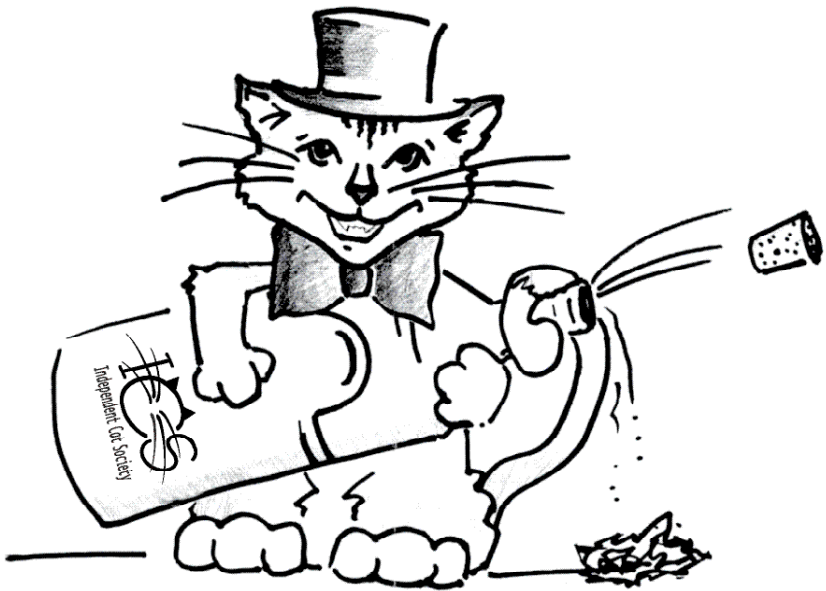


INDEPENDENT CAT SOCIETY'S

30th
Anniversary Gala



September 14, 2007
Strongbow Inn Banquet Center
Valparaiso, Indiana

PROGRAM

6:30 – 8:30 pm

Buffet Dinner

Viewing of Silent Auction and Raffle Items

7:30 pm

Forever and For Always

Entertainment Provided by Tom's DJ Service

8:30 pm

Silent Auction Ends

Raffle Drawings

8:45 pm

Silent Auction Winners Announced



Logo by Erin Price

*We would like to express our deep appreciation
to the individuals and businesses that have
made this evening a reality.
Your generosity and kindness touches us.
Thank you!*

ANNIVERSARY GALA COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Carol Albrecht
Cathleen Amador
Jamie Henry
Beverly Overmyer
Cathie Zimmerman

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Nutro Products, Inc.

Portage Animal Clinic, Portage

Purrfect Play, Chesterton

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Individual Donors

Carol Albrecht
Cathleen Amador
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Jamie Henry
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Roxanne Myers
Elaine Torbit
Carol Wallner-Barney
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and a Special Thank You
to our Gala logo designer,

Erin Price

SILENT AUCTION

Business Donors

49er Drive-in, Valparaiso

Accent Dental, Valparaiso

Au Naturel Market, Valparaiso

Aurelio's Pizza, La Porte

Bark and Meow, Valparaiso

Brandt's Old Fashion Feed, Pet & Wildlife Emporium, Michigan City

Campbell Street Café, Valparaiso

Chesterton Feed and Garden Center, Chesterton

El Salto Authentic Mexican Restaurant, Valparaiso

Flanagin's Bulk Mailing Service, Valparaiso

Jake's Feed & Garden, Valparaiso

Lubeznik Center for the Arts, Michigan City

Martin Binder Jewelers, Valparaiso

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Phillips Ace Hardware, Valparaiso

PJPublications

Purrfect Play, Chesterton

Splash Down Dunes, Porter

Terry Abner Salon, Valparaiso

Town & Country Market, Valparaiso

(Courtesy of Harold Howie)

Vale Park Animal Hospital, Valparaiso

Please patronize our business sponsors and donors.
And when you do, tell them you're there because they

CARE!

A Musical History of ICS

by Cate Amador

**Your challenge: Identify all the hits from 1977 and name the artists.
Answers are found inside back cover.**

Well, tonight's the night! Were here to celebrate 30 years of ICS. Frankly, I feel rather strange writing this, given that I'm the new kid in town, but here goes:

Many years ago, a group of cat lovers had some dreams. In order to get some peace of mind, they decided to do something about the plight of homeless cats. And baby, what a big surprise—looks like we made it!

ICS is a no-kill shelter, since we'd all rather look at a cat and see a livin' thing. Adoption is our hope for our cats, because we don't want to be like the Hotel California.

