

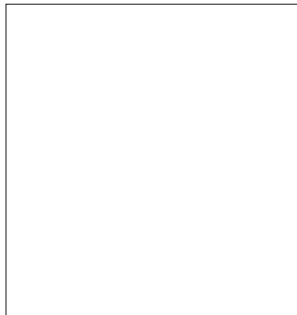
# Humane News

Volume 2:2?

Summer 1992

## Who Will Care After You Can't?

Recently, a local elderly woman died leaving nine cats. Luckily for the cats, a friend volunteered to find good homes for them. Although this story will probably end well, many animals are not so fortunate upon the death of their caregiver.



The time to plan for all those we love is while we are still with them. It is important that wills include a stipulation regarding what is to be done for and with companion animals, and by whom. Since pets often need shots/exams prior to being adopted into new homes, the JCHS recommends leaving a sum of money to a person who

agrees to take responsibility for the animal(s). This person should have a copy of the stipulation, and others (especially the executor) should be informed of plans.

Since unexpected deaths result in an emergency situation in terms of animal care, it is essential that family and friends are knowledgeable regarding any arrangements that have been made.

On a limited basis, the JCHS is able to serve as the "responsible party" in the case of individuals with no close relatives or friends.

## Walden Place Welcomes Pets

When new residents are welcomed to Walden Place so are their pets. This new Iowa City retirement center opened in February 1992. Managers Leroy & Nancy Tinnean and Marion & Marlene Leichty feel that pets are important family members and should not have to be relinquished because of a move to a retirement setting. Walden Place has 24 apartments on the first floor that are available to pet owners; a sidewalk that runs around the building is for their use, and a park will soon be located nearby. JCHS congratulates the managers of this beautiful new facility for recognizing and affirming the companion animal/human bond.

## Twenty Years with Tiger: a collection of shared memories

Ed & Dorothy Dlouhy, Lori Weitzell, and Debbie Chelf

It was December 1972, when 13-year old Lori put her small savings in her pocket and asked her parents to take her to the Iowa City Animal Shelter to pick out her first cat.

After looking at all the cats, she chose a skinny kitten, so tiny he fit in the palm of her hand. After a trip to the vet for a check up and bath, the kitten, already named Tiger, went home to spend that Christmas and 19 more with Lori and her family.

Growing up with Lori and her sister Debbie, it wasn't long before Tiger became an important part of the Dlouhy family. As a kitten, his favorite toy was a wrinkled-up cellophane cigarette wrapper. If the wrapper were thrown over his head, he would flip over backwards chasing it. He always had a twinkle in his eye and was the most gentle of cats. Although neutered so as not to contribute to pet overpopulation, Tiger played the roles of both "Mom and Dad" to all the other cats adopted into the Dlouhy household, which at one time numbered eight.

When the sisters left home, Tiger remained behind, becoming their parents' constant companion. He greeted Dorothy every morning, accompanied her down the stairs and sat by her chair as if he wanted her to know he was there for her. When Ed came home at 4:30, Tiger knew he was coming home to provide a lap and someone to snooze with on the couch. After Ed retired, the two were inseparable.

As Tiger aged, he developed some of the kidney and gastrointestinal problems common to geriatric felines. In 1991, he went blind and his hearing started to fail. That August, he had a stroke, but did pretty well for awhile. After his second stroke, however, his guardians knew he was not going to recover. Tiger died on August 28, 1991. He's still beloved and sorely missed.

## Cremation for Pets

The Kenwood Animal Clinic in Cedar Rapids operates a crematorium. Ashes may be reclaimed, and the cost is priced according to the weight of the animal.

Contact them at 117 33rd St. N.E., 52402 or call (319) 366-7146.

## Consider a Bequest

When reviewing your will to make plans for your companion animals, please consider leaving a bequest to the JCHS. We have a continuing need of funds, and can do a great deal with even a small amount.

We and the animals thank you.

## Is Your Home “Pet Safe?”

**Plastic Bags**—A recent “Dear Abby” column reminded us once again of the potential danger these bags pose for pets. A pet owner returned home to find her small dog had suffocated after being unable to extricate his head from an empty cereal box with a plastic liner.

