

Mewsletter

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

Winter 2008

“Seasoned” cats: *Cream of the Crop!*

BY Beverly Overmyer

Visitors looking for a feline companion most often come through the door at the shelter asking, “Do you have any kittens?”

After reading an article in a Mewsletter, Carol Abshire came to our no-kill shelter asking to see our older or special needs cats. Now years later, she has seven of ICS’s most charming older kitties. And she wouldn’t trade a one of them for even the most fetching little bundle of fur in our kitten rooms.

The Mewsletter article caught Carol’s eye 10 years ago. Written by a senior cat named Calypso T. Cat, with the help of long-time volunteer Paulette Gonzalez, Calypso asked, “Please won’t you stop and see me and my friends? I wish I could be young again, to run really fast, to chase my tail and to jump high in the air. But I’m older now. I can’t put on a show for the humans like the kittens can.”

Carol had moved from Texas with her wolfhounds and needed a special place to house them. A one-of-a-kind house and kennel came on the market that seemed made for Carol and her animals. A huge heated, air-conditioned building with runs and large enclosures had been built by the previous owner who bred monkeys. The kennel is a perfect place to transition the arrivals from shelter living to a home of their own.

Carol visited the shelter many times over the months before she took home Tammy, Michaline, Hannah, Maggie, Gracie, Sunny, Brody, Truman, and Melissa. Each cat has a record book of their own including all the ICS records, adoption papers, and current vet records. Carol also kept notes on her visits with each cat at the shelter before she decided they would benefit from joining her “retirement home.”

“People have many reasons for not adopting an older cat,” Carol said. Some people are concerned that the cat will not be able to adjust after having been in the shelter for so many years. But her



Hannah, adopted by Carol Abshire

experience proves otherwise. “They have all adjusted beautifully in their own ways. They really come out of their shells. I think they know when they have a home of their own and know they’ve been chosen.”

These cats have wisdom and dignity, and personalities, that kittens haven’t developed yet.

Many people who have recently lost beloved companions after many years are reluctant to adopt an older cat for fear of going through the grief of loss so soon again. But we tell them that we can’t guarantee how long any cat, even a kitten, will live. We have lost a few kittens to unusual diseases or sicknesses. All ICS’s older cats are checked

See *Cream of the Crop*, page 11...

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Your vote DOES count in the
2008
Sweetheart Contest
See pages 4 & 5 for Annie’s
complete analysis of the candidates!

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; cardboard cat
carrier; and free follow-up post-
adoption participating vet visit.

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Calendar of Events

March

Dunes Cat Fanciers Championship & Household Pet Cat Show

March 8 & 9

9 - 4, Grand Oak Hall in Woodland Park, Portage

April

ICS 2nd Annual Used Book Sale

April 26 & 27

1150 Lincolnway, Valparaiso

May

ICS Spring Yard Sale

May 17 & 18

At the ICS Shelter, LaPorte/Porter County Line Road

June

ICS Summer Open House

June 7 & 8

At the ICS Shelter, LaPorte/Porter County Line Road

Volunteers Rock!!!

You CAN make a difference!

Call the shelter to see how you can help!

2007 Financial Statement

Expenses	YTD	%	Income	YTD	%
Printing	6,527.39	3.12%	Donations	64,504.30	28.21%
Supplies	7,154.06	3.42%	Newsletter/Donations	20,043.03	8.77%
Food	15,431.23	7.39%	Membership	5,495.00	2.40%
Meds	15,152.27	7.25%	Adoptions	8,938.00	3.91%
Vet	59,380.27	28.42%	S/N	16,241.91	7.10%
Payroll	55,814.80	26.71%	SAC	27,727.03	12.13%
Utilities	5,475.92	2.62%	Memberships/Tributes	7,102.00	3.11%
Building & Equipment	26,486.95	12.68%	Sales - Taxable	3,460.76	1.51%
Property Insurance	630.00	0.30%	Sales - Non-Taxable	2,800.89	1.23%
Liability Insurance	1,042.00	0.50%	Bequest	45,613.38	19.95%
Repay Loan - Int. & Prin.	5,793.99	2.77%	Equity Loan	4,000.00	1.75%
Misc	10,052.06	4.81%	Grants	4,050.00	1.77%
			Fundraisers	18,645.27	8.16%
Total	208,940.94	100.00%	Total	228,621.57	100.00%



President's Message

The concept of gratitude has become a real buzz word lately, and gratitude journals are extremely popular. In a way, this Mewsletter is a gratitude journal for ICS, as this issue marks the first time we have acknowledged all donors for the year. This is long overdue, because without all of you, there would be no Independent Cat Society. Your contributions have done so much this year. You have helped us take care of our cats and find homes for of them, many of whom would have never have had a chance elsewhere. You have helped us hold our building together, which has been no easy task. You have also been part of fighting cruelty and the overwhelming problem of feline overpopulation. For all of these things, we are profoundly grateful.

