



Mewsletter

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

Summer 2007

Second Chance *Cats*

All animals deserve a safe, loving, healthy home.

by Beverly Overmyer

When they arrive at the shelter, orphaned kittens as well as sick, stray, abused and abandoned cats are given a second chance for a good life and a forever home by our caring staff and volunteers.

Many of our Happy Tails stories are tales of cats that got their fair share of their legendary nine lives. Cats that have been returned to the shelter because of changes in their families' lives are in desperate need of a second chance.

Chris Kyes was volunteering at the shelter when Gordie was returned by his family because "We have dogs now." The big white cat with handsome butterscotch markings was moaning in the small carrier. "He only makes that noise when he's upset," the man assured us.

Chris couldn't get Gordie out of her mind and heart and two months later adopted him into her forever home with her other three rescued cats. "I wish more people would consider adopting these returned older cats," she said. "All they want is a chance to have a nice home again."

These cats are healthy and their personalities are evident, though they often blossom away from the shelter environment where they must adapt to many other cats. Chris reports that after three months, Gordie has adapted well to his new forever home.



Gordie

Jonnie was returned to the shelter when his family had a baby. Jean Spencer and her daughter Michaeline saw Jonnie sitting on the top perch of a tall cat tree in Kitty Korner Room. The beautiful

See *Second Chance*, page 5...

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TNR *A call to arms!*

by Connie Szawara

At present, there are an estimated 60 million stray and feral cats roaming the United States. Feral cats are cats who have been abandoned by humans and have reverted to a "wild" state by necessity, left on their own to find food and shelter.

In this issue's President's Message, Cate Amador describes the abuse that Hope the cat suffered at the hands of children at an apartment complex in Michigan City. The proximity of stray and feral cats like Hope is a function of the millions of Americans who think it's OK to abandon animals when they tire of them, or when other priorities trump the cost of spaying and neutering. The exposure of these cats to danger is one of the symptoms of overpopulation.

Traditional methods used by local municipalities have been to trap, remove and euthanize. In spite of this long-accepted practice, research indicates that trapping and

See **TNR**, page 4...

June is adopt a cat month!

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

Adoption hours:

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

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:

Sue Ogg

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Meribeth Swartz

Corresponding Secretary:

Beverly Overmyer

Treasurer:

Ruth d'Ouille

Board Members:

Gale Carmona

Joan Hildebrand

Linda Moore

Cathy Zimmerman

Calendar of Events

September

Popcorn Fest

September 8

ICS Booth, downtown Valparaiso

ICS 30th Anniversary Gala

September 14

Strongbow Inn Banquet Center, Valparaiso

Annual Fall Yard Sale

September 29 & 30

at ICS Shelter, Route 6 and County Line Road, Westville

December

Holiday Open House

December 8 & 9

at ICS Shelter, Route 6 and County Line Road, Westville

*Still Easy,
Still Free!*

www.GoodSearch.com

www.cashforcritters.com

www.igive.com

3 websites you need to know about!

What if *the Independent Cat Society earned a penny every time you searched the Internet?* Well, now we can! **GoodSearch.com** is a new search engine that donates half its revenue, about a penny per search, to the charities its users designate. You use it just as you would any search engine, and it's powered by Yahoo!, so you get great results.

Just go to www.goodsearch.com and be sure to enter **Independent Cat Society as the charity you want to support**. Just 500 of us searching four times a day will raise about \$7,300 in a year without anyone spending a dime! And, be sure to spread the word!

Don't forget to save your used printer cartridges for us to recycle. Go to **www.cashforcritters.com** for a listing of what is and is not accepted. In general, no Epson, none that are already recycled, none with clear or grey bodies.

Register at **www.igive.com**, and a portion of your online shopping comes to ICS.



Calling all Distinguished Alumni!

ICS is searching for pictures of how beautiful you are as well as stories about your accomplishments and exploits. These may be used for several different purposes, including future Happy Tails, a presentation at the 30th Anniversary Gala, and possible inclusion in a book. Please ask your human companion to send all submissions to mewsletter@hotmail.com, or mail to our PO Box attention "Alumni Search." Fame awaits!



