

SPRING 2026

P.O. Box 7

Macomb, IL
61455

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Humane Society of McDonough County

Waggin' Tales



Spring Greetings!

The sunshine and warm weather work wonders for our moods and optimistic view on the world. In our little world of the Humane Society of McDonough County and the Animal Shelter we are hopeful beyond words. We recently found a building may be viable for renovation at a price we can afford for the new animal shelter. We are in the preliminary stages of doing inspections and ensuring that all important details are in order before we move forward with a purchase, but, I must say, we are very excited. More to come soon.

Another bright spot was Casino Night on March 7th. It was our second most successful casino event, bringing in over \$55,000. The positive energy of the crowd and the support for our new shelter campaign made it a delightful evening for all involved. We had very generous sponsorship and a great team of volunteer dealers who entertained and got the cards shuffled and the tables full. You'll find pictures inside which portray the fun that was had. This year we had shelter royalty greeting participants outside the doors of Parkside. Tank and Gracie, a bonded pair of pits, accompanied by sweet Nova, donned their evening attire and did the honors. The Casino Night Committee worked hard to pull this evening off and did it so very well. We thank everyone who gave, came, and worked so hard.

We're pleased to report that the latest challenge by Gloria (Caldwell) and Edwin Vankan in memory of their dog Spanky and in honor of pets adopted from our animal Shelter raised almost \$51,000 for the New Animal Shelter Building Campaign. The Vankan's have another challenge in mind that we will soon be announcing. As I've said before, it is so good to have friends and supporters from afar.

The animal shelter continues to be full of homeless cats and dogs. Again this spring we are seeing so many young dogs picked up as strays and not reclaimed. They come in skinny and often sickly. With love and care they do recover and turn out to be great potential pets. In this issue we are including an article by Dr. Blakeley on rehoming your pet. Unfortunately, we are preaching to the choir with this venue. Please help us spread the word about being conscientious pet owners and making thoughtful decisions about getting a pet and what to do in crisis situations. And thank you to those good citizens who alert the shelter to lost or neglected animals, and who stop to pick dogs up and get them out of harm's way. A big thanks for all of the donated supplies.

We're planning a different kind of summer fundraiser this year with a Bingo Night at the Bushnell VFW. Proceeds from this event will be used to sponsor low cost neuter/spay for bully breeds — which we are currently seeing in abundance come in to the shelter.

Stay in touch and stay tuned for more updates on our New Animal Shelter Campaign.

Bonnie Smith-Skripps, HSMC President

CASINO NIGHT Another Success!

The 4th annual Casino Night raised over \$50,000! After expenses, over \$40,000 was put into the HSMC New Animal Shelter Building Campaign! Thank you to our volunteer dealers, volunteer Krista Skien Photography for the wonderful photos, our Casino Night Sponsors for their generous support, the WIU Football team for their exceptional help in unloading and loading equipment in record time, the animal shelter staff for bringing the dogs, attendees who purchased tickets, and the Casino Night committee for their hard work! Thank you!!!



WIU Football Team







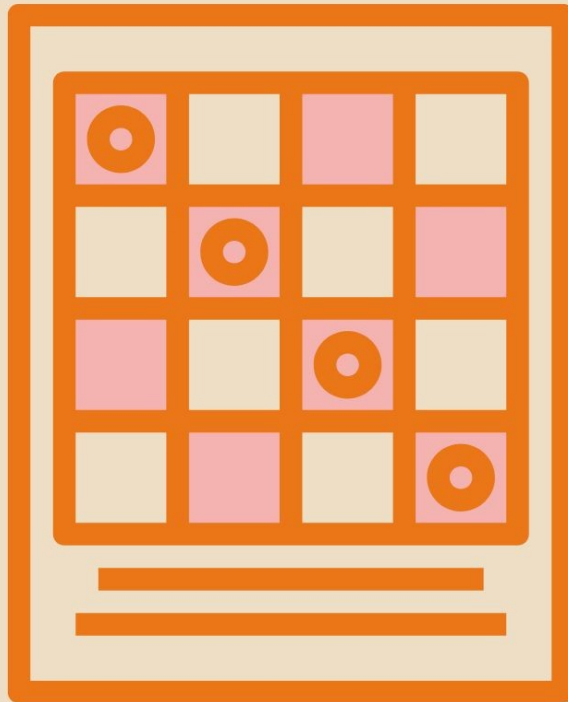
McDONOUGH COUNTY
HUMANE SOCIETY
presents

FIX-A-BULLY

SATURDAY
JULY 11

FOOD @ 5:30
BINGO @ 7:00

BINGO NIGHT



Bushnell VFW
181 E Hail St.
Bushnell, IL

CASH
PRIZES

DONATED
PRIZES

50/50
RAFFLES



Get ready for a fun-filled night of Bingo with cash prizes, amazing donated goodies, and delicious meal! Every card played helps launch a new program offering free spay and neuter services for bully breeds—no income requirements, just support when it's needed most. Come play, win big, and make a real difference for pets and their people.

