

FALL 2018

P.O. Box 7

Macomb, IL  
61455

309-837-5611

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Humane Society of McDonough County

# Waggin' Tales



### **The Fifth Annual Brix Challenge: A Community Challenge to Raise Funds for the Humane Society of McDonough**

In 2014 Chris Brix got the idea that his gift to the Humane Society of McDonough County, if joined with the gifts of others, could make a bigger difference to the animals whose lives were touched. He was right. Due to the tremendous community support of the Brix Challenge close to \$46,000 has been raised over the past four years to help animals in need in McDonough County. That's amazing. Once again Chris has promised to match \$1,000.00 in donations to the HSMC that are received between now and October 31, 2018. No donation is too small. Every dollar donated impacts an animal's life. We hope this year's Brix Challenge will be the most successful yet.

The money needed to help animals in our community on an ongoing basis is substantial. The HSMC is committed to provide services for animals in need on a daily basis, addressing these needs through many ongoing programs and projects. All contributions to the Brix Challenge 2018 will directly support the HSMC's ongoing initiatives. A few of those targeted to receive special attention through the Brix Challenge this year include:

- Promotion of adoption of cats and dogs at the McDonough County Animal Shelter;
- Rescue and fostering those animals that don't get adopted from the Shelter;
- Reduction of the overpopulation of cats via the spay/neuter program;
- Continued enhancements for the comfort of the cats and kittens at the animal shelter;
- Provisions of medical care to Shelter and County animals in need; and
- Help via the Pet Food Pantry for those struggling to afford supplies to keep their pets.

We hope you will join the challenge to make "The Brix Challenge '18" another huge success. Tax-deductible donations may be sent to:

*Brix Challenge 2018*  
Humane Society of McDonough County  
PO Box 7  
Macomb, IL 61455

Donations may also be made using the PayPal option on the Humane Society website at [www.hsmcil.org](http://www.hsmcil.org).



## HSMC Helps to Secure Forever Homes

These dogs may have more days behind them than in front, but they still have a lot of love to give. Which is why the HSMC sponsored their adoption by paying half of their adoption fee. There were three senior dogs sponsored, with Jack and Molly successful in finding their forever homes. Molly is currently in treatment for heartworm, which is paid for by the HSMC. We can't resist sharing their happy day leaving the shelter! Please spread the word that Tory is still looking for her forever home. We are still sponsoring her half-price adoption. She is already altered, microchipped, and current on her vaccines!



New owner Haley has spent a lot of time with Molly since adopting her four days ago. Belly rubs and getting brushed are big favorites Molly misses Haley when she's gone, but she's completely fine curling up with grandma in her chair.



Jack leaving the shelter to go home to his new family.

## Rainbow Bridge Sessions by Captured Moments Photography



*These are some of my most precious and difficult photography sessions. Rainbow bridge shoots are for pets who are terminally ill or elderly pets who are close to the end of their time. Family members are welcome to be in the photos as well. Shoots are approximately 20 minutes and you will receive a cd/drive with 15+ edited images. These sessions can be in your home, at my studio, an outdoor location or even at the veterinarian's office. The fee is \$150 and one-half of that amount is donated to the Humane Society of McDonough County and McDonough County Animal Shelter.*

*Please contact me at (309) 333-1898 or [stacieew@yahoo.com](mailto:stacieew@yahoo.com) to discuss your photo shoot.*

*-Stacie Kwacala, Captured Moments Photography*



### 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Kris Moore Memorial Gimme Shelter Golf Outing



The 10th annual Kris Moore Memorial Gimme Shelter Golf Outing had another successful year by raising over \$1,500 for the HSMC and a lot of food and supply donations to the McDonough County Animal Shelter. It was a great day of golfing, plus a 50/50 raffle and many door prizes.

A special thank you to Lee Trotter, Don Hubner, Jeff Moore, Max and Shelley Kreps, and all the people and businesses who donated door prizes.

## *The West Nile virus hits record highs. Is your pet in danger?*

West Nile virus is in the news once again. A recent West Nile virus update by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) says that 47 states have reported infections in people, birds and mosquitoes.

The report continues: "The 1,118 cases reported thus far in 2012 is the highest number of West Nile virus disease cases reported to CDC through the third week in August since West Nile virus was first detected in the United States in 1999." According to the [LA Times](#), Dallas, TX is currently the epicenter of the outbreak and has begun aerial spraying to kill mosquitoes, which can transmit the virus.

But can all this hurt our pets?

### **West Nile virus in dogs and cats**

While pets can contract West Nile virus (WNV), the CDC states that only a small number of dogs and cats with WNV have been reported. The symptoms are generally confined to a light fever and lethargy.

