

AWE Meeting – February 20, 2020

People present: – Janice O, Pam R, Arnette S, Donna G, Angela R, Sharon S, Molly M, Lisa C, Terri D

Arnette had attended an 'Animal Behavior' seminar and shared some of what was presented at that meeting. Discussion included: stress; getting animals adopted in less time – people (when adopting) want stories so office staff should get as much information (as is known) about the incoming animals to pass on to potential adopters; returned animals – it's always discouraging to have animals returned (and especially being returned too quickly) but even a short stay away from the shelter environment can be beneficial for the animal; evaluations – not need to complete immediately – some dogs may need time to “settle in” – (talked briefly about “rethinking” the evaluation procedure here at ICCHS); psychotropic meds/anti-anxiety meds/CBD oil/Feliway/Adaptil; clicker training and treat buckets; cats need/prefer small spaces to “get away” (sheets covering part of their cages for a “cave effect” should be done – especially for frightened/introverted cats), elevated/climbing areas, toys should be rotated, rope scratching posts/ food puzzles*

A reminder to everyone that there are a lot of good/free webinars and continuing education opportunities** to learn more about helping animals/ourselves. Molly mentioned *Maddie's University* as a good resource.

The question was asked if ICCHS can offer 'micro-chipping' to the public. We agreed that it would be a nice service to offer. Molly will check further into this.

Sharon would like to turn an unused dog kennel into a “walk-in grooming suite” for the dogs. This would be in the dog kennel in close proximity to already existing plumbing. She said that she would pay for the expense involved. Dogs do need baths and it can be difficult to get the dogs into the raised tub in the “tub room”. This was especially true of 105 lb Walter who needed baths several times a week for his skin condition.

We didn't have the time to talk about the ICCHS Wish List. It was decided that people who felt there needed to be changes to the wish list should email their thoughts to the office by February 29.***

Dane County Humane Society did come and take 8 of our cats (they wanted more). There were 2 very nice cats (Vora & Orchid) that they wanted but wouldn't take because of dental issues. This observation led to a brief discussion of what is being done for our animals that need dental work. At this time Molly has to contact the board to get permission for an animal to have a dental and then there is usually a considerable wait time to get an appointment.****

The above discussion led to a further brief discussion of why ICCHS only uses DVS (Precision Vet in Madison has been doing a number of our spays/neuters) to take care of the medical needs of our animals. Molly has been contacting other area vet clinics. Let's not forget about forging a partnership with UW-Madison to help with some of our animals' needs.

Janice asked if there has been any further discussion/progress on improved cat accommodations. The answer was “no”, but that is one of our purposes in traveling to other shelters to see what their cat accommodations are. Molly will contact Dubuque Humane Society for our first trip. It was also suggested that perhaps we could contact the facility in Lancaster to see if they would allow us to visit their facility (on the way or returning from Dubuque). Sharon will check with Lancaster.

Outdoor dog kennels/play yards.*****

The next AWE meeting will be **Thursday, March 19, at 11:00.**

Terri Davis

*Just to clarify, some of this info is not “new” to us; some of these ideas are already implemented at ICCHS.

**There is an all day seminar at DCHS on Tuesday, April 21. It is on “compassion fatigue”. Several of us are attending. There may still be time to sign up if you are interested. Ask Molly or Sharon for more information (or contact DCHS).

***I am concerned about the wish list – some items (on the list) we have so much of (and don't use) and other items are "legitimate" things that we need a constant supply of. I am currently working on an inventory and when I finish that, I will discuss the results with Molly (and those who are in charge of the website list and the Amazon list) and we can go from there. I don't know if anyone sent recommendations to the office by Feb. 29th – but if you did, thank you.

****Clementine had a dental last week (waited for several weeks to get her into DVS). Orchid and Leo desperately need dentals (one of them has an appt this coming Friday) and waiting for permission for the other one. Vora, the kitty with gingivitis, – nothing has been done for her. There has to be a more timely solution.

*****We did not get to talk about the messy outdoor play yards. But the two that we use are messy – mud as well as standing water. You basically have to drag the dogs into them since they don't want to go through the mud/water. I talked to Sharon about spreading wood chips (have used for the past couple of years) to get us through the worst of the mess and she said that she would check into getting some. However (yes, I know the roof is the priority) something has to be done about the outdoor play yards – not just the mess but also how secure they are! Sharon hastily set up a meeting for Tuesday, March 3, at 10:30 AM. Louanna, Sharon, Molly and I will attend and will discuss what needs to be done. We will report back at the March meeting (if you are free this AM, you are welcome to join us).