



# Iowa County Humane Society (ICHS) Newsletter

## PawPrints March 2020

### Contents

A Letter from the Editor.....	1
Upcoming Fundraising Events and Volunteer Needs.....	2
Adoptions .....	3
Special Pets .....	3
Success Stories.....	4

**A Letter From The Editor**... "Spring has sprung"!! Although I yearn to be outside and doing 'spring things', I find that I am just as content gazing out the window and dreaming about what I want to do rather than actually doing it. Once I can actually be outdoors, the pressure is on – there's so much to be done! Spring always gives me a renewed sense of optimism – not just in my personal life but also at ICHS. Just like "gazing out the window and imagining how things will be," it is so energizing to be with other 'like-minded' people and discuss future ICHS projects – as in 'someday'! We all know that the roof project is at the top of the "to do" list and outdoor dog play yards are right behind the roof project, but there are other building and grounds improvements that are fun to think about. And as long as other projects (realistically) can't be implemented right now, it is just fun to think about 'someday' at ICHS. **As you read this letter it is important to remember that I am a volunteer and these are MY thoughts.**



February was an awesome month for kitty adoptions (see chart). We did have a \$14 special for the month so that probably accounted for some of the adoptions, but there were also a number of people who were not aware there was a special deal. March finds the cat population to be way down, but we still

have kitties waiting just for YOU! The nice thing about having fewer cats is that perhaps some of YOU may seriously consider adopting cats that are "hard to place". I featured three of these in the November newsletter – two of the three (Ranger was adopted) are still waiting for their forever home. **Holly, Radish and Chickie** are sweet cats but are stressed from shelter living. These three need to be out of here and into a QUIET home as the ONLY cat. Holly and Radish can be very affectionate if they are having a good day, but the two of them just don't have a lot of good days here. Chickie does not necessarily seek attention. When taken to a meet-and-greet room, she doesn't seem too interested in people – she just kind of sits there and looks at the door – kind of sad! So...three nice cats needing the right home, needing a chance, needing YOU!

For the past 4-5 months, I have been spending time each day with three kitties that were thought to be feral when brought here last fall. They seemed to be more scared than feral. Spending time with Foxy, Bat and Midnight each day paid off, they responded to my efforts! They are so sweet (see 'pet profiles' on website). There are a few other people that they have also accepted as "friends," but not many. I have been very concerned (because of their shyness) that it may take forever for them to find a home. So it was bittersweet when a lady came to meet Foxy (the shyest of the three) last Friday and took him home on Saturday!! I trust that Foxy is doing well, but now we need to find a home(s) for **Bat and Midnight** – they are bonded so could go together. There is a third little lady, Jax, residing in that room too – she will also need a patient and kind family.



I occasionally pass on information from Dr. Karen Becker. I was interested in a recent article Dr. Becker wrote, "[5 Mistakes Owners Make When Adopting a New Cat](#)", and will pass a few excerpts on in light of all the recent adoptions (these tips apply also when adopting a dog).

### 5 Things to Avoid When Adopting a New Kitten or Cat

1. Don't make an impulse adoption
2. Don't assume your current cat will welcome a new feline housemate
3. Don't wait till your new cat is home to stock up on pet supplies

4. Don't overlook the need to pet-proof your home
5. Don't rush introductions and don't leave your new cat alone with other pets until you're sure everyone gets along — If possible, take a few days off from work to properly welcome your new kitty home. It will take some time for him to get acclimated to his new environment and daily routine.

The more time you're able to spend with him giving him lots of positive attention, building trust and teaching him the routines in his new home and life, the better the outcome for both of you. I recommend separating your new arrival from the rest of the household in a little bed-and-breakfast setup of his own for at least a week. This will help him get acclimated on his own terms, which is the way cats prefer things.

Kitties are very sensitive to new environments, sounds, tastes, smells and so forth — and they're very easily stressed by any change in their lives. Put his litterbox, food and toys in his private room and keep noise, confusion and visitors to a minimum.