A JCHS member recalled driving down a road and coming upon a cat frantically trying to remove a plastic bag from her head. Fortunately, this cat was saved in time. Cutting plastic bags up before disposing of them may eliminate potential danger to children or animals.

**Chewables/chokeables**—Make an effort to keep out of reach pieces of plastic and other small items that a curious pet may attempt to chew or play with and inadvertently swallow or get caught in her throat. “Easter” grass and tinsel may cause very severe intestinal distress upon ingestion. It may be best not to bring them into your home at all.

**Poisons**—Each year thousands of pets suffer accidental poisoning. Many items kept in the home (e.g., houseplants, cleaning products, paints and solvents, medicines, pesticides, etc.) can be dangerous to your pets. Be sure these compounds are kept in tightly covered containers behind closed doors so a curious pet is unable to knock one over and begin “tasting” it. If you have plants in your home, be sure they do not pose a hazard for your animals.



Companion animals can also suffer inhalation poisoning from smoke, vehicle exhaust, fumes from cleaning fluids, gasoline, kerosene, epoxies, and other glues. Symptoms of

inhalation poisoning often include coughing, sneezing, shortness of breath, and cyanosis (a color change of mucous membranes from pink to blue).

Outside, both domestic and wild animals may get into insecticides, anti-freeze, weed killers, or fertilizers. Be especially vigilant about lawn chemicals. Organophosphates are poisonous enough by themselves, but combined with flea collars/treatments, they can be lethal. If you treat your lawn, at least discuss the ingredient list with your veterinarian. Remember that chemical overspray from neighboring lawns can affect animals on your property.

Taking a few moments to check your home environment to see if it is “pet safe” is time well spent.

## The Vet’s Corner—FIP

W. W. Gay, DVM, Veterinary Associates, 230 Third Street, Iowa City.

Feline Infectious Peritonitis is a viral disease of cats which can cause weight loss, debilitation and death. Although the name describes an infectious condition affecting the abdominal lining, FIP is a very complex disease where causing the immune system to mount an inflammatory response which can occur anywhere in the cat’s body including the chest, abdomen, kidney, brain, or even the eyes.

Symptoms include a chronic, fluctuating fever, declining appetite, weight loss, lethargy, and depression. These symptoms are not specific for this disease and other symptoms may be present. Affected cats are usually from multi-cat households or catteries and most are between six months and five years of age.

Infection probably occurs orally following contact with another cat shedding the virus. Once exposed, some cats may be infected and recover. Other cats may become sick and debilitated within weeks after infection. Still other cats may sequester the virus for several years before it becomes reactivated which then may cause sickness and death. There is no treatment once cats develop the disease.

A new vaccine for FIP has just become available. Cat owners (the disease does not infect dogs or people) should consult their veterinarian to see if it is appropriate to have their cat vaccinated against FIP.

## 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.

## We're In the Book!

Soon, people seeking resources, referrals, and assistance with adoption/placement, lost/found animals, spay/neuter, animal behavior problems, abuse/cruelty/neglect concerns, and general information regarding companion animals will be able to find us in the phone book under Humane Society HelpLine. Our phone

## Another Home?

*But I don't need another home, I already have one.*

*I whimpered...but they didn't look back. I watched as they left. Why did they leave me here? Something about another home. Oh well, I was sure they would come back for me and eagerly I waited, greeting everyone who came near me, wagging my tail and pressing my nose against the bars so I could see real well. Sometimes, someone would stop and talk to me, maybe rub my ears, or pet me, but none of these people were those I loved. Had they forgotten me?*

*They sure are good to me here, giving me food, loving care, and attention. But all my new friends here are crying for attention, too. With each passing day I found I became more depressed and lonely for those I loved. Although people came by, I was either too big or too small, my hair was too long or too short or not curly, or my ears*

*were too floppy. I don't understand. I was loved before just the way I am. Or was I...*

