

## Britter Matthews' motto? Give whatever you have to give!

Britter Matthews became involved in animal rescue in Central Indiana right after college. At first, she volunteered her time, since that's what she had lots of! Today, Britter is a busy mom of two young children (and five rescue animals!) who has also built a successful career. She's got a lot less time, but more money to give – so that's what she does!



Britter has been a **loyal and generous monthly supporter** of the Friends of Indy Animals for about 2 years now. She finds monthly giving to be convenient, saying, “You just set it and forget it! And, those monthly gifts add up to a whole lot of help for animals throughout the year.”

Britter says, “Just look at what you have to give – and give that! You might have extra time to volunteer, or some extra warm blankets around the house... or it might be your money.



*Every bit counts. And it all helps animals in need.”*

**We're so grateful to you, Britter, for your generous monthly gifts** – and for being a loyal animal rescuer of four dogs, Oscar, Olive, Flynn, Tilly Rue, and Miss Kitty, who rules them all!

*If you're interested in signing up for monthly giving, please email Becky Honeywell at [becky@friendsofindyanimals.org](mailto:becky@friendsofindyanimals.org). You can also use the reply form included with this newsletter to sign up right away.*



### Mark your calendar:

**2024 Howl and Wine Event** : Friends' biggest fundraiser and a howling good time! Thursday, October 24<sup>th</sup>, at the Biltwell Event Center



Friends of Indianapolis Animal Care Services Foundation  
7399 N Shadeland Ave. #117, Indianapolis, In 46250  
[friendsofindyanimals.org/donate](http://friendsofindyanimals.org/donate) 317-207-7868

# your fur iendly update

WINTER 2024 EDITION



on how your gifts help Indy Animals!

## 1,238 cats trapped, fixed and vaccinated – thanks to you!

Your kind and loving heart makes such a difference to animals – especially those living a cold, unhealthy and very risky life on the streets.

You may remember us writing to you last Spring for help with the massive influx of cats and kittens. And, like a caring friend, you responded!

With your help, 1,238 community cats were trapped, fixed and vaccinated last year – thanks to a “trapper grant” provided to our rescue partner, Indy Neighborhood Cats (INC). In total, INC trapped, fixed and vaccinated more than 2,300 cats in 2023! They also kept nearly 3,000 cats from entering the Indianapolis Animal Care Services (IACS) shelter and provided direct medical care to over 200 cats.

While the vast majority of community cats are returned to their colony after being fixed, those that can be adopted are brought into our shelter partners to find their loving fur-ever homes.



*Thanks for being such a kind and generous friend to Indy's community cat population! The need continues to increase... please do consider another kind gift today. 🐾*

## You helped sweet Meadow get the emergency care she needed

Meadow is a six-month-old sweetheart pup who had some very bad luck. She was brought into shelter by a kind-hearted good Samaritan who found her on the side of the road and **suspected she was hit by a car.**

This adorable girl came in with **fractures on both of her legs, along with a dislocated shoulder.** After the good Samaritan brought Meadow into an emergency vet who couldn't provide care, an IACS animal control officer came and picked her up. She was taken to Noah's Emergency Animal Hospital – a partner of Indianapolis Animal Care Services (IACS).

Meadow was stabilized, treated for pain, and had the dislocation reduced. Then, she was taken to one of our rescue partners, where she had emergency orthopedic surgery on those two fractured legs. The operation went well! Once she's recovered, Meadow will be ready for her forever home.



*Thank you for saving Meadow! Your incredible support provides essential emergency medical treatment to animals in desperate need. We see over 40 animals in need of emergency care each month – your gift today ensures it's there when they need it.*

## How you were a caring friend to animals in 2023:

Here are some of the amazing things your loving support helped accomplish at Indianapolis Animal Care Services (IACS) last year:

- 🐾 1,127 animals diverted from entering the shelter thanks to the 'IndyCARES' program
- 🐾 3,538 animals adopted
- 🐾 3,487 animals spayed and neutered
- 🐾 Took in 271 birds; 41 livestock; 535 "other", for a total of **9,482 animals** taken in 2023
- 👤 220 shelter volunteers provided critical support by giving
- 🕒 26,543 volunteer hours.

*Every gift you give helps an animal in desperate need of love and kindness. Thank you for being such a loving friend to Indy Animals. You are truly the best kind of human.*

## Winter overcrowding puts more animals at risk!

In January, the shelter faced extreme overcrowding due to cold and the many animals being sent there, and made an urgent plea to the public to adopt or foster animals.

As you know, the existing IACS shelter is already extremely overcrowded. When more animals come in to escape the cold, it puts a **massive burden on shelter and staff** – and increases the chance that some animals may be euthanized.

Last month, 50 out of 380 animals at the shelter were living in crates or temporary housing. While some caring humans have come forward to adopt or foster animals – **the situation is still very serious.**

Do you have the ability to foster or adopt an animal and give them a warm and loving home? If so, please call IACS at 317.327.1397 or go to [AnimalCareServices@indy.gov](mailto:AnimalCareServices@indy.gov).

*Your compassionate support of Friends of Indy Animals is vital to help meet the increased need this Winter. Please continue your generosity today.*

## The Journey Home is almost complete!

The fundraising journey is coming to a close in our quest to build a better home for Indy Animals. We're so excited to report that we've raised 98% of our \$7M goal for the Journey Home Capital Campaign.

**Thank you so much to every one of you who has generously donated so far!** With \$108,000 left to raise – we hope you'll call on your animal-loving friends and neighbors to join in the cause.

Together, we will soon build a new animal care center that is so much more than a "shelter." It will be a community animal resource center. A hub for animal welfare. An expanded campus where lifesaving work is done on a daily basis.

**The need is dire** – as you'll see in the article above on overcrowding in the shelter – more than ever we need this new, larger



home for animals who desperately need medical treatment and adoption.

We know you love and care for animals as much as we do. And we know you want to make it possible for every animal to find their loving forever home.

*Thank you for giving from your heart to help Indy animals along this Journey Home! For more info on the Journey Home campaign, you can visit [friendsofindyanimals.org/the-journey-home](https://friendsofindyanimals.org/the-journey-home) or email [Becky Honeywell at becky@friendsofindyanimals.org](mailto:Becky.Honeywell@friendsofindyanimals.org)*