



Mewsletter

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

Spring 2007

Dynamic Duos! *Two Happy Tails*

Some cats were just meant to spend their lives together.

by Beverly Overmyer

Two furry youngsters tumble around together, then curl up in a basket for a nap, their black and white coats blending together like the Chinese yin-yang symbol for “all that comes to be.” Litter mates stick together grooming each other and sleeping together when they’re moved to the kitten room from their foster home. Sometimes the cat histories at the shelter suggest that certain cats be adopted together.

“There is an obvious bond between certain pair of cats,” says Marti Rukavina, a member of the cat care committee at ICS. Robo and Dipstick, the black and white cats, became buddies when they were roommates in Sing Sing. Woody and Daniel were put together as orphan kittens to give them a companion and partner to help each other develop. “It would be sad to separate them. There are documented situations that show animals grieve when separated from human and animal companions,” Marti added.

When these “partners” are adopted together, it’s a win-win situation for the cats and their new family. The cats make a smoother adjustment to their new home, easing the stress to both cats and humans.

Jamie Henry and her husband Clint fell in love with a black-and-white young cat named Giovanni the moment they saw him. The couple had two cats at home and were not sure one more would fit in well, but they couldn’t get Giovanni out of their minds and hearts. Volunteers and employees who were familiar with the cats said that Giovanni and his orange brother Hurley were closely bonded and should be adopted together. The brothers came to the shelter with 14 other cats and had developed a close bond with each other.

“I studied articles about adding a new cat to your household,” Jamie said. “I was very nervous about adding two more cats to our family. I couldn’t stop thinking about Gio and when I went to visit him, I watched his brother Hurley. He seemed more playful and like a bit of a troublemaker. I was afraid Hurley’s claws could hurt the other cats when he played. After a couple of months, I heard that the adoption committee was considering adopting Gio out by himself. I just couldn’t see the boys separated,” she said.



Giovanni



Hurley

See *Dynamic Duos*, page 5...

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Got what it takes?

Foster Care chairperson position open

If you are seeking a way to make a difference in the lives of cats in need this is your chance! Have you wondered who cares for the stray cat with the broken leg or the mom cat with kittens found in an abandoned house? The answer is dedicated caring people who temporarily shelter them while they heal or give them time to grow in a safe and loving environment. The Independent Cat Society’s Foster Care Program needs a Chairperson or Chairpersons.

This position is best shared by two persons acting as co-chairs. This is a very rewarding opportunity to assist animals in need of care. These are animals who cannot be

See *Got what it takes?*, page 4...

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

Recording Secretary:
Meribeth Swartz

Corresponding Secretary:
Beverly Overmyer

Treasurer:
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Board Members:
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Joan Hildebrand

Calendar of Events

April

Yard, Plant, and Used Book Sale

April 28 & 29

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

May

Be Kind to Animals Fundraiser

May 5

Porter County Expo Center, Valparaiso

Dog Walk-a-Thon

May 19

Bluhm County Park, Westville

June

Luncheon Tea, House Tour, and Boat Ride

June 2 & 3

Lakes of the Four Seasons

Summer Open House

June 9 & 10

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

September

ICS 30th Anniversary Gala

September 14

Strongbow Inn Banquet Center, Valparaiso

October

Annual Fall Yard Sale

October 6 & 7

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



President's Message

The year 2007 marks our 30th anniversary, and for a while last fall we wondered if it would be a year of celebration or the year we went under. Just saying "Thank You" to all of you for the overwhelmingly generous response to our appeal letter doesn't even begin to express our gratitude and relief. Thanks to you, our debts have been paid and we were able to start the New Year in the black!

I'm not ashamed to admit that I cried when it became clear that the donations were rolling in and that the crisis was behind us. Not only that, but your generosity was a clear message that we are not alone in our mission, that there are many people out there who believe in the importance of maintaining a place dedicated to providing safe haven for those cats who so desperately need us. To all of you, from those who gave five dollars to those who gave a lot more: we want all of you to know that we do not take our responsibility lightly or your support for granted. Our plan now is to do our level best to keep the same situation from happening again.

On a short term basis, this means that we need to install better security so we can have more control over the numbers coming into our shelter. As much as we wish we could accept every cat who needed help, this is just not possible. Last year's kitten season is just wrapping up, and all too soon the 2007 kittens will start appearing. We also plan to keep expenses down by continuing to ask for food and litter donations (see Wish List); this makes a big difference. It was absolutely amazing to see your response to our need. The weekend after the word went out, so many people came to help that the shelter reminded me of the last scene in "It's a Wonderful Life"!

