



Pets ALIVE

# Paw Print

Ending Pet Overpopulation in South-Central Indiana

Fall 2005

[www.petsalivespayneuter.org](http://www.petsalivespayneuter.org)

## “Can do” spirit has made Spay/Neuter Clinic a reality

My fateful attraction to Pets ALIVE and its mission began with the first Adopt-A-Pet event in late 2002. Here I found a group of dedicated volunteers who were equally outraged and saddened about the extent to which the killing of healthy companion animals was being used as a means of population control. And through its myriad volunteer endeavors, Pets ALIVE offered us the opportunity to actually DO something constructive about this tragic situation.

On a mission to increase adoptions, lower euthanasia, and ultimately end pet homelessness in south-central Indiana, we reveled in every one of the over 1000 adoptions facilitated through our innovative programs. Hundreds of volunteers and donors contributed to the success of Adopt-A-Pet events, Puppy Train transports, the Foster Family Program, feral cat Trap/Neuter/Release efforts, funding for spay/neuter surgeries and medical care, a petfinder.com website, and the 24/7 operation of a homeless cat sanctuary.

After just one year, it was clear that Pets ALIVE was making a significant difference. But as heartwarming as it was to find forever homes for adoptable pets, the cold fact remained that our accomplishments were doing nothing to stem the tide of animals being relinquished to local shelters, or being abandoned on rural roads and city streets. The working Board of Pets ALIVE continued to

diligently research other successful models for addressing the problem of pet overpopulation. The ultimate solution became apparent: preventing the birth of unwanted litters of puppies and kittens. How? By making spay/neuter services accessible to and affordable for all pet owners. This would be no small task; but Pets ALIVE’s collective of strong and passionate animal advocates was not easily daunted. Led by its determined co-founders, Karla Kamstra and Katrina Sturgeon, Pets ALIVE had proven itself to be a “can do” organization. In 2004, we shifted our focus to concentrate on establishing

*“... ‘failure is not an option’ was our guiding mantra”*  
— Susan Dabkowski

a low-cost spay/neuter clinic. Through all of the trials and tribulations that presented in the process, “failure is not an option” was our guiding mantra.

As synchronicity would have it, the non-profit agency for which I had been working dissolved. Being unemployed afforded me the time to immerse even more deeply into volunteer work with Pets ALIVE. My heart was simply not into my new job search; I felt called to support the activities of Pets ALIVE. I longed for the day that the Board would need capable staff members to carry



out the important work that they had begun. And I wanted to be among the first in line...

Fast-forward to the dream-come-true opening of the Pets ALIVE Spay/Neuter Clinic and my recent appointment as Director. I feel honored and privileged to dedicate my professional life to furthering the cause of Pets ALIVE: ending pet overpopulation in south-central Indiana through the operation of a regional, low-cost Spay/Neuter Clinic. And while I stand in awe, admiration, and appreciation for our co-founders and active supporters, I am humbled to know that the inspiration for the work of Pets ALIVE is bigger than any one of us.

Earlier this year, a reporter from the H-T commented that it seemed that our goal was to put ourselves out of business! Well, we are a long way from being out of work. Won’t you please help us, through your financial support, to create a more hopeful future for adoptable animals, one spay/neuter at a time. — Susan Dabkowski

### *A key ingredient in Pets ALIVE S/N Clinic’s “recipe for success” is our unique **Transport Outreach Program.***



Based on the highly successful model of the Humane Alliance in Asheville, NC, the Transport Outreach Program (or “TOP”) allows us to serve shelters, animal welfare groups, and individual pet owners throughout south-central Indiana.

Pets ALIVE now has active Partnership Agreements with 15 organizations serving 17 counties. Through Pets ALIVE’s TOP, pet owners can rest assured that their cats and dogs are being provided with safe and comfortable transportation to and from the Clinic, state of the art veterinary services, and overnight post-op accommodations. All for no additional fee!

With the amazingly high prices of gasoline and vehicle maintenance, expenses related to the Transport Outreach Program have soared. Consequently, we are asking for your financial support to help subsidize this vital service. (See donor form on insert page.) With your help, we can and will meet our goal of No More Homeless Pets!

