

Humane News

Attic Treasures Sale Is JCHS's Big Fundraiser

When: Saturday, June 1 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Where: Johnson County Fairgrounds



Plan to attend this sale!

Treasures of all sorts (no clothes) will be priced to sell quickly: furniture, kitchen wares, books, toys, collectables, knick-knacks, and a wide variety of household items.

The Attic Treasures Sale is our largest single fundraiser. Proceeds support our Spay/Neuter Program, pay for food, shelter, and emergency veterinary care for abandoned animals awaiting adoption in the Pet Network, finance our newsletter, and promote animal adoptions. No money is ever paid in salaries. All work of the Humane Society is donated by its members.

If you have some items that are in good repair, but no longer of use to you, please consider donating them for our sale. If necessary, we can pick them up and store them for a short time before the sale.

We are counting on you—our friends and supporters who believe in the purpose of the JCHS—to come to the sale and find your treasure. If you would like to donate some items for the sale, call Linda Tomblin at 338-0021.

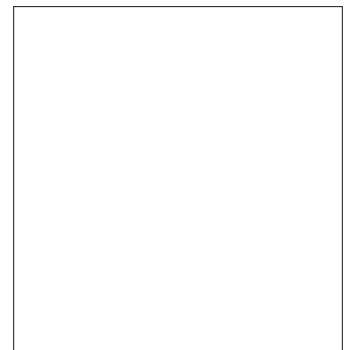
Spread the Spay/Neuter Message

Starvation, disease, injury, cruelty, death. One or more of these fates awaits many puppies and kittens born in Johnson County because someone failed to be a responsible pet guardian. Why wait any longer? Call your vet today. Don't let your companion animal add to the hundreds of abandoned, unwanted, and unloved creatures. If you need help financing the spay/neuter cost of your pet(s), the Florence Unash Spay/Neuter Program may be able to help. To find out if you qualify, call (evenings):

- Pat Farrant (337-2928)
- Barbara Mann (683-2709)
- Alsatia Mellecker (337-7280)
- Kathy Utterback (338-4380)
- Jan Becker (338-5970)

If your companion animal is already spayed/neutered, make a point to encourage your friends and neighbors who may have been putting off the spay/neuter decision because they believe "puppies and kittens are so cute" and "good homes can always be found."

Of course these young animals are cute, but the majority who survive to adulthood are found roaming the streets of Johnson County towns or dumped in rural areas. And sadly, (or in some cases, if they're lucky) they end up on the euthanasia table because there simply are not enough good homes.



Taking action to curb pet overpopulation is a primary focus of the JCHS. During the last calendar year, 245 animals were spayed or neutered through the Florence Unash Spay/Neuter Program, bringing the grand total since month, year to just over 1,000. The spaying or neutering of companion animals is a necessary, humane, and sensible action to alleviate this tragic problem. Please help us spread this message to every pet owner in Johnson County.

Attic Treasures Sale

Saturday morning , June 1

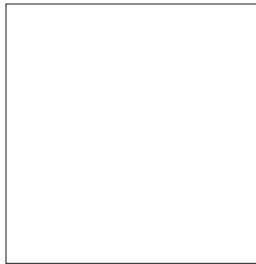
Johnson County Fairgrounds

Hot Cars Can Be Death Traps

If you must travel by car in warm weather with your pet, make sure the animal has access to plenty of water and that optimum ventilation is maintained. What is moderately hot for you can be deadly for your companion animal.

The inside of a car heats up very rapidly, whether it's on the highway or parked in the shade. When it's 85°F outside, the temperature in your car (even with the windows cracked open) will reach 102°F in ten minutes. In just a half hour, the temperature skyrockets to 120°F. Of course, on warmer days it will go even higher.

The hair coat of most dogs and cats insulates against heat loss or heat gain. But once overheated, these animals depend



on rapid breathing to exchange warm air for cooler air, since they do not have sweat glands (except on their footpads). When exposed to a situation where the air is warmer than their normal body temperature (101.5°F to 102.2°F for dogs and 101.0°F to 102.5°F for cats), rapid breathing is not an

efficient process and heatstroke becomes inevitable.

Both dogs and cats suffer irreparable brain damage and subsequent death if their body temperatures are sustained for even a very short time at 107°F-108°F for dogs or 105°F-106°F for cats. Animals who are short-nosed, asthmatic, aged, or overweight are especially at risk.

The signs of heatstroke are dramatic: frantic, rapid, noisy breathing; a racing pulse; reddened gums; an anxious or staring expression; vomiting; weakness; and collapse.

