



# Iowa County Humane Society (ICHS) Newsletter

## PawPrints July 2018

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**A Letter From The Editor...** I hope that I'm not the only person whose pets have annoying habits/routines which cause inconvenience and/or aggravation! For example, I just let Bobbie Sue in after her morning stroll – did I open the door for her? Oh no! She sits on the dining room window ledge and meows. If I ignore her, she takes off again. So, I take the window screen off so that she can come in and then I have to replace it. Not a huge deal – but ridiculous! Another example is Vegas who lies across my shoulders when I read the newspaper in the evening (thank goodness she is only 5-6 pounds)! Why do I allow her to do that? Well, as busy as I am and as many cats as I have, it's the only “mother/daughter time” that I have in a day so as annoying as it is when she sits on my shoulders – she's content and that's what is important! All of my others have similar annoying behaviors. Of course, the problem is not the cats but me because I put up with the nonsense. I do find some comfort knowing that most of you probably have similar stories...**As you read this letter it is important to remember that I am a volunteer and these are MY thoughts.**

ICHS had a brief reprieve from our usual large cat population, but kittens have been coming in “non-stop” for several weeks now. A shelter is not the ideal environment for tiny kittens so we are always in need of foster homes for the little ones – especially if they come in without a mother. We are fortunate to have a resident foster mama – Candie. She came in with her own litter of kittens – some of which have already been adopted – and then it happened! Over the course of a couple of weeks five more little ones came in (all separate litters) and Candie has them all! She is an amazing mama and such a help in getting these little orphans off to a good start.



Dr. Marla Lind sent the “Journey of the Chip Bag” (see poster on page 4). Marla came across this via the American Veterinary Medical Association Journal. She said that she personally had never encountered this in her practice but she did know a vet who had. As you read through the poster it explains that as an animal's head is in the bag, the bag tightens when the dog/cat inhales and the animal can suffocate if the bag is not promptly removed. Although I could see how this could happen, I was skeptical of how often this might occur. Well, being aware of this potential hazard, I observed two episodes in as many weeks. I was at my friend's house helping with some gardening chores when her four-year-old grandson came out of the house with a bag of potato chips. He was side-stepping around the dog who was trying its best to get the bag away from the little boy. Without adult supervision it would have been just a matter of time before the dog ended up with the plastic bag! Another situation occurred just last week with my cat, Vegas. While eating a sandwich, I had left the potato chip bag open on the counter. When I heard a crinkling sound, I looked over and she had her head in the bag (yes, Vegas was roaming the counter). Vegas simply sniffed the contents of the bag and moved on, but I am now convinced just how easy this can happen – animals suffocating due to carelessness. And this could easily happen with stray animals and wildlife. Thank you, Marla, for sending this and here is the link <https://www.preventivevet.com/pet-suffocation-infographic> if you would like more information. This site also has stories of pets that have lost or almost lost their lives from suffocation.

I would like to extend my gratitude to all the people who attended the 2018 plant sale fundraiser. It was a very good sale – so good, in fact, that I had to go to garden centers to buy plants for my own beds. Over

the course of the years my helpers and I would joke about not having any plants left over to pack up and transport home. Well, that is basically what happened this year. As much as I have enjoyed doing the sale, I'm glad that this chapter of my life is over – it is way too much work. Again, thanks to all who have supported my efforts over the years. **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 2018's fundraisers, please contact the shelter for more details. We hope to hear from you!!!

**August 1st:** ICBS will be running the food booth on the first day of the **Lands End Warehouse Sale**, open from 8:30am-5:00pm. **Volunteers needed!**

**September 29th:** ICBS is the designated charity for the **Botham Vineyards Uncorked 5K** in Barneveld. Sign up for the race or help by volunteering! More info at <http://www.uncorked5k.com/>.

**October 14th:** ICBS is the designated charity for the **Mad City Canicross 5K/10K** in Blue Mounds. Sign up for the race or help by volunteering! Learn more at <http://www.madcitycanicross.com/>.

### May & June Adoptions

May				June			
Cats		Dogs		Cats			Dogs
Micah 😊	Rishi	Tiny	Sassy	Cardamom*	Bond	Smarties*	Ty 😊
Tony	London 😊	Rex	Ham	Paprika*	Kazoo*	Gibbon	Sampson
Morris	Queen 😊	Layla		Fennel*			
Black Jack							

\* = kitten  
 + = transferred to Angel's Wish  
 😊 = 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.



