

Iowa County Humane Society  
Board meeting  
November 10, 2014

**Board members present:** Marcia Thompson, Sharon Shea, Lisa Cvengros, Jan Tabor and Pam Richardson

**Staff present:** Lisa Thomas, Bonnie Zimmerman and Danielle Rufenacht

**Public present:** Arnette Small, Terri Davis

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM.

The October minutes were submitted and approved.

The **Treasurers report** was submitted and approved and will be available on the website. Lisa C noted that we are currently short on funds but this is typical for this time of the year. The expectation is that funds will be coming in from the "It's Chili Outside" event, the remainder of the "Stay at Home" mailing and the Holiday mailing that will go out in early December. Fundraising continues to be a priority. The play yard in the front of the building has been completed and will be considered a fixed asset.

The **Directors report** was given and accepted. Director Lisa T notes that ICHS plans to order 100 tins and 70 small bags of the "Poppin Paws" popcorn product to be sold at the upcoming bake sale (Dec 6th at Piggly Wiggly), at the ICHS shelter and through our website. Pricing of these items will be determined by the fundraising committee. In addition Rural Route 1 Popcorn Company will have the tins for sale at their stores. Lisa T will check to see what profit can be expected from the in store sales.

Lisa T reports that she has met with Steve Michek and felt that their discussion was productive. The Dodgeville budget will be approved in November and Lisa T will keep the board apprised.

Lisa T expressed concern about the numbers of the general public who are coming to the shelter for tours and the number of unaccompanied children who attempt to handle the animals without supervision. It is often difficult for staff to differentiate between potential adopters, volunteers and the general public. She will be arranging for lanyards and ID's for staff and volunteers to be worn whenever they are on the premises.

The snowblower raffle will be held December 20th.

Arnette has paid for ICHS advertisements that will appear for a full year at the Midway Lanes.

The **Kennel Managers report** was given and accepted. There are a total of 108 animals in the shelter and 9 in foster care. Bonnie Z reported that some of the new volunteers had felt that the volunteer orientation was too lengthy. Discussion followed about the possibility of streamlining the process.

The **Office Coordinators report** was submitted and accepted. Interviews continue to fill open positions for office staff. Jan made a suggestion that in view of the high numbers of cats available for adoption, a concerted effort be made to personalize the individual animals with more background stories on the website. In addition, the animal's pictures might be made more appealing with the use of props. Terri and Danielle will look into this.

**AWE Committee:** No meeting

**Building and Grounds Committee:** Regarding the relocation of the furnaces and ductwork: We received a very favorable quote from Collins and Hying to accomplish Phase 1 for \$5187 and Phase 2 for \$6284. Terri has very generously agreed to pay for this.

**Personnel Committee:** There have been some complaints about recent adoption denials and while these denials followed ICCHS guidelines and were justified, it will be important to make sure we remain impartial when it comes to potential adopters.

The Highway Commission meeting to review the road use ordinance that impacts some of our fundraising efforts has been changed from December 1st to December 18th at 5 PM. Depending on the results of this meeting the feasibility of reinstating the Quadrupedal fundraiser will be explored.

The policy of refunding adoption fees for returned animals was discussed. Various ideas were suggested. Lisa T will put together a new policy proposal and report back to the board.

**Municipal contracts:** Three municipalities have indicated they will not pay for cats to be sheltered at ICCHS. These are the town of Clyde, the City of Dodgeville and the Town of Dodgeville. The Town of Dodgeville has proposed a lump sum payment of \$1500 for the first 12 dogs and will pay \$125 for each dog over that number. The City of Dodgeville has proposed a \$5000 lump sum. That amount will only cover 40 animals and the City of Dodgeville usually has higher numbers than that. With that in mind, ICCHS will counter, asking for a lump sum of \$7000 to cover all animals for the year.

A discussion followed comparing the merits of allowing the municipalities to pay a lump sum payment per year rather than payment per animal. This will be researched. The lump sum payment could be arrived at by averaging the past numbers of animals from each municipality. This option could be incorporated into the 2015 contracts.

A motion was made to inform the town of Dodgeville that ICCHS will not accept the \$1500 lump sum offer unless that includes cats. Motion was seconded and passed. The township of Clyde will be informed that they will have to include cats in their contract.

If municipalities refuse to pay for cats, ICCHS may refuse to take in their stray dogs. If that occurs, the Humane Officer will inform the township of the need to have their own approved holding facility for the stray animals. The townships will then need to make sure they are following all the state requirements and be prepared for state inspections.

There will not be a board meeting in December. The next meeting will be January 12, 2015. The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM and went into closed session.

Addendum: 12/7/14 Due to budget constraints in 2013, ICCHS was not able to give out any Holiday bonuses. Our finances have improved this year so Holiday bonuses are again a possibility. Board members were contacted by email and unanimously approved the distribution of the bonuses for 2014.

*Submitted by Pam Richardson.*