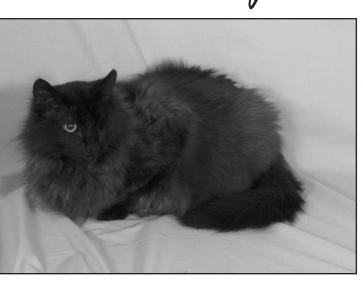


And the winner is... Guillermo



That's right, handsome Guillermo might look like a tough guy, but he's a gracious winner, too. He just barely edged out runner-up Aggie for the last-minute Sweetheart 2014 crown, but he did it all with style and grace. Guillermo is in a class by himself. Wouldn't you just love to come in and meet this stately gentleman?

As you may know, the Sweetheart Contest is a long-running fundraising tradition at the Independent Cat Society, and one that is very important to helping our shelter cats stay fed, happy, and healthy while they wait for their forever homes. And this year, we raised a record \$5034 during our contest (January through February) and at our Sweetheart Day event on February 22! We have you, our supporters, volunteers, friends, and of course our wonderful Team Leaders, to thank for the success of this year's event. Our energetic Team Leaders really went above and beyond this year, and we can't wait to see what happens next year! What we can promise is that there will be more adorable, adoptable Sweethearts, and many more creative goodies, crafts, and more available in support of your favorite felines!

What about the other Sweethearts? Well, you might be happy to learn that three our of our eight contestants now have forever homes of their very own - Bubba Gump, Chino, and Garfield! Many of our Sweetheart contestants over the years have been fortunate enough to get adopted soon after their "big coming out" during the contest. Wouldn't it be great to have your very own celebrity in your home? Come on out to meet Aggie, Junco, Pavarotti, Smudgie, and of course Guillermo (who's also part of our *Back in Black* special adoption feature in May!) anytime during our weekend adoption hours of Saturday from 10 to 4 and Sunday 1 to 4. You won't be disappointed with this cast of beautiful, amazing feline characters!

Kitten Godparents Program

Don't forget that Kitten Season is upon us, and that means that there will be many new opportunities to name your favorite little one for a generous donation of \$25. Wouldn't you like to become a Godparent and help a sweet kitten get a good start in life?

Watch for our postings on Facebook at

http://www.facebook.com/indcatsociety, or come by the shelter during our weekend adoption hours of Saturdays from 10am to 4pm and Sunday from 1pm to 4pm and meet the kitties. They would love to meet and play with you, and no doubt, before you know it they will capture your heart! Perhaps these babies will find a new loving home with your family?



Adoptable Cats, Upcoming Events, and more inside!



Published for the friends of the Independent Cat Society, Inc. PO Box 735, Westville, IN 46391 (219) 785-4936

Web: www.catsociety.org Email: shelter@catsociety.org Facebook: www.facebook.com/indcatsociety

The **Independent Cat Society, Inc.,** founded in 1977, is a non-profit, no-kill cat shelter on US Rt 6 at the Porter/LaPorte County Line Road in Westville, Indiana.

Our mission is to promote the welfare of all animals, especially cats, by reducing pet overpopulation, educating the public, preventing cruelties to animals, promoting responsible pet ownership, and working for more humane legislation.

Adoption hours:

Saturday, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm Sunday, 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm Others by appointment. Please call (219) 785-4936.

About our Adoption Fees

Include: Spay/neuter, vet exam, feline leukemia and FIV test; ageappropriate vaccinations; parasite treatment; tattoo ID/microchip; 30 Day No-Cost Pet Insurance; Hills Science Diet coupon; and free postadoption participating vet visit.

Please check our website or shelter for monthly adoption specials!

