



# Iowa County Humane Society (ICHS) Newsletter

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**A Letter From The Editor...** So, I haven't complained about the weather since the September issue so I'm overdue! If my memory is correct, I thought autumn was "blah" – gray and gloomy. December and the first half of January continued in a similar manner and then it happened – it started snowing the afternoon of January 18 and it seems like it hasn't stopped – snow, snow and still more snow! Actually, I don't mind the snow so much but it's the melting snow which freezes and then parking lots and sidewalks become ice skating rinks – now that's a problem! What's to happen when the thaw starts in earnest? Flooding – an even bigger problem! The polar vortex with its accompanying bitter cold and outrageous wind chills just adds to my diatribe. At least the days are getting longer... **As you read this letter it is important to remember that I am a volunteer and these are MY thoughts.**

The dogs here at ICHS are awaiting spring also. Typically, January and February are good months for adoptions at ICHS but not so this year and I think the weather has contributed to that. Only three dogs being adopted in a two-month span isn't the way it usually is – especially when there is such a delightful bunch of dogs just waiting for their forever home! But if you don't have a fenced-in yard, howling winds



and ice-glazed sidewalks are a legitimate deterrent in bringing a dog home. For the most part the dogs don't enjoy being out in this weather either – with the exception of Hogan and Coter who are obsessed with playing, fetching and chasing balls. Most of the dogs prefer to have a short walk and then indoor time with the volunteers. **Zoey** (pictured) is a young Australian cattle dog mix who loves tummy rubs more than just about anything else. As energetic as she is when allowed time to play, the "rubs" take priority! Zoey's greatest need (other than tummy rubs) is having consistency in her young life. She needs a family that can provide consistent training and handling, opportunities for significant playtime and exercise and, of course, love. The "downside" with Zoey is that she doesn't do well with most dogs and she can't be around cats – other than that she really is a fun dog!

It is so exciting when animals get adopted – especially those who have been with us for a significant length of time. But it is heartbreaking when animals are returned and/or when people need to surrender their animals for "whatever reason". It is so important to think things through before adopting. The following is a list of questions that I took from [Dr. Karen Becker's website article "9 Questions"](#) ([drkarenbecker@mercola.com](mailto:drkarenbecker@mercola.com) dated March 2, 2019):

1. **Do you have the time every day to devote to your pet?**
2. **Do you have the energy to dedicate to a pet?**
3. **Can you afford a pet?**
4. **Is everyone in the household sold on the idea of a pet?**
5. **Does your prospective new pet come with emotional or behavioral "baggage" you can accept or commit to dealing with?**
6. **Will your existing pet(s) accept a new pet?**
7. **Are you prepared to prioritize your pet over your belongings?**
8. **What kind of relationship do you want with your pet?**
9. **What changes do you expect in your life in the next 5, 10 or 15 years?**

Sometimes surrendering or rehoming a pet is the kindest thing that we can do for the animal (as well as for ourselves). And we know that we can't predict the future so even if we have the best intentions of providing a loving home for an animal, life doesn't go as planned – there are far too many things that we can't control. But at least we need to do our homework and some 'soul-searching' to determine if it's in our (and the animal's) best interest to bring an animal into our life/home. If not, there are always opportunities to volunteer at animal shelters and spend time with those animals – they need YOUR love and attention too!

As mentioned in the previous newsletter (**January 2019 PAWPRINTS**), there will be an upcoming **AWE meeting**. I am currently seeking concerns/suggestions/ thoughts on how better to improve the lives of the cats and dogs while they are waiting to be adopted. I also would like your ideas on how to make better use of the facility (both the building and the grounds). I will compile a list of those ideas which interested people can preview prior to the actual meeting. I think that doing it this way will make the AWE meeting more focused and in turn more productive. Feel free to e-mail me your ideas and I will include them on the list. The actual AWE meeting will be in April.

Speaking of meetings, the **Annual Board of Director's meeting will be Monday, March 25**, at the shelter at 7:00 pm. **If you have any suggestions or ideas about the content of PAWPRINTS, please contact me, Terri Davis, at [roadhobgiker@gmail.com](mailto:roadhobgiker@gmail.com)**

### Upcoming Fundraising Events and Volunteer Needs

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 2019's fundraisers, please contact Joen at [outreach@ichs.net](mailto:outreach@ichs.net) for more details. We hope to hear from you!!! And, of course, the cats and dogs are always on the lookout for people to spend quality time with them!!! For more information on volunteer opportunities, please visit the [ICHS website](#).