President's Message



Hope

Pain is not entertainment. Fear is not funny.

This photo has been purposely cropped to spare people the disturbing sight of what a group of children did to this sweet tortie. (If you would like to see the full pictures, as well as the news coverage, visit our website.)

Hope was one of several stray and feral cats living in the vicinity of an apartment complex in Michigan City where children have a history of torturing animals. Poor Hope was friendly, and when she approached the children, eager for something to eat or maybe a little attention, they poured a caustic substance, probably bleach, on her. When she tried to take refuge in a window well, they poked her with sticks and threw rocks at her. Thanks to a dedicated cat lover, she was rescued and taken to Dr. Laurence Reed at Westchester. Sue Ogg, ICS Vice President, passed Hope's information on to area rescues and a foster home was found. When Hope has healed, she will have a permanent home where she will be safe and loved.

Hope will recover, but we realize that there is a serious problem that needs to be addressed. ICS is spearheading a task force that will attack the problem in several ways, starting with that particular area, then reaching further. This complex is a known hot spot, but it is not the only place where animals are being abused. And it's past time to end it.

Children who take pleasure in inflicting pain on helpless creatures do so for many complex reasons, including acting out on a vulnerable target what has happened to them, and they are at risk of escalating antisocial behavior as they get older. For this reason, violence towards animals should be a universal concern.

There will be many ways you can get involved, such as helping with humane education or advocacy; watch the website or contact the shelter for more information. This problem will not be easily or quickly solved, but ICS cannot and will not turn away while cats like Hope suffer.

Cate Amador



Uncork the
Catnip!
We're 30!

You definitely won't want to miss our upcoming 30th anniversary gala on September 14th, 2007 at the Strongbow Inn. Everybody is welcome, and tickets are only \$30! In addition to Strongbow's fabulous food, there will be music for dancing and a silent auction with many unique items. If you enjoy caterwauling, we'll even have karaoke! There will be a cash bar for those who want liquid catnip. The gala committee could use assistance for tasks such as contacting businesses for donations, working the silent auction, and set up and clean up. Whether you can help or not, please come and share this great party. It's our night to howl!

Wish List

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

Office Supplies

Stamps
Copy paper
Brother toner cartridge TN-350
Phone message log

Cleaning Supplies

Bleach
Laundry soap (prefer unscented)
Dish soap
Toilet paper
Paper plates
Paper towels
30 gallon trash bags
Shaklee Basic H
& Basic G concentrates

Medical Supplies

Microwaveable heating discs
3' self-defrosting refrigerator with a freezer section
Hand sanitizer

Building and Grounds

Aire Bear Furnace filters (20x25x5)
Water softener pellets
10' extension ladder
Gas weed whacker
Heavy duty hedge trimmers
2 new entry doors
Pur faucet mounted water filters
Whole house water filter
6' or 8' folding tables
16" x 20" 1" fiberglass furnace filters
Commercial washing machine

Other

Dry cat food, kitten and adult, Eagle Pack preferred, other brands with no colors or dyes please
Ground flavors of Friskies and Fancy Feast
Tall cat trees
Large deep litter boxes, Scoopable and clay litters
Gift cards to Lowe's, Menard's, Home Depot, etc.
Large plastic jars with lids suitable for use as donation jars

Special Services

Plumbers, carpenters, electricians, general handy persons, tree trimmers, willing, reliable workers, bakers and crafters

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

ethanization actually has a negative effect on the population control. It does, in fact, make the populations more dense by something called the *vacuum effect*, which occurs in a colony when *some* cats are removed. The remaining cats intensify their mating behavior in order to fill the void. The food source remains constant, but with fewer cats feeding, the remaining cats get more food, become healthier, and have more successful breeding cycles. These conditions actually result in even more cats. To put it simply, trap and remove does NOT work.

Trap, neuter, return (TNR) is a full-management plan in which free-roaming cats are humanely trapped, spayed or neutered, vaccinated and returned to the location they came from to rejoin their colony, and it DOES work. The colony size is ultimately reduced by attrition. Part of the management plan includes a caretaker who is responsible for feeding and monitoring the cats general health, and who also keeps a lookout for new cats entering the colony who have not been fixed. When new cats are found, they are trapped and fixed, and returned to the colony.