Please, stop by the shelter and give the cats a chance to thank you purrsonally!

Volunteers: We can't do this without YOU!

An issue focusing on thanks would be remiss to leave out the volunteers, who are crucial to the functioning and future of ICS. The cats totally depend on all those people who do so many different things to keep the shelter operating, and we are extremely grateful for all of their time and effort.

However, we do have a serious problem. Frankly, we have people who do so much that if anything happened to them, we would have a crisis on our hands. There is a solution to this problem, and it might be you! We are in desperate need of people to do the following jobs ASAP:

- **Retrieve messages and return phone calls:** This job could be done by anyone with a phone who could commit to even one evening a month, and can be done from home. It involves returning some calls and passing others on to designated people. You would be trained and given all necessary information.
- **Drop off and pick up cats from the vet:** This job is just what it sounds like. It could be done as you are available, but generally there is a morning run and evening pick up. You could designate what days you could be called.
- **Managing personnel issues:** We very badly need somebody who can assist in hiring staff, as well as setting up training, scheduling, and administration. This would be perfect for someone who has Human Resource or supervisory experience. Time requirements vary depending on the situation, but when you work is somewhat flexible.
- **We also always need people for Adoption Counselors** and to process applications, even if it is only to fill in occasionally. Another ongoing need is **doing laundry**, of course under the watchful (unless they are napping) eyes of Craig and Valle. For a complete list of volunteer opportunities, check out our website at www.catsociety.org or call the shelter at 219-785-4936.



Book Sale ALERT!

We're fast approaching our **Second Annual Used Book Sale**, which will be held on **April 26th and 27th at 1150 Lincolnway in Valparaiso**, also known as the old Valparaiso Tech Institute. Last year's sale was very successful, and we are making some changes this year that we think it will make it even better. We are asking that people bring their books to the site **any time from 9 to 3 on the 24th and 25th**. We regret that we can't take the books until then, but our storage space at the shelter is extremely limited. If you have access to the sturdy boxes with lids that paper comes in, they would also be very helpful. Volunteers are needed on all days, especially the Thursday and Friday before the sale to sort and set up. Those of us who did this last year enjoyed it immensely, and all those who help sort always get first dibs! If you are interested, call the shelter and leave a message for Cate or Beverly.

Wish List

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

Office Supplies

Stamps
Brother toner cartridge TN-350
Various colored **2-pocket folders**, with business card slots

Cleaning Supplies

Bleach
Laundry soap (prefer unscented)
Dish soap
Liquid hand soap
Scotch Brite scrubbies
Toilet paper
Paper plates
Paper towels
30 gallon trash bags
Simple Green cleaner
Shaklee Basic H
& Basic G concentrates

Medical Supplies

Microwaveable heating discs
Hand sanitizer
Specialty foods (Hills Science Diet: AD, KD, WD, ID dry and canned)

Building and Grounds

Aire Bear Furnace filters (20x25x5)
Water softener pellets
10' extension ladder
Gas weed whacker
Heavy duty hedge trimmers
Whole house water filter
16" x 20" x 1" fiberglass furnace filters
Commercial washing machine
Gravel for the parking lot
4' x 8' sheets of plexiglass
One 2' x 8' sheets of plexiglas

Other

Dry cat food, kitten and adult, Prefer Eagle Pack, 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.
Safeguard SG-36D humane traps
Towels
Bathroom-sized rugs (2' x 3')

Special Services

Personnel/human relations person
Carpenters, plumbers
An architect

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



Catty Comments

Notes on life at the shelter by Orphan Annie

Special Election Interviews!!!

A Penthouse View!

If you should come looking for everybody's favorite columnist, I now have my own private penthouse accommodations! While recovering from surgery, I was given this lovely suite to recuperate in.....but then I began to think that a purrson of my stature deserves to keep these upscale digs. So, I had it decorated in lovely pink and purple by my personal assistant **Paulette Gonzalez** and have made it my home. Now don't worry, when the shelter is closed I am still out and about and on the job, getting my nose in the news so I can bring it to you.

Decision 2008

No, I do not mean that tiresome human event. I am talking about the one that really matters, **ICS Sweetheart 2008!** As usual, this year we have several worthy candidates, so to help all of you make your decision, I decided to get down and dirty and find out where they all stand on the important issues.

