



I.C.H.S. Newsletter

PawPrints – March 2014

A Letter From The Editor...

Is it safe to say that we survived the winter of 2014? Meteorologically speaking,

it is spring (as of March 1st) and in just a couple of weeks it will be the “real deal” - when the sun crosses the equator on March 20th!!! In the meantime, I suppose we will undoubtedly encounter some more wintery weather - maybe even move up from this winter's ranking of the 10th coldest of all time! These “little snowfalls” every few days have been annoying; hard to believe that we have had 56 inches of snow thus far - 13 inches above average. Despite the term “polar vortex” being added to our vocabularies, it seems that many people have taken winter in stride and have been enjoying a wide-range of outdoor winter activities. And for those of us who aren't winter enthusiasts, time spent curled up on the couch with a good book and a few cats (or a dog) make the cold temps and wind chills bearable - maybe even enjoyable! But, nevertheless, spring is on the way. Have patience... **As you read this letter, it is important to remember that I am a volunteer and these are MY thoughts.**

Let's turn the “*Patience is a virtue*” phrase into a short history lesson. Having the patience and determination to fulfill dreams reminds me of ICHS's journey over the years. I can only imagine what it must have been like for that small group in the late 1990's who had a dream of helping the county's homeless animals. But perseverance, lots of hard work, patience and that dream slowly took shape! The Iowa County Humane Society opened in 1998. Hundreds of animals have come through its doors waiting for a “forever” family. Let's fast forward to 2010. It was determined that we had outgrown the “old” shelter and we needed a “new” home. The present building was leased and a *Ten Year Strategic Plan* was drawn up. We have been in this facility for just over three years and looking at my copy of that plan, we are now in Phase 3. **Phase 1** was making the initial renovations and moving in - completed. **Phase 2** was purchasing the building - completed (yes, we have a mortgage). **Phase 3** is making additional building renovations which brings us to the present. Recall that this building was at one time a factory - never intended to be an animal shelter. But with a huge outpouring of donations and help from the public, this former factory has become that dream which was envisioned so long ago. But, remember, we are in **Phase 3** and there is more to be done! We need to continue to make this building more energy efficient, safer and more “animal friendly” - especially for the dogs. So... perseverance, hard work, patience and the dream of a “first-class” animal shelter is inching closer to reality.

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In the January newsletter, I mentioned that a newly formed **Building and Grounds Committee** had been formed. Scott Lind, a member of the committee, has been spearheading the efforts to move **Phase 3** forward. He started in earnest last fall by analyzing and documenting the condition of the building, the equipment, the electrical circuits and ductwork (and a lot of other things that I don't know about). He determined needed upgrades, devised a plan for both urgent repairs and future repairs as well as projected costs. Scott has organized workdays, recruited volunteers and worked alongside his crew in various phases of demolition, salvaging unneeded/unused metals and rewiring. I can't even begin to estimate how many hours of time Scott has put into this building - and not just the hours that he has spent here but all of the time that went into planning, organizing, making contacts and inquiries. Scott will be the first person to admit that he hasn't done all of this by himself. He has had help from many professional people - architects, electricians, HVAC workers, and plumbers - as well as some of our reliable ICHS volunteers. Thank you to all! It is so exciting to be moving forward!

Besides the building project, there is another exciting undertaking that I want to tell you about. ICHS's "**Low Cost Spay/Neuter Assistance Program**" is moving ahead also. This program isn't actually new as Cheri (ICHS's Outreach Director) drafted this program back in 2008. There was a need for this program then and the need continues. The roadblock to getting this initiative launched is like so many things - not enough money to do everything that needs to be done. So to move forward, you will periodically see notices of fundraisers in which the proceeds raised will go towards decreasing the number of homeless and unwanted cats and dogs by providing assistance for people to get their pets spayed/neutered. Upcoming **spaghetti suppers** in the villages of Arena and Barneveld and a **Scottish Doubles Bowling Tournament** in Fitchburg (see ICHS's website as well as more info in this newsletter) have been scheduled to help make this program viable. We are still working on the details of how this initiative will actually work, but in the meantime we need to raise money in order to implement this assistance program. Another dream in the making - perseverance, hard work and patience required!

