



Mewsletter

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

Fall/Winter 2004

Dr. Regis turns grey skies blue

by Kristie Hill

He came to the Independent Cat Society a dirty, starving stray. How were we to know then that Regis would someday change lives -- as a therapy pet?

Every Thursday, Regis, a seven-year-old with fluffy, long white fur, catches a ride from the shelter to "work," with his colleague, psychologist Cate Amador, Psy. D. Regis travels with Amador to her Valparaiso office, where he helps her clients during their therapy sessions.

Regis's job, according to Amador, is to roll around adoringly at her clients' feet. Allowing clients to pet, brush and play with him is also in his job description. Amador says it's easy to see that Regis loves his job of giving and receiving love.

"Regis's job is to give unconditional positive regard," says Amador. Amador says he helps clients feel accepted and loved for who they are without any strings attached.

Early this year, after researching cats as therapy pets, Amador discussed her idea of using a shelter cat in therapy with Independent Cat Society board members. They sug-



Dr. Regis is in!

Between clients, Regis sits peacefully in the big office window and watches chipmunks scurry around the tall shade trees. He eats lunch with Amador and lounges on a thick, faux sheep's wool blanket that Amador lays out just for him.

During the day, Regis helps Amador stay focused on important tasks, and keeps him motivated by giving him plenty of attention and tasty treats. At the end of the day, when Amador turns off her computer, Regis cleverly hides beneath her desk in hopes of being overlooked so he can stay longer.

When Regis returns to the shelter that evening, he is always relaxed and content. The sparkle in his eyes and

continued on page 7

Keeping Regis happy will also help keep him healthy.

gested Regis, who has a very docile, yet playful, personality.

Regis was a success after just his first day of work. Clients and co-workers benefit from his presence. His talents include calming clients during psychological testing, curing cat phobias in children, and promoting a peaceful environment for Amador's adolescent clients.

"Cats help teach social skills better than dogs," Amador says. "Dogs will tolerate loud and active behavior, but interacting with cats requires quietness and respect.

"I'd like to see more cats used in therapy since they promote feelings of acceptance, confidence and love," said Amador.

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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/LaPorte County Line Road in Westville, Indiana.

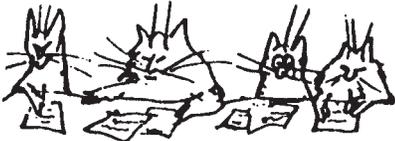
The Independent Cat Society mission is to promote the welfare of all animals, especially cats, by reducing pet overpopulation, educating the public, preventing cruelties to animals, promoting responsible pet ownership and working for more humane legislation.

Adoption hours:

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

Adoption fee: \$65

Includes: Spay/neuter, vet exam, feline leukemia and FIV test; age-appropriate vaccinations; 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

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

Holiday Pet Bazaar, Saturday, November 6 and Sunday, November 7; Valparaiso Armory, Rt. 30, just west of Rt. 2.

Jewel Shop-N-Share, Monday, November 15; Tuesday, November 16; Wednesday, November 17. The shelter will receive 5% of your purchases on these days. Use the coupon on p. 4.

Duneland Pet Store Fundraiser, Saturday, November 27, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Adoptions, free refreshments, bake sale, and cat crafts, toys, and bedding; 112 12th Street, Chesterton.

Holiday Open House at Brandt's Old Fashion Pet, Feed, and Wildlife Emporium, Saturday, December 4, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Huge holiday bake sale; 309 W US 12, Michigan City.

Holiday Open House, Saturday, December 11, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., and Sunday, December 12, 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Holiday adoptions, free refreshments! Bake sale, cat crafts, toys, bedding, and Jeffrey's Good Soap, for your holiday shopping. At the shelter.

Jewel Shop-N-Share, Monday, December 13; Tuesday, December 14; Wednesday, December 15. The shelter will receive 5% of your purchases on these days. Use the coupon on p. 4.

Adoptions at Duneland Pet Store, Thursdays, 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m., 112 12th St., Chesterton. Independent Cat Society catnip toys for sale, also. For more information, call the shelter.

Open Your Hearts Open House, Saturday, February 13, 2005, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Adoptions, free refreshments, bake sale. Cat crafts, toys, bedding. Ogden Dunes Firehouse, Ogden Dunes.

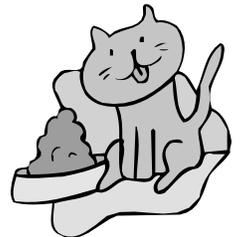
Give your cat the gift of health:

Eagle Pack

dry cat food, for sale at the Independent Cat Society!

16.5 lb bag -- \$22.50

6.6 lb bag -- \$11.25



**All-natural, no by-products or artificial preservatives
High protein from meat, not grain**

Buy this healthy food for your cats and support the shelter!

