



▶ AN INTERVIEW WITH THE HUMANE SOCIETY'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.....1



▶ MAIN STORY CONTINUED.....2



▶ READING HAS GONE TO THE DOGS.....2

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Humane Education

Kokomo Humane Society Mission
Improving the lives of and preventing cruelty to domestic and companion animals through humane education, shelter, and uniting pets with families.

It's time to make living ethically, sustainably, and peaceably on this planet the very purpose of education.

www.humaneeducation.org

Jean McGroarty On Animal Sheltering



I interviewed my boss and the Executive Director of the Kokomo Humane Society, Jean McGroarty. She is a Certified Animal Welfare Administrator (CAWA), and past president of the Association of Professional Humane Educator. She is also a member of the National Animal Control Association, Society of Animal Welfare Administrators and is on the board of the Indiana Alliance of Animal Control and Welfare Organizations. She is a graduate of Purdue University.

E: First off, give us a brief history of humane societies in the United States.

Jean: Animal welfare organizations in this country owe their origins to Henry Bergh, who founded the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) in 1866. In the beginning, the focus of this organization was on horses, cruelly mistreated by their owners. Eventually, the ASPCA successfully prosecuted a case of child abuse under the new animal cruelty laws instituted by Bergh, since there were

no laws protecting children in New York City. Having said that, I want to point out that all humane societies, SPCAs, animal welfare leagues and other animal welfare organizations are independent groups, operating within their communities and service areas with local support. None of us receive funds from any of the national organizations, and the national groups do not regulate any of the local humane groups.

E: What are the most common issues facing humane societies?

Jean: Overpopulation, cruelty, neglect and responsible pet guardianship are our biggest concerns. In my mind, most of our animal problems stem from the overpopulation of pet animals. For every human being born, seven dogs and cats are born. Because of their abundance, they are treated as a throw-away commodity, vulnerable to abusive and neglectful humans. There are so many animals, it's easy to think that if one doesn't work out, you can always get another one.

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Frog vs. Toad-What is the Difference?

Frogs have bulging eyes, strong and long hind legs meant for hopping and webbed feet for swimming. A frog has slimy or smooth skin. Toads, in comparison, often have short stubby hind legs meant for walking rather than hopping, warty and dry skin, and glands (poisonous to most animals) behind their eyes.

Toads commonly live on land and only breed in the water. Frogs rarely stray far and spend most of their lives in or near water.





Jean and Jinx at the shelter

Jean McGroarty on Animal Sheltering

E: What effects have you seen from the current state of the economy?

Jean: Surprisingly, we are not seeing an increase in surrenders, and that's a good thing. But we do have more people coming to us needing pet food because they can't afford to feed their pets. Our desire in these situations is to keep the animals in their homes, so we try to help. Unfortunately, our "food bank" is supplied through donations and there are times when our cupboard is bare. We rely on the community to donate food that we can in turn give to those who need it.

E: Should people help their local humane society? Why?

Jean: Animal welfare organizations are community-based. The Kokomo Humane Society helps animals in Kokomo, Howard County and a few surrounding counties. We also help the *people* in those counties. So, a donation of time, money or supplies to the Kokomo Humane Society stays in the community. Our animals cannot speak for themselves. They cannot ask for help or explain why they need to live in a forever home. The Humane Society does its best to speak for the animals, and we think these creatures deserve support, love and respect.

E: You have worked in the animal welfare line for awhile. Why do you do it?

Jean: I have an abiding love and respect for the animals that share our earth. That's what got me into humane work. What keeps me there is seeing the faces of the animals in our care and knowing that each one has a story, and that we can change that story for the better. Even if an animal is not adopted, I know that, at least for the time he or she was here, there was nutritious food, a warm, dry place to sleep and as much affection as we can give. Every staff member and volunteer here can be proud of that.

-Emily J. Auth



Reading to Dogs

Do you have a child or a student who has a hard time learning to read? Often, it is a problem with self esteem, as they are often afraid to read in front of their peers. Having them read to a dog, however, creates an environment conducive to reading. Dogs pass no criticism, and children who read to animals will often improve very quickly. Consider having Ben and Emily come to your classroom today!



Ben the Doberman Local Canine Celebrity, avid Tweeter

Ben and I have been going to schools, churches and hospitals for over a year now. In that time we have become close friends and colleagues. Honestly, what better colleague to have than a dog? Ben has become rather popular in this time. He even has a Twitter! We would love to come to your classroom or group, so contact us today! At the Kokomo Humane Society we are committed to preventing pet overpopulation and animal abandonment. This takes everyone's cooperation to educate our community! Reach me at 765-452-6224 ext. 3 or e.auth@kokomohumane.org

Many Thanks, Emily J. Auth,
Community Outreach Coordinator

Until he extends the circle of his compassion to all living things, man will not himself find peace.
- Dr. Albert Schweitzer



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