



Johnson County Humane Society
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Summer 2013 Newsletter

Re-homing a Companion Animal **Janet Ashman, President**

If you must make a decision to relinquish an animal, remember that in acquiring one you were making a lifetime commitment to him or her. Even rescuers make a commitment for every animal they choose to rescue. As caregivers, it's our responsibility to find our animals safe and loving new homes. You know better than to just abandon an animal. But each year in Johnson County, hundreds of animals die because they are left to fend for themselves.

With appropriate planning and effort, you should be able to find your animal a new home. Be sure to give our municipal shelter, the Iowa City Animal Care & Adoption Center, and the Johnson County Humane Society (JCHS) an opportunity to help you.

You already know that we do not operate a sheltering facility. Instead, JCHS recruits foster caregivers who take companion animals into their private homes until forever homes are found. This works pretty well, but our foster homes are almost always full.

Now there's a way for owners/rescuers to feature animals to be re-homed on our web site. It's the JCHS Owner/Rescuer Re-home Service (ORRS). Visit the "Meet the Animals" page

<www.johnsoncountyhumane.org/meet_animals.html> and click on some of the animals to read their profiles. Note how we describe their attributes. You'll also see examples of the kinds of photos we use.

Go to

<www.johnsoncountyhumane.org/placement.html#cls> and read about participating in ORRS. Download the *Owner/Rescuer Re-home Service* form. It's designed so you can select the text and copy it into a word-processing or e-mail program. This allows you to type your responses and e-mail the completed form to us.

Take a number of photos (high-resolution digital) of your animal. Think "glamour shots" and remember that busy backgrounds are distracting—consider throwing a sheet over the couch.

- We need something for a "head shot" or portrait (leave the cropping to us) to appear on the "Meet the Animals" page.

- Then take several photos that show the entire animal. E-mail the photos and completed *Owner/Rescuer Re-home Service* form to us and we will use your responses and photos to build a web page for your animal. Then prepare your animal to find a new home just like we prepare our animals. Suggestions are at <www.johnsoncountyhumane.org/placement.html#prepare>

People who e-mail us with an interest in your animal will be referred directly to you.

Who's Who in Area Rescue and Animal Control

Johnson County Humane Society

If you're receiving this newsletter, you know "who" JCHS is. You know we're not "the shelter," but that we DO foster cats in homes. You know that we're an all-volunteer, nonprofit group, and that we receive no financial support from federal, state, or local governments. We rely totally on private donations, fundraising, and grants. You know that JCHS subsidizes low cost spay/neuter of companion animals, that we help with feral cat Trap-Neuter-Return (& Manage) projects by giving advice, loaning materials, and often adding financial support. You know that while we can offer information on animal neglect, abuse, and cruelty, we do not have the legal authority to investigate charges like this and will refer you to the appropriate authorities. You also know that we are happy to give you advice on animal behavior (especially cats!), and have a website full of helpful links. We also *hope* you know that we distribute donated pet food to area food pantries to help keep pets in their homes. You can reach us through our e-mail and visit our website and FB for information.

Iowa City Animal Care and Adoption Center

The Iowa City Animal Care and Adoption Center (ICAC) is our local "animal shelter". The staff at ICAC falls under the Division of Animal Services for the City of Iowa City. Public health and safety functions are performed by certified Animal Service Officers. The ICAC receives lost animals from Iowa City, Coralville, University Heights, the University of Iowa, and unincorporated Johnson County. For general information on the duties of the Division of Animal Services, residents may call 319-356-5295 or look under "Information" at <http://www.icanimalcenter.org/>

Coralville residents may contact the Coralville Animal Control Officer directly at 319-248-1800 or go to <http://www.coralville.org/> and drop down under "Departments," then "Police," then "Animal Control".

Unfortunately, owing to decisions made by other smaller municipalities in the county, ICAC no longer serves Solon, Hills, Lone Tree, North Liberty, Oxford, Shueyville, Swisher, or Tiffin. Residents of these towns may contact their local city clerk for information on animal issues.

Friends of the Animal Center Foundation

The Friends of the Animal Center Foundation is the nonprofit fundraising arm of ICAC, supporting various programs to improve the quality of life for Center animals, to help make animals more adoptable, and to meet any special medical needs of the Center pets. FACF programs include Paws to Train, a Medical Fund, Humane Education, the Friendly Paws program, Pet Foster program, Mobile Adoption, and education and outreach. FACF also holds Microchip Clinics during the year at greatly reduced prices. Additionally, FACF coordinates a volunteer program, and is always looking for folks interested in giving their time to help the animals.