One of our most important missions is to increase the number of spays and neuters. It's really important. You know how it goes: it's spring, and Tom hears the call of jungle love and becomes a runaway. Soon, he meets his little queen, telling her "I'm so into you" and "I'll give you the best of my love." She purrs "You make lovin' fun." But after the lovin', there she is saying "Don't leave me this way," as he does the Lido Shuffle down Main Street. And it takes a really long time to find homes for all those kittens.

We've done a lot of things to raise money. We've raffled off trips on a jet airliner, had countless yard sales and bake sales; everything but a car wash. I myself have to write letters asking our donors "How deep is your love?" and telling people "You've got to give it up," or if not, at least "Give a little bit."

So, come volunteer—please don't stop. The cats would love to see your smiling face at the shelter. It's easy. You won't get cat scratch fever. We're always looking for a handy man, or people to answer the telephone line. Our cats would be lost without your love.

Oh, what a night! We have music for dancing, so if you are a dancing queen, or want to turn this party into a disco inferno, we will rock you! This could be one of your best boogie nights. There's also a cash bar if you'd like a trip to Margaritaville. Enjoy yourself!

Bonus: Top Five Cat Hits of 1977

Fly Like an Eagle

Free Bird

Go Your Own Way

White Bird

My Way

A History

In late **1976**, several cat lovers in Beverly Shores, Indiana, met to discuss the possibility of opening a no-kill cat shelter in their area. Two of the people had volunteered at a local shelter and were of the opinion that more attention was paid to the dogs and the adoption of dogs. There was also a serious problem of cats being abandoned in the beach community of Beverly Shores. Their intention was to form a society which would be dedicated to rescuing abandoned and abused cats, give these animals the best affordable medical care, including neutering, and house these animals in a cageless, no-kill shelter with pleasant, clean surroundings and caring personnel. The cats were to be adopted into good homes. If its adopter could no longer care for the adopted cat, it was to be returned to the shelter. Cats would not be euthanized unless recommended by a veterinarian or if the cat was hopelessly ill or injured.

In March **1977**, the Independent Cat Society, Inc. was chartered in the state of Indiana. Why the name "Independent Cat Society?" It was chosen to show that the organization was not affiliated with any other humane society, animal shelter, cat organization, or with the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

Membership grew rapidly and members' meetings were held monthly. A search began for suitable property to rent or lease for a shelter. During that year and into 1978, all rescued cats were kept in and adopted out of foster homes. In June 1979, the first ICS shelter opened at Harrison and Maple Streets in Michigan City in leased space in the old streetcar barn not far from the center of the city. The shelter consisted of two rooms at street level and two rooms on the second floor connected by a staircase. It housed approximately 35 cats. The cats and kittens were kept in good-sized pens and were only caged for observation when they first arrived, or if ill. Four Michigan City veterinarians and a Porter veterinarian agreed to participate in the spay/neuter program and the general medical care of the cats. The shelter operated smoothly with all volunteer help and was kept open with intensive fundraising, growing membership dues and donations. ICS was given excellent media coverage in northwest Indiana.

The building in which the shelter was located also housed other businesses and on a Saturday afternoon in June 1979, a fire started in one section of the building. Smoldering stacks of newspapers being stored for a paper drive caused the fire. The papers had come into contact with an exposed electrical wire. Two small boys ran into the shelter to tell the volunteer on duty that the building was burning. Fire engines and equipment were soon on the scene and the rescue of the cats began. The family of an ICS member who lived only a few blocks from the shelter raced over and, with the help fire personnel, got all but two of the cats out of the smoke-filled building. Those two cats had hidden themselves and they died of smoke inhalation. Two other cats were burned and escaped, but were trapped a few days later.

All rescued cats were then housed in a garage. Word went out via newspapers, radio, and local TV that foster homes were needed for all of these cats and many of them were placed within a few days. ICS proceeded to operate out of a trailer placed in front of the closed building. The trailer served as an office and shop for several months while the search for new quarters went on.

In late summer of 1979, the president of ICS purchased an old cabin-type roadside motel. It was located on the outskirts of Michigan City on four acres of land. ICS agreed to lease the motel, the zoning permit was obtained, and volunteers descended upon the buildings to repair and renovate, clean and paint – no small task. Fundraising continued to support the cost of all of this work and for materials and supplies. Membership grew and donations poured in. The shelter fire had received national media coverage and contributions came from across the county. The motel buildings soon housed 100 cats. A small separate cabin on the grounds, which had been a caretaker's cottage, was used for kittens. This isolated them from the adult cats in the other buildings.

