



# The Companion

Friends Forever Humane Society Quarterly Newsletter



**SPECIAL HOLIDAY EDITION**



Friends Forever Humane Society

Freeport, IL

Holiday 2011

## *Donation of New Floor Dresses up Shelter Lobby*



*"We have been wanting a happy, come-in entrance — Dan came through for this as well. It spells out what we do — it's who we are."*

*Carol Falconer  
Manager, Friends Forever*

Some projects are visions that take years to come to fruition while others are simply spur of the moment inspirations. Careful planning, budgets and design meetings may be involved.

Fortunately for the shelter our new floor started with an adopter concerned about long term wear on the kennel floors.

**By Jane Lethlem  
The Journal-Standard**

When Dan Poggioli of Pecatonica decided to adopt a new dog, he looked at several shelters in the area. It was at Friends Forever Humane Society (FFHS) in Freeport that he found the dog he was looking for — a Labrador named Josie.

While Poggioli was walking through the dog kennel area, he noticed some warped flooring, a result of flooding in both 2010 and 2011. He mentioned to Carol Falconer, shelter manager, that the shelter would run into problems if the flooring was not fixed. Falconer replied that she and the board were aware of the situation, but lacked the funds to fix the floor.

This is where Poggioli sprang into action. By trade, this man is owner and operator of his own flooring business — Poggioli Custom Flooring, Inc. He told Falconer he

would do the job for free, donating the materials himself.

"We knew the flooring was getting bad, but we just didn't have the money to do anything about it," Falconer said. "The floor began to curl and buckle from water damage and lack of maintenance.

"I thought it was wonderful when he offered to help — you can't turn down an offer like this," she added.

### **Kindness of Others**

Friends Forever Humane Society began making changes in the entrance to the shelter this past year. They opened up a conference room to make the entrance more welcoming to people stopping in at the shelter. They began to slowly turn the only counter area into a retail shop. They ripped up old flooring with hopes to make changes. When Poggioli saw the entrance needed new tile, he stepped in to help here, too.

Using colored tile, Poggioli cut in letters to spell out Friends Forever. This greets people as they walk into the main entrance. All the flooring was finished this past weekend. Falconer is all smiles these days.

Continued on Page 12

### **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

December 14 - Board of Directors' Mtg. 6pm at FFH .

December 25— Christmas Day (Shelter Closed).

January 1, 2012— Happy New Year! (Shelter Closed).

January 18, 2012 - Annual Meeting and Dinner. Freeport Eagles Club. Details inside!

March 7, 2012 —Chili Day, Freeport Eagle's Club.

### **INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

<i>From the President</i>	2
<i>Annual Meeting Registration</i>	3
<i>Cookie Walk</i>	4
<i>Volunteers</i>	4
<i>Muses, Barks and Meows</i>	5
<i>Pictures with Santa</i>	6-7
<i>Memorials and Donations</i>	8-9



## *President's Box by Doug Toepfer, FFHS Board President*

First and foremost, on behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season.

The holidays give us all an opportunity to reflect on family and friends, being thankful for what we have, and hopefully giving something back to those less fortunate.

As I write this article, Princess Kate, one of our featured pets from last month, sits next me waiting for a treat.

Through the doors is a variety of cats and kittens, all with unique personalities, waiting for a chance to hopefully spend the holidays with a new family. Kit Kat loves to look at his reflection and would be a great addition to any stocking.

Beyond the cat room is the kennel area where newcomers and old timers alike await their own forever families. Snickers hopes for a home in the country with lots of room to run. Shorty, a Chihuahua, just wants someone warm to cuddle with.

At a recent conference I attended one common goal seemed to be the theme: put all shelters and rescues out of business by eliminating the homeless pet problem. Unfortunately I don't see that happening anytime soon. Until it does, Friends Forever will continue, with your support, to provide a place for our four legged (and sometimes three legged) friends to await their forever homes.

