



Iowa County Humane Society (ICHS) Newsletter

PawPrints November 2019

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A Letter From The Editor... The November issue of *PawPrints* is always special for me because it is the anniversary month of when I began writing the newsletter. This issue is especially meaningful because it marks the tenth year of the newsletter which was my goal! I spent some time looking over the past 10 years of issues (OK, so I was procrastinating). I was mostly focusing on the animals – the success stories and the animals with ‘special’ needs. All kinds of memories came flooding back – mostly happy recollections but some sad ones too! It is so humbling and gratifying to have a role in taking care of these animals while they wait for a family and so satisfying when the animals are adopted. It is, of course, a team effort from the time the animals arrive to them being adopted so I want to thank all of you who help with ICHS’s mission of helping the homeless animals of Iowa County. There are so many people who support the Iowa County Humane Society – in ways too numerous to mention! I wish I could thank YOU personally, but that isn’t practical so instead it will have to suffice for me to simply say **“Thank you to all”** – you know who you are! But I do need to thank two people who help make *PawPrints* possible. Webmaster Chuck Pound, at [GetSirius Internet Services](http://www.getsirius.com), hosts and upgrades the website and makes technical updates when necessary. Chuck donates his services. Thank you, Chuck! Lisa Cvengros then puts the newsletter on the website. Thank you, Lisa!...**As you read this letter it is important to remember that I am a volunteer and these are MY thoughts.**



No question that November and December are busy months for most people! Deer hunting, Thanksgiving and everything that goes along with the Christmas season takes so much time and energy. And then there’s the

weatherizing projects to do before winter hits and unfortunately many people have bouts with the “winter blahs” as the daylight lessens. So, adopting a new pet may not be at the top of your “to-do” list, but keep in mind that we do have many cats and dogs that are waiting for homes! As a reminder we do have a few ‘difficult to place’ cats that need just the right home (quiet, no young children, no other pets) – perhaps your home! Despite their ‘quirkiness’, **Hollie, Radish** and **Ranger** will be wonderful companions – once they adapt to your home. FYI – November cat adoptions are doing well, and there is currently a **“Let’s Deal”** promotion which will make having a new pal even sweeter!



In last month’s newsletter, I showcased two of our dogs, **Theo/Teddy** and **Bobbie Sue**. The good news is that Theo was adopted (see **Success Stories** in this issue) and the ‘not-so-good’ news is that the sweet hound, Bobbie Sue, is still waiting for a family (see September 2019 *PawPrints* if you are not familiar with Bobbie Sue’s story). There continues to be the occasional inquiry regarding her, but no takers. The remainder of this “editorial” will be my efforts to describe Bobbie Sue in a bit more detail – so pay attention please!

Bobbie Sue is about 4 years old. Two things you will immediately notice about her is that she is between 75-80 pounds (definitely needs to lose some weight) and her big, beautiful “liquidy-brown” eyes! Going into her kennel to snap on her leash, she usually goes to her bed and rolls over on her back for a belly rub. If she knows you, a quick “rub-a-dub-dub” and she’s ready to go. But Bobbie Sue is painfully shy and so if she doesn’t know you, you have two choices: 1) spend your time in her kennel rubbing her belly and talking to her or 2) pulling her out of the kennel because she will not come willingly. For the purpose of

this article, I will concentrate on how she interacts with me – and YOU too – after she gets to know YOU! 😊 Bobbie Sue does not play or take an interest in toys or balls so she doesn't do much when in a play yard (or the training room). She will sniff around for a bit and then she comes and sits by your side signaling that it's time to move on. I usually let her "blaze the trail" on our walks. Her nose is usually to the ground – she leads and I follow. Kathie (staff) was telling me about the episode of Bobbie Sue coming nose to nose with a possum the other morning. It was sitting in the long dried grass; they stared at each other for several seconds. Then Bobbie Sue walked on (I'm not sure what most dogs would do in an encounter with a possum but I would think there would be a bit more excitement!!)

