



# Indy's **ANIMAL WELFARE** alliance

YOU are a vital part of **ANIMAL WELFARE** in Indianapolis.



Which one do you **turn away**?



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# EXECUTIVE *summary*



## *10 Year Plan for Animal Welfare in the City of Indianapolis:*

### *Our Vision: 20-10-2020*

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Indianapolis is a model city for animal welfare in its ability to balance safety in its neighborhoods with the humane treatment of its animals. As a result of significant collaboration among City agencies responsible for public safety and the Indianapolis Animal Welfare Alliance, the community has become informed and engaged in helping Indianapolis achieve the following:

- Pets and all animals are valued and respected, and their importance has been interwoven into the fabric of our community.
- Pet owners and caretakers provide humane treatment and adequate care for their animals.
- Neighborhoods are safe places to live and play, free from aggressive animals.
- There is a safe haven for all animals and all shelters are safe havens.
- No animal is euthanized for space.
- Abuse, neglect, animal fighting, and abandonment are not tolerated by our residents and these behaviors are readily reported. When authorities must step in, they receive respect for the work they must perform.
- Shelters are scarcely populated, and all adoptable animals quickly go to responsible homes.
- Due to awareness of and easy access to low-cost spay neuter resources, both private and public, there are few unwanted litters, and fewer resources are needed for animal control.
- As a result of effective targeting of direct assistance and humane education, pet owners become more responsible rather than dependent on assistance.
- The City has made animal welfare one of its cornerstones for residential quality of life and allocates adequate resources and progressive ordinances to allow for an animal friendly landscape to support the goals and efforts of the Indianapolis Animal Welfare Alliance.



# STRATEGIC *initiatives*

## Goals for the 10-year Vision:

**ANIMAL WELFARE:** The Indianapolis Animal Welfare Alliance is the first-line resource for information concerning the most effective methods to help Indianapolis become a model city for the humane treatment of animals in safe neighborhoods:

Research other cities that are demographically comparable to Indianapolis that have successfully implemented strong and effective animal welfare programs, including companion animals and wildlife.

Develop and house a single source database of all animal welfare and rescue groups, including individual missions and capacities, to help provide quantitative data when addressing animal welfare issues.

Develop a city-wide animal lost and found website.

Develop a formal “animal exchange” program where groups work together to most effectively place animals in shelters and/or foster homes for eventual adoption and to track exchanges.



### **FACT:**

On average, a fertile cat can produce 3 litters a year. The average number of kittens in a feline litter is 4-6.

IACC 2006 Annual Report:  
“The most serious issue faced by IACC is pet overpopulation.”

51% of cats in households earning less than \$35,000 a year are altered, compared to 93% of cats in households with annual earnings over \$35,000.

**PREVENTION:** The number of unwanted animals needing to be rescued or placed in shelters has significantly decreased each year, and by 2015 no animals are euthanized for space:

Increase spay/neuter capacity by 10,000 per year:

Open two accessible, affordable spay/neuter-wellness clinics (one in 2010, one in 2012).

Recruit veterinarians to make spay/neuter services readily available and affordable.

Explore and recommend sources to fund spay/neuter services, education, and other programs to support the goals of prevention.

**PLACEMENT:** The number of animals adopted out of shelters or placed in approved foster care has significantly increased each year, such that existing shelters are scarcely populated (more capacity than need):

Develop and implement an effective, collaborative campaign to promote shelter animals, rather than pet shops and breeders, and encourage the placement of animals in foster homes.

Encourage more community volunteers to assist in shelters and as foster caregivers.



**OUTREACH:** Pet owners provide humane treatment and adequate care for their animals, and City residents do not tolerate abuse, neglect, or abandonment of animals:

Develop and implement a professional marketing campaign, targeted initially to the 10 zip codes with the highest number of strays and ACC citations, focused on:

Influencing/changing behaviors of pet owners to be responsible owners, i.e. humane treatment, spay/neuter, micro-chip, training, etc.

Encouraging neighbors to report instances of abuse, neglect, or abandonment.

Identifying resources for pet owners.

