



# The FIX

News for the friends and supporters of The FACE Low-Cost Spay/Neuter Clinic  
The Foundation Against Companion-Animal Euthanasia (FACE), est. 1993

Summer 2013

## FACE is Hitting the Streets

The FACE Low-Cost Spay/Neuter Clinic is committed to educating and empowering people to care for and keep their pets, initially by opening a clinic and providing accessible and affordable spay/neuter. There is a large, underserved segment of our community with no connection to animal welfare groups or veterinarians, and FACE is reaching out to these neighborhoods.

Darcie Kurtz, FACE director of outreach and medical services, is leading the effort to close this gap by extending targeted spay/neuter, medical care, education and transportation resources beyond the walls of the clinic and into the neighborhoods of greatest need. Targeted programs focus on animals at greatest risk of being put down in shelters or abandoned on the street.

Darcie and a team of motivated volunteers accomplish this through door-to-door community outreach, partnering with various animal welfare groups, community centers and city government. Without this commitment to aggressive outreach programs, increased funding and resources, this segment of the animal population will continue to be a significant source of shelter intake or left to suffer on the street.

In this effort, FACE has paired up with FIDO (Friends of Indianapolis Dogs Outside) in door-to-door neighborhood outreach in the Brightwood area

of Indianapolis (ZIP code 46218), an area with large numbers of chained dogs, stray dogs, and neighborhood cats. The FACE transport van, with its prominent spay/neuter graphics, promotes spay/neuter and demonstrates a strong presence in the neighborhood. FIDO offers follow-up assistance with dog houses, fencing, house-training crates, and more, while FACE provides spay/neuter, including, when necessary, transport to and from the clinic. SNSI (Spay-Neuter Services of Indianapolis Inc.) funds the spay/neuter surgeries in this outreach effort so that surgery can be offered for free at the FACE clinic.



FACE has also teamed up with Casa del Toro Pit Bull Rescue's door-to-door outreach work in FACE's own neighborhood on the east side of Indianapolis (ZIP code 46201), another area with large numbers of stray animals and animals impounded into Indianapolis Animal Care & Control. Casa del Toro received a "Pets for Life" grant from the Humane Society of the United States for a grassroots, boots on the ground, door to door education effort designed to help keep animals with their families and out of the shelters. FACE is the partner clinic providing spay/neuter, medical care and transportation for pets identified through the outreach efforts.

*"Without this commitment to aggressive outreach programs, increased funding and resources, this segment of the animal population will continue to be a significant source of shelter intake or left to suffer on the street."*



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Leading the  
fight against pet  
overpopulation

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Becky Honeywell



## IndyFeral. It's What We Do.

It was a cool early summer morning when Margaret B. went out to feed the four neighborhood cats who were looking through her back door, waiting for breakfast. After welcoming the brood and petting those who would allow it, she headed around the house to get the paper. There in the grass by the sidewalk was a box with one adult cat and nine kittens. There was no one around, just a box of squirming and crying kittens.

Margaret was heartsick at finding the helpless kittens in her yard, but she quickly gathered them up and called IndyFeral for help. IndyFeral had taken care of the stray and feral colony she cared for, and she knew they would know what to do.

Fortunately, it was a spayday weekend at the IndyFeral warehouse clinic, and the vets were coming in. The nursing mom and kittens were placed in a large dog crate with room to move around until they could be checked. Managing around a Sunday clinic of 47 neighborhood cats, Kaija Platacis, DVM, and Alicia Bundy, DVM, worked over the kittens. The momma cat was a young, friendly tortie, who was patiently trying to take care of

the kittens. After evaluation, it appeared there were three separate litters in the mix!

*“After evaluation, it appeared there were three separate litters in the mix!”*

Six of the nine kittens had matted and crusty eyes, and all were covered with fleas.

The plan was to stabilize and treat the little ones with medical issues. The babies healthy enough for foster were passed to an experienced caretaker. The exhausted momma cat recovered in the clinic with her kittens before surgery and then moving into foster care.

Stray and feral cats are the greatest source of cat overpopulation. Most stray and feral cats are unaltered, and they produce 80% of the kittens that flood the shelters each spring and summer. These cats and their offspring are innocent victims of abandonment, accidental loss, or the result of pet owners who allow their unaltered cats to roam freely and breed unchecked.

# Indianapolis City-County Special Resolution recognizing FACE

January 7, 2013, marked a milestone for FACE Low-Cost Spay/Neuter Clinic when they were presented with a City-County Council Special Resolution of the City of Indianapolis and of Marion County signed by the mayor. The document illustrates results: In 2000, the city shelter system animal euthanasia rate peaked with 22,000 animals killed; by the end of 2012, FACE had helped drastically reduce that number to 6,000 — a reduction of more than 65 percent.

A SPECIAL RESOLUTION recognizing the Foundation Against Companion-Animal Euthanasia (FACE) for their commitment to the reduction of animal euthanasia in Indianapolis.

