

December, 2015

Waggin' Tales

Humane Society of McDonough County

PO Box 7, Macomb IL 61455

309-837-5611 hsmcil.org



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The Humane Society of McDonough County is a proud member of the Macomb Area Chamber of Commerce.

With Thanksgiving and the ongoing holiday season, we find ourselves more consciously counting our blessings and being appreciative of all that we have and of those who contribute to our wellbeing and happiness. As I review what the HSMC has accomplished over the last year, it's with gratitude to our members and the community-at-large for our ability to do what we do for the companion animals in need in McDonough County.

Our fund-raising efforts have been rewarding. We previously reported on the third annual *Wine, Whiskers, and Whimsy* fundraiser. This fall we again issued a fund-raising challenge to the community with the *Brix-Lindahl Challenge*. We raised well over \$10,000, close to the amount brought in the first year with the Brix Challenge. And, the estate giving, memorials, individual donations, and membership fees all help enormously.

Our newest initiative is a Pet Food Pantry in conjunction with Loaves and Fishes. Too often individuals and families have to make the difficult decision to give up their pets because their budgets can't stretch to cover pet food and cat litter. We all know how important pets are to both adults and children for companionship, emotional connections, and even physical health. Hopefully, stocking shelves with cat and dog food and cat litter will assist in keeping pets with their families.

This year the HSMC Annual Meeting will be held in the Community Room of City Hall on January 21st, beginning at 6:00 p.m. All HSMC members and interested individuals are invited. We do hope you will join us. The HSMC Board and friends will provide food and drink. Margaret Ovitt, a dog foster mom, will present *An Incredible Journey with Beau (aka Bones)*, which is sure to entertain and bring laughter, and maybe a wet eye or two. Please come and share with us that evening.

On December 19th we are holding a *HSMC Foster Cat Showcase* from 1:00 to 3:00 in the Community Room of City Hall. This will be a wonderful opportunity to get "up close and personal" with these very adoptable and healthy cats. We plan to hold a second showcase after the holidays.

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We use July 1 as a beginning date (for State reporting) when counting the number of cats and dogs we rescue annually from the shelter. Over the last six months we have rescued 51 cats and two dogs. Twelve cats remain in foster care. Thanks so much to all our foster parents who give love and care to the animals we rescue. The cats gain social skills and confidence in their surroundings and the foster parents can describe their personalities and habits to potential adopters. Four of the dogs we had in foster care have been adopted, leaving Ellie as our only foster dog. She's a beauty and a sweetheart, as loving and beautiful in spirit as her foster mom who cares for her until the right forever home can be found.

The collaborative efforts of our poster committee and shelter personnel in promoting the great Shelter cats and dogs have had positive results. Recently there has been a lot of Lab love to be had at the shelter. About half the dogs are labs/lab mixes. I want to say too that we greatly support the County Board Committee's decision to run the Holiday Special on Cats from November 15th through January 31st.

We have sponsored five spay/neuter transports of barn and feral cats to the Quincy Humane Society since last January, resulting in 148 cats being altered and receiving vaccines. We appreciate the partnership with QHS in this effort to reduce the number of cats and spread of feline disease in our county. We also appreciate those good citizens who take the time to trap and bring cats to the transport early in the morning.

We held two cat microchip clinics for cats through a partnership with All Pets and the Bushnell Animal Service. Micro-chipping of pets is very important for their safety, but especially for cats. Nationally, only 2 percent of lost cats are returned to their homes. Microchips help tremendously as all shelter and veterinary clinics are required to check for chips. Help us spread the word about the importance of chipping beloved pets.

All in all, it's been a good year, thanks to our volunteers, contributors, and partners. We do hope to spend the evening with you at the Annual Meeting on January 21st.

Happy Holidays,

Bonnie Skripps, President

The HSMC Starts a Pet Food Pantry

The HSMC has initiated a pet food pantry in cooperation with Loaves and Fishes, located in the basement of the Presbyterian Church. In addition, pet food/kitty litter donations are being accepted in the Macomb City Hall vestibule and will be distributed to the pantry by HSMC volunteers. We plan to make this an ongoing project beyond the holiday season.

If you would rather make a monetary donation for pet food, please send checks to HSMC, P.O. Box 7, Macomb, IL 61455. Make a note that it's for the Pet Food Pantry. Any help is appreciated!



City Hall



Yoda

The Happiest Dog Alive!

