



HUMANE SOCIETY OF NORTH CENTRAL IOWA

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The Paw Print

Pets for People. People for Pets.

Autumn, 2009

We're *almost* "Almost Home"

Imagine finding a kitten on your doorstep whose front paws are wrapped in duct tape (so he wouldn't scratch the furniture?)

Imagine finding two plastic totes full of puppies who didn't suffocate before you found them only because they managed to tip their death boxes over and get the lids off?

Imagine telling a young soldier on his way to deployment that you can't take his dog because you have no room?

Imagine that your phone rings as many as 30 times in one day, and you listen to people desperate to place their animals with you because they can no longer afford to take care of them -- and you have to say "sorry, we have no room."

Imagine that you wanted to work at the shelter because you love animals, and now you regularly have to advise heartbroken families that they need to send perfectly wonderful pets they can no longer care for to the pound because you have no room.

All these things have happened at the shelter in just the last couple of weeks. We desperately need a new facility.

Some pets come to us because their owners are uncaring and irresponsible, like the people who dumped those puppies with no thought of whether they would survive until we found them.

Most of the time, however, our pets come to us from owners who are heartbroken that they have to give up their beloved companions -- and our hearts break, too, when we listen to the dogs cry as their families walk away for the last time. And then we have to put them in a cage in a room full of barking, frightened, abandoned dogs. I can only imagine how terrifying this experience is for them.

It's one of the most difficult things I've ever had to do, and it's beyond time that we change the conditions under which our animals wait for their new homes.

If you haven't made your gift to our "Almost Home" campaign, please do it today. So many abandoned pets can be "Almost Home" if you care enough to make it happen.

I promise you'll be proud of our new facility -- and I promise the animals will be forever grateful for your gift.

And, someday, they'll all go home for good.

Imagine that!

Laurie Hagey
Executive Director



The photo above shows Iowa Geothermal Services drilling the test well at our building site to determine how many wells will be necessary to heat and cool the new shelter.

It's the first actual "hole in the ground" for our new adoption and education center, and it's just the beginning of a lot of work to be done.

All of our plans are complete, and as you are reading this, local contractors are preparing their bids. We'll read those bids on October 8, and, hopefully, select a contractor so that construction can begin in earnest shortly thereafter.

Yippee!

As I write this, we have raised about \$935,000 -- and we need \$1,000,000 in order to begin construction. In all likelihood, the final cost of "Almost Home" will be closer to \$1.5 million, so we have a very long way to go, and we need your help more now than ever!

If you would like to visit about getting involved with the "Almost Home" capital campaign, please call me at 515-570-6471. I'll be glad to share all of our plans with you and show you how your gift can be meaningful to you and your family and help all our animals be "almost home".



**HUMANE SOCIETY OF NORTH CENTRAL IOWA
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**The Humane Society of North Central Iowa
has received gifts in memory of:**

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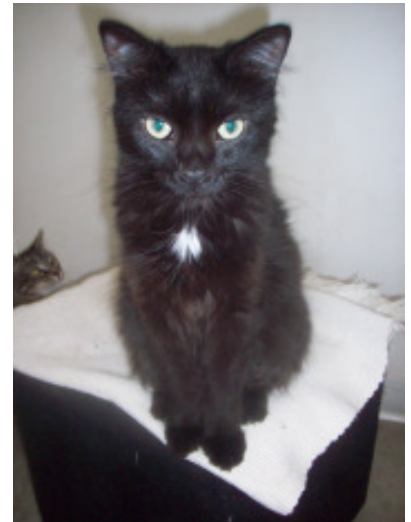
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and gifts in honor of:

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Deb and memory of Beau & Chloe,
her two faithful dogs
Lois Dencklau
Elizabeth Anderson
Mr. & Mrs. John Prorok
Annie Cruts & Mike Ingersoll
Mr. & Mrs. Gregg Kreamer
Lucky Wood
Mr. & Mrs. Bob Wood
Mary Glover
Rob & Lynda Lowrey

*Our heartfelt sympathies, and gratitude to everyone who
remembered someone they love with a gift to the Shelter.
The above Memorials and Honorariums were received as of Sept. 3, 2009.
Our sincere apologies for any oversights.*

PICK ME! PICK ME!



