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This month our **SPOTLIGHT** is on F.I.D.O. (Friends of Indianapolis Dogs Outside)...

During a F.I.D.O. neighborhood outreach day in a poor neighborhood of Indianapolis, we drove down the streets looking for chained dogs that could use some help. A volunteer discovered a young, thin, male pit bull tethered to a fence on a 4ft log-chain so short he could barely move. He was given no shelter despite the fact that it was the middle of winter. Being a pit bull with very short fur, he was in real danger if he was kept in that condition for very long. He also had sores on his feet from being forced to stand in mud and excrement.

Because the people living at this house appeared suspicious and potentially criminal, and F.I.D.O. has no legal authority to remove animals, we decided to contact IACC for emergency assistance. They responded and the dog was impounded. As it turned out, the owner had already been prohibited by IACC from ever owning animals again due to previous animal care and treatment violations. (cont'd next page).



...an all-volunteer animal advocacy group that helps people improve the quality of life for outside dogs. We focus on chained, neglected and abandoned dogs. Our mission is to help residents of Indianapolis find alternatives to continuous chaining as a method of dog containment while promoting spay/neuter and proper care and treatment.



F.I.D.O.'s target market is urban, low-income, higher crime neighborhoods of Indianapolis. Many people whom we help are not in a financial position to provide even basic supplies for their dogs. Many of the dogs that we help have never been to a vet, never received vaccinations and, heartbreakingly, spend most of their lives on chains. We inform people of low-cost options for spay/neuter and basic veterinary services. To help bridge our clients' financial gaps, F.I.D.O. may offer supplies to those who qualify.

Since F.I.D.O. doesn't have law enforcement authority, we work with Indianapolis Animal Care and Control (IACC). Through this partnership, animal control officers provide residents with information on F.I.D.O.; likewise, F.I.D.O. sometimes refers cases to IACC in situations of severe neglect or active suffering.

To help manage the growing need for pet-food subsidies for Indianapolis residents, in January 2010, F.I.D.O. partnered with IACC to establish the Indianapolis Dog & Cat Food Pantry. The pantry is located at 2600 S. Harding Street, operating the first and third Saturdays of the month from noon to 4pm (see our request for volunteers elsewhere in this newsletter).

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Other F.I.D.O. initiative accomplishments in 2010 included:

- Facilitated 9 Neighborhood Outreach events
- Completed 15 fencing projects
- Provided consulting assistance on anti-tethering to animal advocacy groups in neighboring Indiana counties
- Applied for ACC landscaping project grant and facilitated the event
- Established the Southeast Animal Care & Welfare task force

In addition to our accomplishments, we are proud to be a strong community partner and have participated in:

- Walking for Dreams 5k fund raiser
- Mutt Strut (hosted by HSI)
- Indianapolis Animal Welfare Alliance strategic planning (and currently hold a board seat)
- Rotary Club International resource fairs
- RCI corporate humane education fair
- Zionsville Doggy Daycare Dog Wash fund raiser
- Pitbull Education Rally (hosted by Indy Pit Crew)

And if all this isn't enough, we provide ongoing case management to help residents and dogs in need!

To request assistance or to volunteer, call (317) 221-1314. Voicemail is checked daily with calls returned within 48 hours. For urgent cases such as active suffering, concerned citizens should contact IACC at (317) 327-1397 or the Mayor's Action Center at (317) 327-4622.

Next Month's Spotlight: Humane Society of Indianapolis



The Rest of the Story . . .

The pooch, subsequently named Monty, was held at IACC until the legal proceedings with the owner had been completed. Then IACC released Monty to F.I.D.O. – actually, the same volunteer who discovered his plight in the first place rescued Monty out of IACC! She fostered Monty in her own home for several months, investing time and energy into training him and helping him adjust to life in a house with people and other animals.

The volunteer eventually placed Monty in a permanent home with a family who already has another pit bull. Monty gets along splendidly with the other dog. Their young son and Monty are extremely attached to each other. After a period of adjustment (i.e. breaking Monty of the habit of climbing onto counters and eating food from the cabinets) Monty has worked his way right into the hearts of all the family members and likely will be staying in this home for the duration.