In general, feral cats are not adoptable, and attempts to relocate them may prove fatal to the cat, because they will try to get back to the location of their original colony. Cats living in colonies form strong bonds, and do quite well on their own with a caretaker looking after their basic needs.

TNR is a progressive movement that is being used in many cities across the US as the preferred method of humane control. IndyFeral in Indianapolis has one of the best and most respected TNR programs, having fixed over 10,000 cats since 2002. The resulting reduction in stray/feral cat intake in Indianapolis for 2006 saved Marion county taxpayers \$193,800, an amount up from \$29,850 for 2005.¹⁾

With TNR, everyone wins, including the cats. Nuisance complaints to animal control drop significantly because fixed cats living in colonies are less aggressive, make less noise, and are less likely to roam into harm's way. Millions of dollars a year are spent across the US trapping, holding, and euthanizing cats; the average cost of sterilization is about one third the cost of trapping and euthanizing.

Approximately 25,000 healthy cats die in shelters each day.²⁾ Irresponsible pet ownership and abandonment have led to this overpopulation crisis. It's a crisis we humans have created, and a problem we humans are morally obligated to fix.

The stray and feral overpopulation is everyone's problem. In TNR, government officials, trappers, vets, and caretakers work together to put in place the mechanism by which TNR occurs, with the ultimate goal a reduction in stray populations and subsequent reduction in the number of cats and kittens entering shelters.

TNR is sanctioned by the Humane Society of the United States³⁾ and the ASPCA⁴⁾ as the ONLY approved humane and effective treatment of cat overpopulation in the United States.

You may be feeding a colony of these stray cats, or know someone who is. ICS has been engaged informally with TNR for some time, but we are now in the planning stages of a more formal, more aggressive plan to work with trappers, governments, and veterinarians to reduce the feral populations in La Porte and Porter counties. If you are a trapper, caretaker, or would like to be involved somehow, send email to: icstnr@comcast.net.

For much more information about TNR, visit these websites: Neighborhood Cats (www.neighborhoodcats.org), IndyFeral (www.indyferal.org), Alley Cat Allies (www.alleycat.org), HSUS,

Good Cats

(With apologies to Pedigree)



Chevy

I'm a good cat.



Delia

I know how to purr and head butt.



Skylar

How to sit in a lap,



Caddy

And how to make biscuits with my paws.



Chardai

What I don't understand is:



Lynx

Why nobody has taken me home yet.



Richie

I just want to go home.

ASPCA, Best Friends (www.bestfriends.org) or The Feral Cat Project (www.feralcatproject.org). And check back to www.catsociety.org as we update our website with our efforts to bring a coordinated TNR program to northwest Indiana.

¹⁾See 2006 TNR Impact Chart.pdf at www.indyferal.org

²⁾http://www.feralcatproject.org/aboutthecats_truths.aspx

³⁾http://www.hsus.org/pets/issues_affecting_our_pets/TNR_statement.html

⁴⁾http://www.asPCA.org/site/PageNavigator/pp_feralcat



Orphan Annie

Catty Comments

Notes on life at the shelter by Orphan Annie

First off, a big "Thank You!" to all my fans for the tremendous response my first column received. I knew all along that my investigations were important and that someday my skills would come in handy. Any fans who would like to send me gifts might be interested to know that I adore toy mice.

Is it Getting Hot in Here?

All I can say is, somebody around here must be a George Clooney fan. First we had the famous **Clooney**, and now we have a stunning Maine Coon mix named **George Cooney**! How good looking is he? I know for a fact that there is a competition for his affections between several women, including one employee and a certain board member who refers to him as "The man of my dreams." I even caught another employee saying that he has bedroom eyes. I heard all this before he moved over to the main shelter, so naturally I had to see for myself. Oh baby! Come check him out in Disco. I know I will!



Karlie

Disco Hustles!