Growing up in a Cage

I would like to bring special attention to a fluffy, young gal named Therisa. She came to our animal shelter as a seven week old kitten over a year ago. Her litter mates have long been adopted; she is still waiting for a family to choose her.

She is a little over a year old now. We have had her spayed and micro-chipped. She is the most energetic cat in the building. She enjoys playing and pouncing. She climbs right up the side of her cage to get noticed. She is referred to as "the little monkey" by her caretakers.

If you are looking for a feline companion with spunk and charisma; look no further – her name is Therisa and she is waiting for you. She has lived her entire life in a cage. Please give her the forever home that she deserves.

How old is your pet?

It's not as simple as seven years for every human year.

Pfizer Labs prints a cat aging chart. The first year of your cat's life equals 15 of a human's; the second 9 years. After that, it's four years for every year of your cat's life.

For dogs, start with 15 human years for the first year of your dog's life, nine for the second year, and four years for every human year after that.

When you think your puppy will never "mature", remember, he won't turn "21" until he's almost 2 years old!

"Dogs for Dogs" at Citizens' Community Credit Union

Our sincere thanks to Katie Averill and all the employees at Citizen's Community Credit Union. They conducted "Paws for a Cause" during the month of June and raised over \$1,200 for the Almost Home campaign! They held a raffle, sold paws for \$1 each, and wrapped it all up with a cook-out lunch on July 3. It was great fun and we appreciate their generosity so much!

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!







"Pack the Pub" at the Chesterfield Bar & Grill

Kudo's to Scott and Heidi Gorman and all the employees at the Chesterfield for packing the pub for pets on June 21.

They held a dart tournament, a bake sale, and contributed a percentage of their sales to the Almost Home Campaign, and raised over \$500 in one day!

You Can Help, Too!

Your workplace can help build the new shelter and help us save our community's homeless pets!

-  Have a potluck at work -- charge your co-workers a couple of bucks for a homecooked meal and donate the proceeds to help the animals!
-  Do you have company apparel or premiums? Have a silent auction at work and donate the proceeds!
-  Lots of traffic at your workplace? Have a cook-out at lunch, or sell donuts, bagels & coffee for breakfast -- we'll bring volunteers and help you!
-  Have a basket raffle -- of products your company sells, or put together a theme basket (football, couch potato, pet accessories)!
-  Bring Your Pet To Work Day -- or at least their picture --charge a \$1 for each pet picture posted on your bulletin board, and \$1 to guess which pet belongs to which co-worker & give out prizes to the winners!
-  Or hold a garage sale, have a bake sale, put out a donation jar, hold a food drive for the animals, collect pop cans, have a car wash, pass the hat, sell t-shirts or sweatshirts (we've got 'em!), conduct a raffle, sell "Paws for a Cause" and put them in your windows . . . or come up with your own great ideas!!

Raise \$100 for a commemorative paver to be laid at the new shelter!

Raise \$2,000 for a commemorative bench for our "Bark Park"!

Raise \$2,500 to have a dog kennel or cat condo named for your workplace!

For help, ideas, or just to let us know what you're doing, please call Laurie Hagey at 570-6471 or lhagey@mchsi.com. Thanks!

ALMOST HOME
until they're all home for good!



Join us and support the Shelter!

Upcoming Events

Saturday, September 26

ADOPTION SHOWCASE & MICRO-CHIPPING

Shopper's Supply

3112 5th Avenue South, Fort Dodge
11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Saturday, October 17

BARK-TOBERFEST

Bickford Cottage

1536 20th Avenue North, Fort Dodge
Noon to 3 p.m.

Barbeque, Pet Costume Contest, games, activities and fun for the whole family!

Saturday, November 7

"ROCK'N'ROVER!"

Laramar Ballroom, Fort Dodge

8 p.m. to Midnight

Concert & Dance in partnership with the Iowa Rock & Roll Association

Generations of Rock & Roll

Terry Klein

Tickets \$20

Save the date--more info to follow!

