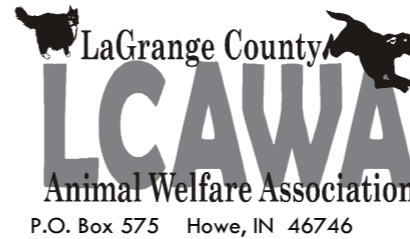


# Pet News

Volume 2, Issue 2  
APRIL/MAY 2003



Published by:  
The LaGrange County  
Animal Welfare Association

P.O. Box 575 Howe, IN 46746

## Shelter Update

As of March 17, the County Commissioners have decided to "ax" the animal shelter project in spite of the fact that it will cost the county taxpayers \$75,000 NOT to do it, even though the money is available, it will not raise taxes, and a new shelter is sorely needed, and in spite of the fact that the LaGrange County Animal Welfare Association offered to raise the extra funds needed, over the amount appropriated, to build the shelter.

The sad fact is that Dick Strayer and Phil Curtis have been voted/appointed into office and have the power to make these decisions - ill advised, uninformed and irresponsible though they may be. Both have admitted that we need a new shelter, however they do not see the need to do anything other than keep

animals three days and then destroy them.

We certainly hope Mr. Strayer, Mr. Curtis, Mike Strawser, Jack Vanantwerp, or Sue Glick ever needs the assistance of a Search and Rescue Dog or a Therapy Dog, a Seeing Eye Dog or a Hearing Assist Dog - many of which come from animal shelters since they were so strongly opposed to a new shelter and believe the current shelter is quite adequate!

In LaGrange County, if an animal is not rescued through the efforts of the animal shelter employees, rescue groups, or the LaGrange County Animal Welfare Association, it is euthanized. Which does nothing but put a bandaid on a bleeding wound. The problems LaGrange County has are not going to improve through putting these animals down.

In the meantime, LCAWA

will continue its efforts to find adoptive homes and foster homes for as many animals as we can, to promote spaying and neutering of animals, and to provide educational programs about responsible pet ownership.

If you are willing to help with any of these programs, please attend our meetings or notify one of the members listed.

We are starting a fundraising drive to open a privately run/funded Adoption-Educational Center. We desperately need a donation of land, 1 to 10 acres (as close to LaGrange as possible, at least within a 1 mile radius) to build the center on. If you can donate money/time/property, please do, we need your help to save lives!

### Meeting Schedule

L.C.A.W.A. meets 1st Thursday of the month at the Lima Presbyterian Church in Howe at 7:00PM

April 3rd

May 1st

June 5th

July 3rd

August 7th

September 4th

### Contact Us

Amy Gunther  
562-3122

Lindy Goetz  
463-2602

Marge Malone  
562-3655

Mary Alice Lynch  
562-3299

Debbie Bontrager  
463-3406



P.O. Box 575  
Howe, IN 46746

Email:  
information @lcawa.org  
spay@lcawa.org  
rescue@lcawa.org

www.lcawa.org

www.lcawa.org



**Web Site**

LaGrange County Animal Welfare Association, Inc. has our website up and running. Be sure to visit at [www.lcawa.org](http://www.lcawa.org)

Site provided by :



5515W 750N  
Shipshewana, IN  
46565  
260-336-0330


# Shelter Stats

## MARCH 2003

<b>Animals Brought in:</b>	<b>59</b>
<b>Dogs/Puppies</b>	<b>52</b>
<b>Cats/Kittens</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Animals Adopted:</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Dogs/Puppies</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Cats/Kittens</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Animals Euthanized:</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Dogs/Puppies</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Cats/Kittens</b>	<b>7</b>

## 2003 YEAR TO DATE

<b>Animals Brought in:</b>	<b>131</b>
<b>Dogs/Puppies</b>	<b>112</b>
<b>Cats/Kittens</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Animals Adopted:</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>Dogs/Puppies</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Cats/Kittens</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Animals Euthanized:</b>	<b>58</b>
<b>Dogs/Puppies</b>	<b>58</b>
<b>Cats/Kittens</b>	<b>10</b>



He's already trained, with no personality surprises for you, and he needs your love. **Adopt a Mature Pet**

## Coming Events

<b>Adoption Event</b> April 26, 2003 Hiers park 9AM - 3PM Huntington, IN	<b>Adoption Event</b> May 4, 2003 Train Station 11AM - 3PM Valparaiso, IN	<b>Adoption Event</b> May 18, 2003 Tractor Supply Store 11AM - 3PM LaPorte, IN
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If you would like information on any of the Adoption Events shown above, contact Sarah @ [mixedupmutts@yahoo.com](mailto:mixedupmutts@yahoo.com) or call 219-326-8887 Events sponsored by Mixed Up Mutts, Inc.

