



Iowa County Humane Society (ICHS) Newsletter

PawPrints July 2019

Contents

A Letter from the Editor.....	1
Upcoming Fundraising Events and Volunteer Needs.....	2
Special Pets	2
Adoptions	3
Success Stories.....	3

A Letter From The Editor... Never having had air conditioning until just a couple of years ago, I am not used to it. I prefer open windows and screen doors. I like to hear the chirping birds and the mooing cows. I don't use it anymore than I absolutely have to. So here it is – 6:30 AM and the AC is on – more so for the humidity than the temperature. Part of the issue with the AC is the cats don't seem to appreciate it. Three of them prefer to be out on the screened porch when it is in the upper 80's rather than inside and one of them prefers the garage which is even worse because there is no air flow at all in there. Last night when I was away for the evening, the air was on but I left the patio door slightly open so they could be on the porch. I try to defend myself saying that I am a "cat lady" – not a "crazy cat lady" but even I have to wonder! Oh, what we do for our animals...**As you read this letter it is important to remember that I am a volunteer and these are MY thoughts.**



They're here! Kittens are arriving, and yes, they are cute and entertaining. A few of the older kittens are available for adoption, but the smaller ones are either in foster (more foster families are needed) or they are too small to be spayed/neutered. So, if you are looking for a kitten, be patient and keep checking the website for availability. As always, kitten season means less interest in our older cats. We still have close to a dozen of last year's kittens – they're still cute and playful. It is so wonderful that two of our long-term residents were

adopted – Kitty and Socks! The lady that adopted Kitty wanted a cat that had been here a long time and the gal that took Socks apparently wanted a "challenge". For those of you who knew Socks, he was an absolute delight with the few people that he knew, but was extremely shy with everyone else. I went into the M&G room briefly when the young lady came to meet him. She was sitting on the floor in one corner of the room and Socks was sitting on the floor in the opposite corner. I was so afraid that she would leave without him, but about 30 minutes later, they were on their way home. I hope things are going well for both Kitty and Socks and their respective families.



In the last newsletter I wrote about four dogs that had been here for several months. I am happy to report that Maddie was adopted. She was such a nice dog and although she did well here, shelter life was starting to take its toll. Hopefully all is going well for the family and perhaps there will be a 'success story' coming soon. Zoey, the heeler mix, was transferred back to the shelter where she had been prior to coming to ICHS. For anyone who knows heelers, shelters are not conducive to their well-being so despite doing what we could for her, we simply couldn't offer her what she needed (a home) so hopefully the move to a different shelter has benefitted her. **Theodore** and **Bobbie Sue** are still waiting for homes (see the May newsletter for more information). I had proclaimed myself as "Theodore's #1 fan", but I have been relegated to #2.



Connie, another volunteer, has taken over the #1 spot – (Bobbie Sue too)! Both of these dogs are shy – Bobbie Sue painfully so but Theo is also. Theo did have a family come to meet him last week but he wouldn't even give the couple the time of day. He is such an out-going little dog so it would appear that shyness takes over when he meets new people. I realize that there is no shortage of dogs when a family is looking for that special dog and depending on your situation, resources and time; it may make more sense to get a dog that is "issue-free" (if that's even possible). But if you do have the time and patience to take in one of these "needier" dogs, please remember that these dogs need a chance and a home too!



The topic of foster homes for our animals comes up now and again. We do have foster families for kittens (but we can always use more), and I'm not sure if it is even fair to foster adult cats. My personal feeling is that it is difficult for cats to adjust to new environments and by the time that they feel safe and secure in their foster home, it seems that uprooting them and taking them back to the shelter for a meet and greet is a bit unfair. It, of course, would be great if the family who comes to meet "foster kitty" wanted to adopt him/her, but if that is not the case then the cat either goes back to the foster home or perhaps is moved back into a cage at the shelter – just doesn't seem to be in the best interest of the cat (my opinion)!

However, it is different with dogs (my opinion). Dogs are more resilient than cats as far as changing environments (but don't do as well with shelter life). We used to have some families who fostered dogs, but I believe there is only one family that still fosters dogs for ICHS. No matter how much you may want to foster a dog, you must take into consideration your time, your other animals and your physical environment. And your level of "dog expertise" needs to be taken into account – fostering a Theo would require being familiar with dogs. And then there are people such as myself who can't foster because I am a "failed foster" meaning that I adopt rather than return the animals – and that's just fine for the adopted animal but not for future fosters. So, have you considered fostering? Are you able to foster? We have some animals (especially dogs) here at ICHS that need YOU!!! **If you have any suggestions or ideas about the content of PAWPRINTS, please contact me, Terri Davis, at roadhogbiker@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 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](#).