Introduce other members of the household one at a time. Ideally, this takes place in a neutral space after the new cat has ventured out on his own to investigate. Meet-and-greets should be done in a calm, quiet, low-stress environment so as not to scare or further stress the new kitty.

It's also important that the new kitty not have free rein in your home before you're completely confident he is safe in the new environment, and that both he and your other pets are safe in terms of interacting with each other in your absence.

Don't ever leave a new pet unattended with existing pets until you're very sure the new arrival has acclimated to the other animals and vice versa.

It is so important that cats – especially the shy, frightened ones – have plenty of time to get used to their new physical surroundings. If other animals are part of the family, how you introduce the animals to each other can be the “make or break” factor. PATIENCE is key! You can find the entirety of this article in the [Mercola Health Pets Newsletter](#) (March 3, 2020) at [drkarenbecker@mercola.com](mailto:drkarenbecker@mercola.com)

Lastly the Annual Board of Director's meeting will be **Tuesday, March 24, at the shelter at 7 PM**. And the AWE Committee meets the 3rd Thursday of the month at 11 AM if you would like to join us and share your thoughts for future changes/plans here at ICHS – we'd love to have you! **If you have any suggestions or ideas about the content of PAWPRINTS, please contact me, Terri Davis, at [roadhogbiker@gmail.com](mailto:roadhogbiker@gmail.com)**

### Upcoming Fundraising Events and Volunteer Needs

Just a reminder that ICHS is always looking for volunteers to help with the planning and implementation of our fundraisers. Our goal is to have enough volunteers so that each individual would only have to help plan and/or work at one event per year. So...if you would like to get involved with the planning and organizing of 2020's fundraisers, please contact the shelter for more details. We're always looking for 'cat cuddlers' and dog walkers also. We hope to hear from you!!! For more information on volunteer opportunities, please visit the ICHS website at <https://ichs.net/volunteer-help/volunteer/>



**April 5, 11, 19, & 26 - Canine Good Citizen Spring Session Fundraiser** - ICHS will be holding our Spring CGC class session during the month of April with classes on Sunday (no class on Easter Sunday – rather the 2nd class will be on Saturday, the 11th). Classes will be from 1pm to 3pm, with the certification test on the last Sunday (4/26). The cost for this session is just \$75. Sign up now, spots are limited and usually fill up fast!



**April 11 - Easter Bake Sale** - This traditional event dates back to the early beginnings of ICHS. The sale will be in the usual place – Spring Gate Mall in Dodgeville (near the entrance to Piggly Wiggly). The sale starts at 8am and continues until 1pm or until all the “goodies” are gone. The variety and amount of donated treats is amazing! So, make our bake sale a part of your Easter tradition – and enjoy!



**ICHS Annual Garage Sale Fundraiser (April 23, 24 & 25 – same as Dodgeville’s city-wide garage sale)** - Please join us for our annual spring garage sale! We'll be open from 8am-2pm each day. We'll have TONS of great deals on new and lightly used animal items (dog & cat crates, toys, bowls, beds, collars, etc.), as well as everything else you'd expect at a garage sale! Want to help raise money for ICHS? We are now accepting garage sale donations such as furniture, household items, electronics, jewelry, etc. Please only bring us items that are in good condition and functional - if you're not sure, call ahead and ask! Thank you!

## January & February Adoptions

January			February				
Cats		Dogs	Cats				Dogs
Olive	Pepperoni*	Loki	Gwen	Randy & Oakley	Sheba+ &	Tinker	April
Saucy 😊 &	Autumn	Toby	Kirk &	Penny & Gretta	Verbena+	Pip 😊	Beira
Dodger 😊	Charcoal	Cooper	Patches 😊	Josh & Lisa	Toby	Titania	Chucky
Munchkin	& Boots		Peony	Ethan & Ricky	Timmy	Mr. T	
Harold	Little John		Isaac 😊 &	Valerie & Ripley	Callie		
Xander &	Ranger 😊		Lennon 😊	Grayson 😊+ & Potsy+	Fresno*		
Wesley	Tavia		Tabby		Sassy		
Jade	Tomi		Mason	Tiger+ & Ted+	Cody		
Leah	Sammy		Felix	Boo+ & Dale+	Mouser		
Smudge	Lilah		Max	Abigale 😊+	Luke		

