



I.C.H.S. Newsletter

PawPrints - September 2013

A Letter From The Editor...

I had enjoyed the summer of 2013 - until recently. With slightly over a

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week of summer remaining, I am ready for autumn and cooler weather (by admitting that autumn is only a few days away, I guess everyone will figure out that I am behind with the Newsletter - again). The late summer drought has once again taken its toll on the pastures, crops and the farmers. I see that the corn field next to the shelter has been chopped - I don't know if it was chopped because it was so dry or if that was the farmer's plan when the corn was planted last spring. Dave's grassy field (the rented acreage next to the shelter) received enough rain early on and the grass has grown nicely - having to be mowed several times since last June. It has been nice having the extra couple of acres to walk the dogs - and if I enjoy the extra space, you can be sure that the dogs do too. ICHS went before the Dodgeville City Council the end of July and our conditional use permit has been changed to allow the dogs to spend more time outside during the day, to extend the walking hours so that the dogs can be outside later in the evenings (which will allow volunteers to spend more time with the dogs) and to move and build additional outdoor kennels. Exciting developments for the shelter and especially for the dogs... **As you read this letter, it is important to remember that I am a volunteer and these are MY thoughts.**

Dogs and kittens are flying out of the shelter these days - can't seem to keep them in stock - which is GOOD! I walk dogs 3 - 4 times a week and I think that I know the dogs. However when going through the list of the dogs which were adopted the past two months (to fill in the



Belle & Ashley

Matt & Bryce

adoption chart for this Newsletter), it is interesting that I don't recall some of those dogs. Now it could be that dementia is part of the problem (and maybe it is) but my point is that many of the dogs haven't been at ICHS long enough to get to know them - again that is GOOD! Over the years we have had many dogs that were considered "long term" residents. It is wonderful to report that our longest dog resident was adopted in August by a young couple who have other dogs. Belle had been at ICHS for 4 years. She had been adopted a

couple of times over the years but was brought back within a day or two because of issues with other dogs. So, I was not real optimistic that Belle had found her "forever home" - I guess that I didn't want to get my hopes up only to have her returned. Well, it's been a month and things are apparently going well (look for Belle's success story in a future *PawPrints* issue)! It just goes to show that there is a "forever" family for every animal - it is simply a matter of promotion and perseverance. For those of us who either can't have a dog or are selective about what kind of a dog we want (e.g. not wanting a hound, an older dog, a dog with health concerns etc.), we need to be on the lookout for others who might be willing and able to provide homes for all kinds of dogs.

Kittens - same deal. In listing the kittens on the adoption chart, most of the kittens were foreign to me. So many kittens residing at the shelter for such a short time, I never got to know them - which is *GOOD!* The spring "kitten season" was later this year and some of us had started to wonder, "Where are the kittens?" Well, they were found - some abandoned in back yards and open fields, some huddled next to their mama who had been struck and killed by a car, some older kittens wandering into yards looking for food. Although some mother cats did come to the shelter along with their babies, most of our kittens have been orphans. Starving, flea-infested, scared kittens - kittens that needed immediate help if they were to survive. Jan Tabor to the rescue! Jan took on the project of organizing the Kitten Kadre Foster Program. Jan put out the plea for families who would be willing to foster kittens - bottle feeding (every two hours around the clock), socializing them and doing everything that must be done for tiny kittens. Thank you, Jan, for organizing the Kitten Kadre Program and thank you to the foster families who helped care for the babies and yes, there are still kittens in foster situations which will need homes. If you aren't/weren't involved in the Kitten Kadre Program but would like to be (especially for next spring), please contact the shelter office.

