



Johnson County Humane Society
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Winter 2013 Newsletter

JCHS PLEDGES to FACF CAPITAL CAMPAIGN!

This past March, JCHS made an ambitious commitment to our colleagues at the Friends of the Animal Center and Iowa City Animal Care and Adoption Center---the JCHS board pledged \$10,000 to secure naming rights to one of the cat adoption areas of the new Animal Care and Adoption Center. The new ICAC facility will be located north of the Terry Trueblood Recreation Area at 3910 Napoleon Lane in Iowa City, and will humanely house 122 cats, 29 dogs, and 14 small mammals/exotics---65 more animals than were served in the pre-flood center in 2007. We feel this is a great investment in our community and a wonderful new facility that will enhance the quality of the lives of the animals temporarily taking shelter there. It will also be a fine new work space for the ICAC employees. To date JCHS has met 40% of our commitment, but we need help in accomplishing our goal. If you would like your next donation to JCHS to be directed toward our naming rights goal, please indicate this by writing "10K Pledge" in the memo line of your next donation check to JCHS!



Dave and BUTTERCUP!

CAT MAGNETS

They are out there and you'll know it when you meet one. Cat magnets. You know, people who adore cats and attract them without even trying.

We met one yesterday. Let's just call him Dave. It was kinda spooky, but way cool. Donola's neighbor Dave lost his cat, Midnight, to Feline Leukemia about a month ago. It broke his heart to be cat-less. So Donola brought him to CAC to meet the three JCHS cats being fostered there.

Dave entered the room and sat down on the floor. Donola, Alexa, and I did too. Before we could begin a conversation, Sam (sweet but territorial and therefore grumpy about sharing the room with other felines) raced over to Dave, sat next to him, and demanded attention. Dave automatically began petting him. I watched, astounded, because historically, Sam takes a while to warm up and get to know. He does not normally seek attention from strangers...they have to earn the privilege from him.

We talk. Sam walks across Dave's legs to get to his other hand. Donola (who knows Sam) and I exchange a glance. I say, "Dave, um, just so you know, Sam never reacts to new people like this. It usually takes a few days for him to decide to interact. This is amazing us!

Dave just smiles knowingly and says, "Oh he knows I really like cats." We talk some more. Sam lies adoringly against Dave's leg. Then Buttercup (18 years old, blind, and deaf) who has been rolling a treat ball around near Dave suddenly abandons it, climbs into his lap, and Velcros herself to his chest!

Buttercup's favorite activities are sitting on Joan and playing with her treat ball. They do not normally include climbing up a man she has just met! Again, Dave says, "Yeah, cats do that when I'm around. We all laughed.

After everybody left, Joan and I were hoping that Dave would choose Sam (since Sam had clearly selected Dave). It was not to be. The next day, Dave fell in love with a cat named Ghost from our municipal shelter. While we are happy for them both, we wish we could clone cat magnets like Dave for all cats in need

ADORABLE, AVAILABLE ADOPTABLES!



SIRLOIN!

SIRLOIN'S STORY

Anita was in the Coralville Animal Clinic waiting room when she noticed the bulletin board featuring JCHS cats in need of a home. "A cat named Sirloin?" she thought. "Hey, I know that cat!"

Back to 2003. A dark and stormy late Fall night found Anita driving north from Mt. Pleasant, Iowa. After meeting her parents for dinner at the steakhouse, Anita placed the wrapped slice of leftover meat for her dog Jake in the truck and began the rainy trip back to Iowa City. Lots of traffic on the highway.

Was that a kitten? Yes, a bedraggled, wet kitten was walking along the side of the road. Anita pulled over and stopped. When she called out to the kitten, he mewed and ran into the ditch. Anita followed, hoping the kitten would not dash back into traffic.

A State Trooper stopped to ask if Anita needed car help. By now, soaking wet, Anita explained about the kitten. The Trooper liked cats, but not enough to get wet over one.

Anita felt that the kitten wanted to trust her, but not enough to let her capture him. Then she remembered the steak. It took about an hour, but the steak allowed Anita to grab the kitten and release him in her truck. Fortunately, he curled up on the seat and fell asleep.

