



The Companion

September 2014 Friends Forever Humane Society Newsletter

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

It's a MATCH!

We are excited to announce that Friends Forever is once again the beneficiary of a generous matching challenge for Friends Forever from Friends Forever Lifetime Members Jim and Sandy Dixon! They have again pledged to match donations to the Shelter through the end of the year up to \$5,000. That means that when we have \$5,000 in donations, they'll give us another \$5,000!

This very generous challenge has no strings – we can use the funds we raise for whatever we need most. There is no minimum contribution needed to secure a match – anything you give will be matched by the Dixons.

In addition to any other donations you might consider, we have a perfect way for you to contribute quickly and easily and take advantage of this match: Become a Friends Forever BFF! As announced in our last issue, we've set up a super-simple way to make monthly contributions to Friends Forever by credit card (see more page 7), and if you start your contributions now, everything you contribute through the end of the year will be matched.

That means that if you sign up in September to give \$10 a month, you'll have donated \$40 by the end of the year...and your contribution will be matched to make it \$80! It couldn't get much easier to help our furry friends find a forever home.

In addition to considering a contribution yourself, please pass this challenge along to your friends and family to help ensure that we hit our \$5,000 goal, which the Dixons will then turn into a total of \$10,000 for the Shelter.

Let the matching begin!



Put Your Pet on the 2015 Friends Forever Calendar!

Next year's calendar will be a little different than the 2014 one in that we're selecting the pets for the monthly photos, using shelter success stories. However, we're also planning to have substantial space devoted to photos of YOUR pets! While we can't promise that we'll use every picture we receive, we're committed to using as many as possible. All pet types are welcome, rescues, purebreds, mixed breeds, dogs, cats, frogs, ferrets – if you love 'em, we'd love to see 'em! If you'd like to have your pet included, send an electronic photo or a hardcopy photo by Friday 3 October 2014 to:

Marilyn Smit, M45 Marketing Services, 524 W. Stephenson St., Suite 100,
Freeport, IL 61032, marilyn.smit@m45.com

Please note that hardcopy photos will not be returned. If you have a precious hardcopy photo, we suggest you scan it and send it to us electronically as all photos may be cropped to fit design parameters.

The calendar will be available for sale in October – we'll let you know when you can buy them for yourself and all your friends!

CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

All month

- Responsible Dog Ownership Month
- 4 National Wildlife Day
- 14 National Pet Memorial Day
- 23 Dogs in Politics Day
- 18-24 Farm Animal Awareness Week
- 21-27 National Dog Week
- National Deaf Dog Awareness Week
- 28 World Rabies Day

OCTOBER

All month

- Adopt a Shelter Dog Month
- National Animal Safety and Protection Month
- National Service Dog Month
- 1-7 National Walk Your Dog Week
- 4 World Pets' Day
- World Animal Day
- 6-12 Animal Welfare Week
- 8 National Pet Obesity Awareness Day
- 12-18 National Veterinary Technician Week
- 16 National Feral Cat Day
- 29 National Cat Day
- Board Meetings** – 4th Wednesdays, 5:45 pm – Freeport Public Library

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Hello!

Summer has flown by and turned into fall! The cooler mornings are welcome but thoughts of snow-shoveling and shorter days ahead, not so much. The nice summer weather has been perfect for those of you who use our dog park, and I've seen many happy dogs and owners taking advantage of the park and the pond. Remember we have yearly rates, and you'll get a discount if you become a FFHS member. Daily rates are also available.

We just concluded our Ricky M Dog and Pony Car Show. Ricky Mueller and his wife Janet work tirelessly to bring us a great line up of cars every year. This year they also brought the canine police officer from Rochelle for a wonderful demonstration. The work they and their group of volunteers do is amazing! The biggest thrill of this event was to find that the proceeds are going toward a new vehicle for the shelter. Our van was worn out, and now the animals can ride in comfort and safely.

We also have a faithful group of our own volunteers, of course. This year a few of these fine folks took shelter pets to the Mopar Happening at Boone County Fairgrounds in Belvidere to run a 50/50 raffle. We made about \$2500 and a lot of new friends, which resulted in a few adoptions. It's great to get our shelter pets this kind of exposure! We also took the dogs to the Cars on Main in Pecatonica where they wore their donation vests and netted around \$300 in an hour.



Ricky M Dog and Pony Car Show



Cars on Main
in Pecatonica

We also need to thank Ron Janssen of Janssen Electronics who generously donated a camera system to the Shelter! Between our alarm system and the new cameras, we'll be able to capture any illegal activity. So say "cheese," please, and thank both Ron and Ricky if you run into them.