As awesome as the kitten adoptions have been, the adoptions of the older cats have been slower. ICHS is continuing the special adoption campaign "*Name Your Price!*" through the month of September. You decide how much to pay to adopt a kitten/cat. This really is a great deal because it includes the cat, spay/neuter, vaccinations and microchip. Now when I mention "older cat", many of these cats that I am referring to are not old. Many of these kitties are under a year old - some are last year's kittens! There is also a "Top Ten Picks" board at the shelter. This board lists the cats that have been at ICHS the longest. Just like Belle, there are 3 cats - Lolly, Vegas & Horton - that are just shy of being at ICHS 4 years. There is no reason that Lolly and Horton are still at ICHS after all of this time - wonderful cats. Now Vegas is Vegas and finding a home for her is a challenge! But there has to be someone out there who is the exact person that Vegas is looking for! If you aren't looking for another cat or can't

take any of the three (because you have other cats) do you possibly know of someone who would be the perfect family? Please ask around and help these three cats find homes as well as the other nice adult cats waiting for homes. **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

A small group of volunteers meet monthly to plan the ICHS fundraisers, and as enthusiastic as we might be, we are seeking more people to help with ICHS's fundraising needs. I met a lady a couple of weeks ago who expressed an interest in volunteering at ICHS. She asked me what kind of volunteer opportunities we needed help with. I told her that there were many ways to get involved at the shelter but that our biggest need was "helping with fundraising". Her response was, "Anything except fundraising - I don't want to do that"! Although I (and probably everyone else on our committee) agree that fundraising is not as much fun as cuddling cats and working with the dogs, it is important and has to be done. ICHS's doors can't remain open without fundraising! We would like ALL volunteers to get on board to "some degree" to help with the huge task of fundraising. Fundraising can be broken down into smaller (and more manageable) tasks if there are lots of people available to help. Some of these tasks include: brainstorming new ideas, contacting individuals and businesses, asking for donations, advertising, helping at the event, writing 'thank you' notes, critiquing events and making suggestions for ways to improve the event. We have awesome volunteers who give and give of themselves, but it would be so nice to have more people on board to help with fundraising. Our goal is to have enough volunteers so that each individual would only have to help at one event per year. The Fundraising Committee usually meets the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 6:00 at the shelter but it would be best to contact Cheri for verification.

Upcoming Fundraising events include:

Pizza Hut Buffet Night - September 16th The Dodgeville Pizza Hut has hosted Buffet Fundraisers for various organizations/purposes for the past few years. On the 16th, ICHS will be the beneficiary with serving from 5-8 PM. Bring the family (along with a neighbor or two) and support ICHS while enjoying a delicious variety of Pizza Hut pizza and other "oh, so good food" found on their buffet!!!

Lands' End Fall Farmers Market - September 26th Weather permitting, ICHS will have a booth at this event. This is not a fundraising event but rather an outreach event. This will be from 11 am to 3 pm in the Lands' End parking lot. Stop by and say "Hi".

Packer "Tail" Gate Party - November 10th 11 am to 3pm at Dodger Bowl in Dodgeville. Watch the game on big screen TV, enjoy all you can eat brats & chili and have fun bidding & winning! Games of chance, door prizes and Silent Auction items as well as chances to win great raffle prizes including a 42" HD TV and \$300 cash!!! Raffle tickets will be available soon--\$5 per ticket or five for \$20. Give us a call at 608-935-1381 for more information!

July & August Adoptions

July Cats	July Dogs	August Cats		August Dogs
Ivy *	Melvin	Bam Bam *	Windy *	Kodiak
Mooshu ☺	Toto	Jetson *	Mango	Daisy
Edgar *☺	Casper	Iris *	Felicia	Jack
Kayda *	Bubba	Penny	Pumpkin *	Marley
Tiny Tim *	Marsten	Dave ☺	Alex *	Lucy
Lola *	Nina	Kenny *	Goldie	Belle ☺
Karate	Emmett	Shelby	Cotton *	Thor
Adam *	Annie ☺	Carly *	Clyde *	Hobo
Bashful *	Kelsey	Happy *	Tidbitz *	Buddy
	Buck	Sleepy *	Katniss *	
	Jake	Cree *	Ditto *	
	Cracker	Dopey *	Barbie *	
	Mira	Beeks	Wallace ☺	
		Teddy *	Josie *	
		Todd *	Clint *	
		Jade *	Sparrow *	

*- kitten

☺- special needs and/or having been an ICHS resident for a year(s)

Special Pets

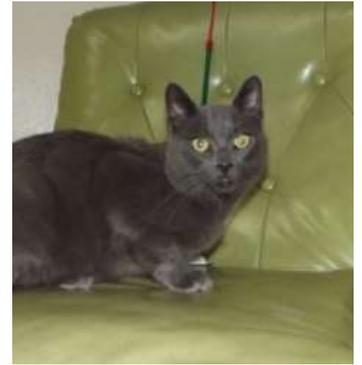
We all know that all animals are 'special' but the animals featured in this section are indeed special. These are 'special needs' animals. The special person/family who adopts one of these animals knows that this may/may not be the long-term relationship which we hope for when we open our hearts and 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.

