

Mewsletter

For the friends of the Independent Cat Society, a no-kill cat shelter Spring 2006

American Association of Retired Purr-sons

Our own AARP

In many cultures, around the world, the older members of a family are honored, looked up to, and considered the "wise ones", but with animals it seems to be just the opposite at times: cast-offs, the "unwanted", and disposable. For us at the Independent Cat Society, when we hear those words, it hits a nerve!

We feel that an older cat is a diamond in the rough. The most gentle souls with unconditional love. Many of our seniors have been here almost all of their 9 lives. Others were originally I.C.S. cats that were returned due to the death of their owners or other unforeseen circumstances. They are very often overlooked for adoption just because they are not "kittens".

But if people would look just a little closer, oh what they would see. There is a kitten inside! With all their wonderful purr-personalities, and kitten playfulness and loving hearts, they crave attention, a little brushing and cat-nip!



Levi, above and Donna, below

See *AARP*, page 6...

Purrfect Partners is a win-win solution

Seniors can partner with senior or special needs cats for the benefit of both!

The health and emotional benefits of pets are well-documented, yet many seniors don't feel that they can share their homes with a pet. Some

are worried about who will care for the pet in the event that they can't, and others may not be able to transport them to the vet when needed.

- Participants can choose their Purrfect Partner from a book of available cats.

See *Purrfect Partners*, page 5...



Our older and special needs cats yearn for a warm lap and a human to cuddle but many may never have that chance.

Though they are often calm and loving, most people looking to adopt are interested in kittens or younger cats.

The Independent Cat Society has a win-win solution—seniors can partner with senior or special needs cats for the benefit of both!

Here's how it works:

- ICS will place a Purrfect Partner cat in permanent foster care with qualified seniors at no cost.

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

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

web:

www.catsociety.org

email:

newsletter@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:

Linda Moore

Corresponding Secretary:

Beverly Overmyer

Treasurer:

Carol Albrecht

Board Members:

Diana Vollmer

Kerry Wolfus

Gale Carmona

Joan Hildebrand

Calendar of Events

June

Kitten Shower

Saturday, June 10, 2006 — 10 am to 4 pm

Sunday, June 11, 2006 — 1 pm to 4 pm

ICS Shelter, Route 6 and County Line Road, Westville

- Free Refreshments
- Spring Plant Sale
- Bake Sale
- Cat crafts, toys, handmade beds and homegrown catnip for sale

Winner of Bike Raffle will be announced on Sunday at 4 pm

Shop and Share Days at Jewel/OSCO

June 26 – 28

Shop on one of these special days with a coupon and

ICS will receive 5 percent of your purchases.

Shop and Share coupons available at the shelter.

Independent Cat Society, Inc.

2005 Income/Expense Report

Income		Budget
Adoptions	6,490.00	5,000.00
Building Fund	-	-
Donations	66,921.75	70,000.00
Grants, Corporate Gifts	4,000.00	5,000.00
Asst'd Spay/Neuter	9,025.00	5,000.00
Memberships	4,505.00	5,000.00
Non-taxable Sales	6,242.81	5,000.00
Taxable Sales	579.89	500.00
Other Income	11,391.88	5,000.00
Pledges	-	500.00
Resale Eagle Pak	2,771.90	5,000.00
Sponsor-a-Cat	21,028.00	19,000.00
Willed Benevolence	-	-
Total Income	\$132,956.23	125,000.00
Expense		
Advertising/recruiting	(120.05)	(1,000.00)
Building & Property	(4,553.45)	(2,500.00)
Food	(10,385.36)	(8,500.00)
Food/Litter (Eagle Pak)	(8,349.13)	(9,000.00)
Financial Fees	(176.83)	(200.00)
General Supplies	(1,079.86)	(2,000.00)
Miscellaneous Expense	(2,681.51)	(3,000.00)
Meds	(10,197.32)	(5,800.00)
Utilities	(3,676.59)	(3,000.00)
Payroll	(34,084.58)	(35,000.00)
Payroll Taxes	(7,499.81)	(8,000.00)
Printing/Postage	(6,372.56)	(6,500.00)
Sponsor-a-Cat	(36.00)	(500.00)
Veterinarians/Medical	(28,959.80)	(40,000.00)
Total Expenses	\$(118,172.85)	(125,000.00)
Net Surplus/(deficit)	\$14,783.38	-

President's Message

New beginnings and old friends— these are the themes of our Spring Newsletter. You may have noticed our new logo; we hope you like it. Our well-loved little black cat is retiring from full-time logo duty, but will definitely remain a presence.

