



I.C.H.S. Newsletter

PawPrints – May 2014

A Letter From The Editor...

In the last issue of *PawPrints* I was commenting that the meteorological spring

had begun and here we are - the meteorological summer has arrived...and if I don't get this letter sent off soon, the astronomical summer will be here! And it sure feels like summer! The above average temperatures, the humidity and the mosquitoes - what a contrast to just a few short months ago - but well worth waiting for! Just like everyone, I have been extremely busy the past couple of months. Along with preparing for this spring's plant sale, I went back to work the end of March. There once was a time when a job, the plant sale and getting *PawPrints* out was "doable" - but not so much now. So the May issue is a bit late (shall I say "later than usual?☺) and abbreviated - but here it is! **And as you read this letter, it is important to remember that I am a volunteer and these are my thoughts.**

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Along with summer comes the other season - "kitten season". ICHS has been inundated with kittens! Babs recently gave birth to five babies here at the shelter, but most of the little ones have come in as "orphans". *Kitten Kadre* volunteers have stepped up to foster the kittens, but with more little ones coming in, more foster families are needed. The littlest ones do need "around the clock" care, and due

to busy schedules, not everyone is able to take on this type of commitment. However the older kittens simply need a family to get them off to a good start - get them socialized so that they are "good to go" to their "forever" homes. There is simply not enough time and staff/volunteers to socialize this many kittens at the shelter. Fostering kittens is the perfect way to get your "kitten fix" - enjoy them and their antics for awhile - knowing that it is a temporary situation. Fortunately most of them are adopted quickly when they return.

I fostered little Willy (as in 'will he' live?') a couple of weeks ago. I had been walking dogs when Willy came in about 5 o'clock. He was a black/tuxedo kitty about five weeks old. He looked to be healthy but he was very cold and it was doubtful that he would survive the night. It was thought that perhaps he had ingested something that was causing his little body to shut down. I fed him when I got him home. He was ravenous and ate all that I offered him. As I was feeding him, Tinsel (my older ICHS 'mama') crept closer until she was standing in front of him. As soon as I backed off, Tinsel took over. She washed and washed him. She had been at it for

about 20 minutes when my neighbor, Samantha, stopped by which caused Tinsel to run upstairs. We tried to feed Willy again about 8:00 but he was not responding as he had earlier. When Sam left, Tinsel came back down, went over to the kitten and instead of continuing with her "motherly duties", she hissed at him and ran back upstairs. I gathered Willy, the heating pad, the cat bed and went to bed about 10:15. Despite Willy's rattled breathing, I drifted off to sleep but woke up about a half hour later to silence. Willy was gone. My first attempt at fostering was disappointing to say the least!

With the ever-growing kitten population, it is obvious that there is much that needs to be done to prevent unwanted litters. As written about earlier, we are working towards a 'low-cost spay and neuter' program as part of ICHS's Community Action Program. Thanks to Spaghetti Suppers, a Scottish Doubles Bowling Tournament and a generous gift from a family whose father had passed away, we are slowly inching closer to our goal of being able to start this program. In the meantime, the parking lot at ICHS was a hub of activity on May 28th. It was the "pick-up point" for a shuttle to the Dane County Humane Society's low cost "spay & neuter" clinic in Mt. Horeb. Approximately 25 area cats were transported to the clinic where they spent the night, had surgery and shots on the 29th and returned that afternoon. The next shuttle will be on Wednesday, July 23rd. Call the shelter at 935-1381 for more information.



One final thought on kittens - the older cats don't stand a chance of grabbing a potential adopter's attention with the cute kittens "hamming it up". As has been stated so many times - yes, the kittens do need homes but so do the older kitties that have been waiting for a home for so long. June is "**National Adopt a Cat Month**" and despite the fact that June is half over; there is still plenty of time - and cats - to find your 'furry feline friend'!

And lastly... a HUGE thanks to all of you who attended the 8th annual plant sale fundraiser in May. All of the proceeds go to the animals' health care - much of the money is used for deworming and flea & tick prevention products.

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. So...if you would like to get involved

with the planning and organizing of this year's fundraisers, please contact the shelter at www.ichs.net to get more details. We hope to hear from you!!!

Music, Food & Fun

Come join the fun on **Saturday, June 21**, at **The Red Room** and **Jeffrey's** in Dodgeville. These two long-time establishments are hosting food and live music to benefit ICHS. The fun starts at 11:00 AM and continues until midnight. **Chicken Truck** will play from 2-6 PM and **Halverson Road** takes over at 8 PM and plays until midnight. The \$10 admission fee includes food, free beer (until it's gone) and the live music. There will also be raffles, door prizes and lots of fun. The menu includes a pork sandwich, potato salad, cole slaw and cheese and crackers. ICHS is fortunate to have these two fine businesses sponsor this event for us. Please come out and support their efforts in their attempt to raise money for ICHS.

ICHS Summer Carnival

Saturday, July 12th is the date for the Summer Carnival at the shelter. I don't have all of the details for this event, but check the ICHS website as the date draws closer.

The Firehouse Bar & Grill Fundraiser

Saturday, July 26th is the date for a fundraiser in Mt. Horeb at the **The Firehouse Bar & Grill**. This event is currently being worked on. More details later.

January & February Adoptions

March Cats		March Dogs	April Cats		April Dogs
Chloe	Mittens	Roxy	"Feisty Fab Four"	Chase	Jewels
Bella	Kayan	China	Ricky	Olive	Zoey
Ole	Fitz	Ava	Packman☺☺	Kit	Buster
Tootsie	LeRoy		Jordan☺	Kat	
Emily	Patches				

*- 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!

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.

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!