As if getting hunky George isn't enough, Disco is rockin' with the news that since Rachael, Miss ICS Sweetheart 2007 was adopted, **Karlie** in Disco, Miss Congeniality and first runner-up will now finish her reign. Personally, as one of the original Sweetheart contestants back in 2005, I credit the photographer for taking off several pounds at least. (Well, this IS Catty Comments.) Also congrats to Disco Room Mom Extraordinaire **Beverly Overmyer**, who was awarded Honorable Mention for *Volunteer of the Year* by the Kiwanis.

New Nose is Good Nose

As promised, I followed up on **Elliot** and his nose. He looks great, and even more important, his breathing is better. An official "**Catty Comments Furball Chuck**" to Persian breeders who keep breeding cats who can't breathe. HACKKKK!

The Doctor is Out!

A well-known cat around the shelter for many years, **Regis**, the gorgeous long-haired white cat has been adopted. Regis had a distinguished career as a therapy cat, and was also known as "Dr. Regis." He had a well-deserved reputation as being as beautiful inside as outside, and nobody deserves a happily ever after more. His adoption also proves that being FIV+ and "of a certain age" does not mean no chance of a home. His friends Hunny "ICS Sweetheart 2006" and Alan would love to get that same chance.

Kitten Season

Congratulations to **Jamie Henry, the Volunteer Coordinator**, on her new kitten, **Chase William**. I saw a picture, and he's quite cute, although unusual with fur only on the top of his head, and no tail. Oh well, we all love Jamie and I'm sure her kitten will turn out OK... And that's the **SCOOP** for now!

Second Chance

continued from page 1...

Oriental mix jumped down and pranced around the room showing off his fluffy tail that he carried curved over his back. "He was showing off that tail so we'd adopt him," Jean said. "He loves being with the family," Michaeline said. "He's sad when we leave and greets us at the door when we come home."

There are other cats at the shelter that have been in homes most of their lives and would benefit from being in a home for the rest of their lives. You can visit Thomas and Richie on our website, www.catsociety.org, to see if they could be your new family friend.

Some older cats that have spent their lives at our no-kill shelter get a second chance to spend the rest of their long lives in a forever home.

Patience is a dilute calico cat that didn't get along with other cats and was returned more than once because she has some eccentric habits. She spent her days in a large cage near the entrance of the shelter.

When Ralph and Lorraine Heavilin came in each month to leave their memorial contribution for their cats Andy and Barney, they visited with Patience. Mr. Heavilin decided that if Patience didn't go home with them that "She'd die in that cage." The couple and Patience have adapted well to each other.

Special-needs cats get a second or third or fourth chance in foster or adoptive homes with special people who are willing to take on the special health or behavior challenges.

Linda Moore, an ICS board member, not only takes in cats with special medical problems, she goes the extra mile to see that their pain is eased and, if possible, the problem corrected. Linda's taken in three cats born without hip sockets causing them problems with their back legs. She adopted Scooty Patooty from a local animal control. When a couple rescued, but couldn't keep, a kitten they had rescued from a bitter winter, Linda took him, too, because he had a similar hip socket problem as Scooty and her kitten Kris Kringle.

Since that time Linda has researched treatments for the problem and has taken the cats to specialists in Indiana and Illinois to give them a second chance.

Wouldn't you and your family give an ICS cat or kitten a second chance in a forever home?



Thomas



Thank You...

Roxanne Meyers, for putting on the Tea Luncheon, Boat Ride, and House Tour fundraiser.

Thank You from all the cats (and dogs!) to **Ellen Schwartz** and the sponsors of
"Dogs on the Catwalk" walkathon:

Bark and Meow
Coastal Valley Water
Iams
Town and Country
Wal-Mart

Chesterton Feed and Garden
Home Depot
Pet Supplies Plus
Westville Family Express
Wiseway

Thanks also to Ann and Renee for making lunch for the humans at the dog walk.



Sponsor-A-Cat!

from your Spokescat, Autumn



Autumn, your Sponsor-A-Cat spokescat

VACATION TIME IS HERE. You're busy looking for fun projects for the summer. Have you given any thought to sponsoring a cat living at the Independent Cat Society?

