



Mewsletter

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

Fall 2005

Miller

by Beverly Overmyer

Every cat at ICS has a personal story. Some are sad, many happy and a few even funny. But Miller's story is special. He's somewhat of a medical miracle.

The stout orange-and-white kitty caught Michelle Pearson's eye when she began volunteering at the shelter after moving from Indianapolis in 2003 with her husband Greg. She admits to having a soft spot for strays, sharing their home with four cats—one of them also orange-and-white.

Miller became a favorite of Michelle's when she went to visit the cats in Freckles room (ICS has names for all our rooms). He was very mellow and sweet, and never pushy, patiently waiting his turn. When Michelle was petting Miller, she noticed that he had a sore on his nose.

After several trips to the local vet, Miller was diagnosed with an aggressive skin cancer that, if left untreated, would become painful and disfiguring. The Pearsons discovered that a vet at Purdue pioneered laser surgery* for this condition, but the cost was \$1500.

The members and volunteers at ICS answered the Pearson's plea for help in financing Miller's surgery. More than \$1700 was raised quickly and Miller traveled to



Michelle and Miller

Purdue Small Animal Clinic in West Lafayette, chauffeured by Greg. He says our medical miracle always makes the rounds visiting his friends.

See Miller on page 2...

Be an Adoption Counselor

Volunteer Focus: Adoption Counseling

By Diana Vollmer

An interview with Joan Hildebrand

I thought it was time to start giving back to the community and I love cats, so it was a pur-fect fit! It's also very rewarding to see one of our cats go to a new home. With the explosion of unwanted pets because people don't spay and neuter, our shelter provides a much needed community service.

We're looking for dedicated adoption counselors, if you want to be a counselor and can donate one

weekend day per month, please come in and complete a volunteer application—the rewards are wonderful!

What we do —

- Greet visitors to our shelter.
- Explain procedures for visiting the cats.
- Provide information about shelter adoption procedures.
- Provide information to callers regarding various cat issues.
- Help potential adopters choose their new friend.
- Screen potential adopters to be certain our cats go into the best loving homes. ■

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Mewsletter

Published for the friends of the **Independent Cat Society, Inc.**

PO Box 735,
Westville, IN 46391
(219) 785-4936

web:

www.catsociety.org

email:

mewsletter@hotmail.com

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.

The **Independent Cat Society** mission is to promote the welfare of all animals, especially cats, by reduction 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.

Adoption fee: \$75

Includes: Spay/neuter, vet exam, feline leukemia and FIV test; age-appropriate vaccinations; parasite treatment; tattoo ID; and cardboard cat carrier.

Board of Directors:

President:

Cate Amador

Vice-President:

Paulette Gonzalez

Recording Secretary:

Sandy Robelia

Corresponding Secretary:

Rebecca Bolton

Treasurer:

Carol Albrecht

Board Members:

Susan Ogg

Diana Vollmer

Brenda Mikolajczak

Kerry Wolfus

Calendar of Events

November

6th All Breed Holiday Pet Expo

(items for pets and animal related items for their people)

Saturday, November 5, 10 to 4 pm

Sunday, November 6, 10 to 4 pm

National Guard Armory (off Route 30), Valparaiso

21ST Holiday Sellbration

(art, craft & gift show)

Friday, November 18, noon to 7 pm

Saturday, November 19, 9 to 4 pm

Porter County Expo Center, Valparaiso

December

Annual Holiday Open House

(cat toys, beds, catnip mats, crafts, pet photographer, and bake sale)

Saturday, December 10, 10 to 4 pm

Sunday, December 11, 1 to 4 pm

At the shelter in Westville

VIVA LAS VEGAS Raffle

The drawing for a vacation for two has been extended to Sunday, December 11, 3 pm.

Raffle tickets are available for \$4 each or 3 for \$10.

Send your check, made payable to the Independent Cat Society, with a self-addressed, stamped envelope to:

Raffle Tickets, P O Box 735, Westville, IN 46391.

Miller from page 1...

The good news is that after three treatments, Miller is fine and Purdue charged ICS only \$300 for the surgery, dipping into a fund they have for shelter animals.

"Miller is a very special cat," Michelle says. "I hope that one day he gets the kind of loving home he deserves."

