



The Companion

Friends Forever Humane Society Newsletter

Giving Companion Animals a Second Chance Since 1953



Friends Forever Humane Society

Freeport, IL

Spring 2012

2012 Annual Meeting

Friends Forever Humane Society held its Annual Meeting on January 18, 2012 at the Freeport Eagles Club. Members had the option of purchasing a ticket to the buffet dinner, which also gave them an opportunity to win door prizes, or just attend the meeting portion of the evening.

Board members were optimistic about trying something new this year. Several door prizes were donated, including the Grand Prize: an overnight stay with water park passes to the Clock Tower Inn and Resort in Rockford, IL.

In addition to door prizes, silent auction items were also offered during the event. All items were auctioned off.

The meeting opened with a year in review of FFHS. Board President Doug Toepfer discussed many of the challenges and accomplishments that brought about change during 2011. These included changes in board members, remodeling projects, decreases in monetary donations and the development of a strategic plan.

Terri Matthews, FFHS Board Treasurer, reviewed the financial status of the society. Terri presented the figures for 2011, as well as historical data showing trends over past years.

Terri also discussed the relationship FFHS now has with our auditors, which has improved the accuracy of financial statements. As a result, our relationship with the auditors has shown that FFHS was greatly impacted by several factors last year, including a decrease in overall donations and bequests. 2011 financials and the 2012 budget are included in this newsletter for review.

Following the financial review, elections were held. Jan Carlson, Karen Christen, Diane Heeren, Deb Klages, Melinda Kluge, Terri Matthews, Tim Remington, JC Wilson and Pam Wilson were elected.

Following the elections, President Toepfer discussed the future of FFHS. A question and answer period followed, and the winners of the silent auction were announced.

FFHS wants to thank the following for contributing to the door prizes and auction items: Carlson Canine Camp, Clock Tower Inn and Resort, Country Girl Florist, Family Video, Freeport Eagles Club, JD's Pet Paradise, Jiffy Lube, Judy Gonder and Luecke Jewelers.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 7, 2012 –Chili Day , Freeport Eagles Club.

March 17-18, 2012 - Stephenson County Home Show at the HCC/YMCA Sports Complex

March 28, 2012 - Board Meeting, FFHS Lower Level.

April 28-29, 2012 - FFHS Spring Rummage Sale.

May 5 & 6, 2012 - Dog Park Spring Beautification Day

June 9, 2012 - Rich Sokup Memorial Golf Classic, Park Hills Golf Course.

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**Friends Forever
Humane Society
Board of Directors****Doug Toepfer -
President****Tim Remington –
Vice President****Terri Matthews -
Treasurer****Pat Toth - Secretary****Jan Carlson****Karen Christen****Judy Gonder****Diane Heeren****Deb Klages****Melinda Kluge****Jami Nielsen****JC Wilson****Pam Wilson****Manager
Carol Falconer****Asst. Manager
Melody Haeft***President's Box by Doug Toepfer, FFHS Board President*

As I pen this article, it is Valentine's Day. I took my walk through the kennels and the cat room, thinking about the message I wanted to convey.....and I have decided to continue the message from the Annual Meeting.

By the power (*which I don't have*) invested in me, I hereby declare 2012 the year of the members!

Why? It is very simple. As a member of Friends Forever, each and every one of you has a vote for who will represent you on the board of directors. The board of directors is elected to act in the best interest of the membership in making decisions that concern the animals, staff, budgets, etc.

How many of you have been to an annual meeting in the past 5 years to vote for directors? How many of you have attended a board meeting? How many of you have served on a committee?

Members of FFHS, this is your organization. I am sure most of you have talents, ideas, skills or money to help our organization succeed.

The board meeting dates and times are posted on the website calendar. Soon, there will also be a posting soon of the various committees along with the name of the chairperson and contact information.

Be a part of the experience and help make a difference in 2012.

WE WANT YOU!

2012 CHILI DAY March 7

Nothing warms the tummy like a bowl of chili. All you can eat chili is even better!

Wednesday, March 7, is the annual FFHS Chili Day.

- Chili (regular and vegetarian)
- Cornmeal Muffins

- Cheese
- Beverages
- Home Baked Desserts

Volunteers are serving from 11:00 am to 1:30 pm and 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm.