We are also introducing our **Purrfect Partners** program, which we are hoping will place some of our wonderful older cats who have been waiting so patiently for so long, with human seniors, thus enriching the lives of both. We have tons of ideas and loads of hope, but we could use many more hands to make them a reality. Please consider this a cordial invitation to join in and get involved! Stop in and visit, give us a call, or e-mail at mewsletter@hotmail.com. Who knows? Maybe you'll meet somebody, feline or human, who will someday be an old friend.

Cate Amador

A New Stage for the Independent Cat Society Endowment Fund Update

by Carol Albrecht, Treasurer

In the last newsletter, we announced our intention to start an endowment fund using the services of Unity Foundation of La Porte County. We would like to thank those who have so generously donated to date:

Vincent and Cathleen Amador • Arbor View Animal Hospital, Inc. • Lisa Brown

Gale Carmona • Tamara Eaton, DDS • Thomas and Karen Flaherty

Jack and Gail Helton • Joan Hildebrand • Edwin and Carol Laprade • Linda Moore

Susan Ogg • Gary and Beverly Overmyer • Robert and Waltraud Smith

Donald and Barbara Thomas • Louise Vale • Kerry Wolfus

However, we have not reached our goal of \$5,000 necessary to start the fund. So, we're again asking for your help. Donations in any amount will be sincerely appreciated.

Please make your check payable to Unity Foundation of La Porte County, indicate ICS in the memo section, and use the reply envelope provided in this newsletter to send it to us. Thank you for your help!

Spay & Neuter Task Force



Toddles, the Spay and Neuter Spokescat

Happy spring to everybody. You know what THAT means, though: kitten season. And too many of them will never live to see their first birthday. We must stop the cycle to stop the suffering. Can you help me do that? Tell everybody you meet who might not know about the importance of spaying and neutering their pets. If they come up with the old "miracle of life" story, suggest that they foster a pregnant cat for a shelter. No excuses.

Thanks to bracelet sales, ICS will be able to offer a limited number of free certificates, in addition to our very reasonably priced assisted spay/neuters. Other options include the **Neuter Scooter (1-866-MOBLVET or www.neuterscooter.com)** or call the shelter for updates. There are still some of those stylish **SPAYING NOT SLAYING** bracelets available if you haven't bought yours yet. **We can do this!**

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 note
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 x20 1 inch fiberglass furnace filters
Aire Bear furnace filters
Morton rust remover water softener pellets (green bag)

Other

Tall cat trees
Deep litter boxes
Litter scoops
Microwaveable heating disks
Scrip (gift cards) for Home Depot, Menards, or Lowes
Plastic bags that seal (such as Ziploc)

Picnic Table

Special Services

Plumber
Carpenter
Handyperson
Electrician

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



Sponsor-A-Cat!

from your Spokescat, Lucky.

This month my Sponsor a Cat message is also **HAPPY TAILS**. Talk about a great program, huh? Read this, Toddlers! Well, so maybe Claudia actually wrote this, but I am certainly her muse. Enjoy!

“A Wonderful Thing Happened to Max”

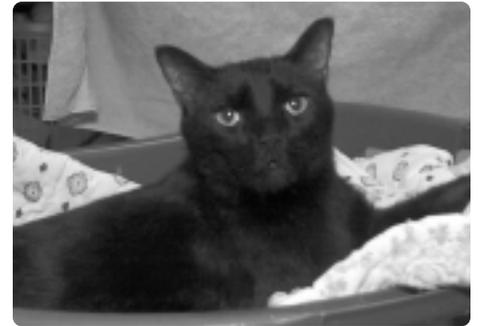
There are so many benefits (for animals and humans) to sponsoring a cat. Of course, the monthly contribution pays for food, shelter and medical care. But the hopes of the ICS staff go even further in their thinking.

The SAC Program can help the sponsored cat find a home. How? There are many shy cats at the shelter. Just maybe a visit from their sponsor and a little “one-on-one” TLC would help them overcome their shyness and they would

become more adoptable. To carry our thinking even further, if the sponsor fell in love, was now able to adopt the cat, or knew someone who might be interested...well, who knows what might happen?

Max knows. Because the “unlikely” happened to him. Max was so shy you never saw him! He was always hiding. When Yvonne Biesen’s sponsored cat was adopted, she received a photo of Max as her new sponsored cat.

Immediately, just looking at his photo, Yvonne fell in love. Max looked just like her mom’s cat, Willow, who had passed away. And, Yvonne had had a dog named Max. She knew that Max was meant for her or her mom. Even when Yvonne and her mom heard how afraid of humans Max was, they were not deterred. They came to meet him and he stretched out his paw in welcome!



Lucky, the Sponsor-A-Cat spokescat

Max now has a room of his own and is trusting more and more. He has his own couch and a window to view the outside world. And he gets lots of attention. Max is doing very well!

Thank you for your continued support and think about visiting with your sponsored cat if you are able. Who knows? You just might fall in love!

Shop Online?

Don't miss this great way to help ICS!