Saturdays, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Sundays, 1 p.m. - 4 p.m., Rt 6 & Co Line Rd, Westville

President's Message

I tried to think of a nice way to say this, a way that would persuade you, our friends and supporters. But I can't make it "sound nice." The plain fact is that we need money.

It probably seems like we always need money. We do. Operating a no-kill shelter is always financially precarious. Operating the Independent Cat Society costs roughly \$350 per day. So, it is never easy, and we are never doing well financially.

To assure you, we save money every way that we can. We've trained our staff to perform some medical testing and to give vaccines and medications at the shelter. Members of our board are not paid, and we do not have a paid administrative staff. In fact, our only paid staff are our dedicated part-time cleaning and medicating employees, who frequently clock out and finish their jobs as volunteers because they know we don't have a lot of money. We're careful about the telephone calls we make, and we wear long underwear in the winter and dress lightly in the summer to keep our energy costs low. We do everything that you do at your home to make our cats' home run most efficiently.

However, we cannot change the fact that time marches on. Many of our cats are growing older and have geriatric medical problems, which cost a great deal of money to treat. When a cat is ill, we don't automatically euthanize him or her, because we, and our benefactors, are committed to our no-kill policy.

This time of year is especially financially dismal because so many cats and kittens found their way to our door this summer. As you know, we often cannot accept cats and kittens because we seldom have room. We do not have an "open admission" policy. Because of our no-kill mission, we do not euthanize cats to make room for newcomers.

On the other hand, our county shelters must accept all animals. Of course, these shelters are full, too, and so, their courageous staff members are forced to euthanize animals to make room for new ones. As a society, we have not yet accepted that each one of us is responsible for homeless animals. Euthanasia continues because so many people, right here in our



Dozens of kittens are ready for new homes! Adopt one for \$65, adopt a companion at no charge! Adopt Saturdays, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. and Sundays, 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

communities, do not take responsibility for spaying and neutering every pet cat, barn cat, and stray cat that crosses their path — cats in whom they invest time, effort and expense to feed and shelter. It's simple — if a cat is not neutered, it will produce more cats, several times a year. This is the reason we, and our county shelters, are full. This is the reason euthanasia of healthy animals continues.

Although overpopulation causes us financial problems, the Independent Cat Society has never been one to "cry wolf." We try not to say that if we don't get the needed funds, we will close. But in reality, this is always a looming possibility — especially now, when we owe our vets and creditors more than \$25,000. And, we worry about what will happen to all our shelter cats if we have to close. We know we could not find homes for even half of them.

In 2005, we plan to initiate an endowment fund. We hope many of you will be interested in contributing to this fund. But first, we need to pull ourselves up by the bootstraps and find our way out of our current debt.

So please, send us what you can. It's a simple plea. We really need your help right now.

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)
- New 2x4s for indoor repairs
- White or brown aluminum screen door for our isolation building
- Roof construction services

Supplies:

- Litter
- Paper towels
- 6" & 9" paper plates
- Bleach
- Laundry detergent
- Large and x-large trash bags

Food:

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

Office:

- Postage stamps
- 35mm color film
- Buff and colored card stock

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

Shop for Christmas and help the Independent Cat Society

Donate while you shop!

When you register with the iGive site (www.igive.com) and choose the Independent Cat Society as your charity, a percentage of every purchase from the 250+ web retailers -- like Amazon.com and J.C. Penney -- will be donated to the shelter. There's even a downloadable window so that you can save all your favorite iGive retailers!

Charge it, and donate!

By applying for and using an Action for Animals or Morris MasterCard, you'll earn additional income for the Independent Cat Society at no extra cost to you.

Designate the Independent Cat Society (#0147) as your charity when you apply for this credit card, and

a percentage of every purchase is donated to the shelter. To request an application, call 1-800-545-5885, or log on to www.animalsafe.org.

Recycle, and donate!

Metro Metals is accepting donations of recyclable materials for the shelter, including aluminum, brass, copper, auto parts, radiators, stainless steel, alloys, paper, glass, plastic, computers, circuit boards, electric motors, scrap iron and steel.

Mention that you are recycling on behalf of the Independent Cat Society and we will receive 3 cents more per pound. Metro Metals is at 2155 W. Lincolnway, Valparaiso, 465-1459, and 1501 E. Main Street, Griffith, 922-1830. Hours are Monday-Friday, 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Saturday, 7 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Shop at Jewel-Osco and earn cash for the shelter!

The Independent Cat Society will receive 5% of your total purchases on the dates listed. Thank you for your generosity!

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What's Nikki up to now?

The Mewsletter recently had a rare opportunity to interview our famous Sponsor-A-Cat Spokespurrson, Nikki. (Nowadays, that's "The Nikki," to you and me — we learned he's changed his name to coincide with his new business venture.)

