



# Iowa County Humane Society(ICHS) Newsletter

## PawPrints September 2014

### A Letter from the Editor...

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Summer is winding down and I feel we missed out on the “Dog Days of Summer.” The phrase **dog days** refers to the hot, steamy days usually occurring in the months of July and August. The Romans associated hot weather with the star Sirius (aka ‘dog star’) which is the brightest star in the constellation Canis Major (Large Dog) and it’s also the brightest star in the night sky. To me this has been one of the most pleasant summers (weather-wise) in recent years. Not being a “hot and steamy” kind of person, I appreciated only having to endure a few days where the thermometer’s “mercury” reached ninety degrees. Usually it so hot when school starts, but that wasn’t the case this year (yeah, sure – just try telling that to twenty-plus students and the teacher in a classroom without air conditioning)! As far as precipitation goes, I had to water the gardens more than I wanted but certainly not to the same degree as past years. Admittedly, the rain has been “spotty” but Mother Nature hasn’t been playing favorites – all areas seem to have gotten a fair amount! So, no complaints about the summer of 2014 – well, maybe one – it went way too fast!!! **And as you read this letter, it is important to remember that I am a volunteer and these are my thoughts.**



As you can imagine, our shelter dogs love to be outside but I don’t think that I am too far off when I report that the dogs seem happier when they are back inside the air-conditioned kennel lying on their comfy bed focused on a kong filled with peanut butter. I probably need to qualify that statement and say that if there is a **person** involved in their outdoor experience, that’s a totally different story. Whether playing fetch, walking by your side or sitting next to you as they get their ears rubbed, our dogs need and want to be with people. Our dog numbers have been down – under ten for most of the summer (thanks in part to several dogs being fostered). But as I write this our dog population is just shy of twenty again – but what a nice bunch of dogs – and they need/want PEOPLE! Although a “forever family” is the ultimate goal, attention from volunteers is “real time” so volunteers are the best part of the dogs’ day! For the past few months our dogs haven’t been getting the attention they need – there are not enough volunteers to walk and work with the dogs. Not everyone can be a dog walker – jobs, schedules, transportation, price of gas, distance, age can all be deterrents to dog walking – we get that. Our AWE (Animal Welfare & Enrichment) Committee will be meeting soon to do some brainstorming about energizing the Mod Squad program and recruiting dog walkers. If you have an interest or ideas about volunteers we would love to hear your thoughts and ideas.





The number of cat adoptions has been incredible but as usual the majority of the adoptions have been kittens (the older kitties can't compete when it comes to those playful, irresistible kittens). And as I have said many times it is so important to get the kittens adopted – it is always unfortunate to see the cute kittens turn into gangly “teenagers” knowing that it will be harder for them to find a family. We had a lot of kittens come through our doors in 2013 but there have been many more this year. There are so many stray

cats and no wonder – it is estimated that one unspayed cat and her offspring can reproduce up to 420,000 kittens in 7 years! Now we know that all of these cats don't survive long in the wild but cut this number in half or even fourths and yes – that would certainly explain why there are so many stray cats!!! People have been calling and inquiring about “low cost” sterilization programs. The best bet had been the DCHS Cat Spay & Neuter Clinic in Mount Horeb but that clinic is currently going through a “restructuring phase” and will hopefully reopen to the public soon. ICHS's Community Assistance Program has a long-term goal of implementing a “low cost spay and neuter” program. We're working on it! But once we get the program up and running, it has to be sustainable which will mean continued ‘designated benefits’ to keep the program going. Again, volunteers will be needed.



Lastly I just want to update you on what the Buildings and Grounds Committee has been up to. We are pretty excited about what we are working towards. As many of you are aware, we have some “dead” furnaces and a couple of those that still work are on their “last legs.” A main goal of our committee is to reduce our energy costs – obviously to save the shelter money but we also want to be environmentally friendly. We have been discussing/researching whether to start replacing furnaces or to insulate. Now you may recall that there was significant insulating done two years ago, but that was insulation added above the ceiling. We are proposing that the roof and walls need to be insulated as well. By adding insulation there is also the potential to get greater incentives from the *Focus on Energy* program – more so than by replacing the old furnaces with new energy efficient furnaces. We will be making the decision soon – whether to insulate or not – and if we choose to go that route, volunteers will be needed for this HUGE project. We will also be constructing a dog quarantine room soon and will need help with that as well.

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 donate the coins in their piggy banks – 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](mailto:roadhogbiker@gmail.com)**

## Upcoming Fundraising Events

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 work at one event per year. So...if you would like to get involved with the planning and organizing of this year's fundraisers, please contact the shelter at [ichs.net](http://ichs.net) for more details. We hope to hear from you!!! Also, please check the website and click on the link to find out what our 'immediate/specific volunteer needs' are and see how you can help!