Hello to everyone! I am Yoda, the happiest dog alive as I have been with my forever family for exactly one year, this month. I remember being in the shelter for many, many days and feeling so sad, but my life turned around when Linda and Mark came to visit me one day. I remember wagging my tail so hard that my entire body was wagging and swaying along with my tail. I smiled my best doggie smile to show my appreciation. The word was out on the streets that the Humane Society of McDonough County was going to rescue me, and I was going to become Mark and Linda's foster dog. It seems that they had lost their oldest German Shepherd dog to cancer and their other German Shepherd, Lexie, was very depressed and despondent over that loss. I knew if they gave me a chance, I could help her out.

Once I arrived at their home, I met Lexie and the household kitties. The kitties didn't even bother me as they kept their distance and watched me from afar. Lexie and I had our introductory smells and then she took me outside to the big, fenced in back yard where we ran and played and really got to know each other. How much fun was this? She became my new, best friend! I also heard that Linda and Mark really liked me, too. They knew I was already potty trained and I even showed them a few of my favorite tricks such as come, sit, and shake. Now, I even give out high-5 signs! Of course, there are plenty of kisses that go along with anything I do. Would you believe that at night I even have my own special bed complete with a blanket and pillow? After only a few days, Linda and Mark kept telling me that I was a "keeper." While I didn't really know what that word meant, I knew that it was something very special for me.

I remember several trips to the vet's office for vaccinations, neutering and treatment of my heartworms. Once those treatments were finished, I was cleared by the HSMC for adoption. How could things get any better than this? Once again, I became the happiest dog alive because Linda and Mark Andrews officially adopted me. I now have a forever home where I am loved and spoiled. Adopting a shelter dog is the way to go! I hope other dogs will come to know the love and joy of being adopted by a caring family.

Dickens on the Square – Pet Photos with Father Christmas

The Macomb Area Convention and Visitors Bureau invited the HSMC to participate in pet photos with Father Christmas during Dickens on the Square. Stacie Kwacala of Captured Moments Photography provided her services and donated 100% of the proceeds to the HSMC. It was fun to see so many pets, many dressed in the holiday spirit. Thanks to Stacie's donation, the HSMC added \$500 to its county animal programs. A big thank you also goes to Doug Menke, who portrayed Father Christmas, and MACVB Executive Director Nikki Gray and Kristin Terry, for inviting us to the fun event.



Front row l to r:
Bill Johnson,
Father Christmas
Doug Menke.

Second row:
Cecilia Benelli,
Terri Hare,
Bonnie Skripps



Second Cat Microchip Clinic Held at Bushnell Veterinary Service

The HSMC held its second cat microchip clinic at the Bushnell Veterinary Service on Saturday, November 14. Thanks to Dr. McKim and his staff who volunteered their time, 16 cats were micro-chipped. The HSMC appreciates the support from the Bushnell Veterinary Service.



HSMC
Board Meeting
Schedule
(2nd Monday of each
month unless
otherwise noted):
(Tentative Schedule)

January 21
Annual Meeting
6:00 p.m.
Macomb City Hall
Community Room

February 9

March 8

5:30 pm
Wesley Village
Dining Room



McDonough County Animal Shelter

Vicky Van Trump: Animal Control Officer

Shelter Phone: 309-837-2989

Email: mcas@macomb.com

Hours: Mon-Fri 11-5 p.m., Sat: 10-noon

Located: 101 East Tower Road, Macomb IL

The McDonough County Animal Shelter is a county run facility staffed by employees through county dollars. The HSMC does not have independent access to the shelter, nor the authority to arrange adoptions. The HSMC works diligently to promote adoption of the animals available at the McDonough County Animal Shelter. Please make adoption your first option!



Upcoming Events

HSMC Foster Cat Showcase

December 19, 2015 Macomb City Hall Community Room 1-3 p.m.

Come Meet Your New Best Friend!

All cats are spay/neutered and have first year vaccinations. Adoption fee \$25.



Jackie and Tanner, a perfect mother/son pair



Chestnut, the strong, silent boy



Marble, a purr monster, loves everyone



Julietta, a gorgeous tortoiseshell



Becky, a friendly tabby



Gianna, a sweet silver-gray girl



Freckles, a striking calico



Indigo and Midnight, two littermates who love to play and cuddle



If you want to adopt that day, please bring a veterinarian or professional reference and a pet carrier.

HSMC Annual Meeting Thursday, January 21 at 6:00 p.m. Community Room at City Hall

Come see your HSMC board in action! All members are invited to attend the Humane Society of McDonough County annual meeting. Bring a friend!