Cameron & Limbo



In the May Newsletter, it was announced that Cameron was our only FIV+ (Feline Immunodeficiency Virus) kitty - well, our FIV+ population has doubled - Limbo is also FIV+, but that's OK! FIV cats are "normal" cats- it's just that these two guys have a virus (FIV) which affects the immune system - but slowly - over a period of years! So these kitties should live long and normal lives! **Cameron** is a handsome, active, playful guy who loves

attention. He has been at ICHS for well over a year. **Limbo** is a good-looking gray guy who also loves attention; he has only been at ICHS for a couple of months. If it wasn't for the FIV+ sign on their cages, you wouldn't have a clue that they have FIV! Although we call these guys "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 either Cameron or Limbo 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. Cameron is about two years old and so he should be a part of your family for many years to come. Limbo, likewise, is a young cat. Is it possible that YOU just might be the special family that these guys are looking for? 😊 So...Cameron and Limbo need homes!

Lance, Wilbur & Frieda



Lance, Wilbur and Frieda are FeLV (Feline Leukemia Virus) kitties. Lance has been at ICHS for a while (on the Top Ten list). He is a handsome, playful orange tabby with a wonderful personality. Although he can be a "lap-cat extraordinaire" there are times when he prefers his solitude. Wilbur is a handsome beige kind of guy. He has been with us over a year and needs more practice being with people (he is a bit "rough around the edges") - but Lance has been a wonderful mentor for him. Lance

and Wilbur had been living in one of the community cat rooms and developed a "bromance"! With "kitten season" in full swing, they had to be placed back in cages, but they are in adjoining cages! They truly are "best buds" and it is hoped that they will



be adopted together (these guys are so precious)!!! Frieda, a beautiful gray lady, hasn't been at ICHS as long as the guys. She is so affectionate and she only wants "lap time" when she is taken out of her cage - she has the sweetest little "meow"! FeLV cats are harder to place in homes than FIV cats. If you only want one cat, any of these would be perfect - but it would be absolutely WONDERFUL if Wilbur and Lance could go to the same home to continue their "bromance"! FeLV cats must be only cats (they can live with other FeLV cats) and they must be kept indoors. FeLV cats may be asymptomatic (free from symptoms) for years and will hopefully live relatively long lives. So...if you are looking for a kitty companion, these kitties are looking for YOU!

Gregory & Fozzy



Both Gregory and Fozzy are indeed special kitties! They tested positive for both FeLV and FIV. Now don't let that deter you from making either one of these guys (or both of them 😊) a part of your family! As mentioned earlier, as long as these guys 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. Both Gregory and Fozzy have only been at ICHS for a short time. Gregory is very 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. Fozzy is a young fella who just arrived and is in need of some TLC! So...Gregory & Fozzy need homes.



Vegas



Vegas is considered a special kitty because of her 'catitude'. She is one of those cats who is difficult to place. Anyone who knows cats is aware that most Tortois and Calicoes are known for their "temperaments". It is believed that she will do fine once adopted, but that's the problem - how do you get someone to adopt her because she can be a bit "scary" if she doesn't know you! Vegas is

approximately 6-7 years old. She had been abandoned by her previous owner and has been at ICHS for 4 years. She was very scared and confused when she came to the shelter. She lives in the quiet *Catnip Lounge* where she is somewhat isolated from noise and people. However living in this quiet room also means that she doesn't have a lot of contact with people and so people who are looking for their 'forever' cat never meet Vegas. But...there is a sign on her cage

which says "Staff Only" which would deter most people from adopting her anyway. Now, it's not that Vegas isn't friendly - she's just "choosy". She even prefers some staff to others. The main problem occurs when it's time for her to return to her cage. She is declawed in the front so scratching is not an issue and I don't believe she has ever bitten anyone. She just hisses and vocalizes a bit. She apparently does well with other cats. Vegas is like other 'hard to place' cats which we have had at the shelter (most of them being Torties and Calicoes) in that once they go to a home, they do very well. An experienced 'cat-family' living in a quiet household is exactly what Vegas needs. So...Vegas needs a home.

