

Mewsletter

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

Winter 2009, # 125

FIV Positive Cats

— *Special Needs or just Special?*

by Beverly Overmyer and Sue Ogg

There is so much misinformation about “feline immunodeficiency virus” or FIV, that we thought we’d make a few important points about cats who harbor the virus.

When a cat tests positive for FIV, it means that he or she was exposed to the virus at some point in his or her life and now *may* have a compromised immune system. It is not a death sentence, nor is it even a reason to believe that the cat cannot live a long healthy life. More male cats than female cats are FIV positive. This is because the disease is only passed thru deep bite wounds (blood/saliva transfer), an activity which occurs regularly in unaltered males during mating rituals. FIV is not passed from cat to cat thru saliva or feces, nor is it airborne. In a home environment with neutered and spayed cats who are introduced properly and get along, the risk is minimal that a FIV positive cat will ever pass this on to an FIV negative cat.

There are many happy households with both FIV positive and negative cats living in harmony. We have adopted out FIV positive cats in the past into homes with existing cats that are FIV negative.

Regis (our beautiful, big white special boy) found a wonderful home with a loving owner and best friend cat that is negative.

Seraphim, our sweet, sweet FIV positive cat of many years, now lives in peace in a home with several other cat roommates.

And **Church**, who spent most of his life in the shelter and was recently euthanized at the grand age of 18 years, had spent many years in our room Disco with 20 other negative cats before we found him to be FIV positive. No other cats in contact with him were diagnosed with FIV.

As indoor cats with good care and regular vet check-ups and in a stress-free environment these cats can and do live normal life-spans. They are the most congenial, easy going group of cats we



Alan...

...is a big, handsome mellow fellow. We think he’s approximately 6 years old. Alan is a real sweetie with a lot of love to give.

Can he give it to you?

have at the shelter right now. There are never disputes in this crowd, and they take turns cuddling and snoozing with each other. Please don’t overlook these SPECIAL cats when considering adoption. Visit Church’s room when you come to the shelter and meet Tom, Tyrone, Alan, Prince and Hunny (our only female FIV+ kitty in residence) SOON!

More about FIV+ cats and the rest of the gang on page 5

**Vote early and often for the
2009 ICS Sweetheart!**

See pages 6 & 7 for Annie's interview and candidate bios!

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

Board of Directors:

President:

Barb Caruso

Vice-President:

Sue Ogg

Recording Secretary:

Meribeth Swartz

Corresponding Secretary:

Beverly Overmyer

Treasurer:

Karen Hazewinkel

Board Members:

Gale Carmona

Chris Kyes

Joan Hildebrand

Connie Szawara

Calendar of Events

February

Open Your Hearts Open House **February 7**

10 - 3, Ogden Dunes Fire Station, Hillcrest Road, Ogden Dunes

March

Dunes Cat Fanciers Cat Show **March 14 & 15**

9 - 4, Woodland Park, 2100 Willowcreek Rd, Portage

April

ICS 3rd Annual Used Book Sale

May

ICS Spring Yard Sale

At the ICS Shelter, LaPorte/Porter County Line Road

June

ICS Summer Open House

At the ICS Shelter, LaPorte/Porter County Line Road

October

Black Cat Boogie, National Feral Cat Day

Times and dates to be announced

December

Kitty Kringle Holiday Bazaar & Open House

At the ICS Shelter, LaPorte/Porter County Line Road



Nothing to do in February?

Open Your Hearts **at our annual Open House**

Cat toys and mats • Little Black Cat Boutique
NEW! ICS magnets • Homegrown catnip
Delicious Cookie Walk and Bake Sale

10 - 3, Ogden Dunes Fire Station, Hillcrest Road, Ogden Dunes



President's Message

The Rescue Rainbow Bridge

Unlike most days at Rainbow Bridge, this day dawned cold and gray, damp as a swamp and as dismal as could be imagined. All of the recent arrivals had no idea what to think, as they had never experienced a day like this before. But the animals that had been waiting for their beloved people knew exactly what was going on and started to gather at the pathway leading to The Bridge to watch.

It wasn't long before an elderly cat came into view, head hung low and tail dragging. The other animals, the ones who had been there for a while, knew what his story was right away, for they had seen this happen far too often. He approached slowly, obviously in great emotional pain, but with no sign of injury or illness. Unlike all of the other animals waiting at The Bridge, this animal had not been restored to youth and made healthy and vigorous again. As he walked toward The Bridge, he watched all of the other animals watching him.

