

# Hope doing well; this cat will serve as reminder of cruelty

**A**s a member of the newly formed task force addressing animal cruelty in Michigan City, I thank those who wrote to Anvil Chorus on this issue. They are right on target with their recognition that cruelty to animals will escalate to cruelty to humans — the connection is well-documented.

Instead of being sad reading about Hope, let's channel the anger and frustration into something positive. She is doing well, and doesn't know that she has become the catalyst for what we hope to be real change in our area. The intentions of our task force are to create a unified, coordinated mechanism to deal with the causes — and not just the symptoms — of cruelty, and the way in which we as a community interact with domestic animals.

It is not only the children and their parents who are responsible for the cruelty: the proximity and exposure of these stray animals is a function of the millions of Americans who think it's OK to abandon animals when they tire of them or when they figure out that they can't financially care for them or have them spayed or neutered.

Mr. Billinger, I can assure you that the photos of Hope before she started her healing process were much more gruesome than the one shown by The News Dispatch ["Using picture of cat in bad taste," Thursday]. She actually looks pretty good now, considering what she looked like weeks ago. She has had many offers of refuge, and we invite those people who won't get to take Hope home with them to visit our Web site at [www.catsociety.org](http://www.catsociety.org) for other worthy cats who were victims of abuse and neglect.

Everyone should find the photo disturbing, and keep it handy to remind ourselves what happens when we do nothing.

*Connie Szawara  
The Independent Cat  
Society  
LaPorte*

## Mayor active in anti-cruelty group

**I**'d like to say how proud I am of our city that people are concerned for the welfare of our animals and children.

## ANVIL CHORUS letters to the editor

► We prefer letters of no more than 250 words, and letters may be edited for length, clarity and accuracy. Please include home and work telephone numbers for verification. The writer's full name and hometown are published with each letter.

► Send letters to Anvil Chorus, The News-Dispatch, 121 W. Michigan Blvd., Michigan City, IN 46360.

► Fax letters to (219) 872-8511.

► E-mail letters to [opinion@thenewsdispatch.com](mailto:opinion@thenewsdispatch.com)

I also want to respond to the letter that stated that the mayor was handing this off to someone else. Mayor Oberlie is very much behind this project and the minute he received notice of this tragedy, he immediately called his Animal Control Department together to take action.

We'll continue to update everyone of the progress we are making together with the mayor's help on the Task Force.

Thank you all for speaking out!

*Polly Liebig  
Michigan City*

## Cruelty should bring punishment

**W**hen I opened the paper Tuesday and saw the tortured cat Hope, I was utterly sickened. I am saddened that there are such cruel people in our community who would torture an innocent creature for no reason at all.

"Teaching" these children to be kind to animals is NOT what is needed in this particular case. That statement is a joke. The propensity for abuse is blatantly obvious in these children — they require punishment for this deed.

I pray these children are located and get the juvenile detention and psychiatric treatment they so sorely, obviously need, and that the parents of these children are appropriately fined and made to pay the veterinary bills that their children's act of torture has incurred.

I donate my time and money to help animals like Hope, and will continue to do this, which is my calling in life.

It's time people who commit these violent crimes against God's creatures are held accountable for their actions. Let us set a precedent now, for the

sake of future victims of animal cruelty.

*Amber Scott  
Michigan City*

## Police will get to know abusers

**I**'m hopeful I can lay aside my complete outrage and disbelief as I write about Hope, the abused cat.

First, thank God for the woman who rescued this kitty from further torture. It is a proven fact there is a connection between animal cruelty and human violence. I shudder to think what animals have to endure at the hands of sick, psychotic, demented people. Whoever did this has a God-given conscience and free will; it has nothing to do with being taught any better, it's a matter of common sense. My blood is running cold, and I would not trust ANYBODY, child or adult, who mistreats a helpless animal.

These human animals likely will not be caught and identified, but I have a hunch the police department in time will come to know them by their first names.

*Karleen S. Malik  
Michigan City*

## Zoo is a delight this year

**I** just wanted to say how happy my family is with the changes at our Michigan City zoo. We had stopped visiting because of how empty and disappointing it was. Now, every time we have gone, the bears have come up to the window and played peek-a-boo. The otters are very active and the layout helps you see them in action. My daughter got a big kick out of the peacock walking the grounds. The staff has been very friendly and we will go again.

*Sarah Reed  
Michigan City*

## Model A couldn't be 88 years old

**H**enry Ford built Model-A's from 1928 through 1931. Who was the manufacturer of the 88-year-old one pictured in Thursday's Wheels section?

*Stan Smith  
Michigan City*

Editor's note: Stan's right; that 1929 Model A is really 78 years old, not 88.