



# Iowa County Humane Society (ICHS) Newsletter *PawPrints* January 2017

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**A Letter From The Editor...** Hard to believe that January is already half over. Halfway through January means that I should have several flats of seeds sown, but I am way behind with that too (just like this newsletter). Sitting at the computer at this very moment, I am asking myself if I should be sitting here or downstairs sowing seeds. Obviously the newsletter is winning out! And then, of course, there is the vacuuming, laundry, dusting, windows, painting and staining that are all beckoning to me – but it is so easy to ignore those tasks. So back to the newsletter... **As you read this letter it is important to remember that I am a volunteer and these are MY thoughts.**

January 2017 marks six years since ICHS's move from the old location on Bennett Road to our present facility. A lot has been accomplished in the past six years in turning this former factory into an animal shelter. The **Building and Grounds Committee** meets monthly and although our "to do" list remains lengthy; we did cross a few things off in 2016. This past year another furnace and air conditioner were installed. The furnace heats the training room and as you can well imagine it has been so nice to have heat in that area when evaluating and working with the dogs. Also, a new matted floor was installed in the training room. These mats were used for the **State 4-H Dog Show** which was held in Lancaster this past summer. Arnette S. donated the mats and a group of six or so volunteers installed the mats last October. Two new exterior doors were replaced on the west side of the building. Volunteer Scott L. and crew continued to have electrical work days throughout the year and Jen E. could be found sealing the floors periodically. Although the roof was repaired last summer, we still have the daunting task of replacing the roof which will be a major financial endeavor.

The **AWE Committee** has also been looking into needed changes to make the shelter more "user friendly" for both animals and people. A dog quarantine area, quiet rooms for the dogs and more community cat rooms are "on the radar" but these projects have to be prioritized along with the roof project and funds will need to be raised to turn the ideas into reality. The AWE Committee is also working to resurrect the **Mod Squad Program** which we had implemented a few years back but then was discontinued due to the lack of volunteers.

In 2016 ICHS found homes for 185 cats and 78 dogs. Besides finding homes for our animals, our mission is also to take in animals that families are no longer able to keep due to various circumstances. Allowing families to surrender their pets is largely based on the amount of space we have available at the shelter. So it is impressive that we were able to take in 89 cats (sadly there were many, many more that had to be turned away) and 36 dogs.

**Angel's Wish**, an all-volunteer, non-profit, pet adoption organization in Verona; recently took the majority of our "teenage" kitties. As has become the norm, ICHS was inundated with kittens again this past year – they started coming through the doors in late winter and never stopped coming. Although most of our kittens did find "forever" families, the demand for kittens just couldn't keep up with the large kitten population. And sadly once those cute little kittens grow into "teenagers", they aren't so much in demand anymore. Because of the large cat population and limited space, we were running out of options as to where to house our cats. So we appreciate **Angels' Wish** helping us out by taking the "teens". And by the way, Angel's Wish is amazing!!! If you don't find your next kitty companion at ICHS, check at Angel's Wish!☺



One youngster who was left behind is Cyrus. He is a cute little guy, but “dysfunctional” – through no fault of his own. He came to the shelter as a tiny kitten in September. He had ringworm. So while treating this cute, adorable kitten, he had to be quarantined and so he spent roughly two months in a room by himself. He had no interaction with other animals or people (other than feeding, cleaning and “sulfur-baths”). So during those impressionable couple of months Cyrus never learned how to interact with people or other cats. After being released from quarantine he was able to spend some time in a community room with the other “teens” although he needed supervision. But after Angel’s Wish took the older kittens, sadly there was no choice but to put him back in a

cage. Cyrus has so much energy – and so much to learn – that a cage isn’t an ideal environment. He is not aggressive, but he just doesn’t have a clue! He can’t be with the adults and he can’t be with the smaller kittens. So Cyrus is kind of in “limbo land”. I (and others) do have permission to take him into the kitten room as long as he is supervised. The main goal is to get him to be OK with people, but getting him used to other cats would be a plus. So...if there is anyone out there who would like a challenge, Cyrus needs you.

And by the way, the **ICHS Annual Meeting** will be held on **Monday, March 13**, at **7:00** at the shelter. All current members (anyone who has made a donation between February 2016 and January 31, 2017) are welcome and eligible to vote. New board members will be elected and a general state of the shelter will be shared. Your input, as always, is encouraged. If you are not yet a member, you have until January 31<sup>st</sup> to make a donation. Thank you! **If you have any suggestions or ideas about the content of ICBS PAWPRINTS, please contact me, Terri Davis at [roadhogbiker@gmail.com](mailto:roadhogbiker@gmail.com)**

### Upcoming Fundraising Events and Volunteer Needs

Just a reminder that ICBS 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 2017’s fundraisers, please contact the shelter for more details. We hope to hear from you!!!