He knew he was out of place here and the sooner he could cross over, the happier he would be. But, alas, as he approached The Bridge, his way was barred by the appearance of an Angel who apologized, but told him that he would not be able to pass. Only those who were with their people could pass over the Rainbow Bridge.

With no place else to turn to, the elderly cat turned towards the fields before The Bridge and saw a group of other cats like him, also elderly and infirm. They weren't playing, but rather simply lying on the green grass, forlornly staring out at the pathway leading to The Bridge. And so, he took his place among them, watching the pathway and waiting.

One of the newest arrivals at The Bridge didn't understand what he had just witnessed and asked one of the animals that had been there for a while to explain it to him. You see, that poor animal was a rescue. He was turned in to rescue just as you see him now, an older cat with his fur graying and his eyes clouding. He never made it out of rescue and passed on with only the love of his rescuer to comfort him as he left his earthly existence. Because he had no family to give his love to, he has no one to escort him across The Bridge.

The first cat thought about this for a minute and then asked, "So what will happen now?"

As he was about to receive his answer, the clouds suddenly parted and the gloom lifted. Approaching The Bridge could be seen a single person and among the older animals, a whole group was suddenly bathed in a golden light and they were all young and healthy again, just as they were in the prime of life.

"Watch, and see" said the second feline. A second group of animals from those waiting came to the pathway and bowed low as the person neared. At each bowed head, the person offered a pat on the head or a scratch behind the ears. The newly restored animals fell into line and followed him towards The Bridge. They all crossed The Bridge together.

"What happened?" "That was a rescuer." The animals you saw bowing in respect were those who found new homes because of his work. They will cross when their new families arrive. Those you saw restored were those who never found homes. When a rescuer arrives, they are allowed to perform one, final act of rescue. They are allowed to escort all those poor animals that they couldn't place on earth, across The Rainbow Bridge.

"I think I like rescuers," said the first animal. "So does God," was the reply.

Don't breed or buy while those in rescue die.

I don't remember who sent this story to me, but it really touched me. This is true for many of the cats at the Independent Cat Society. So many of our cats have been with us for their entire lives. The only love they get is from the volunteers.

When I first started volunteering at ICS, I wanted to work with the cats in Scruffy's Room, which was considered the shy cat room. I would go in, sit on the floor, talk to them and let them approach me. One particular cat, Emily, would come to me and climb onto my lap each time. She was a tiny tiger striped cat. She would just lay on my lap and purr. I found out that she had been brought in with her two kittens, which were in that same room.

One day she became very ill. I picked her up and rushed her to the vet. She had to stay there for a few days and I was worried about her, so I would drive there each day after work to visit her. She would perk up when she heard my voice and come to the front of the cage so I could hold her and give her a hug. When they released her, I brought her to my home. She was the sweetest little thing. She had many health problems, but at least she knew someone loved her. I still miss her. Sadly, her kittens were never adopted, but at least they had a warm place to stay, regular meals and people who cared about them.

It is estimated that there are ten million homeless pets in the United States. Shelters and rescue groups are doing all they can. It is always a struggle to find the money to care for them. We have many fundraisers scheduled for the coming year and we hope that you will be as generous as you have always been so we can help cats like Emily and her kittens. I'll be there and am looking forward to meeting you!

Barb Caruso



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
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

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')
1 x 6 and 1 x 8 pine boards

Special Services

Personnel/human relations person
Carpenters, plumbers
An architect

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

Kiwi's Big Adventure



As you all may or may not know, Kiwi, one of our very sweet 10-year old shelter residents was diagnosed with an unusual mouth tumor (peripheral odontogenic fibroma) after a biopsy was done back in April of this year. This necessitated a consult and referral to a specialist, which was Dr. W. Morrison, Radiation Oncology Department at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana. This consult and referral came with a hefty price tag for more pre-treatment testing, further diagnostics, and a possible lengthy regimen of radiation treatments, all of which was predicted to be curative.

Since this was way out of our normal shelter medical budget, we immediately took steps to proceed with a special appeal at fundable.com to see if we could raise the required funds. Through this enormous group effort and many generous donations on Kiwi's behalf, we met our goal and were able to arrange for her treatment.

