



The Companion

July 2014 Friends Forever Humane Society Newsletter

2014: CELEBRATING 61 YEARS OF GIVING COMPANION ANIMALS A SECOND CHANCE

Will you be a Friends Forever BFF?

We're excited to announce an easy new way to support Friends Forever: become a Best Friend Forever!

Best Friends Forever (BFFs, in the urban dictionary) commit to a monthly contribution to Friends Forever, automatically charged to a credit card or handled by check. If you choose to donate by credit card, once you choose your amount, you don't ever need to do another thing! Regardless of which payment method you select, we'll let you know about great opportunities that will be available for BFFs only.

Here are the levels for monthly BFF donations.

\$10 A \$10 monthly contribution can help us buy garbage bags, copier paper, cat litter, soap, and other everyday supplies we need – every day! \$10 can also buy a cuddly cat bed or a snuggly blanket for a lonely dog.

\$17 A donation at this level can buy wholesome, nourishing puppy or kitten chow to keep our animal babies' tummies full, or specialty food for an elderly or sick animal in our care.

\$33 At \$33, your contributions can be used for new kennels, cat towers, leashes and other pet equipment, and many other items needed to provide warm, safe shelter for homeless animals, including medication like flea and tick protection and tests for feline leukemia or heartworm

\$48 Generous donors at this level can help us make major strides we might not otherwise be able to accomplish in efforts such as spay/neuter programs, educational events for adopters and other animal fans, inter-shelter transportation for homeless pets, and other important humane endeavors.

Other Whatever amount you choose, your contribution will help provide quality care for animals who through no fault of their own have found themselves waiting here for their forever homes!

We'll be communicating ongoing updates about the program in upcoming communications to Friends Forever folks, but you don't have to wait to be our BFF right now. Just visit our website, www.friendsforeverhs.org, to sign up today. We'll send you a BFF window cling pronto that you can proudly display to show everyone how much you care!



CALENDAR

JULY

All month

Adopt a Shelter Rabbit Month

Dog House Repairs Month

15 Pet Fire Safety Day

31 National Mutt Day

AUGUST

All month

National Immunization Awareness Month

2 Second Annual Adoption Event at the Shelter (many area rescues, food and fun for all!)

3-9 International Assistance Dog Week

10 **Ricky M "Dog and Pony Car Show" at the Shelter (www.rickymcarshow.org for info)**

15 National Check the Chip Day

20 National Homeless Animal Day

22 National Take Your Cat to the Vet Day

26 National Dog Day

Board Meetings – 4th Wednesdays, 5:45 pm – Freeport Public Library

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Hello Summer!

I'm sure you are as excited as we are at the warm weather the last few weeks have brought us. Finally, great days for dogs to run in the dog park and cats to lie in sunny window sills! I anticipate hearing fewer complaints of hot weather this summer after our exceptionally long cold winter.

Speaking of the dog park, do you have a dog park pass? We have yearly passes available to save you money and give you unlimited park visits. Just go to our website (www.friendsforeverhs.org) to view the dog park rules and fill out the paperwork. You



can also do this at the Shelter Tuesday through Sunday, noon to 4 P.M.

As always, we need to keep the Shelter going financially, and one easy way to help is to bring your recyclable aluminum cans to the shelter. We have accepted them for years

but decided a challenge of 600 pounds for the month, starting in June, could raise the stakes...and the funds we realize! We

will add 100 pounds per month to our challenge, so in July we'll be aiming for 700 pounds. Our "can corral" is on the west end of the building. Cans For Critters is our theme, and we hope you'll drop off a bag or two, and of course stop into the Shelter while you're here.



We will be at the Stephenson County Fair in July and look forward to seeing you there too. Come by our booth to visit and share your adoption stories, and bring the kids to win at our bag toss.

Watch for our Adoption Day event in August. We will have many local rescues joining us. It's a day to bring together shelters in the area to have fun and give you an idea of the variety of pets looking for Forever homes.

As summer heats up, keep cool and come see us whenever you can....you will be glad you did!

Diane

TREASURER'S LETTER

Great Audit, but Summer Could Be a Challenge

I'll start this installment of the financials by reporting on the items that hadn't happened as of the last newsletter, then go into how we are doing right now. Then I'll end with news on how Mira is doing, as I have had many people ask about how she is acclimating to her new home.

The audit is complete, and as predicted, we passed with flying colors. I was pretty sure we would, but it's nice to have it be official. Our auditors agreed that we had a great year in 2013. The only item they mentioned is we need to continue to watch our cash flow as we have historically had an issue with keeping enough cash on hand, and they could tell from the 2014 first quarter board meeting minutes that we are whittling away at the \$35,000 excess with which we started this year.

