

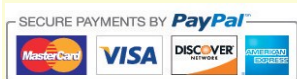
SUMMER 2026

P.O. Box 7

Macomb, IL
61455

HSMCIL.ORG

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Humane Society of McDonough County

Waggin' Tales



Summer Greetings! Our dreams are finally coming true. We have a location for the new animal shelter and a visual of what it can be. On June 19th we closed on property just outside of Macomb on West Jackson Street that has existing buildings we will renovate for the new shelter. The new site has acreage and the opportunity to have separate housing for the dogs and cats, as well as another building that will serve as an all purpose community center. We will begin with completing the necessary animal housing construction, and then continue to renovate in phases. The end result will be a true animal sanctuary that will be pleasing and safe for the county's homeless animals, as well as for members of the public who are seeking a new pet or to volunteer onsite. We are excited and eager to share all the steps along the way via social media and our website. We have the funds to get the renovation process well underway, but will be continuing to seek the necessary additional support from our friends and the community.

On that note, after it was publicly announced that we had successfully bid on the property, we received word of an anonymous donation of \$100,000 to the building campaign. That, along with other generous support we've recently received (e.g., memorials and a \$10,000 for the cat area) will take us a long way to making the new shelter a community resource of which we all can be proud. We are so grateful for the funds we have received over the last six years for the building campaign. Below is the very nice, heartfelt note that came from the donor when notifying us of the \$100,000 donation; the note recognizes that it does indeed take a village of caring people to make big things happen.

In honor of the great leadership of President of the Humane Society of McDonough County Bonnie Smith-Skripps, HSMC Board Members, Animal Control staff, generous veterinarians, all volunteers who have helped and/or are currently helping the animals hands-on while at Animal Control, and all donors to the new Building Fund Campaign so far, we are thrilled and blessed to be able to make this donation to that fund. Your patience and persistence have enabled you to acquire the perfect setting that will become the new shelter. Our donation will help with the renovations needed in order to get the new shelter building up and running. Like you, we have worked in the animal welfare arena for many years and know how hard, but truly rewarding, it can be. As odd as it seems, getting hot, sweaty, and dirty while making needy companion animals healthy and happy and finding them great homes is fun, even though it can be very stressful at times. Your hard work, kindness, goodwill, and generosity have already helped change the lives of many animals, even while working in the small physical location in which you currently work. You are magnificent human beings who have been truly instrumental in creating a wonderful organization that is sure to make this world a better place for untold numbers of dogs and cats for many years to come. Your virtuous deeds are sure to outlive you. Because of your efforts, and your many donations, those animals are no longer stranded in Forgottonia.



McDONOUGH COUNTY
HUMANE SOCIETY
presents

FIX-A-BULLY

FOOD @ 5:30
BINGO @ 7:00

Bushnell VFW
181 E Hail St.
Bushnell, IL

SATURDAY
JULY 11

BINGO NIGHT

CASH
PRIZES

DONATED
PRIZES

50/50
RAFFLES



Fix-A-Bully BINGO Night PRICES

9 PACK*	\$20
6 PACK*	\$15
EXTRA SPECIAL PAPERS	\$1

*EACH PACK CONTAINS A REGULAR
BOOKLET AND 3 SPECIAL GAME PAPERS

INTERESTED IN DONATING?
CONTACT COURTNEY AT 309.351.3388 OR
CDUCK2009@GMAIL.COM

Breckyn Murphy's 4th Annual Lemonade Stand



Despite the rainy weather, Breckyn had a great turnout on June 26 for her lemonade and sweets stand. Thankfully, she had a tent, and so many wonderful people still came out to support the stand. Breckyn's 2026 lemonade stand raised \$3,110! Thanks to the unbelievably generous commitment from Gloria (Caldwell) and Edwin Vankan, HSMC friends from Virginia, to double-match what Breckyn raised, this year's grand total becomes an incredible \$9,330! Even more exciting, that brings Breckyn's four-year fundraising total with her lemonade stand to \$14,470!

As planned, this entire \$9,330 donation was made to the Humane Society of McDonough County in support of its efforts to build the new McDonough County Animal Shelter. Breckyn is so excited knowing this year's lemonade stand will help provide a wonderful new home for so many animals in our community!

Breckyn worked incredibly hard preparing for this event, and it was heartwarming to see our community rally around her. She was honored to have WGEM stop by to cover the event, and they appreciated visits from Mayor Mike Inman, the Macomb Police Department & their K9, Jax, Sheriff Joe Moon, and so many other community members who came out to show their support. It was a wonderful reminder of what our community can accomplish when everyone comes together for a great cause!



Cheyenne's Ongoing Story



Cheyenne came to the shelter in 2020 and we've had the following updates about this brave girl who stole our hearts.

As reported in the Summer 2023 Waggin' Tales: It's always gratifying to hear from adopters about special dogs we've known at the shelter. Three summers ago Cheyenne, a sweet young girl, was left at the shelter with bad hip issues that made walking difficult for her. Nate, from Columbia, Missouri, who had an affinity for Huskies, saw her on our Facebook page and ended up adopting her, knowing she may require surgery. He has kept in touch and recently sent another follow-up message with a donation to the HSMC.