On October 29th, we took Kiwi to Purdue to meet with the specialists. She was left there in their capable hands for further diagnostic testing, CT scans, and an MR. After thorough testing and many consultations between the experts and pathologists, we were contacted with their findings and a recommendation.

On November 6th Dr. Morrison informed us that there was no longer evidence of the original fibroma, but only benign granulation tissue, which was excellent news, and he did not feel radiation therapy would be justified, unless there is a recurrence down the road. At the same time during the CR & MR, a pea-sized meningioma (tumor) was discovered in her brain. However, at this time this tumor is not causing her any problems and may remain benign, so Dr. Morrison felt she needed no treatment at this time. We were all so pleased about this wonderful news.

To top that all off, AND BEST OF ALL... **(drum roll, please.....!)** Dr. Morrison's partner, Dr. Jean Poulson, fell in love with little Kiwi during her stay at Purdue and asked to adopt her and continue to monitor her for any future developments. What better outcome could there possibly be for little Kiwi? On November 9th, we proceeded with our normal adoption process for Kiwi. It has since been finalized and Kiwi went home with Dr. Poulson, straight from the Purdue Clinic, to become a part of her family of one other cat and two dogs!

Last report had Kiwi adjusting well to her new forever home and roommates. We hope to get photos once she really settles in and hope to share them with you to prove once again, fairy tales do come true and there ARE HAPPY ENDINGS—especially for one special kitty named Kiwi!



NOAH

Noah is an extremely handsome blue-eyed Snowshoe Siamese mix. He certainly would have been adopted long ago, except for the fact that he is a bit under-socialized.

We don't know Noah's long-ago history. We only know he came to us from an Animal Control facility, very ill, covered with abscessed wounds that needed suturing and stapling and healing. He was depressed and sad in those days, but once he healed—well, look out!

He loves to play, but can get rough, as if he doesn't know when to quit, or hasn't been shown his boundaries. He doesn't always do well with other cats. He's not mean—he just plays too rough!

We believe that in the right adult home he would be a great companion, **possibly with someone who can handle this big hunk of "jungle love"** and will consider him a challenge. For Noah, think "biker dude"... and you'd have a great match!



Noah, our handsome Biker Boy!

Lonely Hearts will be a regular feature in the Mewsletter to showcase cats who are having a hard time getting adopted. We'll keep trying because we believe there is someone out there for every one of them!

There's Just Something About Those FIV Cats....

Ask anybody who has known cats with FIV: there's something special about them. They seem to be "old souls," with an extra portion of wisdom and grace. My dear friend "Dr. Regis" was kind enough to work with me as a psychology therapy cat and share his sweetness and peace with so many people who were lonely, frightened, or in pain. Regis loved to sit on his special perch and look at the wildlife scurrying outside my window, or sometimes curl up inside the perch for a nap. But if someone began to cry, Regis would report for duty, jumping on their lap for kisses and "biscuits," a furry, purry, antidepressant!

One day Regis and I visited at Opportunity Enterprises, where person after person lined up to touch and pet him, some with hands that were awkward or hard with contractures. Through it all, he remained tolerant and loving, even when being gently placed on the lap of a young man in a wheelchair who laughed in delight. It was truly a beautiful experience to watch Regis on the job. I miss him, but am so grateful somebody was willing to look past the FIV label and give him such a happy home.

Cate Amador

Come see us in Church's Room!

Tom is as handsome as a cat can be—(check out those markings). He has an engaging personality and "affectionate" doesn't begin to describe how he feels about people! We think he is about 3 years old. He LOVES visitors, so come on down!

Hunny is a very sweet kitty girl who shares a small room with all males, but she's no Diva. Hunny is loving and outgoing, and we think she is between 6 and 7 years old. We don't know how her eye was injured, but it doesn't slow her down! She keeps up with the boys. She'd love to bask in the sun in a home of her own, or even better, on your lap.

Prince—his name says it all. Charming and regal, he started off life as a pauper, but now looks royal enough to lounge on any throne. We estimate Prince to be between 3 and 4. Prince would love the chance to rule in your home—it would be a palace to him.

Tyrone is a bit shy, but we think he'd bloom if given a chance in his own home, with somebody who could patiently encourage his progress. Tyrone is probably between 7 and 8 years old.