Bobbie Sue is not a high-energy kind of girl; never in a hurry. She likes to amble along. She would make a wonderful walking companion, and yes, she does need long walks for her health – she needs to lose weight. She has not had the opportunity to spend time with other dogs here at ICHS. Lack of "appropriate" dogs and/or not being able to coordinate volunteer schedules (it's best to have 2 people when introducing the dogs to each other) has limited any socialization activities. She has done well with the dogs that potential adopters brought for the earlier meet-and-greets. She is interested in cats, but again there has been little opportunity to have her spend time with cats. I do remember last summer when we were in the north play yard and Aubrey Jean was sitting in the window watching Bobbie Sue. Bobbie Sue walked over towards the fence and Aubrey stood up, arched her back and hissed. Bobbie Sue came running back to me with her tail tucked between her legs and sidled right up to me. Poor Bobbie Sue!

It is important to note that Bobbie Sue is not an outdoor dog – she is a couch potato! She doesn't necessarily appear to want to be outside which is good because she has escaped from the play yards and outdoor kennels a few times. No one has ever seen her actually escaping; it's always after the fact. It is doubtful that she can climb or jump a 5-6 foot fence which means that she goes underneath. However she doesn't dig her way out and at 80 pounds it is hard to imagine how she can get beneath the fence without leaving a trace of evidence as to how/where she escaped!?! She does have a covered outdoor kennel (4'x10') on cement which she has not escaped from. Bobbie Sue is not a "barker" and she never messes in her kennel.

Someone made the comment the other day, "Poor, Bobbie Sue – still waiting for a home." I personally feel that Bobbie Sue considers ICHS her home. I don't think she minds being in her kennel – whether inside or out – because it is what she knows. She will get a "forever home" someday – it's just a matter of the right family walking through the ICHS doors. Until then, please continue to share Bobbie Sue's story with anyone you may know who is looking for a sweet, sedate dog that will need a daily walk (or two) and will probably lie at your feet at night. Don't forget about the video "***A Hope for Bobbi Sue***" that ***Life Plus 1*** produced which can be found at <https://vimeopro.com/canislupusllc/voluncheers-ichs/video/356140387> For more info regarding Life Plus 1, go to <https://www.lifeplus1.org/> **If you have any suggestions or ideas about the content of PAWPRINTS, please contact me, Terri Davis, at 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/>

Tap Takeover on Thursday, November 21st at Bob's Bitchin' BBQ in Dodgeville starting at 5 pm. A portion of the proceeds from Thursday night's November Tap Takeover will be donated to the ICHS. Show your love for Bob's and support the Iowa County Humane Society – buy a brew and benefit the shelter animals!

Whiskers and Wags Pub Night on Friday, November 29th at Hi Point Steak House in Ridgeway from 5-9 pm. Ask for an Old English Sheep Dog (Old Fashion) and 50% of the proceeds go to the ICHS!

Holiday Bake Sale on December 21st at SpringGate Mall from 9am-1pm: We will be having our usual “cookie walk” (mix and match cookies by the pound) and lots of other delicious options like cupcakes, breads, pies, cakes, etc. Stock up on yummy treats for the holidays and help out with a great cause!

September & October Adoptions

September				October			
Cats		Dogs		Cats			Dogs
Stewie*	Yelich	Cash	Theodore 😊	Larry	Regan 😊	Yodel	Daisy 😊
Sparks*	Fred 😊 &	Ringo &		Oliver*	& Wendy*	Catt* & Catalina*	
Danica*	Ethel 😊	Christian		Elle	Norma	Onyx* & Ruby*	
Gerald	Fallon			Betsy*	Catrin*	Don* & Felix	
Althea 😊	Roseanna			Fillback*	Catniss*		
Callie	Julep			Chad	Tigger*		

* = kitten
 + = transferred to Angel's Wish
 😊 = denotes animal has been at ICBS 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 ICBS and find out more about these animals from the ICBS staff.