Crossing over that bridge...



It is never easy to say "goodbye" to our friends and family, but please note that your adopted pet has touched many lives. When your pet crosses the Rainbow Bridge, feel free to let us know about your loved one's passing...

In Memory of Ethan and Lenny



Most people love animals and can't imagine life without pets. So it is sad that not all animals have the kind of life that we wish they could all have. Animals are at the mercy of people - all kinds of people - good people, bad people and people - wanting to do what is best for their pet, but perhaps not knowing what "best" is.

"If only dogs" result through no fault of their own

- but because of people. In the July 2012 issue of *PawPrints*, I had written about "if only dogs". **Ethan** and **Lenny**, long-term ICHS residents, fit the description of "if only dogs". If only...



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

Taffy

I finally got around to visiting the Upland Hills Nursing and Rehab Center. I had been told that this facility had adopted two cats from ICHS years ago, and I had been meaning to investigate. Can you imagine my surprise (and pleasure) when Taffy met me at the front door the day of my visit? How welcoming was that!!!



Having animals at a nursing home facility sure sounds like a good idea to me, but I was wondering how this came about. Aren't there state guidelines/regulations about having animals in a long-term care facility? Toni Rochow, Activities Coordinator (aka the "cat lady") took time out of her busy schedule to explain how/why Taffy came to live at UHHNRC. Toni said that there are indeed regulations and having a 'cat policy' in place was the first step before they could move forward. Having a "resident cat" had been discussed initially at their manager team meetings since evidence shows that animals play a therapeutic role when interacting with people of any age. Many of the facility's residents had pets prior to coming to Upland Hills and most relished the idea of the facility having a cat. It was decided to put the issue of cats to a vote and the majority vote would rule. There were only a couple of residents who weren't enthusiastic about cats, so the search was on for a suitable cat. Toni and staff went to the ICHS and they met/played with/adopted Taffy. Taffy was adopted in 2007 and Kaylee was adopted shortly thereafter. Sadly Kaylee died in 2011 from renal failure and diabetes complications.

There are four 'households' within the facility, and Taffy and Lucy (Kaylee's replacement - not from ICHS) are each responsible for two of the households. Although the cats have the freedom to roam the facility, each cat remains in its respective households. Both cats have their own "care plan" and are treated as if they are residents (which they are). Taffy was approximately 6 or 7 years old when she was adopted so she is a genteel, elderly lady herself. Taffy seems to be genuinely content in her role of looking after her people.

Toni said that Taffy is simply amazing - and was right from the very beginning. Taffy has provided so much companionship for the residents. She has the run of her two households and seems to sense when people need her. She tends to spend more time with residents if they don't feel well. Although Taffy does have her 'favorite' residents (probably has something to do

with the treats which are kept in their rooms😊), she makes her rounds and can be found on most anyone's bed enjoying the attention she receives. Taffy often spends the nights with her favorite people, but doors are always kept slightly ajar so that she can come and go as she pleases. Toni is the one "in charge" of the cats (if you can picture anyone being in charge of a cat😊), but other staff members help also. The cats' dishes and litter boxes are kept in their respective "dens".

ICHS takes in surrendered animals (both cats and dogs) from people who have to leave their homes and go to a hospital or nursing home facility. Heartbreaking! In addition to the concerns of having to leave their homes and wondering what will become of their beloved pet(s), there is also the adjustment these folks must make of no longer having an animal close by. So...A big thank you to Toni and the rest of the Uplands Hills Nursing staff for having the insight to realize the therapeutic benefits that Taffy and Lucy provide.