

The Johnson County Humane Society

Humane News

Volume 1:1

Fall 1990

Then and Now

The Johnson County Humane Society was founded in the summer of 1982, chartered in 1983, and was granted tax-exempt status in 1984. All Society work is done by volunteers. We meet on the second Monday each month.

Although we have no shelter or permanent office, we are in frequent contact with the Coralville/Iowa City Animal Shelter. That facility, however, is a separate tax-supported entity.

The work of the Humane Society is funded from a variety of sources:

- member dues (\$10 annually);
- private unsolicited contributions;
- contributions solicited independently by members;
- collection cans placed in cooperating stores and businesses in the area;
- the sale of catnip mice made by the Oaknoll Mouseketeers;
- proceeds from the annual Attic Treasures Sale; and
- contributions from individual Society members.

In this newsletter we will attempt to answer some frequently-asked questions: What does the Humane Society do? What are our goals? Why do we need money? In short, what is our "work?"

Our Spay/Neuter Program Saves Lives

Pet owners who allow their animals to breed at will are responsible for the birth of an estimated 2,000 puppies and 3,500 kittens each hour of every day—more than 17 million dogs and 30 million cats each year. Sadly, most of these animals never find a home.

An estimated 15 million cats and dogs will be euthanized this year simply because they are unwanted. Abandoned in parks, along roadsides, in parking lots, and on city streets, the vast majority will live short, desperate lives—hungry, diseased, and unloved.

Promoting the spaying/neutering of cats and dogs has always been and will continue to be a major focus of the Humane Society.

Our most effective response to the pet overpopulation problem is the Spay/Neuter Program which offers financial assistance (through the Florence Unash Fund) to pet owners who otherwise could not afford the cost of the procedure. Ursula Delworth organized this program and was instrumental in gaining the confidence and cooperation of local veterinarians.

- Persons in need of spay/neuter financial assistance may access the Spay/Neuter program by phone through the Humane Society or by calling the Coralville/Iowa City Animal Shelter.
- The reviewer determines whether the applicant qualifies for assistance and what percentage (ranging from 50-100%) of the cost will be paid for by the program. Decisions are made on a case-by-case basis.
- Eligible pet owners take the approved form and the animal to the Johnson County veterinarian of their choice for the operation, with the understanding that they will pay for the portion of the cost not paid for by the program.

One of our goals is to vigorously expand our efforts to make every pet owner in Johnson County aware of the importance of spaying or neutering their animals. Just this fall, we distributed leaflets describing the program in 19 Johnson County mobile home parks.

A total of 734 pets have been spayed or neutered through the Spay/Neuter Program.

Newly Expanded Shelter Hours

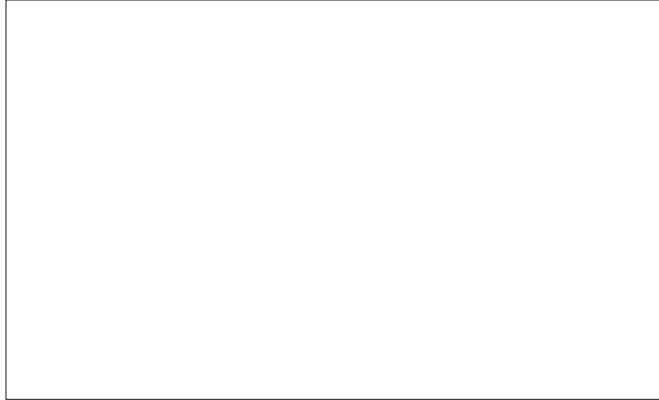
The Coralville/Iowa City Animal Shelter has expanded the hours it is open to the public.

- Monday/Tuesday/Thursday—noon to 5 pm.
- Wednesday/Friday—noon to 7:30 pm.
- Saturday (by appointment only)—noon to 3 pm.

Call the Shelter at 356-5295 for more information

Want to become more active in the Humane Society, but not sure how to go about it? One way is to call us with the names of other people who you think might be interested in what we do. The best way to find out what's going on is to attend our next meeting at 7:30 pm. on December 10, in the Coralville Public Library. If you miss this meeting, don't hesitate to call any of the officers to find out when and where the next one will be.

Buffy was born in April, 1975



That September she had her first litter of five kittens.