FIV Kitty – Roger, Jazzy & Parker

Roger is a big, shy, handsome two year old kitty who tested positive for FIV. It seems that all the FIV cats that I have ever known are “sweet hearts” and Roger is no exception! He loves attention and is playful – not too different from most cats. We have tried to put Roger in with the other FIV kitties, but he wants no part of them. He prefers to be by himself – however he is not aggressive so he probably could adapt to another cat(s) if YOU happen to have one!



Jazzy and **Parker** are both about a year old and are both very sweet and affectionate and it’s all about play, play, play when they are together! They are a fun pair and certainly could be adopted together. To complicate things a bit, Parker is on a special diet and so the two of them need to be separated when it is feeding time. Jazzy can eat Parker’s food, but Parker can’t have Jazzy’s. They are a sweet duo; it would be great if they could go to the same home!

Although we call FIV cats “special”, there really are no special considerations when adopting FIV kitties. If it wasn’t for the FIV+ sign on their cages, you wouldn’t have a clue that they have FIV! They must be kept indoors. They may live with other **indoor** cats since FIV is not easily passed between cats (it would be best if your other cat(s) are good-natured and amicable to a new pal). FIV is primarily spread by serious bite wounds so if you have other cats, it is important to properly introduce FIV cats to the others (but you would do that with any cat that you bring home). It is also important to keep them free from stress so a quiet home would be best. So... Roger, Jazzy and Parker need a home!

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.



Hello!

I'm checking in to let you all know that **Teddy (aka Theodore)** has been settling in amazingly. By Monday afternoon he was like a totally different dog. He loves to snuggle with both Logan and I and has been a very happy boy. You can barely even tell that he is a shy dog (until he has to hear the scary tv turn on!). He instantly found his favorite spot lying in the window and would stay there all day and night if we let him.

Thank you!!

Morgan

Eddy Merckz (aka Butterball)

Today, my family and I celebrate the one year Adopt-a-versary for our sweet boy Eddy Merckz (formerly Butterball the beagle). A former frequent flyer at ICHS, Merckz is absolutely thriving in his forever home with his three furry (two dogs, one cat) and one not so furry (snake) siblings. While his background and rocky start to life undoubtedly made him our most challenging child, it has also made for the most rewarding and endearing relationship. During the early days our sweet boy scarcely knew how to be a dog, let alone a house dog. He would bowl his siblings over in attempts to sniff and make friends. He would poop in his "room" while we were at work and then jump in it over excitement to see us. He was terrified of ALL city sounds and WOW was he chunky! Today he is a fit and fabulous short-run buddy to Mom, an awesome bro to his siblings, a confident city dweller/puppy neighbor and house-trained. Through all of his learning and adjusting, he was nothing but love and cuddles. Eager to please and to be a member of the family, our sweet boy has just amazed and delighted us over the past year. We are so lucky to be his family and are eternally grateful that you did not give up hope for this sweet pup. We love him so dearly!
Anna



BTW – this is last year's picture that Anna sent us. Hopefully she will send an updated pic! 😊



Mia (aka Pip)

Pip is absolutely the sweetest Calico I have ever had the pleasure to spend time with. Other than sweet and petite, I didn't have too much info on her and I wanted to feature her in the 'Special Pets' segment since she is FIV+. So, when I went to the ICHS to walk dogs that afternoon, I was planning to spend some time with Pip to get to know her better. To my surprise I was told that Pip was going to go home – and not just any home – HER HOME! So, the story goes like this: Arianna headed off to college and Mia (Pip) embarked on a great adventure by slipping out the door – who knows, maybe she was looking for Arianna?!? At any rate, (several weeks later) Arianna had given up finding Mia and she came to the shelter to find another cat and there was Mia! What a sweet reunion! It is also interesting to note that another family had put in an application for her, but chose a different kitty when they found out that Mia was FIV+. We are so happy for Mia and Arianna! **And this makes for a good reminder to continue to check with ICHS for your missing pet – the lost pet may not be brought here immediately but perhaps will be brought in at a later date.**

