BCAS Mission Statement

Boone County Animal Services mission is to provide services that promote animal welfare and safety in the community through code enforcement, education, encouraging adoptions, promoting spaying and neutering of pets, providing safe housing for animals and promoting responsible pet ownership.

Volunteer Program

BCAS held the February Volunteer Meeting at the shelter on Saturday, February 23rd. There were some new faces interested in volunteering. The meeting covered the adoption process and areas where volunteers can assist; information about cold weather and pets including how the department responds to welfare investigations during cold weather; a briefing of the upcoming BCAS Emergency and Disaster Training; and updates on the Boone County Animal Services Auxiliary (BCASA). Volunteer meetings are generally held each month, rotating Saturdays and Wednesdays to allow for people with different work schedules to attend.

(Picture below is of the February 2019 Volunteer Meeting)
**Special Donation**
The Stumpf Family of Belvidere, Illinois, collected donations for the BCAS shelter at their son Declan’s 1st birthday party! The Stumpf family collected and donated pet toys, food, dishes, cat litter, and cleaning supplies. We want to thank Declan and his family for the wonderful donation!

(Pictured below is Declan with the donation & the Stumpf family)

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**Fido and Feline FYI**

Cold Weather and Pets
- House cats should be kept indoors on very cold weather days.
- Outdoor Cats need to be provided a place to get out of the wind and a place to stay dry. Extra food and frequent replacement of water is needed.
- Cats seek warm areas to shelter and will climb into a car’s engine area to keep warm. Knocking on the hood before starting your vehicle can help scare and chase out any cat (or wildlife) that may have climbed into the engine area for warmth.
- When temperatures are below 40 degrees, house dogs should not be out for more than 15 minutes depending on the breed, age, and general state of health. Sweaters are good for smooth coated dogs or smaller dogs. An owner should be out with their pet to ensure the dog’s paws do not freeze during these conditions; when it is uncomfortable for the owner it is probably uncomfortable for the dog. *(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)*
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- After bringing pets in from outside, wipe their paws with a warm washcloth to remove any salt or de-icer chemicals. Salt can irritate the pads and some de-icer products can be highly toxic to a pet.
- Dog walks should be on a leash! More dogs are lost during winter than any other time of the year. Drifting snow and ice and make it difficult for a dog to track back home. Also, lakes and ponds will freeze over during winter. An unleashed dog may walk out onto a frozen lake or pond and fall through.
- Outdoor dogs need extra bedding. Use straw for bedding. Do not use hay or blankets for bedding; both will become wet and freeze with ice. Extra food and replacement of water is needed. (Snow is not sufficient for hydration-they need fresh water!)
- Check for leaking anti-freeze. Dogs like anti-freeze and may try to lick it; anti-freeze is fatal for dogs!
- Winter is cold and flu season. Ensure that cold and flu medicine, which is in higher use at this time of year, is kept out of reach of pets. Many of the cold and flu medications can be highly toxic to pets.