

SUMMER 2020

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Humane Society of McDonough County

# Waggin' Tales



*Greetings Friends and Fellow Animal Lovers,*

What a long, strange trip it's been these last 6 months as we've become accustomed to maneuvering through this tragic pandemic. I think I can speak for the HSMC Board in saying we have also experienced a sense of uneasiness due to the necessary cancellation of our annual summer activities. We usually are very busy in April, May, and early June preparing for *Wine, Whiskers, and Whimsy*, our major fundraising event held the second Saturday in June. We made the decision in early spring to cancel the eighth annual *Wine, Whiskers, and Whimsy*, as well as the Dog Wash and the second annual Arts and Craft Show that we initiated last spring. And, sad to say, the tradition of the *Gimme Shelter* Golf Outing had to be set aside because of Covid-19. This would have been the 12<sup>th</sup> golf outing, sponsored by friends and family in memory of Kris Moore. Not only did we miss the excitement of getting ready for these events and the social opportunity they offered to see old friends and new acquaintances, but we also miss the revenue that is generated to support our activities to help shelter and community animals.

We are very pleased and grateful that Chris Brix has committed to another Brix Challenge this fall. Even though he has left Illinois to move close to family, he told us he wanted to continue challenge the community to match his \$1000 contribution to the HSMC. We will soon be sending letters asking for your support again this year. Historically the Challenge combined with *Wine, Whiskers, and Whimsy* and other events average about 50% of our annual budget income.

This summer we did benefit from a couple of examples of people finding comfort in remembering a cherished pet who has crossed the Rainbow Bridge through giving. Kandy Enright offered to sponsor the adoption of a "tortie" cat from the shelter in memory of Lilybelle, her beloved cat of 19 years. Don Johnson and his neighbor, Robert Vanni, donated substantial funds to assist with specialized canine medical attention in honor of Butch, Don's beloved lab who recently passed away. We send our condolences on the loss of these special pets, and our appreciation of the resulting assistance for other animals.

Volunteers have been busy at the shelter, walking and socializing the dogs; cleaning the cat rooms and giving love and attention to the many cats; painting the dog kennels; pulling grass out of the dog play pen areas – in general working hand-in-hand with the staff to ensure the animals are cared for and that they find their forever homes. New volunteers are welcome – it's a good place to get your cat or dog "fix". Donations have been steadily arriving at the shelter. A hot ticket item is kitty litter. It is gone through quickly and is a must-have.

Our 2020 annual dinner meeting was also postponed and then cancelled due to the Covid-19 limitations on meeting size. This was particularly disappointing since we had hoped to share with all of you a rendering of the *dreamed-of, hoped-for* new animal shelter and open the floor to discussion. Instead we have included the rendering in this newsletter. While housing the same number of cats and dogs as the shelter does currently, it will have the critically needed ventilation and specialized space to ensure the physical and emotional well-being of the animals, staff, volunteers, and public. We're still working out the details, and have delayed campaign kick-off events, but welcome inquiries and comments.

Stay in touch and stay safe.

Bonnie Smith-Skripps  
HSMC President

*Pet Haiku*

An empty dog bed  
Remnant of a life well-lived  
Always remembered

### Donations! Donations!



Max Kreps collecting a \$200 donation to the HSMC annual budget from Chris Buwick of Gelsosomo's Pizzeria. It's the support of our community businesses and private citizens that helps us do what we do!

### Karma's Gonna Get You!



Karma, a Tortie that had been at the shelter for awhile, benefitted from being sponsored in honor of a cherished pet Lilybelle. Here she is leaving Pet Supplies Plus with her new forever mom.



## 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)

## Morning Transport to the Low Cost Spay/Neuter Clinic

For the last several years, the HSMC has sponsored a transport to the Quincy Humane Society Low Cost Spay/Neuter Clinic. Since 2016, 823 cats have been fixed and received their vaccines through this initiative to help control the County's cat overpopulation problem. We pay \$25 for each cat's procedure and shots. So far in 2020 we have sent seven transports for an average bill per transport of \$550. We have three more scheduled for the year.

We thought we'd share with you via photos from the August transport what this looks like in the age of social distancing and masks. These are scenes from Patton Park as the cats are brought in their carriers at 6:30 am, paperwork completed, and then loaded into the van for the drive to Quincy. The cats then return to Macomb in the same van the next morning to be picked up and cared for by their owners.



Check-in



6:30 delivery



Saying goodbye



Patiently waiting



Post check-in, pre-load



The last cat to complete the stack



Smilin' eyes



Off they go!