You and the kids can have fun "adding" a member to your family, not just for the summer, but all year long. You can even visit and play with your cat! What a great way to spend some of your free time! Your family will receive a small biography about the cat and a photo to display on a shelf, desk or the fridge. Hurry, enjoy a new project now. Sign up today!



Diamonds are a Cat's Best Friend!

Raffle Announcement:

A gorgeous diamond necklace appraised at \$900 has been donated to ICS and will be raffled to benefit ICS.

More information coming soon!



Yes! I want to 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**





Memorials...

from 2/1/07 to 5/25/07

In Memory of –

TC *from Sandy Robelia*

Selena *from Elizabeth Davis*

Hamie *from Laura DeSousa*

Julie Gott *from Jerry Gott*

Holly Berry, my little black feral who came inside and stole my heart. I lost you too soon. Scooter, a sweet dog. Leonard, a friend. *From Charlene Kirschsieper*

Holly Berry and Daisy Jane *from Maryjean and Donald Reid*

Jean Gerometta and The Cat Lady Margaret Lazar *from Joyce Bistransky*

Andy and Barney *from Ralph and Lorraine Heavilin*

Presley, thank you for your love and trust. I miss you. *From Sanya Dowling*

Our cousin Bill Pfeifer *from the Chris Pfeifer family*

Dorothy Wienice *from Karen Flaherty*

Gina Gerometta *from Patricia Keane*

Cynthia Law *from Jean Law*

Growltiger and Cheeseball *from Karen Depirro*

Angela Alberti *from Walter Alberti, Jr.*

Gracie LaDonne *from Gerald LaDonne*

Honey *from Nathalie Pennington*

Jean Gerometta and Peter Stachowski *from Jane Stachowski*

Mary Kelley *from Polly Liebig*

Sunshine, my sister's cat, who died after a long battle with stomach cancer *from Dr. Judy L. Lyzak*

Oreo, who passed away at age 16, the day before Thanksgiving. I used to tell him, in all his years he never did anything wrong! He was purely a "perfect cat." *From Pam Vrablic*

Warren Wegener *from Hannelore Weber and Karen Jo Appleby*

Dr. Carolyn M. Rawlins, she was an exceptional physician and also a devoted cat lover *from John and Sue Hodson*

Rose Williams, she and her family loved cats *from B. Stewart and Veronica Lewis*

Batman, my beloved, sweet, adorable, beautiful 9-month old kitten. He's in heaven now and I miss him terribly. *From Susan Nolan*

Wanda Rayse *from her daughter*

Cardlee A. Gagliardi *from Nathan Gagliardi*

Barbara Gunn *from Jason Griffith*

Gail Patrik *from Lisa Pavlopoulos, Duneland Weaver's Guild*

Oreo *from Roberta Killion Newton*

Rose Williams *from Pamela Vrablic*

Michael Minard *from Mattie Minard*

My beloved Mendy. She was 13 years old and a faithful companion. *From Sally Benson*

Alex *from the Tompkins' kitties*

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



Tributes...

from 2/1/07 to 5/15/07

In Honor of –

Barb Caruso *from James Schad*

Polly Liebig's birthday *from Diane Thalmann*

Aldona Priede's birthday *from S. Casolare*

Shawn Hutchens, Forrest Hutchens, Zachariah Hutchens, Julie Dull, Kimberly Dull *from Keith and Josephine Arnold*

Michele Bridge's birthday *from Natasha and Nicole Albrecht*





Independent Cat Society
 PO Box 735
 Westville, IN 46391

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 Organization
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Don't miss these events!

- **Popcorn Fest**
September 8, ICS Booth, downtown Valparaiso
- **ICS 30th Anniversary Gala**
September 14, Strongbow Inn in Valparaiso
- **Annual Fall Yard Sale**
September 29 & 30, at the ICS Shelter
- **Holiday Open House**
December 8 & 9, at the ICS Shelter

Visit us on the web at www.catsociety.org
 and sign up for automated news updates



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., PO Box 735, Westville, IN 46391