Heatstroke must be treated immediately. Lower the body temperature rapidly by immersing the animal in cool water or wrapping it in cool, wet towels. Applying ice to the head and between the thighs is also beneficial. As with any medical emergency, timely veterinary care is desirable.

A Day at the Shelter

Feature article by Shirley Tarbell

I became apprehensive immediately after I volunteered to write an article about the Coralville/Iowa City Animal Shelter. I knew that shelters perform a necessary service, but deep inside, I expected my visit to be a sad one. Instead, going to our Shelter and visiting with Director Beverly Horton was a positive and rewarding experience.

Funded jointly by the cities of Coralville and Iowa City and by private donations, the new Shelter addition was completed in early 1990. Spacious, light, and energy efficient, this facility was designed with the welfare of the animals in mind. The construction makes use of solar energy and allows for a complete air exchange every four minutes. Radiant heat warms the concrete floor in the dog kennels. This is a feature which the dogs especially like. One room and an outdoor kennel area have been set aside for prospective adopters to interact with the dog or cat of their choice.

The construction makes use of solar energy and allows for a complete air exchange every four minutes.

The dogs enjoy outdoor dog runs and the cats have a screened-in exercise area to themselves. Humane Society members have donated animal toys and frequently come to play with and exercise the dogs and cats.

In the mornings, Shelter employees feed and groom the animals and let the dogs out into the dog runs. During the three-hour afternoon period when I took notes for this article, 18 visitors walked through the door. Several came looking for kittens or puppies to adopt, one inquired about an animal abandonment case, several more obtained pet licenses (including one individual with six cats!), and two people came to speak with the Director.

The phone rang many times. There were calls asking about the Unash Spay/Neuter Program, a followup regarding an adoption application, a call reporting a lost cat, two calls reporting road kill (animals hit by cars and left for dead), and two calls requesting animal control officers to pick up an animal—one was to get a squirrel out of the caller's

Animal Shelter Hours

The Coralville/Iowa City Animal Shelter 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.

basement. (The Shelter is routinely called upon to help relocate wild animals—

The Shelter is routinely called upon to help relocate wild animals—from rabbits and squirrels to snakes and birds—even spiders!

from rabbits and squirrels to snakes and birds—even spiders!) In addition to direct animal care and dealing with the public by phone or in person, staff at the Shelter are responsible for the routine maintenance (cleaning, snow removal, etc.) of their facility.

One important task of the staff is to screen pet adoptions. Prospective adopters are interviewed and given literature to take home about the ethical responsibilities of pet guardianship.

During the mandatory 24-hour waiting period, each application is reviewed and any followup (i.e., calls to landlords) required is completed. Once approved, adopters pay a fee, which is partially refunded upon the spaying/neutering of the animal.

Payment of the adoption fee not only helps ensure that the adopter is serious, but also serves to discourage those who would make a fast dollar selling the animal to a buncher who would in turn sell it to a research

People who abandon their animals often salve their consciences with the fantasy that their companion can survive in the wild until it finds a new home.

facility. Transfer of adopted animals is expressly forbidden in the adoption contract, but if any signs of major illness turn up, the animal may be returned to the Shelter for a full refund.

Bev admits that there are distressing elements to working at the Shelter. Although 75% of the dogs picked up by police and animal control officers are eventually reclaimed by their owners, the majority of the cats are neither reclaimed nor adopted. Most of them must be euthanized to make room for the constant influx of other lost or abandoned animals.

Still, when I asked Bev whether her job makes her sad, she said it does not. Many of the animals brought to the Shelter have experienced prolonged exposure and trauma; however, once they arrive, they receive good food and affection—in many cases, for the first time in their lives.

People who abandon their animals often salve their consciences with the fantasy that their companion can survive in the wild until it finds a new home. But the fact is that most abandoned domestic animals can look

...irresponsible people “who put more time, energy, and thought into choosing a head of lettuce at the supermarket than they put into choosing a companion animal...”

forward to disease or starvation at best. At worst, they may be subjected to extreme cruelty. Except in the case of a very few lucky animals who survive abandonment by managing to adopt a new guardian, the harsh reality is that a quick and painless death with dignity at the Shelter is a much kinder fate than abandonment.

Although Bev’s job doesn’t make her sad, many times it does make her angry—angry at irresponsible people “who put more time, energy, and thought into choosing a head of lettuce at the supermarket than they put into choosing a companion animal,” and angry at those “who reject and discard their pet when caring for it becomes an inconvenience.” (The average length of ownership is only 16 months before the animal is given away, abandoned, or killed by a car.)

