



New Albany Floyd County Animal Shelter News



www.nafcanimalshelter.org

March 2014

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Classifieds



Desmond
Lab Mix
2 Years Old
N. Male

I am 82lbs of pure fun and love. The beginning of my life was rather tough. Please show me what real love is all about!



Blain
DSH
2 Years Old
N. Male

I am a cat that likes things a certain way, my way. I don't like to be told what to do. As long as you don't force me, we will be just fine I am front declawed and hefty as well.

March 22-29, 2014
There will be a
BLACK OUT
at the  New Albany
Floyd County
Animal Control & Shelter
**Adoption fees for black animals
have been reduced \$10!**



There has been a BLACK OUT!

At the New Albany Animal Shelter, there has been a black out! Or at least it seems that way with the number of black animals that come into the shelter for adoption.

Black animals are often overlooked in shelters across the nation, because their personalities and facial expressions are not seen as easily and adopter's eyes are naturally drawn to lighter colored or more unique animals. When there are ten dogs and nine of them are mostly black, that tenth non black dog is more likely to go home first.

With this common occurrence, the length of time in the shelter only grows for black animals as the other different

colored animals find their forever homes. It's time to take a good look beyond their colors at these unique pets and fall in love!

From March 22nd through the 29th, all black (or mostly black) adoptable animals that are over 4lbs, will have their fees reduced by \$10! This would make your cat's adoption fee only \$10, and your dog's adoption fee only \$70!

All animals are current on vaccinations, microchipped, Felv/FIV or Heartworm tested negative, and spayed or neutered. Black animals want and need love too. Adopt one today and see that they are no different than any other color of pet!

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First Month After Your Dog Adoption

The first few days in your home are special and critical for a pet. Your new dog will be confused about where he or she is and what to expect from you. Setting up some clear structure with your family for your dog will be paramount in making as smooth a transition as possible.

Before you bring your friend home, you will want to prepare your home and family for what is to come. Here are a few starters.

Determine where your dog will be spending most of his time. Because he will be under a lot of stress with the change of environment (from shelter or foster home to your house), he may forget any housebreaking (if any) he's learned. Often a kitchen will work best for easy clean-up.

If you plan on crate training your dog, be sure to have a crate set-up and ready to go for when you bring your new dog home. Leave the crate open so that he can go in whenever he feels like it in case he gets overwhelmed once he gets home.

Dog-proof the area where your pooch will spend most of his time during the first few months. Be watchful for cords, chemicals, and breakables.

Training your dog will start the first moment you have him. Take time to create a vocabulary list everyone will use when giving your dog directions. This will help prevent confusion and help your dog learn his commands more quickly.

The first day home is also very important. Here are a few key points to help make the transition a little easier.

We know moving is stressful — and your new dog

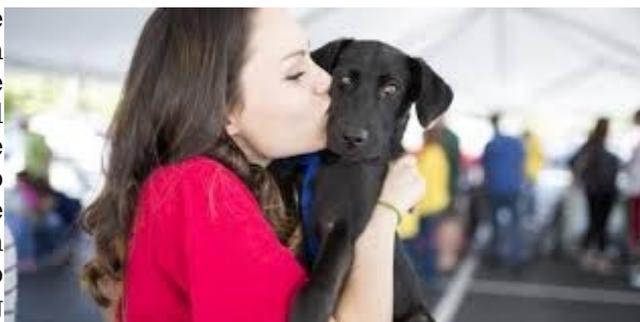
feels the same way! Give him time to acclimate to your home and family before introducing him to strangers. Make sure children know how to approach the dog without overwhelming him.

When you pick up your dog, remember to ask what and when he was fed. Replicate that schedule for at least the first few days to avoid gastric distress. If you wish to switch to a different brand, do so over a period of about a week by mixing it previous brand.

Once home, take him to his toileting area immediately and spend a good amount of time with him so he will get used to the area and relieve himself. Even if your dog does relieve himself during this time, be prepared for accidents. Coming into a new home with new people, new smells and new sounds will throw even the most housebroken dog off-track, so be ready just in case.

From there, start your schedule of feeding, toileting and play/exercise. From Day One, your dog will need family time and brief periods of solitary confinement. Don't give in and comfort him if he whines when left alone. Instead, give him attention for good behavior, such as chewing on a toy or resting quietly.

For the first few days, remain calm and quiet around your dog, limiting too much excitement (such as the dog park or neighborhood children). Not only will this allow your dog to settle in easier, it will give you more one-on-one time to get to know



him and his likes/dislikes.

The first several weeks, sometimes even months, animals will still be transitioning into their new home.

People often say they don't see their dog's true personality until several weeks after adoption. Your dog will be a bit uneasy at first as he gets to know you. Be patient and understanding while also keeping to the schedule you intend to maintain for feeding, walks, etc. This schedule will show your dog what is expected of him as well as what he can expect from you.

After discussing it with your veterinarian to ensure your dog has all the necessary vaccines, you may wish to take your dog to group training classes or the dog park. The Shelter does offer a training class for only \$20 for dogs that are adopted from our shelter. It is a \$65 class for those not adopted from us.