The totals are in for the spring rummage sale and Raise the Woof events. The rum-

mage sale made \$4,295 after expenses and Raise the Woof brought in \$1,821.75. Neither event made as much as we were hoping for, so it is a good thing that the donations have been higher in the first half of 2014 than in years past. That has really helped keep us from dipping into that extra money we had at the beginning of the year.

That being said, summer has historically been a lower donation time for us. Hopefully the higher-donation trend for the first half of 2014 continues on into June and July. As of now, we still have \$12,000 excess cash in the bank. This puts us ahead of previous years, but if we don't have a high level of donations, this money will be depleted by the next fundraiser in August. So I am wishing for moderate temperatures (less air conditioning), no major building/appliance issues, and lots of donations. Yes, I know that is asking a lot, but a girl can hope.

In closing, I just wanted to let everyone know that Mira, the cat we adopted in April, has not only made herself at home, she has taken over the house! It's amazing that one 10-pound ball of gold fluff has become queen cat without a single fight, hardly any hissing, and in only about a day. The other cats, who are all much bigger than she is, just let her do it. She is living proof that where there is a will, there is a way. She definitely has the will and she almost always gets her way. Yes, even with Ray and me. So life is good, and if we can just keep Friends Forever financially sound, it will be a great summer.

Terri Matthews, Treasurer
Friends Forever Humane Society

Please note that in order to help with newsletter costs, we have elected to discontinue publishing actual financials in the newsletter. However, these are always available to you by calling the shelter or emailing us at info@friendsforeverhs.org.



Donations

Phyllis Alexander	Emily Kiefer	Rita K Rowe
Ron Aramagost	Jeremiah Kraft	Betty Rupnow
Carl Sandburg Student Council	Jonanna & Michael Leopold	Deborah Schoenfelder
Georgann Castro	Scott Lillie	Beth Street
Donna Cornelius	John & Rita McClellan	Taylor Park Elementary School
Barry & Lisa DeBoor	Betty Lou Miller	Nelda Thrumen
E. Carole Dickerson	Robert & Mary Miller	Mary Tucker
Kathleen Eberle	Loren & Margaret Morgan	Paul Watkins
Robert & Norine Ehrler	Kathleen Napholz	Whiteside Area Career Center
Freeport Rod & Reel Club	Michelle Ottens	Jon & Pam Wolfe
Arlen Heeren	Pampered Pet	Susan Zink
	Elaine Pro	

A **BIG thank-you** to Carlson Canine Camp for once again supporting Friends Forever with their annual Rescue Rally and Dog Wash! Employees and volunteers served up baked goods, a silent auction, dog washing expertise, and a variety of other fundraising support to raise over \$3000 to split between Friends Forever and Midwest Mastiff Rescue. Thank you, Carlson Friends!

Wish List

We appreciate all donations!

Here is our wish list, including both daily-use items and those we have included as special, larger donations that will add to the safety and security of our staff, visitors, and animals. If you have questions, please contact the shelter.

Daily Use

We ALWAYS need these Items!

- Purina Dog & Puppy Chow
- Purina Cat & Kitten Chow
- Paper towels
- Toilet paper
- Double pocket folders
- High-efficiency (HE) laundry soap
- Garbage bags (55, 39, and 13 gallon)
- Copy paper
- Gift cards for Staples, Menards, Farm & Fleet, Walmart and Home Hardware
- Clay cat litter
- Chew bones
- Treats
- Bleach
- Dish soap
- Glass cleaner

Shelter/Park Improvement and Maintenance Items

- 6x6 treated posts 8' long
- Security camera system
- Picnic tables
- Benches for the dog park
- Riding lawn mower
- Large dog kennels
- Grooming table
- Gator or similar UTV with dump box for park maintenance
- New(er) van or conversion vehicle

Special Request

We would like a tablet (iPad or similar) to be able to bring to adoption events, use as a second computer at the office, and generally allow us to be more portable in our computing. If you've received a new one, we'd be happy to take your older one!

THANK YOU!

Pet Pointers!

Share your good ideas!

Follow the Sun

Ever wonder why your cat moves her nap spot to follow the sun across the floor, even in the summer? If you know that their average body temperature is 102 degrees, this seems to make even less sense! But you're just not looking at the situation from their perspective.

Almost a third of the calories cats ingest are used just to keep their skin and coat in top shape. Of those calories, the majority should come from protein: cats are so dependent on protein, even synthesizing their body's glucose needs from it, that their livers never stop producing protein enzymes, unlike other mammals who have an on/off switch for this metabolic process.

