



Pit Mix Fix

Solution to Overpopulation

(Marion County pilot program with special funding for Jackson & Lawrence Counties)

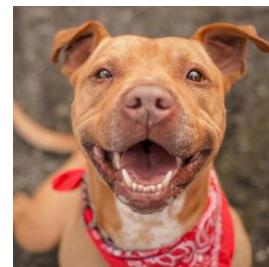
In Marion County, Indianapolis Animal Care Services (IACS) is the only open-intake shelter and is tasked with the responsibility of intaking every unwanted animal that arrives at its doors. Historically, there have been **two types of animals that are overrepresented and at most risk of euthanasia** due to lack of quality homes – **cats and large dogs, including pit mixes**. Pet Friendly Service of Indiana has been working to limit cat intake across the state and is now launching a program to help large dogs.

If you're not familiar with our work, Pet Friendly Services provides free spay/neuter surgery certificates to our shelter and rescue partners. Our assistance helps make shelter dogs adoption ready and helps rescue groups by providing funding so they can “pull” additional dogs from overcrowded shelters.

Rather than continuously working to address overpopulation, Pet Friendly Services works to **prevent** overpopulation. Here's what we are doing for cats, and here's where we need your help to save the lives of large dogs:

1. Cats – To limit shelter intake of cats, Pet Friendly Services of Indiana provides \$25 surgery certificates to limited-income cat owners so they can afford to fix their pets and avoid unwanted litters. We also provide free surgery certificates to “community cat” groups that trap-neuter-return feral and free roaming cats. These preventive programs have been incredibly impactful, saving lives, saving money, and reducing the burden on shelter staff.
2. Pit Mixes and other Large Dogs – Indiana shelters have an ongoing challenge: they are full of large dogs, but the demand for these types of pets is minimal. Most adopters are looking for small and medium-sized dogs, which typically fly out of the shelter and into their forever homes. But large dogs are another story. They are strong, and they require adequate space and a good-sized yard. They cost more to feed, and their lifespan is shorter than smaller dogs. These are a few of the drawbacks adopters take into consideration.

What is a Pit Mix?



Pit Mixes are mixed breed dogs that are descendants of terriers and bulldogs. Their general appearance includes:

- A broad, blocky head with medium-sized, folded ears
- Stocky, well-muscled body, weighing up to 80 lbs.
- A very short coat in a variety of patterns

In speaking with pit bull owners at community events, Pet Friendly Services has learned that people who love pit bulls frequently breed them and are completely unaware of the situation at shelters. When we explain that pit mixes who look very much like their beloved dog are the most euthanized type of dog, they are stunned. No one has ever explained this before.

What's the Solution? To solve this problem, Pet Friendly Services has launched a pilot program for Marion County. The program offers limited-income owners of pit mixes and other large dogs \$10 spay/neuter surgeries. Special fundraising efforts in Jackson & Lawrence Counties will provide spay/neuter surgeries for a set number of dogs as well.

The Investment: Pet Friendly Services has raised \$20,000 to fix 150 dogs at an average cost of \$133 per surgery. Pet owners can utilize any of the local vets in our statewide network to schedule their surgeries.

This Investment Will Pay Dividends. Here's Why: Large dogs tend to have lots of puppies. Pit bull terriers can have up to 13 puppies in a single litter. With a gestation period of just two months, females can have 2-3 litters per year.

Let's Take a Look at the Math:

Using conservative data to determine the number of puppies a single female might produce, let's assume:

- 7 puppies per litter
- 2 litters per year
- 3 years of breeding before she is spayed
- = 42 puppies (intact and able to breed)

Assuming that half of the 150 dogs fixed through the Pit Mix Fix are female:
75 females x 42 puppies per dog = 3,150 births prevented

With an investment of \$20,000, the cost to prevent a birth is just \$6.35

How You Can Help: Pet Friendly Services invites you to help fund – or even expand - the Pit Mix program. A sponsorship of \$20,000 expands the program by funding 150 additional surgeries. Your gift of \$10,000 funds 75 dogs. A contribution of \$5,000 funds 37 dogs. A donation of \$133 funds a single surgery, preventing numerous unwanted litters.

We invite you to contact us to discuss this project (and any of our other lifesaving projects.)

Thank you for your shared love of pets!

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YES... I Want to Save Lives!

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Check Donation: Please make checks payable to Pet Friendly Services of Indiana.

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