HUMANE INDIANA ANNOUNCES VIRTUAL "PAWS IN THE PARK VIRTUAL WALK" EVENT  
*Spirit Week: September 19-26, 2020.*

Wednesday, July 22, 2020 -- Highland, IN. As not-for-profit events across the region continue to revamp or reschedule fundraising events, Humane Indiana is pivoting one of our premiere events *Paws in the Park - Celebrating Pets for Health* to a virtual format.

Typically held at Community Park in Munster with several hundred guests, pets, and animal-loving community members, the annual event will take on a new look this year, due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Organizers are following safety guidelines issued by Indiana Governor Eric Holcomb, local officials, and the CDC.

“The safety of our supporters, volunteers and staff is of utmost importance to our organization,” said Brian Fitzpatrick, Humane Indiana CEO. “While our events will look different this year, our goal remains the same -- to help the animals. We're hopeful the community will continue to support us in that mission,” he added. Fitzpatrick said like other not-for-profit organizations, Humane Indiana has been severely financially impacted by the pandemic as fundraising events, including this year’s annual Gala and other revenue streams at the organization have been canceled or remain on hold.

“We believe people understand the challenges we're facing, and will want to support this revamped event to continue to help homeless shelter pets," said Lisa Carpenter, Humane Indiana Chief Development Officer. "We're really hoping to see families, groups, and businesses participate. The idea is to have fun together but separately and safely by going for a walk or run, or simply playing with your pet," she added.

**Paws in the Park Spirit Week will take place September 19-26.** Participants are encouraged to register online and create a team. All participants will receive access to pet enrichment tips and videos, an animal-themed music playlist, a virtual doggy bag featuring deals and discounts at community partner locations, and a participation bib. Participants donating $50 or more receive an official “Paws in the Park 2020” t-shirt. Humane Indiana is encouraging all participants to snap participation photos and share them on social media and tag #PIP2020.

For more Paws in the Park information or to register, visit HumaneIndiana.org/events. Questions? Email: info@humaneindiana.org or call 219.765.4978