

WINTER 2016

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HSMCIL.ORG

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Waggin' Tales

HUMANE SOCIETY OF MCDONOUGH COUNTY

Happy New Year

I hope your holidays were happy and safe. I've no doubt that during the holidays we showed our cats and dogs how much we appreciate them and consider them as members of our families. Their unconditional loyalty and unquestioning love is year-round, but the holidays give us extra impetus to say thank you. However, a real thank you is to live up to the life-long commitment we make when we bring a new pet into our homes – to provide ongoing attention, health care, love and respect for their needs – and to make good on our promise of “till death do we part.” If there is any message we want to convey to pet owners, it is *please* do not toss your cat or dog aside for mere convenience, give up on them too quickly as they adjust to their new home, or neglect their needs just because they do not voice their distress or depression. We know that we can rely on our membership to be role models and spokespersons for responsible pet ownership.

The ongoing support of this community is invaluable in our efforts to ensure that the needs of all McDonough County cats and dogs are addressed, whether they are in the shelter, lost, neglected, alone, or in families that are struggling to keep them in their homes. This support is a gift for which we cannot say “thank you” often enough. And this support is year-round. Whether you enjoy the camaraderie of our *Wine, Whiskers, and Whimsy* fundraiser in the spring or choose to accept and motivate others to meet the *Brix Challenge* in the fall, we can count on the generosity and engagement of our supporters and businesses.

And we couldn't accomplish all that we do without our partnerships. We thank Loaves and Fishes in providing space for the HSMC Pet Food Pantry, and City Hall where we have our collection space in the entryway. We thank Quincy Humane Society for providing transportation to all the cats who receive low-cost spay/neuters. We thank the Helping Paw Project for getting the word out to their base and successfully getting Missy and Red (two senior labs) adopted from the shelter. We thank our business partners: Sodexo for the Adopt A Pet Ads; All Pets for the Adoption Posters; and all of our business members who provide so much support, either directly or indirectly. And we thank all our foster families, without whom there would be no second chances. Lastly, we thank those individuals and organizations who have donated their time, services, or fundraising projects to the HSMC and the animals of our county. These efforts have been highlighted in our 2016 Waggin' Tales newsletters.

The holiday season also brings many of us memories of those pets we have lost over the last year, or from many years ago. The downside of loving a cat or dog is the difficult realization that their lives are much shorter than we wish, and that we will lose them. However, once they have gained a piece of our hearts, they are always there. And, the greater the number of animals we allow in our lives and love, the fuller our hearts become. Enjoy your pets now, cherish the memories of those who have passed, and promote dog and cat adoption. And, accept our thanks for all you do for the animals.

Happy Holidays!

Bonnie Skripps, HSMC President

Annual Organization Dinner Meeting

Please join the HSMC Board of Directors for the Annual Organization Dinner Meeting and election of 2017 Officers.

Tuesday, January 24, 2017
Macomb City Hall

5:00 p.m. Social and Light Supper, 6:00 p.m. Meeting

2017 HSMC Executive Board Election

Annual Organization Dinner Meeting
 Macomb City Hall Community Room
 January 24, 2017, 5-9 pm

The HSMC is taking nominations for the 2017 Board of Directors! Please consider taking your Humane Society membership one step further by donating your time and talents to running this organization. We do need you to help shape the future of the Humane Society of McDonough County!

Per **Article IV, Section 7**, this is notification of the slate of positions along with current nominees received to date. **HSMC members are encouraged to apply.** Nominees will be voted on at the Annual Organization Dinner Meeting pursuant to **Article V, Section 3**. Pursuant to **Article V, Section 4**: The Members of the Board of Directors can consist of up to 15 members. Currently there are 12 nominees.

Director: Open to HSMC members interested in helping the animals of McDonough County by donating their time and talents to shaping the future of this organization. The purpose of this Society is the prevention of cruelty to animals, the relief of suffering among animals, and the extension of humane education.

Slate of Nominees for 2017

Article V, Section 2: Only HSMC Members are eligible for election as Directors. No individual shall derive monetary benefit of any kind from being a director.

<u>Board/Committee Positions</u>	<u>Nominees to Date</u>
Officer/President	Bonnie Skripps
Officer/Vice President	Bill Johnson
Officer/Treasurer/Correspondence	Terri Hare
Officer/Recording Secretary	Cecelia Benelli
Director/Education Chair	Amy Betz
Director/County Shelter Project Manager	Max Kreps
Director/Membership	Kate Shattuck
Director	Linda Andrews
Director	JB Biernbaum
Director	Kathy Chambers
Director	Dave Monninger
Director	Karen Proulx
Director	Open: _____
Director	Open: _____
Director	Open: _____



On December 5, HSMC board members volunteered to ring the Salvation Army bells at Farm King. Standing left to right: Jan Johnson, Cecilia Benelli, Terri Hare, Linda Andrews, Bill Johnson. Seated: Rio, Kate Shattuck, and Gracie.



WARM YOUR HEART



Check out McDonough County Animal Shelter Facebook page to see all of the heartwarming “Successful Adoptions & Happily Ever Afters!” adoption stories and photos, like Maximus (left), who was adopted in September. Look at the MCAS photo album Successful Adoption & Happily Ever Afters! at <https://www.facebook.com/McDonoughCountyAnimalShelter/>
This is a true testament that shelter animals make great pets!