From all of them .... Woof Woof, Meow Meow (pet speak for Happy Holidays!)



## *Fill our Baskets, Fill your Hearts*

This year FFHS will again be asking for help in filling our Holiday Wish List baskets. A gift from the heart is one of the best gifts that can be shared over the holidays.

FFHS will have special boxes and baskets by our tree, waiting for donations. Not sure what to give? ***Check out our Holiday Wish List below!***

Purina Dog and Puppy Chow

Purina Cat and Kitten Food

Interactive Dog Toys

Cat Toys

Leashes and Collars

Dog and Cat Treats

Clay Kitty Litter

Kuranda Dog and Cat Beds

**Visit [www.Kuranda.com](http://www.Kuranda.com)**

Kongs (various sizes)

Peanut Butter

Hotdogs (no buns ☺)

Gift Cards from Farm & Fleet, Home Hardware, Menards, Staples, and Wal-Mart

Monetary Donations

HE Laundry Soap

Dishwasher Soap

Blankets

Printer/Copier Paper

Cannon Ink Cartridges (220 and 221)

Garbage Bags -33, 39, and lawn & leaf bags

Toilet Paper

Paper Towels

Dish Soap

Bleach

All the above mentioned items either directly or indirectly help in providing a safe, clean and caring environment for our animals.





## FRIENDS FOREVER HUMANE SOCIETY 2012 ANNUAL MEETING

The Board of Directors cordially invites all FFHS members to the 2012 Annual Dinner and Meeting to be held at the Freeport Eagles Club on Wednesday, January 18, 2012, doors will open at 5:45 pm.

Dinner will be served buffet style, beginning at 6:15 pm. Anyone interested in purchasing dinner will be asked to buy a ticket. All members who purchase tickets prior to January 11th will be eligible for an Early Bird Drawing. Tickets can be purchased at the door; however, RSVP's are appreciated for the caterer.

The business meeting will begin at 7:00 pm and include a review of the 2011 year and elections for expiring board positions.

During the dinner and program, a silent auction will be ongoing with winners announced following the board election.

Please RSVP using the form below. We look forward to seeing you there!

---

*If attending, please send response to FFHS, 966 W. Rudy Rd., Freeport, IL 61032 on or before January 13, 2012.*

*Those purchasing their dinner tickets prior to January 13, 2012 will be eligible for the Early Bird Drawing.*

- ☐ I will be attending both the dinner and meeting. Enclosed is my payment for \_\_\_\_ tickets @ \$16.00 each.
- ☐ I am unable to attend the dinner; however, I will be attending the business meeting.
- ☐ I am unable to attend the 2012 Annual Meeting and Dinner; however, I am enclosing a donation for Friends Forever Humane Society. Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Check here if you require a vegetarian option for your meal.



*"FFHS would like to thank all the volunteers who helped make the event possible and extend a special thank you to Luecke Jewelers"*

## *Gift Basket Sale and Cookie Walk Huge Success*



Our Gift Basket Elves- Pictured left to right Sue Heliemeier and Liana Collati, FFHS members. Not pictured, Melinda Kluge, FFHS board member.

FFHS held the Gift Basket Sale and Cookie Walk on Saturday, November 19th.

This year over 220 themed gift baskets and dozens of cookies and candies were available for purchase to help the residents of the shelter.

At the end of the morning, only a handful of cookies and about 48 gift baskets remained. At the suggestion of one of our volunteers, Luecke Jewelers in Freeport was contacted about displaying the remaining baskets during the downtown holiday walk. Luecke's graciously agreed to display

the baskets on Sunday, November 20th.

As the store opened for the downtown walk, baskets became a hit. 32 of the remaining baskets were sold that afternoon.

FFHS would like to thank all the volunteers who helped make the event possible and extend a special thank to Luecke Jewelers for allowing FFHS to share in their holiday open house.

This year our event made over \$4000.00 for the shelter residents.