Tickets are available in advance and at the door. Ticket prices are \$7.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children under 12.

Tickets can be purchased from any FFHS Board Member or at the Shelter on Rudy Rd.

Carry outs are available at the same prices.

All proceeds directly benefit the companion animals at Friends Forever.



Around the Shelter



Mikayla Wrasse, shelter employee, giving Ruger a bath. Ruger was a recent owner surrender.

Mikayla in the tub with Ruger. Mikayla decided her reach was a little short, so she improvised!

Sorry folks, Ruger has already found his forever family.



Shelter Factoids

Dog Food per week—70 lbs.

Cat Food per week— 30 lbs.

Cat Litter per week— 280 lbs.

Bleach per day—1 gallon

Utilities (Propane and Electric) for one year— \$15,000.00

FFHS is funded entirely by the adoption fees and the generosity of our donors. Our companion animals thank everyone for their continued financial support.

*Dollars and Sense by Terri Matthews, FFHS Board Treasurer*

For the first newsletter of the year I will start my report with the good news and end with the 2012 financial New Year's resolutions for FFHS.

The Holiday Season was everything we needed it to be in terms of donations both monetary and Gifts in Kind. I would like to thank everyone for their generosity and support. The money we received allowed us to show a profit in December and has funded the shelter thru January and into February.

That is the good news because if you look at the 2011 year end financials, you will see that we lost money in 2011. Looking at past years records, I've found that losing money is the norm and not the exception for the shelter. The way we have been operating is to spend and when we have a short fall, we make up the difference by cashing in some of our investments. This has been standard operating procedure since at least 2005. As everyone knows, you can't live off your principle forever. We have come to the point where we can't afford to follow the 'business as usual' practices. I've included a graph that shows our investment dollars from the end of 2005 thru the end of 2011. At the end of 2005 we had \$392,452 and at the end of 2011 we had \$188,237. As you can see from the graph, we didn't use the \$204,215 from our investments in any large spending sprees. We used it in small increments over the last 5 years to supplement our income.

Some of you will look at that and say that since we still have \$188,237 we are ok for now. And you would be right, except for a rule that the US government has for non for profits.

By Law we have to be audited before we can do our tax return. One of the checks the auditors have to do is to see if we could function for one year + 1 day without making any money. Our investments have to be large enough to cover our yearly expenses to pass this test.

Our expenses for last year were approximately \$230,000. I haven't been through the audit process yet, so I'm not sure how the auditors calculate our yearly expenses. But I'm not sure we have enough in the investments to pass the auditor's test this year. If we do fail this test, the auditors will give us a written warning and we will have until the end of 2012 to fix things, because we can't fail this test two years in a row and still be a non for profit.

In the budget for 2012 you will see that we have to make \$282,932 in income for this year. This is about \$80,000 more than we made in 2011. At work we would call this a stretch goal. That means that it is doable, just not easy.

We need to bring in this much to cover expenses and put back \$20,000 into the investments this year. We have already put \$5,000 into investments in the 4th

“We need to bring in this much to cover expenses and put back \$20,000 into the investments this year.”



Dollars and Sense - Cont.

quarter of 2011, and have committed to putting an additional \$5,000 into investments every quarter in 2012 to replace the last \$25,000 dollars removed in January of 2011.

A lot of what happens this year will depend on how well we make our revenue goal for the year, which brings me to the New Year's resolutions.

1. **We WILL NOT** spend more than we have.
2. **We WILL NOT** take any money out of investments.
3. **We WILL** put at least \$20,000 back into investments.

