

SPRING 2020

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P.O. Box 7  
Macomb, IL 61455

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Humane Society of McDonough County

# Waggin' Tales



Spring Greetings,

With this issue of Waggin' Tales we send you the warmest of spring wishes as you stay safe by staying at home. It's breathtaking how quickly our priorities and routines have changed, as well as our ability, or lack thereof, to plan for the indefinite future.

As we alerted you in an earlier email blast, we cancelled our spring and summer events, including the Dog Wash, Arts and Craft Show, and Wine, Whiskers, and Whimsy. Hopefully, we will be able to arrange late fall events at which time we can come together and show our support for the needy animals in McDonough County. We can only hope; we realize that social distancing is paramount to our future. Meanwhile, we continue to believe in our dream of a new animal shelter with a campaign rollout happening in the future.

As many of our pets are adjusting their routines to accommodate our constant presence in "their" houses, we gain a greater appreciation for how much they add to our lives through their antics and snuggles, as well as their unconditional love. For some in our community, the loss of employment or the temporary closure of businesses has led to unforeseen hardships. We normally stock a Pet Food Pantry at Loaves and Fishes, available to those under economic duress. With Loaves and Fishes closed to the public and working with Genesis Garden to deliver food supplies, our HSMC Board member, Dave Monninger is coordinating pick-up and delivery of needed pet supplies upon request from community members.

The animal shelter has been closed to the public since mid March as a result of COVID-19, with staff and volunteers continuing to care for the animals. On April 1<sup>st</sup> the County established a temporary dog adoption policy allowing the public to complete an adoption application for a specific dog, and then meet and adopt the dog at the shelter by appointment. Pet Supplies Plus has furthered its support of the shelter by making adoption applications available and by serving as a place to meet specific cats. A number of people have added a forever friend to their lives during this time. We're happy to share a few adoption stories and pictures in our newsletter. You'll also find an update on CJ, the HSMC foster dog who found his forever home in early February.

We have continued to address the County's cat overpopulation problem, via our sponsored monthly transports to the Quincy Humane Society low cost spay/neuter clinic, maintaining a strict physical distancing protocol at Patton Park for cat registration and pick-up.

An estimated 20 million kittens will be born this spring (The Foundation for Homeless Cats). Nationally, shelters are flooded and older cats get overlooked. We have some great adolescent and adult cats at our shelter, waiting to be someone's new best friend. The HSMC will sponsor a *Spring Shelter in Place with a Furry Feline Friend Special* to help these great cats find their new forever homes. We will cover half of their adoption fees. For \$65 any of these special felines are ready to go home, already altered, vaccines up to date, rabies shots, and micro chipped. We'll also support especially needy dogs as time goes along. We welcome any and all support for this cause. HSMC members and the community have been great sponsors!

As we often said, to do what we do takes a constant revenue stream. In past spring issues of *Waggin' Tales* we have acknowledged the memorials of the previous year that designated the HSMC as a beneficiary. With this issue we thank the families of those who passed in 2019 for this thoughtful and meaningful gesture.

Stay strong, stay safe, and enjoy the spring from the comforts of home.

Bonnie Smith-Skripps  
HSMC President

## From the Animal Shelter: We are doing adoptions following strict guidelines! Temporary Policies for Adoption During Sheltering in Place:

1. The public is not allowed inside the Shelter.
2. You must complete an adoption application, and have it approved, before interacting with any of the dogs. You can pick up an application either at the Shelter or Pet Supplies Plus, or find it online via the HSMC Facebook page. If you are coming to the Shelter, call us first at (309) 837-2989.
3. Once you have the application completed, return it to the Shelter. Again call (309) 837-2989 to let us know you are coming. You can also mail your application to 101 Tower Rd., Macomb, IL 61455. Once received, we will attempt to process your application within 24 hours.
4. Once you are approved, we will call you to let you know. You can then schedule a time to come in and see the dog(s) you are interested in. We will bring the dog you wish to see out to you in the parking lot. You are free to walk the dog around our property, or take it to one of our two play areas. Only one dog can be out of the Shelter at a time.
5. Cats are being housed two at a time at Pet Supplies Plus. If there is a particular cat you would like to meet, contact us and we will schedule a time for the cat to be at Pet Supplies Plus. Adoptions, once approved, can then take place.
6. All adoptions contracts will be completed over the phone. When you come to pick up your animal, your copies of the paperwork will be brought out to you at the shelter or at Pet Supplies Plus for cats.
7. We do not accept credit cards. All adoption fees must be paid by check or cash. We are unable to make change, so if paying by cash, please bring exact change.



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### McDonough County Animal Shelter

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

Animal Control Officers:  
Kelsey Havens  
Zack Welch  
Joe Rossmiller

Email: [mcas@macomb.com](mailto:mcas@macomb.com)

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.