If you happen to be at the shelter in the next few weeks, please take a few moments to go into the cat area and check to see how the mural is coming along in the *Party Paws Club House* - the middle of the three smaller community cat rooms. A very talented volunteer, Hannah Twiton, is painting a "tree house mural" on the back wall. She has already sketched it and has started the painting phase - I am wondering how much assistance she is getting from the kittens - oh my! 😊 So do stop by and check it out - and you might even get to see Hannah in action! **If you have any suggestions or ideas about the content of ICHS PAWPRINTS, please contact me, Terri Davis at roadhogbiker@gmail.com**

Upcoming Fundraising Events

Just a reminder that ICHS is always looking for volunteers to help with the planning and implementation of our fundraisers. A goal is to have enough volunteers so that each individual would only have to help plan and work at one event per year. At this time, we are organizing our events for 2014. So...if you would like to get involved with the planning and organizing of this year's fundraisers, please contact Cheri outreachdirector@mhtc.net. We hope to hear from you!!!

Spaghetti Suppers

Two spaghetti suppers have been scheduled in area communities to benefit the new **Low Cost Spay/Neuter Assistance Program**. The spaghetti dinner in **Barneveld** is scheduled for **Sunday, March 30th**, at the American Legion facility. Serving will be from 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM. The following **Saturday, April 5th**, we will be serving spaghetti at the VFW Hall in **Arena**. Serving will be from 4:30 - 7:00 PM. The meal will include spaghetti, meat or marinara sauce, garlic toast, coleslaw, dessert and a beverage. Take-outs will be available. There will be a quilt raffle, a 50/50 raffle and a few other items to raffle off. Our spaghetti meals received "rave reviews" 😊 last year and what a terrific and delicious way to help reduce the on-going problem of pet overpopulation!

Easter Bake Sale

It's time for the annual "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) on **Saturday, April 19**. The sale begins at 8:00 AM and continues until 2:00 PM or until all the "goodies" are gone. The variety and amount of donated treats is amazing! It is so heart-warming how much community support goes into this event - both in providing the delicious baked goods as well as in purchasing them! So, make our bake sale a part of your Easter tradition - and enjoy!!!

Scottish Doubles Bowling Tournament

Come and enjoy the fun and action on **Saturday, April 26**, at Ten Pin Alley - all for a worthy cause! Proceeds will benefit ICHS's new **Low Cost Spay/Neuter Assistance Program**. The entry fee is \$20.00 per person. In addition to bowling, there will also be door prizes, raffles, a silent auction, bake sale and a DJ & music by Tourdot Tunes. The fun begins at noon and continues until 6:00 PM. For more information or to pre-register, call Wendi at (608) 576-2103 or Boomer at (608) 516-2671. Ten Pin Alley is located in Fitchburg at 6285 Nesbitt Rd. (just east of Verona). So find a partner and head out for an afternoon of fun!

ICHS Plant Sale Fundraiser

Despite our wintery weather the 8th ICHS Annual Plant Sale is just a couple of months away. As usual the sale will be held on two **Saturdays in May - the 17th and the 24th** from 8:30 - 12:00 at the shelter in Dodgeville. All money received goes to health care for the animals. More details available as warmer weather approaches!

Barn Dance

Marla and Scott Lind will be hosting a barn dance on **Saturday, May 31st**, at their barn located at 8920 McKenzie Lane outside of Hollandale (30 minutes SE of Dodgeville). Dancing will be from 7:00 - 10:00 PM. It will be a called dance with traditional music played by the *No Name String Band* and Sue Hulsether giving guidance as the dance caller. The dances will include old time squares, reels and contra dancing. No experience and no partners are necessary so people can come alone or as a group. A free will offering will be taken at the door and all proceeds will benefit ICHS. More details to follow.

Paws Fur a Cause

This popular 5K run or 2 mile walk has to be postponed due to circumstances somewhat beyond ICHS's control. No, the event is not going away! Our intention is to schedule this event sometime this summer and we hope to "get back on track" next April. Stay tuned for an update!

