



Iowa County Humane Society (ICHS) Newsletter

PawPrints May 2020

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A Letter From The Editor... When I write the newsletter the first thing I usually do is check the copies of that particular month from earlier years – just to get an idea of what I have said in the past so I don't necessarily repeat myself. Well, I didn't have to do that this time around because there has never been a COVID-19 situation before! When the "safer at home" order came out in March, I thought a couple of weeks at home would be just what I need – maybe I could get a few things done. That hasn't exactly happened. I have managed to get some outside work done but I still appear to have less done than the neighbors. And housework – nope – that hasn't happened either. I don't know how I can be busy ALL day and get nothing accomplished! Who knows what the next few weeks/months are going to bring – will we get back to "normal"? Makes you wonder! If any good comes from this pandemic it is all the people who have stepped up to adopt and foster animals. This response has occurred all over the country as well as here at ICHS...**As you read this letter it is important to remember that I am a volunteer and these are MY thoughts.**

When it comes to the behavior of the novel coronavirus there are more questions than answers – for people and animals. You may have read reports of a couple of pet cats, at least one big cat at New York City's Bronx Zoo and a dog that seemed to be infected with the coronavirus. According to the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), there's little to no evidence that animals become ill if infected with the new coronavirus, nor is there evidence that they can spread it to other pets or people. If you would like more information regarding Coronavirus and pets, please visit the CDC publication [COVID-19 and Animals](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/animals.html) at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/animals.html>

Despite the challenges and uncertainty of COVID-19, the "silver lining" has been the outpouring of support from people wanting to help "clear the shelters". With most shelters furloughing their staff, the remaining animals – although being cared for – would not have socialization opportunities. I had seen on TV that many shelters were basically empty as their animals were either adopted or fostered. To my surprise when I went to the shelter that afternoon (Sunday, March 22nd) I was greeted with only half of the cats and was told that the majority of those remaining would be leaving by the end of the day on March 24th. Incredible!!! So, in just a matter of days there were only 3 cats remaining – Moo Moo (who was soon adopted) and two kitties that had medical issues and could not go to foster. If you are a real "number-cruncher", I will confess that my numbers may not be totally accurate, but for all practical purposes, approximately 40 cats were fostered and 18 of them have since been adopted (some by the foster families). There were already three dogs in foster, but the remaining dog, Lola, also went to foster – and later adopted. So heart-warming and amazing! Thank you to all!

Keep in mind that stray and a few surrendered animals have since come to the shelter. A couple of the fostered kitties have also been returned to the shelter with the extension of the "safer at home" order. (Please see 'Success Stories' for details of a couple of these kitties).

The closing of the shelter to the volunteers did cause a dilemma for me. There were actually 7 cats remaining at the shelter. The three (see the [March issue of PawPrints](#)) that I spend most of my time with (when at the shelter) and another 'scaredy cat', Jamie, had no place to go. I was telling myself that maybe someone else would "step up to the plate", but I knew it would be unlikely. I knew that the 2 remaining staff members would try to spend time with them each day, but I knew in my heart that I couldn't leave them there. It's just how do you bring 4 cats home when you already have 8 cats that are not overly fond of each other??? I made a list of 'pros and cons' and the list was mostly 'cons' but I knew what I had to do (btw – I had just brought Leo home the Friday before).

The four are in my spare bedroom (no bed) and adjoining bathroom. The room is at least double the size of the room that they were in at the shelter. There is an east window for AM sunshine. I am in and out of the room multiple times a day and spend a longer period of time with them in the late afternoon. The three – Midnight, Bat and Jax – are totally bonded. They make a “love triangle” which is difficult because when someone does decide to adopt them, it will be quite unlikely that anyone will take all three of them. Jax is a potential lap cat. Midnight is the most affectionate (he absolutely adores me ☺) with Bat being more aloof. But, the bottom line is they are all painfully shy – with strangers – which is everyone except me. Special people will be needed to offer them what they need – love and a home! Patience needed!

Jamie is also a shy sweetie. The majority of the first month she was here, she had some health issues. She ended up at the vet’s shortly after she came – not sure what the problem actually was. While there it was discovered that she desperately needed some dental work – an exposed root canal. After that procedure was done, she has been a changed cat. She no longer hides in her “cubbie” 24/7. She enjoys being petted but does not want to be held. She does get along with the others, but she may prefer being an only cat. I hope to make more progress with all four of them before they are returned to the shelter.