## *Volunteering at FFHS*

"Could I fill out an application for volunteering?" This is a common question asked at Friends Forever. Over the years, more than 300 people have filled out volunteer applications.

People have volunteered to walk dogs, bake, work special events, mow, answer phones, etc. FFHS certainly appreciates all the people who have offered to volunteer in the many areas where we have expressed a need for help.

Like most things in life, change is inevitable. Such is the same with our volunteer program. Over the next few weeks FFHS will be attempting to contact our volunteers to determine who is still interested and who isn't.

From that point, a volunteer manual will be developed and training will be scheduled

Continued on page 12





## *Muses, Barks and Meows*



All I need is my red nose for reindeer tryouts! - Jake



Santa Claus? I thought someone said Santa Paws. - Duke



I'm not sure about filling in for Santa, but I will certainly taste test Santa's cookies! - Shorty



All I want for Christmas is a stocking full of catnip and a belly rub. - Houston



*"GOOD THING THE  
BEAVER WAS WILLING  
TO GIVE THIS UP  
WITHOUT A FIGHT!"*



Seriously? I better not see myself on Facebook dressed like this. - Hurricane



It's cold at the North Pole! Are there dogs there? I don't want to go. - Nala



## *Pictures with Santa*



*Pearl*

*"We adopted Pearl on October 27th. The instant we met her we knew she was the dog for us when she climbed in my lap and gave me a kiss. Pearl is the sweetest friendly dog and loves cuddling."*

Sue and Steve Toon



### **Friends Forever Humane Society Board of Directors**

**Doug Toepfer -  
President**

**Karen Christen -  
Vice President**

**Terri Matthews -  
Treasurer**

**Pat Toth - Secretary**

**Judy Gonder**

**Diane Heeren**

**Deb Klages**

**Melinda Kluge**

**Jami Nielsen**

**Tim Remington**

**JC Wilson**

**Manager  
Carol Falconer**

**Asst. Manager  
Melody Haefl**





*Over 40 patrons visited the shelter on December 3rd for a picture with Santa!*



#### **Grace**

*"I adopted Grace in October of 2010. We had recently had to put our rottie "Marley" down and wanted a dog completely different from a Rottweiler. We came to Friends Forever in search of a Beagle. They just happened to have one! Her name was Reses and she had been returned to shelter twice. Her previous owners claimed she had accidents in the house. We have had Grace for over a year and happy to report she's never made a mess in our house. She's just a sweet girl and so grateful for Friends Forever for the job that they do"*

Dave and Laurie Peters and Grace



Special Thanks  
to Katie Lynn  
Photography for  
donating their  
time and talents  
to take all the  
pictures and to  
Jeff Lamm for  
being our Santa!



## *In Memory*

### ***In Honor of Gary Lee***

Cathy Lee Toepfer

### ***In Honor of Pixie, Ernie & Little Bit***

Jerry & Judy Prasse

### ***In Loving Memory of Kenny***

Jim & Betty Wood

### ***In Memory of Julie Ransom***

Melody Briggs  
Arnold Darcy  
Al, Rosy & Dave Dosch  
Margie Dosch  
Lee Eilers  
Ruth A Geary  
Dar Gitchel  
Dick Hamm  
Richard & Ruth Hasken  
Lee Lockwood  
Irene J. Modica  
Al & Dorothy Owens  
Darrell & Frances Ransom  
Betty Rausch  
Jill & Mike Rohner  
Dave & Kathy Schmidt  
Gene & Elaine Simons  
Lucretia Mae Smith  
Milton Whitney  
Jerry & Karen Woolcock

### ***In Memory of Lois Harlan***

Carole Andres

### ***In Memory of Marilyn Fontana***

Jeffrey & Barbara Bocker  
Richard & Amy Barkau  
Donald Diehl  
Thomas & Melinda Ferguson  
Arlen & Diane Heeren  
Michael & Nancy Lester  
Richard & Elizabeth Meyer  
David & Angela Snyders

### ***In Memory of our Beloved Sheltie***

### ***"Princess Nellie Belle"***

Royce & Janet Piefer

### ***In Memory of Patricia A Myers***

Roger L Myers

### ***In Memory of John Portner***

Lilas Portner

SUPPORT FRIENDS

FOREVER HUMANE

SOCIETY'S WORK

AND HONOR LOVED

ONES – FURRY OR

OTHERWISE—WITH A

MONETARY GIFT.

