

WINTER 2018

P.O. Box 7

Macomb, IL
61455

309-837-5611

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Humane Society of McDonough County

Waggin' Tales



Happy Holidays,

Thanksgiving is the holiday for taking time to appreciate and be thankful for all in our lives that contribute to our happiness and sense of well-being. Within the realm of animal rescue and the promotion of animal welfare in McDonough County, we have had much to be thankful for this last year, including our volunteers; sponsors for cats and dogs at the shelter; new foster homes for dogs; partnerships and caring community members; and memorials designated to us. In this issue you will find a few of these stories. I am thankful for our expanded volunteer cat care and dog walking team at the shelter, and for the talent and commitment of Stacie Kwacala and Megan Cramblet who respectively take the photos of the shelter animals and create the weekly posters highlighting the shelter residents available for adoption and the various specials and sponsorships offered. Tory, the last of the HSMC Sponsored Senior Dogs, recently found her new best friend and is snug as a bug in her new home. We are so happy that Sasha's foster family decided to make her a permanent part of their family. We appreciate having a foster home for Zuma. She is enjoying her foster family, which includes her canine buddy, Duck, and has learned what it means to trust and feel confident in her understanding of appropriate behavior. The shelter was overwhelmed with cats through the fall into December. We are pleased that many cats are finding their homes, in large part because of the County Board- supported Holiday Cat Special now underway. We were amazed and thrilled with the results of the Brix Challenge this year, which significantly helps us to do all we can to help needy animals.

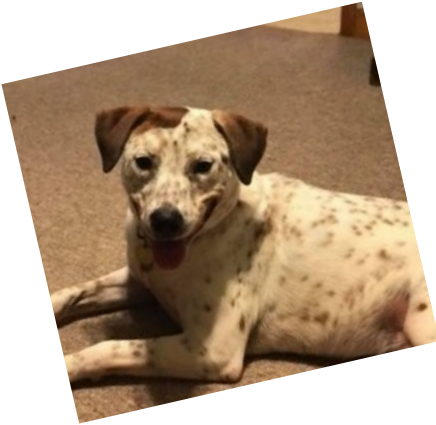
While we do count our many blessings, our Christmas wish list is large. To begin with, we want the best for all dogs and cats and their humans. Our wish for lost pets is that they safely find shelter or a Good Samaritan to help them out, and that they experience a happy reunion with their families. We hope that even more people realize what great potential shelter dogs and cats have to be loyal and loving best friends. We wish that everyone who obtains a pet understands that part of the deal is making a lifelong commitment to the cat or dog, providing love, training, and a secure home. Our continued hope is that the public understands the critical importance of spay/neuter. And, our great big wish is for a new shelter building in which needy animals in our community will reside in comfort and good health as they wait for their forever family to come for them.

We invite you to join us at the Annual Reorganization Meeting on January 22nd. The American Legion has agreed to host this year's meeting. With the large attendance at last year's annual meeting in the Community Room in City Hall, we realized we have outgrown that space. We will again serve a light supper, with drinks available from the Legion. As part of our agenda, we will share our joint vision with the County Board for a new shelter, discuss what it will take to make it happen, and get your input and ideas. We will also be reviewing our activities over the last year, our goals for the next year, and voting on the 2019 slate of officers. Please mark your calendars now.

We thank you for your support and wish you the very best in this holiday season.

Bonnie Skripps, President

Happy Tails to You



I'm happy in my foster home, but I'm still looking for my forever home!



As you can see, Sasha has settled into her foster family's home as a permanent member of the family.



Dinah

This sweet girl is one of the HSMC Cat Picks recently adopted. With sponsorship from HSMC members, select cats were available from the shelter for just their \$12 microchip fee. We thank you for helping these sweet kitties find a home and making room for others at the shelter.



Tori is all smiles as she leaves the shelter. She's now a pampered pooch.



McDonough County Animal Shelter

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

Animal Control Officers:
Kelsey Havens
Bonnie Billhmer
Email: 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



The Brix Challenge 2018 another huge success for the Humane Society of McDonough County

Once again, the generosity and support of this community resulted in another great success for the animals in McDonough County. For the fifth year in a row animal-lovers in our area arose 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. Those who took on Chris' challenge this year showed their support by donating an amazing \$11,675.00 to be used to continue the initiatives of the HSMC. All of these funds will be used to directly help animals in need in McDonough County.