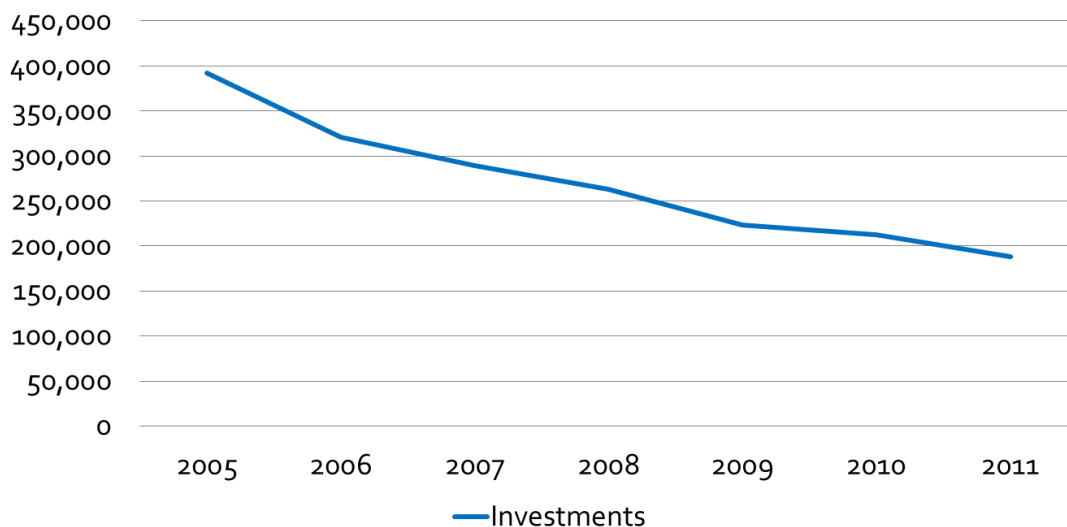
We WILL keep this shelter running, continue to help the animals we currently have in our care, and the future animals that will need us.



With your continued support we will be able to keep these resolutions.

It may not be easy, but can we do it? YES WE CAN!

Investment Total by Year





**Friends Forever Humane Society
Profit/Loss 2011**

January

through December 2011

Jan - Dec 11

Income

Fund Raising, net of expenses	22,675.53
Program Income (animal related)	42,428.44
Fees	789.50
Memberships	9,350.00
Bequests	40,278.52
Memorials	14,115.56
Contributions	55,651.65
Gifts in Kind	21,969.05
Grants	2,000.00
Gift Shop	1,246.63
Net Investment Income	-3,411.08

Total Income	207,093.80
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Expenses

Salaries and other wages	117,793.70
Payroll and other taxes	12,117.44
Advertising and Marketing	1,030.00
Auto Expense	1,564.83
Dues & Subscriptions	125.00
Equipment Purchases	4,590.88
Filing Fees	130.00
Insurance	5,506.00
License and Permits	25.00
Office Expense	2,703.36
Postage	920.10
Printing	1,908.70
Professional Fees	4,480.00
Maintenance Supplies	3,192.11
Repair & Maintenance	13,846.41
Telephone	889.62
Utilities	15,775.03
Veterinary fees	20,712.69
Spay/Neuter Program	1,119.00
Dog Park Expenses	180.34
Adoption Refunds	685.00
Animal Food & Supplies	17,752.72
Gift Shop	1,394.37
Travel & Education	377.50
Miscellaneous	37.87
Board Expenses	3,208.23
Depreciation	17,581.80

Total Expenses	249,647.70
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Friends Forever Humane Society 2011 Balance Sheet

ASSETS

Current Assets

Checking	10,157.88
Certificate of Deposit	52,735.04
Money Market Account	8,316.54
Total Current Assets	71,209.46

Investments

Investment Portfolio @ FMV	121,707.95
Savings Bonds	5,514.20
Total Investments	127,222.15

Other Current Assets

Accounts Receivable	-305.00
Un-deposited Funds	50.00
Total Other Current Assets	-255.00

Fixed Assets

Dog Park	27,333.24
Building	195,046.49
Building Improvement	138,489.22
Furniture & Equipment	0.00
Land Improvement	31,645.89
Land	53,000.00
Shelter Equipment	12,587.95
Vehicle	0.00
Total Fixed Assets	458,102.79

TOTAL ASSETS	656,279.40
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LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Liabilities

Accounts Payable	-82.69
Line of Credit	3,900.00
IL Sales Tax Payable	77.01
Fica & Fed Wh Tax Payable	2,451.96
IL State Wh Payable	157.19
Total Liabilities	6,503.47

Equity

29002 · Perm Restricted - Endowment	655.00
29001 · Temporarily Restricted	15,123.84
29000 · Unrestricted - Operating	676,495.40
Net Income	-42,498.31
Total Equity	649,775.93

