

WINTER/SPRING  
2022

HSMCIL  
P.O. Box 7  
Macomb, IL 61455

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Humane Society of McDonough County

# Waggin' Tales



Spring Greetings (as we hopefully say farewell to winter weather),

In this double edition of Waggin' Tales we bring you some of the reasons we had cause for celebration over the winter months. We also look forward to the furthering of our initiatives and events as we move into spring renewal and milder temperatures.

The Steve Rock and Denise Elston \$10,000 donation to the New Animal Shelter Building Campaign and the contributions we received via the First Christian Church Operation Generosity were definite reasons to celebrate. The national campaign in support of needy animals that resulted from the passing of Betty White also reaped benefits for HSMC and the shelter. The immediate response to our plea for help with medical needs of the severely injured kitten found in a park was also very indicative as to how much our community cares for animals in need. While there are days of sadness and despair in animal rescue, we are happy to share with you a few stories with happy endings – which make it all worthwhile. Your support enables us to intervene and assist in achieving positive outcomes for animals in need.

Traditionally, in the spring edition of Waggin' Tales, we share the list of memorials made over the last year. Designation of HSMC as the recipient of memorials illustrates the recognition that family and friends have of their deceased loved ones' commitment to animal welfare, as well as for pets that have passed Along this same vein, Dr. Blakeley has shared an article on Quality of Life Indicators that inform us on when and how to make decisions about helping our beloved pets cross the Rainbow Bridge.

This last year we have received more requests for help with spay/neuter of barn/feral and companion cats. The HSMC has partnered with the Quincy Humane Society Low Cost Spay/Neuter Clinic since March 2014, but we are allowed only 25 cats per transport to the QHS Clinic and we make McDonough County cats our priority. Shortages of staff and funding are affecting the availability of low cost spay/neuter. Twice last year we had to drive cats down to Quincy because they didn't have a driver. Neighboring counties are losing the resources they had utilized. We have a committee that has been studying national trends and issues related to controlling cat populations and are further investigating the situation in our region. The HSMC Board determined this would be an area of focus for 2022.

And we cannot neglect the New Animal Shelter Building Campaign. A new shelter is another desperate need for the community. A solid infrastructure that provides for specialized shelter needs is critical to animal care in our County. We are about a third of the way there in having enough money in the campaign account to get started with our plan. We are planning a fall fundraiser for the Building Campaign, as well as continuing events to support our annual budget. In this newsletter you will find pie charts that illustrate from where our 2021 annual budget income was generated and the breakout of expenses for our 2021 initiatives.

We wish you a very happy spring and do hope to see you in the near future.

*Bonnie Smith-Skripps*  
HSMC President

## **To Treat or Not - How to Use Key Quality of Life Indicators to Help Decide Part 1: Eight Things to Consider**

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

Pet owners often ask me how they will know when it is time to end the life of their pet. They will often also ask me if there are things that can be done to extend the life of their pet. The balance between the two— treating or not—can be very difficult to find when your pet is sick or chronically ill. This article, part one of two, will explore eight different quality of life indicators that should be considered when thinking about treating or euthanizing. The second article, next time, will discuss options to improve issues (i.e. improve quality of life) in each of these categories.