Every Wednesday

FRIENDS OF THE ANIMALS VOLUNTEER MEETINGS

Godfather's, Fort Dodge

4 p.m.

If you'd like to help the animals by helping us plan and conduct special events, educate our community, fundraise for the shelter or advocate for the humane treatment of companion animals, please feel free to join us -- we'd love to have you!

And, hopefully, some Saturday in October, we'll break ground on "Almost Home." We hope you'll all plan to be there to celebrate with us -- watch for your invitation in the mail!



PICK ME! PICK ME! PICK ME! PICK ME! PICK ME! PICK ME! PICK ME!



Wanted: Heart & Home to Share

Dalton is a gorgeous gray and white tabby cat. He came to us as lost or stray nearly a year ago. He was very sick and extremely weak when he was found. After struggling with everything from ear infections to skin issues this cool cat is ready for his new home. Although his road to recovery was long, he remained loving and appreciative to everyone who cared for him.

Dalton is about two years old now. He has been neutered and micro-chipped. He would enjoy relaxing on the couch next to you and taking long naps in the window. If you have a laid back lifestyle, Dalton would be the purr-fect companion for you. He is a handsome boy with a BIG heart.

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A very special thank you to **Chesterfield Bar & Grill** and **Choice Printing** for the publication of this newsletter.

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2009 Member





I Just Want to be Your Teddy Bear

Elvis must have been channeling our Teddy Bear when he sang that song, because he doesn't want to be a tiger or a lion, he just wants to be "cuddled real tight".



Our Teddy is a sweet boy who's been through a tough time. He came into the shelter when his owner had to move and couldn't keep him. The first day at the shelter he tested positive for heartworms and has been through a painful treatment. (Our thanks to the Jewell Veterinary Clinic for taking such good care of Teddy -- and discounting his treatment costs!)

He's on the mend, now, and getting his energy and playfulness back. He's got two more heartworm tests to pass, and then he'll be ready for a new home. He's friendly, great with people, housebroken and just a good boy!

By the way, can you see the sore on his nose? He rubs it on the wire kennel cage -- "Almost Home" will have all glass-fronted kennels, so no more sore noses for our four-legged friends!

Need a Buddy?

Buddy came to the shelter when his family could no longer care for him. We're seeing that a lot lately. Some families have lost their homes through foreclosure, or had to move due to financial difficulties, and their new landlords don't allow pets.

Buddy's family is one of those. We know they hated to give him up, he's such a good boy. Can you imagine how hard that would be? It makes it all the more important that we find a good home for this nice little dog.

He's neutered, housebroken, and a real sweetie. He's very friendly, bouncy, knows to sit and stay, likes other dogs, cats and kids, and would make a great new best friend for you and your family.

And remember, anyone who adopts a BLACK CAT / DOG from the Humane Society of North Central Iowa receives a FREE membership to our BLACK PET CLUB. The membership includes a FREE T-shirt, our quarterly newsletter, invitations to our upcoming events, & more!



Senior Savings at the Shelter!

According to healthypet.com, a study published in the *Journal of the American Geriatrics Society* in May of 1999 demonstrated that independently living seniors who have pets tend to have better physical health and mental wellbeing than those that don't. They're more active, cope better with stress, and have better overall health. Another study showed that elderly pet owners had significantly lower blood pressure overall than their contemporaries without pets.

We all know how much meaning pets can bring to our lives, and it turns out to be especially true for us as we get older. Many seniors live alone, and having another "being" in the house can reduce feelings of loneliness and help maintain physical abilities. Walking Fido is great exercise, and snuggling up with a purring cat can feed the soul.

That's why the Humane Society is offering people

65 years and older who would like to adopt a dog or cat a 50% discount on the adoption fee. We must still collect the \$50 spay/neuter fee for pets that aren't yet altered, but that is refundable once that's been done.

We have lots of dogs and cats who would make great pets for older people. Stop out today and take home your new best friend!

Savings on Senior Pets, Too!

We have a number of cats and dogs at the shelter who are well past the puppy/kitten stage, and desperately need forever homes. All of these animals have a lot of love left to give, and many years left to share with you and your family.

Adopt a dog or cat who is eight years old or older and you'll receive a 50% discount on your adoption fee.