## PLEASE VISIT OUR SPONSORS

### Your ad could be here!

Please contact Debbie @ 260-463-3406 for information on how to place your Business Ad in the newsletters.

When in Howe, Stop at the little Red Building behind the TJ's. (yes, they are back!)

We have an ongoing Fund Raiser called

## “Old Books &

## New Puppies”

We have used books & great Stuff.

Sorry, no set hours, just when volunteers can come in.

We are going to try and be open from 10AM - 6PM on Fridays and Saturdays.

We have used books & great Stuff.

Stop to see if we're open.

If you see something you like, buy it.

You will be helping to support the LaGrange County Animal Welfare Association.

Have some old books to donate? Call us.

★★★★★★★★★★  
 ★ A membership to L.C.A.W.A. helps benefits the animals and you get a subscription to the newsletter sent to you each month.  
 ★ **Membership:**  
 ★ **Individual \$20**  
 ★ **Family \$35**  
 ★ **Friend \$50**  
 ★ **Sponsor \$100**  
 ★ **Benefactor \$250**  
 ★ **Patron \$500**  
 ★ **Call now - Become a Member!**  
 ★★★★★★★★★★



Continued from Page 6

eloquently through a bite. Step forward, and regain your throne.

Instead of banishing him from your kingdom, direct your dog toward the role he was born to play so charmingly and disarmingly

- that of court jester.



# HELP SAVE LIVES!

PLEASE! DONATE TO HELP BUILD THE "ARK".

Your help could make the difference. Help us build an Adoption/Educational Center"



## The Teaching Word, "GOOD"

By: L. A. Engelmann

A book that should be required reading for anyone living with a dog is *Dog Logic: Companion Obedience* by Joel M. McMains (New York: Howell Book House, 1992). A professional trainer since 1976, the author's uncommonly keen insight can open doors for you and your dogs by answering questions that most people haven't even thought of yet. This man's style is unique.

One example is a fine point that will allow you as a trainer to communicate more effectively with your canine students. Praising, "Good boy," or "Good girl," is actually pretty vague when you think of it from the dog's point of view. Following the engineering axiom,

"There's genius in simplicity," Mr. McMains tells his students, "Good Sit." "Good Down." "Good Here."

The teaching word, "Good," associates the reward with the specific act and thus defines the title of the book: dog logic. That's how dogs think – directly and to the point. Lessons are learned more quickly because the messages come through loud and clear. No sideline chatter. Joel McMains, page 64:

Don't praise, "Good boy," "Good dog," "Good Fido," and the like. The animal didn't do a boy, a dog or himself, so avoid confusion that can result from inserting superfluous words. Besides, he's already a good dog. He always will

be. That's not to be decided from moment to moment.



### Our Angels

BENEFACTORS

Marianna Riddick

# Adoption Options

## I want to go home with YOU!

Snickers is a male Black Lab/Rottweiler

mix. He is about 2 years old. He loves kids and has a great temperament.

Snickers is waiting for you. If you would like more

information on Snickers, please call LaGrange County Animal Control 260-463-4142

Pets listed at the LaGrange County Animal Control are in **urgent need** of permanent loving homes or foster parents until they can be adopted.

## Their time is LIMITED!

### Visit or Call TODAY if you are interested!

## Have you ever seen a cuter mug?

Olive is a treeing Walker Coonhound.

She is under a year old. Coonhounds make great house dogs and love to be couch potatoes. She is a wonderful dog!

Olive is just waiting for

you to take her home. If you would like more information on Olive, please call LaGrange County Animal Control 260-463-4142

## LaGrange County Animal Control

C.R. 300 South, 3/4 mile West of S.R. 9

# PH: 260-463-4142

Open: Tuesdays—Saturday 8A.M. to 4 P.M.