In late December 1980, ICS did not renew the lease on the motel due to disagreements over finances. Space was rented on the top floor of a three-story building in the northern section of Michigan City. This was the historic Pullman Building. The building was not in top condition, but the rooms on the top floor which totaled 2,500 square feet, were large and airy with windows all around. The building had once served as the office building for the factories, which were located to the north. The original complex had been built in the early 1900s. The walls were thick and the building was cool and breezy in the summer. A trucking firm occupied the first floor, along with a gospel church. The second floor housed a dance school and an artist's studio. ICS cats enjoyed the wafting strains of both "Swan Lake" and church spirituals.

Again, a crew of hard-working volunteers spent many hours converting former office to cat quarters by cleaning and painting, building isolation pens, perches and climbing trees. The gift shop, located on the first floor of the building, sold books, cards, t-shirts, artwork, crafts, cat supplies and cat litter. ICS was at that time a distributor for a very fine cat litter, Nicky, which was used almost exclusively in the shelter. The litter was stored on the first floor and no better exercise could be had than carrying 50-pound bags of litter up three flights of stairs!

As before, the shelter depended upon membership dues, donations and fundraising events such as bike-a-thons, auctions, rummage sales, bake sales, raffles, ice cream socials, and participating in local craft fairs and cat shows. Two Open Houses were held each year at the shelter: in the spring to celebrate "Adopt-a-Cat" month and a Holiday Bazaar in late November. Because the shelter was so large, part-time cleaning help was hired, but a great deal of the work was still done by volunteers. A cat care committee worked diligently to maintain the health of the cats and kittens with the help of veterinarians who visited the shelter on a rotating basis, donating their time and expertise.

When ICS moved into the Pullman Building, it was with the knowledge that we would not be there indefinitely, as it was known that the property would one day be sold for development. At that time it was rumored that condominiums were to be built on the land north of the building. In 1983 a building fund was started so that ICS could eventually purchase property and build a shelter.

In the autumn of 1986, the building we were in as well as the adjoining factory building and all land north to Highway 12 was sold to developers. This was to become "Lighthouse Place," a large outlet shopping mall. The new owners of the property decided that the Pullman Building would be too expensive to heat for the coming winter, so ICS was told in October that it must vacate the premises by mid-November. It was short notice, to say the least.

There was an empty house, in poor condition, across the street from the Pullman Building. ICS, in a desperate move, obtained a zoning permit to occupy the house as a shelter, at least for the winter. But it was soon discovered that the cost of totally replacing the electrical system in the house, along with other repairs, would be prohibitive and the idea of occupying the house was abandoned.

The heat in the Pullman Building was to be turned off at the end of October. The developers at a local business employed one of the Board of Directors and through her efforts ICS was allowed to stay in the building through our Holiday Open House, which was the last weekend in November. A call went out, via local media, for heaters and blankets. The shelter was inundated with warm blankets and space heaters donated by concerned animal lovers.

The Open House was held a week earlier than scheduled and 23 cats were adopted and 90 placed in foster homes. That same weekend another board member received a call from a local bank president who had always been very supportive of ICS. He offered a building in Pines Township, Porter County, and adjacent to Michigan City. The Bank had recently foreclosed on the property, which consisted of two pole barn buildings that were connected on 2½ acres of wooded land. One of the buildings contained a two-story apartment with kitchen and bath. The other was very spacious and could be converted to a roomy shelter with remodeling of the interior. The board members made a quick visit to the property and voted a resounding "yes" to occupying it immediately. A week was spent cleaning the grounds of mounds of garbage and painting and cleaning the apartment. Volunteers did all of this. Necessary repairs were made to the heating system and the septic system. More work would have to be done on the septic field if zoning permitted us to stay.

On the last weekend of November 1986, with the help of many ICS members and supporters along with the regular volunteers, all remaining 94 cats were moved out of the Pullman Building to the building in Pines, along with some furnishings. The balance of the belongings was stored.

Plans were drawn up to remodel the large pole barn building. Because the property was situated in a rural area, no problem was anticipated with obtaining a zoning permit from the county as local residents kept horses, hounds,

chickens, ducks, geese and peacocks. But, that was not to be. Two zoning hearings were held in Valparaiso in January and February 1987. Both of these meetings were extremely heated with ranting and raving by a few of the area residents. Apparently the majority of them strongly objected to an animal shelter being located in their neighborhood. The hearings were given a great deal of coverage by the local newspapers. The vote of the zoning board was close: 3 to 2 against us. ICS would have to move by April 12, 1987. The only positive that came out of the meetings was praise by the zoning board for the professionalism of the ICS presentation.

