



Iowa County Humane Society (ICHS) Newsletter

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Contents

A Letter from the Editor.....	1
Fundraising & Volunteers.....	2
Adoptions.....	2
Special Pets.....	2
Success Stories.....	3

A Letter From The Editor... I think that I would like to be a bear. Bears get to sleep through FRIGID winters and don't have a care in the world (until they awaken from their deep sleep). I like to sleep and not being a huge fan of winter – being a bear would be good. However as I look around my living room, maybe I could settle for being a house cat rather than a bear. My cats sleep all day, wake up for their meals, bathe briefly and then go right back to sleep...and then the cycle begins again. I am not a winter enthusiast but do enjoy the seasons – including BRIEF reminders that winter is one of Wisconsin's seasons. These past two solid weeks of below average and BELOW ZERO temperatures have been a bit much! The bright sunshine helps – and speaking of sunshine, have you noticed that we are gaining daylight back? As of this writing, we have gained 20 minutes of light back in the PM. Weather folklore has it that “As the days lengthen, the cold strengthens” – and, unfortunately, that pretty much does hold true for this time of the year. **As you read this letter it is important to remember that I am a volunteer and these are MY thoughts.**

Many of our animals found their “forever homes” in November and December (see chart). I am not sure how much the holidays contributed to the large number of adoptions. We did have an ‘adoption special’ in December so that may have enticed some people to come in and fall in love with their “forever four-legged family member”. John M, the ICHS Board president, said it well, “...one of the best gifts anyone could possibly give – **the gift of a loving forever home to a needy cat or dog from a local nonprofit humane society...and the best part about this gift idea is that it is two-way giving. YOU give a needy cat or dog a loving forever home and YOUR new friend and family member gives back unconditional love. What could be better than that?**” Thank you, John! I have never quite thought about my home being “a gift” to the cats that I have brought home over the years, but I like the idea that I am giving my cats a gift – not just my time and the cost of caring for my furry kids. And keep in mind that the holidays may be over but it is never too late to adopt a pet. Despite the many adoptions, we still have many nice adult cats, several “teens” and lots of cute kittens. As far as available dogs, they pretty much go out the door as soon as they come in. Hopefully this “gift giving” will continue throughout 2018!



Those of you who read *PAWPRINTS* and visit ICHS occasionally will recognize these two sweeties. Cheerio and Cleo were pretty much inseparable so you may be wondering why you haven't been seeing Cheerio. Sadly, Cheerio became ill and was euthanized. We don't know the cause – it appeared to happen quickly. Was it something to do with his FeLV+ status? I don't know, but he is missed – especially by little Cleo. Because of Cheerio's FeLV+ diagnosis – and his untimely death – should adopters avoid adopting this type of “special needs” cat? CLEO and I both say “NO”. FeLV+ cats can and do live long and healthy lives. So please consider our “special” kitties when you are looking for a companion. (See ‘**Special Pets**’ to learn more about sweet Cleo).

The Building and Grounds Committee has two major projects planned for the upcoming year. Flooring will be installed in the cat areas, quarantine rooms, Meet & Greet rooms, restrooms and hallways. The timing of the project depends on the cat population. What to do with the cats while the floor is being installed is obviously a concern. January cat adoptions are off to a good start so hopefully the cat numbers will continue to decline as January moves onward and before “kitten season” begins in earnest (there never did seem to be a beginning or an end to kittens in 2017 – they just kept coming). We also will be working on the outdoor kennels and play yards for the dogs. We try to keep the dogs outside as much as possible in the months when the weather cooperates but our current arrangement of outdoor kennels desperately needs a facelift. If anyone has interest in helping with that project, please let the ICHS office know and someone will contact you.

Lastly, **ICHS's annual meeting will be held on March 12 at 7:00 PM at the shelter.** It is a good opportunity to get a recap of what happened at ICHS in 2017 and to meet the new Board candidates. **If you have any suggestions or ideas about the content of ICHS 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 2018's fundraisers, please contact the shelter for more details. The Buildings and Grounds Committee also has an upcoming project that we could use some help with. We plan to do some major work on the outdoor dog kennels and play yards so that the dogs can spend more time outside in the warmer months. Our intent is to work on this project next spring but the planning will occur over the winter months. If you have an interest and the time to help, please contact the office by email office@ichs.net or call (608) 935-1381 and let them know that you want to be involved. And don't forget we always need cat cuddlers and dog walkers! We hope to hear from you!!!