Board of Directors: President: Anastasia Trekles Vice-President: Judy Lindmark **Recording Secretary:** Judy Dean **Corresponding Secretary:** Carol Albrecht Treasurer: Natalie Cebulski **Board Members:** Diana Foster Gail Frieden Jennifer Stall Joan Hildebrand

Calendar of Events

May

Give Local America! Online Giving Event May 6

http://lpcountygiveday.org, http://www.givelocalportercounty.org, & http://www.givelocalcrownpoint.org

Aunt Kitty's Trash and Treasure Sale

May 17, 10am - 4pm

May 18, 10am - 3pm

Drop off items on Friday, May 16 from 12pm - 5pm (no clothing or large furniture items please)

Black Cat Strut

May 31, Coffee Creek Watershed Preserve

178 Sidewalk Rd. Chesterton, IN 5k Walk/Run and 1 mile Dog Walk Learn more and register at http://www.catsociety.org

June

Summer Open House June 21 & 22, 10am - 4pm

At the ICS Shelter

Black and White "Wedding" Event June 21, 4pm - 8pm

Enjoy an evening of fun with gourmet food and great friends in the ICS Shelter's beautiful Rainbow Bridge Garden

July

Annual Book Sale July 18-19, 9am - 5pm

Donations and setup July 17 - bring your books, games, magazines, and movies Spend some time learning and having fun with ICS! American Legion Hall, 798 Wabash, Chesterton, IN

August

Purrfectly Pampered Day August 2, 10am - 4pm

Enjoy a day of pampering, goodies, and more in support of the kitties American Legion Hall, 798 Wabash, Chesterton, IN

President's Message

A cat that lives with a good family is used to being talked to all the time.

- Lettice Cooper, "Parkin"

This spring, we would like to spotlight our amazing foster parents, and the cats and kittens that they work so hard to aid with comfort, a warm place to stay, and a helping hand toward a better life. One such cat that came to ICS recently is Dezi, a.k.a. "Tripod."

Dezi ran into some bad luck while living outside as a stray. During one of his surely many adventures, he managed to get his left front leg hurt very badly. When he was found by rescue volunteers in LaPorte County, they found that his leg could not be saved, and had to be amputated.

After the surgery, the normally gentle Dezi was no longer so gentle, or happy. He found himself passed from shelter to shelter in the area for several months due to problems with aggression toward people. In desperation to try to work with him to improve his behavior and make him adoptable, ICS was called upon to help, and luckily, we had the perfect foster parent to handle this difficult task.

He's still having some behavior issues with nipping and biting, but this foster mom has been up to the challenge. Even right away, she knew that she could work with this beautiful boy, who just wants to be comforted and loved. He may be a bit confused and uneasy, but with time, TLC, and the proper medications, he has a chance.

Dezi is less than two years old, and he wants you to know that he truly wants a forever home. It might even be your home! While he

recovers, you may wish to consider helping support Dezi's road to wellness with a donation of food, litter, or monetary support. Our wish list may be found to

the right, and you may mail a check or use our website at *http://www.catsociety.org* to send an electronic donation.

You'll be able to feel good knowing that you are helping a good boy learn how to love and trust people once again. Your contributions and support are vital to all of our kitties, especially those who are the most fragile and need special attention. Our foster families and the volunteers that work hard as part of our Health and Wellness team appreciate all of your generosity.

Without you, happy endings for cats like Dezi would not be possible.

Sincerely, Staci Trekles, ICS Board President



Is your pet a star?

Then commemorate him or her our 2015 calendar!

Month space: \$50 1 day square: \$10 Business card sponsorship square: \$35

Send your info and questions to kandiekittycat@yahoo.com, and review the order form at our website: http://www.catsociety.org



Dezi has lived a tough life so far, but today he is safe in foster care.



Please note: We do not use litter pan liners, newspapers, or pine cleaners like Pine Sol. Thank you!