There is no WNV vaccine for dogs and cats. But here are some tips from the CDC to decrease the chance anyone in your family will contract West Nile:

- Stay inside (and keep your pets with you) around dawn and dusk when mosquitoes are often most active.
- Install window and door screens to prevent mosquitoes access to your home. Repair any holes in screens.
- Eliminate standing water around your yard where mosquitoes breed.
- Do not use human insect repellent on your pets. Pets' grooming habits make ingestion probable and the repellent could be toxic. Talk to your vet about what insect repellents for pets might be available.

Mosquitoes pick up the WNV virus from diseased birds. If you find a dead bird on your property, call your local or state health department.

Remember, mosquitoes transmit WNV. Pets cannot spread the virus to humans and it is unlikely that they can spread it to each other, so that's one less thing for you to worry about.

by Joan, staff writer  
Petfinder.com



## Shelter Gets New Portable Cat Play Pens

The HSMC recently purchased two portable kennels for the McDonough County Animal Shelter. The kennels provide multi-cat play space and are used to promote the felines at events. The furry felines are enjoying the extra space.



Tif and her kitten.



## Shelter Dogs Get New Beds

In September, the HSMC purchased 10 new Kuranda aluminum dog beds to replace the broken beds at the shelter. The beds are located in each kennel and provide a soft landing spot for the shelter dogs, as Rex demonstrates.

## A Generous San Antonio, Texas Couple Share Their Joy

Jill Watson and Scott McFarland, both big animal lovers, made a special request on the invitation to their August engagement party, hosted by Jill's parents in Macomb. They asked that, in lieu of gifts, donations be made to the Humane Society of McDonough County. Family and friends of the Watson family donated over \$500 to HSMC in celebration of this happy couple.

We thank Jill and Scott for their commitment to animals, and congratulate them on their upcoming marriage. We also love Scott's creativity for the active role their four dogs played in his proposal to Jill. Each dog wore a tag with a separate word in the question: Will, You, Marry, Me? This is one great couple!

### 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



Scott, Jill, Mary Ann Watson, and Dr. Richard Watson



Jill and Buddy





## Business Members

All Pets Veterinary Clinic  
 American Legion Post 6  
 Animal Medical Center  
 Black Nugget, LLC  
 Bushnell Veterinary Service, PC  
 Captured Moments Photography  
 Clugston-Tibbitts Funeral Home  
 Dad's Garage  
 Free Range Yoga  
 Green Shingle Graphics  
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 MidAmerica National Bank  
 Minus Muffler  
 No Place Like Home  
 Purdum Gray Ingledue Beck  
 Sodexo  
 Sweet Briar Corner Nursery  
 Wesley Village



**Proud supporters  
 of the HSMC!**



## Can you see my smile?

I'm Sasha, and I was at the McDonough County Animal Shelter until the volunteers at the Humane Society found a foster home for me. I'm loving my new foster family and they're loving me. I even went camping with them!



### ***Your 2018 HSMC Board:***

President: Bonnie Smith-Skripps  
 Vice President: Bill Johnson  
 Secretary: Cecilia Benelli  
 Treasurer: Terri Hare  
 Membership Chair: Kate Shattuck  
 Education Chair: Amy Betz  
 County Shelter Project Manager: Max Kreps  
 Pet Food Pantry Manager: Dave Monninger  
 Board Member: Kathy Chambers  
 Board Member: Linda Andrews  
 Board Member: JB Biernbaum  
 Board Member: Sue Adams  
 Board Member: Felix Chu  
 Board Member: Patti Douglas  
 Board Member: Nicole Humbert

### Why We Do What We Do

The HSMC provides transport to the Quincy Humane Society for low-cost spay/neuter service. Over the past year we have been focusing on the spay and neuter of cats to reduce overpopulation.

Recently, a lady told one of our volunteers something that makes it all worthwhile. She was picking up four cats for a friend who is a disabled veteran. She was so appreciative, saying that taking care of the cats that people drop off at his house is what keeps him going. Our spay/neuter service is a Godsend for him.

While many cats still come into the shelter, we are making a difference for some. The positive comments we receive affirms that our hard work is worthwhile and meaningful.

The low-cost spay/neuter program is just one of the dedicated programs the HSMC has to benefit the animals of our county. We also support a pet food pantry, fund the Angel Fund with local veterinarians, and provide medical and other support to the McDonough County Animal Shelter,

As always, the Humane Society of McDonough County is run by volunteers and 100% of donations go directly to helping animals.

there is  
**ALWAYS**  
something to  
**BE GRATEFUL**  
for

