

WINTER 2017-18

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Humane Society of McDonough County

# Waggin' Tales



Seasons Greetings,

As I was getting out Christmas decorations, I came across a beautifully illustrated Little Simon Inspiration book I had picked up a few years ago. It's called *Room for a Little One, A Christmas Tale*; and is a take on the traditional Christmas story. In this children's book, Kind Ox makes room for Old Dog, who in turn makes room for Stray Cat, who then makes room for Small Mouse. Each time, the Kind Ox and the larger animal says to the smaller arrival, "There's always room for a little one here." This put me in mind of a few of the especially needy animals that have come to our attention or were at the shelter recently. We so appreciate the good people who willingly make room in their homes, and in their lives, for these homeless beings. This summer a couple of good Samaritans in Industry found a young cat that had been shot in the eye with a pellet gun and contacted us. Nicole Humbert agreed to foster her as she recuperated from medical treatment, and has since decided to adopt this one-eyed beauty, now named Bing. Another special case was Sarge, a happy, handsome, and relatively young Shepherd mix, who was released to the shelter upon the sudden death of his owner. Sarge exhibited instability in his hindquarters that could possibly have had its origins in a degenerative disease, and thus served to hinder his possible adoption. Jennifer Hocker visited him at the shelter and decided to open her home to this sweet boy, regardless of his impairment. And then there was Zeus, a nice, but dejected 13-year-old Shepherd mix, adopted by Bridget and Bill Pumo, who decided they had room for him, after having already adopted a cat, and Sassie, an older Cocker girl. *There was plenty of room at the inn!*

To help needy cats find their new families, we have sponsored a select number of cats via the *HSMC Cat Pick* specials throughout the year. Recently we offered a *2 for 1 Cat Special* for two sets of bonded male cats that we felt would make great companions. Socks and Joe are now in their forever home, and Jack and Icabod were just adopted in time for Christmas. Frank is a *Sponsored Cat* as well, and has his own special sponsor, Rachel Bliven, who rescued him from the streets and wanted to make sure he has his own cozy forever home.

*Continued on next page*



Too many dogs have come into the shelter testing positive for heartworm, a deadly disease if left untreated. This spring Bam Bam and Bandit, young coonhound brothers, were left at the shelter. Bam Bam, unfortunately, tested positive for heartworm. To keep them together, we covered the cost of his treatment and a nice farm family adopted them, with their young sons having already decided, after the families' first visit to the shelter, which dog was whose! Most recently, Dozer, another great coonhound, was undergoing heartworm treatment at the shelter and just went to his new forever home to continue treatment.

As you are probably aware, one of our ongoing initiatives is to address the cat overpopulation in our community by providing spay/neuter opportunities. This year we scheduled nine transports to the Quincy Humane Society's low cost spay/neuter clinic; because of our support 209 cats were altered and received their vaccines. I want to thank everyone who helps with the early morning transports, and note three individuals who have worked so hard to round up a large number of barn/feral cats to make the trip to Quincy: Jessica Fidler, Laci Joy, and Don Logan -- all dedicated to giving these cats a better chance at a happy, healthy life, and to reducing the stray cat population.

Our hopes for the Brix Challenge were more than fulfilled this year with a grand total of over \$14,500 collected. This makes such a critical impact on our work for the animals. The spay/neuter transports; the heartworm treatment and other medical interventions; the sponsorship of adoption fees; and the Pet Food Pantry all take ongoing financial support. We are so very thankful for the community's shared commitment to helping needy animals, as exemplified by the Tri-States Radio and Macomb Women's Club food drives. An unexpected gift also has come our way this holiday season. A former Macomb resident left a bequest of \$65,000 or so to the HSMC and the County for a special animal shelter project. This is generating much discussion on how best we can use these dollars to improve the shelter facility.

Please mark your calendars for the HSMC Annual Meeting on the evening of January 16<sup>th</sup>. We will meet in the Community Room at City Hall and serve a light supper, with lots of conversation and information about our goals. While we so appreciate the financial support of the community, we also value the input of our members as to how we can better our efforts or identify areas that need more attention. We love to talk about what we've been up to and share the success stories of animals that have found their homes. We hope to see you on the 16<sup>th</sup>.

Bonnie Skripps, President

*Happy New Year!*



# Adoption Highlights



Dozer with his new mom, Patti



Nicole & Bing



Bill with Sassy & Zeus



Bam Bam and Bandit with their new family



Binx's first Christmas tree



# More Adoption Highlights



Sarge with Jennifer, his new mom; and Sarge relaxing in his new forever home.



For the last few years the HSMC has sponsored monthly transports (except during winter months) to the Quincy Humane Society's low cost spay/neuter clinic. We cover the cost of altering barn and feral cats brought to the transport. The cats also receive their distemper and rabies vaccines. A regular crew of HSMC Board members arrives at Patton Park at 6:00 a.m. to check the cats in and to help load the QHS van which arrives around 7:00. The cats return the next morning to go home with their rescuers and owners. Companion cats are also eligible to go to the low cost spay/neuter clinic, for a minimal fee. We appreciate the partnership with QHS to further our goal of reducing the community's cat overpopulation problem and controlling feline disease. This year 209 cats made the trip to Quincy and returned fixed and vaccinated.