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	656,279.40
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Budget 2012

Income

Special events/fundraising, net of expenses	113,050
Memberships	10,000
Bequests	
Program Income	44,500
Memorials	20,000
Fees	900
Contributions	57,526
Gifts In Kind	18,111
Grants	4,000
Gift Shop	12,000
Net Investment Income	2,845
Total Income	282,932

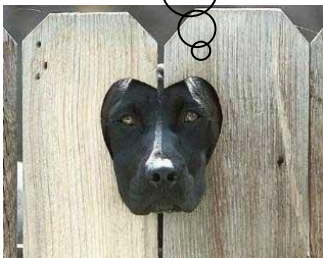
Expenses

Salaries and other wages	125,000
Payroll and other taxes	13,600
Advertising and Marketing	1,300
Auto Expense	1,885
Dues & Subscriptions	125
Equipment purchases	5,200
Filing Fees	30
Insurance	6,153
License and permits	25
Office Expense	2,711
Postage	1,050
Printing	2,000
Professional Fees	4,925
Maintenance Supplies	3,678
Repairs and Maintenance	2,249
Telephone	950
Utilities	16,250
Veterinary fees	21,630
Spay/Neuter program	1,175
Dog Park Expense	3,000
Adoption Refunds	600
Animal Food Supplies	15,633
Gift Shop	6,400
Travel and Education	1,250
Miscellaneous	150
Board Expenses	2,955
Depreciation	18,180

TOTAL

258,104

Everyone can
help and every
dollar makes a
difference.

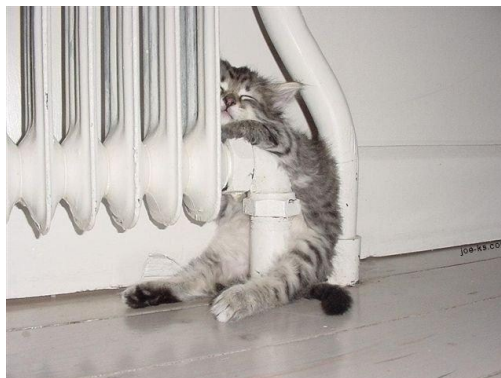




Muses, Barks and Meows



Nothing beats a good plan and teamwork!



Ahhhhhh, a steam nap.

Staff Words of Wisdom

Never wear lip balm when cleaning the cat rooms.

Prior to walking a dog, check your doodie bag for holes.

Always trim cat's nails BEFORE giving it a bath.

Prepare yourself with the duck and cover procedure when giving an animal a bath. If you are not familiar with this procedure, raincoats are in the hallway.

Always check your fingers before wiping your nose.

When handling male dogs, remember the golden shower is only warm for a short period of time.

After cleaning the cat rooms take an inventory count. If count is not accurate, check drawers and cupboards for stowaways.

When treating a dog remember, fingers resemble pieces of hot dogs.

“Prior to walking a dog, check your doodie bag for holes.”

Sneakers, treats, fresh grass, old socks, fire hydrants, warm milk.....





FFHS Canine Alumni Serve the Community by Judy Gonder

FFHS is pleased to begin a series of articles featuring some of our shelter dogs that have gone on to become certified therapy dogs in our community and the surrounding area. These dogs have proven to be our good will ambassadors for promoting adoptions from a shelter.



While they all came to the shelter under different circumstances, each one found a loving home where their new owners saw their potential to share their emotional support with anyone needing a warm, furry friend.

Each dog that we will feature is certified with Therapy Dogs International (88 Bartley Road, Flanders, NJ 07836) and a member of the local Freeport Chapter of TDI. They are involved in visiting assisted living centers, hospitals, schools, and the PAWS for Reading program at the Freeport Public Library. The dogs also take part in many community events.

We hope that you will enjoy meeting some of our Friends Forever Alumni and will learn more about what it takes to become a therapy dog.

This story is reprinted with permission from the publication:

Dog Tales
Freeport Therapy Dogs
"Paws for Reading"

This picture was taken of me a few years ago. Now I am eleven, and I have turned a bit gray around my nose. My name is Raven. I was born in a barn near Freeport, IL. My three sisters and I were taken to Friends Forever Humane Society. Two of my sisters were brown, black, and white like Beagles. One of my sisters looked like me — mostly black and a little bit of white. All four of us were shy and not too happy about being in a big cage.