\* = kitten

+ = transferred to another rescue/shelter

😊 = denotes animal has been at ICHS for over a year/was on the Top Ten list/has special needs/or is elderly

## Special Pets

We all know that all animals are ‘special’ but the animals featured in this section are indeed special. These are ‘special needs’ animals. The special person/family who adopts one of these animals knows that this may/may not be the long-term relationship which we hope for when we open our hearts and homes to a new family member. These animals’ ‘forever homes’ with us may be just for a short time before they move on...But, nevertheless, these animals need a home and a loving family just as we all do. Are you possibly the family that could provide a home for one of these animals? If not, do you know of a family who could provide a loving home for these animals? If so, please come out to ICHS and find out more about these animals from the ICHS staff.



### FIV Kitties – Parker

**Parker** is currently living with a foster family (our fingers are crossed that his family will decide to make him a permanent member of their family)!

**FeLV Kitties – No FeLV kitties at the moment 😊**

## Success Stories

I need your help if I am to continue to feature the success stories which begin the moment your adopted companion chooses you. If you would be interested in sharing your pet's story in the newsletter, please e-mail me at [roadhoggbiker@gmail.com](mailto:roadhoggbiker@gmail.com).



**Abigale** and her 4 kittens came to ICHS in September. She was with us only for a short time when it became apparent that she wasn't doing well. It seemed that she had an upper respiratory infection, but then it was noted that she had vision problems and it was questionable if she could hear. She also had some motor issues. Her behavior was unpredictable – without warning she would display aggressive behavior. We felt that because of her limited vision/hearing, the aggression was her response to protect her kittens. To make matters worse, her vision and hearing may have been faulty, but her voice worked very well – LOUD and OFTEN! It was a stressful and difficult situation for all involved. She was taken to the vet and our fears were confirmed. Angela (ICHS staff) and her husband made the decision to foster Abigale after her kittens were weaned.

Angela has a multiple-cat household and although Abigale had her own room, she still appeared to be stressed because of the other cats and being isolated. She continued to display aggressive and odd behaviors. Angela and her husband, Darin, tried to spend as much time with her as possible, but they felt that they were unable to meet Abigale's needs. [9 Lives Rescue](#), a foster-based organization in Madison, was contacted and they agreed to take Abigale.

Abigale has since been adopted and here is an update: *“Abigale is getting very comfortable in her new home. She loves her new fur toys and also playing with her new kitty companion, Aurora. Aurora seems to have identified Abigale's special needs – she never runs faster than Abigale can keep up, and she goes to Abigale when it seems that Abigale is stressed. Abigale has charmed her new family completely!”*

Thank you to Angela, Darin, 9 Lives Rescue and Abigale's new family for all that was done to help Abigale become a 'success story'.



And then there's **Walter**! Imagine driving down a country road on Christmas Eve (it's dark and cold) and as you crest a hill, here's this big creature walking down the middle of the road! Yes, someone dropped this old dog off the day before Christmas to fend for himself. Fortunately, that kind lady stopped and helped him into her car and he was brought to ICHS. Walter is a BIG guy at 105 pounds and is about 12-13 years old. He had some skin issues (needing frequent medicated baths) and was missing a lot of hair. Walter was at ICHS for almost two months! He spent most of his time living in the reception area of the office as it was difficult for him to

get comfortable in his kennel. He also had difficulties getting in and out of his raised kennel, but interestingly he has no problem getting up and off of the couch in the office 😊! Walter is absolutely delightful! Walter is with a foster family and from my understanding, he has settled into the family's routine and all is going well! Thank you to the lady that came to his aid on Christmas Eve, his foster family and all of the people who cared for him at the shelter during his stay – I think that Walter knows that he is loved!