#### 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

Facebook:

[McDonoughCountyAnimalShelter](https://www.facebook.com/McDonoughCountyAnimalShelter)

## HSMC Executive Board Members 2020

Bonnie Skripps—President  
Bill Johnson—Vice President  
Terri Hare—Treasurer  
Brenda Neal—Secretary  
Sue Adams—Director  
Linda Andrews—Director  
Amy Betz—Director  
JB Biernbaum—Director  
Felix Chu—Director  
Patti Douglas—Director  
Max Kreps—Director  
Dave Monniger—Director  
Kate Shattuck—Director  
Pat Stewart—Director  
Ann Stites—Director

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### Stay Safe at Home with a Furry Feline Friend Spring Special!

For \$65 (half-price) you can find a feline friend already altered, up-to-date on vaccines, and micro chipped. A few cats are sponsored and available for less. Visit the McDonough County Animal Shelter Facebook page to see the available cats and call at 309-837-2989 to make arrangements.



## ***A Mutual Rescue – Alice and Ice (now Spice) A Stay at Home Adoption Story via Facebook Messages***

### **April 4<sup>th</sup> Facebook Message to HSMC**

"I'm searching for a dog at or under 20 pounds that could go for daily walks with me. I'm 66 years old and my doctors encourage me to walk, but I hate to walk alone."

*We responded with a picture and description of Ice (5 year old male Jack Russell Terrier house and leash trained, with allergies and cataracts).*



### **Alice's Response:**

"I want him. I'm heading to the pet supply store for an application."

"Thank you so much. My grandmother had a Jack Russell sixty years ago when her dog woke her up in the middle of the night to let her know the house was burning! These dogs are loyal heroes. I'd be honored and grateful to have him and care for him."

### **April 7<sup>th</sup> Alice's Message to HSMC**



"Today his veterinarian said he has outdoor allergies so put him on seasonal meds and we are hoping for symptoms to disappear. The doctor said {Ice} may have another 15 years to live so I will do all I can to keep him healthy. We had a great time playing an easygoing game of tug-a-war! Never knew a blind dog could have so much fun! . . . He's well behaved, housebroken, quiet and playful! We go out four times a day besides walks."

### **April 12<sup>th</sup> Alice's Message to HSMC**

"Renamed him Spice. Ice sounds too cold! I'm a cook and baker, and love using various spices. Spice fits us fine! . . . I've suffered depression in the past and had a therapeutic dog in Minnesota. After a 6-week hospital stay I couldn't take her away from my then 12-year-old grandson who had been caring for her and bonded with her. That was 6 years ago and I've been so lonely. I needed Spice as much as he needed me. I am so grateful beyond words. I love him greatly! "



## **What Veterinarians Want Pet Owners to Know about Coronavirus and Their Animals**

**By Kelly McCarthy, April 8, 2020**

Your tabby cat may be in a different category than a tiger, but after one big cat at the Bronx Zoo was infected with novel coronavirus, pet owners have wondered if their furry friends at home could be at risk.

### **Here's what we know about pets and COVID-19—**

Although there have been very few reports of cats and dogs testing positive for coronavirus overseas, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), said no pets in the U.S. have been sickened and there is currently no evidence that pets can pass coronavirus back to their owners.

"We do not have evidence that companion animals including pets, can spread COVID-19 to people or that they might be a source of infection in the United States," the agency said.

While there is "very limited data published in the medical and veterinary medical literature thus far, we have to remember coronaviruses in general are known to infect animals," ABC News' chief medical correspondent Dr. Jen Ashton said.

Dr. Evan Antin, an exotic, small animal and wildlife veterinarian, told ABC News, "If your pet has COVID-19 it's far more likely that you gave it to them or somebody else in your household and you've already been exposed to that person as well."

### *How to recognize if an animal is sick?*

"All of the tigers and lions that got sick had a cough, it was a dry cough, not a productive cough," Dr. Paul Callie, chief veterinarian at the Bronx Zoo, told ABC News. "There's no treatment that is known to work, so we've treated just symptomatically."

### *Can coronavirus live on fur?*

Simply put, "we don't know," Ashton said. "It has not been officially and formally researched yet."

Research has shown that the virus can live on hard surfaces, but it is unknown whether it can live on animal fur.

### *What precautions can people take around animals?*

The CDC and the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) suggest if a human is sick and it's implied or assumed they have COVID-19, they should keep a distance from pets just as they would from others.

"If you must care for your pet or be around animals while you are sick, wash your hands before and after you interact with them," the CDC said.

"Obviously you can't use a bleach wipe on your pet -- maybe wiping them off with water once in a while if that's possible," Ashton suggested, reiterating that the most important preventative tactic is to treat the animal how you would a person and keep your distance if not feeling well.

### *What to do if your pet becomes ill or symptomatic?*

"Talk to your veterinarian if you have questions about your pet's health," the CDC recommends.

According to the AVMA, "There is no reason to remove pets from homes even if COVID-19 has been identified in members of the household, unless there is risk that the pet itself is not able to be cared for appropriately."

### *How are animals tested?*

Nadia, the 4-year-old zoo tiger, was the first animal case of COVID-19 in the U.S. Her test was done at a USDA veterinary lab and is entirely different than the tests given to humans. It provides essential information about the virus and how it is transmitted in order to help keep people and animals safe.