On **Wednesday, July 31st**, ICHS volunteers will be responsible for the food booth at the Annual **Lands'End Sale Event** which is held at **Harris Park in Dodgeville**. ICHS volunteers will be at the booth from 6 a.m. until 6 p.m. providing shoppers an opportunity to have breakfast, lunch or a snack. ICHS's participation at this event is a financially significant event for the shelter. The menu features pulled pork sandwiches, turkey dressing sandwiches and hot dogs along with baked goods, pies (enjoy a slice or purchase an entire pie for the family), fruit, soda and water. A few volunteers are still needed to work shifts throughout the day, but donations of baked goods and pies are needed. Anyone who is interested in helping with the food booth can contact Joen at outreach@ichs.net. For those of you who enjoy "eating out" (whether you are shopping or not) please stop by our booth and have a bite to eat while helping the ICHS animals.



Urgent Need! The wet spring slowed down farmers, produced flooding, and caused damage to property across the county...including the roof of the Humane Society's animal shelter. We've asked for your help in creating a new outdoor space for our animals, but are now facing a more urgent need. Because of the damage and the age of our roof, **it can no longer be patched and must be replaced as soon as possible**. We have received bids and are urgently seeking \$53,250 for a new animal shelter roof and supporting structures. With your generosity, we can keep our animals well and dry! Can we count on your support by **September 1**? You can donate here:

<https://ichs.net/help-ichs/donations/>

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 – Roger

Roger is a 1-2 year old kitty who tested positive for FIV. I don't know Roger well, but from what I understand he is very sweet. He enjoys attention and is playful – not too different from other young cats. Whether Roger gets along with other cats or not is unknown. Since I can't tell you too much about this handsome guy, I guess you will have to come and meet him yourself! Roger will love visiting with you! One of our most recent FIV adoptees, Dijon, was

adopted by Donna one of our volunteers. If you have questions about adopting/living with a FIV kitty, I am sure that Donna would be happy to share her experience with Dijon.

Although we call FIV cats “special”, there really are no special considerations when adopting FIV kitties. 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 indoor 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... Roger needs a home.

FeLV Kitties – No FeLV kitties at the moment 😊

May & June Adoptions

May				June			
Cats		Dogs		Cats		Dogs	
Bentley	Shamus +	Liatta +	Chewbacca	Socks 😊	Bucky &	Daca +	Zeppelin
Isabella	Connor +		Peanut	Gary & Lila	Badger	Winkin +	Mia
			Bandit	Hans	Kitty 😊	Mya +	Kody
			Duke	Tika	Clemetine		Lizzie
				Ferris	Paris +		Maddie 😊

* = 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

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 roadhobiker@gmail.com.

The following family of felines belongs to volunteers John and Jacky – actually they have a few more than these four! These four were adopted from ICHS – all within the last couple of years. They seem like they are a bit spoiled (more so than my gang). Read on and see what you think. Thank you, John and Jacky, for all you do for ICHS and for giving these four their forever home.



Ray (aka: Big Ray, The Big Chill, The Ray Train) – name changed to Ray from Ronnie as we already had a Ronnie in our home. Ray came to the ICHS weighing over twenty pounds. He is currently down to just less than fourteen pounds and continues to slowly lose weight. He loves his new home and especially loves his people. Ray is always at the door to greet his people and visitors. He loves snuggling in laps and is a big fan of supper time. Ray's blindness in no way limits his activities. It took Ray all of 24 hours to learn all

about his new home. The stairs were his biggest challenge, but he mastered those in a very short time

and now goes up and down the stairs dozens of times a day. Ray has brought nothing but joy and love into our home.



Callie Jo (aka: Calico Jo, Calico Jones) came along with Ray as his bonded partner. Callie loves to be with her buddy Ray and is very helpful when Ray is in need of help or support. She loves to torment the other kitties in the household. Callie is a sweet, beautiful little girl with a bit of a bully streak in her. She keeps her cat-mates on their toes. Callie loves her people and likes nothing better than curling up on a lap for a nice long nap.



Champ (aka: Champie) – Champ continues to amaze all who see him. The most common reaction to seeing Champ for the first time is: “he does not look like a real cat!” This is very true. Champ looks more like a stuffed animal than a real cat. If Champ were ever in need of a hiding place, he would do well to surround himself with a bunch of stuffed animals! Champ is a wonderful long haired white and gray fellow who loves to jump on your back or your shoulders. There are times when we think Champ believes he is a parrot. Champ gets a summer hair cut each year so that he can be more comfortable in the heat. It also allows him to rock his Hawaiian shirt (which you can see in his photo). Champ is another of our lap kitties who loves his people (and snacks)!



Lucy (named changed from SoHo) (aka: Luce, Goose, Goosy) – Lucy is a delightful young torte who loves to cuddle and play. She is often engaged in a game of chase with her sister Libby or her brother Champ. She and her chase partner take turns being the chaser and the chasee and often end up wrestling until someone tires of the game (which usually takes quite a while). Lucy is patient and kind and gets along well with most of her cat siblings (excluding Boo – but then again, Boo only gets along with her buddy Tom). Lucy lost most of one ear and part of her other ear to frostbite prior to her coming to our home, but this only adds to her cuteness. Lucy is very attached to her people (especially her “pop”) and snuggles and cuddles as much as she possibly can.