

SPRING 2019

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Macomb, IL
61455

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Humane Society of McDonough County

Waggin' Tales



Wine Whiskers & Whimsy

**Saturday
June 8, 2019
5-8 p.m.**

*Wine,
Hors d'oeuvres,
Silent Auction,
& Live Music*

*Ticket
information
will be
announced
later this
spring!*

**American Legion
221 E. Washington
Macomb, IL**





Thank you to Sarah Wallick, West Side Lumber, for her assistance in developing plans for the new shelter!

The HSMC held its annual dinner meeting on January 22, 2019 at the American Legion. The weather was quite nasty and kept some people at home, but those who were able to venture out heard our announcement about raising funds for a new animal shelter, watched the slideshow supporting the need for a new shelter, and heard a review of the HSMC initiatives and accomplishments in 2018. The election was held for your 2019 HSMC Executive Board.

The Humane Society of McDonough County is working in conjunction with the McDonough County Board and McDonough County Animal Shelter to design a new shelter, which is desperately needed. The HSMC will be holding information sessions and fundraising events as plans develop. The Power-Point is available to view at hsmcil.org.



Spring HSMC Fundraiser!

May 18, 2019

The HSMC is hosting a craft sale fundraiser at the American Legion on May 18! Proceeds from the fundraiser will be applied to the new animal shelter campaign fund. The committee is hard at work to finalize details, so watch your email and local news outlets for more information!

2019 HSMC Executive Board

Officer/President
Officer/Vice President
Officer/Treasurer/Correspondence
Officer/Recording Secretary
Director/Membership
Director/Education Chair
Director/County Shelter Project Manager
Director/Pet Food Pantry
Director
Director
Director
Director
Director
Director
Director

Bonnie Skripps
Bill Johnson
Terri Hare
Cecelia Benelli
Kate Shattuck
Amy Betz
Max Kreps
Dave Monninger
Felix Chu
Linda Andrews
Sue Adams
Patti Douglas
JB Biernbaum
Pat Stewart
Brenda Neal

In Memoriam

We thank those who chose to leave a legacy with the Humane Society of McDonough County, and to those who honored friends and family in 2018 with a memorial donation to our organization.

Mark Andrews

Diane Atkinson

Roger Barclay

Crystal Bedwell

Tobey Birnbaum

June Chapman

Bonnie Cobb

Eva Drummond

Molly Hancock

George Hermann

Roy Hodges

Kodi Mackey

Burt Markham

Norma McDonald

Molly Hancock

Anne Mueller

Jesse Quesal

Pam Reuter

Katie Riley

Laura Sadler Cripe

Virginia Schmitz

Patti Semick

Val Thurrow

Stephen E. Wkes

Bob Vanni

Jacob Walter

Jacqueline Whitney

Think Spring!

5 ISSUES FOR YOUR PETS THIS SPRING

Karen Blakeley DVM, MPH
All Pets Veterinary Clinic, Macomb, IL



It looks like it might actually be here! SPRING! After the long, cold winter that most of us in the Midwest experienced it seemed like it would never arrive. But with the glorious return of nice weather and sunshine come some issues to consider for your pets. These are 5 of the biggest concerns that need to be considered as the longest, coldest winter ever finally fades!

1. Winter Weight Gain. Yes, it was a long cold winter and we have been noticing that it took quite a toll on our pets' waistlines. Over 50% of the dogs we are seeing for routine checkups have packed on more weight than normal this winter. So how do we deal with this issue? There is no magic—it's all diet and exercise. Start by looking at three things—1. What is the ideal weight of your pet? If you are unsure ask your vet! Weight at age 2 is a good starting point. 2. How many calories a day is your pet eating? Write it down. Add it up! Don't forget to add in the number of calories that come from people food and treats. You must account for these calories in addition to the number of calories that are coming from the food. 3. How many calories should your pet eat for his/her desired weight and lifestyle? RER or resting energy requirement charts provide a baseline for the number of calories your pet should get per day. If you are feeding more than this number, start by cutting back to this level. If you are already feeding less than this number for the DESIRED weight (not the current weight) cut back by 10-15%. Google "basic calorie counter" to look for a great reference at vet.osu.edu.

The second part of getting your pet back to a healthy weight is exercise. Get out there! Get active! See #2 for more tips.

2. Exercise Overindulgence. The first nice days of spring get everyone excited to be back outside. We go for those nice, long walks and do yardwork and other things that we have neglected all winter. Undoubtedly, if you have also been a bit sluggish over the winter the first nice days of spring mean sore muscles, sprains, and strains. The same is true with our pets. It is very common for us to see pets that are stiff and sore after the weather turns. Just like us, they get a bit too active and a bit too frisky a bit too fast. Overweight and out of shape muscles are not quite ready for big bursts of activity so start slow! Go for multiple short walks with your pet as opposed to one giant walk. If you want to jog with your dog and haven't been at it for awhile, start with small distances and intermittent periods of walking and running. If your pet is overweight or older this is especially important.
3. Grass grazers. This is one of the most common questions I get—why does my pet eat grass? There are a ton of theories—they want to vomit, they ate something bad, the pH in their stomach is too low and they are trying to raise it, etc. Regardless of real or perceived causes some dogs and cats just eat grass. They seem to be especially prone to eating some of the early season grasses—the ones that pop up in the yard first. While a little grass will generally not cause any major issues, large quantities can. I have had multiple cases of primary and secondary upper and lower GI grass

Continued on next page

obstructions from grass. Additionally, I have removed grass from the noses of several animals. If your pet is grass eating prone, leash walk them or stay outside with them during potty breaks so you can prevent overindulgence. If they like the big, long chunks that grow first and faster than the rest of the yard mowing them shorter can help as well. As the weather gets warmer the cool season grasses slow down and become a bit woodier. This is usually when most grass prone pets cut back their consumption.