Animals communicate in their own way. Did you know that cats—those lucky characters with the great night vision and tricky hunting tactics—also have more than 100 vocal sounds? But dogs, barkers in protection and play, only have perhaps 10 vocal sounds? If these animals could speak English, don't you wonder what they'd say?

Think of how much money could go to the Independent Cat Society if supporters bought all of their pet products at www.iGive.com, where up to 26% of every purchase is donated to ICS!

At iGive.com, membership is free! So hurry up and visit the Mall at iGive.com, where you can shop at 600+ stores, including CatToys.com, PETSMART.com, Pet Food Direct, and Petco!

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**



Volunteer Focus *Leah Balsham*

By Beverly Overmyer

“Those cats are adorable. Who designed your sweatshirt?”

Many people admire the whimsical circle of felines on my shirt and some even recognize the kitties as an ICS Icon, but most don't know the remarkable artist who created them.

Allergic to the 14 abandoned neighborhood cats she saved as a young woman, Leah Balsham parlayed her love of cats onto many images that are now synonymous with the Independent Cat Society.

Over the years, her education and career took Leah from Chicago around the world and back to Beverly Shores. First a student and then a lecturer and ceramics teacher at the Art Institute of Chicago, Leah has lived, studied, taught, and visited in many foreign countries.

She moved here from Chicago in December of 1972, helped by her Art Institute students who hauled her potters' wheel, kilns, and clay in a truck with a hydraulic lift.

Some artistic creations take years of study and experiment to perfect; others come as an inspiration from an unlikely source.

When she was asked by the ICS board to create a design for shirts, the inspiration for Leah's striped and polka-dot cats came from the Kokeshi dolls that she saw when living in Japan.

“The dolls were about three inches high and had loose heads that gave them a lively look,” Leah said.

When walking her dogs on the beach in Beverly Shores, Leah envisioned making little cats mimicking the Kokeshi dolls. She collected stones for the bodies and heads of her engaging cats. Later, using her experience in ceramics and research in different glazes, she created the “cookie cutter” ceramic cats



One of Leah's "cats"

that are sold at ICS events and grace scores of windowsills and tabletops throughout the region. The finish used on the cats is the same as used in ancient Greece on fifth-century pots called terracogillate.

These cats fill tables in Leah's studio on the first floor of her Beverly Shores home which she shares with her dog Carrie and her cat Carlie. There are getting to be so many, she said, that I keep bumping into them, so I'll have to move them to another building. She remodeled a cement-block cottage to house her finished work.

Leah has volunteered with ICS even before it was reorganized 30 years ago. Her drawings on letters and flyers are familiar to long-time members.

Independent Cat Society wouldn't have been the same without her talents and dedication.

Purrfect Partners continued from page 1...



- ICS will be responsible for all costs associated with veterinary care and transportation to the vet as needed.
- A Purrfect Partner Counselor will come to your home once a month to trim nails and do a health checkup.

Counselors will also be available by phone if there are problems or questions. Should it ever become necessary, the cats will return to the ICS.

Do you or someone you know have a spot on your lap for a good friend just waiting for somebody to love? Give us a call at 219-785-4936 and leave a message for the Purrfect Partners Program Coordinator. Some of the many ways you can help support ICS and its residents: socializing; playing; grooming; cleaning at the shelter; transporting cats to vets; medicating and feeding; fundraising; fostering cats in your home.

For more information on these and other volunteer opportunities, visit the ICS website at www.catsociety.org, or call us at 219-785-4936, or stop by and see us.

**We are proud to
announce the winner
of the 2006 ICS**

Sweetheart ♥ Contest

Hunny!



Ms. Hunny would like to thank everyone who voted, especially those who voted for her. When asked what she was going to do now she said: "I don't really want to go to Disneyworld, but I sure would like to go home with somebody!"

Clooney



Update!

Our own handsome celebrity is still recovering and making great progress. Best of all, we have identified truly special people who will be giving Clooney a home as soon as he is well enough. He has personally visited them, and given his approval. He is very anxious to get well and get moving!

Thanks to everybody's generous donations, as well as all the great publicity we received, as of April 30th, we have received \$5,761 towards his medical bills. This covers the fundraising costs as well as his original bills. We have follow-up treatment to pay for, but there are still donations coming in, and we are hopeful. If we manage to cover all of Clooney's expenses, the remainder will go towards general vet bills.

Again, thank you from all of us to all of you for caring about Clooney.

AARP continued from page 1...

Tammy with her tiny funny smile, Levi who wants to be a scarf around your neck, Morgan with her Calico class and loving head butts, Nicoli, Darrin, Sam and Whitie the strong silent type, and Hannah, Sabrina and Donna with their Betty Davis eyes.

Many of our seniors are in very good health, it is just that they are older. They love visitors and better yet, they would love to come into your heart and home!