*Finally I just stopped getting up when someone came in. I felt very alone and stayed in the corner of the cage. I guess I finally realized those I loved weren't coming back for me. Sometimes I'd see a friendly face and would wag my tail, but I think they saw the tears in my eyes and walked on by.*

*Today they came to my cage saying that they were really sorry but my time was up now, that they had given me every chance. "My time was up?" what does that mean? Are those I love coming back for me? I laid there and waited and when he took me from my cage I wagged my tail...*

Yes, this story, "Another Home" was hard to read, but it happens all the time. **Stories involving healthy cats and dogs—like this one—are played out in American animal shelters 14.8 million times each year.**

Every animal who is put to sleep is a heartbreaking experience for all involved. But watching an animal die a little each day from being rejected and unwanted is even worse.

Are you part of the solution instead of part of the problem? Has your pet been spay/neutered? what about your neighbor's dog, your best friend's cat? If not, do something about it!

The Florence Unash Spay/Neuter Program is available for those needing assistance. Call today and find out how to stop adding to the national pet overpopulation tragedy.

Printed in part from a flier by the Animal Rescue League of Iowa, Inc.

## Johnson County Humane Society Directory

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President-elect, Tina McCoy Busch .....	354-3891
Recording Secretary, Ruth Heffner .....	351-6802
Corresponding Secretary, Marie Samson .....	351-5420
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Patricia Farrant .....	337-2928
• HelpLine chair, Ursula Delworth .....	338-3357
• Fund Raising and Membership	
Judy Hendershot .....	338-8970
• JCHS Attic Treasures Auction co-chairs:	
Leeanne Barnhart .....	351-4588
Marcia Wunder .....	351-2872
• Pet Therapy chair, pending .....	338-3357
• Collection Cans chair, Janet McClain .....	351-1866
• Catnip Mice chair, pending .....	338-3357

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The Johnson County Humane Society  
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Iowa City, IA 52244

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## 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 and thank all of our supporters for their efforts on behalf of animals.

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### Memorial Donations

*In memory of Aileen Van Bibber:*  
• Edna Pixley  
• Helen Hensleigh Wenger  
• Howard Wenger  
*In memory of "Toddy" Ervin, a beloved 17-year-old cat:*  
• Ursula Delworth  
*In memory of "Sam" Simpson:*

- Gerry and Sandra Simpson  
*In memory of young "Tyler" and elder-cat "Radames" Lee:*  
• Janet Ashman  
*In memory of "Hector" Mellecker:*  
• Ursula Delworth  
*In memory of the kitten:*  
• Vera Brozo  
*In memory of "Rover" Holmes:*  
Helen Hensleigh Wenger  
*In memory of "RP" Aspengren:*  
• Janet Ashman

### We Also Thank...

- all those who helped make our first (annual) Attic Treasures auction a big success.
- Bruegger's Bagel Bakery for its promotion campaign in support of our organization.

## Memory Gardens Pet Cemetery

Anyone who has suffered the loss of a companion animal knows how difficult it is. As a final act of caring, many would like to bury their pets in a special place. Memory Gardens Pet Cemetery, just across the footbridge from the main cemetery at 2400 Muscatine Avenue in Iowa City, is just such a spot.

Founded in the 1960s, this pet cemetery is the resting place for hundreds of companion animals. According to groundskeeper Jeff Forbes, not only dogs and cats, but birds, hamsters, a monkey, and even a cougar are buried there. (It is said that an Army mine-sniffing dog was also interred with full military honors, including a 21-gun salute!)

Although burial costs may seem higher than one might expect—\$95 for animals weighing less than 35 pounds, \$120 for larger animals (markers, which are optional, begin at \$204)—this one-time expense provides an alternative to cremation or leaving the body at the vet's to be picked up for rendering. At Memory Gardens, companion animal guardians can be certain that they will be treated with courtesy and kindness, and their loss taken seriously.

## Homeless Animals' Day—August 22

Help shed light on dog and cat overpopulation by attending the candlelight vigil at 8 pm on the the UI Pentacrest for the millions of companion animals—born and killed—each year in America.