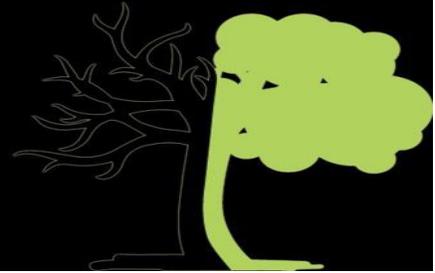


Awareness Harmony Acceptance  
Advocates



## AHA Advocate Talk: Animals for Action



**Samantha Ellison:** How did Action for Animals get started and can you talk a little about Action for Animals mission?

**Teresa Sparks:** Action for Animals was started by a group of people from Muncie/Delaware County Indiana who saw a need that had to be addressed. This need was for the strays dogs and cats of our community. They have no advocates and AFA was started to try to fill that role.

Action for Animals, Inc. is an all volunteer, non profit organization that was incorporated in 1980. We assist the stray cats and dogs of Delaware County, Indiana. We provide medical treatment, spaying and neutering, foster care and ultimately, placement in forever homes for these strays. We also micro chip all of our adoptees prior to adoption. We want to help keep all of them safe! We have chosen the stray population to concentrate our efforts because they have no one to help them find a new home--they have been left to fend for themselves and we need to help them.

## **Samantha Ellison: What programs and services does Action for Animals provide?**

### **Teresa Sparks:**

- 1. Spay/Neuter Assistance Program:** AFA provides Spay Day coupons, giving \$20 off a spay/neuter surgery for owned pets. These are honored by all area veterinarians and most vets in East Central Indiana as well. The coupons are limited in quantity and given out on a first come, first served basis.
- 2. Injured and Distressed Program:** Unowned stray pets (at this time, cats/kittens only) that are found, who are injured or in distress, are medically treated and then placed in foster care, as space and resources allow, to be made available for adoption once recovered and fully vetted (altered, vaccinated, etc.).
- 3. Catch/Alter/Release Program:** AFA assists in the trapping of feral/free roaming cats in Delaware County, has them spayed/neutered, vaccinated for Rabies and distemper, treated for existing injuries (if possible), and released where they have an established territory and a food/shelter source (unless deemed “adoptable” by an AFA representative, when foster space exists).
- 4. Foster Care Program:** Currently, AFA, has a very small number of foster homes who are able to socialize and care for the cats and kittens in the AFA program prior to adoption online or at PetSmart. Our foster homes remain full most of the time. In fact, we normally have a very long waiting list. We cannot and do NOT accept owner surrenders. However, we will always take back a pet that was adopted from AFA. Otherwise we accept only strays from Delaware County, Indiana and only as space allows.
- 5. Pet Adoption Program:** We always have some of our cats/kittens available through our local PetSmart (Muncie, IN), which can be met in person during regular store hours, and/or online at [www.petfinder.com](http://www.petfinder.com) or [www.adoptapet.com](http://www.adoptapet.com). Others are also in our foster homes, waiting to go to PetSmart and may have not been posted to the mentioned websites.
- 6. Pet Ownership Problems:** Assistance with individual pet behavioral questions is available by contacting us.
- 7. AFA In-Service:** AFA representatives, upon request, visit local schools and other community organizations to educate children/adults on the programs provided by AFA, the responsibilities of responsible pet ownership, and the need to spay/neuter pets.
- 8. HOPE Fund:** AFA has a very limited amount of money that is used to help owned pets receive urgent medical treatment. There is a cap on the amount that can be spent per pet and we strongly encourage any unaltered pet be spayed/neutered (can be included in the treatment of the pet if necessary) after the illness or injury is taken care of. We also ask that every effort to repay the funds is made by the pet owner, even in small increments over several weeks or months. Unless people repay the fund, no other animals will be able to be assisted.
- 9. Volunteers--always needed:** We are an all volunteer non profit organization so the need for volunteers is great! We need help with meeting and greeting potential adopters at PetSmart for both everyday times as well as during special adoption events. We also

need volunteers for fundraising events through out the year. Volunteers are always welcome to help with the CAR program, the food pantry, and fostering.

**10.** Assistance to residents and other animal advocacy organizations: AFA works in concert with other local, state, and national groups for the benefit of all animals.

**11.** Pet Food Pantry: AFA hosts a community pet food pantry on the 3rd Thursday of each month at Liberty Tax Service, 4415 N. Broadway Ave., Muncie, IN 47303 from 1pm - 5pm. Donations, both monetary or food/supplies are desperately needed in order to keep our pantry doors open.

**Samantha Ellison: If there was one injustice Action for Animals could help combat or solve in the world what would it be and why?**

**Teresa Sparks:** Pet overpopulation is a huge problem and it is an injustice for our furry friends. The number of animals that are homeless and that are being euthanized in shelters every day is astronomical. In many cases, these animals are destroyed simply because there are not enough resources to take care of them. We have to keep promoting and encouraging spaying and neutering programs. The only way the overpopulation will ever get under control is by limiting the number of offspring our pets produce.

**Samantha Ellison: How can people get involved or volunteer with Action for Animals?**

**Teresa Sparks:** Go to our website: [www.afamuncie.org](http://www.afamuncie.org) to get more information, you can email me at [actionforanimals.teresa@gmail.com](mailto:actionforanimals.teresa@gmail.com) , pick up one of our brochures or cards at PetSmart when you visit the cats that are available for adoption, or you can send us a note to PO Box 835, Muncie, IN 47308.

**Samantha Ellison: Where does Animals for Action get inspiration from?**

**Teresa Sparks:** We are inspired by our pets...they make us want to continue to help other animals everyday!

**Samantha Ellison: If members of Animals for Action could work with any leaders or organizations who would it be and why?**

**Teresa Sparks:** One of the largest animal sanctuaries/rescue facilities in our country is Best Friends Animal Society in Utah. We are members of their "No More Homeless Pets" Network already, but it would be really awesome if we were closer to them and better able to work with and learn from their experience!