- In 1976 she gave birth to 11 kittens.
- In 1977 she gave birth to 10 kittens.
- In 1978 she gave birth to 9 kittens.
- In 1979 she gave birth to 8 kittens.
- In 1980 she gave birth to 10 kittens.
- In 1981 she gave birth to 8 kittens.
- In 1982 she gave birth to 9 kittens.
- In 1983 she gave birth to 8 kittens.
- In 1984 she gave birth to 8 kittens.
- In 1985 she gave birth to 9 kittens.
- In 1986 she gave birth to 5 kittens.
- In 1987 she gave birth to 2 kittens.

Buffy had a total of 102 kittens in ten years. Her 80 daughters gave birth to 403 kittens. Her 22 sons probably sired 1,000 kittens.

This one cat and her progeny produced 1,505 cats—most of them unwanted. There are thousands of Buffys out there. So please, implore your friends and acquaintances to have their cats altered.

It's the only humanely responsible thing to do.

Reprinted in part from the Animal Rescue League of Iowa, Inc. Spring 1989 newsletter, *ARL tailwaggers*.

The Pet Network Helps Find New Homes

Sometimes people have to give up their pets. As one Humane Society member put it, "Helping pets find good homes is our mission!"

People faced with having to relinquish an animal may see our ad in the *Advertiser*, the *Press Citizen*, or a notice posted in a veterinarian's office and call for help with finding their pet another home.

The Network "adoption counselor" works with those needing to place animals and screens potential adoptors. Many prospects are word-of-mouth. For example, someone may know of a person who weathered the death of a pet and mentioned the likelihood of being ready for an animal companion again. The "adoption counselor's" goal is to find the best match for all involved.

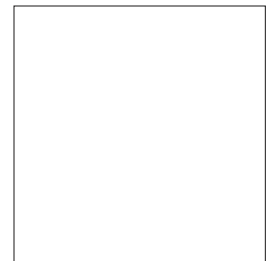
The Pet Network also takes in stray cats and dogs (as re-sources allow). Once evaluated, the animals receive a veterinary exam and are scheduled for a spay/neuter if necessary. Cats are tested for the feline leukemia virus, and if negative, are vaccinated against rabies/distemper.

Dogs are tested for heartworms and vaccinated against rabies/distemper.

We use the same methods of finding new homes for strays as with the owner-relinquished pets. The Pet Network follows up on all adoptions with at least two phone calls to ascertain how the placement is working out for both adoptor and adoptee.

We are very much in need of volunteers who could provide short-term (one to three weeks) foster care for a healthy cat or dog until there is space available at one of the homes serving as Pet Network "adoption agencies."

At any given time, the "Kitty Haven" (a walk-in enclosure located in Ursula's garage—complete with cat perches,



Other innovative projects are currently under discussion and will be described in our next newsletter.

feeding stations and litter boxes) usually has two-to-four cats in residence awaiting placement, so the need for foster care (especially for dogs) is very real.

The Pet Network placed 156 animals (128 cats and 28 dogs) between November 1989 and October 1990.

Wish List for the Pet Network

As you might imagine, there's always a need for funds to cover vet bills and advertising, but we could also use some supplies:

- cat litter
- hairball remedy
- flea powder
- food/water dishes
- a kitty condo
- old blankets
- collars, harnesses, leashes
- cat food
- cat shampoo
- grooming tools
- litter boxes
- cat toys
- small rugs

If you would like to contribute, please call Ursula for the particulars.

The "Other" Mouseketeers

What do the Oaknoll Retirement Residence and the Humane Society have in common? Mice...catnip mice. If you share your home with cats, you may well have purchased a catnip mouse for your cat or for one of his or her friends. We hope the next catnip mouse you buy will be one of hundreds made by the Mouseketeers at Oaknoll. Under the direction of Jerry Newsome, the Mouseketeers meet every Thursday to sew these engaging, colorful toys.

The proceeds of their sale goes to support the work of the Humane Society. Mary Ellen Hill at the *Gazebo on the Green* tries to have plenty in stock but finds it difficult to keep up with the demand.

Attic Treasures Raise Money

The annual Attic Treasures Sale will be coming up in late spring, so please keep us in mind as you clean attics, garages, closets, and cupboards. Your help will insure another successful sale.

We welcome all usable items (with the exception of clothing). And of course, any items of greater value will be handled very carefully and advertised appropriately. All proceeds go directly to animal needs in Johnson County.