Please consider adding one of these wonderful cats to your family. While we struggle to try and find a way to relieve their crowding, the quickest and best way to make more space in Church's Room is for as many as possible to **GO HOME!**



Tyrone



Hunny



Prince



Tom



Catty Comments

Notes on life at the shelter by Orphan Annie

Special Election Debate Coverage!!!

It's a Sweetheart Deal

Yes, being the ICS Sweetheart is bleepin' golden, but nobody will ever get into trouble for offering money to get somebody elected. On the contrary, we encourage buying this election. We pass no judgment. So feel free to promote the candidate of your choice—vote early, vote often!

Meet the Sweets

As a public service, I have agreed to moderate the Sweethearts debate for 2009. So, without further ado, *Catty Comments* is proud to introduce: **Atticus, Barney, Chester, Dexter, Earl, Grandma, Grandpa, and Rupert**. Contestants, there have been rumblings of sexism in this election. Why is it that there is only one female contestant this year? **Atticus?**

Atticus: I don't know. We like girls a lot, right, **Rupert?** We always like to play with the girls in our room. Shout out to **Sarah, Cindy** and **Satina!** Woo hoo!!!!

Annie: Great youthful enthusiasm, **Atticus**. Next will be **Barney**.

Barney: (singing) I love you, you love me, please make me ICS Sweetie! Just kidding, folks. With a name like **Barney**, it's best to get the joke over with up front. But seriously, don't forget that there was another female, **Oreo**, who was photographed and then got adopted. Males are often at a disadvantage with adopters because people think they might spray or become careless with their litterbox habits. This is completely unfair, and almost always can be prevented! Most males are very well-mannered. So, I think if getting exposure as Sweetheart candidates helps any of us guys get adopted, I'm all for it. But let me go on record as also being very pro-female!

Annie: NEXT! **Chester?**

Chester: I didn't do it. I'm innocent. I plead the 5th.

Annie: **Chester!**

Chester: That's what my lawyer told me to say.

Annie: Moving on. **Dexter?**

Dexter: I don't think you can call it sexism if they want to choose a ruggerly handsome cat as a potential Sweetheart, can you?

Annie: Ugh.....OK. **Earl?**

Earl: I feel terrible about this. I had no idea there were so few females. I love females of all species, and in fact was nominated by a female fan. If I am elected, I promise to promote all female ICS cats equally.

Annie: Thanks, **Earl**. A class act as usual. Finally, let's hear from a female. **Grandma, also known as Sadie?**

Grandma (Sadie): Well, Annie I do know that they were looking for cats who would hold still and pose for the camera. It seems pretty clear which group likes to do that the most, isn't it, dear? Now as for me, I was just trying to help out and thought that there might be some crunchy snacks served afterwards. Speaking of which, are you going to finish that treat?

Annie: No, Grandma, go ahead. Enjoy. **Grandpa**, your turn.

Grandpa (Bandit): At my age, I'm just glad to wake up every morning and enjoy myself! (But listen up—I would really love to see my sister Sadie win, though. She's not in the best of health and it would really perk her up.)

Annie: You old softie. Last, we have **Rupert**.

Rupert: I agree with **Atticus!** Girls rock! Hey, **Annie**, can I tell these people something?

Annie: Is it appropriate?

Rupert: Obvi! Hey, everybody: **Atticus** is my best bud, and we REALLY want to get adopted together. SOON!

Annie: A Public Service Announcement from **Rupert**. You've heard from all the candidates, so get out there and VOTE!

The Incumbent Makes an Endorsement!

Catty Comments has been trying to get the sitting Sweetheart, **Twinky "La Twinks"** to make a statement about who she endorses for ICS Sweetheart 2009. It hasn't been easy, because she didn't want to hurt anybody's feelings, but we finally purred her to let us in on her choice. Here is her statement:

"My neighbor, **Chester**, is a wonderful fellow, but not quite what one would call a sweetheart. I prefer that handsome hunk of a tabby, **Dexter**, but I think that young dapper tabby **Rupert** will give all of the new candidates a run for the money!"

And that's the scoop for now!



Meet the candidates!



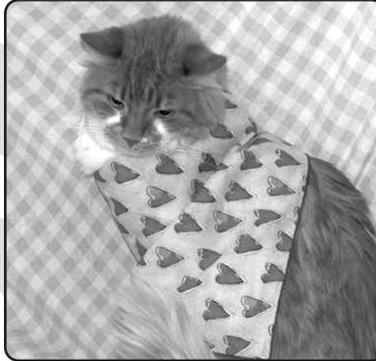
Sweetheart Contest

We're very proud to introduce the 6th annual ICS Sweethearts Contest!