I also have a big THANK YOU for everyone who joined us at one of our events or made a contribution in the past few months – without you, we couldn't keep our doors open to the homeless pets in our area. Enjoy autumn!

Diane

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



Princess SFC (single female cat) – Hello, dahling. I'm Princess! I'm about five-and-a-half years old, and I'm one beautiful tortoiseshell girl. I haven't seen many tortoiseshells the same color as I am so if you haven't either, that means that I have beautiful orange/gold highlights in my dark fur, along with some that are almost white. I also have really stunning eyes

and I'm a tad full-figured, but in a good Mae West kind of way. I have been enjoying being the office manager at Friends Forever and greeting many of our visitors at the check-in counter, but I'm looking for more permanent employment. How about we get together soon and discuss my joining your kingdom?



Nisa SFD (single female dog) – Hi there! My name is Nisa and I'm a five-and-a-half-year-old mixed breed. You know what that means, don't you? It means there's no one else out there quite like me – I'm unique! I have bulldog in my pedigree so I'm a strong girl, but I'm also pretty darned strong on companionship – I'm ready to be your constant

pal! With my interesting "make-up" I think I look kind of like the RCA dog, don't you? And I'm super smooth and shiny. I'm house-trained and would prefer a home without kids – I'd like you all to myself. Let's set up a meet-and-greet SOON!



Donations

| | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 3D Sound | Lee and Lynn Miller |
| Judy Abraham | Mackenzie Miller |
| ABWA Lamplighters Chapter | Mary E Miller |
| Phyllis Alexander | Robert & Mary Miller |
| Michael & Kay Bach | Loren & Margaret Morgan |
| Lucas and Megan Bilodeau | Andy & Shelley Morrison |
| Lee Blehinger | Rick & Janet Mueller |
| Virginia Boelk | Chris Myers |
| Marjorie and Edward Bogenrief | Joseph Nast |
| C. Elaine Bourne | Eddie Jo Nicholson |
| Janice E. Campbell | Bruce Nielsen |
| Jan Carlson | Ralph Norman |
| Carlson Dog Training Inc | Vicki Paluch |
| Amanda Cersiv | Todd Parkos |
| Chem Processing Inc | Cindy Peight |
| Cleanpro Cleaning Services | Joanne Pennock |
| Donna Cornelius | Gerald & Ritarose Polley |
| Amy Davis | Elaine Pro |
| Lisa & Barry De Boor | Chicagoland Mopar Connection Rock |
| Jim Derenski | Valley Chapter |
| Harold and Karen Dirksen | Rita Rowe |
| Kathryn Eller | Betty Rupnow |
| Everglades Express | Frank & Irene Rutter |
| Leroy and Helen Fischer | Lisa Schultz |
| Richard Freitag | Sentry Insurance |
| General Chauffeurs | Marlene Shippy |
| Micheal and Judith Gerharz | Liz Spooner |
| Linda Giedd | Brenda Steinke |
| Joseph Graham | Diane Stocks |
| Vicki Heeren | Beth Street |
| Florence Hitchcock | Thomas Sullivan |
| Sylvia Hoggatt | SV Healthcare Services |
| Richard & Althea Hornung | Betty Swalve |
| Jaala Huhes | Nelda Thuman |
| John & Joyce Jankovec | Tristate Poodle Club Outreach |
| Dwight & Therese Johnson | Donald Tune |
| Jones Farrar Magnet School | Kathryn Ubben |
| Dennis & Kay Koerner | Unitarian Universalist Church |
| Blanche Kraut | Dakota-Rock Grove United Methodist |
| Erna Krischak | Church |
| Marianne Lameyer | Amica Waldron |
| Bonnie Lang | Paul Watkins |
| Steven Schulze & Margaret Lawsom | Craig Williams |
| Kelsey Lehman | Liz Winkelman |
| Scott Lillie | Wisconsin Illinois Realtors Inc |
| Lyons Club | Jon & Pam Wolfe |
| John & Rita McClellan | Christopher Young |
| David & Nancy McIntyre | |
| Betty Lou Miller | |

TREASURER'S LETTER

Good News

It is hard to believe the summer is winding down and it is time to talk finances again. The last time I wrote this column, summer was just starting and I had three wishes for the season, cool weather to keep the air conditioning bill down, lots of donations, and no large building repair bills. I think this is a first, but this summer I got all three of my wishes.

The summer had a few hot days, but the electric bills have remained lower than normal. We had a couple of building repair bills, but those too were on the small size. The big surprise for me was the donations. The summer normally is a slower donation time, and this year was no exception. The number of donations was what I expected but it was the size of them that was larger than usual. We had a \$5,000 donation, and a \$5,000 memorial. \$500 donations were coming in weekly, and we also received several \$1,000 ones. When added to the regular donations made by our core supporters, which also were up this year, the summer financial picture was better than expected. We were still slowly using the reserves we had at the beginning of the year, but we made it into August before the reserves were gone.

