



The Companion

Friends Forever Humane Society Quarterly Newsletter



Friends Forever Humane Society

Freeport IL

Fall 2010

IN THIS ISSUE

- 2 President's Message
- 3 Money Matters
- 4 Manager's Report
- 5 Road Trip!
- 6 Lucky Pup
- 7 Membership
- 8 Studio 966



FFHS' FUN-raising

The girls visited with furry little brothers looking for a Forever home during Friends Forever Humane Society's Sept. 11 open house. And the rummage sale grossed \$8,700. Thanks to all the shoppers, including this wonderfully attired discriminating bargain hunter(right), for your generosity.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*By LAURI ALLEN
FFHS Board President*

Flooding, of course, was the biggest event this quarter. Yes, it was a mess, while the outpouring of volunteerism and donations was astounding, even as most people were faced with their own flooding challenges.

Flood waters surrounded the building and submerged the Dog Park on July 23. Shortly after the staff arrived, we lost power and discovered the septic pump wasn't connected to the generator. Though by day's end, staff had cleaned the floors and most of the water outside had receded.

Mother Nature went a little crazy again overnight. We found flooding throughout the building. It left water damage, dirt, and sludge in almost every nook and cranny. We had to close our doors for a few days, but the animals were never neglected or in danger.

For instance, animals drank bottled water until testing by the State proved our tap water was safe to drink. We are still waiting for reports from the professionals on what needs to be repaired or replaced, and if there is any danger of mold growing.

Our fundraisers have done well. Look for more in the coming months. The Cookie Walk returns on Nov. 20 and a bus trip to Diamond Jo's Casino in Dubuque, Iowa is planned.

Our postponed Open House went off without a hitch. Several hundred people enjoyed a building tour and various activities. And six dogs and kitten found Forever homes.

While advertising our Open House got Forever Friends Humane Society's name out there, we've also made public appearances and pursued newspaper, radio and TV coverage. We're also partnering with the Girl Scouts to bring programs to middle and high school girls.

Cash remains an ongoing struggle. Though we've made fiscally responsible choices, including renegotiating most of our vendors.

We've slashed spending, buying only necessities. To date, we've covered all operating expenses from current income. No money's been transferred from savings or investment accounts.

But we've had several large, unexpected expenses this year:

- A peat module septic system was installed to put us in compliance with health codes
- The security alarm system is scheduled for overdue testing and maintenance
- The generator has been relocated to protect the gas line that feeds it
- Electrical work is being performed to ensure that the generator works properly.

The Illinois Department of Agriculture inspects Friends Forever randomly. Our first inspection was performed just days after new management were on the job. We were told to repair unsafe dog kennels. Generous volunteers completed that work!

We've had several additional inspections since then, with a perfect report each time. Hats off to a fantastic staff! The facility is in good repair, it is very clean and the animals are well cared for.

Currently dogs stay with us about a week. This is fantastic and reduces stress on the animals by putting them in a Forever home quickly. If you're interested in adding a canine friend to your family, come out and see what dogs are available. Feel free to visit a few times and talk with our Shelter Managers to make sure your potential Forever friend is compatible with your family.

We share a challenge with many other shelters: Finding good homes for our cats. Sadly, there are many cats who've been at our shelter since 2006 and 2007. Are you an experienced cat owner with room for one of our "star" cats? These overlooked sweethearts are waiting to meet you. But there are other cats needing Forever homes. You can have a lap warmer just in time for the cool autumn weather!

An exciting upgrade is the implementation of a computerized database to track our animals and their medical histories. Another benefit is the immediate registration of microchip data upon adoption, reduced paperwork for our employees, and an accurate listing of animals up for adoption at www.petango.com.

The Friends Forever Humane Society Annual Meeting will be held on Tuesday, Jan. 18 at 7p.m. (location to be announced). Everyone is welcome to join us to hear the 2010 shelter reports, amend the bylaws, and elect Directors. Please note that the membership year begins July 1.

If you have not purchased or renewed your membership yet, do so now. In order to vote at the annual meeting, you must have been a member for at least the preceding three months.