This contest is generally wrought with as much tension and mayhem as a Chicago election!

Please vote early and often 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. The competition is intense, so let the sweetest cat win!



Barney

is an adorable gentlemen with stunning cheetah-like markings on his face. Vote for Barney and he'll be WILD about YOU!



Chester

is a notorious "Bad Boy" but he also has a soft side. If you vote for him, Chester promises to be a GOOD boy!



Grandma

is a beloved lady who never lets her health problems or her age get her down. She's a charter member of the AARP: Association of Awesome Retired Pussycats!



Grandpa

is no "Grumpy Old Man"—on the contrary, he's spry living proof that cats can age gracefully. Vote for Grandpa and he'll feel like a spring chicken!



Atticus

is a teenage heart throb with his long, silky grey coat and cute face. Be his fan, and you can run YOUR fingers though his fur!



Earl

is a distinguished tuxedo cat who is back at the shelter, having lost a lifelong friend. In spite of this, he still has lots of love for everyone. Loving Earl would LOVE your vote!



Dexter

is a handsome rogue who knows how to get what he wants. What he WANTS is for you to vote for him!



Rupert

is another teen idol whose handsome mug and gorgeous markings make him stand out in a crowd. He could be yours! Vote for Rupert!





BLACK CAT BOOGIE RESULTS

The Black Cat Boogie was a great success! Attendance was fantastic and it would not be an exaggeration to say it was standing room only.

Entertainment provided by Billy Wayne and his band was outstanding and enjoyed by all. We want everyone to know that they donated their time and talent, which certainly helped our bottom line.

Thanks also to everyone from the Chesterton American Legion who were a great help in many ways, and to Gelsossemo's who made such delicious pizza and gave us a discount. And of course, thanks to all of the volunteers who put in endless hours to make it such a fun event.

And guess what? We'll be doing it again next year! Watch the *Mewsletter* and website for information as we make our plans. The Black Cat will Boogie again!

You asked for it—we got it!



We are proud to announce that we now have our very own ICS car magnets!

They will be available at the Open Your Hearts event at the Ogden Dunes Fire House on February 7th for \$5, and after that at the shelter and at other events. Show the world that you are a proud ICS supporter!

Purrrrr-fect Pizza!

Would you believe that all you had to do to help out ICS was to enjoy a delicious pizza? Well, it's true. UNO'S in Merrillville is helping ICS to "Raise Dough" by donating 25% of your food bill during the week of Feb. 16th through the 22nd. All you have to do is to present the voucher at the time of payment, whether for dine-in or take-out. And it gets better: You can win an Uno's Gift Card worth \$20 if you are the person who gives out the most vouchers redeemed. Just put your name on the vouchers (see below—you may photocopy) before you hand them out to your friends, family, coworkers, acquaintances, anyone you can think of!



Make mine tuna and anchovy!

Murphy

Our only restriction is that we cannot hand them out outside the restaurant. We will also have the vouchers available online, so spread the word and *Raise the Dough!*



To Benefit

The Independent Cat Society

Westville, Indiana

Date(s) February 16th - 22nd

**UNO WILL DONATE 25% OF YOUR CHECK TO THIS FUND
DINE-IN OR TAKE OUT!**

Valid only at

2385 Southlake Mall Drive—Merrillville
219-736-4885

Please present this certificate at the time of payment to have 25% of your check's value, excluding tax and tip, donated to the organization above. Not to be used with other coupons or discounts. Tickets are not to be distributed in the restaurant or within the perimeter of the parking areas. Valid for the date(s) listed above.



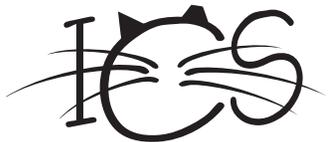
ABC Program

For each new checking account opened (\$100 minimum) by an ICS supporter, Standard Bank will donate \$75.00 to ICS. The account includes free online banking, a free debit card, free bank-by-phone, no fees at Standard Bank ATMs, and your first box of checks free.

Ongoing requirements of the account after opening are to maintain a minimum monthly balance of \$1.00. The account must remain open for a minimum of 6 months, with regular account activity of at least 5 transactions per month.

