

WINTER 2020

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P.O. Box 7  
Macomb, IL 61455

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Humane Society of McDonough County

# Waggin' Tales



**Warm Holiday Greetings,**

Well, here we are, in the middle of our first, and what is hopefully our last, pandemic holiday season. We hear the warnings and heed the expert advice, but so desire to be safely with our friends and family to celebrate this joyous season. It's in times such as these that our pets are an extra special comfort and enduring presence in our day-to-day lives. And for this faithful love we consider ourselves blessed. For each and every dog or cat in a shelter, we hope they find their forever homes so they too can celebrate and feel a sense of belonging and worth with their new families.

In this newsletter we continue to celebrate our ties to this community and the support that we receive. Not only are we thrilled to announce the biggest *Brix Challenge* results ever, but also the amazing number of *Binx*, *The Uptown Cat* books that have been sold, just within the short few months of being available. This year John Nelson invited us to be "celebrity fund-raising gift wrappers" in Nelson's the last Saturday before Christmas, with pay as a donation to HSMC. We decorated Christmas trees with shelter animal ornaments and lists of gift wishes at both Farm King and Pet Supplies Plus. Not only do the gift supplies benefit the shelter animals via this effort, but the public also sees pictures of the individual cats and dogs that are waiting at the shelter, wishing and hoping for their new best friends.

This fall and winter we have received more requests for assistance with pet supplies than before. Part of this can be attributed to the lack of access to the Pet Food Pantry at Loaves and Fishes, and part to the economically challenging times. We are pleased that we have plentiful donations that allow us to deliver pet food to those in need, enabling them to not have to make a difficult decision to give up their pets because of limited resources.

We wrapped up our final spay/neuter transport for 2020 on December 3<sup>rd</sup> with 25 cats going to the Quincy Humane Society for an overnight stay. This calendar year we have sponsored 11 transports, resulting in 251 cats being altered and receiving their rabies and distemper vaccines. We appreciate this ongoing partnership with QHS, which helps us address our initiative to control cat overpopulation in McDonough County and to assist families in being responsible cat owners.

You will find the slate of nominees for HSMC directors/officers for 2021. We invite you, as an HSMC member, to attend our annual reorganization meeting, via Zoom this year, to participate in the vote and to receive a brief update on our 2020 activities and the New Shelter Building Campaign. This meeting will be held Monday, January 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm. To receive the Invite link to participate in the Zoom meeting, email us at [humanesociety.mcil@gmail.com](mailto:humanesociety.mcil@gmail.com). It's an easy way to hear about our year's activities and plans for the new shelter without having to leave the comfort and safety of your home. We do hope you will join us and share your thoughts and ideas as we look forward to a happy and productive 2021.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Bonnie Smith-Skripps  
HSMC President

# The Brix Challenge 2020

## A Record-breaking Year for The Humane Society of McDonough County

*The Brix Challenge 2020* shattered the record of all 6 previous years' challenges, bringing in **\$18,902.00**. That's amazing and it's because of this wonderful community. For the seventh 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 from late September through the month of October. This year's need has been greater than ever, with assistance provided to animals greater than average, and our ability to continue many fundraisers severely limited due to COVID-19. We asked our supporters to make this a record-breaking year for *The Brix Challenge*, and you did.

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:

**Promoting adoption** 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.

**Sponsoring and fostering** of those animals that need extra help in getting adopted or by moving those animals from the shelter into a foster home where they can live in a home-like environment and enjoy socialization while awaiting their forever home.

**Reducing cat 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 and at low cost for companion cats.

**Providing medical care** to shelter animals, as well as to County animals in emergency situations through the discretionary use of our long-standing "Angel Fund."

**Helping keep pets in their homes** and with their families when they meet with financial distress via the Pet Food Pantry and discretionary use of the "Angel Fund."

### McDonough County Animal Shelter

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

Animal Control Officers:  
Kelsey Havens  
Zack Welch  
Joe Rossmiller  
Chris McKay  
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)

## 2021 HSMC Annual Board Election

Via Zoom

Date: January 4, 2021

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 14 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 2021

**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 Smith-Skripps
Officer/Vice President	Bill Johnson
Officer/Treasurer	Terri Hare
Officer/Secretary	Kate Shattuck
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	Pat Stewart
Director	Ann Stites
Director	Open

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*We bid a fond farewell to Brenda Neal and thank her for her commitment and expertise as an HSMC Board member. We will miss her and wish her well as she moves to southern Illinois to be closer to family.*



## Holiday Season Activities!



While we so missed doing Pet Holiday Photos with Stacie Kwacala at *Dickens on the Square* this year, we still found ways to be out and about in the community.



As has been our annual tradition, HSMC members rang Salvation Army bells at Farm King on December 8th. Bill and Jan Johnson are shown here taking their shift.



Amy Betz decorated Christmas trees at both Farm King and Pet Supplies Plus with ornaments featuring cats and dogs currently available for adoption at the shelter with their wish lists on back. Shelter animals benefit greatly from this effort and the community's generosity.



John and Ian Nelson donated \$250 to the HSMC after our "celebrity gift wrappers" wrapped 30 packages at Nelson's Clothing on Saturday, December 19th. Jill Bainter and Shelley Kreps (left) wrapped for the first 2 1/2 hours and Terri Hare and Ann Stites took over in the afternoon. A good time was had by all! We thank John and Ian for thinking of us and for their support.