## ***Let's Make Our Dream Come True!***



A new animal shelter will be a great addition to the community and further its ability to care for needy animals. Homeless cats and dogs would be housed in a facility that will better guard their health and emotional wellbeing. And, the public will have a better environment in which to get acquainted with potential pets and to learn more about pet care and training, and to volunteer.

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## **HSMC 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

Felix Chu—Director  
Patti Douglas—Director  
Max Kreps—Director  
Dave Monninger—Director  
Kate Shattuck—Director  
Pat Stewart—Director  
Ann Stites—Director

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### *Funny Cat*

A man in a movie theater notices what looks like a cat sitting next to him.

"Are you a cat?" asked the man, surprised.

"Yes."

"What are you doing at the movies?"

The cat replied, "Well, I liked the book."

# **The Skinny-Mini Feline**

## **5 Common Conditions for the Older, Underweight Cat**

**By Dr. Karen Blakely, DVM, MPH**  
**All Pets Veterinary Clinic**

It is not an uncommon thing for veterinarians to be presented with a very geriatric cat that is still eating and acting “relatively” normal but is frighteningly thin. I routinely see 16 plus year old cats that weight only 4 or 5 pounds when they used to weigh over 12 pounds. These cats are seemingly normal to their well-meaning owners other than they are underweight. They are often still eating and sleeping a lot (what cat doesn't like to sleep?) and are often dismissed as “just being old.” It is not a normal aging process for a cat to lose massive amounts of weight just because they are old and many of these cats may actually be suffering from 5 common conditions.

1. Hyperthyroidism. Hyperthyroidism results from too much secretion of thyroid hormone from a typically benign tumor in the thyroid gland. Cats with this disease will often eat excessively well, beg for or steal food, lose huge amounts of weight despite eating more than normal, and be more active than one would expect for an older cat. It is not uncommon for owners to note that the cat is playing with toys that have previously been ignored or the cat is overly active and verbal at night when they would normally be sleeping. This condition is commonly ignored because overall, the cat is eating and acting better than they should relative to their age. If this disease is left untreated hypertension, heart issues, and blindness can result. It is very easy to diagnose with simple blood tests and has 4 treatment options including medication, special food, surgery, or radioactive iodine treatment.
2. Kidney failure. It is common for older cats to have decreasing kidney function with age. Sometimes the progression is so slow that the cat seemingly accommodates to the decreased function and does not display dramatic signs until very late in the course of disease. Early signs include increases in thirst and urination, decreases in appetite, and weight loss. If it is left untreated and/or progresses rapidly vomiting, extreme lethargy, and anorexia will generally occur. Kidney disease is diagnosed with simple blood and urine tests. While there are generally no cures for kidney failure (unless the cat receives a kidney transplant) if it is caught compromise.
3. Inflammatory Bowel Disease. It is likely that many older cats have undiagnosed inflammatory bowel disease. If you own a cat you know they are probably going to throw up once in awhile from innocent hairballs, chewing on plants, or dietary indiscretion. This is so typical in felines early it can be managed with diet and medications. It is not uncommon for some cats to live for years with kidney it is practically considered normal. And while some vomiting is explainable, regular vomiting episodes should not be considered normal. What starts as vomiting once in awhile will often progress to multiple episodes per week or even per day. In gathering histories on my skinny feline patients I am always amazed when someone tells me their cat has been vomiting for YEARS. Many of these cats probably have some sort of inflammation in their small intestine or stomach. Inflammatory bowel disease has several causes and is typically diagnosed by biopsies obtained during a scoping procedure. Most cats, once properly diagnosed and managed can have a normal quality of life. If inflammatory bowel disease is left untreated, some cats can develop intestinal cancer.
4. Diabetes. Diabetes is an epidemic in people and in pets and long standing obesity is typically to blame. Early on, diabetic cats drink more, urinate more, eat more, and lose weight. Again, many owners may ignore these signs since the cat needed to lose weight anyway. It is easy to diagnose with bloodwork and is almost always best treated with insulin injections and a special diet. If managed, most diabetic cats will live normally for years and will often die of something unrelated to their disease.
5. Cancer. Unfortunately, a lot of older cats do develop various cancers that cause them to lose weight. It is not uncommon for this to be a slow, gradual process that goes unnoticed until the cat is very sick. The most common cancers in cats include lymphosarcoma and adenocarcinoma. Bloodwork, xrays, and possibly ultrasound and biopsy are often needed to make a diagnosis. As with many things, if caught early, there are many treatment options for cancer than can extend life and increase the cats overall quality of life. Treatment will vary by type of cancer, stage, and location and can include traditional cancer care such as surgery, chemotherapy, or radiation. However, new technologies such as immunotherapy are rapidly emerging in animal health.

