

MONROE COUNTY HUMANE ASSOCIATION

CLINIC • EDUCATION • OUTREACH



August is Itchy Pet Month

#ItchyPetAwarenessMonth

We often think of winter months as causing dry, itchy skin, but summer months host a large variety of itch-inducing triggers and skin-related issues.

Common causes of summertime itchiness in pets include:

- Food & environmental allergens (pollen, insect bites and stings, and smog)
- Skin infection
- Fleas and parasites

Symptoms your pet may display include:

- Excessive licking, chewing, and scratching,
- Rubbing the face and eyes,
- Dry or scaly skin,
- Redness or irritation of the skin, ears, or paws,
- A yeasty or foul odor from the skin, ears, or paws, and
- Hair loss or changes to your pet's coat

If your pet is experiencing any of these symptoms, you should talk to your veterinarian to determine the cause and the best treatment plan as soon as possible, as early intervention can help prevent secondary issues and significantly reduce your pet's suffering.

Our veterinarians also encourage flea treatment and prevention as part of your pet's ongoing, routine care. If you'd like to schedule an appointment to discuss your options or symptoms your pet may be experiencing, please call us at 812-333-MCHA (6242).



MCHA Dog Walking Club

Saturday, August 31

9:00 a.m.

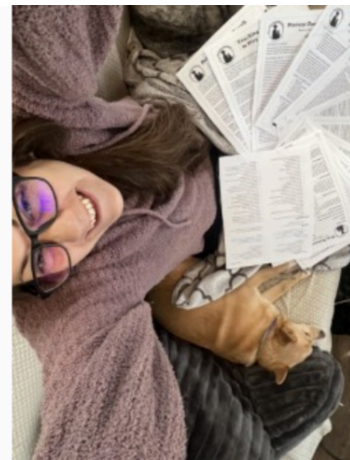
Meet at the MCHA Clinic

791 S Fieldstone Blvd, Bloomington, IN 47403

Are you interested in joining a walking club with other dog lovers to learn how to walk trails with your dog? This will teach your dog healthy interactions, good leash walking habits, and safe trail walking!

We will host the dog walking club at the walking trail at our clinic. This will start at 9:00 a.m., weather permitting. Just bring your dog, a leash, and good walking shoes for a fun walk through the woods. Registration is not required; this is an open and free event!

[Learn More!](#)



Mission Moment: Leslie Hudson

Leslie Hudson has a lifelong career in humane education. Starting at the age of 15, with her Belgin Malinois, Mercury (Curry), she received a certification in search and rescue and participated in several search and rescue training exercises. Her relationship with Curry inspired her to pursue a career in advocacy, dog training, and humane education for “each end of the leash”. She has been involved with the training of therapy dogs and household pets for over 20 years.

Leslie has been involved with MCHA for more than half her life. In her youth, her family participated in dog rescues and partnered with MCHA during our fostering program. Later she worked for MCHA as the lead for MCHA's education programs; working with children and adults to educate them how to be responsible pet owners and to be humane to each other.

Now as the owner of Train Loyal Companions, she has offered her expertise to the MCHA board as our Chair of Education. In this role she helps to organize and lead our new education programs that include Pet First Aid and CPR, Loose Leash Walking, and has helped to reinstate our Dog Walking Club. When she isn't working as a dog trainer and board member, she is working on a book of her training methods.

Leslie expressed her reason for choosing to be a part of the MCHA board: with her most recent certifications and advocacy work, she wanted to offer her expertise and tools to the community. When asked about what part of the mission she connects with the most she said, "I connect with all parts of the mission; our mission fits with my personal and professional beliefs for everyone to have access to humane education." When asked why she is so passionate about what we do at MCHA, she said, "MCHA is the best animal welfare organization in the community, and I wanted to be a part of it."

MCHA is grateful for board members and partners like Leslie that believe in our mission and are working with us to make that mission a reality. Thank you, Leslie, for all that you have done and will do for MCHA.