The next day, Anita took the kitten to the West Branch Animal Clinic. Dr. Delaney laughed when Anita recounted the rescue story and suggested that Sirloin might be a fitting name for a steak-rescued cat. Anita knew she couldn't keep Sirloin, but she wanted him to get the proverbial good home.

The Clinic knew of an older woman with a son who had recently euthanized their beloved cat and were in need of another. Anita was delighted that Sirloin went home to live with Carol and David. Ten years later, after Carol's death, Sirloin found his way to JCHS and reacquainting himself with his rescuer. Small world.

KITTEN RESCUE

The homeowners were leaving on vacation that scorching Saturday morning in June. They hadn't planned on discovering a group of small kittens, but fortunately they noticed them before they left and contacted JCHS. In response to the e-mail, Lynn went to check things out that day and found the kittens all lined up parallel to each other, sleeping. Lynn looked everywhere for the mom and then just waited quietly. The mom cat was nowhere. Lynn took them home to the upstairs bathroom. The resident dog knew something was up right away. The resident cats, not so much.

All four got eye drops the next day at the vet clinic and one kitten with a lump on his leg had his abscess drained and got antibiotics to go. Despite being bottle babies early on in their lives, the kittens have been healthy ever since. Maverick, the resident dog, has been a "big help" caring for the kittens since peering with curiosity into the guest-room bathtub at the tiny hand-size babies. Maverick and kittens have made a habit of playing tag and climbing on and softly mouthing each other's hair.

"Since day one with us, the kittens have never bit, scratched, or hissed but have been constantly purring because they love attention. They adore being handled! The kittens get along with one other and are outgoing, affectionate, and playful with people. All enjoy toys and being held like a baby. They are climbers and will race up your back, either settling on the back of your neck or shoulder, or ascending to the summit (of your head). They love to jump at and chase after toys (balls, laser lights, wand toys, mice, and the spring with the puffy ball on a scratching post)."

"The kittens eat dry and canned food, drink water out of dishes, and use the litter box appropriately. They rarely meow or cry, maybe just teeny tiny meows (because they are excited) when food is brought to them or when people enter the room. They seem very adaptable and are curious explorers."



Mohawk!

Mohawk enjoys playing with cat toys, wand toys, and laser lights and wrestling with the other kittens. He is also content being held like a baby and having his belly petted. Contact us!



Blackie!

Blackie has always been the biggest kitten and the only black one of the litter. He was the first one to master walking and climbing and has always been the biggest eater, whether bottle-feeding or eating kitten food from a dish. Blackie's coat is unique with a black background and visible black tabby markings next to his big green eyes. Contact us!



Princess!

Princess is the only female of the litter. She loves attention, especially being held like a baby and having her belly petted or held on your shoulder wanting attention. She is the cuddliest kitten of the litter, and enjoys snuggling as close to a person's face as possible—even when her brothers are playing. Princess' coat markings include spots on her back and hips. Contact us!



Dirty Paws!

Dirty Paws got his name because he is the only brown tabby kitten with dark markings on almost all of his pink paw pads. (That was how we could easily tell him apart from the others.)

Like his siblings, Dirty Paws is very playful and loving. He enjoys playing with cat toys, wand toys, and laser lights and wrestling with the other kittens. He is also content being held like a baby and having his belly petted.

Live, Let Live, & Learn—If you happen to find young kittens (or other baby animals) without their mom, please think things through before you act. Bottle babies have very

special needs (food, temperature, excretory, etc.) and require expert care. It's easy to shift into "helping mode." But mom cats do kitten care best!

Unless you are sure mom isn't coming back, be prepared to quietly observe for a while. Human intervention is not always what's best for the animal! To paraphrase Antoine de Sainte-Éxupéry—you become responsible for those you rescue.

SPAY NEUTER NEWS

JCHS administers the Florence Unash Neuter Program, awarding funds to financially qualifying Johnson County residents. The Unash Program is underutilized, so spread the word! Interested clients can access the Unash application form by going to the JCHS webpage www.johnsoncountyhumane.org, clicking on "Spay/Neuter" on the left hand side of the page, and scrolling down to the section entitled, "You May Qualify for Spay/Neuter Financial Assistance". There is a link to "download" the form. JCHS also awards grants to the IHA Regional Spay/Neuter Clinic toward spay/neuter of area companion animals in need, and we regularly work with private vets on individual projects.