Miller lives in Freckles' room with his senior friends.

*Photodynamic therapy is a laser treatment in which a chemical solution is absorbed by the cancer cells, but not by the healthy ones. A laser is then focused on the area, and the light is absorbed by only the cells containing the solution. In this way, the cancer cells are attacked, but the healthy cells are not harmed. Miller's had several trips to Purdue for follow-up appointments. ■



President's Message

Sue O'Leary recently resigned from the ICS after many years of service, and her effort and hard work will be missed. I have been elected President, and along with our incredibly dedicated volunteers, will continue our mission to improve the quality of life for cats, especially those in our care.

Speaking of volunteers, they are the bedrock of our organization. Without volunteers, our cats would have no hope or no future. Starting with this newsletter, ICS is kicking off a drive to increase their numbers so we can move forward with the many projects and improvements we have in mind. So please, if you don't yet volunteer and could find a way to fit us in somewhere in your schedule, please do. If you can't, spread the word to others what a rewarding place ICS is to volunteer. Whatever your talents and abilities, our cats need them. Now with no further ado, we are proud to introduce our Volunteer Recruitment spokescat, Uncle Archie, and he wants YOU!



Uncle Archie

Come visit Uncle Archie and all his friends at the shelter soon. See you there! ■

Cate Amador

Spay and Neuter Task Force



Toddles, the Spay and Neuter Spokescat

Hello, everybody! My name is Toddles and I have been chosen to be the new **Spay and Neuter Spokescat**. Yes, it's kind of embarrassing, but I'm still honored. I was chosen because I have been here at ICS since I was a kitten in the spring of 2003. At first, lots of people came and played with me, but it was always another kitten that got to go home. I didn't take it personally. I know I'm a great cat with a lot to offer. But there were just too many kittens; there always are. Pretty soon people met me and

asked if there were any "little kittens." And so here I still am, and may well stay my whole life. Now don't get me wrong, I'm not unhappy and I know how lucky I am. But I want everyone to know that there are just too many kittens!

The volunteers at ICS are starting a **Spay and Neuter Task Force** to do everything they can to keep more homeless kittens from being born. There are lots of jobs to be done, from grant writing to education to helping trap and transport cats to the vet. Could you maybe help us out? Just e-mail newsletter@hotmail.com and somebody will let me know. Also, maybe stop in and see me some time? I am definitely available and have not given up hope! ■

Wish List

Please note: We do not use litter pan liners, hooded litter pans, newspapers, or pine cleaners like Pine Sol.

THANK YOU!

Office Supplies

Small copier
Stamps
Copy paper
Pens
Sticky notes

Cleaning Supplies

Bleach
Laundry soap
Dish soap
Paper towels
Toilet paper
Paper plates

Building and Grounds

Gravel for the parking lot
Tub and enclosure
16 x20 1 inch fiberglass furnace filters
Aire Bear furnace filters
Small vanity with sink
Morton rust remover formula (green bag)

Other

Tall cat trees
Deep litter boxes
Litter scoops
Scrip (gift cards) for Home Depot, Menards, or Lowes

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

Sponsor-A-Cat! A Win-Win Situation!

If you can't take me home, can you Sponsor-A-Cat?

by Claudia Nay

There's excitement in Sing Sing today! "Meeoow", Pinky cries out as she grooms her fur and straightens her whiskers one more time. "How do I look, Diva, Violet?" "Girls", Lucky mumbles. Bacchus just yawns and sighs. How many adoption days has he seen come and go? Too many to count. It would be nice to have something to look forward to.

Yes, it is adoption day and most of the residents ARE excited. They may find a home of their own today, but, in Pinky's case, there is something else to be excited about. Pinky's sponsor is visiting today. She'll have treats, time to play and friends who will give some attention to everyone in Sing Sing.

Judith Shepherd is Pinky's sponsor. Judith saw an ad in the LaPorte newspaper over a year ago and has been a sponsor ever since, visiting once a month. Judith lives in a condo and is only allowed to have two pets. An animal lover, she felt this program gave her a wonderful chance to enlarge her family and help homeless cats. Judith brings her friends and they have gotten to know many of Sing Sing's residents. "Pinky actually selected us on our first visit. Now we find her waiting at the door to welcome us!"

