

Mewsletter

For the friends of the Independent Cat Society, a no-kill cat shelter

Spring 2004

This Martha is a good thing

By Sue O'Leary

Sweet-faced Martha has lived many of her days in a room named "Boppers," at the shelter. But, she never gives up looking for just the right home.

Martha was pregnant and ready to deliver when she came to the shelter. She had three kittens soon after. Her new foster mom, Sandy Robelia, picked her up that same day.

Now nine years old, Martha is an inspiration to mothers everywhere. When she was a young mother, she was so devoted to her kittens that she became upset if separated from them, even if only for a second. So, to get her in a cat carrier to go to her foster home, volunteers lifted the top from the carrier, put Martha and the babies inside, then fastened the top on again, so Martha would not have to leave the kittens' side.

Martha acted like a cat who had suffered everything and had given up.

Martha didn't trust just anyone, and probably for good reason.

"Martha acted like a cat who had suffered everything and had given up," said Robelia. "She was totally submissive. When I would pet her, she would protect the babies, but bow her head down like she expected to be punished or beaten. It was so sad.

"It took a long time to get her to come to me," said Robelia. "She had to learn to trust again."

Martha still recognizes Robelia's voice and face when she visits her at the shelter. "Even now, although she loves me to pet her, she doesn't like me to pick her up."

Still, Martha has learned to trust again. "She's



come a long way from the beaten-down cat I first brought home to foster."

Martha, who doesn't warm up to men, would be a loving companion for a patient woman with a quiet home. If you would like to meet Martha, stop by the shelter on the weekends, or call us at (219) 785-4936.

Inside . . .

Upcoming events	2
Wish List	3
Older, and better!	4
Precious kittens for adoption	5

Mewsletter

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

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

The Independent Cat Society mission is to promote the welfare of all animals, especially cats, through the reduction of pet overpopulation, the education of the public, the prevention of cruelties to animals, promotion of responsible pet ownership and by working for more humane legislation.

Adoption hours:

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

Adoption fee: \$65

Includes: Spay/neuter, vet exam, feline leukemia test and vaccination, FIV test, FVRCP vaccination, parasite treatment, tattoo ID and cardboard cat carrier.



Board of Directors

Susan O'Leary, President
Paulette Gonzalez, Vice President
Sandra Robelia, Recording Secretary
Rebecca Bolton, Corresponding Secretary
Carol Tomerlin, Treasurer
Board members: Brenda Mikolajczak, Susan Ogg, James Granzow, Carol Albrecht

The Board of Directors meets the fourth Monday of every month. Please call the shelter for meeting location.

Calendar of Events

SPRING ADOPTION SPECIAL: Adopt a kitten or adult cat for \$65, adopt a companion at no charge. Visit the shelter, or our Web site, www.catsociety.org, for details, and beautiful photos of adoptable cats and kittens!

TICKETS ON SALE NOW! 2004 "Viva Las Vegas" Trip Raffle! Vacation for two, including 4 days, airfare & hotel on the fabulous Las Vegas strip! Drawing is Sunday, June 27, 4 p.m. at the shelter. Tickets: \$4 each, or 3 for \$10, available at the shelter; in Chesterton, at Ark of the Dunes Animal Hospital and Chesterton Travel; in Porter, at Westchester Animal Clinic, and at all our events! Tickets also available by mail; see coupon on page 3.

Open Your Hearts Open House, Saturday, February 14, 10 am - 5 pm
Refreshments, adoptions, crafts, gifts, bake sale. Ogden Dunes firehouse on Hillcrest Ave., Ogden Dunes, Indiana.

Photo Contest Winners Announced! Saturday, February 14

Dunes Cat Fanciers Cat Show, Saturday, March 13 and Sunday, March 14
Woodland Park, Portage, Indiana.

Spring Bake Sale and Tag Day, Saturday, April 3
Brandt's Old Fashioned Feed, Pet & Wildlife Emporium, Michigan City.

Summer Open House, Saturday, June 26, and Sunday, June 27
Refreshments, adoptions, crafts, gifts, plant sale, bake sale. At the shelter.