At this writing, JCHS has subsidized spay/neuter and miscellaneous vet care for approximately 200 companion animals in 2013. Included is the ongoing use of the Unash Neuter Program, events held by IHA Regional Spay/Neuter Clinic (along with ongoing TNR projects), a Spay Day held at Oxford Vet Clinic, and work with area private vets.

We'd like to thank IHA Regional Spay/Neuter Clinic, Oxford vet clinic, and other private veterinarians who cooperate with JCHS to provide affordable spay/neuter services for companion animals in need! If you know of a veterinarian who would like to work with us on a special spay/neuter event, please have him/her contact us by e-mail. jchs@johnsoncountyhumane.org

Report on JCHS Second Annual Book Sale (and Pet Boutique)

On October 12th, JCHS held its Second Annual Book Sale with the added feature of a Pet Boutique, featuring hundreds of pet-related items. The event was held at the Iowa City Odd Fellows & Rebekahs Eureka Lodge in Iowa City and netted JCHS approximately \$500. Thanks go to I.O.O.F. member, Dave Irvin, who helped procure use of the lodge and aided us in unloading. We hope to continue this event and see increasing sales. Thank you also to JCHS Board members and volunteers for helping out with this event!



NOTES FROM THE TREASURER
Amy McBeth, JCHS Treasurer

JCHS and Iowa Shares—Bad News, Good News

The **bad** news... JCHS directors were stretched too thin to volunteer on the IS Board for the 2013 campaign, so we had to bow out.

The **good** news... Those who have given 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. A slightly higher non-member administration fee will be deducted, but we feel it's well worth your convenience and our financial security if you choose to donate to us this way.

In short, if you have given to JCHS through Iowa Shares your current pledge will continue until the end of 2013, but for the campaign happening right now, you may need to contact Holly Hart, Iowa Shares Program Coordinator, at 319-338-1446, regarding your pledge to JCHS.

Memorials and Special Donations

For the second half of 2013....

Paul & Carolyn Sueppel,
In Honor of Janet Ashman and her cats.

Margaret Rankin,
In Appreciation for her cat Trixie.

Gayle Lesser,
In Honor of her nephew, David Clark,
as a special Christmas gift.

Melvin & Diane Sunshine,
In Memory of Milkshake.

Judy Berendt,
In Memory of Jenna & PJ.

Richard & Pat Solomon,
In Memory of Merlynn & Joyce Sorrenson.

Phyllis Rosenwinkel,
In Memory of Ray "Sew Slow" Waganka.

Lindsay & Barry Koopman,
In Memory of Nicole Lynn Richardson.

Barbara Siebenschuh,
In Memory of Sydney Gussman.

Mark Considine,
In Memory of his mother,
and Honoring her cat Sirloin.

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!

Instead of buying extra "stuff" over the holidays, make a donation in honor of a loved one to JCHS or ask your loved ones to make a contribution for you!

Put out a donation container at your holiday parties and ask folks if they would like to give a little. Holiday party games and contests are also a great way to raise a little cash for us.

Look for us at Leash on Life from 11-3 Saturday and Sunday before Christmas. We'll giftwrap your LOL purchases in exchange for a 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 by email at jchs@johnsoncountyhumane.org. In order to use our name at your event, we request you contact us ahead of time.

NOTES FROM THE FERAL CAT WRANGLER

A feral cat shelter can be something as simple as an extra-large Styrofoam box situated under a porch or up close to a building. Try to find a relatively dry place to put the box. Leave the lid on--cut a cat-sized round hole out of one side--put a lot of straw in it--drape an old blanket or towel over part of the opening to help cut the wind-- put it next to a structure with the opening facing toward that structure to help cut the wind further—leave just enough room for the cat to navigate. You may need to put a heavy object on top to keep the box from blowing over. And remember, straw, straw, and lots more straw for drier winter bedding!

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!"