"Having a sponsor is the next best thing to a home of your own", Pinky says. "At least you know someone cares about you." Judith is waiting for the day she receives a letter telling her Pinky was adopted. She will then select someone else to sponsor.

Many people, for various reasons, cannot welcome a pet into their home. But you can expand your family by becoming a sponsor. Even if you live too far away for a visit, your monthly contributions go a long way to provide a comfortable life for a shelter cat.



Pinky

A sponsor receives a photo and biography of their sponsored cat. Displaying the photo is an easy way to make the cat part of your family! It's a win-win situation! The cats receive love and attention. Their medical and food expenses are covered. The sponsor gets the satisfaction of making a difference in a homeless cat's life.

Wouldn't you like to open your heart and be a sponsor? There are still many cats just waiting for a special friend. They'd like to be excited on adoption day, too! And who knows, maybe you'll fall in love. Just ask Max. But that's a story for another day. ■

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 _____

Clip and mail to: **Independent Cat Society, Inc., PO Box 735, Westville, IN 46391**



New Volunteer Opportunity

Become a Room Parent!

Do you have a favorite group of cats at the shelter? Would you like to really make a difference in the quality of life for those cats? If so, then this is your chance. We are looking for people who are willing to become "Room Parents" for a specific room. Room parents can be involved in a multitude of ways that will benefit the cats psychologically, socially, and medically.

Having volunteers who can spend time with the cats can be a huge help for the Cat Care Committee. Room Parents can note who seems to be losing weight, dehydrated, needing their ears cleaned, or any other potential problem. They can help clean ears, trim nails, give vaccines and flea treatments. Those who are interested in helping with

these care needs should call Kristie Hill at 219-617-8195. But it doesn't stop there. Just like in grade school, Room Parents can provide treats, have holiday parties, even decorate. Why not have a holiday party that includes a small tree with kitty-friendly edibles and toys? Imagination is encouraged! Room Parents can also raise help funds for much needed improvements in their physical environment.

These are just a few ways Room Parents can get involved. No one person is expected to do all of them. The important thing is for our cats to have the chance to have special people who will be advocates for them. If you would like to have more information, e-mail us at newsletter@hotmail.com, or send in a volunteer form noting your interest. ■

Holiday Shopping *for the Cats*

Did you know that you can make your friends and family happy AND help the cats at ICS? Here are some unique gift ideas that are sure to be appreciated. You can find incredible soaps and bath products at www.jeffreysgoodsoap.com that must be tried to be believed. Red clover — to die for! Chocolate? Guilt-free bliss. The soapmaster is a good friend of the shelter and donates a portion of every purchase. Personalized and environmentally-friendly gift baskets are available and shipping is FREE through Dec. 23. There will also be **Jeffrey's Good Soap** available at the Holiday Open House, so stop by and sniff for yourself.

Diamonds may be a girl's best friend, but natural stones and silver are always a great choice. Unique artistically designed **Handcrafted Jewelry by Elaine** will be on display at the Holiday Open House. Come check out her beautiful selection, and give in to the urge to get one for yourself while you're at it to accessorize your holiday outfits.

Looking for that unique gift for the cat lover on your holiday list? You can purchase a **Sponsor-A-Cat** membership for just \$10.00 a month. The certificate you receive will make a great stocking stuffer! The new sponsor will receive a photo and biography of his or her sponsored cat in the mail. Just complete the coupon in this newsletter. A great way to say "Happy Holidays" to your friend or relative AND a homeless cat!

You certainly can't forget your cats this holiday season. While you're sipping eggnog or toasting with champagne, why not treat your feline friends to some holiday cheer of their own? Stop by the shelter or the Open House and get a few bags of our wonderful **Calico Corny's Crazy Country Catnip**. Visions of sugarplums (or at least mice!) will dance in their heads when they slumber in one of **Claw-dette's Sweet Dreams Kitty Beds**. Cats are guaranteed to love these luxurious beds, which just get softer after washing. The next morning, make sure your cats find several of our **Homemade Toys** under the tree. All of these are available at the shelter or Holiday Open House.

