

HUMANE SOCIETY OF INDIANAPOLIS

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Humane Society of Indianapolis Policy Changes Improve Local Animal Welfare

Changes Focus on Marion County's immediate animal overpopulation problem

(INDIANAPOLIS) – Since John Aleshire became the new executive director of the Humane Society of Indianapolis (HSI), he has been adamant on improving the immediate need of animal welfare in Marion County. To help meet the challenge of finding good homes for unwanted or stray animals in Marion County, HSI has implemented several policy changes.

While there are many animals in need of a home, HSI has ceased the transfer of animals from shelters outside of Marion County in order to focus on the immediate need of the county it serves. In the last six months, HSI has brought a record 631 animals to its facility for adoption from Indianapolis Animal Care and Control compared to 87 animals during the same period in 2007. During September, HSI brought 167 animals from the city shelter.

“At HSI it is all about the animals,” said Aleshire. “We will continue to focus on the metropolitan Indianapolis area until all of its animal welfare needs are met. This approach enables the Humane Society of Indianapolis to place more strays from the city shelter in homes than ever before.”

In addition to focusing on Marion County's pet overpopulation, HSI has changed its fee structure. To help reduce the financial burden of pet adoption and ownership, HSI has capped adoption fees at \$150. Also, if a person must surrender their pet, HSI has permanently waived owner surrender fees.

“As a result of these changes, we are positioning ourselves as the place to go if an owner must surrender his or her pet,” said Aleshire. “Once we receive a surrendered pet, we make a commitment to the owner to place the pet on our adoption floor and provide care until a new owner is found. Every dog or cat on our adoption floor remains there and is cared for until they find a new home.”

HSI has also made a commitment to collaborate and share resources with animal care groups actively working in Indianapolis on behalf of abused, neglected or homeless animals.

“In the past months, we working to establish supportive relationships with many of the animal welfare groups,” said Aleshire. “These partnerships are in the best interest of all animals in need in Marion County, and essential to reducing the number of animals in need of a home.”