Office Supplies

Stamps Various Colored **2-pocket folders** with Business Card Slots Letter-Size Manila File Folders

Cleaning Supplies

Bleach Laundry Soap (prefer unscented) Dryer Sheets Liquid Hand Soap Dish Soap Paper Plates Paper Towels 30-gallon Trash Bags Tall Kitchen Garbage Bags Spic and Span Cleaner Shaklee Basic G Concentrate

Medical Supplies

Microwaveable Heating Discs Science Diet AD, ID Wellness Grain-Free Food

Building and Grounds

20 x 25 x 5 Aire Bear Furnace filters Water Softener Pellets

16 x 20 x 1 Fiberglass

Furnace Filters Replacement Filters for Hunter Air Purifier Model #30930 Side Door and Help with Install

Other

Dry Cat Food, kitten and adult, Prefer *Hills Science Diet*but use other brands for donations to those in need

Ground flavors of Fancy Feast and grain-free foods

Kuranda Plastic Cleanable Cat Trees Scoopable and Clay Litters Gift Cards to Lowe's, Menard's,

Home Depot, etc.

Safeguard SG-36D Humane Traps Turbo-Tracks Replacement Scratchers Extra Large Litter Scoops Small Blankets, Rugs, Towels

Special Services

Carpenters, Plumbers, Painters

The cats thank you! Ask us for a receipt for tax-deductible donations.

Dreaming of a Forever Home



Port

It's never too late for any cat to get his chance - just ask Port and Serena.

Port came to our shelter in 1998. Yes, that's right, almost 16 years ago. He was a just a young guy then - a teenager by cat standards. He was here before almost every single one of our other residents, as a matter of fact. In fact, until the day he went home, he was the shelter's OLDEST shelter resident! Now that crown must fall to dear Lucy, who is also 16. We're sure she will rise to the challenge of Elder Stateswoman of the Shelter!

As for Serena, well, she's a beauty, but she had always been a shy one. She had been at the shelter since 2002, when she came in as a spry one-year old. She was overlooked many times, but she had a friend in Port, and they always cuddled together in their shelter home, Kitty Korner. You could almost always find them resting in bed together, quiet little Serena and Port with his big loud-mouthed meow. You would be hardpressed to find a more distinctive talker! But, despite Port's popularity amongst shelter volunteers, he and Serena were never able to win over an adopter's heart and soul.

Never, that is, until February 17, 2014.

Finally, after all those years of waiting, a nice family - the right family - came to take them to their Forever Home. They went home with Chia, too, a young lovely who wasn't at the shelter long,

but she has been able to help keep Port and Serena feeling young and playful, and will do so for more years to come. There was not a dry eye in the shelter when Port, Serena, and Chia's new parents got ready to drive home wit their new family members. We will truly miss these great senior felines - they were loved by all who met them, and a part of the shelter for so very long. But finally, the right time came, because they were patient and knew that their time would come someday, and they would finally know what a Forever Home was all about.



Serena

On behalf of Port, Serena, Chia, and all of our kitties, ICS wishes to thank all of its adopters and

supporters for what they do for animals. Because of them, and people like them, they have given homeless animals the chance at a home where they can be happy, healthy, and safe from harm. We will miss Port and Serena and Chia around the shelter. But we can only hope that all of our kitties, no matter how long they have waited, will be able to share what these three learned - that a special family is out there waiting, and that the right time will come. In the meantime, great people like the folks at ICS will shepherd those cats and care for them, and that's just about as much as any homeless animal could ask for.

Low-Cost Spay/Neuter Options

ICS Vouchers are available at the ICS shelter on Saturdays from 10 AM-4PM and Sundays from 1-4 PM. (Others hours may be available by appointment only). There are two different levels of Voucher. Payment by cash/money order only.

- Basic Level: includes spay or neuter, first distemper vaccine, rabies vaccines, worming, ear mite treatment, and identification tattoo/microchip
- Comprehensive Level: includes everything in the Basic level plus flea treatment, FELV and FIV testing, and the first Feline leukemia vaccine.