Sometimes Bev does get discouraged. “You enter this field because you love animals, but in 18 years, I’ve learned that changing peoples’ attitudes is a slow and frustrating process.”

Bev is justifiably proud of the new Shelter. And she’s grateful to the Humane Society for its volunteer help, and to Florence Unash who left generous funds in her will for the reduced-cost Spay/Neuter Program. But Bev’s real hope for the future lies in education. Her dream is that someday there will be a law mandating schools to teach humane attitudes toward living creatures.

See Shelter, page 5

Think Spay/Neuter!

Pet-assisted Therapy Has Begun at Oaknoll

The benefits of the bond created between people and animals is well documented and becoming widely recognized. Although further studies are being done, it is already evident that:

- petting an animal can cause blood pressure and heart rate to drop (in both human and non-human animals)
- companion animals have a beneficial effect on the social, physical, and mental condition of elderly people
- a pet's presence is an asset when coping with illness and depression
- animals appear almost universally to provide a beneficial and positive influence upon children

In early March, members of the Pet Therapy Committee met at Oaknoll Retirement Residence for an orientation session regarding future monthly visits. The group, accompanied by golden retriever Shasta Delworth, was given a tour of the facility and received background on the many residents who will be visited.

Shasta thoroughly enjoyed the many hugs and smiles she received from the staff as well as the residents, who were delighted to have a dog to touch and pet. The entire group left feeling rewarded and looking forward to subsequent visits. The committee hopes to expand the program to other facilities soon.

The Pet Therapy Committee members are Janet Ashman, Tina McCoy Busch, Sibyl Christensen, Jane Kroeze, Evelyn Stanske, and chair: Mary Ann Smith. If you are interested in being a part of this JCHS initiative, please call Mary Ann at 354-6255.

Pet Network Update

The Pet Network helps to find new homes for cats and dogs that who can no longer stay where they currently live. A total of 152 animals were adopted through this program in 1990. No one knows better than coordinator Ursula Delworth, how many hours it takes to find good homes for this many companion animals.

Beginning in March, a small adoption fee was initiated to help defray the cost of maintaining the animals while they await adoption.

Call Ursula during evenings or weekends if you are looking for a cat or dog to adopt.

Tales of a Good Adoption

The Homeless Cat

Story by Lucas Gibson, age 8

Once upon a time there was a cat. She was cold, hungry, and homeless. She was also sick.

Other cats picked on her when she was out in the streets looking for food. She was such a gentle cat that other cats drove her off from their territory.

One day a lady from the Pet Network found her. She found a foster home for the cat. The people took care of her until they could find a home for her. They named her Maggie and she had to have a operation. The house where she lived had 4 other cats and Maggie was afraid of them. She stayed in her room on her special rug. The lady knew that she needed to find a home where someone would love her.

One day a boy found out about Maggie and when he saw her he totally fell in love with her. He took her home and every night Maggie the Cat sleeps on his bed.

The End.

Editor's Note: If you have (or know of) a tale of a good adoption, please submit it to the Humane Society for publication.

Mousketeer Tea at Oaknoll

The recreation room at Oaknoll Retire Residence provided the setting on March 24, for an afternoon tea hosted by JCHS members to honor the Oaknoll “Mousketeers,” our stalwart stitchers of catnip mice.

A plaque was presented to George Mather in memory of his wife, Virginia, who not only was the first president of the Johnson County Humane Society, but also coordinated the production of the handmade catnip mice for many years.

Many thanks to the current “Mouseteers:”

- Peg Donahue
- Helen Focht
- Frances George
- Virginia Knott
- Jerry Newsome
- Margaret Onnen
- Lois Spitzer.



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 and Membership co-chairs:	
Judy Hendershot	338-8970
Maureen Ambrose	354-8189
• Newsletter chair, Kay Burke	337-2233
• Attic Treasures Sale chair, Linda Tomblin	338-0021
• Pet Therapy chair, Mary Ann Smith	354-6255
• Collection Cans chair, Janet McClain	351-1866
• Catnip Mice chair, Sibyl Christensen	351-1908

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 Shirley Tarbell, Ursula Delworth, and Evelyn Stanske.

Shelter, continued from page 3

Although it may already be too late for some adults, young and impressionable children can be taught to respect life. Animal control officers are available are

“Somehow,” Bev muses, “children need to learn to have reverence for all life.”

available to address classes and to suggest ways humane education can be worked into any curriculum, from English to math. “Somehow,” Bev muses, “children need to learn to have reverence for all life.”