When they use the heat of the sun to keep themselves warm, they are actually conserving energy. So, napping in sunlight – or on a radiator – offsets the drop in basal metabolism that occurs when sleep shuts down some body processes. Their bodies then don't have to work as hard. So, let them be as toasty as they like!



Friends share good ideas, and the Friends Forever newsletter is eager to hear yours! Do you have a tip about how to get your cat to take medication? A favorite game you invented to play with your pooch? The best formula ever for getting doggie smell off your sofa? We want to know about it! Send via email to newsletter editor Marilyn Smit at marilyn.smit@m45.com



The best doctor in the world is the veterinarian.
He can't ask his patients what's the matter. *He's got to just know.* – Will Rogers

We're pleased to include an article from a Freeport-area vet in the Friends Forever newsletter! Authors will change from issue to issue and will focus on a seasonal or other timely pet concern. Thank you, veterinarians!



Enjoying Outdoor Time with Your Dog

Now that summer is finally here, we know that we'll all have a friend or hear about someone who falls victim to the "weekend warrior" syndrome. That's when we humans aren't in good enough physical shape to tackle a big weekend project or decide to run five miles because we have time on Saturday...but we do it anyway.

Dogs can suffer this same condition, and it's often our fault! We can't take a long walk or play an extended game of fetch during the week, so we overdo it on the weekend or some evening when we have an extra hour, and we AND our dogs may pay the price. Here are some suggestions on how to prevent that situation for your canine buddy.

WARM UP!

We stretch our muscles and start slowly when we go for a walk, run, or bike ride (if we're smart!), so why wouldn't you help your dog do the same? Start off at a slower pace and allow time for some sniffing and enjoying the start of the journey.

WATCH THE WATER

Don't allow a big drink of water or a meal before starting an activity session. Some breeds are at serious risk for bloat, a potentially deadly condition where the stomach twists and traps air, food, and water in the stomach. The bloated stomach obstructs veins in the abdomen, leading to low blood pressure, shock, and damage to internal organs. The combined effect can quickly kill a dog.

At most, provide a sip or two of water and a tiny treat in advance of your dog's workout. Do bring water if the walk or run is a long one, but again, only a sip or two at a time.

Bloat is also a potential issue after exercise, so after your dog's workout, again, allow just enough water to cool him down. If you're unsure about how much water to provide, try giving an ice cube or two, or freeze some water in a large enough container that your dog can't swallow the ice chunk whole and has to lick it to get a drink. Don't feed your pet until he/she is relaxed and quiet again.



STICK TO SAFE SURFACES

Summer sidewalks are hot! While your dog's feet are tougher than yours, she'll appreciate a trek in a cooler part of the day, or in a grassy area. Also keep an eye out for broken glass or other harmful conditions, including running on uneven surfaces, which can lead to sprains and breaks for dogs just as it would for humans. If you wouldn't enjoy walking or running somewhere, don't let your dog do so.

NO "SNACKS"

Dogs love to explore with their mouths, and sometimes the results of those "explorations" can be a problem. All kinds of things from animal feces to half-eaten fast food to potentially harmful insects, rodents, and reptiles could be of interest to your dog. The easiest way to keep dogs from getting into this kind of trouble is to keep them on leash and pay attention to what they're sniffing. If you have an adventurous eater, you may want to always bring a few favorite treats with you to "trade" for any questionable items your dog might try to taste.

In this category, I'd be remiss if I didn't remind everyone about puddles of antifreeze. While most automotive products aren't attractive to dogs, antifreeze tastes sweet to them. Even a small amount can be very dangerous, so while you're out walking, it's easiest to just keep any puddle off limits for drinking. If it's not antifreeze it could still be filled with runoff from lawn fertilizers or other chemicals, or just good old muck and mold. Bring water with you if you think your dog will really need it, but pay attention to the bloat reminders above.

COOL DOWN.

When you're almost done with your adventure, slow down and let your dog's heart and breathing rate gradually return to a resting level. When you get home, offer a little water or ice (again, see the bloat reminders above), and take a moment to check footpads for any injuries. A quick brushing might be in order to remove any burs or prickles, and if you've been in an area with lots of trees, check for ticks too (of course your dog should be on a regular regimen of flea and tick medication). You'll probably also want to be sure that any mud or dirt is wiped away *outside* your house.

Here's to a great summer of outdoor fun for you and your dog!

Dr. Patrick J. Heitzman, DVM
Tender Loving Care Animal Hospital
1633 S Galena Avenue
Freeport, IL 61032
815-235-1401

CHOOSE ME!