After purchasing a voucher, call one of the veterinary clinics listed below to schedule an appointment. ICS Spay/Neuter vouchers are only accepted at the following veterinary clinics:

- McAfee Animal Hospital: 219-462-5901 651 Eastport Centre Dr. Valparaiso, IN 46383 Basic - \$65 Comprehensive - \$90
- Westchester Animal Clinic 219-926-1194 55E US Highway 20 Porter, IN 46304-1397 Basic level only - \$73

ICS has also recently been awarded generous grants which can help with the cost of spay and neuter procedures. Please contact us by phone, by emai, I or on Facebook for more information.

Dr. Anderson's Feline Reduction Center has a clinic on Saturdays in Beverly Shores. The cost for the surgery is \$50. The Rabies and

distemper vaccines incur an extra charge, while ear cleaning, a pain shot, and a shot of penicillin are included. The scheduling number is 219-861-9006. Call and leave a message that you want to schedule your cat for a particular Saturday and clinic staff will call you back with drop-off/pick-up details.

Other local options:

- Neuter Scooter www.neuterscooter.com
- Adoption
- (DeMotte, Indiana) The Estelle Marcus
- **Animal Clinic:** www.hscalumet.org or (219) 924-7140 (Munster, Indiana)

- Pet Neutering and www.petneutering.com



Chicago options:

- NAWS: www.nawsus.org or (708) 478-5102 (Mokena, Illinois)
- PAWS Chicago: The Lurie Spay/Neuter Clinic or mobile unit, www.pawschicago.org or (773) 521-7729 (Chicago, Illinois)
- Anti-Cruelty Society: www.anticruelty.org or (312) 644-8338 (Chicago, Illinois)

For help with spaying neutering of free-roaming cats, please email us at: icstnr@comcast.net

4th Annual Black Cat Strut - Clip and Mail!





4th ANNUAL BLACK CAT STRUT 5K RUN/FUN WALK

Coffee Creek Watershed Nature Preserve 2401 Village Point Chesterton, IN 46304 Saturday, May 31, 2014

RUN 9:00 am, FUN WALK 9:30 am, DOG WALK 10:00 am (CST) Pre-registration check-in and day of registration 7:30 am-8:45 am

Please join us to benefit the Independent Cat Society in Westville, Indiana. This is a no-kill cat shelter that was founded in 1977.

Split times at miles 1 & 2, two water stations and refreshments following the race. Awards for first finisher (male/female) in Each age group for 5k.

List of Items Needed:

paper plates, paper towels kitty litter and scoopers bleach, laundry detergent fleece blankets kitty treats, cat scratchers stamps, copy paper 4 oz. paper food trays (GFS)

Date_

Email questions to: <u>blackcatstrut@catsociety.org</u>

Detach below portion & send a check or money order payable to ICS and mail:

REGISTRATION FEES:	5k event
 \$15 no shirt/early registration (5k) \$20 with shirt registers before May 12th, 2014(5k) \$22 after May 12th up to race day (shirts first come first serve) 	c/o ICS P.O. Box 735 Westville, IN 46391

Print 1	Name_			Age		DOB.				-
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Email _				Circle T Shirt size	e: S	М	L	XL	XXL	XXXL

In signing this form I assume all responsibility & agree to waive any responsibility for the Independent Cat Society, Porter County Parks Department, Coffee Creek Watershed & all other sponsors and volunteers for any injury during said race. I verify that I am physically fit & have trained sufficiently for this event. For the safety of others.

Signature_

(Parent of guardian if under 18 years of age)

Memorials & Tributes... January - April 2014

In loving memory of Melvin Novak, from Barbara Miller

In loving memory of our dog Buddy and our dog Barney Barney, from Carol Wallner

In honor of Dr. Nancy R. Bean of the Cat's Meow Veterinary Hospital, from Kane and Donna Benson

In honor of lvory and her kittens, from Brian and Susan Pagels

In memory of Nicole Lynn Albrecht - rest in peace, Little Nikki, from Michele Bridges

In memory of Hazel, from Dr. Kim and Vale Park Animal Hospital

In memory Helen Watts-Brown, from Marcine Todd

In memory of my calico cat who died at the age of 20 in January, from Nancy Machura