After his successful comeback as the SAC Spokespurrson and his subsequent turnaround of the popular fundraising program, The Nikki is searching for a cat to groom as his successor. Read what The Nikki is up to now.

Mewsletter: How are you, The Nikki? We heard you've had health problems?

The Nikki: Well, when you're my age, things just don't work like they used to. But, I'm OK, for a 16-year old.

M: We hope you're still enjoying life?

TN: Oh, yes. We old guys have our good and bad days. On my bad days, well . . . but on my good days, I can beat up any ol' Tom nine ways to Sunday!

M: So, we hear you want to groom a successor as Sponsor-A-Cat Spokespurrson?

TN: Yes. We have many talented cats out there -- some of them are very sharp. But it will be a very special cat who will get to curl up in my bed all day after I'm gone.

Actually, we'll have a little competition soon, called "The Appurtenantice." Three young whipper-snappers will compete to be named The Appurtenantice.

M: How will you select a winner?

TN: We'll select three contestants, from all walks of life. They'll include Ivy League graducats and street cats without college educations.

The cats will endure two rigorous business tasks while living together in their swanky digs here at the shelter.



The Nikki

The tasks will test their intelligence, chutzpah, and street-smarts. They'll be forced to think outside the litter box to out-claw each other on their way to the top of the cat condo. At the end of each task, one cat will hear those dreaded words — "You're Fired!"

First, all three will engage in a relatively easy training and development task. They'll vie to be the first to train a human to do their bidding. This will involve turning down plate after plate of food until the human learns to provide the tastiest food available.

The two top cats in that task will compete in the second test. In this final, more difficult task, the two will run their own businesses: they will persuade humans to grow catnip, make catnip toys, then arrange for the toys to be sold at a profit.

The cat who earns the greatest profit in this final test will be crowned "The Appurtenantice." Only he or she will hear those two sought-after words, "You're Hired!"

M: What advice will you have for the contestants? Can you share with them how you became successful?

TN: My philosophy? "Catching the mouse was never a big motivation for me, except as a way to keep score. The real excitement is playing the game."

M: Do you have a message for our Independent Cat Society supporters?

TN: Yes! Thank you, loyal friends, for your continued kindness and generosity to our shelter. Please think positive thoughts for me in the coming months. We'll announce our new Appurtenantice soon. Please welcome him or her into your hearts, just like you've welcomed me!

M: Thank you so much, The Nikki, for taking time from your busy schedule to talk to us. We wish you health and best of luck in finding your replacement.

TN: You're welcome. It was my pleasure!

**Look for information about
The Appurtenantice candidates
in our next Mewsletter!**



Looking for a unique gift? Sponsor-A-Cat!

Sponsor-A-Cat is a great gift for the cat lover 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. I pledge to send \$10 each month to 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

Anna's Day at the Neuter Scooter

The cute little tabby with the jaunty walk continues to bring interesting situations into my life.

The last issue of the Mewsletter described my finding Anna one year ago. My other felines, Sweetie and Art, were just at the point of an uneasy truce with each other. So, I tried to find Anna a home where her exuberance for life would have less impact on the other inhabitants.

This was not to be. And, Anna's endearing personality deeply touched my heart, so, I decided to keep her. But, by this time, unfortunately, Anna was in heat. Now, something needed to be done quickly.

Many veterinarians will not spay while the cat is in heat. Fortunately, the Neuter Scooter was coming to Michigan City.

The 80 slots for spaying/neutering filled up quickly. The Neuter Scooter people told me to bring Anna, with a clean towel or blanket, to the Michiana Humane Society, where the Neuter Scooter would be parked, at 9:00 a.m.

Pulling into the parking lot, I was surprised to see many other people standing around. The Neuter Scooter works efficiently by having everyone complete forms and drop off their cats at the same time. I gave a final look into the carrier at Anna and left.

At 8:30 p.m., I pulled back into the parking lot. Inside the

Mewsings

By Becky Zurawski



shelter, we walked along, looking for our carriers, which were lined up by number, along a wall in the humane society. Anna was number four, so I found her quickly. Peering into the carrier, I was amazed to find a transformed Anna.

Her eyes were wide. A strange, guttural sound I had not heard before came from her throat. The change in hormones from the loving, sweet feline in heat to what was going on in her body now was unbelievable. It took her awhile at home to calm down, but she was fine by the next morning.

The Neuter Scooter is a wonderful way for shelters and communities to control pet and feral cat overpopulation. The mobile spay/neuter clinic travels around Indiana and Ohio. Organizations and individuals contact the Neuter Scooter to host a day.

As you bring a new cat into your own home or work to diminish the number of stray and feral cats in your community, the Neuter Scooter will be available to augment local veterinary care. May your experience be as meaningful as it was to those of us gathered in the parking lot that day, knowing we were doing the right thing by spaying/neutering the felines in our homes and neighborhoods.

