



People Assisting Animals In Need

Assisting Shelters in Decatur, Franklin & Ripley County

Volume 3, Issue 4

Summer/Autumn 2007 Edition

Our Mission

To support community education regarding animal welfare while facilitating the safe transport, medical and foster care for dogs and cats in parts of Decatur, Franklin, and Ripley counties while working cooperatively with appropriate animal welfare organizations.

Our Goals

- 1) Work cooperatively with appropriate animal welfare organizations in the tri-county area.
- 2) Fundraising support for the Ripley County Humane Society and the Decatur County Shelter.
- 3) Provide Spay/Neuter Assistance program.

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The Decatur County Shelter Animals Now Have a Voice!

They Are Shouting "We Are NOT Disposable!"

By: Ronda Lee

PAAIN volunteers are keeping busy in Decatur County. Our small organization has implemented the rescue of over 550 animals from the Decatur county shelter; owner surrenders and strays in the past 16 months.



The road to safety for these pets is a never-ending challenge for our volunteers. The good news, the long journey is life saving, and the rate of euthanasia at the shelter has reached an all time low. The Greensburg shel-

ter has an intake level above its adoption rate; therefore, the shelter quickly becomes overcrowded. In July 2007 the shelter intake was 60 dogs and

40 cats. The shelter was able to adopt out 11 dogs, and 12 cats. Seven animals were returned to their owners and 39 pets went into PAAIN and other safe rescue organizations.

PAAIN has developed programs with Southern Indiana Save-A-Pet, foster networks, pure breed rescues, and no kill shelters in Illinois, Ohio, Wisconsin, and Northern Indiana who will

intake adoptable pets. These networks fully vet each animal including spay/neuter to ensure they are not perpetuating the problem of pet overpopulation and carefully screen potential new homes to make sure each animal is placed into a caring and attentive home. PAAIN also fosters

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Kroger Program Really Does Help Us Help Them!

Kroger has now made fundraising easier for us with the Kroger Neighborhood Reward program. All you do is request a card from PAAIN (it will already have a \$1.00 balance on it) and reload the card with additional value when you shop at Kroger. You will need to reload your card at the register before your purchases are scanned. Note: THIS MUST BE DONE IN A SEPARATE TRANSACTION. When our organization reaches \$5,000 or more in reloads with Kroger's four-week cycles, we will receive a rebate check to the total amount. If we don't reach \$5,000 in a cycle, our funds will carry over into the next cycle.



Currently PAAIN is receiving about \$300.00 each month thanks to 25 regular program users. We have over 1000 people on our mailing list - if we could get 100 of our readers to commit to this program (remember it costs you NOTHING) we could increase our income stream to \$1000.00 each month - that equals more lives saved, more improvements, and more help for our shelter partners.

If you are not using this program currently - PLEASE CALL US TODAY AND SIGN UP.

Heartworm 101

By: Donna Huffmaster

PAAIN has been in the rescue business for five years now and we are seeing an alarming increase in the number of dogs that we rescue infected with heartworms, a silent killer that is easily prevented and a financial burden for most pet owners to treat.

Since I'm not a licensed veterinarian I chose a very reliable link on pet education from Fosters and Smith to pass on the facts. The bottom line is this, to prevent heartworms in your companion pet the average cost is about \$96.00 per year. To treat heartworms you can plan on spending anywhere from \$600.00 to \$1200.00 depending on your area, vet protocols, and severity. If you are currently not using heartworm prevention PLEASE see your veterinarian as soon as possible to have your companion animal tested so you can start prevention immediately or (let's hope not) treatment.

What are heartworms?

Heartworms belong to the same class of worms as

roundworms. In fact, they look a bit like roundworms, but that is where the similarity ends. Heartworms spend their adult life in the right side of the heart and the large blood vessels connecting the heart to the lungs.

Heartworms are found in dogs, cats, and ferrets. They also occur in wild animals such as California sea lions and black bears. They have rarely been found in people.

How do dogs become infected with heartworms?

Adult heartworms in the heart lay very tiny *larvae* called microfilaria, which then live in the bloodstream. These microfilaria enter a mosquito when it sucks blood from an infected animal. In 2-3 weeks, the microfilaria develops into larger larvae in the mosquito and migrates to the mosquito's mouth.

When the mosquito bites another animal,

the larvae enter the animal's skin. The larvae grow and after about three months finish their migration to the heart, where they grow into

adults, sometimes reaching a length of 14 inches. The time from when an animal was bitten until adult heartworms develop, mate, and lay microfilaria is about 6-7 months in dogs and 8 months in cats.

