



# A Stitch in Time

## Animal Management in Indianapolis ... Where we are and where we are going

The Riviera Club was the site of the 2004 Annual Dinner of Spay-Neuter Services of Indiana. Forty members and guests were present for a buffet dinner, a short business meeting, and a speaker. SNSI member *Jennifer Mentzer* donated her homemade Rowdy Biscuits (dog treats) as our table centerpieces.

Following dinner, Board members told about the year's activities and programs. *Xandra Hamilton* talked about the nut and candy sale. *Kathy Able* mentioned the community fairs, plus the SNAP, February, and October

programs. *Judy Harvey* told about the elementary school KIND News subscriptions which are paid for by SNSI. Also mentioned were spay-neuter surgeries sponsored by SNSI for I-CAN, IndyFeral, and Southside Animal Shelter.

Board members elected for the next year are *Kathy Able, Verna Boggs, Dotty Carpenter, Joey Cross, Jean Ditzenberger, Xandra Hamilton, Judy Harvey, Christine Jeschke, Robin (Maine) Kennedy,* and *Jane Yakey.*

The speaker was *Warren Patitz*, a well-known local dog behaviorist and SNSI Member. *Mr.*

*Patitz* talked about animal management in Indianapolis—where we are now and what needs to be done in the future. His long association with the Humane Society of Indianapolis has given him insight into the problems surrounding pets in our area.

*Mr. Patitz's* suggestions to remedy these problems are extensive spay-neuter programs, education, adoptions, and increased awareness of animal behavior. The Board appreciated his discussion and his kind words about the work that Spay-Neuter Services of Indiana has been doing since 1977.

### We Couldn't Do It Without You

We continue to prevent litters from being born by assisting pet owners with low-cost spay and neuter options. We would not be able to do this without the incredible, generous support of our participating Veterinarians. Please support these clinics when your pet is in need or when someone asks you for a referral.

*Kathy Able, SNSI Board Member*

- ☞ SNAP 2003—44 surgeries
- ☞ October 2003—722 surgeries
- ☞ February 2004—1,215 surgeries

**Academy Animal Hospital, Allisonville Animal Hospital, Animal Health Center In Broad Ripple, Animal Medical Center, Augusta Animal Clinic, Avon Veterinary Clinic, Bloomfield Veterinary Clinic, Broadway Veterinary Clinic, Brookville Road Animal Hospital, Castleton Pet Clinic, Daisy Lane Veterinary Clinic, Emerson Pet Clinic, FACE Clinic, Fishers Veterinary Hospital, Franklin Animal Clinic, Hamilton Crossing Animal Hospital, Hendricks County Animal Hospital, Hillview Veterinary Clinic, Keystone Pet Hospital, Mt. Comfort Animal Hospital, New Palestine Veterinary Clinic, Noah's All Pet Veterinary Hospital, Rollo P. Greer, DVM, Shadeland Animal Hospital, St. Francis Pet Hospital at Centerton, St. Francis Pet Hospital at Holt Road, St. Francis Pet Hospital at Mooresville, VCA Beech Grove Animal Hospital, VCA Valle Vista Animal Hospital, and VCA Wellington Animal Hospital**

### Teachers Interested in Kindness

SNSI sponsors classrooms from kindergarten through grade six for subscriptions to KIND News. This is a paper published by the Humane Society of the United States to promote kindness to animals, each other and the environment. Class sets of 32 are mailed to teachers from September to May. SNSI is looking for teachers who would like subscriptions to this educational newspaper. SNSI will pay the fee. The order deadline is June 1, 2004. Call 317-861-4007 to leave your name, school name and address, phone number, and number of sets, plus the grade level.



*Spay-Neuter Services of Indiana, Inc. is a nonprofit, all-volunteer organization supported by people who care. It was formed in 1977 to provide a solution to the pet overpopulation problem.*

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**317/788-6330**

*A Stitch in Time* is published by  
Spay-Neuter Services of Indiana, Inc.

### **Board of Directors**

Kathy Able  
Verna Boggs  
Dotty Carpenter  
Joey Cross  
Jean Ditzenberger  
Xandra Hamilton  
Judy Harvey  
Christine Jeschke  
Robin Maine  
Jane Yakey



A helping hand can be extended beyond your lifetime. Endowments and bequests enable SNSI to add services to our program of assisting limited-income families with the spaying-neutering of pets and to educate pet owners on the need to spay-neuter their pets.

If you wish to remember us in your will or life insurance policy, be sure to use our corporate name, Spay-Neuter Services of Indiana, Inc. This way you can be certain that the kindness of your lifetime will be perpetuated.