Income/Expense Statement: January 2003 - December 2004

INCOME		EXPENSE	
Adoptions	16,577.75	Advertising	2,036.48
Building Fund	209.00	Bldg & prop	971.03
Donations	51,450.63	Bldg insurance	1,049.00
Donations w/cats	700.00	Food	7,355.11
ER/Med/Surg	4,842.00	Food, Eagle Pack	3,679.41
Fundraisers	3,850.09	ER/Med/Surg	0
Grants, corporate gifts	3,000.00	Financial fees	143.80
Memberships	6,505.00	General supplies	1,989.81
Non-taxable sales	4,204.76	Misc expenses	2,027.77
Other income	221.22	Mortgage	246.53
Pledges	345.00	NIPSCO	3,026.46
Resale	935.98	Payroll	43,709.85
Resale Eagle Pack	4,848.38	Payroll taxes	4,343.04
Sponsor-A-Cat	18,222.10	Postage	2,342.83
Willed benevolence	8,607.75	Printing	3,685.70
TOTAL INCOME	124,519.66	Resale supplies	307.65
		Resale, Eagle Pack	4,191.01
		Sales tax	319.06
		Sponsor-A-Cat	37.90
		Telephone	908.36
		Veterinarians/medical	44,566.15
		TOTAL EXPENSES	126,936.95
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)			(2,417.29)

President's Message

The benefits of membership

Return address labels, a calendar, a picnic cooler, a thermos, a sun visor, and a coffee maker.

What do these items have in common?

They're freebies. Items I've received in return for my paid membership to something.

We've all done it. We join a club or an organization, partly because we want to join, and partly because we'll get something free if we do.

We may use the free item for a while, but it usually ends up just gathering dust on a shelf.

With a membership to the Independent Cat Society, you don't get anything. Nothing – except the satisfaction that your membership donation is used immediately for the care, feeding and medical needs of homeless cats.

Look at the photos of our senior cats on page 4. Doesn't it feel good to know that, thanks to your generosity, these cats will never know hunger or cold ever again?

In our world, in which we are conditioned to expect something tangible in return for a donation, why can't simply "feeling good" be prize enough? Why do we always have to get something material in return? What happened to giving, for giving's

sake?

Did you know that giving and gratefulness are complementary? Only when you are truly grateful can you give without expecting anything in return.

One of my favorite web sites is www.gratefulness.org. Here's a quote:

"Gratefulness and simple living go hand in hand. When we are grateful, we appreciate life's free gifts: friendship and solitude; movement and rest; Nature's bounty and her spare winter introversion; our own alternating sonata movements of joy, sorrow, and joy's resurgence. Through this appreciation, we find contentment."

Let's slow down, so that we can appreciate, once again, the free gift of feeling good . . . of feeling like we've made a difference. How could you beat feeling like you've changed the world for the better? I don't think there can be a greater gift!

I encourage you to become a member of the Independent Cat Society, and renew your membership every year. Start today. Give, and be grateful for the pure feeling of good that comes from giving.

God bless you for your love of the animals!

Wish List

Please note that our "Wish List" always changes.



Please help us make the cats wishes come true!

Please note: We do not use litter pan liner bags, hooded litter pans, newspapers, or Pine Sol and other pine cleaners. THANK YOU!

Special needs:

- Pet Temp ear thermometer for pets (from Revival Animal Health: 1-800-786-4751)
- Small working chest freezer
- Shingles for 24x24 building
- 25 2x4s
- 10 sheets of Marlite

Supplies:

- Cat litter
- Paper towels
- 6" & 9" paper plates
- Bleach
- Laundry detergent
- Large and x-large trash bags
- Large plastic litter scoops

Food:

- Fancy Feast: ground variety, not chunks or sliced
- Innova, Iams, Science Diet canned food

Office:

- Postage stamps
- 35mm color film
- Liquid correction fluid, white or buff
- Working copy machine

Thank you for your gifts! Please allow us to give you a receipt for your tax-deductible donations.

2004 Viva Las Vegas! Raffle

Vacation for two: 4 days, airfare & hotel on the strip!