Annie: Twinky, would you like to respond to the criticism that you are too chubby to win ICS Sweetheart?

Twinky: Well, Annie, you can see I'm the only female in this race, but I'm not the only one who could stand to lose a few pounds. I'm not mentioning any names, but just look around! But somehow it's only Twinky who gets those comments. I'm proud and beautiful the way I am. Just more to love!

Annie: Jacob, we can all see what a looker you are, but is it true that you were a major carouser and have left several litters of kittens in your wake?

Jacob: Annie, I feel that what happened before the neutering should stay before the neutering. I have turned over a new leaf, so let's just focus on the future.

Annie: Stripes, what is your position of catnip abuse?

Stripes: I believe it should be abused as often as possible! Seriously though Annie, remember that catnip is legal, and enjoying a roll in the nip occasionally is a great way to relieve stress.

Annie: Craig, is it true that you used political connections to get the coveted job of Laundry Supervisor?

Craig: It's unfortunate that my opponents spend their time dredging up these ridiculous stories. I'm just a hardworking cat putting in long hours napping on the dryer.

Annie: George, while observing the photo shoot for this contest, I noticed that you were the only cat who actually posed for the camera. I also heard you object when told you were done. Could you be described as somewhat vain?

George: No way! I just really want to win for my cause, which is very important to me. Uh, excuse me; you're blocking my reflection in that plexiglass....

Annie: Prince, your somewhat rugged good looks bear witness to a life on the streets. Do you still enjoy going a few rounds?

Prince: Definitely not! I'm now a lover, not a fighter. You know, after that operation fighting just doesn't seem as interesting somehow.

Annie: "Change" seems to be the buzzword for the humans' in 2008.

I would like to ask all of you: what does "change" mean to you?

Craig, George, Jacob, Prince, Stripes, and Twinky: Change our litter boxes regularly!

Prince: Annie, this is a crucial issue for all cats. All too often we get blamed for "mistakes" when the box was just too disgusting to step in.

Twinky: I have to agree with Prince. The thought of putting my dainty paws in a dirty litter box is revolting!

Stripes: I could not agree more. How would humans like it if they couldn't flush that giant water bowl they use?

Jacob: Dirty litter boxes are a life and death issue for cats. One of the main reasons cats get euthanized is litter box problems, which can usually be prevented.

George: Jacob, I'd like to add that litter box lapses can also be caused by health problems. Your cat might be really sick and need help!

Craig: Cats get returned to the shelter sometimes for missing the box, but it may well not have been their fault. Before you change your family, change the litter!

Annie: It seems unanimous! Moving on: In an unprecedented move, the organizers of the ICS Sweetheart 2008 contest are allowing the winner to designate how the money is spent. So I'm asking each of you, what is your choice and why?

Twinky: Given the weight issue, I would like the money spent on some more really nice tall cat trees. True, many of us are a bit zaftig, but we really don't have much opportunity to work out. More cat trees would be a good start. Also, anyone with about a half hour and a laser light is invited to visit any time!

Craig: As Laundry Supervisor, I understand the importance of keeping the washing machine going, and worry about the power outages we have had. So if elected, I will designate the money to go into the generator fund.

Jacob: Annie, just to show everybody that I am a reformed character, I would like to announce that if I win, the money be put in the Spay/Neuter fund!

Prince: The FIV cats are really crowded, and we really deserve more space since it's harder for us to get adopted. So if I win, I want the money to go towards finding a way to get us some more room. And please, consider one of us for your family. We're all good looking (Hunny was ICS Sweetheart 2005 after all!), although maybe not all as handsome as yours truly of course, but we are all well-known to also have great purrsonalities.

George: Disco is in desperate need of renovation. Let's face it: it really stinks! If I win the Sweetheart 2008 title, the proceeds will all go to makeover our room. And trust me, it will be extreme!

Stripes: I believe that keeping us all well-fed is the most important job that the shelter does. So if enough of you wonderful people give me your votes, the money will be spent on food for everybody!

Annie: Well there you have it. Six great candidates, and may the sweetest cat win! **And that's the scoop for now.**



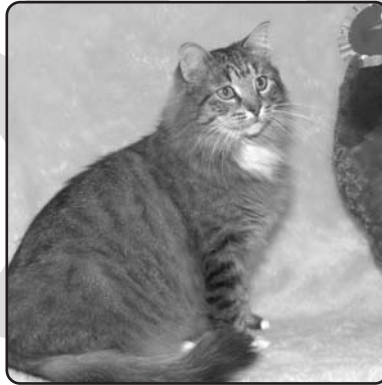
Sweetheart ♥ Contest

We're very proud to introduce the 5th annual ICS Sweethearts Contest! This contest is MUCH more important than that human event that takes place in November! Please vote for the cat you feel is sweetest by sending in a donation in any amount in their name via PayPal or by dropping it off at the shelter, or at the **Open Your Heart Open House** at Ogden Dunes. Voting will continue through February, and the winner announced the first week in March on our website and in the shelter, and will appear in the spring Mewsletter. The competition is intense, so let the sweetest cat win!