## Remembering Special Friends, Family, and Pets



### Friends and Family Memorials

In memory of **WILMA VIRL STEPHANS**, who passed away in Greenwood on April 9<sup>th</sup>, wife of David Stephans

Joyce Crowell  
Winifred Flowers

In memory of my mother, **AURELIA D. LITTE**, deceased on 5/1/03. Aurelia was a long time resident of Indianapolis and as a child quite possibly adopted more kittens and puppies than any child in her generation.

Thomas Litter

In memory of **RAYMOND FISHER**  
Marian Osborn

In memory of **RAYMOND H. FISHER, JR.**, friend of Chervyl Leshner

Ann L. Spalding  
Suzanne Smith  
Marian Osborn

In memory of **BESSIE KAUFMAN**, a wonderful lady and friend who loved dogs! Family of Chet, Judy, Janice & Neal Hastings

Judy & Mel Goldstein  
Jody & Fritz Lamprey

In memory of **JOANN EARLEY**  
Sam Earley

### Pet Memorials

In memory of **ROGER**, beloved lap pal of Judy Lee and Sharon Sadler

Carole Gates  
Jody Schaub

In memory of **CUE**, dog who lived with Cari Hale and Sandy Schmid

Irene Stevens  
Linda Thornton

In memory of **ELIZABETH**, the beloved, beautiful, longtime companion cat of Joyce M. Crowell

Georgianne L. Schilling  
Carole Gates  
Jody Schaub  
Xandra Hamilton

In memory of **MIKE**, Gertrude Flanagan's beloved wire hair terrier.

Marian Osborn

In memory of **CHARLIE**, a feline and **ACHILLES**, a canine, both loving companions of Pauline Ginsberg and Michelle Stump

Jean Ditzenberger  
Irene Heffley

### In Honor Of

In Honor of **MEL BRANDENBURG**, co-owner Studio 2000 Salon and Day Spa  
Kathleen Orrison Sharp

## Earth Day 2004

Earth Day was celebrated at the American Legion Mall in Indianapolis where SNSI had a booth. Our booth volunteers were *Kathy Able, Jean Ditzenberger, Irene Heffley, and Bandit* (Irene's Pug) who spent the day handing out information about why people should spay-neuter their pets and information as to where spay-neuter assistance is available. Other organizations in attendance were IndyFeral, Greyhound Rescue, and Animal Care and Control.

SNSI believes in educating as many people as possible about the importance of spaying and neutering. One of the areas we would like to focus on are neighborhood associations. If you are a member of a neighborhood association or know of someone that is having a neighborhood fair, please let us know (317-788-6330). We would be happy to educate and leave information with your association so they can help be part of the solution to the dilemma of pet overpopulation.

New members are always welcome. Our annual nut sale, donations, memorials and memberships are the only means of funding for our organization. The more dollars we have the more surgeries and KIND News subscriptions we can sponsor. Please help us by asking a friend to join SNSI today.



### SNSI CORPORATE MEMBERS:

*SOUTHSIDE ANIMAL SHELTER*

*PAUL E. SMITH Co., INC.*

## Adoption Group Celebrates Milestone

The Alliance for Responsible Pet Ownership (ARPO) was conceived in 1998 by a group of Indianapolis citizens concerned about the continuing high rate of euthanasia in our city. ARPO seeks to promote responsible pet ownership and decrease the number of companion animals surrendered to shelters. ARPO is funded solely by donations and is staffed entirely by volunteers. They do not have a shelter, so all of their adoptable animals are housed in temporary foster homes until loving permanent homes are found.

ARPO takes in stray, abandoned, neglected, and abused cats and dogs. 92 of the cats and dogs adopted out in 2003 were pulled from shelters in the Indianapolis area where they were scheduled to be euthanized. In special circumstances, ARPO will assist in re-homing owner-surrenders, but they take a lower priority. There is usually a wait list for both cats and dogs as foster homes are in short supply.

Spay/neuter is a very high priority topic for ARPO. A volunteer follows up to make sure

all ARPO adopted puppies and kittens are spayed/neutered by six months of age. If an adopter doesn't comply for some reason, a letter is sent from their attorney's office urging cooperation. ARPO had a near 100% success rate in 2003 with only one adopter moving away before confirming his pet's neuter.

As further evidence of ARPO's commitment to spay/neuter, applicants are not allowed to adopt an ARPO animal if they have an animal in the home which is not neutered and of age. They must first show proof of having their current pet sterilized before the adoption can proceed.