If you encounter behavior issues you are unfamiliar with, ask your veterinarian for a trainer recommendation. Select a trainer who uses positive-reinforcement techniques to help you and your dog overcome these behavior obstacles.

Congratulations! If you follow these tips, you'll be on your way to having a well-adjusted canine family member.

Indiana Humane Lobby Day

Humane Lobby Days are events sponsored by The Humane Society of the United States in state capitals across the country. Citizen animal advocates like you gather to learn and practice lobbying for animal protection laws at the state level. These full-day events include a lobbying workshop and an overview of relevant bills in your state legislature. Appointments are made for you with your state legislators so that you can meet with them (or their staff) face to face and ask for animal-friendly votes.

This year, the Shelter had two staff members, along with several from within our community, who were able to attend the Humane Lobby Day.

They were educated on some of the bills that were trying to be passed that were animal welfare related. Some we highly supported, while others we urged to be voted against. While they may not have made it very far during this session, they are likely to appear again. Here is a brief summary on some of these bills.

Legislation is being proposed to make attendance to an animal fight a felony. Dog fighters will usually abandon their dogs if a fight is raided by law enforcement, pretending to be spectators only to lighten any possible charges. As it stands currently, spectators at these events may only be charged with a misdemeanor. The things that occur to these animals before, during, and after these fights are horrendous. Pain, fear, abuse, and even abandonment are just a few of the words to describe what happens to these animals.

However, this can have more benefits than just saving animals. Some people bring their children, families,

and drugs. This truly isn't an environment that anyone or anything should have to endure or be exposed to.

Without the demand and money from the spectators, animal fighting could be one step closer to seeing an end.



Another item that has been introduced years previously, and that reappears every year is the bill that would permanently allow captive hunting in Indiana.

Captive hunting operations are pay-to-play trophy hunting facilities where shooters kill native and exotic animals trapped within fenced areas. Many are hand tamed and lack their natural fear of humans. Some are trained to eat from feeding stations at regular intervals - a setup that guarantees a kill for trophy seekers.

Not only is this putting these animals at an unfair disadvantage to the animals, but it can also be a danger to the community. Even with fencing, diseases such as tuberculosis, brucellosis and chronic wasting disease (CWD) can be transmitted to the wild population of animals, which could cost tax payers, millions of dollars in combating. Wisconsin's wildlife agency has spent over \$35 million dollars in a six year span on CWD response efforts alone.

One bill that animal advocates have been pushing for years and has a direct affect on community animal shelters, is one that would create a spay/neuter

program for those on Medicaid allowing them free surgery on their pets.

Pet overpopulation needs to be addressed all around the country. Helping those who have animals, but can't afford surgeries, can greatly reduce the number of unwanted pets that fill the shelters daily. The surgeries would be paid for by tax check-off boxes, and by a fee collected by pet stores on sales of unaltered pets.

Local governments literally spend millions of dollars a year handling the influx of unwanted animals.

In New England, where they have very strong spay/neuter assistance programs and regulations, their animal shelters are sitting empty, waiting for animals to walk through the doors. Many animal shelters across the nation will do transports to these areas, where the dogs may be adopted immediately.

While these bills may be dead in the current legislative session, they will more than likely arise again next session, or the language of the bills snuck into another bill.

You can make a difference. Contact your local senator and house representatives and let them know this is important. Urge them to vote YES for free spay/neuter for Medicaid recipients, and felony charges for animal fight spectators. Also, urge them to vote AGAINST any bill that allows captive hunting.

You can find your elected officials on the Humane Society of the United States website under Take Action.

Remember to be courteous when contacting your representatives and just let them know that their constituents are concerned about animal welfare in Indiana.

Need your Pet Spayed or Neutered? We can help!

Bimonthly, The S.N.I.P. Clinic and the NAFC Animal Shelter assist in getting your pets altered for a discounted price. Call or visit the Shelter for more information or to sign your animals up!

Happy Tails: Gavin

Gavin is a gorgeous mastiff who somehow ended up at the Shelter as a stray. A very short time later he was adopted by a very loving family.

He has an incredible sense of style, and has his mind set on what comfort is. Even though he is a big boy, laps are still the best place to be!

Through lots of training, devotion, and love, Gavin now has his Canine Good Citizen Certificate, as well as being a dog who services the American Red Cross.

Shelter pets may easily be the love of your life or the sunshine of your cloudy day, but some may have an extra little gift to offer the world!

Send us your happy tails story for a chance to be featured in next months newsletter!



NAFC ANIMAL SHELTER INFORMATION

Hours:

Monday - Friday

9:00-5:00PM

Saturday

11:00-2:30

Adoption Prices:

Cats over 4lbs - \$20

Cats under 4lbs - \$60

Dogs - \$80

Information Corner

Stop by our booth!

The shelter was very kindly offered a booth space at the Kentuckiana Cluster of Dog Shows this month, one of the largest in the nation!

Besides being able to see gorgeous dogs competing for breed titles, obedience, rally, agility, and demonstrations, another great part of the show is the shopping!

We will have several items for purchase, and all proceeds will benefit the animals here at the shelter. Some of these items include; homemade dog treats, fire rescue window clings, and some sweaters and collars.

Our booth will be held in the Pavillion area, so please check us out and stop by!