Providing for Your Nonhuman Loved Ones

We also have a program whereby persons who have no relative or friend willing to care for their animal(s) in the event of their death can add a provision to their wills leaving the pets to the care of the Johnson County Humane Society. Call Ursula for a copy of a sample will and more information.

Johnson County Humane Society Directory

President, Ursula Delworth	354-5167
Vice-president, Linda Tomblin	338-0021
Secretary, Sibyl Christensen	351-1908
Treasurer, Evelyn Stanske	354-3523
• Spay/Neuter co-chairs: Barbara Mann	683-2709
Patricia Farrant	337-2928
• Pet Network chair, Ursula Delworth	354-5167
• Fund Raising/Membership chair, Judy Hendershot ...	338-8970
• Newsletter chair, Kay Burke	337-2233
• Attic Treasures Sale chair, Linda Tomblin	338-0021
• Pet Therapy chair, Evelyn Stanske	354-3523
• Collection Cans chair, Janet McClain	351-1866
• Catnip Mice chair, Ginny Mather	337-9179
• Rural Task Force chair, Linda Tomblin	338-0021

Humane News is published by The Johnson County Humane Society, written and edited by the Newsletter Committee, and produced by Janet Ashman. Other newsletter contributors were Jan Becker, Ginny Mather, Ursula Delworth, Evelyn Stanske, and Pat Farrant.

place mailing label here

Beautiful Choices Are Cruelty Free

Of the multitude of ingredients in the vast array of products that consumers choose to buy, perhaps the most common is animal suffering.

The Humane Society of the United States has recently launched a nationwide campaign to increase public awareness about the cruel and unnecessary toxicity tests regularly performed in the name of consumer product safety. The goal of the Beautiful Choice campaign is to help consumers select products that have not been tested on animals.

Included are personal care items (cosmetics, fragrances, hair/dental/skin care products, etc.); cleaning and laundry supplies (soaps and detergents, drain/toilet bowl cleaners/oven cleaners, bleaches, etc.); and industrial chemicals (weed killers, insecticides, paint strippers, fire extinguishers, etc.).

Although no law requires these products to be tested on animals, the industry continues to regard animal test data as their ultimate defense in case of potential consumer lawsuits.

The Draize Eye Irritancy Test

Each year in the US, millions of rabbits are blinded by this test, which is applied to every substance, from cosmetics to oven cleaners, which might get into someone's eye.

In this procedure, conscious albino rabbits are immobilized in stocks from which only their heads protrude. Metal eyelid clips pull their lower lids away from their eyes to form cups and a 100-milligram concentrated solution of the test product is dripped into one of their eyes (pooling in the cup).

Experimenters are not obliged to use anesthetics, but sometimes a small amount of topical anesthetic is used when introducing the substance, provided its use doesn't interfere with the test.

It's not uncommon for rabbits to suffer total loss of vision due to serious injury to the cornea or internal structure of the eye. Since neither treatment nor anti-

dotes are administered (or sought), this test does nothing to prevent (or help cure) human injury.

The LD-50 Test

About 5 million dogs, rabbits, rats, cats, monkeys, and other animals are used each year in toxicity tests for products ranging from laundry detergents and floor waxes to shaving creams, hair dyes, and lipsticks—26 animals every minute.

LD-50, which stands for lethal dose 50%, measures the amount of a toxic substance, per body weight, that will (in a single force-fed dose) kill half of the animals in a test group.

Most of these animals die in 2-4 weeks. Normally, before the point at which half the animals die is reached, all the animals are very ill and in obvious distress. During this time, the animals often display classic symptoms of poisoning including vomiting, diarrhea, paralysis, convulsions, and internal bleeding.

Since the very point of these experiments is to measure how much of the substance will poison half the animals to death, dying animals are not put out of their misery for fear of producing inaccurate results.

Every 'new and improved' product is automatically tested to find its LD-50 value—despite the fact that toxicologists have known for a long time that extrapolation from one species to another is a highly risky venture and that physicians use data derived from human studies (not animal tests) to treat victims of accidental poisonings.

Learn More About It

The rationale behind the HSUS campaign is that if consumers knew the truth about what goes on behind the product-testing lab door, they'd be a lot choosier in the marketplace and that consumers would use nonanimal-tested products if they could readily identify them and knew where to buy them.