1. **PAIN.** Many animals do not complain of pain in the obvious ways that we would expect. Clients, often incorrectly, assume that their pet is not in pain because he or she isn't crying or whining. It is important to remember that by the time they are crying the pain may be severe. Common signs of pain may include: hiding or laying in abnormal locations, limping (if it didn't hurt, they wouldn't limp), abnormal respirations including frequent panting, panting at rest, forced or exaggerated breaths, excessive licking at a specific site or region, shaking or trembling, abnormal postures, guarding or protecting an area of the body, and new signs of aggression or agitation if handled or moved.
2. **APPETITE.** Appetite is one of the most obvious signs of wellness. Most animals are vigorous eaters if given the chance. Signs of diminished appetite such as eating slower than normal, not finishing food, walking to the food bowl and looking at it and then walking away, picky eating without a previous history of such, avoidance of favorite foods and treats, requiring "top dressing" or the addition of canned foods or human foods to coax an appetite, frequent tongue motions or licking, gagging, or swallowing funny, can all indicate appetite issues that are a sign of larger problems.
3. **HYDRATION.** Hydration status is as equally important as appetite. Without adequate water consumption, pets can become dehydrated. Dehydration can contribute to weakness and not feeling well. Signs of hydration issues include tacky, dry, or sticky mucus membranes (gums), poor skin turgor (however this can be due to age and a decrease in elasticity of the skin), weakness, lethargy, darker urine than normal, and more strong smelling urine than normal are all indications of poor hydration. Animals will often give up on eating before they give up on drinking so hydration issues are much more serious than appetite issues alone.
4. **HYGIENE.** Animals that don't feel well, especially cats, do not have the energy to maintain normal hair and skin. Matting that never used to occur, greasy or oily coats, rough and dull hair coats, abnormal odor from the hair or body in general, and urine or stool pasting/matting around the rectum and undersides can all be indicators of decreased hygiene. If your pet was normally a very clean and tidy animal these changes are of concern.
5. **ACTIVITY/MOBILITY.** Changes in normal activity can be due to mobility problems, pain, illness, past injury, or aging (arthritis). Difficulty rising without assistance, limping, laying for excessive amounts of time in one location, decreased desire to play ball, go for walks, or participate in previously enjoyed activities, falling or collapsing, refusal to get up on beds and furniture, and difficulty with stairs should all be considered with respect to quality of life.
6. **HAPPINESS/MENTAL STATUS.** Changes such as a lack in expressing interest and joy in life, decreased play, mental dullness and depression, hiding or avoiding people or other pets, and refusal to participate in previously enjoyed activities can indicate a diminished quality of life.

7. **GENERAL BEHAVIOR PATTERNS.** Changes in normal behavioral patterns are often a key indicator to how well an animal feels. Things like hiding or sleeping in odd places, excessive sleep, lack of excitement when the owner comes home, being overly clingy or more aloof, treating other pets in the household differently (either becoming more needy with other pets or less inclined to interact with them), a lack of concern with things going on around them, and a lack of stimulation with key triggering events (such as barking when the door bell rings or watching birds out the window) can all be signs of a decreased quality of life.
8. **OWNER PERCEPTIONS.** Many times an owner is aware that their pet is suffering but does not want to outwardly admit there are issues or perhaps they don't want to feel like they are giving up on their pet. It is very important to ask yourself if you are holding on for some sentimental reason, if you would want to live in a similar state without any intervention, and if your pet is having more bad days than good days. If you answer those questions honestly, it can be helpful in making a decision.

Unfortunately, these are a lot of things to consider. One must also remember that almost everything on this list can be explained by other, not life threatening issues. The most important thing to note is this: The more things above that your pet is doing or if you are rapidly seeing more of the issues above arise, you need to seriously make a decision on intervention or euthanasia.

Next time we will explore the same 8 categories and discuss ways to improve or mitigate these issues to improve quality of life if euthanasia is not yet an option.

\*\*The information above is for educational purposes only and is not intended to diagnose your pet. As always, if you have questions regarding your pet, please contact your veterinarian. Very loosely adapted from Quality of Life Scale, Veterinary Practice News, June 2006, pg. 24.

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## Cat Lovers!

Cat Lovers, Denise Elston and Steve Rock, visited the shelter to give an end of the year New Animal Shelter donation to HSMC. We thank them for their generosity and support of the Building Campaign.



## Pet Sponsorships in 2021 and 2022 Special

With over \$7500 donated for sponsored adoptions in 2021, the HSMC either fully or partially sponsored 97 cats and dogs. The remaining \$1600 was carried over to 2022. With the release of several bonded pairs of cats to the shelter, we thought a Two-for-One Special on Bonded Cats was timely. Five pairs were sponsored; four pairs have been adopted.