Diminishing the approval of animal fighting and aggressive pets.

**FACT:**

In 2008, nearly 19,000 animals were processed through the City Shelter. In Marion County, there were 11,687 deaths.

As of February, 2009, once in a shelter in Indianapolis, an animal's chance of leaving is currently 52% (up from 44% in early 2008).

**FACT:**

72% of animals in Marion County shelters originate from the following ten ZIP codes:

- 46203 (12%)
- 46201 (10%)
- 46221 (9%)
- 46241 (8%)
- 46222 (8%)
- 46218 (7%)
- 46227 (6%)
- 46226 (5%)
- 46219 (4%)
- 46205 (3%)

**SAFETY:** Indianapolis Animal Care and Control has a reputation for effectively balancing safety in the neighborhoods with humane care of the animals it shelters:

Improve efficiency and effectiveness of the ACC by re-assessing the facility and internal operating policies and procedures, including performance indicators and the current operational model.

Identify gaps in the law and work with the City County Council to strengthen existing ordinances and consequences.

Ensure that Animal Control Officers serve as the first line of defense for both people and animals and enforce all existing ordinances.

Elevate the perception of Animal Care and Control Officers ("Animal Cops").

Work with shelters, outreach and rescue groups and resolve and fix specific situations.

**37%** of residents in these neighborhoods live at or below 200% of the federal poverty level.

**FACT:**

Unaltered dogs are more likely to bite than altered dogs. The number of bites reported to IACC was 1,478 in 2006; 1,335 in 2007; and 1,389 in 2008.



## Application for Membership

The Indianapolis Animal Welfare Alliance is a collaborative and engaged coalition of public and private animal shelters, outreach and rescue groups, and individuals who are dedicated to the welfare of animals in the City of Indianapolis. Members of the Alliance recognize that long-term efforts and goals can only be realized through a cooperative approach and readily share information and resources (as they can) to meet their collective needs.

Members of the Alliance recognize that to sustain a model program for animal welfare in the City of Indianapolis, the concepts and format must be institutionalized so that the long-term success of the collective group is not based on any one individual who serves at the helm of any of the organizations, whether large or small, public or private. As leadership changes within any of the members, the other members hope that new leaders are selected based on their ability to work cooperatively and in the spirit of the Alliance.

Members of the Alliance pay no dues but make the following commitments:

- Active participation in working towards the goals of the 10-Year Vision and fulfilling any promises they make.
- Respect for varying differences and philosophies, recognizing that they are deeply held values.
- Compromise is valued over competition and egos are checked at the door.
- Willing exchange of information, ideas, and perspectives in meeting the goals of the 10-Year Vision.
- Participation in an “animal exchange” (as appropriate) where they help each other based on individual missions and capacities.

In its initial stages, the Alliance will be based on a board/committee structure, driven by the strategic goals and initiatives to realize the 10-Year Vision:

Management Committee (Animal Welfare initiative)

Prevention Committee

Placement Committee

Outreach Committee

Safety Committee

Public Relations/Fundraising Committee

The Alliance will pursue 501c3 status in 2010.



*Those wishing to join the Alliance will be asked to complete an application. Alliance members are encouraged to join one of the working committees and semi-annual meetings will be held for updates and progress on the plan. All Alliance members will be included in an e-mail data base for communication.*

### Membership Application

- I (individual)/we (organization) wish to become a member of the Indianapolis Animal Welfare Alliance. I/we understand that no dues are required at this time. I/we support the spirit of the Alliance and will honor the commitments above.
- I/we understand that we are encouraged to join any of the committees for the implementation of the 10-Year Plan.
- I/we will be added to an e-mail mailing list to receive news and updates. I/we will be invited to attend the first year's semi-annual meetings for updates on the progress of the plan.

Name

Organization (if applicable)

Mailing address

E-mail address

Please complete and send this application to Indianapolis Animal Welfare Alliance, c/o Planning Plus, 2815 E. 62nd Street, Suite 110, Indianapolis, IN 46220, fax to (317) 684-3525, or e-mail to [cshepard@planningplusllc.com](mailto:cshepard@planningplusllc.com).