Thank you

The students of West Prairie High School donated \$281 to the HSMC from a recent blood drive fundraiser through the Mississippi Valley Regional Blood

LIVE
LOVE
BARK

*“Until one has
loved an animal a
part of one’s soul
remains
unawakened.”*

Anatole France



Black is the New Black!

Did you know that black pets are the least adopted and spend the most time in a shelter. It’s called Black Dog or Cat Syndrome, which hurts both black pets who don’t get adopted and potential adopters who miss out on a great pet.

Roscoe, Diesel, Socks, Daisy Mae, and Felix are just some of the beautiful black dogs that are now at the McDonough County Animal Shelter. A selection of breeds, ages, sizes, and personalities is available.

Check out the gang available for adoption at the McDonough County Animal Shelter.

Adoption fees range from \$25 to \$50 (includes spay/neuter, vaccines, and microchip).

The Humane Society of McDonough County is covering a portion of the adoption fee of those dogs not already altered. Black is the new black!

Cat Adoption Special!



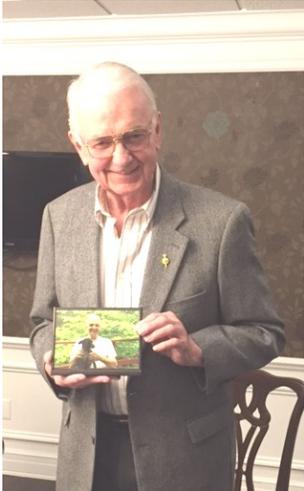
Spread the word! The McDonough County Board and McDonough County Animal Shelter have announced a cat/kitten adoption special through January 31!

Unaltered cats can be adopted for \$25 plus \$12 microchip fee; altered cats for \$10 plus \$12 microchip fee.

Help give a feline a happy new year with a furever home!

Check out the Humane Society of McDonough County or McDonough County Animal Shelter on Facebook!

Brix Challenge 2016 Another Success!



(Pictured at left: Bonnie Smith-Skripps, HSMC President; Chris Brix; Patti Nemec "Brix Challenge Chairperson")

Once again the fundraising challenge presented by our good friend Chris Brix was met with tremendous generosity. This year's *Brix Challenge* raised an amazing \$9,645.00 in donations to support the work of the HSMC.

Those who donated to the Brix Challenge will make a positive difference for animals in need in McDonough County. Funds raised this year will support HSMC initiatives such as: promoting adoption of cats and dogs at the McDonough County Animal Shelter; rescuing and fostering those animals that don't get adopted from the Shelter; reducing the overpopulation of cats via the spay/neuter program; providing medical care to Shelter and County animals in need; and helping to keep pets in their homes with their families via the Pet Food Pantry.

Because of the generosity of Chris Brix, our wonderful members and friends and our regional media sources the HSMC will be able to continue and expand its important work to help area animals in need.

We are extremely grateful to everyone who participated in the *Brix Challenge 2016*.
Our most sincere "Thank You"

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. The HSMC is separate from, but works in a valued partnership with, the McDonough County Animal Shelter. This requires an ongoing revenue stream.



WELCOME HOME, SUSIE!

HSMC foster dog, Susie, was placed in her forever home this fall with Kim and Bruce Sims. Susie is being loved and spoiled, and treated like a member of the family.

Congratulations, Susie!

McDonough County Animal Shelter

Animal Control Officer: Kelsey Havens

Phone: 309-837-2989

Email: mcas@macomb.com

Website: <http://mcdonoughcountyanimalshelter.weebly.com/>

Facebook: [facebook.com/McDonough-County-Animal-Shelter](https://www.facebook.com/McDonough-County-Animal-Shelter)

Located: 101 Tower Road

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

The McDonough County Animal Shelter is a county-run facility staffed by County employees. 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.



ADOPT CHEWIE!

I'm currently in HSMC foster care and would be a great indoor kitty and furever friend. I am a 4-year old sweet girl who is spayed and front-declawed. I want to be the focus of your attention as the only pet in your home. Contact the HSMC to adopt me and I'll help you celebrate the new year!



Dozer Represents the MCAS

Dozer acted as spokesdog for the McDonough County Animal Shelter (MCAS) to collect the first round of donations from McArthur School!

Boy, did he love meeting all the kids!

Thank you McArthur School for hosting Dozer and the MCAS!

Make adoption your first option!

DICKENS TRADITIONS

As part of Dickens on the Square, Stacie Kwacala, owner of Captured Moments Photography, donated her time to again take photos with Father Christmas during Dickens on the Square on December 3rd, 2016. All proceeds were donated by Stacie to the HSMC. It's become a tradition for many pet owners to have their annual photo taken with Father Christmas! Thank you, Stacie Kwacala/Captured Moments Photography!



2016 HSMC Board of Directors

Bonnie Skripps, President
 Bill Johnson, Vice President
 Terri Hare, Treasurer & Correspondence
 Cecilia Benelli, Recording Secretary
 Amy Betz, Education Chair
 Kate Shattuck, Membership Chair
 Max Kreps, County Shelter Liaison
 Linda Andrews, Board Member
 JB Biernbaum, Board Member
 Kathy Chambers, Board Member
 Dave Monninger, 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.





Business Members

The HSMC is honored to have the following Business Members:

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

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

Memberships include: a certificate of membership, 2 copies of Waggin' Tales issues (more available 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.



**Humane Society
of McDonough County**

**P.O. Box 7
Macomb, IL 61455**