In memory of Roxanne Yagelski, from David and June Tompkins

In memory of Indigo, Queen of the Lapcats, from Tommy and Shirley Bryant

In loving memory of Anne Recupido, from her many friends: Kathleen Sherrick, Maryann Simmonds, Thomas and Rosemarie Nugent, Dora and Rocky Vajner, Deborah and Charles Cairns, Rick and Jackie Erickson, Joseph and Melanie Drazkowski, and Margaret Elia **In loving memory of Noel Kindt, longtime ICS supporter,** from his friends and family: Kim Kindt Neil, Patricia Kindt, Martin Linke, John and Jane Makowski, Edith Andrew, Elaine Van Belleghem, Bette and Adrian Neil, and Jeaneen and Dave Klahr

In memory of Thelma Hickman, longtime ICS volunteer and friend, from Marti Rukavina and Paulette Gonzalez

In memory of Walter Alberti, Dvia's dad and sponsor, from Paulette Gonzalez

In memory of Mendy, from Sally Benson

In honor of Henry Smith, from Lori Kelly

In memory of Kenneth Maxwell, brother to Arlene Maxwell, from Marilyn Muniz

In memory of Dawn Chrisovergis, from Ruth DeGroot

In memory of Kenneth Nagel, from Christopher Nagel, Jean Nagel, Mark and Kimberly Boklund, and Ann Simmons

In honor of Heather Lewis on the occasion of her bridal shower, $\ensuremath{\mathsf{from}}$ Dianne Swygert

If we have inadvertently omitted anyone, please write, email, or call us so we can include them in the next newsletter.



Thelma Hickman – In Memoriam

Thelma Hickman passed away on February 10, 2014. She was a dedicated ICS volunteer for many decades serving in various capacities. In addition to being a Board member Thelma also served as an Adoption Counselor, Cat Care Committee member and as a medicator. For many years she gave the cats yearly vaccines and kept meticulous records. Her quiet and unassuming manner made her pleasant and easy to work with as she trained other volunteers. Her way with animals was always quiet and gentle and the cats at ICS benefited from her calm and loving care. It is due to devoted people such as Thelma that ICS continues to help cats in need. Thank you Thelma!



🛛 Corporate Sponsorships

We would like to take a moment to recognize some of our valuable corporate sponsors. We hope that you will support their businesses as they have supported ICS. For an updated list of all of our supporters, please visit http://www.catsociety.org

AJ Canopy Rental and Sales Arbor View Animal Hospital Allegius Credit Union Aurelio's Pizza (LaPorte, IN) Bissell Foundation Brandt's Supply Gast Animal Hospital Hill's Science Diet Pet Foods Indiana 105 John W. Anderson Foundation Michigan City Animal Hospital McAfee Animal Hospital Porter County Community Foundation Ryan Newman Foundation Smoochie Pooch Pet Salon and Boutique Unity Foundation of LaPorte County Vale Park Animal Hospital Westchester Animal Clinic

Sponsor-A-Cat!

from your Spokescat, Corky

Hi, I'm Corky, the ICS Sponsor Spokescat!

Sponsor-A-Cat is one of our most important programs, as it provides us with much-needed funds to support our many cats and kittens. Your Sponsor dollars go directly to food, litter, and medical expenses for our kitties, helping keep them healthy and happy.

I'm living proof that those funds help. I came to the shelter as a kitten, with a cute little corkscrew tail that was later found out to include a slight deformation in my spine. I had a hard time digesting food because of that abnormality, and even though I'm grown up now, I still need some monitoring to ensure that my digestive system is functioning normally.

My friends that have special needs don't let those issues keep them down. None of our kitties do! And we hope that you don't let any little differences keep you from letting them into your heart. Even if you cannot support them by caring for them at home, you can help keep them healthy and get them ready for the day when the right adopter comes to take them to their Forever Home.



Corky, your Spokescat

Check out these beautiful kitties, and come meet them in person. They may not all have special needs, but they do need to find a place in your heart. Won't you let them in, even in a small way, with your support and kindness?