Pet Enrichment & Back to School Safety Plan

from Train Loyal Companions, LLC

First, it's important to remember that animal enrichment is an ongoing process, not just a single object or event. It is usually delivered on a routine schedule. Enrichment improves the quality of life by increasing the ability to cope with daily stressors and encouraging natural animal behaviors such as hunting, chasing, and climbing. It also reduces stress, boredom, and undesired behaviors by supporting a pet's sensory and social needs. If you haven't had a pet enrichment schedule before, don't worry! It's never too late to start. Going back to school means big schedule changes, which can be stressful for pets. The switch from a house full of humans one day to an empty house the next is a major adjustment, especially for dogs and some cats.

Here are some back-to-school pet tips to take care of your pet's needs and help you enjoy your time together as you head into the school year:

Keep backpacks and lunch boxes out of your pet's reach. Backpacks and lunch boxes can contain items harmful to pets, such as gum with xylitol, grapes, raisins, macadamia nuts, onions, moldy foods, and medications. Paper products, markers, crayons, pencils, and glue sticks can also be toxic or cause illness if ingested. Look for the AP (Approved Product) seal on school supplies to ensure they are non-toxic. Take a pet first aid and CPR class for extra precautions and keep your local emergency vet contact info accessible.

Include all family members in pet care for a well-balanced training and behavior enrichment plan. Assign tasks such as feeding, refreshing the water bowl, or playing games to make the transition easier for everyone.

Use stress-reducing techniques and relaxation protocols. Music can calm your pets and provide enrichment. Select dog-friendly music, such as classical music or music created specifically for dogs.

Provide enrichment toys and games. The ASPCA suggests giving your dog a food-stuffed toy filled with treats to keep them distracted when your kids leave. Use puzzle feeders, snuffle mats, or toys filled with kibble, treats, or peanut butter on licky mats to encourage interactive play. For cats, fill a shallow container with water and floating toys like ping pong balls for supervised playtime.

Exercise is key to starting the day. Longer morning walks for your dog can tire them out and help them relax during the day. Extra playtime for cats can prevent boredom. An evening outing can help both you and your pet wind down for the night.

Practice the new schedule. Ease your pet into the new routine before school starts. Get up earlier to walk your dog or play with your cat for 15 minutes. Engaging your pet in activities while you prepare for the day helps tire them out so they can rest while you're gone.

Prevent separation anxiety. Avoid making a big deal of leaving. Quick, friendly goodbyes and varying departure routines can reduce separation anxiety. Spend quality time with your pet when you're home.

Use pet-proof rooms or crates as needed. Keep your dog in a crate or secure, dog-proofed room when you're not home to avoid accidents or emergencies. Crate training helps manage stress and prevents destructive behaviors in dogs. Use the crate as a fun space, not for punishment. Teach your dog to signal when they need to go outside and always clean up after them. Don't forget to keep your cat's litter box clean, too! Prevent escape by keeping pets in a safe, enclosed area during pick-ups and drop-offs. Ensure your pets are vaccinated, microchipped, and wearing a collar with ID.

Engage a pet sitter or dog walker. A pet sitter or dog walker can break up the long hours of solitude and provide human interaction, playtime, enrichment games, and companionship.

Enroll your dog in training or enrichment classes. These classes provide mental stimulation, build confidence, and improve social skills. Search for certified dog training at www.apdt.com. Training isn't just for dogs; cats can also benefit from learning to use scratching posts and other positive behaviors.

[Download the PDF](#)



Mobile Vaccine Clinic

**Sunday, September 1
1–3 p.m.**

Monroe Fire Station 24

7606 E State Road 45, Unionville, IN 47408

On Sunday, September 1, 2024, Monroe Fire Station 24, 7606 E State Road 45, Unionville, IN 47408, will host the MCHA veterinary team from 1–3 p.m. with no appointment needed. All are welcome!

Our Mobile Vaccine Clinics offer a range of services, including legally mandated rabies vaccines for pets aged 12 weeks and older. Additionally, we provide nail trims, anal gland expressions, microchips, and preventive measures for flea, tick, and heartworm. While these clinics are intended for healthy dogs and cats, they are not a substitute for your pet's annual wellness check-up with your primary veterinarian.

