

Iowa County Humane Society  
Board Meeting  
May 11, 2015

Board members present: Marcia Thompson, Lisa Cvengros, Pam Richardson, John Mutschler and Rene Christesen

Absent: Michael Van Sicklen

Staff present: Bonnie Zimmerman, Jen Siegel

Absent: Binga Manwiller

Public present: Sharon Shea and Arnette Small

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM.

The April minutes were accepted and approved.

Rene presented samples of a newly designed "Thank You" note and a discussion followed. It was decided that the new note format and design was a big improvement over the notes being used currently. Rene will provide different templates so that the card will be multi-use.

The **Treasurers report** was submitted and approved and will be available on the website.

Lisa C. went over the recent name changes and consolidations in the Temporarily Restricted Funds to clarify what had been done. As noted in the April minutes: The Mod Squad and Sanctuary Funds have been discontinued. Monies from those discontinued funds were combined and the resulting fund is now the AWE Fund. The Circle of Caring Fund was discontinued and those monies moved into the Medical Bill Fund.

Lisa C noted that income was "drastically down" from this time last year. This is in large part because of the \$25,000 payment for the Humane Officer position which has not been received.

Municipality income is up due to the City of Dodgeville contract and the change to a monthly billing system. In addition to monthly billing, "reclaims" will be added to the invoices in an effort to keep the municipalities better informed.

Memorial giving has been strong but other donations/membership is down by 19%. Fundraising has been flat with the \$5,154 raised from the bowling event designated to the Low Cost Spay and Neutering program.

Lisa C notes that May/June donations historically are low but it's going to be important that donations increase over the summer.

The **Kennel Manager's report** was submitted and approved.

There are a total of 32 cats currently in the shelter and 9 in foster care. In April there were 10 stray cats, 10 transfers from other shelters and 3 surrenders. There were 8 cats adopted, 1 redeemed, 15 transferred to Angel's Wish and 1 cat euthanized.

Currently there are 10 dogs at the shelter and 3 in foster care. In April there were 11 stray dogs, 6 surrenders, 1 protective custody and 1 dog returned. There were 4 dogs adopted, 7 redeemed, 3 transferred and 1 dog euthanized.

Bonnie noted that Freckles has been diagnosed with a cancer that could not be successfully treated. He is currently in foster care and his caregiver has agreed to keep him since he is happy there and continues to have a good quality of life. The staff will continue to stay in close contact with the foster caregiver to monitor Freckles condition and quality of life.

The **Office Manager's report** was submitted by email and approved. Binga noted that April "was a month of strays being reclaimed by their families!" The shelter averaged 2 reclaims each week. ICBS provided shelter and safety for 7 dogs and 1 cat while they waited for their owners to reclaim them. ICBS requires that owners provide proof of rabies vaccinations or proof of a prepaid Vet appointment if the rabies vaccinations are not up to date. This provides protection for animals that may have come into contact with infected wildlife, during the period when they were out of the owner's control.

**Outreach/Fundraising Manager's report** was given and approved. Jen Siegel is the new Outreach/Fundraising manager. She recently met with Lynn Price at the Dodgeville Chamber of Commerce to discuss ICBS participating in one of the Chambers "Business After 5" gatherings. They have an opening on May 27th. ICBS would have to provide snacks and beverages and the event would be held at the shelter. The Chamber would promote the event. Jen will pursue this opportunity.

"Dodgeville Days" will be held August 20-23 at Harris Park. Jen noted that ICBS could sponsor an event (such as the pancake breakfast). This possibility will be discussed at the next Fundraising Committee meeting.

Membership drives were discussed and there will need to be a decision on their value. Jen will continue to research this.

The Board will meet weekly with Jen on Wednesdays at 2:30 PM. The purpose of the meetings will be to facilitate communication, give support and answer any questions she might have while she is settling in to her new role.

## **Committee Reports**

**AWE Committee:** There is no meeting date set but the major discussion is expected to be obedience/manners training and behavior modification for the shelter dogs.

**Fundraising Committee:** No report

**Building and Grounds Committee:** The first and second phases of the furnace project have been completed. Phases three and four are ongoing and include relocating furnaces and AC units. The flooring project is ongoing.

**Personnel Committee:** No report

**Other Items:** Mike Van Sicklen has not been able to follow up on the Humane Officer issue but plans to do so.

Marcia has spoken with the Chief of Police in Mineral Point. That municipality does not want to pay for stray cats. Despite Marcia's attempts that issue continues to be unresolved.

Marcia Thompson, Arnette Small and Sharon Shea attended the Brigham Township meeting on behalf of ICHS. After explaining the benefits that would be provided by ICHS to the township and answering questions, the Township agreed to the new contract.

Arnette and Sharon also met with the Village of Avoca to make them aware of our services, tours etc. and to answer any questions they might have. They are having a problem with feral cats and various solutions were discussed including contacting "Friends of Ferals" for further help. Sharon noted that Avoca expressed concern that there was no Humane Officer and wondered who was doing the job. They were assured that the Humane Officer duties were being well handled in the interim and that ICHS is confident that this problem will be resolved. Sharon and Arnette noted that everyone at the meeting was friendly, appreciative of the information and happy that they were able to speak directly with ICHS representatives.

It was stressed to the staff that under the current contracts, municipalities do not have to pay for a stray animal if it is not approved by the municipality in advance. ICCHS staff is to contact the municipality for approval before an animal is accepted.

Marcia will contact the Town of Arena since they have not signed their contract and have no acceptable place to house stray animals.

Jen will speak with Jan Tabor to find out why ICCHS has to deal with each municipality separately, rather than the County. Dealing directly with the County would simplify things and it was noted that other county humane societies do not deal with each separate municipality.

It was suggested that when ICCHS members speak with the municipalities they stress our low cost spay and neuter program to make sure they understand the benefits.

Rene has researched prices and types of banners for ICCHS to use at fundraising/informational events. At this time the table sized banner with ICCHS logo is around \$41.00. Rene will continue to see if she can find a lower price but was authorized to order one table sized banner and spend up to \$55.00.

Donation boxes will be discussed at the next Fundraising Meeting. At this time it appears that Walnut Hollow can provide them at the lowest cost.

Rene is proposing an "Animal Wellness Day Fundraiser" which could include animal versions of Reiki, CPR, Heimlich and first aid. Saturday June 13th was proposed as a possible date and Rene suggested a charge of \$10 per 15/20 minute Reiki session. Jen and Rene will continue to discuss this possible fundraiser and how it could be best organized.

Lisa C noted that the IRS form 990 will be filed by May 15th.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM

Submitted by Pam Richardson