*The information provided here is for educational purposes only and is not intended to take the place of a veterinarian. As always, if you have questions regarding the health of your pet, contact a veterinarian*

## Meet Mazikeen, Our HSMC Foster Dog *She Would Love to Be Your New Best Friend!*

Mazikeen or Mazzie has been living in a foster home with Lars Gossel at Gossel's Dog House for a few months. As a member of Lars' pack of dogs she has thrived and grown into the sweet girl that she is. Lars has equipped her with some good social skills (with dogs, cats, and humans), and built up her confidence in herself. Mazzie had been left in the drop-off kennels outside the shelter and started off as a very timid little girl. She's cute, small in stature and can be a bit clownish or goofy. She'll give you reason to smile and lots of affection. Call Lars at 309-333-8095 if you'd like to meet her.



Pretty girl



Mazzie playing



Mazzie with the pack



## **Brix Challenge 2020 Alabama Style**

Chris Brix and his sidekick, PeeWee have moved to Alabama, but their hearts are still in Macomb with the Humane Society of McDonough County.

Once again this fall Chris is preparing to challenge our community to raise the most funds yet for the HSMC and the animals needing assistance in our county. For the past 6 years the *Brix Challenge* has annually and collectively been the leading fundraiser supporting the many important projects, programs and initiatives of the HSMC. That's because of people like you meeting Chris' challenge head on.

This year, more than ever, the HSMC is depending on the success of the 7<sup>th</sup> annual *Brix Challenge*. Because of COVID 19 all of our fundraisers have been cancelled or postponed indefinitely despite the fact that the need for assistance for many animals and pet owners in McDonough County has not changed. Operating at the level with which the HSMC is needed is a challenge itself. We hope you join us to make the *Brix Challenge 2020* bigger and better than ever.

WATCH FOR DETAILS TO COME.



## 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!



## Did You Know?

### From Board Member Kate Shattuck:

#### Did you know your dog can snack on select fruits and veggies?

**Many of us who adopt a shelter dog use treats for positive reinforcement of the behaviors we want. But I worry about giving too many high fat and high sodium treats. So here are a few natural options that my two shelter dogs love (taken from internet searches).**

Raw and cooked **carrots** are healthy options for **dogs** and make a nutritious add-in to meals. While **carrots** are generally safe, it is important to cut whole **carrots** and even **carrot** sticks into bite-size chunks before feeding them to your dog. As a result, you will prevent choking, especially in small **dogs**.

**Cucumbers** are perfectly **safe** for **dogs** to eat, and offer a low-calorie, crunchy snack that many **dogs** love. **Cucumbers** only contain about 8 calories per one-half cup of slices, compared to the 40 calories in a single medium Milk Bone biscuit, and are very low in sodium and fat.

**Bananas** are a great source of multiple nutritional aspects that your **dogs** need, including but not limited to potassium, manganese, fiber, biotin, copper, vitamin C and vitamin B6. They are, however, high in sugar, so its important to only feed **bananas** to your pup as a snack, never as part of his regular diet.

Yes, **dogs can eat broccoli**. **Dogs can eat** both cooked and raw broccoli, as long as there are no seasonings or oils added. However, this vegetable should always be given in very small quantities, especially because the florets contain isothiocyanates, which **can** cause gastric irritation in **dogs**.

Can dogs eat **watermelon**? The answer is yes, with a couple of precautions. Seeds could cause an intestinal blockage, so make sure you remove them. It's also probably not a good idea to allow a **dog** to chew on the rind, because it **can** cause gastrointestinal upset.

Yes. Raw **pineapple**, in small amounts, is an excellent snack for **dogs**. ... Plus, frozen pieces of fresh **pineapple** make a delicious treat in the summer. If your **dog** does not like **pineapple**, there are plenty of other fruits and vegetables that are safe for **dogs** to eat.

NOTE: Kate says Brie and Mac, her two rescue dogs, are eating all of the cucumbers from her garden!

*Summer Cat Special Was a Success!*



The HSMC-sponsored Summer Cat Special has reaped benefits. With a reduced adoption fee through the end of August, many cats and kittens have found their forever homes.