HERE ARE TWO FABULOUS PETS READY TO BE YOUR FOREVER FRIENDS!

For more information on these and other wonderful adoptable pets, call the Shelter at 815-232-6164 or visit us at www.friendsforeverhs.org



Sarah SFD (single female dog) – Howdy! My name is Sarah and I'm a four-year-old purebred Coonhound. Coonhounds are hunting dogs, so I have lots of energy and would fit perfectly with folks who are active. In other words, I like long walks on the beach... (and trips to the dog park, hiking excursions, and so on) I'm a nice medium-sized girl – just the right size to nap on the sofa and still allow plenty of room for you! I'm house-trained, well-mannered, and a regular social butterfly, warming up quickly to everyone I meet. I hope I meet YOU soon!

Fritz SMC (single male cat) – Yo. I'm Fritz, and I'm large and in charge... in a NICE way! I'm a grey tiger with golden eyes, and because I'm bigger than most of the other guys here, some folks might think that I'm "too much cat." But I'm really just a hunka hunka burnin' love who craves attention and craves brushing and petting. I'm eight, which means I'm past all that wild kitten stuff and won't climb your curtains. I'm all about snuggling, although I still enjoy swatting at feathers and toys on a regular basis too. I'm just an armful of fur, waiting for the right arms to hold me close. Come see me soon!



Friends Forever Board and Staff Board

Diane Heeren – President
Brian Wheelock – Vice president
Karen Christen – Secretary
Terri Matthews – Treasurer
Carole Dickerson
Connie Larson
Marilyn Smit
Doug Toepfer
Pam Wilson

Shelter

Carol Falconer – Manager

Contact any of these folks through the Shelter

Email: petsrus966@hotmail.com

Phone: 815-232-6164

Pits Can Be Great Pets!

I want to take advantage of my column in this issue to talk about one of the most prevalent dog breeds in any animal shelter: Pit Bulls, affectionately referred to by many as Pits.

Along with Chihuahuas, pit bulls are one of the most overbred breeds in the country, which then logically makes them one of the most abandoned breeds. There is confusion about what exactly constitutes a Pit Bull, with variations ranging from the American pit bull terrier, the Staffordshire terrier and, at times, the bulldog. That's another reason that so often you will see "mixed breed" as a description of Pit Bulls in rescues.

Until the mid-'80's, Pit Bulls had a great reputation, unlike the way they are perceived today in many circles. Why?

First, despite being illegal in all fifty states, dog fighting made a comeback in the 80s, and the Pit Bull is the dog of choice for this inhumane sport. It has also become a common guard dog for drug dealers and gangs. As a result, many of the attacks we hear about are due to a skyrocketing number of poorly bred, badly trained dogs raised by breeders trying to cash in on the breed's growing reputation as a cheap, deadly guard dog, particularly in urban areas.

These aren't the Pit Bulls I know!

Pits have great personality; even as they age, most remain playful. They are affectionate and well-mannered. In fact, according to The American Temperament Test Society (ATTS), an organization promoting uniform temperament evaluations for purebred and spayed/neutered mixed-breed dogs, the Pit Bull scores an 86.2% in temperament. That's better than the Beagle (80.3%), Border Collie (79.6%), Boxer (84%), Chihuahua (71.1%), Cocker Spaniel (81.9%), Collie (79.2%),



Golden Retriever (83.8%), or Miniature Poodle (77.9%). ATTS also found Pit Bulls are generally less aggressive when faced with confrontational situations that produced negative reactions in many stereotypically "friendly" dogs, such as beagles and poodles.

Pit Bulls are a healthy and hearty breed. They are long-lived and low-maintenance. Intelligent and eager to please, Pit Bulls are commonly used as therapy dogs, in search and rescue, and as narcotic and bomb sniffing dogs. One Pit Bull, Popsicle (rescued from an abandoned freezer), is responsible for the largest recorded drug bust in Texas history.

So if you're looking for some unconditional love in a strong, sturdy package, don't overlook a Pit Bull – they'll never overlook you when you've captured their hearts!