This has been an exciting year. I'm glad you are on the journey with us!

MONEY MATTERS

*By TINA SIEVERS
FFHS Board Treasurer*

As your new treasurer, a post to which I was appointed in August, I'm still getting a grasp on our finances. Your board believes in transparency. That includes budgets and expenses. If you've got questions...ask them! We may not be able to answer them immediately, but we'll do our best!

The very first seminar I attended on budgeting was in 1980. I've remembered one kernel of wisdom, which the seminar leader shared. Many people approach budgeting with this belief: "I want my money and my life to run out at about the same time...and if I die noon next Tuesday, I'm okay." That can't be true of an organization as vital to the area as FFHS!

In future newsletters I'll provide updated financial details. For now, here's a current snapshot.

<u>INCOME</u>	Jan-Aug 2010	Jan-Dec 2010 Budget	Jan-Dec 2009 Actual
Fundraising (net)	\$ 16,510	\$ 28,500	\$ 28,400
Community Support			
Animals	27,054	34,100	25,800
Gifts	See below	113,000	104,000
Membership Dues	See below	28,500	25,900
Misc	762	2,200	1,500
Combined Gifts & Dues	66,134		
Total Income	110,460	206,300	185,600

<u>EXPENSES</u>	Jan-Aug 2010	Jan-Dec 2010 Budget	Jan-Dec 2009 Actual
Animal Costs	\$ 9,533	\$ 30,600	\$ 38,700
Building & Grounds	See below	19,100	12,200
Shelter Operations	See below	120,600	153,000
Fundraising & Publicity	735	700	800
Board	7,496	13,300	13,400
Depreciation	16,000	22,000	22,100
Combined Shelter/B&G	127,324		
Total Expenses	161,088	206,300	240,200
Net Gain (Loss)	-50,628	-	-54,600

If I were you, I'd ask several questions:

1. Why is animal income higher than last year?

We are placing more animals in homes is one reason, dog park income is another.

2. Why are animal costs down?

Several reasons for this: we negotiated price breaks from vendors, by reducing the number of animals we are spending less, and good stewardship by both staff and the board (myself excluded!)

3. Why the combined figures for 2010?

4. Are we in better or worse shape than at the start of the year?

Factoring depreciation out of the equation (since it isn't money that we spend, it is just a reduction in the value of our assets), we had a deficit of \$32,500 in 2009. Through the first two months of 2010, the shelter had a deficit of \$28,727. During the combined next six months (March-August) we have had an additional deficit of \$5,901. That is quite an improvement!

If you have any questions, please email me at tsievers1956@yahoo.com.

Please be patient, since I get to Freeport about once a week, so I may not have the information needed to respond to your question or must research it.

More than 16 years ago, we were looking for a new member of our family. When we filled out our application, one of the questions was: what can you give an animal? We thought about it. Of course, we could give him food, shelter, toys and multiple beds. What we added was the most important thing that we can give an animal or this organization: love. We have loved our Buster Brown for all of that time. Now, as his life winds down, it is time for me to give back to the shelter a little for the enormous gift you gave to us, the best dog anyone could ever dream of having. Shelter dogs aren't just wise, they rock!



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MANAGER'S REPORT

By CAROL FALCONER

FFHS Manager

The importance of microchips

Despite your best efforts, your pet can slip away from you and become lost. A collar with identification tags may be your pet's best ticket home, but they can slip off or be removed. Microchips provide an extra level of protection in case your pet is lost.

Microchips are tiny transponders, about the size of a grain of rice, that use radio frequency waves to transmit information to a handheld scanner. The scanner reads the frequency of the chip and displays this information. They are inserted under the skin, much like a vaccine, at the base of the neck and between the shoulder blades.

After implanting the chip, owner and pet information are stored in the provider's record base and also a national database.

All animals being admitted to Friends Forever Humane Society are scanned for a microchip upon intake. Occasionally chips are detected. One such case occurred during the local flooding of this past summer. A postal driver found two misplaced dogs on a busy road during his mail route. The dogs were brought to Friends Forever Humane Society as strays. Upon routine scanning, chips were found in both dogs identifying the owner. With a few simple phone calls, the dogs were claimed by the owner and back home, safe and sound, in an hour's time.

