



▶ FERAL CATS-WHAT WENT WRONG?



▶ CATS & DOGS: TOGETHER?



▶ THE KOKOMO HUMANE SOCIETY PET FOOD BANK

November 2009



# 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](http://www.humaneeducation.org)

## Feral Cats *What went wrong?*



Neighborhoods around the US are teeming with them, rummaging through trash cans, fighting other animals, destroying native wildlife, even biting an unsuspecting child—this is the plague of the feral cats. Feral cats are wild-born offspring of domestic cats, left outdoors to breed and fend for themselves. These offspring revert back to their basic instincts, and know only fear of humans, hunger for lack of food, and territory in competition with other animals. The average lifespan of one of these creatures is typically less than 5 years, the majority not living past two. Sometimes they live in colonies that can often be found living in or near dumpsters and abandoned buildings, often near apartment complexes as the kittens of abandoned pets. They are considered a pest, and are routinely eliminated using different methods, not always humanely. Feral cats seem such a far cry from the

typical image of the lazy house cat, living out its average 15-20 year lifespan in the comfort of a loving home and sunny spot near the window. Most experts agree that domestic cats that live indoors have a better quality of life, and this is exemplified by the extended lifespan.

Animal welfare organizations agree that a “trap-neuter-release” or “TNR” program is the most effective in curbing this problem humanely. Individual citizens often take it upon themselves to trap feral cats and have them fixed, while other communities organize TNR programs. Unfortunately this a costly venture.

Thus the debate continues. Human beings domesticated felines. Therefore, should we be responsible for their well being? If this is the case, then feral cats deserve a second look.

## Turkey Truths

The Native American name for turkey is “firkee.” Benjamin Franklin argued strongly for the turkey to be elected our national bird. While domestic turkeys cannot fly, wild turkeys can fly over 55 miles per hour. Turkeys are native to North America, and have been around almost 10,000,000 years!



# Fighting Like Cats & Dogs

*Can't we all just get along?*



Ah, the dilemma of the modern pet lover.... Dog or cat? Why not both? Coexistence, even a happy one, is possible. The answer lies in the owners' dedication to their pets. A simple understanding of animal behavior, combined with a great deal of patience is what it takes to ensure Fluffy and Fido get along.

First, understand that cats and dogs are territorial. Even spayed and neutered animals mark their territory mentally, and don't like changes. This is why gradual integration of the new pet is the wisest choice. When you bring home your new animal, be it a cat or dog, keep it isolated in one room of the house, and keep your existing pet OUT. This first step can take as many as 30 days. In the meantime, allow your existing pet to grow comfortable with the smell of your new one. Rub a towel on one, then the other, then vice versa. Gradually allow them to sniff and see

each other through the door. Take the dog outside, let the cat wander the whole house. Put the cat in another room and let the dog smell where the cat has been. When you feel it is time, put the dog on a leash, hold on to it, and let the cat explore while letting the dog see it. It is important to do this several times until you are certain the dog is calm around the cat. Encourage playtime, but always supervise their interactions. They will have their spats, but never allow them to "work it out." Separate, start over, and be patient. It will pay off, and they might even be friends!



## Thanks-Giving

The economy is slowly picking up, but places like Kokomo are still reeling from the recession. As a result, many families are left with little or no income, and everyone suffers. At the Kokomo Humane Society, we have had many pets relinquished to us as a result. We are firmly committed to keeping pets in their loving homes. We have established a pet food bank to help needy families keep their pets fed, and more importantly, in their homes. We'll kindly accept food donations!



## Emily J. Auth

*is often over-enthusiastic*

Its Turkey Time! I love this time of the year, when everything is crisp, fresh and smothered in gravy!

Ben and I are ready to come to your classroom for a visit. 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](mailto:e.auth@kokomohumane.org)

Many Thanks, Emily J. Auth,  
Community Outreach Coordinator

*The smallest feline is a masterpiece.  
- Leonardo da Vinci*



Check us out on  
facebook, myspace  
and twitter!



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