In April, cats were again placed in foster homes and a generous offer was made to ICS by Arbor View Animal Hospital in Valparaiso for the use of part of a building located behind the clinic. This location served as a temporary shelter as the search went on for more permanent quarters. The section ICS moved into had an outdoor run, which allowed some of the cats fresh air and sunlight. Renovations were made, again by volunteers, and the cats moved in. The Building Fund, which had been started in 1983, now had enough money in it for a down payment on land and/or a building.

In 1989 the property on which the shelter now stands was found. It is three acres of wooded land on the Porter/La Porte County Line Road on Highway 6 just into Westville, Indiana. Zoning hearings were held, the zoning was approved, the property was purchased and construction began on a pole barn building. That building was completed in early 1991, again with volunteers doing all of the finishing touches on the interior. The cats were moved in during the spring of 1991. An old farmhouse had stood on the property, but was beyond renovation and was torn down. A two-car garage in good condition was remodeled and became the "Paws Awhile" Gift Shop. A drive was held, Building Fund II, for a much-needed Isolation Building which would house kittens, newly arrived cats and an office.

ICS continued to be operated primarily by volunteers with part-time employees hired for cleaning the shelter and feeding the cats. A volunteer Cat Care Committee was responsible for medicating and maintaining medical records. Thirteen northwest Indiana veterinarians worked with ICS in the spay/neuter program and an associate veterinarian visited weekly. ICS had participated in the American Humane Association Early Spay/Neuter Program since the fall of 1991, so most of the cats were tattooed with an AHA assigned logo and an ICS identification number. Financial support for the operation of the shelter and the care of the cats continued to be derived from membership dues, donations, pledges, fundraising, bequests, and, in December 1996, a grant was received from the International Fund for Animal Welfare. With the continued support of members, contributors, and local veterinarians and the dedication of volunteers, ICS continued to strive for the best care it could give the cats that came to the shelter and to adopt them out into responsible and caring homes.

By Jean Gerometta, May 1997

Update *by Beverly Overmyer, Corresponding Secretary, July 2007*

Jean wrote the history of the Independent Cat Society from its beginnings 30 years ago when a few women got together to solve the problem of abandoned cats and kittens in their community. Jean's written history ended in December 1996. Since then ICS has worked selflessly to carry on the original purpose: to rescue abandoned and abused cats and give them the best possible medical care, including spaying and neutering, in a cageless, no-kill shelter and then adopt them into good homes.

Many new programs and services have been added in the past few years to keep this vision alive. The mission remains the same. Fundraising has always been a priority and a challenge for this non-profit organization. One of the most successful, on-going programs is **Sponsor-a-Cat**. In the last five years this program has grown and become one of our most reliable sources of income. The program matches shelter cats with sponsors who pay \$10 or more a month for the cat's care and maintenance. The donor receives a picture and brief biography of their cat. The sponsor is encouraged to visit their cat at the shelter for playtime and grooming, which make the cats more "people friendly" and increase their chances of adoption. Many have adopted their sponsored cats. In 2002 the program had 134 sponsors and \$13,822 in donations. The program has increased each year to a 2006 SAC donation totaling \$24,438. The program today has nearly 200 sponsors. A binder with photos of all cats looking for sponsorship is available at the shelter as well as at all fundraising events and on our web site.

Another new program is the **Room Mother Program**. Each of the 11 rooms at the shelter has a Room Mother who keeps track of the cats' general health and visits at least once a month to clip nails, groom, and play with her charges. Room Mothers can give helpful information about the cats' behavior to potential adopters.

Always a vital part of the ICS vision, the **Foster Care Program** seeks foster homes for cats and kittens with special needs that cannot be met appropriately at the shelter. Pregnant cats or nursing mothers with their kittens are housed in foster homes so that they may be cared for and socialized until they are ready for adoption. Other cats go to foster homes to recover from surgery, illness or injury. Many foster cats become permanent parts of their foster families.

The **Cat Care Committee** oversees the care of all shelter cats and kittens, and is responsible for scheduling vet appointments, maintaining records, and assuring that all cats and kittens are current on inoculations and medications.