Lastly, sweet Sara, is being fostered by Sharon S. In mid-April Sara had 4 puppies. Cola (the only female) has 3 brothers – Lincoln, Timmy and Packer. The puppies will be available for adoption in early June, and Sara will also need a home. Sara is about 35 pounds and the dad is a mystery. ☺



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

We are currently in the process of creating virtual events for a day or night of family fun. Please look for updates on these events at our website www.ichs.net.

March & April Adoptions

March				April			
Cats		Dogs		Cats		Dogs	
Foxy ☺	Tootsie	Clementine	Spanky	Dodger	Snickerdoodle-F	Hollie- F ☺	Lola-F
Gomer ☺	Millie	Valentino	Mr. Miagi	Daisy-F	Sugarpop-F	Vora-F ☺	Marco
Addy & Zoey	Leo ☺	Puddin	Hunter ☺	Stella-F	Moo Moo ☺	Arizona-F	Scoobie
Oreo & Blue	Orchid	Hershey	Julia	Emmy-F	Sapphire-F	Lincoln*	Hawk
Dreamcicle & Lilly	Lilac	Clover-F ☺	Lucy	Tyler-F	Briar* & Eden*	Lady*	
	Lana	Borris	Dak	Kopa-F	Poppy & Millers-F		
Janice & Twix	Coco			Iris			

* = kitten
 F- fostered
 + = transferred to another rescue/shelter
 ☺ = denotes animal has been at ICHS for over a year/was on the Hopeful Hearts (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 ICBS and find out more about these animals from the ICBS staff.

FIV Kitty – Parker



Parker is currently living with a foster family (our fingers are crossed that his family will decide to make him a permanent member of their family)!

FIV/FeLV Kitty – Sissy



Sissy appears to be a sweet kitty, but I haven't had the privilege of meeting her yet. She had some skin issues (that have since cleared up) and so she was in quarantine prior to the shelter closing. Sissy is indeed special because she is both FIV+ as well as FeLV. She cannot be an outside cat and needs to be an only cat although she could live with another FeLV kitty. I am not going to go into the details about FIV and FeLV – if interested you can Google that information yourself or call the shelter and/or your vet for more

information. However...being both FIV and FeLV is not a "death sentence" but it will be more difficult to find a home for this sweetheart. So, Sissy needs a home...

Success Stories

These are not the "real deal" success stories – just updates on some of the foster kitties. Two of these kitties have been adopted and the other two are still awaiting homes. Please remember that 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 roadhgbiker@gmail.com or send your update to the shelter office and they will forward it to me.



Hollie - Many of you will recognize Hollie. She was the #1 cat on the [Top Ten/Hopeful Hearts](#) list. Hollie had been at ICBS since October of 2018. She was a bit temperamental – she knew who she wanted to spend valuable socialization time with and it wasn't just anyone. Donna was one of her "faves" and ultimately Donna fostered her and adopted her! From the little bit that I have heard, Hollie is doing well at Donna's and I know Donna will update us at some point. Thank you, Donna!

Clover - Like Hollie, Clover is also one of those "feel good" stories. Chances are that Clover would not have found a home quickly as he was another one of those "scaredy cats". But through the foster arrangement a "purrfect and furever" home was then found for this big guy. I am looking forward to an update on Clover after he has settled in with his new family. Thank you, Laurie and Janice!





Smudge - Smudge came to the ICHS just a bit before the “safer at home” order came about. Smudge is a big, beautiful Calico and so sweet and friendly. I knew the family that surrendered her and I briefly thought about fostering her – but the reason she was surrendered is that she had seven cat siblings. Although she caused no problems it was obvious to the family that she wasn’t happy living with so many other cats. So, for that very reason I knew that it wouldn’t be fair to Smudge to bring her home to my house because of my own cat population! Her foster family may adopt her (they have first option) – the decision hadn’t been made the last that I had heard. If they don’t adopt her, I think you’ll find Smudge to be a delight! Thank you to her foster family!



Chickie - Chickie was fostered for five weeks, but was returned to the shelter when the “safer at home” order was extended. Chickie would have been left at the shelter if not for “foster mom” Mary. Mary has an older cat, Callie, who isn’t overly fond of other cats. Chickie was one of Mary’s favorites at the shelter so she decided that she would take Chickie home and give it a try. Although the two kitties tolerated each other, Mary had to keep them separated and (understandably) it was a bit stressful. Mary said that Chickie’s favorite activity is to look out the windows in her room, especially those facing east where she can lie in the sun. Chickie is also playful and loves to sit on or near Mary – usually on her shoulders when she sits down to read or watch TV. Mary said that she really enjoyed having Chickie and she considers her to be very adoptable and hopes she will find a deserving family soon! (Chickie does have an ongoing medical situation which is being monitored.) Thank you, Mary!