KEEP THEIR

MEMORIES ALIVE.







## *Donations*

Phyllis Alexander  
 Matthew & Nicole Arn  
 Anna Cheeseman  
 Country Lane Pet Lodge LLC  
 Barry & Lisa DeBoor  
 Lee Emford  
 Jan Fore  
 Fraternal Order of Eagles  
 Darcey Frederick  
 Maryann & Doug Hoefer  
 Amanda Meier  
 Robert & Mary Miller  
 Patty Morton  
 Jami Nielsen  
 Ralph Norman  
 Aubrey Olson  
 Kylee Potempa  
 Tina Raders  
 Tim Remington  
 Susan Rosenstein  
 Rita K Rowe  
 Betty Rupnow  
 Frank & Irene Rutter  
 Peg Schoonhoven  
 Cynthia R. Smith  
 Beth Street  
 Betty Swalve  
 Merrill Taylor

Spencer Toepfer  
 Glenn & Marilyn Underwood  
 Vicki Warthen  
 Paul Watkins  
 Linda Weaver  
 Gerri & Tom Wittbecker  
 Jon & Pam Wolfe



HELP FURTHER  
 FRIENDS FOREVER  
 HUMANE SOCIETY'S  
 MISSION WITH A  
 DONATION OF TIME,  
 MONEY OR  
 SUPPLIES. EVERY  
 BIT HELPS,

## *Giving for the Future*

### **Planned Gifts**

These are gifts given through wills, life insurance, pooled income funds and charitable trusts. Give them with the satisfaction of knowing you are helping others and have the added benefit of a possible tax savings.

### **Bequests**

You can name the Friends Forever Humane Society as a beneficiary in your will. You're free to designate the bequest by a specific amount, a percentage or some other manner. By naming a

charity in your will, you control your assets during your lifetime and can reduce the death tax calculation on your estate. Contact us for more information about how to make a bequest.

## Going Green in 2012



FFHS is going green in 2012. Not that we haven't been green before, but the board and the staff are committed to doing as much as possible.

Replacing light bulbs with

energy efficient types, regularly changing furnace filters, and using biodegradable items are just some of the ways we have already begun.

But wait, there's more!

This year FFHS has recycled more aluminum than before. Not only have we recycled aluminum, but other metals, plastics and paper have been recycled as well.

Why is this important? The

more money we save on energy coupled with money we bring in from recycling aluminum, the more money we can spend directly on the animals.

We need your help. We are always open to ideas to help reduce waste and conserve energy. If you have ideas that would help reduce operating costs of the shelter, we are all ears (and tails).

**BRING YOUR  
ALUMINUM TO  
THE SHELTER  
AND HELP US  
RECYCLE 2012  
POUNDS IN  
2012. RECYCLE  
AND HELP OUR  
RESIDENTS!**

## President's Pick by Doug Toepfer

I am fortunate to have the time to be at the shelter several hours a week. Nothing breaks the cycle of to do lists and stress like hanging out with and meeting all of our animals for adoption. With that said, here is my Holiday Pick!

### Princes Kate



Princess Kate was found wandering with her companion Prince William. They enjoyed spending time together. Prince William has found a forever home. Princess Kate still waits. She is very loving and of quiet nature. She would add life and companionship to a quiet home. She is a senior lady and would make a great member to anyone's family.