Purrfect Partners, a program new in 2006, is a form of permanent foster care pairing our healthy senior cats with qualified seniors at no cost. ICS pays for all veterinary care and transportation to the vet. A Purrfect Partner counselor visits the home monthly for a health check and nail clipping. If the senior is no longer able to care for the cat, it can be returned to the shelter.

All ICS cats are spayed or neutered before they are offered for adoption. In recent years, it has become apparent that many cats in homes or strays being kept outside by cat lovers are never spayed or neutered, primarily because of the high cost of these surgeries. ICS has an **Assisted Spay and Neuter Program** that offers a voucher for \$50 (spay/neuter and basic shots) or for \$75 (the same, with additional tests and shots) to help defray the cost.

A more aggressive approach to the stray problem is met by a recent addition to the ICS repertoire: the **ICS TNR Squad**. The Independent Cat Society is actively pursuing a unified program to address the stray, free-roaming, and feral cat populations of Porter and La Porte Counties. ICS recognizes that it is a human problem, and is working with caretakers, public officials, and veterinarians to provide low-cost surgeries for free-roaming cats.

In 2005, an **Endowment Fund** was established to build a permanent fund and assure a predictable source of income. ICS became a member of the **Unity Foundation of La Porte County, Inc.**, which provides endowment services for non-profits. ICS will receive the interest on this account to use at its discretion as long as it exists. Since 2004, the Unity Foundation has also awarded ICS \$5,000 in program grants.

The Independent Cat Society first started a **Building Fund** in 1983. In 1989, the land for the current shelter was bought and the building completed in 1991. In 1996, **Building Fund II** was launched. This fund paid for a new roof for the main building as well as the old Gift Shop, now the isolation building for kittens and new arrivals. The Building Fund will be used in the future to add improvements and additions to the shelter including a separate laundry area and medicators' station, and a reception/office area.

Epilogue *by Cathleen Amador, President, August 2007*

Reading this history was really an eye-opener. It is amazing what it took for the dedicated people who founded ICS to get to where we are today. In the face of fire and several emergency relocations, they persevered and guided ICS to a safe haven.

Today, we are leaders in Northwest Indiana in rescue, spay/neuter, and humane education. We continue to face challenges, including increasing our fundraising to meet several financial hurdles, such as mandated increases in employee wages and providing compassionate medical care for our many senior and/or chronically ill cats. In spite of this, we have hope, thanks to our generous supporters and committed, talented volunteers. We also have a vision where all of **the area rescues work together to make mass euthanasia a sad memory**. It can happen, and ICS is leading the way by redefining the meaning of "adoptable" and redoubling our efforts to increase availability of affordable spay/neuter services. It won't be easy, but then neither were the first thirty years...

So, ICS, here's to you. May your dreams in 2037 be ones we can't even imagine.

Tonight's the Night.....Rod Stewart
New Kid in Town.....The Eagles
Dreams.....Fleetwood Mac
Peace of Mind.....Boston
Baby What a Big Surprise.....Chicago
Looks Like We Made It!.....Barry Manilow
A Livin' Thing.....ELO
Hotel California.....The Eagles
Jungle Love.....Steve Miller Band
Runaway.....Bonnie Raitt
Little Queen.....Heart
I'm So Into You.....Atlanta Rhythm Section
Best of My Love.....Emotions
You Make Lovin' Fun.....Fleetwood Mac
After the Lovin.....Englebert Humperdink
Don't Leave Me this Way.....Thelma Houston
Lido Shuffle.....Boz Scaggs
Mainstreet.....Bob Seger
Long Time.....Boston
Jet Airliner.....Steve Miller Band
Car Wash.....Rose Royce
How Deep is Your Love.....Bee Gees
You've Got to Give it Up.....Marvin Gaye
Give a Little Bit.....Supertramp
Don't Stop.....Fleetwood Mac
Your Smiling Face.....James Taylor
Easy.....The Commodores
Cat Scratch Fever.....Ted Nugent
Handy Man.....James Taylor
Telephone Line.....ELO
Lost Without Your Love.....Bread
O What a Night!.....Frankie Valle
Dancing Queen.....Abba
Disco Inferno.....The Trammps
We Will Rock You!.....Queen
Boogie Nights.....Heatwave
Margaritaville.....Jimmy Buffett
Enjoy Yourself!.....The Jacksons
Fly Like an Eagle.....Steve Miller Band
Free Bird.....Lynyrd Skynyrd
Go Your Own Way Fleetwood Mac
White Bird.....David Laflamme
My Way.....Elvis Presley

Proud to be a No-Kill Shelter since 1977



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