Closed Sunday & Monday



# SNICKERS



Black Lab/Rottweiler  
Size: Large  
Age: Young  
Sex: Male

# OLIVE



Treeing Walker Coonhound  
Size: Large  
Age: Young  
Sex: Female

## SASSY



American Shorthair  
Size: Medium  
Age: Young Adult  
Sex: Female

## SOCKS



American Shorthair  
Size: Medium  
Age: Young  
Sex: Female

## S.N.A.P. Program

Lagrange County Animal Welfare Association announces our new Spay/Neuter Aid Program

# Adoption Options

### I'm Ready, Willing & Able To Snuggle!

Sassy is a very timid cat. She needs a home where there aren't

loud children or dogs. She was brought to us because her owner died. She would love to live with an older person so she can spend lots of time snuggling on a lap.

If you would like more information Sassy, please call Lagrange County Animal Control at 260-463-4142



### Socks Would Like to Live With You!

Socks was found in a

heating duct. The people who found her brought her to us. She is very loving and loves to play with her kitty toys.

If you have room in your hearts and home

for Socks, please call now,. If you would like more information on Snoop, please call Lagrange County Animal Control at 260-463-4142

(S.N.A.P.) If you receive any of the following forms of public assistance: Unemployment Disability Medicaid WIC You can participate the S.N.A.P. Program.

If you are approved, we will pay half of the cost to have your pet spayed or neutered (up to \$40.00). If you don't see the S.N.A.P. forms in your public assistance office, please call us,

we will be glad to mail one to you. Complete the form, mail back to us and if approved for the program, we will contact you, and mail the certificate needed for your vet.

## Spay Day Coloring Contest Winners

The Lagrange County Animal Welfare Association Spay Day Coloring Contest winners for Topeka School are as follows:

**Mrs. Spencer's Class First Place**  
Sklylar Quinley  
**Misty's Choice**  
Samantha Bontrager

**Mrs. Strawser's Class First Place**  
Diane Miller  
**Misty's Choice**  
Marisol Montelongo

**Mrs. Culp's Class First Place**  
E. Andrew Reed  
**Misty's Choice**  
Nick Geradot  
**Mrs. Peterson's Class First Place**  
Shaimea Diafullah  
**Misty's Choice**  
Jessica Frain

**Mrs. Kramer's Class First Place**  
Denise Ann Bontrager  
**Misty's Choice**  
Janelle Ludwig

**Mrs. Lewston's Class First Place**  
Leah Zelinsky  
**Misty's Choice**  
Marcus Hostetler

**Mr. Wyckoff's Class First Place**  
Dennis Hostetler  
**Misty's Choice**  
Victoria Williams

We thought all entries were great and it was very hard to choose the best ones. We are donating a book to your school library called "Working Dogs" and one of the dogs does work like Misty does at the nursing homes. Check it out! I think you'll be surprised at all the different kinds of jobs dogs can do. Please remember to be safe around animals and to spay or neuter so we don't have any more "throwaway pets".

Thanks again for having us. Lindy & Misty Goetz and Amy Gunther of The Lagrange County Animal Welfare Association



Misty Goetz doing basics



The following items are always welcome for our rescue program:

- Crates
- Large Cat Cage
- Cat & Dog Food
- Cat Litter
- Paper Towels
- Nature's Miracle
- Cash Contributions

THANK YOU!



## Coping with Cat Allergies

There is an old joke among allergists. Tell a patient to get rid of the cat and the patient will get rid of the doctor instead.

There is an even older joke among shelter workers. If everyone who abandons their pet at the shelter were telling the truth, 90% of the population would be allergic to cats. Where is the truth? The truth is that only a relatively small segment of the population, somewhere in the neighborhood of 2%, is truly allergic to cats. More importantly, however, for many people, there's not much merit to giving away the cat anyway. In fact, in many cases, putting the cat out may be worse. Some new studies have shown that if a child tests positive to pollen and dust mite, but not for cat dander, giving away the cat may lead to the child becoming allergic to cats. In fact, one study showed that kids with a pet in the house get less asthma—and that two pets are more

protective than one! As one commentator noted, it is all part of the "dirt is good for you" theory. Exposing children early in life to dust, dander and other allergens will help the body build up immunity to them, much the same way as vaccinations.

The first rule of thumb, however, is not to self-diagnose. There are many reasons why an allergy is present and the cat may not be the culprit. An allergist (preferably one who loves cats!) can rule out other causes, and can also prescribe allergy medications that may make a world of difference.

But if you are truly allergic to cats and living without Fluffy is worse than living with some sneezing, there is a lot you can do to manage the symptoms.

