

paw

# Prints



Volume 23, number 1  
March 2001

Newsletter of the  
Champaign County  
Humane Society—in its  
47th year of caring  
for animals

## Annual Giant Garage Sale set for May 25-26

Basement, attic and garage all full? Storage shed bursting at the seams? Wondering what to do with so much wonderful stuff? You're in luck! Our annual CCHS Giant Garage Sale Extravaganza is set for May 25 and 26 at the Champaign County Fairgrounds, and we're in need of your castoffs to help our furry castoffs.



The sale starts at 7 a.m., Friday, May 25, closing at 6 p.m. The fun begins again at 8 a.m. on Saturday, May 26. The sale closes at 12:45 p.m., and then re-opens at 1 p.m. for the Bag Sale, which goes until 3 p.m.

Donations of new and used items are welcome. We cannot accept large appliances (such as washing machines), large furniture (such as sofas) and old computers, which are generally not saleable. Retailers are welcome to donate unwanted stock from their inventories.

All donations will be accepted at Kesler Hall during the following times only:

- Thursday, May 17 ..... Noon to 7 p.m.
- Friday, May 18 ..... Noon to 7 p.m.
- Saturday, May 19 ..... 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Sunday, May 20 ..... 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Monday, May 21 ..... Noon to 7 p.m.
- Tuesday, May 22 ..... Noon to 7 p.m.

If you are interested in volunteering, contact Ann by e-mail at [Ann@cuhumane.org](mailto:Ann@cuhumane.org) or phone at 344-7297.

### Inside:

- CCHS dogs earn their PhDs ..... 9
- Learning to live with allergies ..... 10

## Fluffy? Where are you!?!?

You don't leave home without identification, so why would your pet?

In celebration of Tag Week, April 1-7, CCHS asks all pet owners to tag their pets. Tags may include traditional ID tags, microchips or any other device that will help us reunite lost pets with their families.



Tracking down a lost pet can be one of the most difficult and stressful situations a pet owner can face, yet thousands of animals arrive at the humane society each year without ID tags. It can be difficult for an owner to track down a lost pet. We encourage pet owners to file a Lost Pet report at the shelter and they can place signs and take out ads in the newspaper. It is also important for missing pets' owners to visit the shelter to look at the stray animals. It can be very difficult for shelter staff to identify a missing pet when the description is "black cat, yellow eyes," or "brown dog, no collar."

While most people think it will never happen to them, losing a pet is a common occurrence. Here at the humane society we take in nearly 3,000 lost pets each year, and only about 25 percent are "found" by their owners. The number of returned pets could greatly increase if these pets had collars with identification.

"Nothing is more sad than to see a well-treated stray – obviously someone's pet – come in to the shelter without ID," said Stephen J. Notaro, CCHS executive director. "Our goal is to get these pets back home where they belong."

For more information on microchipping or Tag Week, please call us at (217) 344-7297.

## From the Director's Desk...

At the Champaign County Humane Society, we now have one of the best records in the country for saving homeless pets. Your support has been what has saved the pets by allowing us to have a veterinarian on staff. We also offer seven-day-a-week adoptions, an award-winning Web site with valuable information, dog training and other educational programs. Despite our strong record, we are constantly searching for ways to save even more homeless pets.

Our most recent effort is a program to help dogs find a new home. It is called People helping Dogs, or the PhD program. Here is why we developed this program. We noticed that many of the medium to large dogs had to wait a long time to be adopted. Our adopters told us it wasn't as much the size or breed of the dog that mattered, they simply wanted a nice dog. Here was the problem. Our dogs are very nice, but because they are young dogs, they are very excitable. We turned to some of the top shelters in the nation along with dog experts and trainers for advice. From their advice, we decided to begin a Canine College program, teaching our dogs prior to adoption to show that they are not only nice, but also very smart. The dogs responded wonderfully and seem eager for the training sessions with our staff and volunteers. But we wondered would teaching dogs "sit," "off," to take treats softly, and to walk



Stephen J. Notaro and his dog, Smokey

Photo by Tom Schaeferges

nice on a leash help them get adopted? Our answer came quickly. In the program's first month, 10 dogs like Millie and Beau now live in new homes because they graduated from Canine College and earned their PhDs. To become one of our People helping Dogs volunteers, see the article on page 9 in this issue of *Pawprints*.