Drawing: Sunday, June 27, 2004

Tickets: \$4 each, or 3 for \$10

Name _____ Address _____

City, State, Zip _____ Phone _____

No. of tickets _____ Check or money order enclosed for \$ _____

Send to ICS, PO Box 735, Westville, IN, 46391. Tickets also available at the shelter; in Chesterton, at Ark of the Dunes Animal Clinic and Chesterton Travel; and in Porter, at Westchester Animal Clinic, and at all our events.

Not older -- better!

A joyous reward could be in your future.

If you adopt an older cat, that is.

Many people who are considering adopting a cat often think first about adopting adorable, playful kittens. But welcoming an older cat into your family can have a wealth of benefits, for you, and for the cat.

Older cats seem to understand they've been given another chance at a happy life. They are often very grateful for the opportunity to love someone and be loved in return. And they show their gratefulness with loyalty and affection.

What are some other benefits of adopting an adult or older cat?

- Adult cats are usually less active, calmer and less destructive.
- Older cats are often very affectionate animals. In fact, older cats want to cuddle more than kittens do.
- Adopting an older cat usually doesn't involve quite as much work as kittens.
- Kittens don't stay kittens forever. They only stay small and "cute" for a couple of months.
- Adult animals are often easier to train than young ones.
- With an adult cat, you will usually know about any behavior challenges or health considerations before you adopt. In other words, there are no surprises.
- With an adult cat, you know the temperament of the cat from the start.
- Adult cats often already know how to live harmoniously with humans. In general, adult cats require far less supervision and less constant care than kittens, which can make them ideal companions for people with already busy lives.
- An adult cat's relatively calm demeanor makes it the perfect match for an older person seeking friendship and love in a full-time working household.

Animal shelters across our country are filled with adult cats who need homes. The Independent Cat Society is no exception. So, please, visit the shelter today, and consider giving an adult or older cat a second chance at a happy life!



Chan came to the shelter when she was only two years old. She has lots of personality, and is anxious to share your love. Chan is 10 years young!



Handsome Nicoli came in from the cold a few years ago. He's looking for a warm lap to lay on. He doesn't look, or act, his 15 years. Doesn't he deserve a home by now?



Hey, who turned on the lights? Whitie, 13, isn't a "spring chicken" anymore, and he sleeps a lot. But he's still a sweet guy, just looking for a permanent home. Won't you share yours with him?



Tammy came to the shelter, with her kittens, when she was only one year old. She's called the shelter home since that day. Now 14, Tammy's still a bit shy, so would be a good companion for one or two people in a quiet home.

Kittens, with mittens, who still need homes

Don't let us grow up at the shelter! We need loving families and homes of our own!



Gray Bee

Gray Bee is quite the party animal! Born March 27, 2003, Gray is very friendly and sociable, and loves attention.



Toddles

With a name like Toddles, you can't go wrong! This energetic male kitten likes to hang out with his brothers, Topsy and Lenny. He was born March 27, 2003.

Rusty

Handsome Rusty is a bit reserved. He enjoys quiet cuddling and petting, and would love to have a permanent home. Rusty was born in May 2003.



Combat homelessness: Spay and neuter!

An historic farm near Gettysburg was the setting for what became my lifelong affection for cats. On summer vacations, I couldn't wait to explore the barn on my aunt and uncle's farm to find those soft, purring balls of love. Sitting on the porch swing, rubbing their softness against my cheek, I felt all was right with the world.

Now several decades later, I know the world can't be righted so easily. While rubbing a kitten against my cheek still calms my soul, the sad truth is I worry about its future and the future of the millions of other kittens born this year. Will it be one of the lucky pets that finds a home? Or will it be one of the four million cats and dogs euthanized this year due to overpopulation?

The harsh reality of society's response to the problem of animal overpopulation causes me to think there must be a better way. Organizations, such as the Independent Cat Society, help to stem the flow of pets toward an untimely death. Ultimately the solution lies in stemming the flow of pets. With just one pair of cats and their off-

Mewsings

By Becky Zurawski



spring producing 420,000 kittens in seven years and two dogs and their offspring producing 67,000 puppies in six years, preventing reproduction instead of euthanizing kittens and puppies seems a more humane and intelligent solution.