While I was living in the shelter, a lady and her granddaughter played with me. One day, after all my sisters had been adopted, the lady came to see me with a whole bunch of people. They took me into a "get acquainted room," but I hid under the lady's chair. I heard her family saying, "Mom! She's too small!" and, "She's too shy!" and, "She looks like a wiener dog!" The lady seemed sad when she took me back to my cage. I heard her family exclaiming over a big, furry dog, and soon they took him home instead of me. The lady told me that they would come back and get me just as soon as Rusty got adjusted to their

....."I hid under the lady's chair. I heard her family saying, "Mom! She's too small!"



Friends Forever staff tours Winnebago County Animal Services *by Carol Falconer*

Six staff members and I received a warm welcome and a special tour of the Winnebago County Animal Services on February 13. Our staff was full of questions about the facility in Rockford with programs that include response, enforcement, shelter and care.

One of my goals as manager of Friends Forever Humane Society is to expand educational opportunities by encouraging participation in educational outings, training sessions and seminars. This tour was an important experience for our dedicated staff, a great group that cares about all the animals in their care, and also about each other.

We scheduled the tour to Winnebago County Animal Services on a Monday since our shelter is closed to the public on that day. The six staff members who attended are all part time employees. Scheduled staff members punched out, and the "off" staff came in early to help finish cleaning and to attend to other work, all off the clock. Sched-

uled work - cleaning, feeding and exercising of the animals - was done prior to leaving. Total time away from FFHS was 2.5 hours. Routine afternoon chores were done after returning to the shelter.

I am grateful to our kind and understanding board members who agreed to the tour and granted permission for the visit. Half of the staff had never been to another shelter, and only one of the other fifty percent had been to a county-funded facility. They had many comments as to what they like and dislike about another shelter. They know how fortunate they are to work in a great facility with such a committed, devoted board.

Our thanks, too, to Winnebago County Animal Services staff for their hospitality. We hope they accept our invitation to visit Friends Forever Humane Society and learn about the wonderful services we offer.



**Total Dog
Adoptions for 2011**

213

**Total Cat
Adoptions for 2011**

136

Canine Adoption Fees Increased

The Board of Directors approved an increase in canine adoption fees that took effect on February 1, 2012. The Board action increases the canine adoption fee from \$120.00 to \$150.00.

The increase is designed to bring the adoption fee closer to the regional average. The increase also helps offset the cost of caring for the animals during their stay at the shelter.

The board will be reviewing the remaining fee structure and doing more regional comparisons.



Donations

If we have inadvertently missed a gift, donation, or memorial, we apologize. Any omissions will be added to the next newsletter if we are notified.

FFHS thanks all of our donors. Without your continued support, FFHS wouldn't be able to fulfill our mission.