First, get rid of carpeting. Not only are hard wood floors infinitely more stylish, but carpeting harbors allergens—as much as

100 times the amount as bare floors.

Second, use a HEPA air filter in the rooms where Fluffy spends most of her time.

Third, make your bedroom a "cat free" zone. And finally, wash kitty's bedding (and your own) regularly. No matter how allergic you are to cats, these simple measures can reduce symptoms dramatically.

Is there more you can do? Absolutely, although in many cases it may not be necessary. You can let the sunshine and fresh air in by opening windows, you may put window fans in your house on exhaust, you can brush your kitty outside so that the dander flies away, plant-based non-toxic products are available that can take the sting out of allergens, you can take medication, you can get allergy shots, you can replace upholstery with vinyl which will keep allergens from



accumulating, you can (like a well known shelter director with cat allergies) grin and bear it and eventually you may develop an immunity.

But first and foremost, don't rush out and get rid of the family pet. Cats are great for many reasons. They are cute. They are cuddly. They are the perfect antidote to loneliness, boredom, and depression. And now, thanks to new studies, they might even help "vaccinate" your children against asthma - another good reason to keep the cat.



## "Fat and Happy" Are Not Synonymous

by Cathy Davis

Pet Care for Dogs  
November 9, 1998

In July my household expanded to include a one year old beagle/sheltie mix, adopted from the local Shelter by my husband as an early birthday present for me. I had discovered Shannon during one of my routine visits to the Shelter and mentioned her to my husband. She was the "perfect dog", I told him. She was housebroken, spayed, past the chewing and puppy stage, short-haired and loving. I thought I was, as the saying goes "tugging on superman's cape and spitting into the wind" because my husband has made it very clear on many occasions that we were not getting a dog, we were never going to get a dog and I should be happy that he let me have my cat. So when Mac showed up with this dog, I was stunned, to say the least.

Shannon is the perfect dog, almost. She has, on occasion, eaten a

door stop, a pair of matched candles, a Johnny Apple Seed decoration and an entire squash. She has peed on the floor twice and pooped once. In five months, these are the only mistakes she has made. She is as close to perfect as any dog I've ever loved.

Her only fault is that she is a pig. Shannon lives to eat. If you put a 20 pound bag of dog food down for her she would eat the entire 20 pounds at one time. Since we were not aware of this when we first adopted her, we overfed her, thinking she was probably half starved, as we were unaware of what kind of home she came from before she went to the Shelter. Shannon has put on weight, slowly at first, so we didn't notice it. Then one day it occurred to me that she waddled. Running my hand slowly over her coat I realized that her ribs and backbone had disappeared under a layer of fat. This was not good, I

realized, so off we went to the grocery store to find diet dog food that would give her good nutrition and fewer calories.

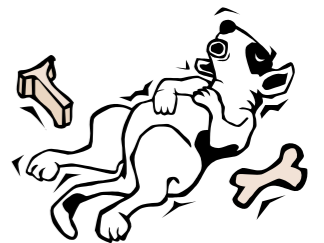
At least one in four dogs and cats are overweight, so Shannon is in good company; however, it is not the kind of company I wish my perfect dog to keep. Health problems associated with pet obesity include heart disease, skin problems, arthritis, diabetes mellitus, anesthetic and surgical risks, breathing problems, ruptured ligaments, slipped discs and poor immune systems.

Initially I felt sorry for Shannon, changing her diet, and I did some studying and learned that the change should be gradual, so we didn't immediately cut her rations in half. First we slowly introduced the lower calorie foods after checking for nutritional content, then we slowly decreased her portions. We made sure she was fed on a schedule as dogs are schedule oriented

(dogs don't easily adjust to a time zone change or to daylight-savings time!).

We've lengthened our walks so Shannon is getting more exercise, we play a little more "chase the hot dog" in the back yard (rubber hot dog - Shannon's favorite toy), and we reward her for good behavior with love and attention instead of the high calorie "Beggin strips" she loves so much.

Shannon is beginning to show positive results of these changes. I still can't see her ribs or her backbone, but she no longer waddles, and she seems to have adjusted to the changes nicely.





## A Pushy Dog

He decides where you go on walks, when you play and for how long and what side of the couch you sit on. He interrupts phone conversations and charges into new environments ahead of you. No, he's not an overbearing spouse or fast-track coworker, he's your dog. And without an immediate attitude adjustment, this four-footed despot will be barking "Off with their heads!" in no time.