A privately held bank, Standard Bank & Trust is FDIC insured and has been serving Chicagoland and Northwest Indiana since 1947. Based in Hickory Hills, Illinois, they have recently expanded into Indiana with full service branches located in Chesterton, Merrillville, Highland, and St. John. Future expansion is in the planning stages.

The **ABC Program** at Standard Bank provides a no cost/no effort method to help ICS raise vital funds for expenses such as vet bills, food, and litter. Please consider trying this exciting new program and be sure to mention ICS when applying. More information is available at <http://www.standardbanks.com> or simply call Standard Bank toll free at 866-499-BANK (2265). In Chesterton, 219-926-6664.



Update

TNR Squad

Since November 2007, the ICS TNR Squad has trapped and altered, or assisted in trapping and altering over 550 cats... so many cats, that it is getting difficult to keep up with paperwork! Please see next issue for a detailed report on numbers and genders.

Thanks to those who came out to help at our Cat House event in honor of National Feral Cat Day. We had so much fun, we are going to do it again this year, so watch the calendars for our date!

Keep those 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**, not hay, 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.

This is the link to the styrofoam shelters we made at our Cat House making event in October:

www.neighborhoodcats.org/info/wintershelter.htm

We are still in 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, Sue, Cindee, or Bridget!



Thank You...

The complete list of all donors for 2008 as well as 2008 financials will be found in the next *Mewsletter*.

We are very grateful for a generous grant of \$1782 from the Unity Foundation to help cover our spay/neuter expenses.

Our sincere thanks goes to the John W. Anderson Foundation for their generous grant of \$2000.

Good-bye... (Sort of!)

For over three years it has been my privilege to be the president of ICS. Although there is still much work to do, I am very proud of what we accomplished during those years thanks to our dedicated volunteers and loyal supporters. Highlights include pulling off our 30th Anniversary Gala, building a TNR program, our wonderful new logo, and several new fundraisers including the Annual Book Sale and Black Cat Boogie. Together, we've survived several rough spots, and I'm eternally grateful for everyone's support who helped us through.

I know that the upcoming years will bring still more challenges, but am confident we will also get closer and closer to creating the safe haven we dream of. Again, thank you all for being there for all the cats we have been able to help through the years.

Cate Amador

PS. You're not getting rid of me that easily. I'll still be around working on Fundraising, covering my adoption day, helping out with volunteers, and co-editing the *Mewsletter*. Hopefully, Annie will still be willing to talk to me!

Low-Cost Spay & Neuter options

Here to Spay Animal Hospital, Dr. Michael Anderson
2520 S. Cleveland Ave, St. Joseph, Michigan – (269) 982-4033

Animal Lovers, Inc.
provides pet transport to low-cost S&N – (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 – (708) 478-5102

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

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





In Loving Memory of...

from 9/1/08 to 1/7/09

Daphne Benos, who passed away September 10, 2008. From Cornelia Cain

Pockets from Candace Erwin

Our **Samantha**, the Queen, who passed away 9/29/08. You brought us joy, happiness and your love for 19 years. We miss you and love you very much. From Dominic and Chris Sapone

Pat and Jack Bos and **Ada Bryan** from Marjorie Bishop

Kevin Preuss from Timothy and Karen Candiano

19-year-old **Elizabeth**, who left us in July. From Robert and Lois Nayder

Honey from Nathalie Pennington

Lanz, Fluffy, Napoleon and Kitty-Kitty Priede from Aldona Priede

Simon, our beloved cat who passed away July 28, 2008. From Richard and Deborah Blennerhassett

Daniel, who I only knew for a short time, but grew very fond of. From Dorothy Ripperdan

My cat, **Joey**, who died September 25 from diabetes. From Brenda Spicer

My husband, **Melvin**, who rescued our cat Suki. From Mildred Tracht

Ronald Wachowski from Louise Vale

O.J., Sam and Muffin from Timothy and Sharon Fizer

Karl Schubert from Richard Candiano, Louise Vale, and Karen Flaherty

Corine, who passed away November 14, 2008. She was a loving friend and is truly missed. From Candace Erwin

Lillian Skalba from Hans Skalba, Sandra Skalba, John and Lillian Zoller, Aunt Jo, Sheri and Larry, Connie and Jim