Sammy and Sunny (aka James and Shea)  
—Adopted!



Quattro and Cinco

Come see us at Pet Supplies Plus in Macomb!



Dallas and Memphis—Adopted!



Dolly and Kenny—Adopted!



Chachi and Noochy—Adopted!

## Dickens Photos and Thanks!

Even though the holiday season feels like it's far behind us, we wanted to share a few pictures from Dickens on the Square, taken this year by Krista Skien. She did a great job with the 30+ groups of dogs with their owners or families and family photos. We appreciate Krista's donation of her time and professional photography with all funds directed to the Building Campaign.



## Biscuit's Happy Ending

One early morning in mid-December children at a bus stop in Blandinsville heard what sounded like a cat desperately meowing in a near-by park. One of the moms rushed the seriously injured little kitty to All Pets Veterinary Clinic where he was examined and found to be quite a mess with lots of fleas, two pelvic fractures, a femur fracture, and what appeared to be a broken tail. Luckily the mom works at All Pets and knew the kitten needed immediate attention. During his stay this sweet little Tabby boy demonstrated what a strong, resilient, and very loving kitty he was. Dr. Blakeley named him Biscuit because of his habit of kneading or making biscuits. HSMC committed to finding funds to cover the costs of his surgery and recovery and posted an appeal for help covering up to \$1200 in expenses.

This sweet little tabby named Biscuit stole the hearts of everyone at All Pets during his recovery and they asked if they could keep him at the clinic. Luckily we agreed, because it was later discovered that he also had critical internal injuries that would have probably gone unnoticed if he wasn't surrounded by those with medical expertise. He now shares playtime and a bed with the other clinic cat, Jeffie.



## A Special Operation Generosity Donation

Barb Houck donated \$250 to the HSMC New Animal Shelter Building Campaign in honor of Patti Nemec for her assistance with Lily, a cat that delivered her kittens in Barb's garage last spring 2021.

Pictured (left to right): Barb Houck and Patti Nemec

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## Savanna's Journey

In mid-January a kind Samaritan brought a small black pup to the shelter. She was found on the interstate between Colchester and Macomb and had a brace and wrap on her back leg. All vet clinics in the area were called and no one seemed to know anything about her. After her 7-day stay at the shelter to see if someone claimed the newly named girl, Dr. Blakeley x-rayed and reset her leg. Rather than being returned to the shelter with her newly set leg, Savanna then enjoyed the hospitality of All Pets for the next few weeks recuperating in her leg cast. She then went into foster care with Carrie Billingsly DePoy, until she was adopted by Dawn and Paul Sweet and family, including big brother Bo. She has made herself right at home in the Sweet household and has Bo wrapped around her paw!



Savanna



Bo and Savanna

### Business Members

- All Pets Veterinary Clinic
- American Legion Post 6
- Animal Medical Center
- Arnold Brothers
- Bushnell Veterinary Services, PC
- Captured Moments Photography
- Clugston Tibbitts Funeral Home
- Edward Jones
- Free Range Yoga
- Gossel's Dog House
- Green Shingle Graphics
- Hickory Kennels
- Krista Skein Photography
- Matthew S McClure, DMD
- McDonough Power Cooperative
- MidAmerica National Bank
- Minus Muffler Garage & Towing
- No Place Like Home
- Pet Supplies Plus
- Purdum Gray Ingledue Beck, Inc
- Royal Printing
- RWE Renewables
- Shady Lane Storage Facility
- Sweet Briar Corner Market
- The Community News Brief
- The McDonough County Voice
- The Wine Sellers
- Wesley Village
- West Side Lumber

### Betty White Campaign

One of Betty White's greatest legacies is helping animals. Thank you to those who donated in honor of Betty White's birthday! We received \$1,870.00 in donations to help the animals in McDonough County. Betty would be proud! Thank you!