Pushy canines come in all sizes, from the Lhasa Apso who will not let you make the bed to the Rottweiler mix who grabs hold of your arm (with his teeth) when you attempt to leave the park before he is ready. Many of these dogs are bold and overconfident and relish dominating both people and other dogs. Some are reluctant leaders who take charge in a family when no one else assumes the mantle of pack leader. Most are males, although females swell the ranks as well. Whatever the size, sex or situation, these pretenders

to the throne need to be put in their place via a benign yet effective leadership program.

First, establish rules, and ensure that all household members are willing to comply with them, because consistency is crucial. Pushy dogs do not have furniture rights. They must stay on floor level and sleep on dog beds, not human beds. Family members should not descend to floor level to wrestle with the dog but, rather, involve him in play where he follows the rules - or the fun ends. A game of Frisbee™ or fetch, in which the toy is returned to hand, is ideal.

### No Free Lunch

A pushy dog needs structure. Obedience training can give both parties a common language through which to communicate. Once the dog knows a sit and stay/wait command, it can be used during dinner preparation to control counter surfing and begging; before exiting homes, elevators or cars - when the dog wants to claim new territory ahead

of his handler - and to accomplish tasks such as grooming and feet wiping, which most bossy dogs disallow. Teach a long "down in place" for some peace and quiet during and after dinner, and feed the dog after all humans have dined, as a gentle reminder of his ranking in the family pack. Make the dog work for every treat, and exercise him on a schedule - going out should not be his for the asking. However, it is imperative to take into account the dog's development stage and activity level when establishing a schedule that will meet his needs.

### Leader of the pack

While out walking, take charge by using controlled walking and heeling commands. Give the dog plenty of feedback on his performance, praising the good and warning him before he gets into trouble. Execute about-turns if the dog is forging ahead, and counter canine body blocks he may use to control your pathway by leaning into him. Insist

on a sit at every corner, and change pace whenever you desire, not when the dog does.

The length of the program depends on the dog. For some, pushiness is part of the testing done during adolescence.

Once a canine teen sees there is nothing to be gained by the behavior, he may back off. The dog who reluctantly takes charge because no one else does usually is relieved to be a follower again and seldom needs more than a 30-day program.

For others, especially those genetically linked to the guarding breeds, such as Akitas, Rottweilers, Doberman pinschers, bullmastiffs and Great Pyrenees, a leadership program becomes a way of life. Without it, there may be some bloodshed on the ascent to the throne - that of human family members who get in the way when their dog says "I don't want to," expressed

Continued Page 10



# HELP!

## As you know, the commissioners have cancelled plans for the new animal shelter.

According to County Ordinance 1975-7-21 an "unlicensed dog, or dogs found running at large, shall be taken up by the agents of the LaGrange County Animal Control Authority, and impounded in the shelter designated as the LaGrange County Animal Shelter, and there confined in a **humane manner** for a period of not less than three (3) days, and may thereafter be disposed of in a **humane manner** if not claimed by their owners. Dogs and cats not claimed by their owners before the expiration of three (3) days if untagged or six (6) days if tagged, identified and not vicious, shall become the property of the LaGrange County Animal Control Authority and be disposed of at the discretion of the said authority----

It is unfortunate that many adoptable animals are being destroyed because of limited space at the present, unsuitable shelter. It is the hope of the LaGrange County Animal Welfare Association that we can:

1. Provide an adoption center with space for holding so we can work with rescues to place dogs in foster homes or that they can be adopted into good, loving homes.
2. The means to spay and neuter them, so the pets being adopted are not contributing to a continuing pet over population problem.
3. Provide education on animal care/ownership.

By building a private Adoption/Education Center L.C.A.W.A. will be providing a positive environment /experience for both county residents wanting to help/adopt companion pets and companion pets needing permanent homes. We will not be providing animal control or building a county animal shelter.

Many animals taken from shelters have been trained as Search and Rescue Dogs, Therapy Dogs, etc. These lives saved helped others, maybe even someone you know.

If you are willing to help with this project through donations of money, land or time, please fill in the bottom of this form and mail to:  
 LCAWA, P.O. Box, 575, Howe, In. 46746

Name (printed) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Check any or all of the following:

I will help with a donation in the amount of \_\_\_\_\_

I will help with the donation of an acre or more of land \_\_\_\_\_

I will donate my time to help in fund raising \_\_\_\_\_