

SPRING 2024

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Inside this issue:

Membership Dinner	2
Toby Adoption	2
Casino Night	3
Pet Supplies Plus	4
Lulu and Puppies	4
Transport Schedule	5
Board Members	5
Business Members	6
Delko Adoption	6
Memorials	7
Animal Shelter	7

Meetings

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



Humane Society of McDonough County

Waggin' Tales



Spring Greetings,

The very early spring weather has put a smile on our faces. We also are smiling about the results of the March 2nd Casino Night fundraiser for the new animal shelter building campaign. Those attending had a great time and we raised over \$60,000 to add to the campaign account.

It's our custom in the spring edition of *Waggin' Tales* to report on accomplishments of the past year. The good news is that the number of adoptions from the McDonough County Animal Shelter increased by over 20 percent (272 in 2022; 332 in 2023). Unfortunately, a record number of dogs tested positive for parvo and heartworm at the shelter. HSMC provided for their medical intervention. The majority of dogs stricken with parvo or that tested positive for heartworm and received treatment returned to good health. Almost half the number of shelter cats died of natural causes or were euthanized as compared to 2022 (42 in 2022; 24 in 2023). Cat vaccines and foster care for mothers and their kittens were instrumental in saving lives. Sponsorships by volunteers and community members also benefitted the cats and dogs that found themselves at the shelter in finding their forever homes.

The HSMC low cost spay/neuter transport program offered in collaboration with the Quincy Humane Society is continuing to make an impact on the cat overpopulation problem in McDonough County. As a result of ten transports during the year 215 cats were altered and vaccinated. The stray/feral cat situation came to the forefront as a pressing concern in the City of Macomb. We are pleased to recognize and be supportive of the efforts of the *Macomb Community Cat Project* to address this specific issue.

We are responding to more requests for pet food and cat litter from our Pet Food Pantry. We now have a distribution location in Bushnell to serve its community and we now also have the Good Food Collaborative storefront pantry as a Macomb distribution site.

While we are so very pleased to report that we have well over \$600,000 in the Building Fund for the new animal shelter, we have had to adjust to the realization of how much construction costs have increased since we started the campaign in 2018, and set our goal of \$1 million to begin construction. We are investigating renovation of a couple of existing buildings, thinking this would lower costs, but things are never quite that easy. Please know that we are carefully considering all options for renovation or for a new build, seeking the most cost effective and efficient way to make 21st century animal shelter a reality. Unfortunately, reality means we need more funds than we originally projected. We will keep you apprised as we continue this journey.

Now we begin planning for our summer *Cat Tails and Yappy Hour*. This event raises funds for our HSMC initiatives. The informal cocktail hour will again be held at the American Legion Post 6 in Macomb, on July 19th from 6:00-8:00. Please save this date on your calendar. We love having the opportunity to enjoy your company, and share silent auction items, live music, and appetizers.

Enjoy this newsletter, and please, stay in touch with us as we all seek the best for our county's needy and homeless animals. We welcome your suggestions, support, and inquiries.

Bonnie Smith-Skripps
President, HSMC

The January Membership Appreciation Dinner and meeting hosted 15 guest members (24 total) with a spaghetti dinner. The Board reviewed 2023 activities and accomplishments, and held membership election of the 2024 Board of Directors. We recognized longtime board members, Kate Shattuck and Bill Johnson, who have retired from the Board.

Thank you, Kate and Bill, for your service!



Bonnie and Bill



Bonnie and Kate



HAPPY ADOPTION DAY!

Toby had waited at the shelter way too long to find his new home. He loved attention, children, other dogs, etc., but was continually passed by. Then the right family heard about him from one of the volunteer dog walkers, came to visit, and Toby got his forever family.



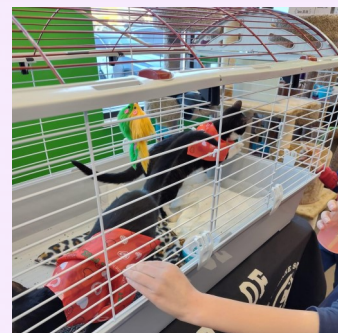


Another great Casino Night is in the books! We raised over \$60,000 for the new animal shelter! Thank you to all of our sponsors, donors, Jack Lowderman, Dave Arnold, WIU Football players, Drews and Lars Gossel. Thanks to the Casino Night Committee, and especially Sports Corner @ 124 and Kathy Waters for all of your hard work to make the event a reality.





Thank you to Brandi and her staff at Pet Supplies Plus. Each month we are invited to a fun event. For February, staff sold Valentine hearts to customers (in the windows) and raised \$1,000 for the HSMC!



Temporary Foster Homes Need for Pup and Kitten Season

Spring brings puppies and kittens. Those that are born at the shelter or arrive shortly thereafter benefit greatly if placed in a home environment during their early months prior to receiving vaccinations. Lulu was fortunate to have her pups born in a foster home to which they soon will be returning after a stay at All Pets. The pups will be available for adoption through the animal shelter in mid to late April. Please do not call the shelter until that time.



Foster homes for cat families are the most needed. If you are interested in providing a temporary home for kittens, or pups with or without their mom, please contact us at humanesociety.mcil@gmail.com and let us know of your interest and experience.

2024 HSMC Sponsored Transports

to
Quincy Humane Society Low Cost Spay/Neuter Clinic

Register now for spay/neuter of stray and feral cats at no charge to you,
and companion cats for \$25.