### Furry 5K Run and Dog Jog

This past spring would have been our 6<sup>th</sup> annual "Paws Fur a Cause" event. This event began when a group of Dodgeville High School students/volunteers wanted to help ICHS and decided on a run/walk. It was a success right from the start! Because of Iowa County's approval of an ordinance regulating special events (that occur on the highways), there was not enough time to put a 5K Run & Walk together for the 2014 spring. So we changed the name and moved this year's run/walk to October. Runners and walkers, please join us on **Saturday, October 18<sup>th</sup>** for the 1<sup>st</sup> Furry 5K. Check the ICHS website for details and online registration. BTW – the winner of the **Poppin' Paws Popcorn Contest** will be announced at the end of the race.

### Dodger Bowl Event

For the past several years ICHS has held a fundraiser at the Dodger Bowl in Dodgeville on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in November. This year the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday will be **November 9<sup>th</sup>**. See you there – OK so the Fundraising Committee is still organizing the event and I don't know what it is – but I'm sure we will all have a GREAT time and it's all for a GREAT cause!☺ Please watch for more info regarding this event.

## July & August Adoptions

July Cats		August Cats			July Dogs
Fozzie☺	Quigley☺	Randi*	Reyna*	Silla*	Hope
Margo☺	Peppi*	Silvia*	Wesley*	Ava*	Buzz
Mandy☺	Callie*	Ella*	Abigail*	Wren*	Lilly
Fern*	Pixie	Emery	Spooks	Camilla*	Lucy
Rita*	Ernest	Meeker*	Shadow	Mr. Tickles☺	Lucky☺
Raven*	Maxwell	Gus	Hippie	Cheech*	Padfoot
Cameron☺	Skylar*	Rowan*	Watson	Chong*	Neil
Stan*	Jackson*	Clarke*	Rakiya*	Taco*	August Dogs
Regan*	Antoine*	Viola☺	Norris	Dragonfly*	
Paige	Davis*	Poly*	Pauline	Martin	Sterling
Prim					Colby
* - kitten					
☺ - special needs and/or having been an ICHS resident for a year or more					

## 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.

### Limbo, Buzz, Grover & Jimi



Our four FIV kitties are patiently waiting for someone to notice them. FIV cats are "normal" cats – it's just that these four kitties have a virus

(FIV) which affects their immune system – but slowly – over a period of years! So these kitties should live long and normal lives! **Limbo** is a good-looking gray guy who loves attention. **Buzz** was thought to be 'feral' when he first arrived at ICHS – but he was simply frightened. He now has the reputation of being "one of the sweetest and most loving cats in the building". Although handsome **Grover** has been at the shelter for a couple of months, I haven't gotten to know him well nor have I gotten well acquainted with **Jimi**. He also hasn't been with us long, but if he is as friendly as he is handsome, he is the cat for you! If it wasn't for the FIV+ sign on their cages, you wouldn't have a clue that these cats have FIV! Although we call these cats "special", there really are no special considerations when adopting them. 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 any of these four 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. Is it possible that YOU just might be the special family that these kitties are looking for? So... Limbo, Buzz, Grover and Jimi need homes!



### Lance & Wilbur

Many of you are familiar with **Lance** and **Wilbur** - aka the "bromance boys"! These two are on the **Top Ten List** having been at ICHS way too long. These guys were adopted together last October, but unfortunately had to be returned as their family was no longer able to keep them. It was great to see them again but now...

they need a home. Both of these guys are FeLV. Like FIV, FeLV affects a cat's immune system and so the cat's ability to fight off bacteria, viruses and fungi is jeopardized which may contribute to other serious health problems. FeLV can also cause anemia and lymphoma (a type of cancer). FeLV-positive cats may live many years in a healthy state. There is no set life

expectancy for FeLV positive cats; much depends on the cat's immune system and ability to fight the virus. Whereas FIV is not easily transmitted from cat to cat, this is not the case with FeLV. The feline leukemia virus is spread through direct contact with an infected cat. High concentrations of the virus are found in saliva with lower concentrations in blood, urine and feces. The virus is most commonly transmitted through shared food and water bowls, grooming of each other and bites. Litter boxes can be a source of transmission. Housing FeLV cats with non-FeLV cats is not recommended which is why Lance and Wilbur are the "purrfect pair" as they already have each other and now YOU! Purrfect!



### Gregory

**Gregory** is indeed a special kitty! He tested positive for both FeLV and FIV. Now 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 with 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), so he needs YOU to show him what a loving relationship is all about. So...Gregory needs a home.



### Vegas

**Vegas** is considered a special kitty because of her 'catitude' – and she is also in sole possession of #1 at the top of the **Top Ten List!!!** She is one of those cats who is difficult to place. Vegas is approximately 6-7 years old. She was abandoned by her previous owner and has been at ICHS almost 5 years. Now, it's not that Vegas isn't friendly – she's just "choosy"; even preferring some staff to others! She is declawed in the front so scratching is not an issue and I don't believe she has ever bitten anyone. She just vocalizes a lot – trying to get YOUR attention! Vegas is like other 'hard to place' cats which we have had at the shelter - once they go to a home, they do very well. An experienced 'cat-family' living in a quiet household is exactly what Vegas needs. She does OK with other cats. So...Vegas 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 [roadhogbiker@gmail.com](mailto:roadhogbiker@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!