Subsidized pricing is available for clients who present proof of a government subsidy program, or other proof of financial hardship.

[Learn More!](#)



29th Annual

Run for the Animals & Barktoberfest

presented by The Dog House

Sunday, October 6

Karst Farm Park
2450 S Endwright Rd, Bloomington, IN 47403

Mark your calendars for Sunday, October 6, 2024 at Karst Farm Park, where the fun kicks off with our exciting timed 5K run/walk! Whether you're an experienced runner aiming for a personal best or just want to enjoy a lovely walk to support a great cause, this event is for you!

All proceeds benefit the vital programs and services at MCHA.

[Register Online](#)



Summer of Giving

Support MCHA in reaching our summer fundraising goals by becoming a sustaining donor today through a recurring monthly contribution. Your ongoing support through monthly donations helps our clinic, outreach programs, and the future of MCHA. Look for a special promotion in the coming weeks!

Even a small gift of \$10 per month can provide essential crisis housing support, food, and necessary veterinary care to pets in Monroe County. Thank you for being a dedicated donor to our cause!

[Support MCHA](#)



Donor Spotlight: Nancy Martin

Nancy has donated to MCHA off and on for the past 20 years. But most recently she has been inspired by our programs to help our less fortunate community members that love their animals.

Nancy has been volunteering at Bloomington Animal Care & Control (BACC) since she retired in 2018. Her last four dogs were adopted from BACC. She is an adoption counselor and takes great pride in making sure that the animals are matched to the right humans.

She has known about MCHA since it was located at the Bloomington Animal Shelter on South Walnut. As a teacher she used to have educational programs in her classroom at Jackson Creek in partnership with MCHA. As with many other community members, she was a little confused about the difference between MCHA and BACC, but now that she understands both of our missions, she finds it important to support both organizations.



Her recently deceased dog Penny (pictured left) was adopted in 2016 from the animal shelter at 8 years old. Penny had been a neighborhood ambassador, having her own Halloween treats to hand out. She loved kids and spent time in a 2nd grade classroom teaching students how to interact with a dog.

Nancy's other dog, Molly is a failed foster. She brought her home in December of 2022 and ended up adopting her. She was volunteering the day Molly came to BACC and decided to foster her. She took a lot of extra care to get her to trust humans. But as you can see in the first photo, she is now a very loving dog.

MCHA is grateful for the Martin family's donation this year which will help us continue our crucial programming that aids Monroe County's families with pets. Thank you!



Message From MCHA's Executive Director

As we step into August, I want to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude for your support of Monroe County Humane Association (MCHA). Your generosity enables us to continue providing vital services to animals and their human companions in our community.

August is National Pet Immunization Awareness Month, a time to emphasize the critical role vaccinations play in safeguarding the health of our beloved pets. Vaccinations are essential not only for protecting individual animals from disease but also for preventing the spread of infectious diseases within our community.

We welcome anyone to join us at our monthly mobile vaccine clinics throughout the county. These clinics provide an excellent opportunity to get your pets vaccinated conveniently and affordably. Learn more about locations and dates on [our website](#).

Thank you for being a vital part of our mission to improve the lives of animals and the people who care for them.

Reach Out To Andrew!



Get Involved - Volunteer

We're on the lookout for passionate individuals like YOU to help us expand our programs and services, bringing joy to countless furry friends in our community!

Whether you're excited to interact with the public at our Special Events, assist pet owners at our Mobile Vaccine Clinics, capture the essence of our animals through Photography, beautify our Gardening & Trails, or support our Food Pantry, your time and talent will make a significant impact. Together, we can create a better future for our beloved animals!

[Learn More!](#)

This month's newsletter is sponsored by our good friends at



SCOUT'S HONOR





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Monroe County Humane Association | 812-333-6242 | monroehumane.org



Monroe County Humane Association | P.O. Box 1334 | Bloomington, IN 47402 US