The Humane Society of McDonough County is a 100% volunteer organization with a vision to provide humane care and treatment for all animals in McDonough County. The HSMC is separate from, but works in a valued partnership with, the McDonough County Animal Shelter. We are committed to furthering our vision to provide humane care and treatment for all animals in McDonough County. This requires an ongoing revenue stream. Because of the amazing generosity of Chris Brix and *Brix Challenge* supporters, our wonderful members and friends and our area businesses and media sources the HSMC will be able to continue and expand its important work to help area animals in need.

We sincerely thank everyone who took part in the Brix Challenge this year and thank you for the vote of confidence for the hard work of the HSMC.



Earlier this month, HSMC members (l to r) Kate Shattuck, Pi, Felix Chu, and Dave Monninger volunteered to ring the Salvation Army bells at Farm King. Not pictured is Terri Hare.



HSMC board member Amy Betz did a fantastic job with a 'Make Christmas Special for Animals at the McDonough County Animal Shelter' tree. Farm King provided the tree and Amy did the rest! Go check it out at Farm King!

THE GREAT GRAIN FREE DEBATE— THREE COMMON FOOD MYTHS IN THE PET FOOD INDUSTRY

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

With the recent explosion in brands and types of pet foods available, a stroll down the grocery store aisle or a google search on pet food will surely make your head spin. But how do you really know what you should feed your pet? Should you jump on the grain free band wagon? The remainder of this article will look at three common myths that are pervasive in the pet food industry.

Myth 1. Grain free is best for your pet. There are NO studies that prove that a grain free diet is best for your pet. NONE. There is actually data emerging that suggests that pets fed grain free diets may be at risk for heart disease and cardiomyopathy. Thus, grain free foods may negatively impact your pets health. Veterinary cardiologists across the country are seeing more cases of heart disease that are due to grain free and/or home cooked diets. Grains are not bad unless you are allergic to them. Grains actually contribute certain micronutrients that are essential for life and are an important part of the overall diet. Like anything, they should not be fed in excess but you cannot live without them.

So why is there a grain free push? Pet food, like everything else, has become victim to clever marketing, trendy fads, and celebrityism. PEOPLE shop for pet food, not our pets. People are overweight and we don't eat enough fresh fruits and vegetables. People suffer from gluten intolerance, celiac disease, and other food related illnesses and everyone has heard of these conditions. So some companies have capitalized on these human trends and have marketed food products for our pets based on these common trends. For example, when Beneful came out the bag was covered with pictures of apples, carrots, peas, etc.--things we perceive to be "healthy." And we, as consumers, flocked to buying Beneful because we have heard over and over that we should eat more vegetables. Grain free is just the next trendy fad in pet food. There are indeed pets that are allergic or intolerant to certain ingredients and those pets should avoid those ingredients. However, there are pets allergic to proteins such as chicken and beef, not just to grains, and not every dog and cat needs to avoid all grains.

Myth 2. If the first ingredient on the list is corn the food is bad. This is not necessarily true for two reasons. Again, corn is a grain and grains are not bad if you are not allergic to them. More importantly, just because corn is the first thing on the list doesn't guarantee that it is the majority of the bag.

Continued on the next page

The FDA governs what and how information must appear on a food label. The ingredient list must be listed from highest to lowest based on weight. What is not dictated is moisture. Water is heavy and water can skew how much an individual item on the ingredient list weighs. For example, a company can add water to an item to make it weigh more so that ingredient can be moved higher onto the list, thus giving the appearance of there being “more” of the item in the package.

You can only directly compare ingredients from bag to bag if they are listed in dry matter basis (DMB or %DMB) or if you calculate the DMB yourself. More reputable companies tend to list the DMB on the package. The true amount of protein, carbohydrates, and fat in foods is often skewed heavily once moisture is taken out of the picture. Moisture is the reason that you cannot necessarily believe that the first ingredient on the list is the MOST ingredient in the package.

Myth 3. The food was expensive so it must be good. This is a common misconception with many consumer products and yes, sometimes it is true. A \$100 camera is often inferior to a \$500 camera. But again, consider marketing. Is there a celebrity name on the bag? You are probably paying extra for that name. Are you buying a grain free product? Proteins are generally more expensive per pound than carbohydrates. You may be paying extra for proteins your pet doesn't necessarily need. And if your pet has a kidney condition, excessive proteins are often problematic. Are you buying a product with rare or less common ingredients (buffalo, kangaroo, etc.)? You may be paying a premium for novel ingredients that your pet doesn't need. Cost of pet food does not necessarily dictate quality.