January & February Adoptions

January Cats		January Dogs	February Cats		February Dogs
Quigley☺	Mittens*	Shyla	Wizard*	Holly*	Snoodle
Maxwell	Ralphie	Gideon	Snickers*	Gunther*	Mia
Kelby	Sophia☺	Sammy	Nae Nae	Kermit*	Bubbles
Claus	Allie	Sadie	Gizmo☺	Morris	Zoe
Miss Chester☺	Duke	Sarge	Magoo	Tabitha	Benji
	Jack*	Fawn	Nikki*	Cinder*	Tico
Isaac☺	Duchess*		Lolly☺☺☺	Beans*	Dozer
Grace*	Twinkle*		Taylor	Mouse*	Oreo
Yoko*	Munchkin*		Tinsel	Kyon*	
Georgia*			Boo*	Pretzel	
			Tigger	Molly	
			Duncan☺	Smokie	

*- kitten

☺- special needs and/or having been an ICHS resident for a year(s)

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.



Cameron, Limbo, Buzz, Grover & Kit Kat

Our FIV+ (Feline Immuno-deficiency Virus) population remains at five - Cameron, Limbo, Buzz, Grover and Kit Kat. FIV cats are "normal" cats- it's just that these five kitties have a virus (FIV) which affects their immune system - but slowly - over a period of years! So these kitties should live long and normal lives! **Cameron** is a handsome, active, playful guy who loves attention. He needs to be an only cat - he isn't the least bit fond of other cats. He has been at ICHS for well over a year - now on the "Top Ten List". Limbo is a good-looking gray guy who also loves attention. **Buzz** was thought to be 'feral' when he first arrived at ICHS - but he was simply frightened. He now has the reputation of being "one of the sweetest and most loving cats in the building". I agree. When I took him out of his cage to get to know him - he never left my lap; he just wanted to be petted! Although handsome **Grover** has been at the shelter for about a month, I haven't gotten to know him well nor have I gotten well acquainted with the beautiful calico, **Kit Kat**. She also hasn't been with us long, but if she is as friendly as she is beautiful, she is the cat for you! If it wasn't for the FIV+ sign on their cages, you wouldn't have a clue that these cats have FIV! Although we call these cats "special", there really are no special considerations when adopting them. 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 any of these five 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. Is it possible that YOU just might be the special family that these kitties are looking for? So...Cameron, Limbo, Buzz, Grover and Kit Kat need homes!

Frieda & Madison



Frieda and Madison are FeLV+ (Feline Leukemia Virus) kitties. **Frieda**, a beautiful gray lady, has been at ICHS for a while. She is very affectionate and she only wants "lap time" when she is taken out of her cage - she has the sweetest little "meow"! She is not overly fond of other cats. Little **Madison** is a strikingly beautiful "classic" tabby with the bold,

swirling pattern. She is about a year old, can't get enough attention and does well with other cats (she even tried to be friendly with Frieda, but Frieda had other ideas). If you only want one cat, either of these would be perfect. Feline leukemia is spread by a cat coming in contact with the bodily fluid of an infected animal so FeLV cats

must be only cats (they can live with other FeLV cats) and they must be kept indoors. FeLV cats may be asymptomatic (free from symptoms) for years and will hopefully live relatively long lives. FeLV cats are hard to place which is unfortunate because they need someone - just as we all do! So...if you are looking for a kitty companion, these kitties are looking for YOU!



Gregory & Fozzy



Both **Gregory** and **Fozzy** are indeed special kitties! They tested positive for both FeLV and FIV. Now don't let that deter you from making either one of these guys a part of your family! As mentioned earlier, as long as these guys are kept indoors, are only cats and live in a stress-free environment (as much as possible), they should be with 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), so he needs YOU to show him what a loving relationship is all about. **Fozzy** is a young fella and a real character! He is a bit "cross-eyed" which simply adds to his charm (take a look at his pic - how can you resist?). He is very affectionate and loves to play. So...Gregory & Fozzy need homes.



Vegas



Vegas is considered a special kitty because of her 'catitude' - and she is also in sole possession of # 1 at the top of the Top Ten List!!! She is one of those cats who is difficult to place. Vegas is approximately 6-7 years old. She had been abandoned by her previous owner and has been at ICHS going on 5 years. Now, it's not that Vegas isn't friendly - she's just "choosy"; even preferring some staff to others! She is declawed in the front so scratching is not an issue and I don't believe she has ever bitten anyone. She just vocalizes a lot - trying to get YOUR attention! Vegas is like other 'hard to place' cats which we have had at the shelter - once they go to a home, they do very well. An experienced 'cat-family' living in a quiet household is exactly what Vegas needs. She does OK with other cats. So...Vegas needs a home.