There will be a number of new and exciting fundraisers this year, and we are working on several grant proposals as well. The long term solution is for all owners to spay or neuter their cats, so we are working even harder to spread the word about the overpopulation problem and to provide assistance for low income persons. Make no mistake about it though: by far our greatest source of income is your donations. Our commitment to you is to be good stewards as we partner with you to make sure the Independent Cat Society is here to provide for cats for at least the next 30 years. Please come visit to see for yourself the results of your generosity; the cats and kittens would love to thank you personally!

With all of our sincere thanks, *Cate Amador*

Volunteers needed!

Do you have an evening to spare? Do you love cats? The Independent Cat Society could use helping hands to assist the evening medicating staff. This would include helping with special feedings, doing laundry, grooming and general cat care duties with the potential to learn basic medication procedures. You'll meet some fabulous felines and have the opportunity to provide much needed care. It is a chance to make a difference for every cat you meet.

If you are interested in helping our wonderful cats please contact us at 219-785-4936 and leave your name and phone number, or stop in on Saturday from 10 am – 4 pm and Sunday from 1 – 4 pm. The shelter is located in Westville, Indiana. Volunteer applications may be downloaded from the shelter website: www.catsociety.org

Coming Soon!

SPRING SALE-A-THON!

April, 28th and 29th at the shelter

Used Books! • Plants!

Plus lots of Trash and Treasure and the Cool Cat Cafe!

Please bring your gently used books and used items (no clothes, please) to the shelter on Friday the 27th before 3pm.

Plants are also needed; please label them.

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

Stamps
Copy paper
Pens
Sticky Notes
File folders
Scotch tape
Scissors
Highlighter pens

Cleaning Supplies

Bleach
Laundry soap
Dish soap
Toilet paper
Paper plates
30 gallon trash bags
Kleenex

Medical Supplies

Cotton balls
Cotton swabs
Bandages

Building and Grounds

Gravel for the parking lot
Tub and enclosure
16 x 20 1 inch fiberglass furnace filters
Aire Bear furnace filters
Morton rust remover water softener pellets (green bag)

Other

Building and Grounds
Gravel for the parking lot
Hard cat food, no dyes
Ground Friskies or Fancy Feast
Tall cat trees
Deep litter boxes
Litter scoops
Microwaveable heating disks
Scrip (gift cards) for Home Depot, Menards, or Lowes
Plastic bags that seal (Ziplock)
Large, empty jars with lids (the kind pretzels cone in, suitable for donation jars)

Special Services

Plumber
Carpenter
Handyperson
Electrician
Someone with good knitting skills

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



Please join us for an Afternoon Luncheon/Tea

Tour of Custom-built Drake Home and Boat Ride on Bass Lake in LOFS

Saturday & Sunday, June 2 & 3, 2007

12 noon • \$35.00/person (non-refundable)

Hats are encouraged!

This unique event is being totally underwritten by Roxanne Myers of Lakes of the Four Seasons. All proceeds will benefit ICS.

Only 30 people can be accommodated each day.

Send your check, made payable to the Independent Cat Society, before May 25th to:

ICS Luncheon/Tea, P. O. Box 735, Westville, IN 46391

Please indicate which date you prefer and include your telephone number. A detailed map will be sent to attendees.

Rain dates: June 9 & 10. For more info please call 219/988-3441.

Mark your calendars for

ICS's 30th Anniversary Gala



Friday evening, September 14th at Strongbow Inn in Valparaiso

More info coming later!

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 2006

INCOME

Adoptions	\$10,455
Assisted Spay/Neuter Program.....	10,045
Building Fund	135
Donations - General	102,753
Donations - Memorials/Tributes	3,898
Eagle Pack Food Sales.....	3,029
Fundraisers Merchandise	10,390
Grants	3,300
Membership	6,937
Other	14,891
Sponsor a Cat Program	24,438
	\$190,271

EXPENSES.....

Advertising.....	\$209
Assisted Spay/Neuter Program.....	9,111
Building (garbage & security)	2,127
Food	26,436
Fundraisers Merchandise	744
Insurance	1,551
Litter	4,464
Loan Repayment	4,303
Meds	4,825
Miscellaneous.....	1,799
Newsletter	10,809
Payroll	37,735
Payroll Taxes	9,410
Postage	1,474
Printing/Copying	2,811
Sales Tax.....	254
Sponsor a Cat Program.....	162
Supplies	1,975
Utilities.....	4,209
Veterinary Medical Care	59,659
	\$184,067

(subject to audit)

Got what it takes? continued from page 1...

adequately cared for in the shelter. The spring and summer are the busiest times because of the large volume of females with kittens in need of temporary housing.