4. Parasites. Warmer weather means the bugs are back. Soon we will be seeing massive tick emergence and mosquitoes and not far after we will be seeing fleas. If you have not been good with heartworm/flea/tick preventative over the winter it's time to get back on track. Avoiding these parasites is so much easier than dealing with the diseases that they transmit. Heartworms and lyme disease will still be of concern even though it was an excessively cold winter. These parasites are adapted to survive and survive they did. We have been treating dogs for both diseases all winter long and do not expect fewer cases as the year progresses. If your pet has been off heartworm preventative be sure to get them tested prior to restarting.

Some dogs are notorious poop eaters and for some reason frozen poop is especially exciting for dogs. There are also many theories for this behavior. Regardless, if your dog is a winter poop eater, he/she may be higher risk for several intestinal parasites including roundworms, hookworms, whipworms, and tapeworms. A good deworming (i.e. "spring cleaning") would be a wise thing to consider.

5. Easter hazards. Easter season brings several hazards for our dogs and cats. Cats love to play with and eat the artificial grass in Easter baskets. This can cause GI obstruction and perforation. Easter baskets are often loaded with chocolate. High amounts of chocolate can be toxic to dogs. Easter lilies are beautiful and tempting to play with if you are a cat. They are toxic and cause kidney failure if ingested. Easter dinner often means ham. Overindulgence of ham can cause severe GI upset and pancreatitis. Ham bones tend to get stuck in all sorts of places when dogs ingest them—mouths, throats, stomachs, and intestines are great places for them to lodge.

****THE INFORMATION PROVIDED HERE IS FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY AND IS NOT INTENDED TO TAKE THE PLACE OF A**

McDonough County Animal Shelter

Animal Control Officer:
Kirsta Lyles

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

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 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 ME!

Harry Pawter has his entire adoption fee sponsored! Harry came to the shelter quite bedraggled, but cleans up well. Stop by the McDonough County Animal Shelter to get to know him and take him home.





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Please help us to remind family and friends that while bunnies and chicks are cute, they're not appropriate gifts for Easter unless they can be adequately taken care of, even as adults!

4-H Goal Diggers Club Comes Through Again! The club held another pet food/supply drive for the Humane Society of McDonough County. Donations were shared with the McDonough County Animal Shelter and HSMC Pet Food Pantry. The 4-H Goal Diggers are pawsome!



Zuma — An HSMC Rescue Dog

Zuma, a 1 1/2 year old Australian Cattle Dog mix now in foster care, is getting ready for her forever home. She knows basic commands, and loves attention, playing fetch, and the company of other dogs. As an Australian Cattle Dog or Heeler mix, Zuma is an active breed. She needs plenty of daily exercise with her family and/or another dog, in a home with a fenced-in yard in which to play. Or, she may thrive on a farm where she could even perhaps learn to be a working dog. If you would like to meet Zuma or learn more about her, contact the HSMC Foster Coordinator, Pat Stewart, at stewartpm42@outlook.com





Welcome Kirsta Lyles as the new shelter head Animal Control Officer!

We had to say good-bye to Animal Control Officers Kelsey Havens and Bonnie Billhymer, who have left the McDonough County Animal Shelter to pursue new careers. We wish you all the best!

Volunteers had fun staffing the HSMC table at the recent YMCA Family Outdoor Show. Shelter kittens Larry and Moe loved the attention! These brothers are available at the McDonough County Animal Shelter. We hope they get adopted soon.



Larry and Moe



King Larry



Sue Adams, Patti Douglas, Brenda Neal

PET SUPPLIES PLUS.

Pet Supplies Plus Partnership: A Plus for All!



Pet Supplies Plus Cat Room

Not only is Pet Supplies Plus a great addition to the Macomb community, but it's also a great partner to the Animal Shelter and HSMC. Since January, 16 shelter cats have been adopted as a result of being showcased in the store.



Mandy Edwards, store manager, is holding Fred, who has been enjoying his new "digs" and is available for adoption for \$12. The HSMC Pet Food Pantry and the shelter have both benefitted from donations from the store and its customers.

Thanks to HSMC board member Amy Betz and her nephew, David Boehm, the HSMC transported Raja to Animal Welfare Friends, a no-kill rescue in Monticello, Iowa, in January. Raja enjoyed her 3 hour car ride (with one pit stop), and seemed interested in her new friends once we arrived. We hope that in a new location, and with AWF's promotion, that Raja will find her perfect forever home and have the life of love and security that she so deserves.

Only 2 years old, and built after a decade of fund-raising, the Animal Welfare Friends shelter is an inviting facility, built on 8 1/2 acres of land with lots of outdoor play area. Besides being relieved to have Raja get her second chance, it was an informative and pleasant visit with David giving a tour and sharing the "how's and why's" of their building project.