Visit the Neuter Scooter web site, at www.neuterscooter.com, for more information about their services, payment plans, and calendar.

Thank you . . .

Thank you for your donations, letters, visits, and volunteer time. We are grateful for your loyal support.

Laura and Tony Trojnar, for repairs to the shelter.
Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Heavilin, for a new roof and gutters on our isolation building.
The John Anderson Foundation, Helen Brach Foundation, and Unity Foundation of LaPorte County.
Tama McGuire and Jeff Chandler, of Chesterton's Duneland Pet Store, for hosting adoptions and selling our catnip toys
Sterling Hope Women, for all their assistance
Donna Flanagan, Flanagan Bulk Mail, for mailing services
Tony and Carolyn Altese, for homemade cat blankets, and other crafts, for our Kitten Shower
Temple Israel, Gary, for its generous donation.
Jeffrey's Good Soap, for its generous donation.
Allen Hopper, Hopper Roofing Supply, Crown Point, for roofing materials for the shelter
Cheryl Klasner and The Capital Group Companies.
Bill and Judy Lyzak, for our new dryer
Westville Fire and Police Departments, for all their help.
Diana Vollmer and Beverly Overmyer, who organized our first Volunteer Picnic.
Our volunteers and supporters, for our new washer.
All those who donated items and helped with our Yard Sale.

In Loving Memory of . . .

Imogene Barger -- Patricia Massette
Martin Barich, gifted carver of wooden creatures, father of our friend -- Sandy & Art Robelia
Joan Behr -- Patricia Massette
Nan Bross -- Christine Burley
Robbie Bross -- Sara Halford
Trudy Carter -- Skip and Doris Baureis

All items were received 4/1/04 - 9/11/04. Kindly limit your message 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.

Ginger Elder -- Jackie Herr
Lawrence Hertges -- Kathleen Heath
Martha Machura -- Nancy Machura
Lera Hallmark -- Charlotte Darr, Florence Doster
Terry Howie -- Dorothy Wenke, Sharon Brooks
Richard Keane -- Patricia Keane
Lorraine Marsch -- Lois Simon
Michael Minard -- Mattie Minard
Oma Murvihill -- Shirley Knutson, Frances Marton, Robert and Marion Saltzman, Mary Jo Small
Walter Schultz -- Beth Smith
Ruby Thomas -- Lisa Alock
Andy & Barney -- The Heavlins
Blackie & KC -- Mr and Mrs Greg Grygotis
Bumper -- Gayle Holdash
Cleo, my lap cat -- Art and Maryann Potts
Hobo Jo -- Janalyn Shaw
Homeless -- Elaine Krauss
Mikie, you were my first friend at the shelter and I'll miss you. Sweet dreams, sweet Mikie -- Carol Albrecht
Mimi Kantowski -- Pauline McCoy
Miss Mattie and Brother -- Jack Simmerling
Muffin McCann -- Lori and Joe Amodeo & family
Pumpkin -- Audrey Mitchell
Patch -- Keith Archibald
PJ -- Sharon Brooks
Princess & Misty, our loving angels -- Donald and Rosemary Fanning
TR -- Steve Collins

In Honor of . . .

Leah Balsham -- Cornelia Barkwill
Debra Deutsch -- Louise Vale
Phil and Cindy McGuire, and Bunny and Bailey McGuire -- Love and long life. Thank you for your generosity. Sue O'Leary

ATTENTION Independent Cat Society members:

By-law Revision Vote

**Monday, October 25, 2004
Board of Directors
Meeting
6:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.**

**Please call the shelter,
(219) 785-4936,
for meeting location.**

Dr. Regis, continued from page 1

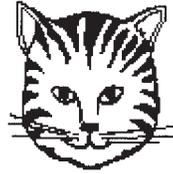
bounce in his step tells us he's had a good time.

Since Regis has become a therapy cat, we've seen a difference in his behavior and moods. He's more active and playful since he started his "job." He seems happier. This benefits Regis, since he has feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV). FIV can weaken his immune system. Keeping Regis happy will also help keep him healthy.

"Dr. Regis" will continue to share his playfulness and love with Amador's clients. He reminds us that while we continue to help our feline friends lead happy lives, they can help us be happy, too.

If you would like to visit or adopt Regis, please stop by during weekend adoption hours, Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., or Sunday, 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., or call us for an appointment during the week.

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



Non-Profit
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**DON'T MISS
THESE EVENTS!**

**Holiday Open House
Saturday, December 11,
and Sunday, December 12**

**Open Your Hearts Open House
Saturday, February 13, 2005
Ogden Dunes Firehouse**

**Adoptions at Duneland Pet Store
Thursdays, 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
112 12th St., Chesterton, Indiana**

*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