Please come by and see our feline family. If you can't give them a home, you can sponsor a cat with a monthly donation of \$10.00 or more. You can also buy toys, beds, or scratching trees. Don't let their golden years pass them by without you! You'll never regret what you will do for them!



New Senior Center Planned

Renovations are long overdue at the shelter, and the first cat room to be renovated will be Playpen, which is home to several of our seniors. We want to outfit it to maximize their comfort and quality of life, as the older the cats get, the harder they are to place. They have a home with us as long as they need it, but these wonderful cats deserve as homelike an environment as possible. Could you help?

Special Wish list for the Senior Center:

Heated disks. (available online or at pet stores) They can be heated up in the microwave and hold warmth safely for hours.

Soft beds. Washable is best. They enjoy the circular ones which are very cozy. Claw-dette's beds would also work very well.

Non-skid rugs. Shorter cat trees Many of our seniors are not as spry as they used to be, and would love some comfortable spots to relax in that are easily accessible. An example would be Item #RB102 at stepsforpets.com. An added advantage of this website is that ICS can get \$2.50 on every sale of cat furniture.

Books or training videos on cat massage. Massage is wonderful for cats, especially seniors with aches, pains, and stiffness. There are many good books available at amazon.com. Training videos are available online at several websites.



Memorials

from 1/1/06 to 4/30/06 In Memory of...

Laurie O'Connor from David and Tina McDowell, Jennifer Prigge, Anderson Dental Center, William and Patricia Hayes, Robin and Mark Hayes, Illiana Yacht Club, Janice Murasowski, National One Design Racing Association

Ellen Peterson from Linda Griffin, Porter Bank, Henry and Gladys Rosa, Frank and Joan Gucciardo

Anne Yagodnik from Ken and Lael Lawn, James and Paula Pavlecich, Arthur and Judith Yagodnik

Elynor Steel from Melvin and Donna Novak

Elaine Chilton's beloved cat Cynthia from Ted Perzanowski and Larry Zimmer

Richard Keane from Patricia Keane

Elaine Torbit's beloved companion cat Elliot from Robert and Nancy Witt, Marti Rukavina

Punkin from Laura DeSousa

My mother, Alberta Dipert. She loved animals, especially cats from Gail Hudson

Gail "Jerry" Gragido from Charlene Kirschsieper

Shadow from Marvin and Barbara Brown

Peggy M. Glutting from Jean Burke,

Darlin' Daisy Jane, our baby girl cat for 17 years. We miss you so much. Wait for us over the Rainbow Bridge from Gene and Charlene Kirschsieper

Lily from Nathalie Pennington

Peggy Getsch from Marcine Todd

Daisy from Kane and Donna Benson

Lizzy McEnany's beloved dog Hannah from Julie Henderson

Daniel D. Inheist from Dr. Jack and Dorie Hires

Misty and Angel from Donald and Rosemary Fanning

Holly, who was adopted from ICS as a kitten from Dr. David and Ann Ludington

Louella Calusa, a woman who truly cared for cats from Alan and Susan Levenhagan

Betty Miller from Barbara and Jim Miller, Sandy Pauley and family

Honey from Nathalie Pennington

Shannon Wild from her husband Mark Wild, William Runkel

Sammy from Gerald and Darlene Brooks

Andy and Barney from Ralph and Lorraine Heavilin

Pixie Rose and Pippy from Genevieve Novak

Crackers Louise who is so deeply missed and who will always be loved from Chris and Tammy Smolen

Our dear cat Smokey from Wayne and Marcia Rhodes

Julia Deffenbaugh from Jo Anne Lohmeyer

In honor of –

Michele Bridges 56th Birthday from Natasha Lee and Nicole Lynn

Marti Rukavina's birthday from Claudia Nay, Sandy Robelia

The doctors and staff who took such good care of my beloved Jake from Jean Miller

Jack Simmerling for painting a portrait of our cats from Charles and Ann Hoch

Lucy from Marie-Danielle Burrus

Michael Mager and Mary Church from Patrick and Karen Hearne

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



Thank you...

We'd like to thank the talented and creative people who designed our great new logo:

Jim and Barb McLemore thru Figment Creative Group.

Jim and Barb are cat lovers (can't you tell?) who donated their time.

*Thanks also to **Laura Waluszko** at FM 105 for all the help in getting Clooney's story out there, and to **Jean Starr** from the Times for her wonderful article.*

*As always, we send our sincere gratitude to **everybody who has donated time and/or money to keep ICS going.** In the truest sense, you ARE the cats' shelter.*





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!*

- **Kitten Shower**
 Saturday, June 10, 2006
 Sunday, June 11, 2006
 ICS Shelter in Westville
- **Shop and Share Days at Jewel/OSCO**
 June 26 – 28

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