Nate wrote, "We elected against surgery, as it was determined the surgery - even if it went well - would severely limit her quality of life for two years. So we just focused on diet and especially exercise, and it's made a huge difference. I'm sure she will still undoubtedly get arthritic earlier than she should, but I don't think it's unreasonable to expect her to live the large part of a fairly normal, healthy life... whereas when we adopted her, I didn't even really consider that as a possibility."

Cheyenne is now bonded with their other dog and the couple's children (ages 1 and 4). Nate says she "has become a very sweet and affectionate family dog. It really is amazing how much difference love makes in the life of a dog."



June 2026 Update from Nate

"I'm happy to report Cheyenne is healthy and still with us! Her knees have given her a bit more trouble these last few months but have held up remarkably well, all things considered. She is nine years old now, but still has bursts of puppy dog energy."

We are very happy to have her. She is so far from the same dog that you remember (in the best ways possible)."

Nate



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

The McDonough County Animal Shelter had amazing volunteers at the shelter on June 9th-11th. This group of 16 year olds from the Committee Representing Our Young Adults in Lake Forest spent their mornings walking the dogs and helping with the cats. They look forward to this organization's visit again next year.



ADOPTION EVENT July 25, 2026

Starbucks at 1736 E. Jackson St. , Macomb
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.



Members will have some adoptable shelter dogs at the Starbucks from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Get your coffee and see who's looking for their furever home!

Email: mcas@macomb.com

Animal Control Officers:

Zach 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.

6 THINGS TO REMEMBER IF YOU WANT TO BE FERAL FRIENDLY

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

If you haven't noticed there are A LOT of cats and they are everywhere. The shelters are all full of cats and kittens. Social media is full of posts of people that want to give away free kittens or unwanted adult cats. And many towns have an issue with homeless stray and feral cats roaming the streets. Many of these cats are what I like to call the "everybody-nobody" cats because everybody takes a little part in their care of but nobody will actually claim them as their own. They are also called community cats. They get fed, they might get a little cat shelter made and placed for their usage, and if they are lucky, they get flea meds or dewormer. If you are or want to be feral cat friendly remember the following 6 things:

If you feed, you basically breed. The well-intentioned person indiscriminately feeding feral cats is inadvertently congregating cats and contributing to overpopulation. Congregating cats breed and produce more cats. A single female cat can produce 50 to 120 cats in her lifetime according to conservative estimates (3 to 6 kittens per litter once to twice a year) and her offspring can produce thousands of cats in as short as 5-6 years. Large populations of cats also pass diseases easier.

Remember the legal definition of a pet owner. In Illinois, a "pet owner" or "owner" of an animal is legally defined as someone who: (1) has a right of property in the animal, (2) keeps or harbors the animal, (3) has the animal in their care, or (4) acts as its custodian. So, if you get them stuff from stores, they are probably yours! And if they are yours, you need to be a responsible pet owner.

Be a part of the solution, not a part of the problem. While most of these things are interrelated, at the end of the day this is the most important thing to remember. Feral and stray cats have it rough—they have problems with respiratory infections, external (fleas, ticks, and ear mites) and internal (roundworm, tapeworm, etc.) parasites, wounds from fighting and from other trauma, and the common often fatal viruses—feline leukemia, FIV, and FIP. You can help these cats and you can make a difference in their lives—just don't do it at the expense of adding to the problem by letting them breed. Spay and neuter!

Don't expect handouts because "it is not my cat." Every day I get hit up for free food, medical care, and spay/neuter surgeries for cats that "aren't my cat." If you truly want to help feral cats you have to take some responsibility for the cats! And yes, this is often financial. Remember the definition of a pet owner? It is frustrating to spend money on a, basically, unappreciative free loader. Most feral cats are not going to love you back.

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You may never be able to pet them. And sometimes, they may never come back after you fix them. Rest assured your efforts are not in vain and that you are indeed helping not only the individual but the population as a whole.

Don't forget to consider the wildlife. Cats kill birds, squirrels, snakes, lizards and all sorts of wildlife. Bird lovers often hate feral cats for this reason. Being kind and feeding large numbers of feral cats is often at the detriment to other wildlife. Feral cats are estimated to kill between 1.3 and 4 billion birds each year in the US. This predation is considered a major factor in the decline of bird populations.

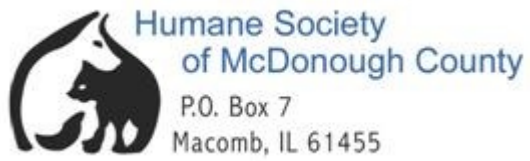
Tip and tattoo if you get them spayed or neutered. Resources of trap-neuter-release efforts are precious and the rapid identification of a cat that is already altered will allow for a quick release. This means the trap can be readied rapidly for another cat to be caught and altered. It also avoids unnecessary sedation to find out the cat is already altered.

The shelter appreciates its volunteers! One of the more recent groups to volunteer at the shelter was the WIU Football team in June.
Thanks, guys!



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	Loren Dimmitt
Director	Courtney Duckwiler
Director	Kathy Waters



Board Member Jen Tibbitts represented the HSMC during a not-for-profit/service organization session with the Chamber of Commerce's Macomb Business Academy Class.

Is your pet microchipped?
It's a good idea to annually
review your pet's microchip
information!