The responsibilities of the position include:

- Screen / evaluate potential foster homes
- Placing cats in appropriate homes, fill out contracts
- Temporary fosters: orphans, pregnant cats, mother cats with kittens, cats recovering from surgeries
- Permanent fosters: elderly cats, disabled cats
- Establish and maintain records,
- Schedule vaccines, wormings, flea treatments, etc.
- Schedule Spay / Neuter appointments with participating veterinarians
- Provide vet care forms, medical supplies
- Schedule fosters returning to the shelter for adoption

We are fortunate to have several experienced foster caregivers who are familiar with the established Independent Cat Society foster program. Much of the work may be accomplished via email or phone. This is an opportunity to become experienced in general cat care procedures, such as administering routine vaccines and medications if desired, but it is not a necessary qualification.

Please leave a message at the shelter, 219-785-4936 if you would like more detailed information.





Catty Comments

Notes on life at the shelter by Orphan Annie

Orphan Annie

Allow me to introduce myself. My name is Orphan Annie (aka Annie Banany). I am known around the shelter for some reason as a busybody. Just because I enjoy sneaking out of Nook and visiting my friends in other rooms. Puh-leeze! I'm just social. At any rate, I have agreed to write a column with news (gossip is such an ugly word) I have picked up around the shelter. Hope you enjoy it, and feel free to email me at mewsletter@hotmail.com if there is somebody you want me to investigate, I mean update everybody on.

Some Appealing News

The big news is that that famous and handsome **Clooney** is fully recovered and will be making his permanent home at **Sandy Robelia's**. He and **Spencer**, the brave blind kitty, are best of friends and now will be family. Also favorites from more recent appeal letters, lovely **Fiona** and cute little **Bogie** have been adopted. Bogie was lucky enough to be adopted with his sister **Lauren**. Congratulations to all!

Yes, They Did Have Work Done

Ally in Sing-Sing wants to address the rumors that she has had cosmetic surgery. She wants everyone to know that a partial tail removal was needed due to an injury she came to the shelter with. Her surgeon was **Dr. Evans** at Vale Park, and she did a wonderful job. **Ally** had nothing lifted, she really is very young. We think that she looks fabulous with her new faux Manx look, don't you?

This just in: I got it from a confidential source that **Elliot**, the tuxedo-wearing Persian with the bad sinuses, recently had a nose job and is now recovering in an undisclosed location. I'll "nose" around and let you know how it turned out.



Ally

Movin' On Up

The sad loss of **Lucky** left a vacancy in the job of laundry supervisor, but now that vacancy has been filled by two good-looking redheads, **Valle** and **Craig**. They're doing a fine job, and we know Lucky is proud, and watching from a warm cloud of heavenly towels.... And that's the **SCOOP** for now!

3 ways to help ICS for free!

GoodSearch.com is a new search engine that donates half its revenue, about a penny per search, to the charities you 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

Did you know that the Independent Cat Society can earn a penny every time you search the internet?

www.cashforcritters.com for a listing of what is and is not accepted. In general, no Epson cartridges, ones that have already been recycled, or ones with clear or grey bodies.

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

Dynamic Duos continued from page 1...



Giovanni & Hurler

"We brought them home and followed the guidelines for introducing them to the girls. It's been a long process, but I respect why these boys couldn't be separated. They love each other and are not found far from each other – hanging out, sleeping, grooming each other, playing chase and wrestling together. Even though they have distinct personalities, they act like one cat. I can't imagine them anywhere else but with us and any other place but together."

There are many pairs of cats at the shelter

that would benefit by being adopted together – a mother cat very protective of her runt baby, senior cats that have lived their lives together returned after their owners died, shy cats that have one buddy in their room, and our FIV cats.

Then there are cats like Bianca, Patches, and Molly who would be happiest in a home where they're the only pet. They make wonderful companions, too.

Our cats are all dear to us and we try our best to get the very best homes for each one.



Dogs on the Catwalk!

Our First-Ever Dog Walk-a-Thon

May 19th, 10 am – 3 pm
at Bluhm Park in Westville

Fun for all species!

Adoptions! • Refreshments! • Face Painting!

Pledge sheets available at the Shelter
and at www.catsociety.org



Thank You...

There have been some questions asked about how we decide who to acknowledge in this section of the Mewsletter, and this prompted a discussion by the Board of Directors. It was decided that the only fair way was to publicly thank all donors in the first issue of the New Year, starting in 2008. In this way, we make it clear how deeply we appreciate everybody who has been a part of helping us care for the cats during the previous year. We will continue to send personal thank you notes soon after each donation. The "Thank You" section of the Mewsletter will be used to recognize businesses or foundations who have made contributions. We want everybody to know that we are deeply grateful for every gift we receive.