Every dollar we spend on these products is a vote for or against this cruel practice. For information about the 200+ companies that make cruelty-free products, contact Janet Ashman at 338-1033.

In This Issue:

Story 1..... p. 1
Story 2..... p. 1
Story 3..... p. 2
Story 4..... p. 2
Story 5..... p. 3

Story 6..... p. 3
Story 7..... p. 3
Story 8..... p. 4
Story 9..... p. 4

Calendar of Events

- xx Month—Event; kfuoenbvshi, huibdv mkhb nvnfvckkvl n mmc, xbb. Hoifhvm fjfuihvnm vnv n pvnm c, v.
- xx Month—Event; kfuoenbvshi, huibdv mkhb nvnfvckkvl n mmc, xbb. Hoifhvm fjfuihvnm vnv n pvnm c, v.
- xx Month—Event; kfuoenbvshi, huibdv mkhb nvnfvckkvl n mmc, xbb. Hoifhvm fjfuihvnm vnv n pvnm c, v.
- xx Month—Event; kfuoenbvshi, huibv mkhb nvnfvckkvl n mmc, xbb. Hoifhvm fjfuihvnm vnv n pvnm c, v. =

Actions & Alerts

- Letters Needed—Kkfuoenbvshi, huibdv mkhb nvnfvckkvl n mmc, xbb. Hoifhvm fjfuihvnm vnv n pvnm c, v.
- Action Needed—Kfuoenbvshi, huibdv mkhb nvnfvckkvl n mmc, xbb. Hoifhvm fjfuihvnm vnv n pvnm c, v.
- Letters Needed—Kkuenbvshi, huibdv mkhb nvnfvckkvl n mmc, xbb. Hoifhvm fjfuihvnm vnv n pvnm c, v.
- Letters Needed—Kkuoenbvshi, huibv mkhb nvnfvckkvl n mmc, xbb. Hoifhvm.

- Action Needed—Kfuoenbvshi, huibdv mkhb nvnfvckkvl n mmc, xbb. Hoifhvm fjfuihvnm vnv n pvnm c, v.
- Letters Needed—Kkuoenbvshi, huibdv mkhb nvnfvckkvl n mmc, xbb. Hoifhvm fjfuihvnm vnv n pvnm c, v.
- Action Needed—Kfuoenbvshi, huibdv mkhb nvnfvckkvl n mmc, xbb. Hoifhvm fjfuihvnm vnv n pvnm c, v.
- Action Needed—Kfuoenbvshi, huibv mkhb nvnfvckkvl n mmc, xbb. Hoifhvm fjfuihvnm vnv n pvnm c, v.
- Letters Needed—Kkuoenbvshi, huibdv mkhb nvnfvckkvl n mmc, xbb. Hoifhvm fjfuihvnm vnv n pvnm c, v.
- Action Needed—Kfuoenbvshi, huibdv mkhb nvnfvckkvl n mmc, xbb. Hoifhvm fjfuihvnm vnv n pvnm c, v.
- Action Needed—Kfuoenbvshi, huibv mkhb nvnfvckkvl n mmc, xbb. Hoifhvm fjfuihvnm vnv n pvnm c, v.
- Letters Needed—Kkuoenbvshi, huibdv mkhb nvnfvckkvl n mmc, xbb. Hoifhvm fjfuihvnm vnv n pvnm c, v. +

Nonprofit Organization

U.S. Postage

PAID

Permit No. xx

Iowa City, IA

Please Join Us

For those of you who are not yet members of the Humane Society, but who would like to join so that our work can continue and expand, please fill out and send in the following form.

Membership

Yes, I would like to become a member of the Johnson County Humane Society. (Dues paid now will count for the remainder of 1990 and all of 1991.)

- Membership (\$10)
 - active member
 - supporting member
- Sponsor (\$25)
- Patron (\$50)

I would like to make a contribution to the Johnson County Humane Society and have my contribution to go to the following specific program: _____ (If a specific program is not indicated, the money will go to our general fund.)

Enclosed is my check for _____

All contributions are tax deductible.

Committee Involvement

I would be interested in working on the following committees:

- Membership/Fund Raising
- Pet Network
- Newsletter
- Educational Programs
- Spay/Neuter Program
- Pet Therapy
- Other(s) _____

Name _____ Home Telephone _____

Address _____ Work Telephone _____

Did You Know...

That the gestation period for both dogs and cats is