November and December Adoptions

November				December			
Cats			Dogs	Cats			Dogs
Venture*	Gooseberry*	Tweek*	Chance	Buddy	Soho*	Stout*	Ferdinand
Tibi*	Samantha	Biscuit*	Poppy	Plinko	Sephy*	Pilsner*	Coco
Burberry*	Monessa	Irma*	Lance	Liza*	Versace*	Fortuna*	Doc
Morticia	Rudy☺	Orion*		Armani*	Julep*	Frida*	Anna
Daca	Kimchi*	Maxine		Nemo*	Purrcy*	Alex*	Rusty
Newton	Sherwin	Hannah		Wetherbee*	Nala*	Stanley	Diana
Hibachi	Chuck			Miette	Delaney	Ms Blue☺	Roxy
				Eden*	Lager*	Salvador	Buddy
				Tupac*	Rigby	Georgie*	Pickles
				Beckett*	Porter*	Eclipse*	
				Gallagher☺	Marcel	Terrell	

* - kitten
☺ - denotes animal has been at ICHS for over a year/has special needs/or is elderly
+ - Transferred to Angel's Wish

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

ICHS has NO FIV cats at the moment – YIPPEE!

FeLV Kitties - Cleo

Cleo is a petite young lady who 'charms' everyone she meets. She is a little "love bug" who loves to play but is also a sweet lap cat. She is FeLV+ and that is the reason that she hasn't been adopted. Now keep in mind, Cleo is a HEALTHY kitty and as long as she is kept indoors, she should be YOUR companion for many years



to come! FeLV+ cats should not live with non-FeLV cats, so little Cleo will need to be an only kitty. But she is so loving that YOU won't need another kitty and she will love being YOUR "one and only"!

Similar to FIV cats, FeLV cats also must be kept indoors and a quiet home is best. FeLV cats do need to be only cats (may live with other FeLV cats). FeLV kitties may live for years having a "normal" life span, but once/if the later stage of the infection occurs, the cat's health may deteriorate rapidly. That, of course, is one reason FeLV cats are not readily adopted – no one wants to lose their pet to illness. So... Cleo needs a home.

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. It is not difficult for me to write a paragraph that showcases your pet. The problem that I have is finding YOU and your pet. I don't know who you are or how to contact you. If you would be interested in sharing your pet's story in the newsletter, please e-mail me at roadhoggbiker@gmail.com. A picture and a brief write-up about your pet(s) is all that I need. If I don't have enough info, I will get back to you. It would be helpful to know your pet's shelter name (if you renamed your pet), when you adopted, pet's favorite activities, other pets that you may have and whatever else you would like to include. If you are not able to send a picture, that's OK. Many of you send periodic updates regarding your adopted pet to the shelter. I can use those write-ups if you would please indicate (in your letter/e-mail to ICBS) that you are giving me permission to include your pet's story in the newsletter. I hope to hear from you!



Many of you will recognize the pooch in this picture – yes, this is **Jersey!** For those of you who never knew Jersey she is a Dobie-mix and came to ICBS as a two-year-old. She was here for over two years. She was a favorite with most of the staff and volunteers, but there was very little interest in her. Why? Well, she was a big dog who didn't do well with other dogs. Cats were a "no-no" and her greeting to anyone that she didn't know made it sound as if she was ferocious (NOT). So unfortunately the first impression an adopter had of her was usually the last impression because she really did sound scary.

I think it is fair to say that staff/volunteers were always amazed (and thankful) that Jersey was able to keep her 'composure' living in a stressful shelter environment for over two years. She appeared to be so grateful for every kind word and pet. Anyone who would play ball with her was her hero for life. And like most animals at the shelter, we kept telling ourselves that we just needed to be patient. Tell ourselves that it would just be a matter of time and a family would come for her. And sure enough – it finally happened – her family, Anna and Josh, came. And from what I understand it was "a match made in heaven". And just look at Jersey's "smile" – I think she agrees!!!



Recognize this handsome guy? **Desmond's** fur is coming back in just fine. Looking dapper for the new year!



Happy Thanksgiving from **Desmond** and **Kee Kee!** #grateful (Kee, the cat, is also an ICBS alum from several years ago.)



Pickles is doing wonderful here! Such a sweet girl!



Buzz and **Petey** are doing great. They keep us entertained with wrestling and chasing each other around the house. All those people that passed them up missed out big time. They are wonderful cats. Buzzers loves to meow loudly and bring us his fake mice. Petey waits in the window for us to come home and meets us at the door like a puppy dog. He even took over the dogs favorite bed.



Georgie is the perfect office cat! He loves everyone isn't even a little shy, he tends to send emails for everyone! The residents at the home adore him! He's a super affectionate little man!



Hi, **Roland** joined our family on October 7. We love this big goof! He's been a wonderful big brother to Drumstick, a female kitten abandoned near our home. Photo attached.
Thanks, Becky & Mike