Organizations such as the Doris Day Animal Foundation help combat the problem. Working locally across the nation, they encourage veterinarians, humane societies, and individuals to promote spaying and neutering. In 2003, 225,000 pets were spayed or neutered on Spay Day USA.

Tuesday, February 24, 2004, is the 10th Annual Spay Day USA. In the past 30 years, euthanasia of cats and dogs has dropped from 13 million to four million animals annually. Strides are being made, as pet owners and other interested citizens are taking their responsibility seriously.

By responsibly spaying or neutering your own pet, a neighborhood cat, or contributing to organizations that are working to correct this problem, we'll stem the flow of kittens and puppies being born. Let's continue the trend that requires fewer cats and dogs be euthanized due to overpopulation.

Sponsor-A-Cat is growing!

Hello Friends!

Nikki, Sponsor-A-Cat “spoke-spurrson” here, reporting to you from the lovely “Vale Park Hilton.” Did you know I made a miraculous recovery from an allergic skin condition that had plagued me last year? The doctors here have been nice enough to set me up with room and board while they were trying out different treatments, and boy, what a life I have here! I have dozens of vets and vet helpers waiting on me hand and foot! I’m so grateful for their gracious hospitality and medical services. I’m sure some day they’ll have had enough of me and send me back to the shelter. But until they do, I’m going to enjoy myself!

Enough about me! Here’s an update of our Sponsor-A-Cat program.



We currently have 140 sponsors, sponsoring 148 cats. We started out in 2002 with 20 sponsors and 23 sponsored cats. Over the past 2 years, we have increased sponsorship 85 percent! That’s purrrrrific!

Like other area shelters, our adoptions have been decreasing each year.

So, we’ve been looking to Sponsor-A-Cat to pick up the slack. You’ve really come through for us! This year, we’re looking to add more sponsors! So, please, ask your friends, relatives and neighbors to sponsor a shelter cat. Ask them to send in the coupon below and their first monthly gift, and they’ll receive their very own Sponsor-A-Cat package in the mail to get them started.

Thanks to everyone for the success of the Sponsor-A-Cat program. Let’s keep it going!

Whoops! Gotta go – have a 3 o’clock pedicure and massage!

Ta-ta for now!

Nikki

Looking for a unique gift? Sponsor-A-Cat for your loved one!



**Sponsor-A-Cat is a great gift
for the guy or gal who has everything!**

**Choose from two payment options:
\$120 now for a gift of one full year
of Sponsor-A-Cat OR \$10 (or more) per month**

YES! I want to give the gift of Sponsor-a-Cat from the Independent Cat Society.

I have enclosed a check for:

_____ \$120 for one year of Sponsor-A-Cat

_____ \$ 10 or _____ for the first month of Sponsor-A-Cat gift. I pledge to send \$ _____ each month to the ICS for Sponsor-A-Cat.

The Sponsor will receive a photo and biography of his or her Sponsor-A-Cat.

Name of sponsor _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Telephone _____

Month of sponsor’s birthday _____ email address _____

Mail to: Sponsor-A-Cat, Independent Cat Society, P.O. Box 735, Westville, IN 46391

Thank you . . .

Thank you all for your donations, letters, visits and volunteer time. Each of you is special, and we are grateful for your loyal support.

Carol and Wayne Albrecht, for donating a baby scale.

The **Westville Fire Department**, for responding to our emergencies and rescuing us over the past year! They go the extra mile!

Nate Gonzalez, for constructing a special needs room for us at the shelter.

Stephanie and Jim Schueler, for fire extinguishers.

Ann Ludington, for new, plastic, washable cat beds -- from Italy!

Our volunteers and employees -- For everything you do for our cats.

In Loving Memory of . . .

Anita Andrews -- Marti Rukavina, Jean Germetta

Grace LeDonne -- Jerry LeDonne

Ruth Toth -- Sue Ogg

Julie Grott -- Gerald Grott

Imogene Barger -- Patricia Massette

Pat Lund -- Norma Baum, Robie Imborek

Alfred & Mildred Richardson -- Lucille Legner, Jan Littlefield,

All items were received 10/1/03/03 - 1/1/04. Kindly limit your memorials/honorariums to 20 words or less. If we have inadvertently omitted your notice, please call us, (219) 785-4936, so that we may correct our error.

