The First 8 Weeks

The first 8 weeks of life for puppies and kittens is an essential time for learning and development.

Nursing is one of the most important things that a mother can offer her babies. Mother's milk is full of antibodies and nutrition that are crucial in helping keep the babies healthy and developing both physically and mentally. Replacement formula that can be purchased at the store does not have all of these needed ingredients.

As the babies are being weaned, they still need mom to learn appropriate behaviors. She teaches them how to limit their roughness during play, how to groom themselves, and how to be independant. Mother animals teach their young a lot the first few months of life.

If your animal has babies, you should try to keep them with mom and their littermates until at least 8 weeks of age. This will help ensure they have the best start in life and to help avoid problem behaviors.

To avoid weeks of caring for unwanted kittens and puppies, have your animals altered. Getting an animal spayed or neutered can help an animal in many ways. The longer an animal goes unaltered, the greater their chances of getting cancer. It can also help improve behavior.

If you need your animal spayed or neutered, call us and we can help you find an affordable program.
Licensing Your Animals

Many believe their animal is "registered" once it has been vaccinated at a vet office. The only way to get an animal registered or licensed is through the animal shelter. In order for an animal to qualify for a license, he or she must be current on their rabies vaccination. Licenses are good for one year and must be renewed yearly unless a lifetime license is purchased. Lifetime Licenses are available if your animal is spayed/neutered and microchipped for $25 and last throughout the animal’s life. All dogs and cats living within the New Albany City Limits is required to have a City License. All cats living in Floyd County are required to have a License as well. To help reduce pet overpopulation, altered animal licenses are $5. Animal Licenses for animals that are not spayed or neutered are $35. Licensing is a means of identification for animals, and greatly increases Return to Owner outcomes. Another benefit, though small, is the revenue licensing brings in to help maintain shelter services.

If you need to get your animal licensed, please bring your pet's current rabies vaccination certificate to the Shelter and one can be issued. Contact the Shelter with any questions you have on licensing.

Pet First Aid

What if your pet was facing a health emergency, and his or her life depended on your quick decisions? Would you know what to do? Pet first-aid may be required for many unexpected injuries and conditions, including puncture wounds, poisoning, choking, heat stroke, breathing difficulties, electrical shock, and car accidents. Advance planning can make the difference between life and death for your pet. Having a good relationship with your vet may also make a huge difference. Your vets will have the animals history on record and possibly help quicker in an emergency.

-1. ESTABLISH A PET FIRST-AID KIT. Purchase a pet first-aid kit and pet first-aid manual from a pet store or online retailer. Keep the kit in an accessible location, and make sure you and family members are familiar with its contents and have read the first-aid manual in advance. The kit should include gauze, adhesive tape, nonstick bandages, antibiotic ointment, clean towel, cotton balls, hydrogen peroxide, isopropyl alcohol, latex gloves, scissors, tweezers, sterile eye wash, an instant cold pack, and a card with phone numbers for your veterinarian, animal poison control center, and nearest 24-hour emergency vet clinic.

-2. RECOGNIZE AN EMERGENCY. You know your pet, and are in the best position to observe behavior and health changes that may signal an emergency. Look out for unusual crying or whining; coughing; bleeding; dizziness; confusion; vomiting; diarrhea; increased urination; excessive drooling; uncontrollable panting; and irregular or difficult breathing. If you observe any of these things, contact your veterinarian immediately.

-3. POST EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS NEAR YOUR PHONE. Your veterinarian, animal poison control center, and 24-hour emergency vet clinic can often provide basic first-aid instruction via telephone. It's critical that you have these numbers by the phone, so that in a life and death situation, you don't lose time. Make sure children and sitters are also aware of them. Familiarize yourself with driving directions to the nearest 24-hour emergency vet clinic. For a list of 24-hour Indiana emergency vet clinics, visit www.indiana-paw.com.

-4. LEARN HOW TO TREAT COMMON PET INJURIES. Many injuries can be treated with common sense and basic first-aid. Talk to your veterinarian about how to properly administer first-aid. Purchase and read a pet first-aid book (available via pet stores, book stores, online retailers and the Red Cross). Contact your local Red Cross Chapter and/or Humane Society to register for a pet first-aid course.