Distemper and rabies vaccines are included

March 12 Full
April 16 Full
May 14 Full
June 11 Full
July 16 Full
August 13 Full
September 17 Full
October 15
November 12

You must pre-register.

Send your name, address, phone number and email,
with your cat(s) name, gender, coloring, and age to
humanesociety.mcil@gmail.com
Indicate which date you prefer.

You will bring your cat to Patton Park in Macomb at 6:30 am
in a hard-sided cat carrier. You will then pick it up the next



Your 2024 HSMC Board

Bonnie Smith-Skripps - President
Dana Moon – Vice President
Amy Betz – Recording Secretary
Terri Hare – Treasurer
Candice Biswell – Membership Chair
JB Biernbaum – Director
Felix Chu – Director
Patti Douglas – Director
Sharon Lindahl – Director
Dave Monninger – Director
Ann Stites – Director
Jennifer Tibbitts – Director
Brian Waller – Director
Brandi Baker – Director
Savannah Ballard – Director



Right Place/Right Time for a Match Made in Doggy Heaven

Chewy and Lily met at the HSMC Pet Photos event at *Dickens on the Square*. Inside Clock Tower Bank their paths crossed as Lily's mom brought Lily in for pictures at the same time that Chewy was in the bank with Trustin, a volunteer dog walker from the shelter. They wanted a photo taken together. And the rest was magic. Lily's mom, Brigid, called the shelter the following Monday, saying she couldn't get Chewy out of her mind as a possible friend for Lily. We went on a home visit; Lily showed Chewy around the house and yard, and they played football tag like old pals. Brigid adopted Chewy that afternoon and the two dogs are best of friends.



Business Members

ABCDecluttering/Elisa Rasmussen
 All Pets Veterinary Clinic
 American Legion Post 6
 Arnold Brothers
 Bushnell Veterinary Services, PC
 Clugston Tibbitts Funeral Home
 Community News Brief
 Free Range Yoga & Wellness
 Gossel's Dog House
 Green Shingle Graphics
 Haymakers
 Hickory Kennels
 Krista Skien Photography
 Matthew S McClure, DMD
 No Place Like Home
 Owl Storage
 Pet Supplies Plus
 Purdum Gray Ingledue Beck, Inc
 Royal Printing
 RWE Renewables Americas LLC
 Wine Sellers

And yes, there are angels in our midst.

Delko came to the shelter right after the first of the year, barely able to stand on his swollen legs. His long, emaciated body was evidence of the neglect he had endured. He had been found abandoned and was very weak and depressed. There was no light or life in his eyes. At the shelter he just lie on his side and had to be coaxed to try to get up to go outside. With patience, loving attention, medicine for his arthritis and swollen joints, and a good diet Delko perked up and realized he had friends and security at the shelter. Life was worth getting up for.

A couple from Michigan who saw his picture and description on Pet Finder were drawn to him because of his breed and age. This couple have rescued 10 or so senior German Shepherds over the years, and have compatible pairs living with them at one time. They had recently been searching for a companion for Faith, their rescued 9- year-old GSP. They responded to the descriptive sentence, "He likes to take meandering walks" and thought his temperament might make him a good match for their girl, Faith. They loaded Faith in their van and drove nine hours to Macomb to meet Delko.

The two dogs hit it off right away and Delko left that day with his new family. As his new mom tells us, "We have never seen such a happy dog. . . . We have walking trails all through the woods and he walks about a mile a day. Doesn't pull – just meanders. He is slowly gaining weight and building up his rear leg muscles. We think he is a German Shepherd/Husky/Greyhound mix. We let him off lead a couple of times and he loves running. He always has a smile on his face." She goes on to report that Delko and Faith show no competition and lie next to each other.



My sunshine doesn't come from the skies, it comes from the love in my pet's eyes.

~Unknown

2023 Donations were received in memory of . . .

Diane Atkinson	Nicola Kessler
Sam Biswell	Bonnie Laird
Carole Brown	Barb Lieber
Lady Mae Buccholz	Lyndon Ma
Robin Burnham Clawson	Kathy MacKenzie
Cleo (Auto Shop Cat)	Bruce Melton
Jane Coates	Sue Melton
Charles Courson	Charles Metcalf
Mike Dickson	Kega Mickelson
Harry Drummond	Arden Moon
Zack Ebey	Bobbi Polite
Becky Endres	Laura Sadler Cripe
Bill Gelvin	Sally Sallee
Ron Gray	Gaytha Spolum
Rosa Lee Gray	Rosalie Stambach
Beverly Haugen	Bettye Swanson
Gene John	Tootalou
Ann Kemper	Jane Wetterich
Viktor Kempter	Amy Wickert

Dusty Rose Wolf-Maakestad

"Wherever a beautiful soul has been there is a trail of beautiful memories."
- Ronald Reagan

MCDONOUGH COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER

101 E. Tower Rd.
Macomb, IL 61455

(309)837-2989
mcas@macomb.com

OPEN:
MONDAY - FRIDAY: 11AM - 5PM
SATURDAYS: 10AM - 12PM
SUNDAYS & HOLIDAYS CLOSED

Shelter Staff:

Zach Welch
Malique Reardon
Joe Rossmiller (part time)
Annetta Ogle (part time)



Humane Society
of McDonough County
P.O. Box 7
Macomb, IL 61455

SAVE THE DATE!
CatTails at Yappy Hour!
July 19, 2024

CAT TAILS

at Yappy Hour

*Join us for an evening of Music, Silent Auction,
Hors D'oeuvres, & More!*