TIPS WHEN YOU HAVE TO REHOME YOUR PET

By: Karen Blakeley DVM, MPH

All Pets Veterinary Clinic, Macomb IL

Recently our local Trap-Neuter-Release program was alerted to a scrawny feral cat with a rectal prolapse. There was a lot of uncertainty if they could even catch the cat and then provide treatment but decided to try. After a little bit of a struggle they did manage to catch the cat! We sedated him, did a full exam, and repaired his prolapse. During the process we found out the cat had a microchip that was put in 6 years earlier by the local animal shelter. His name is Recon. The person that initially adopted the cat had to get rid of him because her child was allergic so they gave the cat to a neighbor. The neighbor had to move out of state and stated they were taking the cat with them but instead dumped the cat outside six months prior to the cat being found by the TNR group.

This mess makes me angry beyond belief. This poor cat has been failed multiple times and by multiple people. I have not been able to find out why he was at the shelter the first time 6 years ago but he was lucky enough to get a second chance. And a third. And now, hopefully a fourth. So, what could have been done differently? What should you do if you need to rehome your pet?

1. DON'T GET A PET in the first place if you are not going to keep that pet until it dies. A pet is a lifetime commitment. If more people went into getting a pet with this mentality everyone would be better off. Do not be impulsive when getting a new pet. Pets get sick. Pets get old. There will be expenses. (As a side note, and a lead in to #3, if you think you want a pet and are not sure consider doing foster work for a rescue agency. These groups often need short term housing for pets until permanent homes can be found. This is a great way to find out if a pet is for you without having to make a long term commitment.)
2. Look back to the original source of the pet if you absolutely must rehome. Most shelters have contracts that state if you are going to have to get rid of the pet you will return it to the shelter. Poor Recon could have avoided a lot of grief if the original adopter would have honored her contract and returned him to the shelter. I do believe there is a "I don't want him to go back to the shelter" mentality. If that were the case with Recon, he ended up in a much worse situation than he would have back at the shelter. Many reputable breeders have similar clauses in their contracts as well.
3. Look into breed specific rescues and be prepared to keep a pet with you until arrangements can be made. Many of these organizations do not have actual kennels or facilities to take a pet to. They often work with a group of individuals that will foster pets in their own home until a suitable new home can be found. This is an excellent way to avoid animal shelters but can take time.
4. Hit the social media. Love it or hate it social media is a very powerful tool for a lot of things and pet rehoming is no exception. However, you will have to do your own screening process to ensure your pet is going to end up with a good home.
5. Relinquish your pet to an animal shelter. Many shelter are full or overfull and you may have to wait for a space—especially at no kill shelters. Again, you should be prepared to keep your pet until space is available.

As a very last resort consider euthanasia. Carefully consider why you want to rehome. Does your pet have a medical condition that is going to be hard to manage? Is it realistic for someone else to take care of your pet relative to the reason you are rehoming? Is your pet mentally going to be able to handle a new home? Are you so desperate to get rid of your pet that you are thinking of dumping your pet outside or abandoning your pet somewhere? I am not suggesting you should just put down your pet because you can't/don't want to keep them but many animals needlessly suffer because people refuse to euthanize. Consider Recon. He was an indoor cat that got dumped outside. He is lucky he was found. Last year we had a similar situation where an obese house cat was dumped outside when the owner moved. She hid under a dumpster for days and ended up with maggots, hepatic lipidosis, and kidney failure. She would have been better off being euthanized than dying the way she died.

So what happened to the cat? Recon, now also known as Spot, is living at my clinic until we can get the diarrhea that caused the rectal prolapse under control. He is getting plump and is welcome to stay with us for as long as he needs to find a good, permanent, home.