Carol Falconer • *Friends Forever Shelter Manager*

Pit Bull Trivia



- The American Pit Bull has been featured on the cover of Time magazine three times.
- Theodore Roosevelt, Woodrow Wilson, George Patton, Jack Dempsy, Helen Keller, Humphrey Bogart, Fred Astaire, Ann Bacroft, Thomas Edison and Mark Twain all owned Pit Bulls.
- Helen Keller said of her Pit Bull, Sir Thomas, he "seems to understand my limitations, and is always close beside me when I am alone. I love his affectionate ways and the eloquent wag of his tail."
- Celebrity Pit Bull owners have included Jon Stewart, Alicia Silverstone, Jessica Biel, Jessica Alba, Michael J. Fox, Bernadette Peters, Brad Pitt, Madonna, and Rachel Ray.
- Most Pit Bulls are great with kids, like Petey, the beloved dog featured in the Little Rascals. Pit Bulls were called "nanny dogs" in the early 20th Century because of their gentle and loving disposition with kids.

For more Pit Bull information and myths debunked, go to <http://love-a-bull.org/resources/faq/>

Thank you...

To the generous people who've helped Friends Forever through memorials and donations.
The following lists cover the timeframe from April 9, 2014 – June 5, 2014.

In Honor of...

Judy Garkey's Birthday

Jane Krug
Barry & Kay Anderson
Marianne & Richard Drogosz
Diana Garrett
Mary & James Lee
Deborah Nordgren
Susan Perry
Wesley & Joyce Robinson
Jan & Patrick Sanders
Judith Shankland
Ronald & Beth Slade

Joseph Smith

Freeport Family Chiropractic

Michael Meade

Freeport Family Chiropractic

Dani Swift

Deborah Marty

Hootie, a rescue from FFHS 4/10/09

Kathleen D. Mitchell

In Memory of

Sharon Shaw

Kathy Bookman
Kathleen Weber

Mary Larson

Frank & Vicki Petta

William W. Riddell

Anchor-Harvey Components
Verla & Burt Briggs
Deloris Burstrom
Barb Clemmons
Harry & Ruth Dittmar
James & Yvonne Fitzsimmons

Lorraine Frautschy
Furst-McNess Company
Doris Hannah
Larry & Terry Herbig
Dan Hirstein
Matthew & Deann Jennings
Joyce & Dick Nelson
Mark & Dena Steel
Mary Taylor

Geraldine Bull

Nancy & Richard Frederick
Robert & Caryl Holleran

Jon Petty

Dr. Hani Elkadi & Ewa Bardach
Janet Nissen
Helene Petty
Cheryl Buck
Wayne Buck
Mr & Mrs Jim Jensma
Mr & Mrs John Pieper
L.S.C. & A.K. Reedy
Lisbeth Maas

Evelyn Ross

Lydia Young
Nancy McClymonds
John Spaeth

Victoria Vance-Harrell of Winchester VA

Shirl and Hope Laughlin

Keith Stott, who never met a shelter animal he didn't love

Brian and Michele Schiess
Steve, Charlie & Carole Kaney

Eleanor Pflug

Patricia Schoonhoven

John Secken

John Watkins

Norma Jean Heeren

Stephanie Erickson

Phyllis Mergen

Phil & Liana Collalti

Lee Thomason's Brother Merle Thomason

Rich & Connie Heinrich

Paula Borbely

Kimberley Ramirez
Robert Wand

"Ribs" Donahue

Orv and Linda Kersten

Ed; to all the dogs we've loved

Judy Nevaril

Millie & Mariah

Linda Barklow

Bandit Snyders

Jan Carlson

all my pets waiting at the rainbow bridge

Pat Kelly

Susan Aballe's beloved Zoe

Marilyn Smit

Syd, Cathy Williams' wonderful therapy dog

Marilyn Smit

Samantha (our kitty)

Deborah Marty

Jeepers

Bette-Jon Schrade

Jobi

Bette-Jon Schrade

Theo, Eric Sorenson's pup

Judith Gerharz

Friends Forever Humane Society

966 Rudy Road
Freeport, IL 61032

Phone: 815-232-6164
Email: info@friendsforeverhs.org

Visit us online at:
www.friendsforeverhs.org



Putting Pets in Forever
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PAID

Freeport, IL
Permit No. 105

Change Service
Requested

MEMBERSHIPS

All memberships renew one year from the date of inception. Have you renewed yours yet?

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

- New Membership Renewed Membership
- Lifetime \$1,500 (one-time fee) Individual \$40
- Patron \$250 or more Senior (62 and over) \$25
- Couple \$60 Person with Disabilities \$25

DONATIONS

I wish to make a donation!

Membership dues enclosed \$

Donation enclosed \$

MEMORIALS & HONORARIUM

I wish to make a gift

In memory of Gift amount \$

In honor of Gift amount \$

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$

*Please make checks payable to: **Friends Forever Humane Society**
and mail to us at 966 Rudy Road, Freeport, IL 61032*

Name Phone

Address E-mail

City State Zip