



Iowa County Humane Society (ICHS) Newsletter

PawPrints March 2016

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A Letter From The Editor... and another

winter for the history books (or maybe the ‘meteorology books’). I still have a leftover woodpile and a pallet of wood pellets next to the garage – I guess I’m all set for next year! Despite the prediction of an ‘El Niño’ winter, I was still hoping that the huge snowfall that we had on the Saturday prior to Thanksgiving was a hint of things to come – lots of snow – but, alas, that wasn’t to be. Other than a few flurries here and there, I predict that winter in Wisconsin is over! I actually have a good part of the front lawn raked already. Usually I don’t even start raking until the end of March, so I feel pretty good about my progress. It is tempting to start uncovering some of the perennials, but it is way too early for that. I noticed the crocuses were blooming the other day – what a delightful surprise! The seedlings upstairs under ‘the lights’ are doing well so now it’s just a matter of convincing Oscar to leave them alone. I must say that Oscar is a quick learner – he has come to realize that a spray bottle is used for more than just misting plants ☺...As you read this letter, it is important to remember that I am a volunteer and these are my thoughts.



Our large community cat room, *Larry’s Living Room*, has been transformed into a real living room for the cats. My brother, Fran J, spent a day at the shelter and built a fireplace and ‘bookshelves’ for the room. There are also shelves under the windows, climbing shelves and a climbing pole. Justin P, volunteer/staff, has used his artistic talent to paint books and plants on the shelves and a warm, cheery fire



burning in the fireplace. Thank you to Fran and Justin as well as the others who helped with this project.



Marcia and Scott T have been busy in the training room. First, I should mention that there is now heat and air conditioning in the training room so that this space can be used year around – rather than just in the spring and fall. This room is used as a place for “meet and greets” for potential dog adoptions, *Canine Good Citizen* classes are conducted here and it is an area for the dogs to play in when the weather is not conducive to being outside. Large group meetings have also been held in that room. Well, back to Marcia and

Scott’s efforts – Marcia has turned the drab yellow room into an aqua and lime green room with purple trim – it looks great! Scott put on the base trim and all of the other little things that have to be done when a room is refurbished. Thank you to Marcia and Scott as well as to the parties who donated the new furnace and air conditioner unit.

Our first kitten of the year came through our doors a couple of weeks ago and is being fostered by our very capable ‘foster mom’, Jan T. Jan has helped with the kittens for several years and she well knows the commitment that needs to be made for those little ones that need to be cared for “around the clock”. BTW, Jan was a “failed foster” mom last year – she kept two of the kittens for her own. If you are interested and have the time to foster kittens, please contact the shelter. We will most certainly be needing help with incoming kittens.

Angel's Wish – this cat rescue organization located in Verona took several cats from ICHS last year and they have taken several more again this year. Their first trip in January took all of our “teenagers” (it is difficult to find homes for teenagers once kittens make an appearance)! They came back recently and took some of our older cats. I was especially pleased that they took Bridget as I was trying to figure out how to introduce Bridget to “my gang” at home! Bridget has been with us going on four years. She is a nice kitty but not very personable so she was always being overlooked. Hopefully, we'll find out soon that Bridget has found her forever home. Thank you Angel's Wish and all your volunteers for helping find homes – not just for the ICHS cats – but for all of the cats that you find homes for! To learn more about Angel's Wish, go to www.angelswish.org. The ICHS cats that went to Angel's Wish include:



Azule	Cheddar	Devin	Griff	Leo	Miss White	Opie	Skunk	Treble
Boots	Cheese	Frankie	Hardie	Lola	Nya	Paige	Swayze	Tutu
Bridget☺	Cinder	Gaby	Jenelle	Maddy	Oakley	Rocco	Tessa	Ula
Carol	Colby	Gordo	Kalvin	Mason	Oldrick	Ron	TJ	Vance
Casey	Collin	Wes	Lee	Miss Scarlet	Onyx	Sippi		

If you have any suggestions or ideas about the content of ICHS PAWPRINTS, please contact me, Terri Davis, at roadhogbiker@gmail.com

Volunteer Update

As a reminder, ICHS is a volunteer-based organization and our volunteers are priceless when it comes to our mission and success. As important as our volunteers are, perhaps we don't have an adequate way to express our thanks other than to say “thank you” and there may be a time when even that doesn't occur. Most of us volunteer because we want to, and we don't expect thanks – a wagging tail or a purring cat is our thanks! ICHS has a “**Lucky Volunteer of the Month**” drawing – just for fun. One volunteer's name is drawn each month and receives a little something – no, not a kitten☺ – as a token of ICHS's appreciation. The volunteer is “lucky” because it has nothing to do with how often you volunteer (there is only one name/per person/ per month no matter how much time you spend volunteering) and so “lucky” is simply being the one whose name is drawn from the container – that's the “luck of the draw”!

Our most recent “lucky volunteers” are: **January** – Melissa W. Melissa is from Mineral Point and has been a volunteer since December 2013. Melissa works in Dodgeville and spends many of her ‘lunch hours’ here at the shelter with the cats. **February** – Mary H. Mary lives in Spring Green and has been a volunteer since June 2015. Mary and her children, Madeline and Leo, make the drive to Dodgeville a couple of times a month to spend time with our cats. Thank you to Melissa and Mary and her children – and all the rest of you for everything that you do for ICHS! If you are thinking about becoming a volunteer, our volunteer orientations are the 3rd Sunday of the month at 1:00 at the shelter in Dodgeville.