As part of Friends Forever adoption package, every adopted pet receives a microchip before leaving the shelter on their way to their permanent home. Its simple, added protection of a happy reunion if the unthinkable happens. Ask us at Friends Forever or your veterinarian for details.

FFHS HOLIDAY FUND APPEAL FOR THE FURRY FACES AT THE SHELTER

YES, I CAN HELP THE ANIMALS WITH A DONATION OF \$ _____
PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: FRIENDS FOREVER HUMANE SOCIETY, AND RETURN
TO FRIENDS FOREVER HUMANE SOCIETY, 966 RUDY RD., FREEPORT, IL 61032
QUESTIONS? CALL 232-6164 OR EMAIL petsrus966@hotmail.com

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

THANK YOU * THANK YOU * THANK YOU * THANK YOU

DIAMOND JO
C A S I N O



Bus Trip



Sponsored by
**Friends Forever
Humane Society**

Saturday, November 6, 2010

\$35.00 a person

(Includes transportation and lunch)

Diamond Jo in Dubuque, Iowa

Bus leaves Freeport 8:30 am sharp

Estimated return 5:00 pm

**To sign up or for more information call
815-232-6164**

Lucky pup gets Forever Family

By LAURI ALLEN
FFHS Board President



At just six weeks of age, Peanut and his five siblings arrived at Friends Forever in August 2009.

Staff quickly noticed that Peanut was the runt of the litter and teased constantly. His brothers and sisters were so mean to him that Peanut had to be separated from them. He was a very happy, outgoing boy and spent a lot of time with the staff.

Peanut enjoyed public relations outings and greeting groups at the shelter. In spite of his impeccable social skills and good nature, Peanut was passed by again and again when adopters came through. In his cage, he would lay on his back to demonstrate how easily he could adapt to being a couch potato, but they still walked on - until Jeffrey Sweet and Kristina Kuhlmeier came searching for a family dog. It was love at first sight for everyone! Finally, after more than a year, Peanut had a family. And once the decision was made, the paperwork took much too long for their six year old son who said he was frustrated. When asked why, he replied "I want my dog!" We wish Peanut and his family all the best.

FFHS 2010 adoption stats

Stats are, **total cats this quarter, 41** (July - 25, Aug - 11, Sept - 15). **Total dogs this quarter 63** (July - 26, Aug - 19, Sept - 18). Even though we saw a decline, the numbers are great when you consider how many happy animals and people that amounts to. A decline is to be expected when summer slows and children go back to school. -- ***Carol Falconer, FFHS Manager***



Please consider giving Morris, a midnight-colored cat, a forever home. He's been at FFHS since 2007.

The Friends Forever Humane Society Bylaws written January 20, 1999 are under review by the Board of Directors. A revised copy of the Bylaws will be available to members on line or to pick up at the Shelter no less than thirty days prior to the Annual Meeting on January 18, 2011.



Friends Forever Humane Society

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Email: petsrus966@hotmail.com

Website: www.friendsforever.petfinder.com

Face Book: Friends Forever Humane Society

MEMBERSHIPS - ALL MEMBERSHIPS RENEW ON JULY 1 OF EACH YEAR. HAVE YOU RENEWED YOURS YET?

Yes! I wish to become a member of Friends Forever Humane Society.

New membership _____ Renewed Membership _____

LIFETIME \$1,000

PATRON \$100 or more

FAMILY \$50

INDIVIDUAL \$30

SENIOR (62+) \$25

HANDICAPPED/DISABLED \$25

Membership dues enclosed \$ _____

DONATIONS

I wish to make a donation!

Donation enclosed \$ _____

MEMORIALS / HONORARIUM

I wish to make a gift

In memory of _____

Gift amount \$ _____

In honor of _____

Gift amount \$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ _____

Your name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____ Email address _____

I want to receive my newsletter via email yes / no

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:
And mail to:

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Studio 966: FFHS Fotos



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