Currently, FACF is engaged in its “Unleash the Possibilities Capital Campaign,” to help build a new facility for the Iowa City Animal Care and Adoption Center, which was displaced during the flood of 2008. For more information on the capital campaign and FACF, please find them on the web at <http://facf.org/>. Their phone number is 319-541-6390.

Iowa Humane Alliance

The mission of IHA is to “forge partnerships with humane organizations, municipalities, veterinarians and compassionate individuals” with the aim of ending “animal homelessness, abuse, and animal shelter overpopulation.”

To this end, IHA opened Iowa’s first nonprofit, low cost, high volume, high quality spay/neuter clinic. Located on the southwest edge of Cedar Rapids, the IHA Regional Spay/Neuter Clinic is just a few minutes from the Eastern Iowa Airport/I-380 exchange. The clinic is perfectly situated to help clients from all over the Eastern third of Iowa. Basic prices are \$40 for a cat spay/neuter, \$65 for a dog neuter, and \$80 for a dog spay. Large dogs over a specific weight will incur additional charges. Reduced cost vaccinations, micro chipping, and other services are available at the time of surgery. The Clinic regularly works with JCHS and other nonprofits who often help further subsidize the cost of spay/neuter surgeries at the clinic. IHA and the Clinic are located at 6540 6th St SW in Cedar Rapids, and can be reached at 319-363-1225. For the most up-to-date web postings, follow them on Facebook or check out their website. <http://www.iowahumanealliance.org>
<https://www.facebook.com/IowaHumaneAlliance>

Witty Kitties, Inc.

Located in rural Solon, just a couple of miles from Shueyville, Witty Kitties, Inc., is a nonprofit organization whose primary mission is to provide quality care and shelter to cats with special medical needs including FIV, FeLV, and congenital deformities. Some of its residents come from farms, some from municipal shelters, and some from other shelters that don’t have the funds or staff to attend to animals with special medical needs. Along with sheltering cats, Witty Kitties also provides rescue services, care, and

appropriate housing for a variety of reptiles. Reptiles have their own shelter building, heated to 85 degrees in the winter months. In the summer months, alligators, caimans, and iguanas stay in outdoor enclosures. Regular adoption and visiting hours are Saturdays from 10am to noon, or by appointment. Witty Kitties is staffed by volunteers. For further information, contact Witty Kitties by e-mail staff@wittykitties.org or leave them voice mail at (319) 848-3238. Visit their webpage for more information. <http://www.wittykitties.org/index.html>

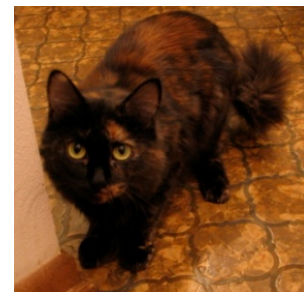
There are many more animal agencies in our area doing great work. Check out: Animal Resource Foundation (funds spay/neuter and more), Cedar Valley Humane Society (serving as a shelter for several small towns in Johnson County); Paws and More Animal Shelter (Washington County); Safe Haven of Iowa County (South Amana); Safe Journey Rescue (Cedar Rapids); Last Hope Animal Rescue (Shellsburg)...

ADORABLE, AVAILABLE ADOPTABLES!



Cassidy---The “rumpy” Manx!

Hopalong Cassidy, is a black and white Manx mix who got her name because she kind of hops when she walks. She is a “rumpy” Manx with a lid-like tail and elongated rear legs. Cassidy has a high confidence level, plays well with others, is active, and adaptable. She has a tuxedo pattern with white whiskers, a white chin, and a smudge of white on her nose. She is a must see. Contact us!



Claire

Claire was living with her kittens on the University of Iowa campus near the Pharmacy building. One of our members spent a week setting up traps until all of them were caught, with Claire caught on a November morning at 1 AM in the spitting snow. Claire is a gorgeous longhaired tortoiseshell cat, confident and self-assured. Contact us!



Buster

Buster has been in foster care for a long time. He is a big guy with a small voice and remains shy. Buster will probably never be a party cat, but he regularly asks for subtle attention and does like to explore on his own terms. Buster does better with humans than with cats, but would do well with a nurturing alpha cat. Buster is a beautiful tuxedo cat with superior whiskers and gold eyes. Contact us!