Craig

"Gaze deeply into my Golden Eyes of Love...."



George Cooney

"I was voted "World's Sexiest Male" by Cat magazine."



Jacob

"Yeah baby! Yeah!"



Prince

"They don't call me "Prince Charming for nothing!"



Stripes

"I'm always hungry, but especially hungry for your love!"



Twinky

"What could be sweeter than a Twinky?"

LATE BREAKING NEWS!!!

As we go to press, **Catty Comments** has just gotten word that Sweetheart Candidate **Prince** was mysteriously shaved and now resembles some sort of mutant poodle. This shocking development comes in the wake of a major advertising blitz for **Twinky**. Posters have appeared at the shelter with slogans such as "Don't be Stinky, Vote for **Twinky**!" and "Apples, Peaches, Pumpkin Pie, Vote for Me or You Will Make Me Cry!" Questions have been raised as to where she got her funding and who is behind it. According to **Taffy**, Campaign Spokescat for **Twinky**, the advertising is perfectly legal. "**Twinky** is well-known to be such a natural sweetheart that of course people want to support her candidacy." Prince's spokescat, **Hunny** (Sweetheart 2005) wants everyone to focus on his handsome Sweetheart picture, and remember that he is only a few months away from his former splendor. Also "**Prince** believes we should concentrate on the issues, especially his important cause of raising money for the FIV cats." Prince could not be reached for comment. In related news, someone has been floating a rumor that **Stripes** has extensive business dealings with **Chester "The Molester"**, the reputed mob boss from Scruffy's. Developing....

We want to express our heartfelt thanks to all our Donors, who help us keep ICS alive & kickin'!

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Jan Ellen Berger	Donna/David Chlebowski	Cecelia Dillard	Vicki Gall	Crissy Henry	Antoinette M. Kirk	Edwin/Martha Madajczek	Genevieve/Thomas J. Mullins	Leslie M. Perkins
Nancy Dean Berning	Dawn Christman	Heidi I. Dods	Geraldine J. Gallagher	Janet D. Henson	Charlene J. Kirschsieper	Rebecca Mahoney	Judith A. Mullins	Thomas J. Perry
Jean Bernius	Kenneth/Laurilee Christy	Pamela J. Doherty	Eveline E. Gardner	Margaret L. Herman	Kathleen M. Klakoski	Kathleen M. Klakoski	Ilene S. Munson	Donald W. Peters
Mary Louise Bertoluzzi	Judith H. Cieslak	Nancy H. Dollard	Marilynn Garzella	Joan M. Hildebrand	Martha E. Klauer	Estelle L. Marcus	Marlene A. Myers	Judith G. Peters
Lucille F. Beville	Ruth Claus-Wilke	Rudy/Sharron Dombrowski	Mark A. Garzella Sr	Amy Miller Hill	Tina M. Kleppe	Susan Mardis	Roxanne C. Myers	Frank E. Peterson
Marg Beville	Gloria Clay-Mccloud	Kevin L. Donzero	Sherry J Gasparovic	Darrin/Kimberly Hill	Lori Brooks Klima	Marian Colonna Marian	Kenneth L. Nagel	Raymond A. Peterson
Sally/Richard Biel	Eileen Coates	Mike Donzero	Virgil Gassoway, DDS	Brian Hilty	Mary Lou Klipo	William A. Marion, Jr	Roy J. Navardauskas	Roland Petrie
Yvonne A. Biesen	Carolyn Faye Cochran	Ruth E. Dooling	Marcia Gaughan	Diane Hilty	Lorraine Klosinski	Markovich Enterprises, LLC	Lilia R. Navarro	Julie Petrites
David A. Birky	Michelle Cochran	Sanya Dowling	Patricia G. Gault	Hannah Hilzley	Phonzo P. Klutts	Donna M. Marquardt	Robert C. Nayder	Olga Petryszyn
Joyce E. Bistranksky	Treva L. Collignon	J. L. Doyle	Leslie A. Gerson	Stephanie K. Ho	Kathryn E. Koenig	Mary C. Marszalek	Don Neal	Janet L. Petyo
Charles Bocca	Steve T. Collins	Joseph/Jane Dreyovich	Laura Gill	John Hodson	Chris Kopischke	Jean M. Marthaler	Robert/Michelle Negro	T. Pfeifer
Carol J. Bodine	Amber M. Colville	Carol Dudlack	Patricia A. Gillham	Linda Holmes	James/Madelyn Kopko	Agnes Martin	Kim Kindt Neil	Marion Pickarski
Jeanne Bombassaro	Connie J Conjalca	Rosemary F. Dudlack	Rosemary M. Gillham	Homeless Homer Fundraising	Joseph/Monica Korba	W.F./Helen Martin	Tamara S. Nelmar	Howard Picuch
	Susan L. Connors	Kelli Dudley	Sandra Lee Giorgi	Dolores Hood	Gail Koriko	Theresa A. Maryonovich	Eric J. Nelson	Judith Pierce

