



**Johnson County Humane Society**  
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December 2012 Newsletter

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## **AREA'S FIRST REGIONAL SPAY/NEUTER CLINIC TO OPEN IN JANUARY**

### **Guest Contributor**

**Kathleen Schoon, Development Director**  
**Iowa Humane Alliance**

Iowa Humane Alliance is pleased to announce that the IHA Regional Spay/Neuter Clinic is scheduled to open on January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2013! Located in southwest Cedar Rapids, this clinic will be the first self-sustaining, low cost, high volume, high quality spay-neuter clinic in Iowa, and will serve approximately 1/3 of the state. Once fully operational, the clinic will perform 8,000+ surgeries a year, preventing countless numbers of homeless animals from entering our local shelters and rescues.

Based in the Cedar Rapids/Iowa City Corridor, the clinic's spay/neuter services will be available to shelters, rescue groups, and individuals across 41 Eastern Iowa counties. IHA is currently in the process of hiring staff, finishing remodeling, installing equipment, and ordering supplies in preparation for the January opening at 6540 6<sup>th</sup> Street in southwest Cedar Rapids.

Once hired, staff will travel to Asheville, North Carolina for training by the National Spay/Neuter Response Team of the Humane Alliance, IHA's mentor organization. Humane Alliance has previously guided over 100 similar, successful clinics nationwide, teaching them how to open and sustain the long-term operations of a specialized spay/neuter facility.

IHA recently hired Dr. Jennifer Doll, DVM, as Clinic Medical Director. Dr. Doll's duties will involve preparing the clinic for opening, establishing surgical and recovery protocols, and supervising the clinic technician and assistant team. Dr. Doll has been a practicing veterinarian for over 20 years, and has provided care for municipal shelters and rescues during

that time. Many in the area are familiar with her as the founder of Witty Kitties Special Needs Animal Shelter in rural Solon.

Currently, IHA is partnering with area organizations, working to schedule spay/neuters and transport of animals from remote counties within the IHA service area. IHA provides affordable spay/neuter services to areas where these options may be lacking. Executive Director Mary Blount says, "We are already taking reservations for appointments in January. So any interested groups should give us a call if they have any questions... We are very proud and excited about what we have accomplished and would love to show off our new clinic facility."

Locally, IHA can be contacted at 319-363-1225. Please leave a message! SPAY IOWA, a program of IHA, provides a statewide toll free number (888-9-SPAY-IA) for information on spay/neuter services throughout Iowa. The phone counselor will access a database, and refer the caller to a program that will meet their needs. Please leave a message!

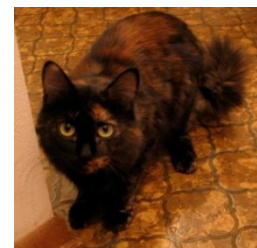
Be sure to visit IHA on Facebook and at <http://iowahumanealliance.org/>



## **ADORABLE, AVAILABLE ADOPTABLES!**

**Teresa Kopel, President**

Greetings! As many of you know, Johnson County Humane Society has a number of cats available for adoption. What you may not realize is that we don't have a shelter facility, so all of our cats are in foster care. Most are in private homes, but several are housed at the Coralville Animal Clinic, courtesy of Dr. Dennis Cowles. Our cats tend to wait longer for their forever homes because potential adopters aren't able to just walk into a shelter and fall in love with one of our cats. But our cats are no less wonderful, and they all have a story to tell. I would like to introduce you to a few of them.



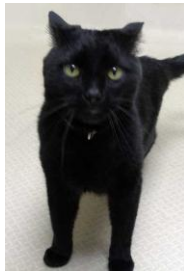
**Claire**

Claire was living with her kittens on the University of Iowa campus near the Pharmacy building. As her kittens grew, they started roaming near the loading dock, and people became concerned for their safety. I spent a week setting up traps every evening until I caught them all. Claire, the mama kitty, was the last one. It was spitting snow on that November morning as I picked up the trap at 1 AM. Claire is a drop-dead gorgeous longhaired tortoiseshell cat, very confident and self-assured. When I took her to the vet, she had a shotgun pellet in her jaw. Maybe someone had to shoot at her to drive her away when they dumped her.



**Bunny**

Bunny is another cat who was trapped with her kittens on campus. She is a medium-hair tabby with some white markings, incredibly loving and affectionate. She was living under the trailer housing the Motor Pool with her litter of kittens. Both Claire and Bunny had to have been someone's pet, because neither was feral.



**Lenny stretching at the Coralville Animal Clinic.**

Spike, Lenny, Ivy, and Mollie were living on Dubuque Street, where a local shop owner provided shelter for yet another mother of kittens. When her kittens were old enough, we took them in to try to find them an indoor home, so they wouldn't stay on the streets. At the same time, we took in Holly. When the floods hit Oakville in 2008, many residents abandoned their cats. A massive spay/neuter initiative was launched, but Holly was born in 2009 to one of the cats we missed.