Phyllis Alexander	Marsha Kerkhoff	Allen & Helen Schlueter
Harry Allen	Sarah Knapp	Marian Schneider
Marc Brierre	Ruth Koch	Eugene Shade
Elbert & Gail Brister	Gary and Patricia Kraft	Dane Sorn
Lisa Cain	John & Susan Krier	Karen Spangler
Bob & Sandy Chapman	Jane Krug	Liz Spooner
Karen Christen	Nan Krull	Diane Stearns
Barbara Cober	Lulu Lbona	KristineSteinhagen
Phil Collalti	Daniel and Toni Leiby	Mary Stevens
Donna Cornelius	Amanda Mandalke	Bev Stichter
Robert & Joan Croffoot	Deborah Marcum	Merrill Taylor
Thomas Currier	Ray & Terri Matthews	Lee Thomasson
Lisa & Barry De Boor	Evangeline McCarthy	Susan Toon
Judy Decker	David & Nancy McIntyre	Patricia Toth
Dale and Shelly Diddens	Virginia K Meyer	Don & Pat Vanderheyden
Marge Dietmeier	Gustave Miller	Mary Vehmeier
Terry Ditsworth	Robert & Mary Miller	Stacey & Rob Vock
Daniel & Peggy Dixon	Tom & Sue Milller	John Watkins
Colleen Fenn	Deb Mrugala	Paul Watkins
Heather D Foley	Frank & Laurie Musso	Barb Weeks
Roxanne Foy	Tom Myers	Chad Weigle
Dennis & Orvin Gates	Gary & Rebecca Nailor	Sue Welstead
Pat Gillespie	Dana Nappi	Dolores M. Whalen
Carol Gray	Kathleen Nicodemus	Sue Wickler
Daniel S Hartley	Bruce Nielsen	Pamela S Wilson
Charlotte M Hartman	Karen Niemeier	Dexter Witt
Rick & Connie Heinrich	Kris Olson	Jon & Pam Wolfe
EH & GJ Heitz	Mary Owen	Merri Worden
Richard & Karla Hendee	Linda Price	Michael & Terri Young
Sylvia Hoggatt	Lawrence and Helen Reed	Susan Zink
Dennis Holsinger	David & Marilyn Rice	Embury United Methodist Church
Richard & Althea Hornung	Patty Robinson	J.D's Pet Paradise
David Ifert	Virginia Runte	Rite-Way Furniture
Craig and Kathy Joesten	Betty Rupnow	Saelens Enterprises Inc
Dan & Wendy Johnson	Darla Sandell	Pearson/Penguin Group
Dwight & Therese Johnson	Tom & Kathy Schauer	
Lisa Kenney	Joe Schleich	

In Memory/Recognition/Honor Of

In Honor of Shawna Saunders

The Drs. and Staff at Freeport Family
Chiropractic

In Honor of Steve Latham

Northwestern Illinois Reading Council

In Honor of Robbin Klein and Zehra

Rowjee
FHN – FCC

In Memory of "Clemmie"

Patricia Toth

In Memory of Carl DeFrane

Dory DeFrane



In Memory/Recognition/Honor Of

In Memory of Don Morse

Jim & Sharon Smull
Beth Street
William Morrow
Larry Steffen
John Watkins

In Memory of Alex

Terry & Deb Schlosser

In Memory of Calvin

Terry & Deb Schlosser

In Memory of Alfreda Bach & Dan Steele

Patricia Steele

In Honor of Domino- Adopted 9/07 has been my most beloved Dog.

Patricia Steele

In Memory of all the dogs we have loved and lost

Dick & Emily Ferguson

In Memory of Jean A Stout

James D Stout

In Memory of 4 dogs; Butch, Ginger, Max, Cosby

Phil & Liana Collalti

In Honor of Abby and Gracie

Sharon Drews

In Memory of Popcorn

Carol Falconer

In Recognition of New Hope Vet Clinic

Kiara Fredrick

In Honor of "Teddy Bear"

Gertrude Germain

In Honor of Jardonna Ryan Hall

Robert & Janet Gothard

In Honor of Peggy Hartman

Tom Hartman

In Memory of Dan and Brigitte Cree

Monika E Ishmon

In Honor of Francis Heitter

John and Angela Threadgill

In Memory of Alice Schlatter-Cable

Vicki Warthen

In Memory of Rookie

Arnold and Betty Wood

In Honor of Swift's, Folgate's and Johnson's

Danielle Goebel

In Memory of Rich Clary

The Homeowner Liability Team for MetLife

In Memory of Roy Brown

Joan Snapp

In Memory of Val Farnsworth

Joan Snapp

In Memory of Darlene Vandervelden

Frank R. Vandervelden

In Memory of Mary Bicker

Bill & Norma McLenahan

In Memory of Walter Oppenheimer who died 15 years ago 12/4/11

Dina Oppenheimer

In Memory of Morris Rosenbarry

Elizabeth Sullivan

In Memory of Tyler

Angela & Bret Olson

In Honor of Tom & Leila Rowe Family

Rita K. Rowe

In Honor of Barb & Karl Dersch Family

Rita K. Rowe

In Honor of Linda & Dan Krum

Rita K. Rowe

In Loving Memory of Our Good Friend Tony Cali

Mike, Eldora (Tazzy) Christ, Paris, Prince, Lexie, Tidy & Cali

SUPPORT FRIENDS

FOREVER HUMANE

SOCIETY'S WORK

AND HONOR LOVED

ONES – FURRY OR

OTHERWISE—WITH A

MONETARY GIFT.