Bobby

In honor of May, which is Back in Black Month at ICS, meet Bobby, the cutest little guy you'd ever meet. He's sweet and would bring fun and life to any household. To meet him is to fall in love!



Cindee

While she may not have golden curls, this little pixie is sure to captivate and enteratin you. Bobby's sister is cute as a button, and ready for a forever home. Wouldn't you love to meet her? Remember, if you adopt in May, there are special Back in Black pricing options!



Sweetie

is another Back in Black sweetheart special. This girl is something else. She is willing to sit patiently in your arms and hug you for as long as you want! She truly lives up to her name. Wouldn't you like to make her yours?

Corky

Yes, that's right, ICS's favorite spokescat is in fact up for adoption! He was 2011 Sweetheart of the Year, but he still needs a home. He would love to be in a home where he can play and enjoy your company all day long. Wouldn't you like to have this quirky bundle of love in your family?



Cabbage

While he may have a silly name, this guy is personality-plus! He loves to sit on your lap, play with you, and would be your faithful companion forever. Get healthy and bring this active, fun-loving young Back in Black kitty into your life. You'll be happy you did!



Santo

Santo is the brother of two wonderful cats that recently got adopted, Joey and Applejack. Applejack was a special case at ICS, as he only had three legs, but his brothers, especially Santo, always protected him and kept him safe. Santo is waiting now for his chance for a forever home.

I have	enclosed a check for:		
	\$180 for one year of Sponsor-A-Cat		
	\$15 for the first month of Sponsor-A-Cat. I pledge to send \$10 each month to Sponsor-A-Cat		
Please mark "SA	I pledge to send the amount that fits my budget and feels "right" to Sponsor-A-Cat each month C" on your envelope and check memo. The sponsor will receive a photo and biography of his or her Sponsor-A-Cat		
lame of sponsor	Address		
City	State ZIP Telephone		
Month of sponsor's hirthday	email address		



Independent Cat Society PO Box 735 Westville, IN 46391

Don't miss these events!

- **Be Kind to Animals** April 26, Porter County Expo Center
- Wake up the Garden May 10, ICS Shelter Rainbow Bridge Garden
- Aunt Kitty's Trash and Treasure Sale May 17 & 18, ICS Shelter (donations accepted May 16)
- **Black Cat Strut** May 31, Coffee Creek Watershed Preserve, Chesterton
- **Summer Open House** • June 21 & 22, ICS Shelter
- Black and White "Wedding Day" June 21, ICS Shelter Rainbow Bridge Garden •
- **Annual Book Sale** July 18-19, American Legion Hall, Chesterton (donations accepted July 17)
- **Purrfectly Pampered Day** • August 2, American Legion Hall, Chesterton

If you'd like to receive the Mewsletter via email, let us know at shelter@catsociety.org.



Non-Profit Organization

US Postage

PAID



facebook.com/ indcatsociety

WWW

http://catsociety.org



http://www.shelterwishlist.com/sl/WishList_home.cfm?x=938

Become a Member!	I	Donate or Vo	olunteer!			
Annual Dues:	I am don	ating \$ for the care	of the cats and	kittens.		
\$1000 Corporation		ating \$ to the build	-	Neuter Fund		
\$500 Life	I am donating \$ to the TNR/Assisted Spay & Neuter Fund.					
\$100 Gold Star	I will help give cats their medications.					
\$50 Family	I will be a foster parent. I will donate my cat-themed artwork or crafts for fundraising events.					
\$25 Individual	I will bake for fundraising events.					
\$10 Student	I will help	I will make adoption follow-up telephone calls. I will help cats get good homes by becoming an adoption counselor.				
\$10 Senior		I will help take care of the grounds and maintain the shelter. I will distribute flyers for fundraisers.				
Name	Address	City	State	ZIP		
This is a new address Do not send a "th	ank vou" note. Phone	email				

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