*Pets ALIVE is a non-profit organization dedicated to ending pet overpopulation in south-central Indiana through the operation of a regional, low-cost spay/neuter clinic.*

Pets ALIVE Spay/Neuter Clinic  
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phone 812-824-1 FIX  
fax 812-824-1351  
email [petsalive@bluemarble.net](mailto:petsalive@bluemarble.net)  
website [www.petsalivespayneuter.org](http://www.petsalivespayneuter.org)

**Board of Directors:**

Karla Kamstra, President (and co-founder)  
Katrina Sturgeon, Vice-President (and co-founder)  
Becky Barrick  
Loretta Hutchison

**Staff:**

Rachel Boyd	Ashley Landry
Shannon Crigger	Audrey Loser
Susan Dabkowski	Anita Shade
Shirley Eidson	Karen Turner
Dr. Nancy Ferguson	Tomi Whitaker
Roni Goveia	Chris Winkle

Webmistress: Dana Dyer-Pierson  
Newsletter editor: Carol Rhodes

*Pets ALIVE is a Donor Choice Agency with United Way Community Services and a member of the National Spay/Neuter Response Team.*

## A word from the president...

**G**reetings! It's been over a year since Pets ALIVE issued a newsletter. Our last newsletter announced an ongoing capital campaign for our low-cost spay/neuter clinic. It's hard to believe that a year ago we had only one staff member, and we didn't even have a building!

The progress we have made in one short year has been amazing. As we approach 5,000 spay/neuter surgeries in our first year of operations, I'd like to take this opportunity to THANK all of our wonderful volunteers and donors who have helped us open our doors.

During our start-up phase of operations, many of us have worked 12+ hours each day—with patient care always our #1 priority. And we've learned so much about the intricacies of operating a low-cost spay/neuter clinic along the way.

Of course, as with many new businesses, we wish for a few "do-overs" – if we had the opportunity to "do over" certain situations, we would. One example of a do-over would be better preparing our staff to coordinate the Transport Outreach Program service. We transport from over 16 counties, so you can imagine the complexities involved in schedul-



ing and coordinating this program.

You can expect to have do-overs when you take a leap of faith, and you feel a sense of urgency to move on your mission. The sooner we were spaying and neutering thousands of animals, the sooner we would end the killing of animals just because they are homeless.

One thing we wouldn't do-over differently is 5,000 spay/neuter surgeries. It means Pets ALIVE is realizing its mission of "Ending pet overpopulation in south-central Indiana." So we'll continue on with our leap of faith and experience the do-overs to save lives!

For the Animals,

*Karla Kamstra*

President, Pets ALIVE Board of Directors



### FEATURING...A VALUABLE VOLUNTEER

The popular choice of the Pets ALIVE staff for the Most Valuable Volunteer Award is Dana Cherkala, pictured here at the Pets ALIVE S/N Clinic.

As versatile and talented as she is dedicated, Dana has been an active volunteer with Pets ALIVE since our early Adopt-A-Pet days in 2003. Dana has been among the core team of daily caregivers at our sanctuary for homeless cats, a congenial ambassador at Tabling activities and community events, a Trap-Neuter-Release program volunteer for feral cats, a co-coordinator of our Cash for Critters program, and now a surgical support team member at the Spay/Neuter Clinic. No job is too unglamorous or too challenging for this courageous woman!

To Dana, and to all our wonderful volunteers, the Board and staff of Pets ALIVE say THANK YOU from the bottom of our animal-loving hearts.

### Thanks to our donors...

#### 2005 Pets ALIVE Donors

#### TOP DOGS—\$500 and above

Anonymous  
Mary Ann and Bruce Gingles  
Marjorie and Miles Kanne  
Katrina and Bill Sturgeon  
William Hays III  
Dana and Michael Cherkala  
Dr. Deborah Barbour  
Rex Hinkle  
Elisabeth Arvin

#### CATS' MEOW—\$100 to \$499

Marilyn Peterson  
Patricia Connell  
Barb Seal & Ervin Kattelman  
Sandy Bacci  
Nola Hartman  
Barbara Gaylor  
Vickie Gagnon  
Helen Enslow  
Kathy and Don Hollinger  
Danielle Bachant-Bell  
Judith and Emanuel Klein  
Julie Abrams  
Brenna Kelly  
Marilyn Keiser  
Edith Fletcher

