



Iowa County Humane Society (ICHS) Newsletter *PawPrints* September 2016

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A Letter From The Editor... Another summer has come and gone but it was a blur – it went so fast! Beautiful weather for the most part – a little bit humid at times. Seemed that there were several days that ‘heat index’ was the phrase of the day but even so I only had the air conditioning turned on two afternoons (I am a bit “old-fashioned”). This summer was different from so many past summers in that we did have plentiful precipitation. I can attest to this because of the frequent chore of mowing the lawn. Usually by mid-August, I can get by mowing every couple of weeks but not this year. And even weekly mowing has not been sufficient and the grass is so thick. Although I have always enjoyed mowing the lawn, as this summer has worn on, it has been a bit of a challenge to push that mower (did I mention that I am a bit “old fashioned”?) around the lawn! And speaking of challenges, have you been to the shelter lately (or on-line) and seen all of this summer’s kittens? Keep in mind, what you see is only part of the population as there are many in quarantine! Yes, kittens, kittens and more kittens... **And as you read this letter, it is important to remember that I am a volunteer and these are MY thoughts.**

For those of you who pay attention to *PawPrints*, you are right if you think that this issue is even later than usual. In all fairness to the editor (that would be me), the past few months have been extremely busy. But with that in mind I planned ahead and started the September newsletter on Labor Day Saturday (the above opening was written over a month ago) and the intent was to have it sent off to the publisher by Labor Day Monday. However when I sat down to continue the newsletter on Sunday, my computer was “dead”. It was whisked away to an IT person the very next day and it turned out to have something to do with static electricity. Duffy had it back to me by the end of the Tuesday following Labor Day, but by then I was back to being busy. But rather than skipping the September 2016 *PawPrints* issue – here it is!



Most of you have probably heard by now that Jersey and Vegas – ICHS’s longest residents finally found their “forever” homes. Jersey, the awesome Dobie mix, was with us for almost 2½ years. She was loved by everyone who spent time with her, but she was one of those dogs that not just any family could accommodate so she was here



until that special family came along. Although Vegas is still in foster, she will be officially adopted on the eve of her 7th anniversary of living at the shelter (October 17th). Although the foster mom (that would be me) knew that Vegas had some issues, I did not know exactly what I was in for – let’s just say that Vegas is “one of a kind”. Updates on both Jersey and Vegas will be forthcoming.

The Building and Grounds Committee meets the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 5:30 at the shelter, but we will be scheduling a special meeting for a Sunday afternoon in November. We need to continue the discussion of the long-range plan for our facility. Since moving to this site 5 years ago, our dog population tends now to be half (sometimes even less) of what it was when the initial plans/design were proposed. The cat population tends to be similar to what it has always been – LARGE. So what changes can be made to provide a better environment for the animals, the staff, the volunteers and visitors? Can we make better use of the space that we have? Granted, the “roof project” takes precedence over all other projects so it may be quite awhile before any suggestions/changes can be incorporated but we feel that long-range planning is necessary. If you have suggestions or would like to attend the upcoming meeting, watch for the announcement on our website – your input would be appreciated.

And just a reminder that ICHS is a “volunteer-based” organization. With the exception of just a few staff, everyone else is a volunteer – from board members to cat cuddlers to the kids who request supplies for the animals rather than birthday gifts – this is an “everybody” effort. We can’t help our animals without help from YOU!!! **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

We have a few upcoming ongoing and upcoming fundraising events!

- **Now through the end of November:** ICHS is selling Bucky Books! Please stop by during our open hours to purchase. Would you or your group like to help us sell them? Please contact Jen!
- **November 3rd:** Paint Your Pet night fundraiser at the Dodger Bowl. The event starts at 6:30pm, and lasts approximately 2.5-3 hours. Professional artists will walk you through painting your own animal- No experience needed! We could use a couple volunteers, and lots of attendees! Check out our website or facebook page for more info.
- **December 17th:** Our annual Holiday Bake sale- **bakers needed!** Please contact Jen at outreach@ichs.net or 608-935-1381 if you’d like to help!

July & August Adoptions

July				August			
Cats		Dogs		Cats			Dogs
Julie☺	Oodles*	Peter Pan*	Blaze	Hennessey*	Cupcake*	Cookie*	Smurf
Jacob	Molly	Clyde	Max	Tex	Cosmo	Senor Graypants*	Honey
Shadow	Olivia*	Fudge*	Winnie	Elliot	Cece*	Brownie*	Sharkey
Woody☺☺	Jan*	Tink*	Petey	Rubix	JayJay*	Prim*	Tang
Oscar*	Cindy*		Declan	Katniss*	Rolly	Oreo*	Watson
						Peaches	

* - kitten
 ☺ - denotes animal has been at ICHS for over a year/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.

Buzz & Petey – FIV Kitties



Our FIV kitty population is down to two – Buzz and Petey! Buzz and Petey are “normal” cats – it’s just that they have the FIV virus which affects their immune systems – but slowly – over a period of years! They should live long and normal lives! **Buzz** was thought to be ‘feral’ when he first arrived at ICHS; hiding in his cubby 24/7 for weeks – but he was simply frightened – and he still frightens easily when unexpected noises or movement occurs. He does need to get to know YOU before his sweet personality will become apparent. Buzz is one of the sweetest and most loving cats in the building. Buzz has been with us three years – he really needs a home! Is it possible that YOU just might be the special family that Buzz is looking for?

Petey is one of those kitties that if he was not FIV+, he would have been adopted before now. Petey has been with us since March and as sweet and handsome as he is, it's such a shame that people can't look beyond his FIV label. Petey is about two years old, playful, loves attention and gets along with other cats. Actually Petey and Buzz are roommates (they are such a handsome pair) and they get along well. If YOU are looking for a pair of kitties (or only one), look no further, YOU have just been found!



Although we call FIV cats "special", there really are no special considerations when adopting Buzz or Petey. 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 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...Buzz and Petey need homes.

FeLV Kitty

It is with pleasure that I can report that we currently have NO FeLV cats. But...don't forget about Gregory (see below).

Gregory – FIV & FeLV Kitty



Gregory is indeed a special kitty! He tested positive for both FeLV and FIV, but don't let that deter you from making this guy a part of your family! As mentioned earlier, as long as FeLV cats are kept indoors, are only cats and live in a stress-free environment (as much as possible), they should be a part of your family for many years to come. Gregory is friendly and affectionate, but he hasn't had a lot of opportunities to interact with people (he was a barn cat). However now that Woody has been adopted, Gregory has been promoted to be an "office cat". He enjoys the opportunity to be out and about (three years in a cage does get old). I am not sure if his office skills are up to par so let's find a retirement home for Gregory – how about YOURS!

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 ICHS) that you are giving me permission to include your pet's story in the newsletter. I hope to hear from you!