KEEP THEIR

MEMORIES ALIVE.



Fundraising Events by Jami Nielsen

LISTEN TO US ON
"TALK OF THE TOWN"
WITH SHARY GIBSON
THE THIRD TUESDAY
OF THE MONTH AT
12:30 PM.
AM1570 WFRL

March 7th: Chili Day at the Eagles Club serving from 11:00 AM to 1:30 PM and 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM. Menu includes all the chili you can eat (vegetarian available), cornmeal muffins, cheese, beverages and homemade baked desserts. Prices are \$7.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children under 12. Carry outs available. Tickets are available in advance at the Shelter and through any FFHS Board Member.

March 17th and 18th: Stephenson County Home Show at the HCC/YWCA Sports Complex. Come visit our booth!

Spring Rummage Sale:
April 28th 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM
April 29th 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM, Sunday a bag for a buck day. Donations accepted at the shelter and can be delivered to Jane Addams Comm. Center on April 27th from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Call the shelter to arrange pick up for large clean items. 815-232-6164. Items must be easily removed, as not to injure our volunteers.

May 5th and 6th: 9 am to 3 pm work days to clean up our Wonderful Dog Park. All volunteers welcome. Bring your rakes, shovels, gloves and get dirty for the dogs. Rain dates are May 19th and 20th. **Let's keep our Dog Park on**

the Top 10 list.

June 9th: Rich Sokup Memorial Golf Classic. The Classic will be held at Park Hills Golf Course. \$75.00 per golfer includes 18 holes, cart rental and meal.

Fall Rummage Sale: September 28th and 29th at the Jane Addams Community Center. Setup and donations, September 27th. Information is the same as the Spring Rummage sale.

November 17th is our annual Cookie Walk at the Eagles Club from 8:00 AM until 11:00 AM. Our beautiful gift baskets will once again be available.

December 1st: Photos with Santa from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM a 4x6 professional photo for \$10.00 taken at the Shelter. Pets bring your humans.

More events to come!!!

Look for updates on these and more events on our website and in future newsletters!



In Memory/Recognition/Honor Of cont'd from pg. 13

In Memory of Julie Ransom

Ed and Florence Giles

Bob and Helen Bastian

Mark and Rita Reeder

Marlene and Rex Murphy

Despina Johnson

John and Carol Foutch

Tom and Maria Dasch

Vaughn and Sherry Toyne

Maida Gimple

Laverne Fluechtling

Al and Mae Smith

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.

*You can name
the Friends
Forever
Humane
Society as a
beneficiary in
your will.*





Shelter Operations by Jan Carlson

The Shelter Ops Committee has met several times in the past 4 weeks and will continue to meet on a regular basis. We are working on all aspects of the shelter operations, from the Dog Park to the Shelter building itself. We work on maintenance, rules and regulations, policies and procedures as well as fees etc.

By early March, we will have a list of projects that we would like to accomplish. We will also have the anticipated time frame as well as estimated cost for each project.

Any and all help' whether physically or financially, will be greatly appreciated. Remember' this is your shelter, and we are here to help the animals.

Thanks for your help and consideration.

Jan Carlson.....

I can be reached by cell phone at 815 232-2566

e-mail:

Itrain538@aol.com

The Shelter Ops Committee has most recently begun to work on quite a few projects beginning with re-organizing the Dog Park. We are analyzing all rules and regulations, as well as fees and hours of operation. We should have some recommendations in the near future for the board.

Together with the Fundraising Committee, we are planning a clean-up day at the Dog Park which is tentatively scheduled for the first weekend in May. We will be doing repairs, weeding, mowing, planting, etc. Any help that the public could give would be very much appreciated.

We are also planning several work-days at the Shelter to make improvements and repairs to the inside of that facility. We have hit the 10 + year mark and just general wear and tear has taken its toll, in addition to some remaining flood repairs that still are necessary.

Please feel free to let me know if there are any projects that you would like to get involved with. The main issue will be funding the materials for these projects.



ADOPT A PROJECT!

INTERESTED IN

ADOPTING A

PROJECT?