Jessica Sprague

Mrs. Sanchez -- Diane Mrak

Howard Boehlke -- Mrs. Malcolm Peek

Malcolm Peek -- Mrs. Malcolm Peek

Kathy Mace -- Winnie Eyrick

Melvin Tracht -- Mildred Tracht

Betty Meyer -- Frances Meyer, Cherly Meyer

Spot -- Charlene Kirschsieper

Chi Chi -- Lorraine Klosinski

Snicklefritz -- Joan & Frank Gucciardo

KC -- Michele Grygotis

Ivan -- Phil & Cindy McGuire

Barney & Andy -- Ralph Heavilin

Tootsie -- We miss our special little girl. Art and Sandy Robelia

Holly -- Ann Ludington

In Honor of . . .

Brenda Rotzoll -- John Simmerling

Cindy McGuire -- Friends at Alverno Clinical Labs

Jolene Gardner -- Kelli Dudley-Boyden

Michael Mager & Mary Church -- Karen Raker

Carolyn Simms -- in honor of her birthday, Robin Godwin

Remembering Darby and Joni . . .

Darling Darby

“She would always stare at me with her beautiful eyes as if saying ‘Pay attention to me.’ I would then go over and give her lots of kisses, which she loved.” -- Sumer Kabelis, medicating staff

“I couldn’t enter the building without seeing her, and I couldn’t leave without saying goodbye. There will always be a very special place in my heart for her and an empty spot in the hall.” -- Bev George, cleaning staff

“I believe Darby taught A.J. (my son) a lot about respect for animals. And I believe A.J. gave Darby a few minutes of happiness every time he came in. Now A.J. goes to her cage and looks a little lost when he sees that she is not there.” -- Cristi Harvey, medicating staff

“She had a fighting spirit! She conquered so many bad spells -- what a trooper! She certainly had more than nine lives! She would walk around the hall for exercise . . . like a grandma cat going for her daily walk to keep as healthy as possible!” -- Kristie Hill, medicating staff

Joyful Joni

“She had the sweetest little face, and four of those little girly paws. There will definitely never be another Joni.” -- Bev George

“My favorite memory of Joni is her most adorable purring. She was such a special cat who just needed a home. I wanted to take her home, and pretty much everyone else here.” -- Sumer Kabelis

“My Joni! I’m sure I will repeat what everyone misses about her. That adorable face, her purr -- I used to call her my pigeon purr! I would talk to her about the day that I would take her home. It kills me that that day never came.” -- Cristi Harvey

“I’ll never forget that pigeon purr of hers. And her short little grunt of a meow. Cutest round features, round everything -- face, body -- plump little girl.” -- Kristie Hill



INDEPENDENT CAT SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 735
WESTVILLE, IN 46391

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit
Organization
US Postage Paid
Valparaiso, IN
Permit No. 134

**DON'T MISS
THESE EVENTS:**



**Open Your Hearts
Open House
Saturday, February 14
Odgen Dunes firehouse**

**Summer Open House
Saturday, June 26, & Sunday, June 27**

**2004 "Viva Las Vegas" Trip Raffle!
Tickets: \$4 each, or 3 for \$10
Drawing: Sunday, June 27, 4 p.m.**

**Visit us on the Web
at www.catsociety.org**



Will you help the Independent Cat Society cats?

Become a Member!

Annual Dues:

- \$500 Sustaining
- \$100 Life
- \$ 50 Gold Star
- \$ 25 Family
- \$ 15 Single
- \$ 5 Student
- \$ 5 Senior

Donate or Volunteer!

- I am donating \$_____ for the care of the cats and kittens.
- I am donating \$_____ to the Building Fund.
- I will help groom cats at the shelter.
- I will help give cats their medications.
- I will help at fundraising events.
- I will be a foster parent.
- I will donate my cat-themed artwork or crafts for fundraising events.
- I will bake for fundraising events.
- I will make adoption follow-up telephone calls
- I will help cats get good homes by becoming an adoption counselor.
- 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 "thank you" note. Telephone _____ email _____

Clip and send to: Independent Cat Society, Inc., P.O. Box 735, Westville, IN 46391