Severely infected dogs can have up to several hundred heartworms in their hearts

and vessels. Adult worms in dogs usually live up to 5-7 years. Up to eighty percent of infected dogs have microfi-

laria, and the microfilaria can live up to 2 years.

What damage do heartworms cause?

The adult worms can obstruct the different chambers of the heart and the various large blood vessels leading from the heart to the lungs. First, the right pumping chamber (*ventricle*) of the heart and the large *pulmonary* artery leading from it to the lungs becomes enlarged as the worms take up space. If worms die, they may follow the flow of blood into smaller vessels in the lung and obstruct those vessels. In severe infections, the worms can also block the large vein (vena cava)

bringing blood to the right side of the heart. As the blood backs up, the *liver* becomes enlarged and damaged.

What are the signs of heartworm infection and how is it diagnosed?

Dogs with heartworm infections may show decreased appetite, loss of weight, and listlessness. Often, the first sign of the disease is a cough. Animals with heartworm disease will start to show lack of endurance during exercise. Some will accumulate fluid in their abdomen (ascites) that makes them look pot-bellied. In rare situations in which animals have many adult worms, the animals may die of sudden heart failure.

(<http://peteducation.com/article.cfm?cls=2&cat=1621&articleid=743>)

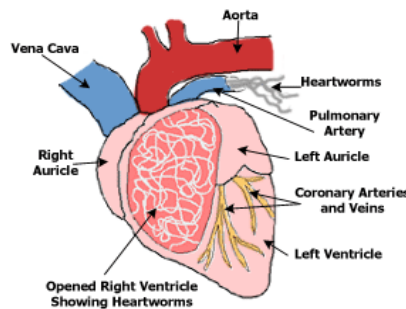


Photo courtesy TFH Publications

There are more than 60 different species of mosquitoes that can transmit heartworms.

In Loving Memory



In loving memory of Sheriff Homey - the massive Black Lab that protected and watched over the numerous foster dogs over the years at Fosterville. You will be missed by all.

Decatur County Happenings...Continued From Pg 1.

many of the shelter pets locally; all PAAIN foster animals are fully vetted and altered before adoption. Each applicant is screened and aware they are assuming a 10-15 year commitment.

The Decatur Shelter is evolving, recently taking over the responsibility from PAAIN, in supplying the vaccinations, and wormer. The spaying and neutering of all adoptable pets has been in the planning stages since January 2007, and we have high hopes that the program will be executed within the next 30-60 days.

Animal Control can only control the unwanted pet population if they ensure each pet adopted from the shelter will not create additional litters. In short, animal control has to take the responsibility to control the unwanted pet population. Members of the GDC Animal Control Board have made a very strong commitment to ensure this happens.

The shelter continues to work with a very limited budget and staff and is always looking for volunteers to make life a little better for their four-legged temporary guests.

The Animal Control Board, shelter manager, and staff are continually challenged with many new and exciting projects. We encourage members of the public and PAAIN supporters to attend the Animal Control Broad Meetings held the 2nd Thursday of each month at the new City Hall in Greensburg to hear about the future of animal welfare in Decatur County.

Can't Adopt—Want to Help? Please Donate!



Here are just a few of the shelter pets that have become part of our new outlook in Decatur County the 'unwanted,' are now "Happy Endings"



PAAIN
P.O. Box 141
Batesville, IN 47006

Animals Saved

2006 = 887 (Includes RCHS animals)

2007 = 272 (PAAIN animals only)

Supporting Decatur/Franklin/Ripley Counties

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"The worst sin
toward our fellow
creatures is not to
hate them, but to
be indifferent to
them."

~George Bernard Shaw



Mark Your Calendar – Upcoming Events

Spay/Neuter Clinic: September 8, 9, 10— RCHS/UCAN

PetSmart Fall National Adoption Event: September 15—PetSmart

Healthy Hound Hike: October 6—YMCA, Greensburg, IN

2nd Annual Chili Cook-off: November 3—Link's, Greensburg, IN

Please come out for the fun and show your support for PAAIN.
Also, if you are interested in volunteering at any of these events, please contact Ronda Lee,
President of PAAIN at 812-614-2090.

Every Little Bit Helps...

If you ever use an online search engine, please try www.goodsearch.com

Choose People Assisting Animals in Need as your charity and we get \$0.01 for each search. It sounds like a small amount, but it really does add up!

If you ever shop online, please try www.igive.com.

Choose People Assisting Animals in Need as your charity and a certain percentage of your purchase will be donated to PAAIN. There are hundreds of popular merchants to choose from and it doesn't cost you a thing!