Anytime you support the CCHS with a donation, or by attending an event, you are helping a homeless pet. The volunteers at our Giant Garage Sale have worked hard over the years to raise more funds. These funds help save our pets. By donating goods, volunteering or purchasing items at the garage sale you are also helping a homeless pet. Our Kitten Shower in June is one of the largest kitten and cat adoption events in the country. Not only does this event get pets adopted, it also raises funds and supplies to care for more pets. By attending an event, making a donation, adopting a pet, or volunteering you enable us to care for more pets. Let's join together to save more homeless pets now than ever before. ■ SN

Pawprints is the quarterly newsletter of the Champaign County Humane Society (CCHS). The CCHS Inc. is a non-profit, non-governmental organization dedicated to preventing cruelty to animals, promoting animal welfare, and educating the public about humane care and treatment for all animals.

Pawprints is a copyrighted publication; permission to reprint any item is given, provided the CCHS-Pawprints is acknowledged. All inquiries and article submissions should be sent to the Pawprints Editorial Board. This issue was designed and edited by Mare Payne.

### Board of Directors Executive Committee

Jill Niles ..... president  
 Chuck Feinen ..... vice president  
 Jack Nordheden ..... treasurer  
 Karen Koenig ..... secretary

### Board Members

Vera Hanoka            Carole Lindholm  
 Dr. Queenie Mills    Dr. Leroy Neitzel  
 Lisa Robeson         Andrea Schmidt  
 Melissa Thomas      Harriett Weatherford  
 Mary Young

### Executive Staff

Stephen Notaro ..... Executive director  
 Ann Strohmeier ..... Marketing director  
 Jeremy Krisko ..... Shelter manager  
 Pamela Lowrey ..... Volunteer coordinator

CCHS  
 1911 E Main Street  
 Urbana, IL 61802  
 (217) 344-7297 (paws)  
<http://www.cuhumane.org>

## Calico, Tabby and Siamese – Oh my!

### CCHS hosts sixth annual Kitten Shower

Warmer weather, green grass and blooming flowers are all sure signs of spring, but at CCHS, spring brings an increased number of unwanted cats and kittens.

More than 75 cats and kittens will be at this year's Kitten Shower to be held from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday, June 16, at Lincoln Square Mall in Urbana. All of these cuddly kitties hope to find a new home during this special event.

The Kitten Shower serves as an annual summer adoption event for our cats and kittens. The shower also gives the public a fun way to donate needed items. The kittens make a special wish list every year of needed goods that could be contributed. They even hope to have a few presents to open because sometimes people wrap their donations!

Every year, the Kitten Shower becomes increasingly popular and continues to place more and more kittens and



Stephen J. Notaro, executive director of CCHS, with just a few of the gifts the kittens received during the 2000 Kitten Shower at Lincoln Square Mall.

cats into loving homes. Thanks to the generosity of the community, volunteers and CCHS staff and to the big hearts of the adopters, the Kitten Shower is always an enormous success.

Please contact Ann at 344-7297 if you would like to help with this fun event, or if you'd like more information. •

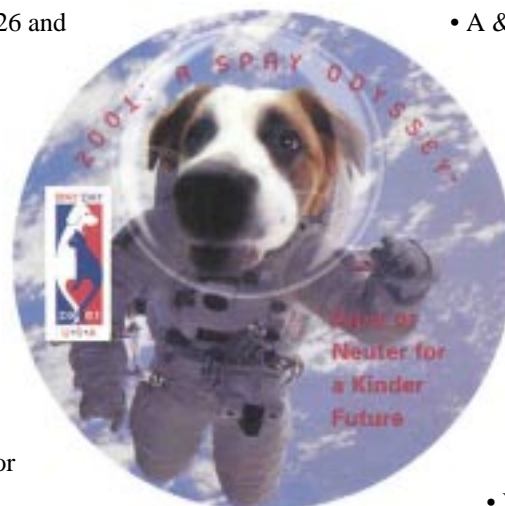
## 2001: A Spay Odyssey was a great success locally

The Champaign County Humane Society's fifth annual Spay Week blasted off on Feb. 26 and was a great success.

2001: A Spay Odyssey," sponsored by the Humane Society and the Doris Day Foundation, marks a new millennium of compassion.

Thirteen area veterinarians participated in this year's event by offering a 25 percent discount on spay or neuter surgeries during this special week. In the past five years, more than 1,000 cats and dogs have been spayed or neutered during this event.

