

WINTER 2019

HSMCIL  
P.O. Box 7  
Macomb, IL 61455

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Humane Society of McDonough County

# Waggin' Tales



## Warm Winter Greetings,

'Tis the season to count our blessings, be joyful in our celebrations, and to feel a bit bittersweet as we reflect on those loved ones, both human and four-legged, who have given us so much joy and who are no longer with us as we impart upon the holidays. Our thoughts are with those of you who have experienced such a loss. The Humane Society has so much to be grateful for, which, in large part is dependent on our partnership with the shelter and the community in caring for and finding homes for the animals needing our assistance. A record number of dogs and cats were adopted from the shelter this year – at 359 adoptions and still counting! Included in that number are 53 cats that were adopted after being housed/displayed at Pet Supplies Plus. The HSMC rescued three dogs from the shelter as fosters, all of which are now in their forever homes and waiting for a visit from Santa. And, three dogs were adopted and successfully completed their heartworm treatment via HSMC sponsorship of their medical costs.

As we look forward to next year, we are planning a different approach to our Annual Reorganization meeting, separating the election of directors and officers from our annual year in review. The official annual meeting for the election will be held on the same night as the regularly scheduled January Board meeting -- January 6<sup>th</sup>. All HSMC members are encouraged to attend and participate. You'll find the slate of nominees in this newsletter. Then, a bit later in early March we will hold an Annual HSMC Showcase evening at which time we will review the 2019 activities and accomplishments, along with our plans for 2020. HSMC members and the public are invited to come with questions and ideas. At last year's January Annual Reorganization Dinner we faced nasty inclement weather that interfered with our best-laid plans; we're trying to circumvent a repeat of that disappointing evening.

We've had a fun, and productive time participating in community holiday events. Board members volunteered to ring bells for the Salvation Army. For Dickens on the Square we had a living window in the Bird's Nest on Friday evening and assisted Stacie Kwacala, Captured Moments, with *Photos with Santa* on Saturday. Chloe, our most recent foster dog, visited our living window with her foster dad, Lars of Gossel's Dog House, and made an acquaintance that resulted in her adoption. The \$536 from *Photos with Santa* will assist the shelter in necessary restructuring of overhangs on the outdoor dog runs.

Over this last year we sponsored five transports to the Quincy Humane Society's Low Cost Spay/Neuter, resulting in 109 cats being altered and receiving their vaccines. The number of transports was fewer due to the slow recuperation of the Quincy veterinarian after a car accident. We are pleased to report that we have February and March transports scheduled to begin our 2020 spay/neuter initiative.

We wish you very Happy Holidays and look forward to your continued interest in and support of our work for needy animals.

Bonnie Smith-Skripps  
HSMC President

What do you get if you cross a cat with Father Christmas? Santa Claws!

## 2020 HSMC Annual Board Election

American Legion Post 6  
221 E. Washington St, Macomb, IL 61455  
Date: January 6, 2020  
Time: 6:00 p.m.

Per **Article IV, Section 7**, this is notification of the slate of positions along with current nominees. Nominees will be voted on at the Annual Board Election pursuant to **Article V, Section 3**. Pursuant to **Article V, Section 4**: The Members of the Board of Directors can consist of up to 15 members. Currently there are 15 nominees. *HSMC members are encouraged to participate in the operation of this organization. Please consider attending board meetings and donating your time and talents to the running of this organization.*

**Director:** Open to HSMC members interested in helping the animals of McDonough County by donating their time and talents to shaping the future of this organization. The purpose of this Society is the prevention of cruelty to animals, the relief of suffering among animals, and the extension of humane education.

### Slate of Nominees for 2020

**Article V, Section 2:** Only HSMC Members are eligible for election as Directors. No individual shall derive monetary benefit of any kind from being a director.

#### Board Positions

#### Nominees to Date

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

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## ***Brix Challenge Is Another Success!***

Once again, the generosity and support of this community resulted in great things for the animals in McDonough County. For the sixth year, animal-lovers in our area rose to the challenge presented by our good friend, Chris Brix, who promised to match \$1,000.00 in funds raised through the month of October. Those who took on Chris' challenge this year donated an amazing \$13,630.00. Funds raised through *The Brix Challenge* enable the HSMC to continue and improve its important interventions to help animals in need in our county. **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 through HSMC initiatives.**

**A few of those include:**

- 1) **PROMOTING ADOPTIONS** of cats and dogs at the McDonough County Animal Shelter via weekly posters, social media, news outlets and sponsorship; promoting adoptions of hard-to-place animals through reduced adoption fees and/or medical intervention, for example.
- 2) **RESCUE AND FOSTER** of those animals that don't get adopted from the McDonough County Animal Shelter by moving those animals whose time is running out at the shelter into foster homes where they can live in a family and enjoy socialization while awaiting their forever home.
- 3) **REDUCING OVERPOPULATION** through two separate spay/neuter programs. One serves to promote adoption of animals at the shelter by subsidizing the cost of altering animals adopted from the shelter. The other is a partnership with the Quincy Humane Society that provides transportation and spay/neuter for barn/feral cats at no cost to the caretaker. If space is available companion dogs and cats may take advantage of this for a nominal fee.
- 4) **PROVIDING MEDICAL CARE** to shelter animals with special needs and County animals in emergency situations through the discretionary use of our long-standing "Angel Fund."
- 5) **HELPING KEEP ANIMALS IN THEIR HOMES** and with their families when they meet with financial distress via the Pet Food Pantry now available in cooperation with Loaves and Fishes.