Holiday Open House **Dec. 10 & 11**

Happy Tails

Patience makes the heart grow fonder!

by Kerry Ann Wolfus

Patience lounges on a floral quilt at the Heavilin's home. At the sound of our voices she is up and ready to follow Lorraine into the bright kitchen where Ralph welcomes us. I see that she has dropped a few pounds and looks fabulous in her Dilute Tortoiseshell outfit.

Six months ago her life was very different. She was dropped at the shelter seven years ago, a sickly but sweet kitten. After time and attention Patience was healthy and full of spunk. She was adopted as a teenager. She had a home for a year and a half.

She was returned for HAVING TOO MUCH SPUNK! A loaf of bread was missing and Patience was the culprit. She woke her people early in the morning. She attacked the screen door. When Patience came back she was depressed and didn't get along with other cats. They cornered her and gave her trouble for her outspoken opinions. She was given her own cage.

Over the years she got fat and a little grumpy but Ralph and Lorraine always got an enthusiastic greeting when they came the first Saturday of every month. "Patience was always there in the top cage," Ralph tells me. "When she was moved to the lower cage I thought I cannot see her die in there...Lorraine, let's take her home!"

It was meant to be. The reasons Patience was returned, the bread burgling, early hours and bug chasing on the screen door are charming personality quirks to the Heavilins. They say her name could be "Nosy" or "Impatience". She wants to be in on everything and has never met a stranger. They took a chance on an older shelter cat with spunk and found love and happiness, and so did Patience. ■



Spay and Neuter **Task Force**

Got ideas? Over-population is an ongoing problem for our area. We could use your help with our newly forming Spay and Neuter Task Force. See page 3, or contact us at newsletter@hotmail.com

*For all you
cyber-savvy
cat lovers
out there!*

Visit our information-packed
website at

www.catsociety.org

or email comments to

newsletter@hotmail.com



Thank you... A special thank-you on behalf of all our dry kitties goes out to the donors who made it possible to "Raise the Roof".

Dennis & Marcy Anderson
 Karen Appleby
 Leah Balsham
 Stephen & Susan Beres
 Lucille Bevil
 Joanne Broderick
 Stanley & Marie Bucher
 Meredith Caauwe
 Betty Coffel
 Michael & Beverly Croninger
 Edward & Alyce Fabrici
 Jeffrey & Isabelle Felsecker
 Sandy Fosburgh
 Ana Garcia
 Robert & Patricia Gault
 Jean Gerometta

Susan Gropp
 Dennis & Virginia Guse
 Joan Hildebrand
 Patricia Keane
 Jeanne Kerr
 Ronald & Deborah Kerwin
 Dr & Mrs. Peter Kesling
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 Cheryl Klasner
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 Greta Krstovich
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 Alexis Olson-Brand
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 Joseph & Rita Plahetka
 Carole Poole
 Nicholas & Sharon Priestler
 William & Carol Rusbasan
 Rachel Scott
 Michael & Bonnie Shalapsik

Nancy Shufeldt
 John & Beverly Simon
 Robert & Waltraud Smith
 Tracy & Anne Spurgeon
 Paul & Cordelia Swanson
 Loren & Kathy Taylor
 Earl & Sylvia Thrasher
 Louise Vale
 Louis & Jean Walter
 Marilyn Watkins
 Hannelore Weber
 Jeffery & Mary Williams
 Ronald & Lena Wyller

*Thanks go to the Unity Foundation for their grant to assist with our spay/neuter expenses.
 We offer our appreciation to Vale Park Animal Hospital for volunteering to make ICS their "Day of Caring" project.*

Materials were 100% donated which made a huge impact on the total cost of the project. Carter Lumber in Westville not only donated materials, but allowed us to store and deliver shingles. Ray Ameling arranged the shingle donation with Wes England from GAF Shingles in Michigan City. Plywood was provided by Universal Forest Products in Westville. Frank's Clean-Up Service was kind enough to give us a reduced rate for dumpster rental.

Your generosity and concern for our cats is greatly appreciated. Thanks also to Becky Bolton and Bill Hilton, Greg Fleishman, and Jim Granzow for unwrapping the shingles, and to Sue Ogg who took on the monumental task of coordination. Come drop in at the shelter, visit our cats, and see how nice it looks!