ARPO reached a milestone and adopted out its 1,000<sup>th</sup> animal in May 2004! In 2003, 226 animals were adopted out, which was 35 more than in 2002. Adoption fees (\$85) only cover half of the medical costs for each animal. The rest comes from donations, grants and fundraisers.

For more information on ARPO, please visit their website at [adoptarpo.org](http://adoptarpo.org) or call 317-774-8292.

*Christine Jeschke*  
SNSI Board Member



### Cicadas and Your Pets

The large, slow moving cicadas are a tasty treat to curious dogs and cats. If a pet catches a few of these insects, it is usually not cause for alarm. But an overindulgent pet that eats many cicadas or appears to be in pain may need to see a veterinarian. Keep an extra close watch over our companions until this rare cicada season is over to avoid any problems.

Thank you to member, *Sue Staton*, who listed February Pet Overpopulation Program in her neighborhood newsletter, plus included a hot pink certificate and statistics on pet overpopulation.

**Could you do this in your business or neighborhood newsletter? It would be a quick and easy way to spread the spay/neuter message.**

Enclosed is a Resource Flyer that can be copied or posted anywhere!

## ACC Had Record Number of Animals in 2003

In 2003 the Indianapolis Animal Care and Control (ACC) had more animals to shelter than in previous years. The trend, which is still continuing in 2004, is probably caused by the increased number of strays brought to the shelter by additional control officers on the streets, more animals impounded for neglect, cruelty, and dog-fighting, and by the increased surrender fee that the Humane Society of Indianapolis began in March. As a result, the shelter has severe space shortages. Fortunately, the newly organized Friends of Indianapolis Animal Care and Control Foundation has as its mission the raising and managing of funds for services to ACC that the city cannot fund. The Foundation has the potential to help deliver more services to ACC shelter animals and to provide humane education geared at decreasing the number of animals entering ACC.

Efforts to remedy the shelter space shortages are being addressed through revisions to the animal ordinances. ACC also seeks to reach contributors to the homeless animal population through the development of targeted spay/neuter programs. As changes occur, the ACC will let SNSI members know about them.

Some personnel changes have happened recently. Shelter Manager, *Dave Wintz*, has accepted the position of director of a humane society in Wisconsin. You may remember that *Dave* initiated the Puppy Shuttle adoption program last year to transfer dogs from ACC

to the Wisconsin Humane Society. PetSmart Charities is generously sponsoring this program by providing both the shuttle vehicle and shuttle drivers. Volunteers at ACC and rescue groups appreciated *Dave's* efforts and wish him well. His replacement has not yet been named.

In another change *Jeff Bennett* became the new Administrator in February. We have high hopes that *Jeff* will continue to expand on the progress begun by the former ACC administrator.



ACC Community Outreach Director *Margie Smith-Simmons* has a new assistant, *Steve Hardiman*, whose role is to expand and provide structure to ACC's volunteer program. *Margie* has been a major driver in the new Canine Crime Stoppers program, a collaboration between ACC and the IPD. Cash rewards are offered for tips leading to an arrest for dog-fighting, a growing crime in our city. Canine Crime Stoppers billboards will soon be posted. Animal Investigator *Jerry Bippus* has already been successful in prosecuting several large dog-fighting groups in addition to other cruelty and neglect cases. Because the caseload is heavy, another investigator will be hired.

If you would like to volunteer with the shelter, call *Steve Hardiman* at 317-327-1384.

*Darcie Kurtz*  
Chair, Indianapolis Animal Care  
and Control Board  
Volunteer, Indianapolis Animal  
Care and Control

## Companionship Rules

4. Don't be angry with me for long, and don't lock me up as punishment. You have your work, entertainment and friends. I have only you.
5. Talk to me sometimes. Even if I don't understand your words, I understand your voice.
6. Be aware that however you treat me, I'll never forget it.

Author Unknown  
Continued in **September** issue.

### health by the numbers



aging people,  
aging pets

**46.5** Global life expectancy (in years) for **humans** in 1950  
(World Health Report 2003, World Health Organization)

**65.2** Global life expectancy for **humans** in 2002

**7 to 8** Life expectancy (in years) for **dogs** in the 1970s.  
(American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA))

**10 to 15** Life expectancy for **dogs** today.

**6** Increase (in years) in the life expectancy of pet **cats** since the 1960s  
(AAHA)

ENERGY TIMES, March 2004

While we are all happy that our companion animals live longer, it means a real increase in the cat/dog population. All the more reason to encourage spay-neuter!  
SNSI Member, *Madelyn Sundquist*

Local Website  
of Interest

[doggoneconnection.com](http://doggoneconnection.com)

Fundraiser 2003  
Top Nut Sellers

*Sharon Ronan*  
*Carol Kramer*