So how do you pick a food? I struggle with this also! Next time we will explore some practical tips for picking pet food. Stay tuned!

The information contained here is for educational purposes only and is not intended to take the place of your regular veterinarian. As always, if you have questions or concerns regarding your pet, please contact a qualified veterinarian.

PET FOOD PANTRY MAKES INAUGURAL ROAD TRIP

On Monday, December 3, Humane Society volunteers took 21 bags of cat food, 16 bags of dog food, and several bags of kitty litter to Jefferson House residents for their pets. Many of the residents are on fixed incomes and or homebound. This service helps keep pets in their homes and out of shelters. Pets can lower blood pressure, increase physical activity, and social interaction. They can also affect feelings of loneliness and depression.



Change in Regular Meeting Time and Location for 2019

Beginning in January, the regular monthly HSMC board meetings will be held at the American Legion Post 6, 221 E. Washington St. on the **first** Monday of each month at 5:30 p.m.. We will no longer meet the second Monday at Wesley Village.

We thank Wesley Village for their support in providing our meeting space for the past several years!

As always, we encourage everyone to attend! Come see what we do.

2019 HSMC Executive Board Election

Annual Reorganizational Dinner Meeting
American Legion Post 6
January 22, 2019 6 :00 p.m.

The HSMC is taking nominations for the 2019 Board of Directors! Please consider taking your Humane Society membership one step further by donating your time and talents to running this organization. We do need you to help shape the future of the Humane Society of McDonough County!

Per **Article IV, Section 7**, this is notification of the slate of positions along with current nominees received to date. **HSMC members are encouraged to apply.** Nominees will be voted on at the Annual Reorganizational Dinner Meeting 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 12 nominees.

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 2019

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/Committee Positions

Officer/President
Officer/Vice President
Officer/Treasurer/Correspondence
Officer/Recording Secretary
Director/Membership
Director/Education Chair
Director/County Shelter Project Manager
Director/Pet Food Pantry
Director
Director
Director
Director
Director
Director

Nominees to Date

Bonnie Skripps
Bill Johnson
Terri Hare
Cecelia Benelli
Kate Shattuck
Amy Betz
Max Kreps
Dave Monninger
Felix Chu
Linda Andrews
Sue Adams
Kathy Chambers
Patti Douglas
JB Biernbaum
Vacant

Written Nominations can be mailed to:
Humane Society of McDonough County, P.O. Box 7, Macomb, IL 61455
Or email humanesociety.mcil@gmail.com

Please state your name, your contact information, and position interested in.



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 Garage
 Free Range Yoga
 Green Shingle Graphics
 Hickory Kennels
 Matthew S. McClure, DMD-PC
 McDonough County Voice
 MidAmerica National Bank
 Minus Muffler
 No Place Like Home
 Purdum Gray Ingledue Beck
 Sodexo
 Sweet Briar Corner Nursery
 Wesley Village



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Dickens on the Square 2018

Captured Moments Photography and the HSMC again participated in Dickens on the Square. Stacie Kwacala volunteered her photography services to take holiday photos.



This year, photos were taken on the Courthouse lawn.



These beauties have come every year since they were puppies!



HSMC Board member Kate Shattuck's pooch, Rio, was a well-behaved ham!



The WIU Equestrian Club raised \$500 for the Humane Society of McDonough County. Pictured here (from left to right): Cortney Uza, Jayson Moody (Vice President), Bonnie Smith-Skripps (HSMC President), Madison Andrae (President), Kylie Fay (Treasurer), and Taylor Carey.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

January 22, 2019

Annual HMSC Dinner Meeting
Social begins at 6:00 p.m.

Relax, and break bread, or pizza crust, with the HSMC board at our annual dinner meeting. Come hear the latest news regarding a new animal shelter for the county.

American Legion Post 6
221 E. Washington St.
Macomb, IL 61455

Reservations are not required, but are appreciated.

June 8, 2019

Wine, Whiskers and Whimsy!

The annual Wine, Whiskers, & Whimsy HSMC fundraiser will be held next June! Watch for more information in the Spring 2019 Waggin' Tales.

We are always looking for volunteers! Contact a HSMC board member if you're interesting in helping!