#### FIV Kitty – Chiclet & Dijon

**Chiclet** is a young kitty – about 5 years old. She is a petite torti with a stubby tail and is front declawed. She is a sweetie! I haven't had the pleasure to spend much time with her, but I have been told that she loves to play – not so much with a person but that she plays by herself and is very entertaining to watch. She is a bit shy so once she settles into a home setting, it is fairly certain that her true personality will reveal itself and that YOU will find her to be a little "love bug".



**Dijon** is a young, fun kitty. Being approximately a year old he is squirmy but very affectionate. He loves to play and so enjoys being out of his cage so that he can stretch, climb and “get the kinks out”. FIV cats can live with other cats and my guess is that this good-natured little guy would do well with other cats, but at the moment we do not have the luxury of having a room that FIV cats can occupy so he is confined to a cage which is all the more reason that he is waiting for YOU to provide him with his “forever home”!

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...Chiclet & Dijon need homes.

## Success Stories



**Ty** is settling in well. Definitely coming out of his shell and showing us more of his goofiness. He's a hoot!! He had his first vet visit with our vet yesterday. He won over every staff member he met. He did amazing and is on his heart worm prevention - took the first dose like a champ! He continues to love his daily walks. We are so lucky to have adopted him.

I just wanted to let you know **Esther** and I are having a great time together. She has settled in nicely. Turns out she is very playful, finding any little thing to bat round and she loves her crinkle ball. She also likes to follow me around and sleep with whoever leaves the door open. Sometimes she can be demanding for attention and lets you know with a strong head butt. But then she will roll over and want her belly rubbed. I am trying to train her to walk with a harness and a leash. So, to sum up, we are both happy! Thanks! Robin and Esther



Hello! **Micah** came to his forever home after a long stay at your shelter. Clearly, he was treated with great kindness as he is an unbelievably sweet, gentle, loving, chatty, playful and happy cat. We renamed him Elliot Winslow Nickleby. Yes, I realize that may sound silly but kitties are part of the family, so they get long names like we all have. He talks all the time - when he sees something interesting through the patio doors (squirrels, chipmunks, birds including turkeys), when he wants to play, and I think when he wants to know where we are. He runs through the

house in the evening, talking every time he stops, before flying down or up the stairs again. He loves kisses and will lay on his back, while being held in our arms, for belly rubs, which demonstrates a huge amount of trust. He sits on Stan's lap every morning while he is working on his computer. Only a kitty that has been treated exclusively with patience has that trust, proving the wonderful job you have done at ICHS, and continue to do. Our existing female, Olive (Olive Guinevere Bartholemew:)), is no longer growling at him, and she is even starting to consider playing chase with him. When Olive and Elliot are bonded, we plan on getting another kitty, but for now we're letting the two of them get to know each other. Thank you for providing the wonderful home for kitties, Denise (and Stan (and Elliot and Olive))

# Journey of the Chip Bag

## Where Bags Were Found When Pets Suffocated:



In or near the garbage	25%
On a coffee or side table	22%
On the counter	13%
Outside/In the yard	6%
On the kitchen/dining table	6%
In or near the recycling bin	3%
Other (e.g., backpack, car, pantry)	20%
Don't know	5%



## A PET CAN LOSE THEIR LIFE IN UNDER 5 MINUTES

39% of people were HOME when it happened  
Of those who were out, 18% were gone less than 15 minutes.

Bag  
TIGHTENS  
when pet  
inhales



### MYTH BUSTER:

Doesn't Only Happen to Small Pets

More than 55% of the dogs who suffocated weighed OVER 30 lbs.  
17% weighed OVER 60 lbs!

DOGS and CATS suffocated in:

Chip (snack) bags 72%  
Pet food/treat bags 11%  
Cereal box liners 6%  
Bread bags, plastic containers, and more 11%



### Store in plastic containers

with an opening that your pet  
can't stick their head into



### CUT all bags TWICE

It'll save your pets – AND strays and wildlife, too!

## SOLUTIONS

[PreventiveVet.com/pet-suffocation](http://PreventiveVet.com/pet-suffocation)



### Serve snacks in a bowl

Never eat out of a bag



### SHARE!!!

87% of pet owners didn't know about the dangers of suffocation in food bags and containers until it happened to their pet. This has happened to experienced, loving pet owners.

Source: Preventive Vet Suffocation Survey 2014-2018 (1,354 respondents)

