are hosting the inaugural AWL Birthday Bash and donor dinner on August 5, 2023.

AWL Birthday Bash

Where: Animal Welfare League

Address: 1048 325 E, Pierceton, IN 46562

When: 12:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Donor and Sponsor Dinner

Where: Noa Noa Wood Grill

Address: 310 Eastlake Dr, Warsaw, IN 46580

When: 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Email for details: info@awlwarsaw.com



EVERYTHING MAJOR STARTS SMALL

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:

☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$ _____
(other amount)

☐ Electric Dryer ☐ Refrigerator ☐ Lab Cabinets ☐ 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



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YOU ♥ THEM**

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Our special "THANKS" to our Warsaw

PET SMART

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AWL Officers

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
Savannah Shepherd
Tom Tearney

Executive Director:

Tonya Blanchard

Shelter Hours:

Sun. & Mon. Closed
Tues. through Fri.
11:30 am - 5:00 pm
Sat. 11:30 am - 4:00 pm

Wish list is on  **AWLeague**

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