

Cat story shows need for spaying

The case of the poor little cat, Hope, who was so terribly abused brings to mind the importance of spaying or neutering our pets to reduced the population of unwanted animals that are most often the victims of abuse and neglect.

These procedures also have health and behavior benefits for the animals, so not only are we limiting the number of pets we have to the number we can responsibly care for, the animals are healthier. This leads to happier humans in our homes and communities.

All our local veterinarians do these procedures in their offices. They all recommend it, as do humane organizations.

The "Neuter Scooter" periodically visits our area and provides these services at lower cost. Go to neuterscooter.com for more information. They also will take care of feral (wild, outdoor) cats.

For information on managing feral cat populations, go to alleycat.org. Alley Cat Allies is a national organization that provides excellent information to anyone who asks.

This is not the whole answer to this awful problem, but it is a start. Let's do the responsible thing and reduce the number of stray and abandoned animals in our communities who could be exposed to these dangers. Please spay and neuter your pets, and if you can, look into helping the strays in your area.

*E. Chilton
Michigan City*

Animal abusers learn it at home

After reading Hope's story May 22, I just want to say God bless the anonymous cat rescuer and Dr. Reed for their humanity.

This is more about people than an animal-control issue. The people who are capable of such abuse are the same people who cannot or will not have their pets neutered. When children are left to their own devices, neglected without parenting, this type of abuse will continue to grow.

Children do not normally possess the aggression it takes to inflict such harm on a living creature. Rather, they are taught by example through their environment, their home life, their parents,

ANVIL CHORUS letters to the editor

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their friends.

As a result, we have some who say why not beat a small animal, why not burn it with toxic chemicals, why not beat in into submission — or death. Why not? It's just a cat. And you can bet the farm many of these children will grow up to disrespect human life enough to take one!

*Christine N. Cook
Michigan City*

More concern for cat than child

I agree with the gentleman's letter Thursday about showing the full-color picture of the abused cat including the animal's injuries ["Using picture of cat in bad taste"].

What bothers me is that a week prior to this there was a missing child at the same complex, and the story was printed on Page A6. The article stated five agencies were involved in looking for the child, as well as myself and several other residents at Garden Estates.

As a parent, grandparent and animal lover, it sickened me an animal would make the front page of your paper, but not the child.

Citizens are sending letters wondering where the parents of this cat abuser are and why aren't the children being supervised.

Where are the letters about the missing child? It is saddening to discover society has chosen an animal over a child.

*Paula Rogers
Michigan City*

Memorial Day parade shrinking

I am not criticizing the St. Patrick's Day parade or the upcoming Summer Festival parade because the folks who put on those events do a fine job.

My complaint is with the lack of effort by this town with the Memorial Day parade. This is the

day we set aside to honor the men and women who fought and died for this country so we can stand on the street corner and wave the flag or voice your opinion in the paper.

I have been attending this parade as long as I can remember, and as the years have passed, it gets smaller, and it just seems to me all of the politicians can make the time to be in the St. Pat's parade, but none can be found for the Memorial Day parade. Maybe we should hold this town's one-party primary on the second Tuesday of June.

If we can put together that kind of effort for somebody who drove the snakes out of Ireland or for summer — because after all it is not the Fourth of July parade, it is called the Summer Festival parade — we should show that kind of support for the men and women who served so bravely for this country.

God bless the men and women of our armed forces.

*Rick Miscik
Michigan City*

Firefighters rescued ducklings

I thank the firemen of the Cleveland Avenue firehouse who helped me rescue four baby ducklings from a storm sewer Monday evening.

The ducklings, small enough to fit in the palm of my hand, were separated from their mother and, while running frantically along the curb on Cleveland, fell one by one into the storm sewer.

Equally frantic, I went to the firehouse on Cleveland to ask for help. The firemen promptly followed me to the storm sewer, lifted a grate and one of them climbed in to save the babies.

I hope the Michigan City Street Department will consider adding some wire mesh to these sewers, and others like them, to prevent such problems in the future, especially on roads that border wooded areas. While Michigan City seems to be in the spirit of helping animals, like the cat Hope, making small adjustments to save wildlife from our human traps would be in keeping with this spirit of kindness.

*Beth Rudnick
Trail Creek*