**We are extremely grateful to everyone who participated in the *Brix Challenge 2019*!**



*Patti Nemec and Chris Brix*

### **McDonough County Animal Shelter**

101 Tower Road  
Macomb, IL 61455

Animal Control Officers:  
Kirsta Lyles  
Kelsey Havens  
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

## Giving in the Community



On October 26, 2019, Haymakers presented a check to the HSMC for \$100 from a dunk tank fundraiser.



On December 11, 2019, Ed Lavin presented a check for \$500 from the Elks to Bonnie Smith-Skripps for the Brix Challenge. Chris Brix is also present.

## "Photos with Santa" Raises \$536

Photos with Santa raised \$536 in picture fees and donations. We were pleased to realize a \$1 donation from a little boy who came up and said, "I just love dogs." We thank all who participated and gave. Stacie Kwacala again gave of her time and expertise to make this happen.



And, a special thanks to Kevin Bainter who did such a great job with the dogs and the kids as Santa.



## Half-Price Cat Fee Special!

The McDonough County Animal Shelter is only 41 adoptions away from hitting 400 for 2019!

The shelter is currently running a special from now until the end of this year that all cat adoption fees are half price!

We would LOVE to reach 400 for the year. Let's help make this happen! Come out and take a look!

## Sixth Grade Donates to Shelter

Edison School 6th grade class donated food and supplies to the animal shelter. Way to go, kids!





## Living Window at Dickens on the Square

The Bird's Nest hosted an HSMC living window with dogs from the animal shelter and Pat Stewart as Cindy from "How the Grinch Stole Christmas." Chloe, an HSMC foster dog, also appeared.



Shoppers and "Cindy" enjoying the living window with shelter dogs Abby and Ellie, and foster dog, Chloe

## HSMC Raises Money for Salvation Army

Volunteers of the HSMC rang the bell for the Salvation Army and raised over \$70 to support Salvation Army programs and services.



## 2-for-1 Bonded Pair Special!

The animal shelter has a bonded pair of beautiful cats looking for their forever home. We are offering a 2-for-1 special to help place these lovely ladies!



## Wish Tags at Farm King

Farm King again has allowed the HSMC to put up a tree with wish tags for animals at the shelter. Each tag contains an item or two to be purchased and donated to the shelter. A shelter dog, Zeus, was given a special bag based on his tag and ended up being adopted by the giver.



## The Purrfect Pair

by Ericka Adkins

I adopted Virginia, a black and white 1-year-old cat, from the shelter last January. She's a spoiled rotten kitty who is an energetic butterball, eating everything in sight. I love her to death, but the beginning wasn't easy. I couldn't play with her the way she wanted to. She was rough. She wanted to bite, chew, and scratch. I taught her a lot, like how not to scratch, steal food, and dig up plants. While things have been better, I recently noticed that she has gained a lot of weight and was not playing and grooming like she used to. I thought it was a good time to get a second cat.

I went to the shelter and adopted Fran (formerly Jetta). Fran is a 4-month-old kitten with a bob tail. I was hoping to find an older cat to tame Virginia's wild soul, but seeing Fran zoom around the shelter chasing fluffs of hair melted my heart. I knew she was the one.

I knew she needed a home with lots of toys and room to run, one without children, and a patient mama to teach her to be good. I didn't realize that I adopted an angel. There wasn't a single fight and there still hasn't been one weeks later. They literally played 24 hours straight the first night and I wouldn't have it any other way. Virginia is so gentle to her. I don't know if it's the size difference or the amount of double takes staring at her stub, but she knows this baby is delicate. She tries to clean Fran who only wants to play and follows her from room to room to watch Fran quietly play with her many toys.

Fran is such a cuddler. While Virginia never was a cuddler, she is now, lying next to me as I write this. They are the perfect pair, my salty and sweet babies. I'm so happy that I adopted my baby a friend.



*Virginia and Fran*



*Fran*

**Do you have an adoption story that you would like to share? Send your story and pictures to [HumaneSociety.mcil@gmail.com](mailto:HumaneSociety.mcil@gmail.com)!**





## 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!**



## Chloe—A Christmas Tale

Chloe was brought to the shelter in early October as a very scared and confused young girl of 9 months of age. She had had no socialization with either people or other dogs. After a month at the shelter it became evident that her self-confidence wasn't improving and that she was not acclimating well to being confined to a kennel for most of the day, surrounded by noise and strangers. Chloe was at her best when she was taken on long walks or, even better, being taken for a run by volunteers. In early November, the HSMC pulled her from the shelter and placed her in foster care with Lars at Gossel's Dog House. She immediately bloomed into a happy girl, who loved playing and running with her buddies at the Dog House. She bonded with Lars and learned trust, self-confidence, and basic skills. Chloe had made such progress that we believed she was ready for a public outing and she made an appearance at our Living Window at Dickens on the Square. And, lo and behold. While in the Birds Nest, she met with her destiny. Lars and a very nice lady struck up a conversation and we learned that she and her husband were looking for a friend for Bentley, their 1 year old Blue Heeler. Two days later they visited Gossel's Dog House with Bentley and decided it was a perfect match. They completed an adoption application which we reviewed and approved. A week later Chloe went to her forever home with her new parents, Bentley, and three cats.. Good-byes were sad, but the joy of new beginnings was in the air.



*Why did the cowboy buy a dachshund?  
Someone told him to get a long little doggie!*

### ***HSMC Spay/Neuter Transports***

HSMC sponsors transports to Quincy Humane Society's Low Cost Spay/Neuter Clinic. Upcoming dates are February 27th and March 19th.

Register now for the spay/neuter of barn and feral cats (at no charge to you) and of companion cats for \$15. Distemper and rabies vaccines are included. Send your name, address, phone number, and email, and your cat's name(s), gender, coloring, and age to [humanesociety.mcil@gmail.com](mailto:humanesociety.mcil@gmail.com). Indicate which date you prefer. February is filling up quickly.