And continued thanks...

Eugene/Pamela Piette
Michel Piontek
Jean P. Polka
Joan P. Polka
Carole B. Poole
Mary Lynn Poole
Debra S. Porch
Patti L. Press
Nicholas Priester III
Carol M. Prohaska
Christine/L.Douglas Pruitt
Beverly J. Puller
Janet L. Pullins
Pyle & Piontek, LLC
Bonnie L. Rager
Alexander/Jude Rakowski
Elaine Ralston
Diane Ramirez
Marilyn E. Rasmussen
Dolores Rearick
Jean J. Reed
Lorraine Regen
Jennie Rehtorik
MaryJean Reid
Caroline A. Reidel
Veronica A. Remes-Jensen
Linda M. Reynertson
Martha Mosier-Reynolds
Kathleen A. Rich
Jessie A. Richards
Gary P. Richey
Carl/Carolina Riedel
Charles D. Ripperdan
Dorothy A. Ripperdan
Arthur/Sandra Robelia
Brian/Wendy Roseman
Leeanna J. Rosenbaum
Laura Rosenberg
Elsie Roth Mellick
Stanley/Fay Routman
Jean Rudd
Beth J. Rudnick
Robert/Martina Rukavina
Anne Marie Runfola
Carol Rusbasan
Ruth Ann Russell
Alan Rutz
Carol Ruzic
Leona Saberniak
Sharon/William Salava
Norah Salt
Susan M. Sanders
Christopher A. Sapone
Dominic P. Sapone, Jr.
Margery Savur
James C. Schad
D. Loyce Schaefer
Joan Scheidler
Leslie Schmick
Schock
David Schrader
David R. Schroeder
Deborah Schroeder
Ellen G. Schwartz
Steven B. Schwartz
Barbara J. Schwoegler

Kathy Scott
Glenn H. Scoville
Joan M. Seedorf
Joanne Sellis
Norma J. Semanchik
Barbara Sennett
Lenore M. Senovic
Linda R. Sertic
Bonnie Shalapsik
Armida T. Sharpin
Douglas Shearer
Judith D. Shepherd
James Shuey
Celene V. Siedlecki
John J. Simmerling
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Lillian Skalba
Mary Ann Skelnik
Kathleen Slesinski
Joan K. Slotnik
Judy R. Smith
Margaret Smith
Robert D. Smith
Jill A. Smolar
Ray/Maxine Snyder
Helen Soonavec
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Hubert Spencer
Brenda C. Spicer
Anne Spurgeon
Betty J. Spychalski
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Yvonne Startup
Ann K. Stasukaitis
Barbara Ann Staton
David/Beth Steuer
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G. David Stoneburner
Grace B. Stranc-Cummings
Julie Stumpf
Lora E. Sturtridge
Elizabeth Subkowsky
Laura M. Susko
Bradley/Kathleen Sweet
Kathleen M. Sweet
Catherine J. Swisher
Gienia Szawara
Constance J. Szawara
Jill Szawara
Karlyn Szczepkowski
Graceann Tang
Kathy Taylor
Mary C. Teige
Diane E. Terry
Diane L. Thalmann
Rick/Jackie Tharp
Donald L. Thomas
Maxine Thomas
Barbara L. Thompson
Dr. Jack S. Titola
Mary Ann/Ray Tittle
Marilyn N. Tolhuizen
Mary Kay Tomerko