TNR

Amy Holcomb, Board Member

I started trapping feral cats on my street almost four years ago to help reduce the homeless cat population. Homeless cats who are afraid of humans and cannot be easily approached or handled are referred to as "feral." Feral cats have generally had little or no human contact, causing them to develop a natural fear of humans. Not all homeless cats are feral; some may be strays who are lost or have been recently abandoned by humans. These cats are reproducing at high rates and animal shelters do not have the resources to solve the problem. *(Editor's note: Amy H. is using "homeless" in the sense that all these cats can date their lineage to a time when either they or their predecessors came from an indoor or "owned" situation. For some cats the outdoors is their home, in that they have never lived indoors or have been outside so long that re-homing them indoors may have become almost impossible.)*

Trap/Neuter/Release (or Return) is when feral cats are trapped, vaccinated, spayed or neutered, and returned to their original location. It's theoretically possible, that in seven years one female cat and its young can produce up to 420,000 kittens (!), so TNR is an effective way to help reduce the homeless cat population.

I have noticed a decline in homeless cats on my block since I started doing TNR. The first winter after I started trapping feral cats on my street, I was feeding up to ten cats a day. This past winter there were no feral cats on my street for me to feed.

I am working on finishing another TNR project in my North Liberty neighborhood. In this current project, the cats have a caretaker who feeds them regularly. So far, we trapped eight cats (five females), had them spayed/neutered and vaccinated, and returned them to our neighborhood, where my neighbor continues to feed them. The Johnson County Humane Society and Animal Resource Foundation worked together to fund this project. The surgeries were performed at the new Iowa Humane Alliance Regional Spay/Neuter Clinic in Cedar Rapids. The IHA Clinic is a

great resource for spaying/neutering feral cats.

TNR programs are a humane alternative to euthanasia of our community cats and, when well-managed, are effective at reducing the population. The Johnson County Humane Society can assist you with funding your own TNR project and can also provide information about how to trap/neuter/release. Working together, we can reduce the homeless cat population.

Help your Cat Succeed Using the Litter Box

Lynn Schaul, JCHS Vice-President

Looking at the world through cats' eyes and understanding their perception and natural instincts will help ensure a happy and healthy cat. Commonly, cat owners make mistakes by not considering this. Here are some tips to accommodate your cat's litter box needs:

Put litter boxes in a well-lit or dim-lit area. Cats feel secure eliminating in areas where they can see well.

(Cats cannot see in absolute darkness.) If a litter box is in a dark location, cats may find a less vulnerable place on their own, even if that place is not where you would like.

Remove the lid from your cat's litter box. Uncovered litter boxes will help your cat to not feel trapped and be able to keep a look out at the surroundings. Your cat will appreciate an escape route and feel safe. Also, air flow helps the litter not smell as bad for your cat or you.

Put the uncovered litter box in an easily accessible, open area. Cats generally think this is safer than a private area. If your cat prefers a hidden location, though, do so, but with an uncovered litter box. Clear storage boxes with sides around six inches tall make great alternatives to traditional litter boxes because litter is less likely to get kicked out by your cat (Just make sure your cat is able to jump over the sides of the box.). If you must have a covered litter box in specific areas in your home, make sure you give your cat choices by also providing uncovered litter boxes in other places.

As always, if your cat is urinating in locations other than the litter box, schedule an appointment with your cat's veterinarian to rule out health issues.

Encourage your cat to consistently use a litter box. By choosing your cat's preferred litter, scooping daily, and placing a correctly-sized box large enough for your cat to turn around and dig in an appropriate area, you are on your way to providing a comfortable litter box area for your cat.

SPAY NEUTER NEWS

JCHS administers the Florence Unash Neuter Program, awarding funds to financially qualifying Johnson County residents. The Unash Program is being underutilized, so spread the word! JCHS also awards grants to the IHA Regional Spay/Neuter Clinic toward the spay/neuter of area companion animals in need.

So far in 2013, JCHS has subsidized spay/neuter of more than 85 animals. We hope to keep up that pace (and more!) for the rest of the year.

Thank you to the IHA Regional Spay/Neuter Clinic, Oxford vet clinic, and other private vets who cooperate with JCHS to provide affordable spay/neuter services for companion animals in need!