WHEREAS, the FACE Low-Cost Spay/Neuter Clinic has demonstrated strong leadership and community service by leading the fight against pet overpopulation since 1999 by offering accessible and affordable spay and neuter services to the citizens of Indianapolis; and

WHEREAS, FACE enables people to keep their pets in their homes and strengthens the human-animal bond by offering support resources such as a food pantry, transportation, supplies and low-cost vaccination clinics; and

WHEREAS, FACE seeks to increase education and awareness about the benefits of spay and neuter through outreach and targeted community programming; and

WHEREAS, euthanasia peaked in the city shelter system at 22,000 animals in 2000. By the end of 2012, 6,000 animals were euthanized, which represented more than a 65%

reduction in the number of animals euthanized and a dramatic savings in taxpayer dollars; and

WHEREAS, within the last ten years, FACE is the most significant improvement to animal welfare and the care of cats and dogs in Indianapolis; now, therefore:

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY-COUNTY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF INDIANAPOLIS AND OF MARION COUNTY, INDIANA:

SECTION 1. The Indianapolis City-County Council proudly recognizes the Foundation Against Companion-Animal Euthanasia (FACE) for their commitment to the reduction of animal euthanasia in Indianapolis.

SECTION 2. The Council thanks FACE for their earnest love and loyalty to the fight against euthanasia.

SECTION 3. The Mayor is invited to join in this resolution by affixing his signature hereto.

SECTION 4. This resolution shall be in full force and effect upon adoption and compliance with IC 36-3-4-14.

This Special Resolution was sponsored by Councilor Adamson and was passed by the City-County Council this 7th day of January, 2013.



## Miguel Adopted!



IndyFeral got a call about this friendly guy who had been abandoned on the westside and was being used as target practice (with rocks) by neighbors looking for sport. Friendly cats are most vulnerable when cast off outside, because they lack a healthy fear of humans and are more likely to put themselves in situations where they become targets of abuse. We immediately got him into the clinic where he was fixed, vaccinated and treated for non-threatening injuries.

Soon thereafter, Miguel went to Petco with a rescue group and was adopted! Miguel is now back inside in a safe and loving home, where he is appreciated for the fine fellow he has always been. Congrats to this sweet boy!

## In Memoriam

### Ruth H

for Judy Hill

### Michelle H

for Michael Kuehl

### Robert and Cynthia R

for Bobby Feeney

### Mickey J and Linda J

for Ringo

### Tish Flooring

for Greg

Auschermann

### William and Grace B

for Vicky Fisher

### John G

for Vicky Fisher

### Terry F

for Vicky Fisher

### Sarah D and Diane G

for Jil Mitchener

Olinger

### Bob and Margaret P

for Leigh Ann's Henry

### Charlotte D

for Cooper, Misty,  
Bubba, and Callie

### Charlotte D

for Alicia's Bear

### Don H

for Smokie

### Barbara J

for Kitty

### William and Mary M

for Dale Olson, MD

### The Ambro family

for Helen Campbell

## In Honor

### Brenda B

in honor of Lisa  
Tudor and Paula  
Jones, IndyFeral

### Griffith Family Foundation

in honor of Gerd  
Griffith

### Karen H

in honor of FACE and  
IndyFeral, "So very  
grateful for your  
collaboration"

### Anthony and Lisa R

in honor of Finster  
who moved with us to  
Texas

### Michelle S

in honor of Nancy  
Edwards

# The Welcome Addition of the Transport Van

The FACE/IndyFeral transport van was purchased in 2012 with funds provided by a directed gift from a long-time, dedicated volunteer. Finally being able to offer transport services to citizens without cars has made a tremendous difference in the resources we can offer the community.

For citizens who have no other way of getting their dog or cat to the clinic for spay/neuter surgery, pets are picked up in the morning and returned the same evening. For those pets whose owners are not able to recover the pets inside for the required period of time, FACE recovers the pet at the clinic. A nominal \$2 donation is suggested for this service.

FACE has also been able to provide transport for dogs and cats living with residents of the homeless tent encampment

along the White River. Pets from the camp are spayed or neutered, vaccinated, and recovered for several days at the clinic before being returned to the camp resident. SNSI (Spay-Neuter Services of Indianapolis Inc.) has been funding the surgeries provided through this outreach program, while Indy Pit Crew funds the vaccinations. FACE also provides medical care for sick and injured animals at the camp.

The van is used as well to distribute information on animal resources in Indianapolis, and provides transport in mass-trapping ventures in neighborhoods with large numbers of free-roaming cats and overwhelmed caretakers.

## Kitten Foster Program Expanded in 2013



FACE and IndyFeral were proud to be able to expand the kitten foster program in 2013 due to the wonderful response to the Groupon Kitten Package fundraiser earlier in the year. A successful "Bottle Feeding / Kitten Fostering Workshop" was held at the FACE Clinic in March with 18 attendees. Thirteen kittens were moved directly into foster homes that blustery March day,

and several other newly trained fosters were ready to go once the at-risk kittens started coming in.

Marty Gallagher, a long-time IndyFeral volunteer with many years of experience fostering orphaned kittens, taught the class. Pet Supplies Plus of Indianapolis supplies the bottles, formula, and kitten food for the kitten fostering program. Please visit their website at [www.pspindy.com](http://www.pspindy.com).