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### 2022 HSMC Sponsored Transports for the Quincy Humane Society Low Cost Spay/Neuter Clinic

Spay/Neuter for McDonough County Cats - In keeping with our initiative to combat the cat overpopulation in McDonough County, the HSMC sponsors transports to the low cost spay/neuter clinic at the Quincy Humane Society at an expense to us of \$25 per cat. In 2021 the HSMC sponsored 10 transports, resulting in 204 cats being neutered and receiving distemper and rabies vaccines. Ten transports are scheduled for 2022.

Register now for spay/neuter of stray and feral cats at no charge to you, and companion cats for \$20. Distemper and rabies vaccines are included.

- April 14th - full
- May 19th - full
- June 16th
- July 14th
- August 18th
- September 15th
- October 13th
- November 10th





## McDonough County Animal Shelter

### Address:

101 Tower Road  
Macomb IL 61455  
Phone: 309-837-2989  
Email: mcas@macomb.com

### Animal Control Officers:

Kelsey Havens  
Zach Welch  
Joe Rossmiller (part-time)  
Chris McKay (part-time)

### Open to the Public:

Mon – Fri: 11:00 am to 5:00 pm  
Saturday: 10:00 am to Noon  
Sunday and Holidays: Closed

### McDonough County Animal Shelter (MCAS)

A county run facility staffed by county employees. The Humane Society of McDonough County (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.

## In Memoriam

We thank those who chose to leave a legacy with the Humane Society of McDonough County. Here we honor friends, family, and furbabies who departed in 2021 with a donation to our organization.

Sammi Adams  
Norma Agans  
Patricia Anderson  
Iva Atwater  
Nancy Aydelotte  
Butch  
Mitch Carey  
Bob Crane  
Jim Gray  
Karen Gray  
Elizabeth Haugen  
Pam Helm  
Catherine Henson  
Zeke Horton  
Peanut Kelso  
Patsy Kreps  
Nancy Lafary  
Betty Lee  
Barb Long  
Mary Melvin  
Jim Miller  
Inky Miller  
Verona Nelson  
Oscar  
Laura Sadler Cripe  
Donna Shattuck  
Leon Sinnett  
Cynthia Stephens  
Lana Turnquist  
Anna Mae Watson  
Betty Lou Zartuche

*What did the man name his two watch  
dogs?*

*Rolex and Timex*

*In Loving Memory*  
— — — — —

## Lil Squirt

Lil Squirt is another example of a kitten who was in need of a specialized care. His leg had been injured prior to coming to the shelter and had to be amputated. He was then adopted by his caregiver at All Pets who fell in love with him during his stay there.