June Tompkins
Shirley Toney
Gay Elaine Torbit
Marge Totty
Sharon K. Trapane
Laura J. Trojnar
James Trout
Robert Tutko
Eugene J. Tylicki
Jo Ann Tylicki
John T. Urbanik
Karen L. Utroske
Louise K. Vale
Matthew J. Vale
Kent W. Vallo
Albert Vargas
Joseph E. Vargo
Hannah Vasquez
Debbie Vazo
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Robert A. Verville
Pamela M. Vrablic
Diane E. Wade
Jean Walter
Britt L. Wanta
Deb Ward
Lorita Warner
Mary Lee Warner
Stan Warner
Marilyn Lee Watkins
Anita M. Way
Albeta Wayte
George/Peggy Webber
Hannelore Weber
Jamie R. Weeks
Eugene Weibl
Paul Wentworth
Theodore B. Were
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Pam Wheeler
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Kimberly K. Williams
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Margaret A. Wiltberger
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Lena Wyller
Ronald R. Wyller
Daniel/Sherry Yagodnik
Michelle Yates
Judith A. Yavitz
Danielle L. Yonker
Ericka M. Young
Richard Young
Karen M. Yzaguirre
Kathleen H. Zamorski
Patricia M. Zborowski
Susan J. Zimmer

To Our Cats:

We can't thank everyone else and leave you out. So many of you have suffered from so much that we can only guess at when we look into your eyes and see the pain and terror. Yet, you give us a chance, after finding that hands can be gentle and voices can be loving. Some of you have been abandoned by people you thought you could depend on, but who let you down. Somehow you allow us to earn your trust and even love again. All of you return our care and attention a thousand fold, giving us the strength to keep on when things get really hard and it would be so much easier to give up. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Thanks to all of these fine businesses who display our collection jars

At Nature's Door
Ark of the Dunes Animal Hospital
Bark and Meow
Boy Conn Printers
Brandy's Lock and Key Service
Jake's Feed and Garden
Morthland Animal Clinic
Portage Animal Clinic
Lifestyles
Pat's Ice Cream Parlor
Pet Supplies Plus
Southlane Veterinary Hospital

*30th Anniversary
Business Partners*

Tabby Cat
Partners, Inc., Clint Henry, Investment Advisor, Merrillville

Tortie Cat
Arbor View Animal Hospital, Valparaiso
Aurelio's Pizza, La Porte
Great Lakes Supply & Chemical, Inc., Michigan City
Jake's Feed & Garden, Valparaiso
Marti's Place at Ramsey's Landing, Hebron
Portage Animal Clinic, Portage
Purrfect Play, Chesterton



ICS TNR Squad Update

by *Connie Szawara*

Since November 2007, the ICS TNR Squad has trapped and altered, or assisted in trapping and altering another 85 cats and kittens. This puts our grand total at **171** since May 2007.

While it was our intention to share with you the fine workings of a drop trap in this issue, we feel the onslaught of this bitter weather warrants a more important topic: **Keeping outdoor cats warm in the winter!**

In our climate, shelter is as important as food to a feral or free-roaming cat. There are shelters you can buy or build, fancy and simple, but the one thing they have in common is a source of insulation. Contrary to common belief, cloth items like blankets, sweaters, etc. do not serve well to insulate the cat, but in fact, can hold moisture and wick temperature away from cat bodies. Straw, on the other hand, is hollow-shafted and serves as an excellent insulator. Even a waterproofed cardboard box filled with straw can serve as a temporary warming center for outdoor cats.

Following are a few websites with detailed plans for homemade cat shelters:

www.neighborhoodcats.org/info/wintershelter.htm

www.alleycat.org/resources_care.html#5

www.feralcatcaretakers.org/Caretaking/FeedStations.html

Once again we want to thank **Dr. Michael Anderson and his staff, Karen, Savanna, Rob, and Maria Maroney of Animal Lovers, Inc.** Their efforts have made possible the Saturday S&N clinics and we **appreciate every snip!** We look forward to the opening of his new clinic in St. Joseph, Michigan sometime this month. We firmly believe that only by collaborative efforts such as ours can we hope to make a difference in the stray and feral cat population, and ultimately reduce the number of unwanted and homeless companion animals.

I want also to thank those who help me in the trenches: **Bridget and Dave Cadwell, Susan Kieffer, Cindee Goetz, Heather Melnyk, Joan Dipert, Kim Hauber, Beth Rudnick, Gienia Szawara, and KR Johnson.** The generous use of their time, space, and energy helped us get those 171 cats "done." Also enormous thanks to those who sent traps! Keep 'em coming!

We are in particularly need of someone to help coordinate TNR activities for Porter County, so if you are interested in being a part of this **progressive movement**, please call the shelter and leave a message for Connie or Bridget!



Thank You...

Our grateful appreciation to the **John W. Anderson Foundation** for their generous grant of \$2000 towards our veterinary expenses.

Thanks also to **PETCO** for a \$500 grant towards general operating expenses.