*Did you hear about the cat who swallowed a ball of wool? She had mittens.*

# “Binx the Uptown Cat”

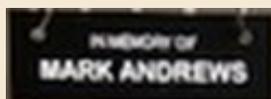


Authors Brenda Sayre and Patti Nemec were happy to present Bonnie Smith-Skripps with a check for \$3,040.00 in donations received in support of their book **Binx the Uptown Cat**. The book tells the true story of Binx’s rescue from life as a homeless cat living on the Macomb square into a cozy home with a loving family of his own. The book was available this fall for a donation of \$25.00. All donations received for the book (and additional gifts included) were given to the Humane Society of McDonough County in hopes of helping their dream of a new animal shelter in McDonough County come true. The response was amazing. Brenda and Patti extend their most sincere “thanks” to everyone who generously supported this project. There are no more books available at this time. Keep your eye out for a possible 2<sup>nd</sup> printing in Spring 2021.

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## Acknowledgement of Memorial Funds for New Cat Unit

Lin Stultz of Engraving by Lin donated signage to commemorate the use of memorial dollars for Laura Sadler Cripe and Mark Andrews that helped purchase the new cat unit at the shelter. We so appreciate Lin’s support, and the memorials that were directed to enhance the lives of the cats at the shelter. The signage will go with the cat unit to the new shelter facility once constructed.



## New Shelter Building Campaign



We are excited about kicking off our New Shelter Building Campaign and have been pleased with the interest and support we have received thus far. We hope to present our plans in a variety of venues this next year, but welcome the opportunity to talk with you individually about how the new shelter will be of great benefit to homeless cats and dogs as well as to the community. In the meantime, you may want to consider a charitable gift to the Campaign or to HSMC in general.

Giving your gift now may be easier than you think, and offers many advantages. Charitable giving often provides you with tax advantages. If you wish your gift to go to the ***New Shelter Building Campaign***, please indicate as such. We suggest that you consult your tax and/or financial advisors for more information on these avenues of giving.

### **Options for Giving include:**

- \* Outright Gifts (Cash, Check, Credit Card, PayPal, Restricted Gift)
- \* Memorials/Honorariums
- \* Securities
- \* Real Estate
- \* Bequests
- \* Charitable Trusts and Charitable Gift Annuity
- \* Donor-advised Funds
- \* Retirement Assets IRA 401(k), 403(b) or other retirement plans
- \* Will or Trust
- \* Life Insurance



## 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!**



## Special Dogs and Cats Looking for their Special Forever Homes

Some cats and dogs leave the shelter fairly quickly after arriving. Others, however, aren't so fortunate. Here we highlight some senior residents and those requiring some special care. They just need to find a welcoming home where their limitations are recognized and their loyal love appreciated.



Blacky and Tiny are a sweet, declawed and bonded pair whose owner could no longer care for them. They are 14 years old and looking for a quiet home



to live out their senior years surrounded by comfort and love. Both appear healthy and calm and are quite pretty. You can meet them at Pet Supplies Plus.



Henry the Coonhound is a handsome boy who so wants to be with his human at all times and will quietly share your space, just needing a bed or a blanket and a few scratches and kind words. Henry does like to take walks and be outside as well – as long as he has company. Henry did test heart worm positive. We want this special guy to find his new best friend who will love him and guide him through the heart worm treatment process; the HSMC will cover the cost of the medical expense of his treatment.

Lakota is a Jack Russell Terrier who loves long, brisk walks and attention. He has cataracts, but this doesn't appear to slow him down. He sees better in the sunlight and probably needs an active life, in a safe environment where he isn't startled.



**Q. How do dog catchers get paid?  
 A. By the pound!**

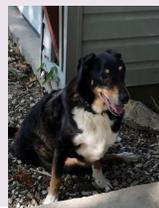
Mazikeen is still at Gossel's Dog House enjoying her life there. She has learned a lot during her time with Lars and his pack. Mazzie has much more confidence and trust than when she first left the shelter. She also has good manners.

## Update on Ebby and Tippy

Ebby was featured in our Fall Waggin' Tales as still hoping for her forever home after Tippy was settled in his. It didn't take long for her to find a nice couple to share their home with her. "She loves her walks and seeing other dogs and people. Thanks to her, we are getting more exercise too."

Robbi

*Ebby/Abby relaxing after a long walk*



Tippy has settled in to his home and enjoys sitting outside in the sun, looking over his domain, as well as the comforts of the indoors.

*Tippy at home*

## Membership Application Form!

YES, I want to support the Humane Society of McDonough County's vision with my annual membership!  
This is a new or renewing (circle one) membership!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

### Membership Levels Available:

	Junior (under 18)	\$5.00
	Student or Senior	\$10.00
	Individual	\$25.00
	<b>Family*</b>	\$35.00
	<b>Pet**</b>	\$5.00
	Contributing	\$50.00

	Sustaining	\$100.00
	Supporting	\$500.00
	Lifetime	\$1,000.00

### Business Memberships Available:

	Protector	\$100.00
	Guardian	\$250.00
	Defender	\$500.00

**\*Please list all Family Members:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*Please list all Pet Members:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Please mail completed application and payment to:**

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