Ann Hamann from Maxine, Larry and Fritzie Hamann

My father, **Ron Wyler**, from Mary Williams

Daniel from Roberta Jocius

Our beloved German Shepherd, **Barney**, from David and Deborah Schroeder

LeRoy and Dorothy Wienke from Karen Flaherty

Pookie McGuire, who passed away the week of December 22, 2008. From Drs. William and Judy Lyzak

Tommy Kowalik and Hilda Stern. You were sadly missed on Thanksgiving and Christmas Eve. From Wayne and Carol Albrecht

Barb Harper from Claudette Cairns-Boyd

Virginia Seals from Kammi Fox-Kay

My wife, **Julie Grott**, from Gerald Grott

My mother, **Lillian Skalba**, who was a passionate cat lover. From Lynn Makely

Michael Minard from Mattie Minard

Georgianna Replagle, who loved cats (and dogs), but only the cats count! From Donna Novak

Sylvia Gardner, who died January 2008. From Wanda Gardner

Richard Keane from Patricia Keane

My beautiful **Jack**, for 18-1/2 years (April 1990-December 28, 2008). From Patricia Annen

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



In Honor of...

from 9/1/08 to 1/7/09

Sharon Brook's birthday from Karen Flaherty

My wife **Michele's** birthday from all her furry kids and her husband, Dr Garry Grygotis

Becky Mason for Christmas. From Kris and Arlene Miller

Ms. Behm from Olive Elementary School, New Carlisle

George and Sandy Kouttoulous from Thomas and Tomilee Felton

Kathy Heath from Marian Heath

Yvette Noe for Christmas. From Holly McCain

My nephew **Michael Moss'** birthday. From Joanne Sellis

Ralph and Lorraine Heavilin for Christmas. From William Heavilin

Candy Kooi from Melissa Bootbe

Pegg Anderson from Jody Nelson

Happy Birthday to my sister, **Karen Flaherty**, a friend to all animals. From Sharon Brooks

Merry Christmass to my sister, **Karen Flaherty**, a real champion to the cat world. I am proud of you. From Sharon Books



Sponsor-A-Cat!

from your Spokescat, Autumn

It's almost here! Valentine's Day!

Yes, Valentine's Day! The holiday when people open their hearts wide and celebrate their love for one another! I'm sure this includes pets as well! How big will your heart be this February? Will it be big enough to share your love with one of us at ICS—all wonderful cats spending our lives without families to love us? I hope so!

Please stop by to select one (or more) of us to sponsor and share your love. Or, just request that one of us be selected for you. You will receive a photo and biography of your sponsored cat. And you can get as involved in our lives as you wish. We love visits, gentle grooming, food, treats, and kind and loving words. Who knows, you might even fall in love with us and take us home!

Or, you might know of a friend looking for a pet. I know visits may not be possible because so many of you live far away, but the \$15.00 monthly donation provides for our care and is always desperately needed and much appreciated. So, please "open your hearts" this Valentine's Day and sign up to become a sponsor today!

And while I'm talking about "big hearts," I'm sending out a special plea just for me, **Autumn**, for someone with an even "bigger heart." This April, I will be fifteen years old. I have always dealt with health problems. As I write this, I am in the hospital awaiting surgery for removal of my eye. I sure would enjoy a cozy home for my retirement years, even if just in foster care. As with all foster homes, my



Autumn, your Sponsor-A-Cat spokescat, 14 years old and still looking for his "forever home"

special diet and all medical care will be paid by the Independent Cat Society. Won't someone please make this a special Valentine's Day for me, too?

Autumn

Would your office or organization like to sponsor a cat?

Are you affiliated with a social service organization, the Girl or Boy scouts, sorority or fraternity, or a school looking for a charitable project?

Do you love cats, but are allergic?

Try Sponsor-A-Cat! As close as you can get to having your own!



I want to Sponsor-A-Cat from the Independent Cat Society

I have enclosed a check for:

_____ \$180 for one year of Sponsor-A-Cat

_____ \$15 or _____ for the first month of Sponsor-A-Cat. I pledge to send \$15 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

Non-Profit
 Organization
 US Postage
PAID
 Valparaiso, IN
 Permit No. 134

Don't miss these events!



Open Your Hearts Open House

Please join us for one of the "Sweetest" ICS events!
 10 - 3, October 7 — Ogden Dunes Fire Station

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