Charlianna and John Cooper  
Rob Hunter  
Kathleen and Philip Doering  
Barbara Henn  
Rita Grunwald  
Jean and Owen Lauer  
Harlan Booher  
Joan and John Cochran  
Deb Allmayer and James Williams  
Sue and C.E. Gingles  
Mara-Lea Rosenbarger  
Nancy and Larry Lux

#### BEST BUDDIES—\$50 to \$99

Spay / Neuter Services of Indiana  
Sue and Bill Lavender  
Jane and Raymond Spires  
Loretta Hutchison  
Lark Hatfield  
Dodona Kiziria and Victor Meladze  
Gail Witkiewicz  
Phyllis and Samuel Kazdan  
Jennifer Starr  
Tamar Kander  
Christine Jeschke  
Kimberly Holly  
Ellen Sieber  
Janet Stavropoulos

# Pet health tips from Dr. Nancy Ferguson

In this season of high heat and humidity, special attention should be drawn to your pet's respiratory health. Did you know that certain types of cats and dogs are inherently at high risk for respiratory difficulties? The breeds (and breed combinations) that exhibit a "smooshed" nose tend to have internal anatomical features that make them susceptible to respiratory infections and intolerant to heat. While exercise and social time are important, I suggest playing outside in the cool of the morning or evening and thinking twice before taking your pet on a hot car ride. For those who visit pet parks, please be aware that just as with children attending school together, dogs and cats can pass viral and bacterial infections between them, mostly

through none-to-nose contact. Canine "kennel cough" is among the most common. The primary culprits are the Bordetella bronchiseptica bacteria, the canine Parainfluenza virus, or the Adeno type 2 virus. (Cats can also be susceptible to the Bordetella bacteria.) Experts in veterinary immunology suggest that pets who frequent grooming facilities, boarding kennels, pet parks or events should receive the Bordetella vaccination. The canine vaccine comes in an injectable form and in an intranasal form; both require "boosting" for full effectiveness.

Pets ALIVE offers low-cost Vaccination and Microchipping Clinic days on a walk-in basis two Fridays each month. Call 824-1FIX for more information.



## ASPCA announces \$1 million grant for animals affected by Katrina

(New York, NY) September 1, 2005 --The ASPCA® ( American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals®) announced today that the organization will be granting \$1,000,000 to animals affected by Hurricane Katrina. On September 1 and 2 alone, the ASPCA received nearly \$400,000 in donations for help and in-kind aid to help the animals affected by Hurricane Katrina and is on track to raise more than \$750,000 with its board of directors allocating an additional \$250,000. The ASPCA estimates it will take millions of dollars to effectively rebuild the local shelters and provide medical assistance and basic care for companion animals in these affected areas. "As the process of providing aid and rebuilding the communities affected by Hurricane Katrina begins,

we are overwhelmed by the generosity of support and funds we have received to assist the shelters and displaced animals in these areas," said Ed Sayres, president and CEO of the ASPCA. The ASPCA distributes funds from its Disaster Relief Fund to shelters and organizations across the country that are impacted by natural disasters. Its efforts help organizations through the recovery process by providing direct support to help rebuild facilities and relocate animals. Contributions will go directly to the ASPCA Disaster Relief Fund. To donate to this fund, please go to [www.aspc.org/disaster](http://www.aspc.org/disaster) or call (866) 275-3923. You can also mail your contribution to us at ASPCA Disaster Relief Fund, 424 East 92nd Street, New York, NY 10128.



**Staff member Roni Goveia**, pictured here with the 500th Clinic client from our local Bloomington animal shelter, was the first Veterinary Assistant to join the Pets ALIVE surgical team in early February 2005. For as long as she can remember, Roni has had an abiding love for animals. After working in an IU administrative office for over 11 years, Roni made the decision in 2002 to follow her heart and pursue a career in the animal care field. She gained 2 ½ years of experience as a vet assistant in a private, full-service veterinary hospital before becoming a recovery room specialist at the Pets ALIVE Spay/Neuter Clinic.