We were really lucky to have **Vale Park Animal Hospital** share their time and expertise with us for the **United Way Day of Caring**. Thank you so much!

Thank you to **Mrs. Taylor and her students from St. Paul's Catholic School** who collected lots of food and supplies for the cats. This project was undertaken in memory of **Darlene Pearson**, the mother-in-law of the Principal, Anne Pearson.

Deacon Malcolm Lundsford from **SS Peter and Paul Catholic Church** blessed us and our cats by presiding over our Pet Blessing.

We are very grateful to **Denny Brandy, of Brandy's Lock and Key Service** who more than once has come to our rescue and fixed our locks.

Thanks to **Doug Boudreau and Nate Gonzales** for helping to set up our new cages.

Thanks also go out to **Chris McLaughlin** for picking up and delivering our cat food and litter supply.

Louise Vale and Sherry Irvine make our kitties comfortable with blankets and custom made cage pads, and they appreciate it greatly, and so do we.

Thanks to **John Coulter** for so graciously snowplowing our parking lot.

Thank you very much to **William Shultz** for handcrafting the most wonderful cat condos and cat trees.

Low-Cost Spay & Neuter options

Here to Spay Veterinary Services, Dr. Michael Anderson
Low-cost S&N and wellness clinic, opening soon in St. Joseph, Michigan

Animal Lovers, Inc.

provides pet transport for those on public assistance to PAWS – call (269) 756-9271

Neuter Scooter – www.neuterscooter.com

ICS Assisted Spay and Neuter voucher – call the shelter for details

NAWS Low Cost Animal Clinic, Mokena, Illinois – call (708) 478-5102

PAWS Chicago's Lurie Family S&N Clinic, Chicago, Illinois – call (773) 521-7729

Pet Neutering & Adoption Services, DeMotte, Indiana – call (219) 987-7297



www.petneutering.com

Pet Neutering and Adoption Services started in 1993 by a woman who saw the need in our community to help spay/neuter so many unwanted cats & dogs. The goal was to help provide low cost spay/neuter assistance for people who needed financial help with the costs of owning a pet.

Fourteen years later we have fourteen veterinarians who participate in our low cost spay/neuter program, and as of October of 2006 we have helped over 4,000 families spay & neuter their pets.

A list of participating veterinarians can be found on our web site (www.petneutering.com).

People who are on limited income can call Pet Neutering & Adoption Services at **(219) 987-7297** to obtain the required application for assistance. Upon receipt & approval of this application, the prices for spaying & neutering will be \$15 for a cat, & \$20 for a dog. (These prices do not cover vaccinations.)





Memorials...

from 9/14/07 to 12/31/07

In Memory of —

Elizabeth Clark-Hobbs from the Grasha Family

Shanda, an "old lady" sadly missed, from Patricia Carlisle

My wife **Grace LaDonne** from Gerald LeDonne

My son **Michael Minard** from Mattie Minard

Andy and Barney from Ralph and Lorraine Heavilin

Quinn from Diane Thalman

Karen M. Hayes from her sisters Hannelore Weber and Karen Jo Appleby

Our beautiful, peaceful **Missy**, adopted from ICS in 1999 and died at age 16, from Dan and Naomi Goodman

Mike Saffa from Roxanne Myers and Grace E. Carriere

Persiphenne, owned by Krystyna Larson, from Dr. Jack Titola

Desi, the adored cat of Larry and Sherry Wronka, from Fay and Stan Routman

Merlin, 1991-2007, from Jo Anne Lohmeyer

Charlotte Griffith, faithful member of the Griffith family, from Connie Conjalka

Kenneth Funke from Judith Nelson, Carole Funke, and Boots

Melvin Tracht from Mildred Tracht

John Van Woerden and **Chuck Heavilin** from Ken and Laurilee Christy

Katie Flaherty from Karen Flaherty

Ron Wyller from Monica Kempf, Mary William, Lena Wyller, Albanese Confectionery Group, Inc., Beth Childress, and Kathleen Astrologenes

My parents, **Marvin and Violet Forsythe**, for the all the years they supported ICS, for all the homeless kitties they fed on their porch, and all the kitties they took into their home, loved and spoiled, from Pamela Vrablic

My wife **Julie Grott** from Gerald Grott

Joey, a most loving cat, from Pearl Mellenthin

Penny Bartholomew from Charles Bartholomew

Marian Mariam from Juanita Bason for Custom Copies, Inc.