LIFE Course:  
Cats and Dogs:  
The State of Our Pets in  
McDonough County

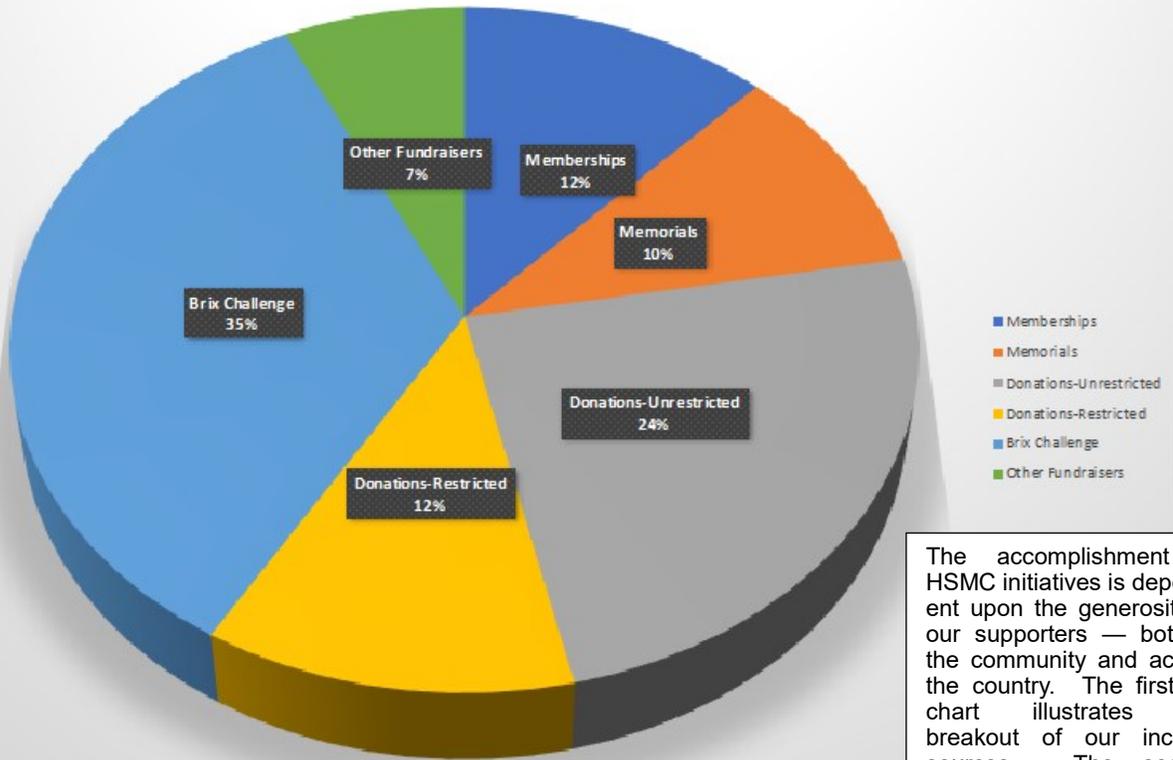
Location: Spoon River College Community Outreach Center, 2500 E. Jackson  
Day(s) & Time(s): Wednesday, April 20th, 2:00-3:30  
Registration Cost \$5 through the WIU website—  
[http://www.wiu.edu/sao/outreach/adult\\_learning\\_op/LIFE\\_macomb.php](http://www.wiu.edu/sao/outreach/adult_learning_op/LIFE_macomb.php)  
Instructor Name(s): Bonnie Smith-Skripps and Kate Shattuck

Course Description: Are you confused about the role of the Humane Society of McDonough County (HSMC) in supporting the needy cats and dogs in the County and how they work with the McDonough County Animal Shelter? Are you concerned about the number of homeless cats roaming the streets? Are you interested in the physical and emotional health benefits of having a pet? Do you wonder why the HSMC rather than the County is taking the lead in raising dollars for the proposed new animal shelter? Bonnie Smith-Skripps and Kate Shattuck, long-serving members of the HSMC Board of Directors, will provide an overview of issues related to the County's pet population and HSMC's work with both homeless animals in the Shelter and needy animals in the community. Plans for a new animal shelter to replace the existing 40+year old shelter building and how the proposed construction will serve the community will be presented.

*Why did the officer issue a ticket to the dog who gave birth on the side of the road?  
Because she was littering.*