### November & December Adoptions

November				December			
Cats			Dogs	Cats			Dogs
Flareon*	Pikachu*	Mickey*	Lyra	Katy*	Razzamaz*	Magnolia*	Macy
Baggy	Lil Buddy*	Dumpling*	Buster	Doug	Frankie*	Woobie*	Oliver
Nigel 😊	Zeke 😊	Liliana*	Roxie	Jessie	Charlie*	Pepperjack*	Winston
Weezie	Ellie*	TJ*	Tia	Ginger 😊	Sugar	Baloo	Luna
Sniper*	Commander*	Blazer*	Luke	Tyrone*	Salem		Elwood
Merrill*	Vincent*		Jake	Coco	Missie*		Sheba
				Sissy*	Bizzy*		Tater
				Brie*	Lil Bear*		Casey

\* - kitten  
😊 - denotes animal has been at ICBS 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 ICBS and find out more about these animals from the ICBS 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 ICBS; 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 becomes apparent. Buzz has been with us three years – he really needs a home! **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, people can’t seem to look beyond his FIV label. Petey is about two years old, playful, loves attention and gets along with other cats.



**Petey and Buzz** are roommates (they are such a handsome pair) and they get along well. It is preferred that they be adopted together as they have definitely bonded. If YOU are looking for a pair of kitties, look no further, YOU have just been found!

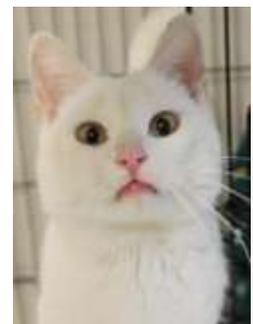
Although we call FIV cats “special”, there really are no special considerations when adopting Buzz or Petey. If it wasn’t for the FIV+ sign on their cages, you wouldn’t have a clue that they have FIV! They must be kept indoors. They may live with other cats since FIV is not easily passed between cats (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 a home.



### Cleo & Cheerio - FeLV Kitty

**Cleo** is about 9-10 months old and has been at ICBS a couple of months. She is extremely playful but also loves to cuddle. This little girl is one of those whom I would bring home “in a heartbeat” if I could. But because of her FeLV status she can’t live with other cats (unless they are also FeLV) which means that I can’t have her – however if YOU are currently ‘catless’, YOU should get to know this little “love bug”! Now it may be easy to overlook her as she appears to be “kind of ordinary”. She doesn’t stand out – until you get to know her. Look at her closely. A quick glance and she appears to be “just a tabby”

but you will notice that her coloring is unusual and BEAUTIFUL. Keep in mind that she is a “teenager” so she is still ‘all legs’ – definitely has some growing to do - but this is good as she will be with YOU for many years to come. **Cheerio** has only been here at ICBS for a short time as well. He is white with a very pink nose. He is a nice little guy with so much energy which you will notice immediately that he is very squirmy when you carry him around. Cheerio is about the same age as Cleo. Cheerio and Cleo have recently become ‘roommates’ so if YOU are looking for a



pair of young kitties that will entertain YOU as well as each other, come and get to know these two youngsters. So...Cheerio and Cleo need 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 Cleo and Cheerio need a home.

### 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

Gregory has been promoted to 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 [roadhobgiker@gmail.com](mailto:roadhobgiker@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!



**Scamp** has settled in quite well. He is learning that the bunny doesn’t want to play with him, but the kids are always ready to play.



Thank you ICHS for our sweet **Jessie** (now Charliecat)! We adore him he’s such a snuggler. He’s a very happy guy.



**Tia** reporting in...in a few weeks at home I have been walking on a leash, playing with toys, sleeping with my momma and sister and enjoying life. I'm happy to be home.



The kitten **Dumpling** now known as **Fakrus** we adopted in November...getting along well with our big boy. They enjoy looking out the window.



I adopted **Snickers** and **Ash** last June. They were both a little shy but adjusted quickly to their new home. I adopted them as a pair as I wanted them to have each other's company while I'm at work. Now they are "thick as thieves". They play together, sleep together, watch TV together and are very affectionate with me each in their own sweet ways. I just love "my girls" and there isn't a day that goes by that they don't make me laugh. I am so happy that I adopted these two together.



Just wanted to check in and let you know that **Brody** is doing amazing in his new house! He is behaving incredibly well and has been a perfect gentleman anytime I've had company over. We have gone on walks everyday and he loves curling up in his comfy bed 😊. Thanks again for everything!



Here is **Sammy (Baloo)** getting used to snuggling. He has learned he can get petted whenever he wants now and is a total ham. He is not friends yet with my older cat, Louise, mostly because he keeps pouncing on her tail. That doesn't win points with her. He is settling in nicely and is fun to have around.