## *In Memoriam*

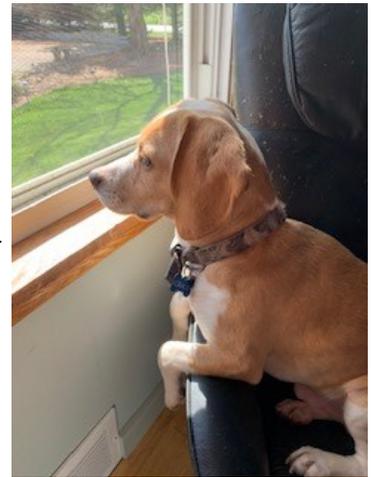
We thank those who chose to leave a legacy with the Humane Society of McDonough County, and to those who honored friends and family who departed in 2019 with a donation to our organization.

*Ann Barry*  
*Charlie Biernbaum*  
*Damon Bradford*  
*Bobby Brumett*  
*John Chuvala III*  
*Marna Dimmitt*  
*Diane Hoyle*  
*Robert Laird*  
*David L. Miller*  
*Precious Root*

*Maxine Sauers*  
*Maggie Sayers*  
*Ted Slupianek*  
*Zimmie Shattuck-Dickson*  
*Nancy Stevens*  
*Nancy Taylor*  
*Lora Mae Vail*  
*Jeanette Weaver*  
*Daisy Weimerslage*

### **Mack's story**

Let's face it -- every dog breed has its benefactors and its detractors. And Beagles are no exception. In March of this year, a 1-1/2 year old beagle found himself in a bit of a pickle; his owner had relinquished him to the shelter. So what if he was vocal, he had things to say! So what if he was distracted and forgot to pee when outside, life is so very fascinating! He just didn't understand why the person he loved was no longer there. But then, in early April, an HSMC Board member adopted Mack into their family of three cats and two other rescue dogs; a 2-1/2 year old Boxer mix named Brie and a 13-1/2 year old Border Collie mix named Rio. The timing was good to adopt a younger dog as Brie has a lot more energy and playfulness than Rio does. Mack and Brie bonded remarkably, playing like much younger puppies and running around the



yard till they both come in and crash on the couch. Kate says, 'It's good to have a Beagle in the house again and Mack has fit right in. Mack loves playing with Brie and is very deferential and gentle with Rio. He's a socially adept little guy. Beagle's aren't for everyone, but once you've fallen for a Beagle's charm, life just isn't the same without a happy little Beagle personality running around.'

Kate says, "Brie and Mack run around outside like crazy. Rio and I watch, then we all come inside and the three crash on the couch."



### 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 Place
- Free Range Yoga
- Gossel's Dog House
- Green Shingle Graphics
- Hickory Kennels
- Matthew S. McClure, DMD-PC
- MidAmerica National Bank Macomb
- Minus Muffler Garage and Towing
- No Place Like Home
- Pet Supplies Plus
- Purdum Gray Ingledue Beck, Inc.
- Sodexo
- Sweet Briar Corner Nursery
- The McDonough County Voice
- Wesley Village
- West Side Lumber

### Proud supporters of the HSMC!



### CJ – HSMC Foster Dog

We pulled CJ from the shelter in late December where, as a young boy full of energy, he was going a bit stir crazy being so confined. We placed him in foster care with Lars Gossel where he could become part of Lars' pack on the farm. There he learned some manners, and also had plenty of opportunity to run and play. He was then featured on each of the subsequent *Make Adoption Your First Option* weekly posters of available shelter animals.

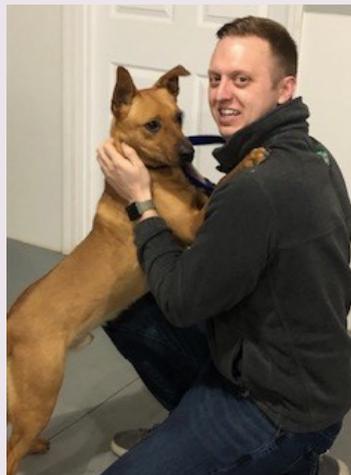


Lars brought CJ in his *Adopt Me* kerchief to the WIU Ag Expo in early February. They were walking by the Stoney Branch Ag exhibit

when the guy manning the table stopped them. He said, "That's my dog. I've been wanting to get a dog and fell in love with his picture on the poster." It was an encounter that was meant to be. CJ and Lance had a few minutes of getting acquainted and we gave Lance an adoption application to complete.



On February 12<sup>th</sup>, CJ left his friends at Gossel's Dog House and went home with his new best buddy, Lance.



## Success Stories!



Diesel is going with his new best friend as a long awaited companion.



Ox is a lucky boy. Emma moved back home from Chicago to shelter in place and work and convinced her mom and dad it was time to adopt. They had been "smitten" with the picture of Ox.



Shaggy benefitted from a daughter home to work and shelter in place as well.

*On a bright and early Sunday morning, my wife said to me, "Our dog is so smart!. He'll bring in the daily newspapers every single morning."*

*I reply, "It's not that special. Many dogs do the same."*

*My wife responded, "But we aren't subscribed to any newspapers!"*