CONTACT THE

SHELTER FOR

MORE

INFORMATION!



Dog Park Rules Reminder



1. All dogs must have their current rabies tag and dog park tag displayed to be examined upon request.
2. **Dogs must be supervised at all times and under the voice control of the owner/handler.** Owners must carry a dog leash with them at all times, and leash an unruly, aggressive or mounting dog immediately and leave the park.
3. Dogs with a history of dangerous behavior are prohibited.
4. Cleaning up after the dog poops is required. Leave the area cleaner than when you arrived.
5. No more than two dogs may be brought into the park by an individual at the same time.
6. Puppies under four (4) months of age are not allowed in the dog park.
7. Female dogs in heat are not allowed in the dog park.
8. Sick dogs should not be brought to the dog park.
9. **Dogs must be leashed when entering or exiting the dog park.** Make sure gates are secured.
10. Agility equipment is for dogs only. If the "TRAINING IN PROGRESS" sign is on the gate, the area is closed to others.
11. Children must be supervised at all times. Children under 12 are not permitted in the park.
12. **Food is not allowed in the dog park. Glass containers are prohibited.**
13. **Smoking is prohibited within the dog park.**
14. Wheelchairs are the only wheeled vehicles allowed in the dog park.
15. Obtain the consent of the owner/handler before approaching or touching another dog.
16. Prong or spike collars are prohibited in the dog park.
17. Dogs are allowed to swim in the pond; humans are not allowed in the pond except for emergency situations. Dogs are not to be thrown into the pond.
18. Park hours are dawn to dusk.
19. Friends Forever Humane Society reserves the right to refuse membership or entrance to the park. FFHS reserves the right to ask any patron and their dog (s) to leave the park at the discretion of the staff.

INTERESTED IN
BEING ON A
COMMITTEE
LIKE THE DOG
PARK?
CONTACT THE
SHELTER.



President's Pick by Doug Toepfer



SIMBA

Can he be king of your jungle?

Simba is our very own king of the jungle, but he'd love to be king of your jungle! He's about 2 and ½ years old and is a big boy, as you can see. He prefers cuddling to exercising (who doesn't?) and, as a neutered male, he has packed on a few extra pounds this winter.



Sadie

Most of the time, I'm a laid back kind of girl. But once in a while, I like to kick up my heels and PLAY! I'm fine with cats and dogs, and I really love people. I am a cuddly kind of dog who really wants to be with a family who is home a lot. When I am left alone, I feel so sad, I

start to cry. Are you a stay-at-home mom or dad? Or a take-the-dog-along kind of family? I am feeling lonely and hope to meet my forever family soon.



T Baby

T BABY is a sweetheart!

T Baby is a lovely 5 ½ year old spayed female who is a little reserved, especially around strangers. But boy does she have the personality when she plays, as you can see here! With a cat like T Baby around your house to watch, you won't need your television anymore.

Adopt an Animal
We need your help!

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



A great thank you !



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



An express newspaper delivery !

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
- ◆ Grooming Table

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FFHS Canine Alumni Serve the Community by Judy Gonder *cont'd from page 6*

home. Well, Rusty turned out to be a high energy dog (he's like a Jack Russell Terrier in a German Shepherd body), and it took a long, long time for him to get settled. (If you ask me, he still needs a bit of settling!)

I waited at the shelter for months and then another family came and took me to their house. I guess we just weren't a good "fit," because I ran away. I was scared, especially when I got caught and taken back to the shelter. The people who'd adopted me decided they didn't want a dog after all. I was all alone in a cage ... again!

A few days later, that same lady came walking through the shelter. It was about six months after Rusty had gone home with her, and that day just happened to be her birthday. She looked at me a long time, and I heard her say, "Is that *my* dog!?"

So I came home to live with the lady (Mom) and her husband (Daddy). Their human children are all grown up now, and I enjoy playing with their grand kids. I have two dog brothers, Rusty (remember him?) and Tristan. *They* each have their own stories, but they will just have to tell you themselves. Even though Mom says they are better trained than I am, she picked *me* to be a Therapy Dog because I love people of all ages a LOT. I like when kids read stories to me at the library. Some-times they read *my* story. How cool is that?