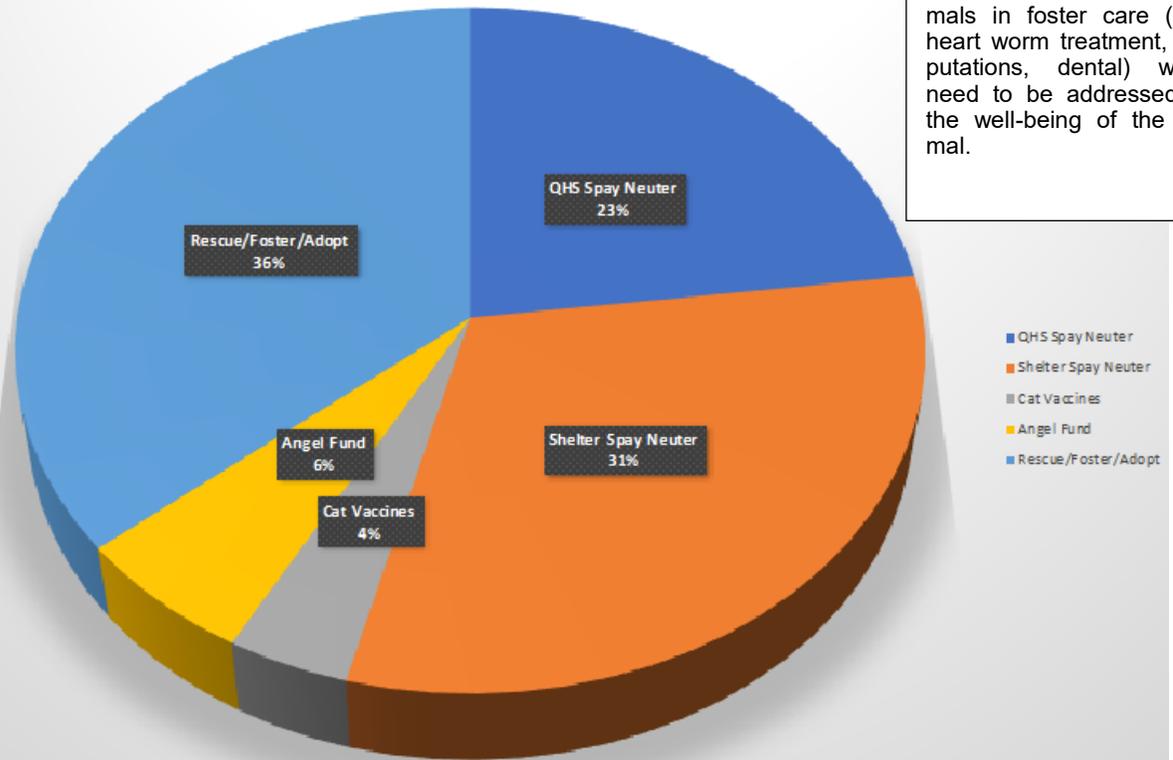


Income Chart 2021



The accomplishment of HSMC initiatives is dependent upon the generosity of our supporters — both in the community and across the country. The first pie chart illustrates the breakout of our income sources. The second shows our expenses. Rescue/foster/adopt includes specialized medical needs of shelter animals or animals in foster care (e.g., heart worm treatment, amputations, dental) which need to be addressed for the well-being of the animal.

Expense Chart 2021



## HSMC Board Meetings

When: First Monday of each Month  
 Time: 5:30 pm  
 Location: American Legion Macomb



## HSMC Board Members 2022

Bonnie Smith-Skripps - President  
 Bill Johnson – Vice President  
 Kate Shattuck – Secretary  
 Terri Hare – Treasurer  
 Sue Adams – Director  
 Amy Betz – Director  
 JB Biernbaum – Director  
 Felix Chu – Director  
 Patti Douglas – Director  
 Sharon Lindahl – Director  
 Dave Monninger – Director  
 Ann Stites – Director  
 Jennifer Tibbitts – Director

## HSMC Membership Form

The Humane Society of McDonough County is a membership-based, all-volunteer, 501(c)3 organization, and is able to accomplish its stated mission helping companion animals in our community because of its members. Membership income is the foundation on which the HSMC can fulfill its initiatives with programs such as; spay/neuter, shelter adoptions, and medical emergencies.

All income is used toward Initiatives and Programs and may be tax-deductible.

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: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\* If Family Membership, please list all names:

\_\_\_\_\_

\*\* If Pet Membership, please list pet's name:

\_\_\_\_\_

Please mail completed application and payment to:

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

### Membership Levels Available:

-  Junior (under 18) \$5.00
-  Student or Senior \$10.00
-  Individual \$25.00
-  Family\* \$35.00
-  Pet\*\* \$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



Humane Society  
of McDonough County

P.O. Box 7  
Macomb, IL 61455

**SAVE**  
THE  
DATE!

**June 18,**  
**2022**

American Legion,  
Macomb



*Wine, Whiskers & Whimsy*