The evening will consist of dinner, an exciting speaker, and election of the 2016 Executive Board during the annual meeting. Please come spend an enjoyable evening with other HSMC members/enthusiasts in a casual atmosphere.



Ellie — A Sweet Girl Waiting for Her Forever Home



Ellie very much enjoys living with her foster mom, but is still hoping to find the perfect forever home. She is a calm, happy, and healthy young adult retriever mix, who loves to go for walks, is house-trained, and appreciates her toys as well as a good snuggle.

Ellie is spayed and up-to-date on her shots. She has a beautiful thick black coat, but does not seem to shed much at all. While Ellie wants to be the only canine in the family, she likes children and doesn't mind sharing her home with the family cats. She has a sweet, loving temperament, and would really be a low maintenance dog — she just hopes for a routine walk time and positive interaction with her people. Ellie can occupy herself when left home alone, but is happy when her people arrive home and is ready for attention.

If you are interested in meeting Ellie, or learning more about her, contact Pat Stewart, her foster mom, at 309-333-5819 or pmstewart42@msn.com.

The HSMC is honored to have the following Business Members:

**All Pets Veterinary Clinic
Animal Medical Center
Black Nugget, LLC
Bushnell Veterinary Service, PC
Clugston-Tibbitts Funeral Homes
Dad's Place
Diamond Den
Green Shingle Graphics
Hickory Kennels
Matthew S. McClure, DMD-PC
MidAmerica National Bank
No Place Like Home
Purdum Gray Ingledue Beck
Sodexo
State Farm/Cathy Early**

If you would like to renew or become a new Business Member, please visit the HSMC website at: <http://www.hsmcil.org/membership/>

The HSMC offers three business membership levels:
\$100 Protector, \$250 Guardian, \$500 Defender

Memberships include: a certificate of membership, 2 copies of Waggin' Tales (more upon request), a business card with the HSMC contact information, and the knowledge that your business is a core supporter of the HSMC mission to protect and improve the lives of the animals living in our community.

HSMC Board of Directors 2015

**Bonnie Skripps, President
Bill Johnson, Vice President
Terri Hare, Treasurer
Cecilia Benelli, Recording Secretary
Terri Hare, Correspondence Secretary
Amy Betz, Education Chair
Open, Events Coordinator
Kate Shattuck, Membership Chair
Kathy Chambers, County Shelter Liaison
JB Biernbaum, Board Member
Dave Monninger, Board Member
Don MacVean, Board Member**

Please consider taking your Humane Society membership one step further by donating your time and talents to running this organization. We do need you! Please, help shape the future of the Humane Society of McDonough County!

Brix-Lindahl Challenge Huge Success

Because of the caring residents in this wonderful community the Brix-Lindahl Challenge was a huge success in raising funds for the Humane Society of McDonough County. Local citizens rose to the challenge presented by our good friends Chris Brix and Tate and Sharon Lindahl. An amazing \$10,360.00 in donations was raised. These funds will be used to directly help animals in need in McDonough County.

In fall of 2014, Chris came to the HSMC with a clever idea of proposing a challenge to the community to raise funds for the HSMC. He offered to match up to \$1,000.00 in donations made during a given period. This year he generously offered to repeat the challenge and his gift of \$1,000.00 in matching funds. This was amazing. And things got even more exciting when fellow animal-lovers Tate and Sharon Lindahl “doubled up” the challenge by generously offering an additional \$1,000.00 in matching funds raised by this year’s challenge. The idea, once again, caught fire. Our local media venues immediately gave their fantastic support of this community event. Their amazing support was instrumental in its success. They helped us reach an enormous number of people. And, once again, the generous support of our community members was awe-inspiring.

Our citizens’ generosity was tremendous and will directly help animals in need in McDonough County in many positive ways. It is so impressive to see what the caring residents in this area can do to make a difference. We are extremely grateful to everyone who participated in the Brix-Lindahl Challenge. The results are proof that a spark can create a fire that is truly heart-warming.

The Humane Society of McDonough County is a 100% volunteer organization with a vision to provide humane care and treatment for all animals in McDonough County. Through a variety of initiatives the HSMC strives to assist animals without owners, those in need of medical intervention and spay/neuter procedures and provide education and assistance on the humane treatment of animals. Because of the amazing generosity of Chris Brix, Tate and Sharon Lindahl, our area media sources and our wonderful members and friends the HSMC will be able to continue and expand its important work to help area animals in need. We sincerely thank everyone who took part in the Brix-Lindahl Challenge this year.



Tate and Sharon Lindahl with Matilda



Chris Brix and PeeWee