Then the news came that the final distribution of the Geraldine Trandel trust was ready to be sent. We received a large bequest last year from her trust so I was surprised to hear that we would be getting an additional \$9,000+ in July. As we kept whittling away at the reserves, I kept looking to see if the check had arrived. It was finally the last Saturday in July and no check yet. It was a slow day at the shelter, so I decided to go get the mail, just in case it was there. I opened the mail box and there on top of the stack was the envelope I was looking for. Kandy was doing the weekly deposit, so I hurried back into the building to get this one added in. I opened it up, looked at it and had my largest surprise of the summer. It wasn't a check for \$9,000.00. I was holding a check for \$27,153.39. After I started breathing again, I read the letter to find out that additional funds had been found, and the check was later than expected so the extra funds could be included.

As we get ready for fall, we currently have \$25,000 in spendable cash to help get us to the next large fund raisers, which are around the holiday season. We also already have six people signed up for the new BFF program, and the \$5,000 match being sponsored again this year by Jim and Sandy Dixon is kicking off. The fall is already shaping up to be an exciting time. I can hardly wait to see how it all turns out.

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.



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!

Why spaying/neutering helps your pet, you, and your community

While it's certainly an important decision that deserves consideration, spaying or neutering your pets can be the best decision you make for their long-term wellbeing.

Best for Your Pet

A 2013 article in *USA Today* states that pets living in states with the highest rates of spaying/neutering also live the longest. According to the report, neutered male dogs live 18% longer than un-neutered male dogs and spayed female dogs live 23% longer than un-spayed female dogs.

Medical evidence shows that female pets spayed before their first heat are healthier, and male pets who are neutered eliminate their chances of getting testicular cancer. In general, altered animals have a very low risk of mammary gland tumors/cancer, prostate cancer, perianal tumors, pyometria, uterine and ovarian cancers, and other cancers of the reproductive system.

In addition to greatly reducing the possibility of cancers, spaying/neutering decreases your pets' urge to roam, reducing their chances of being killed

on the road (as many as 85% of dogs hit by cars are unaltered) and other mishaps. Fighting is also much more frequent between unaltered animals, resulting in injuries or even death; Feline Immunodeficiency Syndrome, for example, is spread by bites, and intact cats fight much more than altered cats.

Best for You

Spaying/neutering can help curb undesirable behaviors in your pets, making it easier to train them and leading to fewer headaches for you as a responsible owner. For example, spaying/neutering can help to significantly reduce...

- Roaming for either gender of any species, especially when females are in heat
- Aggression in any species, including biting humans (studies show that most dog bites involve dogs who are unaltered)
- Excessive barking, mounting, and other dominance-related behaviors in dogs, and howling and fighting between male cats



Unneutered dogs are much more assertive and prone to urine-marking (leg-lifting) than neutered dogs. Although it is most often associated with male dogs, females also mark. Spaying or neutering should reduce this behavior and may stop it altogether.

For cats, the urge to spray is extremely strong in an intact cat, and the simplest solution is to neuter or spay by the age of 5-6 months. Neutering solves a very high percentage of all marking issues, even in cats that have been doing it for a while, but for both cats and dogs, the longer you wait, the greater the risk you run of spaying or neutering not making a difference because the behavior is so ingrained.

Spaying/neutering is also a cost-conscious decision, greatly reducing long-term costs potentially incurred with non-altered pets at a fraction of the cost of treatment of cancers. Additionally, unaltered pets can be more destructive or high-strung around other animals, which can result in serious fighting that incurs high veterinary bills.

Best for Your Community

Unwanted animals can be a real concern in a community. The American Veterinary Medical Association reports



that strays become a public nuisance when they soil parks and streets, ruin plantings and shrubbery, frighten children and elderly people, create noise and other disturbances, cause automobile accidents, and sometimes even kill livestock or other pets. In addition, as a potential source of rabies and other less serious diseases, they can be a public health hazard.

The resulting capture, impoundment, and eventual destruction of unwanted animals costs taxpayers and private humanitarian agencies over a billion dollars each year in the U.S., to say nothing of the burden on animal shelters and hospitals that rehabilitate and bring strays to wellness and then spend additional dollars working to find them forever homes.

In closing, it's good to remember that cats are 45 times more reproductively prolific than we humans, and dogs are 15 times. Part of the impact of those facts is that every year, an estimated 6-8 million homeless animals enter animal shelters in the U.S. Barely half are adopted; tragically, the rest are euthanized. Do your part to help address this problem: spay or neuter your pets.