-5. PREVENTION IS THE BEST MEDICINE. Take steps to prevent emergencies from happening. For example, keep your pet indoors, in a fenced yard, or on a leash. Pet-proof your home and make sure medications and cleaners are out of reach and electrical cords are taped down. Keep your pet's vaccinations current. Include pets in your fire escape plans. Fire emergency decals are available also to notify officials of animals inside.
Herding Dogs, Can you handle one?

Dogs in the Herding Group (sometimes referred to as the Pastoral Group) were developed to perform a variety of tasks relating mainly to the herding of livestock. The types of livestock that these dogs are associated with are quite diverse and include sheep, cattle, reindeer and any other cloven footed animals. The Herding groups of dogs are eminently suited to these pastoral tasks. Many of the breeds have a weatherproof double coat to protect them from the elements when working in severe weather conditions. Their natural abilities have been fully recognised and the initial livestock herding function have been extended to include police work and Search & Rescue amongst other duties.

Characteristics and features of Herding Dogs have been introduced and strengthened by breeding with animals who already demonstrated the desired traits. Breeding for appearance was only introduced in the 19th Century. Before this time dogs and puppies were bred to increase useful abilities and traits helpful for the duties they were intended for. Herding Group dogs share the amazing ability to control the movement of other animals. They also have great stamina reserves which allow them to work from dawn to dusk. The dogs are tenacious creatures who have the ability to herd animals such as cattle which are many times their size. They leap, run around frantically and nip at the heels of any animals that they are herding. Add this behaviour to aggressive barking and steely eye contact and their ability to influence much larger animals is fully understood.

Thus, the various Herding breeds, including the Australian Cattle Dog, were bred and introduced to help man according to his specific requirements such as: Herding or Droversing various animals including cattle and reindeer, Police work, Tracking, Providing a service to handicapped owners, Performing Search & Rescue, Acting as sentries and couriers for the Armed Forces.

In this day and age not every Herding Dog might be called to undertake these tasks, but nevertheless, they still harbour the skills and characteristics that made the original Australian Cattle Dog breeding program successful.

The Herding dogs are medium to large in size. They are intelligent, active, courageous, and determined dogs who make excellent companions and respond well to consistant training. Their instincts are very strong and given half a chance they will try to herd, or round up, the family. They enjoy work and look to their owners to provide tasks to enable them to meet their instincts and be rewarded accordingly. Some intense dogs may make their own fun and mischief if work is missing in their life.

Big Wheels for Little Paws

Wheels for Little Paws Car & Bike Show & Family Fun Festival, which will take place on Sunday, June 24th from 1pm – 6pm at the Sportsdrome Speedway in Jeffersonville, Indiana.

The event will have room for over 100 booths, including a children’s section with giant inflatables, face painting & more! Car & bike registration is open to all makes & models and is $15.

If your business would like to support this event through sponsorship, or by providing a silent auction item or door prize, please contact the Rescue League for more information. Vendor registrations are also being accepted at this time. For more information about this event, please visit www.bigwheelsforlittlepaws.com, or contact the Rescue League office at 812-949-9099, or by email at nafcarl@covad.net
Need your Pet Spayed or Neutered? We can help!

Once a month, 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: Oscar

Because the NAFC Animal Shelter is an HSUS Emergency Placement Partner, Oscar came to the shelter after tornados ripped through his home in Alabama. Most of his time here at the shelter, he was extremely fearful and timid.

After a loss of one of their dogs, the family, including their other dog, were grieving. His new family, one of the Shelter volunteers who felt sorry for him, decided to adopt him to help them get through their loss.

Having been in his home for a few months, Oscar has become a whole new dog. Confident and social as can be. His family could not be happier with their new addition.

He is now the 5 year old son's best friend. Both family and dog have grown and recovered with the love from one another.

We need more happy tail adoption stories! You can email pictures and a story of the dog or cat in it's new happy home!

NAFC ANIMAL SHELTER INFORMATION

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Adoption Prices:
- Cats over 4lbs - $20
- Cats under 4lbs - $60
- Dogs - $80

Information Corner

Dog Tie Out Rules

- If a dog needs to be on a tie out or tether, there are a few rules that must be followed in Floyd County.
- A dog that is tied out for any length of time, must be spayed or neutered.
- Dogs cannot be on a tie out between sunset and sunrise.
- Shelter and water must be accessible and available at all times when the dog is outside.
- The weight of the tie out or tether cannot be more than 1/8 of the dogs body weight.
- The tether or tie out must not allow the dog to reach the neighbors property, or any public walkway such as sidewalks and alleys.