Applications for the Unash Program may be picked up at the Iowa City Animal Center or by contacting JCHS through e-mail or by post.

Pet Boutique and More Sale!!

On June 1, JCHS held a "Pet Boutique and More," fundraising event with Iowa Humane Alliance and Witty Kitties, at the Iowa City Odd Fellows & Rebekahs Eureka Lodge in Iowa City. Thank you to I.O.O.F. member, Dave Irvin, who helped procure use of the lodge and aided us in unloading sale items. Special thanks go to RoZella Sorrenson-Grabin and Janet Ashman for lots (and lots!) of prep work. JCHS officers Lynn Schaul and Amanda Clark were cashiers for the event, and volunteers from IHA and Witty Kitties were on hand to answer questions and sell Boutique items. A combined total of over \$800 was raised. Thanks to everyone who donated items! A special thanks goes to Leash on Life for donating items to JCHS!!

NOTES FROM THE TREASURER

Amy McBeth, JCHS Treasurer

JCHS and Iowa Shares—Bad News, Good News

JCHS has been a member group of Iowa Shares since 2007, gaining access to thousands of employees who have given to us at their workplace through payroll deduction. JCHS has received thousands of dollars in donations through Iowa Shares.

The **bad** news...JCHS will not be participating in the Iowa Shares' 2013 Workplace Giving Campaign. Iowa Shares' board is staffed by volunteers who represent each member organization. JCHS directors are stretched too thin to work on the IS Board for the 2013 campaign, so we had to bow out.

The **good** news...Those who give to JCHS through Iowa Shares may continue to do so!! Depending on how your employer handles the campaign, you may have the added step of contacting Iowa Shares to designate your payroll pledge to JCHS. But do this just once during the Fall 2013 Giving Campaign, and your pledge will come to us in 2014. As we won't be members of Iowa Shares, a slightly higher fee will be deducted from your donation, but we feel it's well worth your convenience and our financial security.

In short, if you have given to JCHS through Iowa Shares your current pledge will continue as usual, but for the campaign this fall, you may need to contact Holly Hart, Iowa Shares Program Coordinator, at 319-338-1446, regarding your pledge to JCHS.

Memorials and Special Donations

Special donations made at the end of 2012 included a gift by Gayle Lesser in honor of David Clark. Roberta Holstein sent in a gift in honor of "Abigail." And Grant Wood AEA held a fundraiser for us!

In 2013...

Birthday donation in honor of Maddie Schuh, by Kathy Schuh.

Birthday donations in honor of Heidi Du by the Taylors, the Hendricksons, Craig Ellermeier & Theresa Ho, Jill Endres Tomek, Tianli Li, Wu He, Lillian & Karina Li, Manish Saxena, Jenny Tang, Paige Davis, Saanvi Veeramreddy, Sophia Van Daele, Lydia Ankenmann, Wangyi Chen, Xiaodong Chu & Guangming Du.

Vet costs for our foster "Rusty" donated by Lois Lowenberg.

Janet Ashman---Memorial donation in remembrance of Raoul.

Memorial donations in honor of Merlyn & Joyce Sorrenson by RoZella Sorrenson-Grabin and Raymond & Dorothy Grabin.

Casey Dunagan & Michael Hesseltine—In Memory of Milo.

Thank you to all who contributed to JCHS since the last newsletter. For those who regularly give to us, we appreciate having the stable source of income! Honoraria and donations to a specific project will be acknowledged in our next newsletter—our apologies if someone was missed.

Fundraising Events!

Have a quick Garage Sale and designate your profits to JCHS. Recycle your goods and raise money for one of your favorite nonprofits! ☺ Idea from a donor--on your next birthday, ask folks to donate a dollar per year of your age. If you are particularly 'wise,' JCHS will get a nice donation! ☺

If you have ideas for public fundraising events, drop by a meeting, the second Monday of each month, 7pm, at the Iowa City Public Library or contact JCHS.

Notes from the Feral Wrangler: Do TNR in your neighborhood & SPAY/NEUTER your own pets!!!

JCHS Board: Janet Ashman, Pres., Lynn Schaul, V.P., Amanda Clark, Sec., Amy McBeth, Treas. Board Members At Large: Teresa Kopel, RoZella Sorrenson-Grabin, Kopel, Mary Blount, Amy Holcomb.



"It only takes a little to do a whole lot of good!"