Dr. William B. Condie, DVM
Freeport Animal Hospital
321 E. South St. Freeport, IL 61032
815-232-4916

Friends Forever Board and Staff Board

Diane Heeren—President
Brian Wheelock—VP
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

Myths and Facts About Spaying and Neutering

Think you know all the facts on pet overpopulation? Take a look...

MYTH: It's better to have one litter before spaying a female pet.

FACT: Medical evidence indicates just the opposite. In fact, females spayed before their first heat are typically healthier. Many veterinarians now sterilize dogs and cats as young as eight weeks of age.

MYTH: I want my children to experience the miracle of birth.

FACT: The miracle of birth is quickly overshadowed by reality that thousands of animals are euthanized in animal shelters. You may find homes for your pet's offspring, but you can only control decisions for your own pet, not the decisions other people make with theirs. If their new owners don't spay/neuter, your pet's "grandchildren" could end up in an animal shelter or worse.

MYTH: My pet is a purebred.

FACT: So is at least one out of every four pets brought to animal shelters around the country. Being purebred is no reason to not spay/neuter.

MYTH: I want my dog to be protective.

FACT: Spaying/neutering will not change fundamental personality characteristics, like dogs' natural instinct to protect their home and family. Pet personalities are formed more by genetics and environment than by sex hormones.

MYTH: I don't want my male dog or cat to feel like less of a male.

FACT: Pets don't have any concept of sexual identity or ego, and neutering will not change a pet's basic personality. He doesn't suffer any kind of emotional reaction or identity crisis when neutered.

MYTH: My pet will get fat and lazy.

FACT: This has never been proven, and the truth is that most pets get fat and lazy because their owners feed them too much and don't exercise them enough.

MYTH: It's expensive to have my pet spayed or neutered.

FACT: Many low-cost options exist for spay/neuter services. Most communities have at least one nearby spay/neuter clinic that charge as little as possible for the procedure, and many veterinary clinics provide discounts through subsidized voucher programs. In addition, spay/neuter is far less expensive than vet bills for unaltered pets (see article).



Wonderful Summer Events!

This month I'd like to thank all of the folks who contributed to the success of two of our recent events, our Rescue Rally adoption event and the Ricky M Dog and Pony Car Show.

Our second annual adoption event was held on August 2, and the theme was **Adoption Day: Best Day Ever!** It was a beautiful day and we had a great turnout. We estimate about 100 people visited the dogs and cats at the Shelter, and as a result, numerous adoptions are in the works. Participants included:

- Carroll County Animal Shelter
- Winnebago Animal Shelter
- Critter Camp
- The Puppy Mill Project
- Lost Dogs of Illinois
- Willow Glen Academy
- Local 4H groups
- K-Pups Underground Fencing
- Mending Hearts
- Illinois State Police K-9 Unit
- Jeff Kuchel and his Freestyle Frisbee Dogs



- Amy Davis Jewelry
- Boy Scouts
- Denny Holesinger and his Husky team
- Darlene Incelli and her agility dogs

We also had great weather for The Ricky M Dog and Pony Car Show on August 10. A big, ongoing crowd turned out to see all of the cars, trucks, and motorcycles on display. Most exciting of all was the news that the funds raised will be used for a new vehicle for the Shelter – yay! Again we had about 100 people visiting our Shelter pets and are processing applications that should lead to forever homes for several of them. If you didn't make it to the show – or would like a nice photographic memento of the event – you can buy a DVD showcasing of all the activities at the Shelter.

Thank you to everyone – volunteers, patrons, and event participants – who made these events a success for Friends Forever!

Carol Falconer • *Friends Forever Shelter Manager*



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

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Friends Forever Humane Society

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Freeport, IL 61032

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

Visit us online at:
www.friendsforeverhs.org

Non-Profit Org
U.S. Postage

PAID

Freeport, IL
Permit No. 105

Change Service
Requested



Putting Pets in Forever
Homes Since 1953

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)

☐ Patron \$250 or more

☐ Couple \$60

☐ Individual \$40

☐ Senior (62 and over) \$25

☐ Person with Disabilities \$25

Membership dues enclosed \$ _____

Donation enclosed \$ _____

DONATIONS

I wish to make a donation!

MEMORIALS & HONORARIUM

I wish to make a gift

In memory of _____ Gift amount \$ _____

In honor of _____ Gift amount \$ _____

*You can also become a member or renew your membership
online at www.friendsforeverhs.org, as well as making
donations, memorials, and honorariums.*

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____

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

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

State _____ Zip _____