President Bonnie presents County Treasurer Dana Moon with a check for \$4,000 for the McDonough County Pet Population program to assist with the spay/neuter of our community's feral cats.



On January 13, the HSMC held its annual dinner/election. We had a good turnout. President Bonnie Smith-Skripps updated the group on the HSMC New Animal Shelter Building Campaign's latest action.

2026 HSMC Board

President	Bonnie Smith-Skripps
Officer/Vice President	Dana Moon
Officer/Treasurer	Terri Hare
Officer/Secretary	Amy Betz
Director	Dave Monninger
Director	Patti Douglas
Director	Jen Tibbitts
Director	Ann Stites
Director	Candice Biswell
Director	Sharon Lindahl
Director	Brian Waller
Director	Margaret Hanzel
Director	Loren Dimmitt
Director	Courtney Duckwiler
Director	Kathy Waters

Looking for a Foster



Charles, aka Charlie Brown, with his best friend Skip on their way to visit Wilson's Dog Training. Charlie is now looking for an adopter or a foster home. He's not doing well being confined and alone in the shelter environment.

Email: mcas@macomb.com

Shelter Staff:

Zack Welch, Head ACO
Angel Wilson, Assistant ACO
Desi Blanken, PT ACO
Annetta Ogle, PT Office Manager

McDonough County Animal Shelter
101 Tower Road
Macomb, IL 61455
Phone: 309-837-2989

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 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.

Business Members

ABCDecluttering/Elisa Rasmussen
 All Pets Veterinary Clinic
 American Legion Post 6
 Arnold Brothers
 Clugston Tibbitts Funeral Home
 Community News Brief
 Gossel's Dog House
 Green Shingle Graphics
 Krista Skien Photography
 Matthew S McClure, DMD
 Pet Supplies Plus
 Professional Eye Care Center
 Royal Printing
 Sweet Briar Corner Market
 Wine Sellers



UPCOMING Watch for Updates!

September 5, 2026– Macomb Park
District Run to the Rescue

TBA– the next Vankan Challenge!
Gloria (Caldwell) and Edwin Vankan
have a new challenge in the works.
Stay tuned!



*We thank those who donated in 2025 in
memory of . . .*

Bob Quesal
 Bonnie Shult
 Brendon Payne & Sawyer Bloomfield
 Buddy
 Butch and Mr. Trouble
 Carol Beck
 Charles Cunningham
 Dee Kruzan
 Diesel Moon
 Dr. Pamela Terry
 Elizabeth Arrants
 Imogene and Myrlen Daniels
 Jaxson
 Jim Keeney
 Joan Whalen
 Joy McClure Markey
 Lexie Andrews GSD
 Luke Hunter Noble
 Lynn Rubin
 Marcia Crisp
 Margaret Hickerson
 Margo Ayala
 Mishik (Mimi) Blaine
 Myrlen and Imogene Daniels
 Nealy Kay Wallick
 Noel Oliver family memorial for brother
 Pamela Terry
 Pete Stewart
 Ruanne Lindsay Sikes
 Samantha Swafford
 Schmoogles
 Scott Grange
 Stella Trusley
 Susan Rouse
 Tigger Nott
 Virginia DeMoss

HUMANE SOCIETY OF MCDONOUGH COUNTY

CASINO Night 2026



THE GOSSEL FAMILY **SHARON LINDAHL & FAMILY** **DAVE & JACKIE THOMPSON** **JERRY & BECKY PEABODY**

PARK PLACE **BK** **Clock Tower Community Bank**
 EVENT CENTER & RESTAURANT Boughner, Krisher & Clark A Division of Horizon Community Bank

Edward Jones **DON & JOY HUBNER** **MCCLURE SMALL ANIMAL HOUSECALL SERVICE** **McMILLAN HENNENFENT De JOODE Attorneys-At-Law**

COOLING WITH A BROS. Animal Services **ROSEMARY ATEN** **Community Area of Market** **men McDonough District Hospital** **AL & EVIE REUSCH**

SKIP SKRIPPS CERAMICS **SUTTON** **State Farm TOM CONKLIN** **CHARLENE CALLISON & LARRY BALSAMO**

All About Pieces • Clugston-Tibbitts Funeral Home • First Bankers Trust • Bill Maakestad, Jean Wolf & Django
 Make Fit Happen • Prairie Land Conservancy • Steve and Amanda Silberer • Tom and Ann Stites

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!