**Holly**

Two older cats are at the Coralville Animal Clinic. Sam and Buttercup lost their home when their guardian died. They've had a hard time adjusting to losing both their person and their home all at once. Sam is a handsome older gentleman. Buttercup is a tiny orange tabby who is blind and deaf and needs a quiet home in which to live out her days in peace.



**Sam**

They share the clinic with Hopalong Cassidy, a black and white Manx mix who got her name because she kind of hops when she walks.



**Cassidy---The "rumpy" Manx!**

Without our foster care program, all of these cats would be living on the streets. They are safe, warm, dry and well cared for, and never have to go hungry. But their situation isn't ideal. Although volunteers go to the clinic every day to socialize, play with, and love on the cats there, the cats spend most of their days in small cages. Foster cats in homes have the run of the house, but have to compete for the attention of their caregivers, all of whom have their own cats, too.

So the next time you are looking to add a cat to your home, please remember our lovely adoptables. Check out our website and our Facebook page for more details - we would be happy to arrange a meeting. I know I will miss my fosters terribly, but they deserve a lap all their own.

Drop by the Coralville Animal Clinic and visit some of our fosters. Saturday morning is the best time, but feel free to call ahead, 319-351-6848.

## **SPAY NEUTER NEWS**

JCHS administers the Florence Unash Neuter Program, which awards funds to Johnson County residents who qualify for financial assistance to spay/neuter their cat or dog. In addition to this program, JCHS has also

established a budget line we're calling the, "Dr. Pat Farrant Spay/Neuter Fund," used to further subsidize spay/neuter surgeries. We make a point of holding a minimum of \$1,000 a month in this budget line for any special projects or opportunities that might pop up.

Through the Unash Program, spay/neuter events, and other JCHS subsidies, we have facilitated 7 dog neuters, 12 dog spays, 49 cat neuters, and 106 cat spays for a total of 174 animals over the past year.

We would like to thank Iowa Humane Alliance, who through their SPAY IOWA program helped us distribute Unash forms. In addition, the following held special Spay Days making greater impact in our community: Animals All About, Iowa Humane Alliance, Bright Eyes and Bushy Tails (all donated services!), and a big shout out to Oxford Vet for the Patty K. Aldrich Cat Spay Day, the Mini Spay Day, and the National Feral Cat Day Spay Event!! You are all doing so much to help the animals in our community!

Applications for the Unash Program may be picked up at the Iowa City Animal Center, or through SPAY IOWA -- 888-977-2942, or by contacting JCHS through e-mail or by post. (Local vets who work with JCHS may also have forms on hand.)

### **JCHS's First Book Sale and Silent Auction!!** **Amy McBeth, JCHS Treasurer**

On October 4, 2012, JCHS held its first Book Sale and Silent Auction event to raise funds for our organization. It was hosted by the Iowa City Odd Fellows and Rebekahs at their Eureka Lodge in Iowa City. I.O.O.F. member, Merlyn Sorrenson, helped procure the use of the lodge. Merlyn, a cat enthusiast, passed away recently, so a special "Thank You" goes to his daughter, RoZella, for suggesting the idea to him. Thanks also go to Bob and Peg Allen for their patient support, to Dave Irwin for lifting so many boxes and donating honey to the Silent Auction, and to Mike Finley for his flexibility with this event. Along with the use of their lodge, the Odd Fellows also made a very nice donation to JCHS to help us continue our work! Between the donation and the profits, we raised approximately \$750. And there are already noises about making this an annual fall event! Thanks also go to Leash on Life and Eble Music, both of which allowed us to use their stores as drop-off points for collecting books. Thank you!!

On a personal note, I would like to express my gratitude to JCHS stalwart, RoZella Sorrenson-Grabin. Rose is always the first to help out when a strong back, a good truck, and a will to get things done are needed! (Can't do it without ya, Sister!) The Kopf family also provided great help in sorting, packing, and hauling

books. And thanks also to members Amanda Clark, Lynn Schaul, Teresa Kopel, and Janet Ashman, for sorting, boxing, loading, unloading, etc. With more fine-tuning this will become a great fundraising event for us in the future!

### **NOTES FROM THE TREASURER** **Amy McBeth, JCHS Treasurer**

#### ***Where your donations go***

JCHS's largest expense is vet bills. We typically have 35+ animals in foster care, and though we receive discounted products and services from the vets we work with (THANK YOU!!), it all adds up. As we have funds available, we also help out community members in need. For example, when a local service dog needed dental care, JCHS granted her owner money for part of the cost. We're especially glad to help with certified service animals, as their well-being is so vital for their human companions. And as noted earlier, we have been more aggressive in subsidizing spay/neuter projects using JCHS funds. Spay/neuter is a good long-term investment not only in the health of those animals, but in our community as well, with fewer unwanted cats and dogs ending up in overstretched shelters and rescues. Kudos to the Spay Day teams of Oxford Vet, IHA, Animals All About, and Bright Eyes and Bushy Tails for their discounted and donated "spay day" services!