Roni is passionate about the mission of ending pet homelessness. Upon learning that Pets ALIVE was opening a low-cost spay/neuter clinic, she felt called to become a part of our staff. And we are delighted that she did! Roni is a life long resident of Monroe County. She and her husband, Bill, have one teenage daughter, 3 sheltie dogs, and 5 cats.

Victoria and Willard Witte  
Helen Gibbons  
Maura and Curtis  
Fallon-Rehffuss  
Ann Foster-Hughes  
Jenny Brown and Todd Cribbs  
Dennis Organ  
Patricia Cheesman  
Kim and Fabio Arellano  
Jane McIntosh  
Jean Branch  
Jack Davis  
Carol and Ron Remak  
Frona and Ron Powell  
Dorothy and Edward Bair  
Top Dog Pet Retreat

Judith Serebnick  
Mary Burch and Wes Ratliff  
Susan and John Bassett

### PETS PALS—up to \$50

Lucile Moore  
Michelle Blacconiere  
Mary and Jason Hamilton  
Deanna Cummins  
Carroll Tolsma  
Mary and Edoardo Lebano  
Debbi and Dan Conkle  
Gail and Brian Bates  
Joan and Don Bennett  
Lorna and David Estes  
Sallie and Robert Marsico

Bonnie Fisher  
Katy and Mark Bradford  
Nancy Bauman  
Nancy Jonas  
N.C. Ralston  
Mary Beth Price  
Russell Pfohl  
James McLay  
Mary Jane Reilly  
Shirley Smith  
Lois and Leigh Sewell  
Renee and John Steele  
Stella Tatlock  
Pauline Renke  
Susan Geyer  
Vivian Watkins

Loretta and Dale Horton  
Janet and Gary East  
Meri and Byron Reinhold  
Susan and Joseph Hendricks  
Betty Rose Ely  
Colleen Mulinix  
Gretchen Horlacher  
Linda and Jeff Gronck  
Diane and Benito Rivera  
Terri Dye  
Valerie Merriam  
Angela and Janis Berzins  
Bonnie Lavender  
Dorothy and Charles Vitaliano  
Marsha Cassetty  
Donna and Lawrence Reagan

# Fast Facts

*Pet overpopulation is costly and tragic. Consider the facts:*

- In seven years, one female cat and her offspring can theoretically produce 420,000 cats.
- In six years, one female dog and her offspring can theoretically produce 67,000 dogs.
- An estimated 5 million cats and dogs are killed in shelters each year. That's one about every six and one half seconds.
- It costs U.S. taxpayers an estimated \$2 billion each year to round up, house, kill, and dispose of homeless animals.

— from <http://www.ddaf.org/spayday/why/overpopulation/>

## Pets ALIVE Cash for Critters

Pets ALIVE wants your used ink cartridges and old cell phones!

Your donation of used inkjet & laser printer cartridges and used digital cell phones can help support both the Pets ALIVE low-cost Spay/Neuter Clinic and the environment. Your trash can be turned into cash to help end pet overpopulation through the “Cash for Critters” recycling program.

Individuals and businesses are encouraged to participate. It's easy!

Simply drop your used cartridges and cell phones in “Cash for Critters” collection bins at the following locations, or call Pets ALIVE to arrange for a pick-up at your place of business.


Collection sites for the “Cash for Critters” program are:

- Bloomingfoods Market & Deli, 3220 E. 3rd St.
- Fountain Square Mall atrium, on the courthouse square
- Harmony School, 909 E. 2nd St.
- Jiffy Treet, Highland Village (near Osco)
- Pak Mail, 816 Auto Mall Rd.
- Pets ALIVE Clinic, 6522 S. Empire Rd.
- Roberts Photo Shop, 316 E. Kirkwood Ave.
- Tina's Cuisine & Catering, 309 E. 3rd St.

To arrange a pick-up schedule, or to become a designated collection site, businesses are urged to call Pets ALIVE at (812) 345-1645 or e-mail us at [petsalive@bluemarble.net](mailto:petsalive@bluemarble.net)

Thank you for your support and for caring for the animals!




  
**Pets ALIVE Spay/Neuter Clinic**
  
 824-1 FIX
   
[www.petsalivespayneuter.org](http://www.petsalivespayneuter.org)

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