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Calendar of Fundraisers/Events

May	<p>May 7: F.I.D.O. Food Pantry, 11:30am-4:00pm. Volunteers needed (www.fidoindy.org).</p> <p>May 14: Indy Pit Crew Community Pet Day. PuppyPalooza, Keenan-Stahl Boys & Girls Club, 1949 E. Troy Ave, 10am-1pm.</p> <p>May 14: F.I.D.O. Outreach, 11:00am-4:00pm. Volunteers needed (www.fidoindy.org).</p> <p>May 19: IMPD Southeast District Community Day 10am-2pm (Garfield Park), IACC.</p> <p>May 21: F.I.D.O. Food Pantry, 11:30am-4:00pm. Volunteers needed (www.fidoindy.org).</p> <p>May 22: Walking for Dreams 5k Family and Pet Walk at 2pm on the Downtown Canal. Benefits several nonprofit organizations, including F.I.D.O. and SNSI. Go to the FIDO home page where you can find a widget and start making pledges right now! Contact www.fidoindy.org or www.SpayNeuterServices.org for more information. You can also register for the walk at www.WalkingForDreams.org then get your family, friends and colleagues to sponsor your walk. Walkers who raise \$100 or more will receive a free Walking for Dreams t-shirt. Pets welcome!</p> <p>May 22: Cats Haven Adoption @ Speck's in Brownsburg 2-4pm</p>
June	<p>IndyFeral and Mike's Car Wash. Purchase your carwash coupons at www.indyferal.org.</p> <p>June 4: Indy Pit Crew Community Pet Day at Mary Rigg Neighborhood Center, 1920 W. Morris St, 10am-2pm.</p> <p>June 4: F.I.D.O. Food Pantry, 11:30am-4:00pm. Volunteers needed (www.fidoindy.org).</p> <p>June 4: June 9: IMPD Southwest District Community Day (Haughville Park), IACC.</p> <p>June 16: F.I.D.O. Food Pantry, 11:30am-4:00pm. Volunteers needed (www.fidoindy.org).</p> <p>June 19: Cats Haven Adoption @ Speck's in Brownsburg 2-4pm</p> <p>June 23: IMPD North District Community Day (Broad Ripple Park), IACC.</p> <p>June 25: F.I.D.O. Outreach, 11:00am-4:00pm. Volunteers needed (www.fidoindy.org).</p>
July	<p>July 9: Indy Pit Crew Community Pet Day at LeGore Boys & Girls Club, 5228 W. Minnesota St, 10am-1pm.</p> <p>July 17: Cats Haven Adoption @ Speck's in Brownsburg 2-4pm</p> <p>July 21-30: Marion County Fair, IACC adoptions.</p> <p>July 27: IMPD Northwest District Community Day (TBA), IACC.</p>
August	<p>August 4: IMPD Downtown District Community Day (City Market Plaza), IACC.</p> <p>August 6: Indy Pit Crew Community Pet Day. Location TBA.</p> <p>August 21: Cats Haven Adoption @ Speck's in Brownsburg 2-4pm</p> <p>August 27: Indy Pit Crew Community Pet Day. Location TBA.</p>

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September	<p>IndyFeral's Annual Mum Sale (www.indyferal.org).</p> <p>September 3: Miracle Mile Parade, IACC.</p> <p>September 18: Cats Haven Adoption @ Speck's in Brownsburg 2-4pm</p> <p>September 27: Indy Pit Crew Community Pet Day. Location TBA.</p>
October	<p>Pet Supplies Plus Fundraiser: Proud to Support IndyFeral (www.indyferal.org).</p> <p>October 1: Hair Ball 2011. Contact www.IndyHairBall.org to benefit SNSI.</p> <p>October 8: Indy Pit Crew Community Pet Day. Location TBA.</p> <p>October 16: Cats Haven Adoption @ Speck's in Brownsburg 2-4pm</p> <p>October 22: Indy Pit Crew Bully March, Indiana War Memorial.</p>
November	<p>November 9-13: Christmas Gift & Hobby Show, Indiana State Fairgrounds.</p> <p>November 12-13: Great Indy Pet Expo.</p> <p>November 20: Cats Haven Adoption @ Speck's in Brownsburg 2-4pm</p>



Are you into social networking? Don't forget – the Alliance has a new Facebook page that we will be updating daily with news, fun facts, what's new, etc. If you could please take a minute to sign in and "Like" us we'd really appreciate it! Also, feel free to share our link on your page so that we can get more people involved.