Chris Brix, picture of Pee Wee



L to R:  
Patti Pasquesi-Nemec, Brix  
Challenge Chair;  
Chris Brix, donor;  
and Bonnie Smith Skripps,  
HSMC president.



### ***The Brix Challenge 2017: A record-breaking fundraiser for The Humane Society of McDonough County***

This year's *Brix Challenge* was a record-breaking success in raising funds for the Humane Society of McDonough County. Once again animal-lovers in our area rose to the challenge presented by our good friend, Chris Brix. This year an overwhelming \$14,515.00 in donations was raised to support the initiatives of the HSMC. These funds will be used to directly help animals in need in McDonough County.

This is the fourth year in a row Chris has challenged this community to raise funds for the HSMC during the month of October, with a promise of a \$1,000.00 gift in matching funds. Our regional print, radio and television media has helped us reach an enormous number of people. With their support, mailings, social media and word of mouth the *Brix Challenge* caught fire, yet again. The response of our area residents was tremendous. We are extremely grateful to everyone who participated in *the Brix Challenge 2017*. It's difficult to express how much that kindness is appreciated.

The generous gifts received during this year's *Brix Challenge* will make the world a better place for many animals in need in McDonough County. This year there is an exciting new goal for *Brix Challenge* funds to include renovations to the "cat quarters" at the McDonough County Animal Shelter, enhancing the lives of the cats at the shelter. Our hope is to provide them more "play time", socialization and overall improved quality of life while they await their forever homes. Funds raised this year will also continue to support ongoing HSMC initiatives such as:

- 1) promoting adoption of cats and dogs at the McDonough County Animal Shelter,
- 2) rescuing and fostering those animals that don't get adopted from the Shelter,
- 3) reducing the overpopulation of cats via the spay/neuter program,
- 4) providing medical care to Shelter and County animals in need and
- 5) helping to keep pets in their homes and with their families via the Pet Food Pantry

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. We are committed to furthering our vision to provide humane care and treatment for all animals in McDonough County. This requires an ongoing revenue stream. Because of the amazing generosity of Chris Brix and *Brix Challenge* supporters, our wonderful members and friends and our area media sources 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 Challenge this year.



**MCDONOUGH  
COUNTY ANIMAL  
SHELTER**

101 Tower Road  
Macomb, IL 61455  
Phone: 309-837-2989

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.

Animal Control Officers:  
Kelsey Havens  
Bonnie Billhmer  
Amber Ellis  
Email: [mcas@macomb.com](mailto:mcas@macomb.com)



**Hours of Operation**

**Open to the Public:**  
Mon - Fri: 11:00 am - 5:00 pm  
Sat: 10:00 am - 12:00 pm  
Sunday: CLOSED to the Public  
Holidays: CLOSED to the Public



The Women's Club of Macomb held a supply and donation drive in November. Overall, hundreds of pounds of dog and cat food, as well as cat litter, cleaning supplies, and cash donations were collected.



Thorn Pets and Supplies, Galesburg, and Horse & Hound Country Store, Burlington, made a delivery of 380 pounds of supplies for the HSMC Pet Food Pantry and the Shelter. This is the HSMC portion of the Tri States Public Radio pet support drive in honor of the late Gil Belles.





## Business Members

All Pets Veterinary Clinic  
 Animal Medical Center  
 Black Nugget, LLC  
 Bushnell Veterinary Service, PC  
 Captured Moments Photography  
 Clugston-Tibbitts Funeral Home  
 Dad's Place  
 Diamond Den  
 Free Range Yoga  
 Green Shingle Graphics  
 Hickory Kennels  
 Matthew S. McClure, DMD-PC  
 McDonough County Voice  
 MidAmerica National Bank  
 No Place Like Home  
 Purdum Gray Ingledue Beck  
 Sodexo  
 Sweet Briar Corner Nursery  
 Wesley Village  
 The Wine Sellers



**Proud supporters  
of the HSMC!**



## Waggin' Tales

# WE ARE A COMMUNITY

HSMC board members participated in a number of community events last fall.

### October



### November

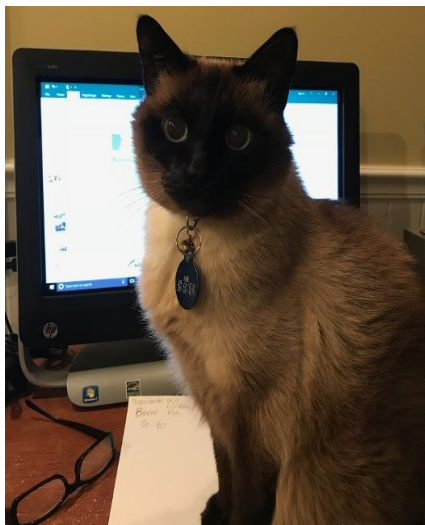


Buffalo Wild Wings in Macomb hosted a HSMC fundraiser on November 15. Patronage meals for the HSMC raised over \$200! We look forward to Buffalo Wild Wings hosting another fundraiser in the future.

### December







This is what happens when you try to write a newsletter as the parent of a “needy” cat.



Don't forget about our annual January 16, 2018 dinner meeting! We'd love for you to attend and share an evening of friendship. Board member positions will be voted on that night. For more information about the meeting, see the insert in this newsletter.

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