Note on Thank You's: *Due to recent reorganization of ICS, there may be people we have inadvertently missed. Please accept our apologies and know that we are very grateful for everyone's contributions, both financial and of time and caring.*

Memorials From 2-22-05 to 10-01-05

Katharine Hastings * Eric & Elieen Almquist
 * Mr. & Mrs. Carl Jantzen
 * Catherine Roth
 * Mary Derby
 * Williams Law Firm
 * Leroy Village Green
 Patient/resident Fund
 * Velma Jessop
 * William & Elizabeth Jantzen
 * Bergen Historical Society
 Kristine Maddox * Donna & Melvin Novak
 Hap McIntyre * Susan McIntyre
 * Beatrice Wendt
 Pat Strawbridge * Julie Goetz
 * Sallie Ialarola
 Andy & Barney * Donna & Ralph Heavilin
 Monroe * Donna & Melvin Novak
 Micheal Minard * Mattie Minard
 Janet Ohele * Donna & Melvin Novak
 Tootsie Rukavina * Nancy Witt
 "Our Beloved Tootsie" * Marti & Robert Rukavina
 Heather * Thomas & Kathleen Heath
 "Our Beloved Cat Nick. He Was A Dear Boy Who
 Will Be Missed By All.
 * Nancy Machura
 Tom Theraing * Mr. & Mrs. Ira Sam Houston
 Marion Krohn * Marti & Robert Rukavina

William O'leary * Marti & Robert Rukavina
 * Sandy & Art Robelia
 * Peggy & Frank Barringer
 * Jean Mudroncik
 * Edward & Marilyn Poweska
 Tortie Cat Niko & Poodle April
 * Louise Vale
 Marvin Forsythe * Nancy & George Monix
 * Sandy & Art Robelia
 * Marti & Robert Rukavina
 * Vincent & Cate Amador
 Andrea Knish * John Armbrecht
 * Kathleen Wojcik
 * Wilma Fisher
 * Judge Robert Pete
 * Dr. & Mrs. David Cooley
 Fluffy, Napoleon, Kitty-kitty And Lanzie
 * Aldona Priede
 Woody * Richard & Kathy Whiteman
 Maggie Meyer * Dr. Glen Wurglitz
 Rover * Beverly Creswell
 Angelo Veltri * Jean Gerometta
 Tory * Mary Jean, Donald Wren,
 Sydney, Shelly, Raven,
 Beau, Longfellow,
 Byron And Megan Reid

Marion Krohn
 "We Love You Mom And Miss You"
 * Sandy Robelia, Marlana
 Albright And Families
 In memory of Dulce, an ICS cat who lived to be
 24 years old. From: Francesca Veltri
 In Memory Of Our Parents
 Bill O'leary, Marvin/Violet Forsythe, Martin Barich
 And Marion Krohn—They taught us to love all of
 God's Creatures. We miss you but we take com-
 fort knowing you now hold in our arms our
 beloved pets who have gone before us.
 In honor of Marvin and Violet Forsythe for their
 many years of supporting the ICS and taking in
 numerous cats and kittens through the years
 and giving them a loving home.
 Their daughter Pam Nichols.
 In memory of Heidi, a loving companion.
 Charlene Kirschsieper.
 In memory of my mother, Beatrice Esola, and her
 companion cat Ralphie. Charlene Kirschsieper.
 In memory of Christopher.
 James and Sherry Bielefeldt.





Independent Cat Society
 PO Box 735
 Westville, IN 46391

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

*Don't miss
 these events!*

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

- **Open your Hearts** Open House
 Saturday, February 13, 2006
 Ogden Dunes Firehouse

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

Visit us on the web at
www.catsociety.org

Can you help the Independent Cat Society cats?

Become a Member!

Annual Dues:

- _____ \$1000 Corporation
- _____ \$500 Life
- _____ \$100 Gold Star
- _____ \$50 Family
- _____ \$25 Individual
- _____ \$10 Student
- _____ \$10 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. Phone _____ email _____

Clip and send to:

Independent Cat Society, Inc., ATTN: Membership Committee, PO Box 735, Westville, IN 46391