Resident Shelter Pets: Tia

Many people already know Tia. Some know her from school visits, traveling to conferences around the country, or lounging on the front counter at the animal shelter.

Tia came into the shelter about 9 years ago as a newborn puppy with her mom and littermates. Tia's mother was not a very happy momma and sometimes took out her anger on her babies and her foster parents.

Beginning at 9 weeks of age, Tia began to have some rather serious health issues, including seizures. Theresa took her in to try and help her to survive.

As time went on, Theresa and Tia became very close. Tia now had a forever home with Theresa's family.

Tia has gone thorough lots of training including agility, obedience, and therapy.

Several years ago, Theresa began having trouble with her blood sugar levels. She began to realize that Tia was acting differently as her sugar levels changed. Tia began a new type of training that taught her ways to tell Theresa that her sugars were needing to be adjusted.

Other than helping her mom keep her sugars in check, Tia is also be used in dog to dog assessments. Some dogs have issues with little dogs, and Tia will help show this behavior.

Tia also helps at school programs, birthday parties and many other education programs that the shelter does to help educate the community on proper animal care and the importance of spay and neuter.
Make a Difference

Interested in making a difference in your community? One of the best places to volunteer may be right near you: an animal shelter or animal protection organization.

Whether you walk dogs at your shelter, stuff envelopes for an educational mailing or assist with a fundraising event, you can make a difference in the lives of animals.

Here are just a few of the benefits of volunteering:

1. Be part of the solution. You'll join a network of hundreds of thousands of people working to make the world safe and more humane for all living creatures. You'll make the job of everyone working for animals a little easier by spreading the message of responsible pet ownership and animal protection.

2. Get warm fuzzies. You'll never find a more grateful and accepting comrade than an animal you've comforted.

3. Keep good company. You'll make lots of new friends—and not just the four-legged kind. Working side by side with people who share similar interests can forge lifelong friendships.

4. Meet the new you. You'll discover skills you never knew you had, and you may be surprised at what you're capable of achieving. Sometimes, even those who are quiet and shy, can reach a whole new level of confidence in working with the public when learning to show adoptable animals.

5. Gain a new career. You'll learn things that may lead you to the career—or career change—of your dreams. Employers and college admissions officers look favorably on time spent in volunteer service.

6. Most middle and high schools in the area require volunteer hours to be completed for certain classes. Being a volunteer already will allow you to work your hours needed without having to wait to complete an orientation.

7. Enjoy a wagging tail, a purr, and a smile. Didn't someone once say that the best things in life are free?

8. You will be helping save lives! Whether you are bathing a dog, brushing a cat, or sweeping floors, you are still helping save lives. Volunteers help allow staff to do certain things such as medicate and vaccinate. Housecleaning tasks are also crucial to saving lives. The better the facility looks and smells, the more people will come through the doors to potentially adopt!

Now that you are excited to get involved, you are ready for the first step.

At our Shelter, our volunteers must be at least 10. Anyone between the ages of 10-12, must have an adult volunteer with them. Any child over 12 can volunteer with out an adult.

Volunteers must first attend an orientation class. This class is usually held on the last Thursday of every month at 6:00PM at the Shelter. Parents must attend this class with anyone under 18 years of age.

After orientation is completed, people can volunteer as they are available during our open hours. Those who are 12-14 years of age must sign up on a schedule. More details of timing will be gone over at orientation.

Our shelter would not be where it is today without its volunteers. We greatly appreciate every one of them and would love to grow our volunteer family!
Found a Dog? Get it Scanned!

Over the years, there have been many articles on the importance of microchipping your pets. Many may not think about it, but it is just as important to have any animal that you find scanned for a microchip. Most area vets and shelters are fully capable of scanning an animal for you.

Over this past month, there have been several animals that have come in as stray animals that have been reclaimed by their original owners—thanks to microchips. Some had been missing for months, or where no where near the location the pet was lost from.

Occasionally someone will find a dog or cat while driving through and may pick it up and take it home while they try to find its owner. This may or may not be close to the original home. The dog may then get away from the finder and be lost in a completely different area. This is one reason why it is important to always have the animal scanned for a microchip when you find it.

Calling area shelters to see if anyone has reported a missing dog is a good start. However, the way you describe a dog, may not be the way the owner or shelter staff would, so the connection may not be made, or it may not be from that area at all.

Also, it isn’t fair to the family who lost the dog if someone finds it and keeps it without trying to find the owners—because it is a good dog. Accidents happen and families become heartbroken. Please do everything within your power to find a found pet’s owner. If you are not willing to, then don’t pick it up. The odds of its owners finding it are better if left where it is than if you take it home and do not try.

Thank You Judge Glenn Hancock

We would like to thank Judge Glenn Hancock for his dedication and service as Floyd County Superior Court judge. Judge Hancock, who retired at the end of 2014, has served as a judge since 2003. Glenn Hancock is a graduate of Our Lady of Providence High School, Indiana University Southeast and the University of Louisville and has practiced law since 1982.

Judge Hancock has been a life-long friend to the animals and has presided over the majority of cases involving animals in New Albany and Floyd County. Glenn Hancock has been an outstanding supporter of animal rights and has greatly helped to achieve the success we have at our animal shelter in keeping our community’s animals and public safe and well cared for.

We wish Glenn Hancock a Happy Retirement and hope he and his family enjoy their time together.

Spay Now or Stay Stupid

In honor of World Spay Day, the shelter will once again be holding its annual Spay Now or Stay Stupid Campaign.

Any healthy pet, and even most with health issues, should be altered if not being used for breeding. Animals that are spayed or neutered, are less likely to develop health issues such as testicular cancer, pyometrias, etc. Pets are also less likely to develop behavior problems such as aggression, possession, and territorial issues.

On February 17th, the shelter will be lending a helping hand to those who need the assistance to get their animals fixed. They will be altering 40 cats, and 10 dogs for free for qualifying residents. Rabies Vaccinations and license fees not included.

Contact the Shelter today for more information! www.nafcanimalshelter.org or (812)948-5355.

January Dates to Remember

January 15th, 4:30PM - Animal Control Authority Board Meeting
January 29th, 6:00PM - Volunteer Orientation
Happy Tails: Penny

Aspen, now known as Penny, was one of the dozens of chihuahuas that were rescued from a hoarding situation in July of 2014. Coming from the situation that she did, Penny was rather shut down and scared. After finally being adopted, she has adapted wonderfully to life in her family's crazy house. The first few weeks were tough and she didn't want to leave her mom's side, but now she is running around playing with the other dogs and cats.

She is very loving and even allows the kids to pet her if mom is holding her. Sometimes she sneaks a kiss in if they aren't paying attention. She has been the perfect addition to their family.

Please send us your happy tail stories! We love you hear how homeless pets become part of a loving family! You can email your story and pictures to nafcanimalshelter@yahoo.com

Information Corner

Let's go play in the snow!

Some pets (dogs in particular) love to go out and play in the snow! Snow can be a lot of fun for inside dogs. If this is your dog, make sure you take precautions to make sure your dog stays safe. Make sure the dog is supervised when playing, and doesn't play with ice pieces. Ice can be very sharp and can cause wounds.

When playtime is over, make sure feet are cleaned off and he or she is dried very well. Snowballs will form in between their pads that can cause burns and sores.

Always make sure they have a warm spot to relax in afterward as well whether its a dog bed or a lap!