His Name is Bear.

Well, that's his name now. We don't know what his name used to be. We found him one morning at the shelter – someone had left him there sometime during the night.

Full grown Rottweilers can be hard to place. They're one of the "bully breeds," dogs known for their ferocious temperaments.

And we were full. We had no room for a dog his size for sure. What we usually do in situations like this is call animal control and report the dog as a stray. The animal control officer takes them to Town & Country Vet Clinic, and they hold them for 7 days, try to find homes for them, or, unfortunately, as a last resort, euthanize them.

Lucky for Bear, my husband Larry has been looking for a dog, and he really wanted a Rottweiler. Lucky for Larry, Bear was looking for him, too.

Bear is neutered, housebroken, healthy, and the most unaggressive dog you can imagine. He sits, he stays, he shakes hands (well, he raises his left paw, but close enough). He loves men, women, kids – he runs hell-bent up to you — and then sits down so you can pet him. He caught a bird the other day, and dropped it on command, and the bird flew away, unharmed. Some bully!

He loves to go in the car – and he'll play catch with a tennis ball by the hour, until his tongue is hanging out and his big happy self collapses from exhaustion.

The point of this story is that we had no way of knowing any of these wonderful things about Bear. He could be dead by now, euthanized before anyone could learn what a wonderful dog he is.

So why did Bear's family abandon him in the night? Was it the \$25 fee we charge to take in pets? Could his life have ended over \$25? We've dropped that fee – we'll no longer require it. So, please, if you have to give up your pet, please do it during business hours, and tell us about them, so we can find them the right new home.

Bear lost everything. His family, his medical history, even his name. We had no way of knowing what he loved, what he hated, what he feared. I assume whoever left him loved him very much. I'm so sorry that you had to give up such a wonderful dog, and I want you to know he has a forever home, and we'll take good care of him.

Next time, please show your pet one last act of love and come during the day. And tell us about the tennis balls.



Cooking for a Crowd at Graham Tire

Our sincere thanks to Rick Carle, Mike Dorman and everyone at Graham Tire for their "Tires for Pets" sales promotion in August and September.

On August 21, 28 and 29 they held a cook-out with games and fun for the whole family. In three days Graham employees and Humane Society volunteers grilled more than 2,000 hamburgers and hot dogs and raised more than \$4,000 for the "Almost Home" campaign.

Those businesses who participated or contributed to this event are:

APPLEBEE'S, CULVER'S, MCDONALD'S, FAZOLI'S, O'REILLY'S, FT. DODGE FIRE DEPT., RASCH CONSTRUCTION, JRG FEED, FAREWAY, THE BOUNCY THING-INFLATABLES, 3-EAGLES RADIO, LARRY CLEMENT, ST. ED CHEERLEADERS, THE MOOSE LODGE, JEFF ALBRECHT, DICK & PHIL BROWN, HUMANE SOCIETY VOLUNTEERS!!!!

Businesses who donated \$50 to the Humane Society: RASCH CONSTRUCTION & TACO TICO

People & businesses who bought a "Paver for Pets": JON & CINDY SCHUMAN, ELINOR RUTZ, JA-MARS JOANN DOSLAND, YOUTH SHELTER CARE, FIRST FEDERAL SAVINGS BANK, MCGREGOR'S FURNITURE, MARY PAUL, JAMES & LINDA MERICLE, PATTI LEIBRAND, TERRY TERRILL, YMCA, SLUMBERLAND, MATT'S TIRE, BROWN SHOE FIT, GRAHAM TIRE, HY VEE DRUG STORE

Graham Tire Raffle Winners:
IA CUB TICKETS 4 BOX SEATS — JOLENE PETERS
IA SPEEDWAY TRUCK SERIES TICKETS -- BRITTANY DREKE
3 FREE OIL CHANGES @ GRAHAM TIRE — PAM ABRAMS
SET OF GOODYEAR TIRES — JUSTIN HOOVER
IA CUB TICKETS/GENERAL ADMISSION 2 TICKETS EACH
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NORMA ADSON, RON CHITWOOD, JENNY CONDON, LYNN HANISH