*We are very grateful to the **John. W. Anderson Foundation** for their generous grant of \$2000 to help with out vet bills.*

*Our deepest thanks also to **Walmart** for their matching grant of \$1000 for our yard sale.*

We'd like to take this opportunity to thank some of the people who helped to make our Open Your Hearts Fundraiser a success:

Eileen Bornstein for her assistance.

Chief of Ogden Dunes Fire Station for use of the community center.

Nancy Satterlee of Lifestyles and Bark 'n' Meow for items donated for the raffle.

Mezza Restaurant for gift certificate for raffle.

Pat's Ice Cream Parlor for gift certificates.

To everyone who brought donations of food, litter, toys, and paper products to the Fire Station.

And again, to everyone who helped in so many ways with our financial situation in December. We would not be here without you.



Sponsor-A-Cat! *from your Spokescat, Autumn*

Hi! It's Autumn, your resident Spokescat, relaxing in my nice warm bed and thinking about the recent holiday season. It was such a festive occasion for my friends who have sponsors. They received cards, donations, visits, treats and toys! Quite a few residents received the gift of love – they became sponsored cats as gifts for Christmas!

And then I got to thinking, "What about people giving a sponsorship throughout the year, not just on Christmas?" We make

great gifts for your animal loving friends. Even more exciting, "What if our sponsors remembered our birthdays and we could celebrate all year long?"

While a home does top all of our wish lists, we sure would enjoy celebrating ALL year long – a friend to love us, visit us, send treats and toys...a guy can dream!

Maybe, with your help, my dreams will come true. Please consider becoming a sponsor or give a gift today!



Autumn, the new Sponsor-A-Cat spokescat



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 10/25/06 to 1/25/07

In Memory of –

Nancy Logmann *from Melvin and Donna Novak*

My beloved Jill *from Roberta Newton*

Lois Nayder *from Gerald and Deborah Benson, Kenneth and Jeanne Vesely*

Angel and Misty *from Donald and Rosemary Fanning*

Shelly, a loving and faithful companion *from Charlene Kirschsieper*

Alice M. Condo *from Patricia Massette*

Two of our cats, Krisan and Heather, who passed over the Rainbow Bridge in 1996 and 2005. They are so missed.

From Thomas and Kathleen Heath

Alice B. Krum *from Tom and Kathleen Krum*

Jean Gerometta *from Vencil and Janet Schultz*

Wuffy who wrapped his paw around my finger every night before he died at age 18 *from Angela Johnson*

Michael Minard *from Mattie Minard*

Ann Anderson *from Donald Anderson DDS*

Julie Grott *from Laura Mellen*

Our dear Boo *from Judith Cieslak*

My wife Lois, a long time supporter of ICS *from Robert Nayder*

Charlie *from Joan Helms*

My handsome cat Harold Lee, still loved and missed every day *from Elwira McEwan*

Our son Mark Bevil and all my beloved kitties who have crossed over the Rainbow Bridge *from Lucille Bevil*

Shelley, October 2006, 18 years old *from Donald and Maryjean Reid*

Dorothy Wienke *from Thomas and Karen Flaberty*

Irma Wetmore *from Marsha Wetmore*

China *from Laura DeSousa*

Spanky *from Christa Emerson*

Rodney Porent *from Lynda Fowler*

June Garzella and Casimire Glinski – both of whom loved animals dearly *from Marilyn Garzella*

Kong *from Ruth Claus-Wilke*

Jack Czarny and all our four-legged furry family *from Joan Czarny*

Marvin and Violet Forsythe *from Margaret Smith*

Andy and Barney *from Ralph and Lorraine Heavilin*

Carolee A. Gagliardi *from her husband, Nathan G. Gagliardi*

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



Tributes...

In Honor of –

Helen — Happy Birthday *from Edward and Jacqueline Sliwa*

Michael Moss' birthday *from Joanne Sellis*

Ralph and Lorraine Heavilin for Christmas *from William and Lore Heavilin*

Joyce Tomerlin for Christmas *from Carol Tomerlin*

Melinda and Jim Emerson *from Christa Emerson*

Mary and Jim Dimitri – Merry Christmas and Happy New Year *from Angela Lodics*

Louise Vale for Christmas *from Richard and Debra Deutsch*

Viki Lauerman *from Larry and Susann Gillham*

Carol Tomerlin for Christmas *from Joyce Tomerlin*





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!

- **Yard, Plant, and Used Book Sale**
 April 28 & 29 at the ICS Shelter
- **Be Kind to Animals fundraiser**
 May 5, Porter County Expo Center
- **Dog Walk-a-Thon**
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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., PO Box 735, Westville, IN 46391