**April 7, 14, 20, & 28 - Canine Good Citizen Spring Session Fundraiser** - ICHS will be holding our Spring CGC class session during the month of April with classes on Sunday (no class on Easter Sunday – rather the 3rd class will be on Saturday, the 20th). Class will be from 1PM to 3PM, with the certification test on the last Sunday (4/28). The cost for this session is just \$65. Sign up now, spots are limited and usually fill up fast!

**ICHS Annual Garage Sale Fundraiser (April 27 – same as Dodgeville's city-wide garage sale)** - Please join us for our annual spring garage sale! We'll be open from 8am-2pm each day. We'll have TONS of great deals on new and lightly used animal items (dog & cat crates, toys, bowls, beds, collars, etc.), as well as everything else you'd expect at a garage sale! Want to help raise money for ICHS? We are now accepting garage sale donations such as furniture, household items, electronics, jewelry, etc. Please only bring us items that are in good condition and functional - if you're not sure, call ahead and ask! Thank you!

**April 20 - Easter Bake Sale** - This traditional event dates back to the early beginnings of ICHS. The sale will be in the usual place – Spring Gate Mall in Dodgeville (near the entrance to Piggly Wiggly). The sale starts at 8:00 and continues until 1:00 or until all the “goodies” are gone. The variety and amount of donated treats is amazing! So, make our bake sale a part of your Easter tradition – and enjoy!

**June 15 - SAVE THE DATE!!! “ICHS Best Ball Golf Outing”** to be held at the Norsk Golf Course in Mount Horeb. Details to follow.

### January & February Adoptions

January				February			
Cats			Dogs	Cats		Dogs	
Maya* & Parcheesi*	Pumpkin	Rosalyn	Romeo & Moby ☺	Zephyr	Arwen	Indigo	Ophelia
	Elvira	Izzie*		Jack	B.W.	Vondra	
Shirley*	Dolly	Babushka*	Barbara ☺		Stedman*	Hamlet	
Snap* & Pop*	Purrton*	Ivan* & Lizzie*	Mushu ☺+ Harrison+		Bieber ☺	Gayle*	
Yahtzee*+ Barcode*+	Capri*+ Raya*+	Crackle*+	Wesley*+				

\* = kitten  
 + = transferred to Angel's Wish  
 ☺ = denotes animal has been at ICHS for over a year/was on the Top Ten list/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.

**FIV Kitty – No FIV kitties at the moment** 😊

**FeLV Kitties – No FeLV kitties at the moment** 😊

## 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. If you would be interested in sharing your pet's story in the newsletter, please e-mail me at [roadhobbiker@gmail.com](mailto:roadhobbiker@gmail.com).



*The first success story is a repeat from the January newsletter. Heidi's mom sent a recent picture of Heidi and so I am sharing both the picture and the story. Thank you, Mary, for the picture – Heidi sure looks like a happy cat!!!*

Thank you to everyone at the Iowa County Humane Society for taking such good care of **Heidi** the cat. I found her on your Top Ten Cat List, adopted her and I am so happy that I did. She is such a joy. In less than a week she has become part of our family. She sleeps at the foot

of the bed, loves running as fast as she can in the upstairs hallway (for no apparent reason), and plays with her favorite new toys, carrying some with her as she follows me from room to room. I know she had been in your shelter for many months. Several years ago, my family adopted two of your Top Ten Cats, Elsie and Wilma. Rather ordinary looking, they were healthy adult cats, but they were unremarkable in every way and had been overlooked and with you for two years. In no time at all, in our home they became wonderful pets, playful and loving, each with her own delightful personality. Kittens are adorable, but thank you for also taking care of the older cats and those with special needs. Again, thank you for Heidi. Mary T



I am happy to report that **Sam** (adopted as **Zepher**) is doing exceptionally well. I've attached a few pictures, one of him and two of him snuggling with his "brothers". Sam is a real sweetheart and pretty much always snuggles with one of his brothers. He's also a super smart guy! We go to the dog park every day so that he can run and play and exert energy, which helps his mind relax. I'm trying to get him into doggie daycare and this spring we may try agility classes. I feel so blessed to have adopted Sam and added him to our family!



Wanted to let you know that **Romeo** and **Moby** are doing very well. They settled in very quickly and play together. We are very happy that we adopted them both. Thank you! Beth and Callie

**B** formerly known as **Twyla!** I got her 6ish years ago and she had been in your shelter for almost 2 years. She's a sweet little lady and enjoys the sunny spots in the house.



**Lily**, the calico, adopted 11 years ago and **Rosie**, the pumpkin, adopted in July.

**Yoda** (formerly known as **Ham**)