500 Animals in May!

A reminder of our goal to **ADOPT 500 ANIMALS** in May. Alliance Founding Member organizations are each supporting this initiative in a variety of ways.

We don't have to tell you that pet **adoption** is an inexpensive alternative to purchasing a pet from a store or breeder. It is also a way to spare an animal from living without the love and companionship of a family.



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Unfortunately, animal shelters are often associated with mixed-breed dogs. According to the national Humane Society, however, about one-fourth of all shelter dogs are purebred!

There are also many myths about adoption animals. Some people do not consider adopting from a pet shelter because they assume that animals end up there because of poor behavior. However, there are a number of reasons why pets arrive in a shelter, from losing their owner, to being abused and rescued.

SO SPREAD THE WORD . . . encourage everyone you know to open their homes to a new member of the family in May - and let us know about it!

Worth Repeating . . .

Volunteers are needed for the FIDO/Indy Feral operated food pantry located at Indianapolis Animal Care and Control on the first and third Saturday of every month from 12pm-4pm. (see our Calendar of Events for specific dates in May and June).

The food pantry works to prevent owner surrenders to local shelters by providing resources to struggling citizens and requires all patrons to spay/neuter their pets in order to receive assistance.

Scope of work: administrative tasks, sorting food, and general pantry set up. Volunteers may work any duration of time, but we generally are busiest when doors open at noon.

Contact Jessica Lifford at jessicalifford@gmail.com.

[FIDO's new phone number: 317-221-1314](tel:317-221-1314)



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Whole Foods Market supports our community:

Reusing your own bag now helps more than ever!

The Whole Foods Market campaign, One Dime At A Time, offers 10¢ per bag to customers who reuse their own bags. Customers can direct the cashier to donate the refund to a designated non-profit organization. Our very own Alliance member, F.I.D.O., is one of their chosen recipients from April 1 to June 30, 2011. Every dime makes a difference!

Locations:

1300 E. 86th St in Nora Plaza
Indianapolis

14598 Clay Terrace Blvd
Carmel



The lists are never completely filled, so we will continue these as a reminder:

F.I.D.O.:

- Kennel panels, gates, fasteners, fence posts
- Training crates (metal or plastic)
- Sturdy collars (medium)
- Leashes
- Flea treatment
- Straw
- Financial donations (for spay/neuter, vaccinations, and basic medical)

Contact www.fidoindy.org

IACC:

- Digital cameras
- Dry cat food
- Canned cat food/dog food
- New or used cat carriers
- New or used dog crates, any size
- Bleach
- Dish detergent

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- Laundry detergent
- Standard white legal envelopes
- Standard letter sized lined paper pads
- Pens
- AA batteries/AAA batteries
- Clip-boards
- New or gently used dog collars
- Cat and dog toys for kennel enrichment volunteers

Contact Darcie.Kurtz@indy.gov

Indy Pit Crew:

- Storage unit with adjustable shelves
- 18 gal Rubbermaid bins
- Paper towels
- Surgical gloves
- Dog treats
- Printer paper
- New or gently used leashes and collars
- Two portable DVD players
- Two syringes and needles

Contact recycleabull@indy.rr.com

IndyFeral:

- Yesterday's News Cat Litter
- 30-gallon trash bags
- Printer paper
- Paper towels
- Distilled water
- Volunteers to help at spay-day clinics or in the field

Contact www.indyferal.org

Cats Haven

- Purina Cat Chow (blue bag)
- Friskies canned food
- Litter (clay & scoopable)
- Bleach

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- Vinegar
- Paper towels
- Laundry detergent
- Baby wipes
- Postage stamps
- Gift cards (Petco, Petsmart, Pet Supplies Plus, Target, Wal-Mart, Meijer, Lowe's, Menard's, Home Depot)

Contact susan@pjfuzzypaws.com

Upcoming Editions

Our goal is to publish the first week of every month. To get your news included, please send your items to IAWAcommunication@gmail.com by the 15th of the month.



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