Lois Nayder from Robert Nayder

Frank Gucciardo from Jim and Julie Petrites; Joe, Whitney & Jenna Wagner, Helen Wagner; Patricia Eiche; and Charles Mazlack

Tisha (Teddy Girl), who died 2/16/07 at age 21.5, from Margie Smith and Lori Falk

Our beloved **Tigger**, who passed away on 12/8/07 at age 19, from Dominic and Chris Sapone

My beloved **P.J.** from Elaine Krauss

Fatty, Fraidy and Darryl from Pamela O'Boyle

Tess from Sally and Richard Biel

In Memory of Diana Vollmer Jaspersen

James Jaspersen

Don and Sherry Yogodnik

Jessie Richards

Marcia Flick

Mel, Joan, Karen and Rick Utroske

Sheila Conquest

William Salava and Sharon Clark Salava

Elizabeth Subkowsky

Howard and Laneta Piecuch

Rick and Jackie Tharp

Ken and Pat Heindl

Shrock

Jameson Branson

Cathleen Amador

Sue Ogg

Carol Albrecht

Beverly and Gary Overmyer

Linda Moore

Joan Hildebrand

Paulette Gonzalez

Martina and Robert Rukavina

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



Tributes...

from 9/14/07 to 12/31/07

In Honor of —

Bella's friends from Jack Hauser

Ann Rainier's 95th birthday from her daughter Shirley Duerr

Alicia McClean from Lauren Asher

Sandy Stemmler for Christmas from Jeanne Bombassaro

Our cats, **Mary and Elizabeth**, on their 14th birthdays, from Ruth Ann Russell

ICS 30th Anniversary from Shirley Magura

Sweetie Gabrielle from Portage friends Max, Whiskers and Sammie

Lore Heavilin from Bill, Lore, Alex and Erin Heavilin

Itchy, Scratchy and Pinky, our cats, from Donald Thomas



Sponsor-A-Cat!

from your Spokescat, Autumn



Autumn, your Sponsor-A-Cat spokescat

Volunteers — where would we be without them? We'd be nowhere without them. The Independent Cat Society would not exist!

Hi, I'm Autumn, spokescat for the ICS Sponsor-A-Cat program, otherwise known as the "orange curmudgeon in Nook." I may look like I'm sleeping, but I hear and see all!

What I know right now is the 2007 SAC program was an overwhelming success. Over \$27,000 was donated by our wonderful, caring, **volunteers – our sponsors.** Because of you, I and my fellow friends at the shelter have been cared for, fed, and loved. And many of us have found our own homes this year.

And I thought you might like to know this – **volunteers** donate their time to send you our pictures, our histories and welcome you to visit with us. The only cost to the shelter for the SAC program is to print

return envelopes, photo cards and postage for the annual mailing. That's it! Everything else is donated by **volunteers** – photos, birthday and Christmas cards, information packets, postage.

We hope you enjoy sponsoring your cat. We hope you enjoy receiving our photos and information. If you have any suggestions, thoughts, or would just like to say "meow," just send us a note. Just address the message to "Autumn."

Now my eyes are closing and a smile is spreading across my face. I can drift off to sleep in comfort, feeling wonderful knowing that we have so many wonderful **volunteers** caring for us and keeping us in their hearts. Happy Valentine's Day from your own special cat!

Cream of the Crop continued from page 1...

often to stabilize any conditions of old age that they may have. Some need special food or medications to maintain their health throughout their teen years. Carol says she's learned with her wolffounds, large dogs with a relatively short lifespan, to treasure every day. "I had my Marian only seven months when she died suddenly, but can't imagine having been without her. She made me smile every day of those seven months." The older cats would all benefit from having a loving home of their own for the rest of their nine lives, be it for five months or five years.

Calypso concluded in that article: "Please won't you come see me? I'll be your best friend. I promise to love you forever. I have lots of good years left in me yet."

Please come visit our shelter on any weekend from 10 to 4 on Saturdays or 1 to 4 on Sundays to meet some of our older cats. Or visit our website any time at www.catsociety.org to see pictures of some of our cats and see which one might be your new best friend.



Grandpa could use a good home in his older years



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**





Independent Cat Society
 PO Box 735
 Westville, IN 46391

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 Permit No. 134

Don't miss these events!

- **Dunes Cat Fancier Championship & Household Pet Cat Show**
 March 8 & 9 — Grand Oak Hall in Woodland Park, Portage
- **ICS 2nd Annual Used Book Sale**
 April 26 & 27 — 1150 Lincolnway, Valparaiso
- **ICS Spring Yard Sale**
 May 17 & 18 — at the ICS Shelter, Westville
- **ICS Summer Open House**
 June 7 & 8 — at the ICS Shelter, Westville

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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 am donating \$_____ to the TNR/Assisted Spay & Neuter 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