Margo



Margo is a sweet little lady who has been at the shelter since October. To first look at her, she would appear to be a younger cat - both in appearance and her playfulness. However she is about 10 years old and has hyperthyroidism - an overactive thyroid gland. Hyperthyroidism is a common disorder where the thyroid gland produces too many hormones because of a tumor. The tumor itself is usually benign (over 97% of the time) so it is important to understand that Margo does not have cancer.

But the increase of thyroxine hormones increases her body's metabolism which puts stress on the other organs of her body. The site I went to explained hyperthyroidism like this: Think how much harder your car's engine works when you rev the motor while the car is in neutral. This is what is happening in Margo's body - her fuel (food) is being used at a faster rate than normal which results in increased hunger and weight loss. If this condition is left untreated, it would be fatal. Margo's condition appears to be controlled by feeding her a special diet. There are additional options - radioactive iodine therapy or surgery - which are being looked into. In the meantime, Margo probably needs to be an only kitty (because of her special diet). If YOU are "catless" at the moment and would like to remedy that, would YOU consider taking this little gal into your home? In Margo's case, fostering might be the ideal way to get to know her! What a sweetie!

Storm (btw- Storm is not actually a dog with "special needs". He just needs a home).



Storm or **Stormy** came to ICHS on a Saturday in November. It was storming outside (kind of unusual for November) which is how this nice, well-mannered dog got his name. The other thing that was a bit unusual about Storm coming to ICHS was how it happened. Despite the fact that there were several cars in the parking lot and about a dozen people in the reception area, a vehicle pulled into the parking lot and a boy and a dog jumped out of the vehicle. They entered the foyer, the boy dropped the leash and he ran back to the waiting car -

Storm was left behind. But at any rate, Storm's family - for whatever reason - couldn't keep him so he needs a new family. He is somewhat reserved with people until he gets to know you. Storm will do best in a home without small children or cats. Although he might do best as an only dog, it would depend on your other dog. As well behaved as he is, Storm does need a "structured" family life. Storm will make a great walking companion as he is a pleasure to walk. It appears that he has had quite a bit of obedience work with his previous family, but he also attended obedience classes at Alisha's Best Friends. Storm's here - waiting just for YOU!

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 to ICHS) that you are giving me permission to include your pet's story in the newsletter. I hope to hear from you!

I know that there are many success stories just waiting to be told, but let's turn this into a plea to **MAKE** even more success stories! The other night at an AWE meeting, one of our topics had to do with our "long-term" cats - the "TOP TEN" cats and our "special needs" cats. The

discussion focused on what can be done to make their stay at ICHS more "cat-friendly". Should we have more community rooms? How about more Meet & Greet rooms so that more cats can be out of their cages? Since both space and funds are somewhat limited at ICHS, how about a much simpler fix - HOMES!

There are some adopters who come looking for a cat and they say, "I'll take the cat that has been here the longest." or "I'll take the cat that probably won't get a home anytime soon".

Thank you, thank you! On a personal note, I am one of those people who take the ones that no one else seems to want and there is not a cat at the shelter that I wouldn't take if I could have more cats (remember my husband thinks four are too many☺)! However I wouldn't take a cat that needs to be an "only cat" as I wouldn't jeopardize the ones that I already have - and that should be true for everyone. **However if you don't have any other cats and can only have one kitty, please consider opening your heart and your home to one of those who repeatedly gets overlooked.**



I want to take this opportunity to thank Elizabeth who adopted **Lolly** (former #1 cat on the Top Ten List) and Taylor, Sarah who adopted **Gizmo** (wobbly cat syndrome) and Diana who adopted

Isaac (FIV kitty). **Quigley, Sophia, Duncan** (Top Ten) and **Miss Chester** (an older kitty with age-related issues) all found homes recently also! And there are many more of you who have adopted cats in the past few months that have made ICHS their home for so long - I don't have time nor space to list all of you, but thank you!