My visit to our Shelter dispelled many of the myths and stereotypes I harbored about animal shelters in general. The resulting negative thoughts I harbor are not due to anything I saw or felt inside the Shelter. My negative thoughts are due to those individuals on the outside—the ones who

fail to spay or neuter their pets, who allow them to roam at large, and those who abandon their companions. The Shelter itself is a place of warmth and kindness, a place where a deep respect for animals is alive.

The Johnson County Humane Society
P. O. Box 2775
Iowa City, Iowa 52244

Thanks to You...the Humane Society's Work for the Animals Can Continue

The Humane Society could not exist without its many benefactors and contributors. We would like to acknowledge all of our supporters.

Supporting Members

Helen Angell
Vera R. Brozo
Don Chilo
David W. & Shirley A. Day
Margaret Drueholz
Betty & Cletus (Dave) Funk
Ruth Langehough
Sandra Lawrence
Margaret Loghry
Lone Tree Veterinary Clinic
Kenneth J. Martin
Bobby O'Rourke & Dr. Randy Pool
Oxford Veterinary Center
C. Rosemarie Petzold
Mr. & Mrs. Michael T. Ramirez
Dee A. Salisbury
Nancy Sherburne
Merlynn & Joyce Sorrenson
Rozella Sorrenson
Judith Stuedemann
Sandy Whelan & Steve Bruell
Cheyre Yoder

Sponsors

Maureen Ambrose
D.L. Armstrong
Coralville Animal Clinic
Patricia A. Farrant
Ann M. Feddersen
Leonard & Natalie Feldt
Karen Hopp
Lucy Koontz
Barbara D. Mann
Mary Lou & George Matheson
Alsatia Mellecker
Supriya Mukherjee
Judy Nauseef
Michael & Mary Lou Phipps
Rex & Christien Pruess
Claudia Reinhardt
Betty Rosse

Meredith Sewell
Evelyn Stanske
Linda Tomblin
Veterinary Associates and Eastside
Pet Clinic
Helen Hensleigh Wenger & Howard
Wenger
Marilyn Zweng

Patrons

Animal Clinic, Inc.
Janet Ashman
Pat Bruning
Ursula Delworth
Cindy Dreher
Diane Dreusicke
Every Bloomin' Thing, Inc.
Carole G. Gauger
Ruth Heffner
Judith Hendershot
Mrs. Robert Holbary
Jane McCune
David and Andrea McFadden
Marie Sampson
Jo Ann Stewart

Memorial Donations

In memory of Patricia Bruning:
Mary Ella & John Barber
LeeAnne Barnhart
Marty Brick
Sibyl Christensen
Norma Cross
Celia Eckey
Warren, Laura, Jason, & Jeannie
Edwards
John, Patti, Rory, & Tara Mott
John & Mary Beth Schuppert
Anne Torppa
Helen Wittmer

In memory of Ginny Mather:

Arthur & Doris Bonfield
The Oaknoll Mousketeers
Carolyn & Dick Otis
Dottie Ray
Don & Deborah Schmeiser

We Also Thank

- The Advertiser for its new "Pet of the Week" column. Thus far, every animal featured has been adopted.
- The L & M Kennels in North Liberty (626-3647) has been of immeasurable help to us by boarding/adopting our Pet Network dogs. We simply could not work with dogs without their assistance.

They provide boarding, grooming, and other services for cats and dogs and also operate the Forever Green Landscaping and Garden Center. Lucy, Mary, and their colleagues are experts on pets and plants as well as being caring friends to the Johnson County Humane Society.

- The Oaknoll Mousketeers for their wonderful catnip mice creations. All money from the sale of these handmade toys goes to the Humane Society. Every cat should have at least one!
- Gazebo on the Green for providing a retail outlet during the holiday season for the Oaknoll Mousketeers' catnip mice.

- The following businesses permit us to place our Spay/Neuter "donation containers" on their counters, providing a visual reminder to the public about the Humane Society and its work:

All Pets Veterinary Clinic
Animal Clinic
Brenneman Seed and Pet Center
Bruegger's Bagel Bakery
Coralville Animal Clinic
Dairy Queen
Deli Mart East
Eastside Pet Clinic
Econo Foods
Every Bloomin' Thing
For the Birds
Hamburg Inn
Hy-Vee South
New Pioneer Coop
Pleasant Valley Garden Center
and Nursery
Randall's Mini-priced Foods
Senor Pablos
Texaco Truck Stop—Interstate 80
Varsity Cleaners

- In addition, we also gratefully acknowledge the inclusion of the Johnson County Humane Society in the Blanche Carey-Martin Trust.