## *Have you ever thought about.... By Carol Falconer, Mgr.*



All these services are included in the adoption fees of \$85.00 for cats and \$120.00 for dogs.

In order to have these services provided by a veterinarian for a “free” dog or cat, the costs would average approximately \$225.00 for cats and \$365.00 for dogs.

So the next time someone talks about a “free” dog or cat, remember- there is no such thing as a “free” pet.

Have you ever thought about the difference between a “free” dog or cat and a shelter animal?

On average, after acquiring your “free” pet, it will not be free for long.

FFHS makes sure all the animals it adopts out are current with vaccinations, micro chipped, spayed or neutered, and dewormed. Flea treatment, nail trimming, ear cleaning and disease testing are also done.



On behalf of the dedicated staff at FFHS, I want to wish everyone a safe and happy Holiday Season!



DID YOU  
KNOW PET  
OWNERS  
LIVE  
LONGER?  
ADOPT A PET  
TODAY!

## *FFHS Year Round Wish List*



Donations are always welcome. There are some items we use daily and others we would love to have for the safety and security of our staff, visitors and animals.

Often, the staff identifies projects that would be helpful, but unfortunately the budget doesn't allow for them. Some of these

projects have been included on our wish list.

If you have questions about the wish, please contact the shelter.

### **Daily Use Items**

- ◆ Purina Dog and Puppy Chow
- ◆ Purina Cat and Kitten Chow
- ◆ Paper Towels
- ◆ Toilet Paper
- ◆ Double Pocket Folders
- ◆ HE Laundry Soap
- ◆ Garbage bags (large and

small)

- ◆ Copy Paper
- ◆ Gift Cards from Staples, Menards, Farm and Fleet and Home Hardware.

### **Special Items**

- ◆ 6x6 Treated Posts 8' long
- ◆ Security Camera Project
- ◆ Battery Charger
- ◆ Picnic Tables
- ◆ Riding Lawn Mower
- ◆ Large Dog Kennels

## FRIENDS FOREVER HUMANE SOCIETY

966 Rudy Road  
Freeport IL 61032

Phone: 815-232-6164  
E-mail: [info@friendsforeverhs.org](mailto:info@friendsforeverhs.org)  
[www.friendsforeverhs.org](http://www.friendsforeverhs.org)



PUTTING PETS IN FOREVER  
HOMES SINCE 1953

---

Visit us online at  
[www.friendsforeverhs.org](http://www.friendsforeverhs.org)

---

### *New Floor, Continued from page 1*

“We have been wanting a happy, come-in entrance — Dan came through for this as well,” Falconer said. “It spells out what we do — it’s who we are.”

#### **Humble Help**

Poggioli is humble about his volunteer efforts at this local shelter. He said he was aware of the need for volunteer help to make repairs at Friends Forever. When he saw trouble areas in the kennel, he said he knew he could help out.

“It’s really not a big deal what I did, but the flooring was in bad need of repair in the kennel area,” Poggioli said, “As far as the entrance tile — I had some rubber tile the same color as their logo and it just made sense to create the name in the floor — it just feels good to help out.

“What I did in the kennel area is just help them save their floor, because if not, it would have cost them a lot more money down the road,” he added.

### *Volunteers, Continued from page 4*

where appropriate. We hope to re-activate our volunteers in the new year.

Because of some of the responsibilities associated with certain volunteer positions, not everyone may be able to volunteer in certain areas. In those situations, a volunteer interview will be conducted. If, after the interview, the volunteer candidate is deemed capable of doing the tasks associated with that particular area, an orientation and training will be provided.

ALL of our volunteers are important at FFHS. If the area of interest does not turn out to be well suited for a particular applicant, we will do our best to help find an area that matches the applicant’s skills.

If you have completed a volunteer application in the last 3 months and have not been contacted, please call the office and let us know. If you are interested in volunteering, stop by the shelter or the FFHS website and fill out an application.