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/or work at one event per year. So...if you would like to get involved with the planning and organizing of 2016's fundraisers, please contact the shelter for more details. We hope to hear from you!!!

ICHS Spring Garage Sale Fundraiser – April 22nd & 23rd

We are having our spring garage sale April 22 & 23 to raise funds for the shelter. As you are thinking about spring cleaning projects, do you have some items that are fully functional and in good condition that you no longer have a need or use for? That item(s) may be exactly what someone else has been looking for! We are accepting donations NOW! Furniture, household items, electronics and jewelry are some items that we are looking for. If you have any questions, please give us a call at 935-1381. We will also need a few volunteers to help staff this sale.

ICHS Plant Sale Fundraiser – May 21 & May 28

The “10th Annual Plant Sale” is right around the corner. As usual the sale will be held on two Saturdays in May – the 21st and the 28th from 8:30 – 12:00 at the shelter in Dodgeville. All money goes to health care for the animals. Watch for more details in the May Newsletter.

January & February Adoptions

January				February		
Cats				Dogs	Cats	Dogs
Emma	Liz	Malia	Zoe	Butterball	Fizz	Dot
Bobtail	Turtle	Korey	Millie	Molly	Hallie	Max
Keller	Greta	Troy		Dusty	Layla	Oliver
Chewey	Lionel	Maxine		Dudley	Kris	Meeka
Haluk	Electra	Heidi		Harley	Winter	Butch
Han	Manya	Lucy		Elody	Rider	

* - 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, Juniper, Mustard, Garfield & Woody – FIV Kitties

Our FIV population is growing! These kitties are “normal” cats – it’s just that they have a virus (FIV) 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. Buzz is one of the sweetest and most loving cats in the building. Buzz has been with us over two years – he really needs a home! Is it possible that YOU just might be the special family that Buzz is looking for?



Juniper has been with us since May – almost a year. Juniper is simply “precious”!!! She is a beautiful orange cat with matching eyes. She is so loving and will probably be a “lap cat supreme” once she has the opportunity to be away from the shelter. She doesn’t get the attention that she craves; “special needs” cats are too often ignored here at the shelter – even by volunteers.



Mustard was extremely vocal when he first came to ICHS but has quieted down. He is also a popular kitty with the volunteers. Because he had appeared to be so “needy” (meowing) when in his cage, I wasn’t sure what to expect from him when I took him to a M&G room for the first time, but he was very well-behaved. Although he played a bit, he seemed to be content just having my attention (and a few treats). He’ll be a wonderful addition to YOUR family.



Garfield is a neat cat! He also meows a lot, but it is simply to get YOUR attention. His round pumpkin-face gives the impression that he is HUGE, but when you take him out of his cage, you will find him to be an average-sized fellow. He is very loving and it appears that he will be a wonderful lap cat as well as a snuggle bug. Don't take my word for it. Come and meet him and see for yourself. He will impress YOU!

Woody has become an office kitty. This little guy has a few issues (besides his FIV status) but he has his entire life ahead of him. He is the wiggliest and squirmiest cat that I know and has a huge purr that never stops. He loves to play which perhaps isn't in his best interest as he has an issue with his knee and it would be best if he was a bit more sedentary – but try telling Woody to slow down! He is uncoordinated and his little body is kind of “out of proportion” which simply adds to his CUTENESS! And if the little guy didn't have enough problems, his hair started falling out although it is growing back. Woody loves attention and never gets enough! Come and fall in total love with this little guy today – he will simply light up your life!!!



Although we call FIV cats “special”, there really are no special considerations when adopting **Buzz, Juniper, Mustard, Garfield or Woody**. 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, Juniper, Mustard, Garfield and Woody need homes

Laurel & Slade – FeLV Kitties



To those of you who don't have a cat, but have been thinking about getting one – PLEASE do yourself a favor and come and meet **Laurel**. She is an older kitty, a sweetheart and tested positive for FeLV. People shy away from kitties with FeLV, and they remain at the shelter for months/years. PLEASE don't let that happen to Laurel. She spends much of her day sleeping and is perhaps “hard of hearing”. Let her enjoy taking her naps curled up on your lap or a sunny

window sill! So...Laurel needs a home.

Slade is a young, gray guy who has one thing on his mind when I take him out of his cage – FOOD! And he could probably benefit from having some extra treats – being the young cat that he is, he is a bit gangly. He is so happy to be out of his cage that it is difficult to get him to focus. When I have him out, he isn't interested in me or playing – just food – but once he adjusts to YOUR home – his real personality will come shining through. Since I don't know Slade very well, I leave it up to YOU to get to know him – whether as a volunteer here at ICHS or by making him YOURS. So...Slade needs a home.



Similar to FIV cats, FeLV cats also must be kept indoors and a quiet home is best. FeLV cats do need to be only cats (may live with other FeLV cats). FeLV kitties may live for years having a “normal” life span, but once/if the later stage of the infection occurs, the cat's health may deteriorate rapidly. That, of course, is one reason FeLV cats are not readily adopted – no one wants to lose their pet to illness. But these kitties need homes.

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/e-mail to ICBS) that you are giving me permission to include your pet's story in the newsletter. I hope to hear from you!