Another expense relates to the costs of our Pet Food Project. Since 2006, JCHS has transported tons (!) of pet food into the area. Our largest donations come from Nestlé Purina and the Rescue Bank National Pet Food Distribution Program (locally organized by Animal Resource Foundation of Peló). Trucks sometimes have to be rented and fuel costs reimbursed. Thanks to one particular volunteer --Hi, John!-- we have had fewer costs for this project this year. We also do incur some storage costs to keep canned pet food in a stable environment. JCHS also accepts regular donations from Wal-Mart, private vets, and some local retailers. We make this pet food available to foster caregivers, managers of cat colonies, individuals in need, and we disperse it through local food banks.

Finally, though our administrative costs are low, we do occasionally 'spend money to make money' with newsletters, events, and by maintaining a web presence.

Any donation is greatly appreciated. If you feel it isn't worth your time to send a smaller gift, just think what good it can do when pooled together with more gifts the same size! We are happy to fit within your budget!



## ***Iowa Shares***

Since 2007, JCHS has been a member organization of Iowa Shares, a federation of non-profits, raising money for its member groups through workplace giving campaigns. Iowa Shares is nearing the end of its 2012 Workplace Giving Campaign, but there is still time for many employees, including those at the University of Iowa, to pledge support for Johnson County Humane Society, through monthly giving to Iowa Shares. For UI employees, go to the HR Self-Service and FUS Portal, log on, and under the "Payroll" section choose "Charitable Giving". Then just start a donation under Iowa Shares. At that point there is an option of dividing the pledge between member groups, with JCHS being one of the choices. Employees of the University of Iowa can start a monthly donation to JCHS anytime through Iowa Shares at the UI HR Self-Service website, but in order to begin donations in January of 2013, pledges must be made ASAP.

Without Iowa Shares, JCHS would NOT have access to workplace giving campaigns. We would NOT have the ability to efficiently approach thousands of employees across Eastern Iowa and the rest of the state.

If you have the ability to make a monthly contribution to JCHS at your workplace through the Iowa Shares campaign, please do. Regular, predictable donations help us meet our goals through the year.

## ***Memorials and Special Thanks***

A friend to all animals, Betty P. Funk, passed away May 28, 2012. A number of people honored Betty's memory by giving to JCHS. We received close to \$500 in tribute to Betty's life-long passion of advocating for animals. Betty was known to be tenacious, sticking up for companion and livestock animals alike, and we would like to thank Betty's family (especially Rick and Kathy Funk), for directing donations to JCHS.

Johnson County Humane Society would also like to congratulate a very enterprising young person by the name of Emme Kraus, who along with her mom Sara, friends, and neighbors, raised \$300 in a neighborhood yard sale in August, donating it all to JCHS! This is a really great way to lighten your household load while raising funds for a cause in which you believe. Way to go Emme!!

Other tributes:

Cam and Jerry Vanni, in memory of Barbara Green.  
Barbara Siebenschuh, in memory of Barb Woods & Jim Sheumaker.  
Judy Berndt, in memory of "Princess" Stutsman.

Margaret Rankin, in honor of Dr. Dennis Cowles and Brenda of Coralville Animal Clinic.

Katy Lammers, in honor of Linda & Bruce Tomblin and "all they do to help cats!!"

A donation in honor of the Van Der Horsts and their efforts to reunite "Jack" with his family.

Stephen & Playung Slezak, Kathleen Janz, George & Calista Hospadarsky, directing donations to the Dr. Pat Farrant Spay/Neuter Fund.

Special thanks to continuing support from Ardith, Kevin, and Matthew Stoner for their annual North Liberty Fun Days donation, and to Lou Pine for his continuing support!

And an extra, extra (extra) special ***Thank You*** to former JCHS Treasurer, Dr. Pat Farrant, who gave us a very generous donation back in June that really set us up for subsidizing more spays and neuters. I hope we continue to do you proud, Pat. ☺

Thank you to all the other donors who contributed to JCHS since the last newsletter. Memorial donations and honoraria, and donations to a specific project or fund will be acknowledged in our next newsletter (unless instructed otherwise).

## ***Fundraising Events!***

Please join JCHS and Iowa Humane Alliance on December 14<sup>th</sup>, 5:30-7:30, at Beadology, 220 E. Washington St., Iowa City. For a \$5 donation, our annual Coffeehouse Cabaret will feature the song styling of "Gino and Friends," lots of food and beverages, and a holiday bazaar with great gifts for all!

If you have ideas for fundraising events, drop by our monthly meeting, the second Monday of each month, 7pm, at the Iowa City Public Library, or contact a JCHS Board Member with your thoughts.

***Winter Notes from the Feral Wrangler:*** Don't use metal bowls in winter—we don't want any tongues stuck! Use straw bedding only in feral boxes—it dries quicker than cloth bedding!

*JCHS Board: Teresa Kopel, Pres., Janet Ashman, V.P., Amanda Clark, Sec., Amy McBeth, Treas., RoZella Sorrenson-Grabin, Board Member, Mary Blount, Board Member*



*Johnson County Humane Society has been a proud member of Iowa Shares since 2007.*