A big Thank You to the following veterinary



clinics for participating in this year's event:

- A & E Animal Hospital
- Acre Hill Veterinary Clinic
- All Creatures Animal Hospital
- Animal Hospital of Monticello
- Beaumont Small Animal Clinic
- Caring Hands Animal Hospital
- Country View Veterinary Clinic
- Heritage Animal Hospital
- Hill Animal Care
- Meadows Animal Hospital
- The Pet Pro
- University of Illinois Small Animal Clinic
- Village Pet Doctor •

# paw Prints

## In Memory of...

Mary Rice

*Mr. & Mrs. Robert M. Gibson, Judy Simpson, Sharon Pierce, Lynn & Gail Arliker, Rebecca Rochkes, Jacque Rochkes, June Foster, Elizabeth Boggess, Ruth Glaser, Joe Kione, Jack & Joan Opolka, Dale Worley, W.R. & Pat Huddleston, Jessie Dereng, Donald Peters, Barb & Dick Fogel, Mary Lou & Robert Locklin, Carolyn Gibson, Marcia Leonard*

Missy

*Eunice D. Holste*

Warsaw

*Andy Gregory*

Trojan

*Robert Welke*

Odell Montgomery

*David Gordon*

Max

*Jim & Lois Campbell*

Mary Hussey

*Harvey & Mary Anne Hurst, Julie Stevenson, Mary Kay Peer*

Lucille Stevenson Cummings

*Lou Ann Stevenson*

Sabina

*Sherry Steigmann, Judith Feldman*

Radar Barton

*John & Tracey Baldwin*

My adorable cats, Calico, Peaches and Sylvester

*Alta Gibson*

Mrs. Byron Sanders

*Olive Carnine, Joe Norrin, Roger Morfey, Ben Campbell, Lou Holmer, Frieda Goady*

Snowball

*John & Dorothy Stier*

John Gacek

*Linda Myler, Marianne Armstrong, Wendy & Jim Freuch, Jean Johnson*

Louis Bielskis, a friend to all animals

*Darrel & Carol Kroon, Mr. & Mrs. R.F. Sorensen, Hoopston Area Community Unit School District #11*

Wilbur, loving companion of Harriett

*Weatherford and Tom Schaeffges Ed & Kathy Kral*

Dan Hieke

*NALC #671*

Jim Mumm

*Sheila Pelichoff*

Bernice and Henry Schwartz

*Henrietta Schwartz*

Loving memory of Ljubion, Autumn,

*Woggie I & II, and Jiggs Mrs. John Sebastian*

Glen, my old friend, neighbor and look-alike

*Murphy*

Our dog, Chu-Chu

*Mr. & Mrs. Marvin Bruner*

My two beloved shepherds, Gretchen and Missy

*Mary Tresch*

Two devoted cat lovers, Mrs. Kathryn

*Thornberry and Ms. Margery Suhre Ruth & Rudy Jones*

Byron and Thelma Sanders

*Karen Sperlin, Mel & Linda Wollenschlager, Carole Olson, Phylis Staker*

John and Mary Alice Black

*John & Marie Black*

Heine, Digsy & Frisco

*Bob, Suzanne & Amy Twohey*

Marty Friedman

*Caroline Hibbard*

My cat, Gladys

*Kay Holley*

Peter Wagenbreth

*JoAnn Wagenbreth*

Our beloved dog, Gracie

*Susan & Gordon Herbert*

Kitty

*Jeanne Hamadyk*

Our Mother

*Barbara Mann & Margaret Thompson*

Harriett and Tom's Wilbur, "Dogs Up!"

*World Champion Mary Stuart*

Daphne

*Joan Hood*

Lucia, a true feline prima donna

*Phyllis Cline*

Ronnie Tarter

*Frank & Darlene Mills, Del & Rita Ryan, Todd & Stephanie Holderfield, Rockey & Lisa Dalton, Cody & Candy Abbott*

Tory, Webster and Punky

*Diana Biggs*

Muffin and Jeremy, two very gentlemanly dogs, and Boots, a regal cat  
*Anne Huff*

Kathryn Thornberry  
*Barbara Tjarks, Lorraine Glasa,  
Joe & Mary Blanchard, Linda  
Lorenz, Canterbury Ridge  
Retirement & Assisted Living  
Home*

Merlin, Sharon's beloved cat  
*M.L. Mylin & Watson*

Pickles  
*Marie White*

For Pip from all of us – we miss you;  
for Eli & the Arends' Little Roo; and  
for a boy named Joe  
*Trisha Rigsby*

Morris Carter  
*Jackie Falkenstein*

Gizmo – the tree islands aren't the  
same without you.  
*Murphy*

My Granddog, Skip Jack  
*Kathleen Tipton*

Pinkle Purr  
*Sheila Pelichoff*

Harriett & Tom's Wilbur  
*Mark & Ginny David*

For Don, Kathy, Andy and Rocky in  
memory of Brandy, Don's canine soul  
mate  
*Meg, Don & David*

Princeton  
*Sheri Stubblefield*

Gene Morrison  
*Craig Morrison, John Harper*

Wallace Boyle  
*Daniel & Susan Asher Family  
Foundation, Gerald & Teresa Boehm,  
Janice Sparr, Botta Capital  
Management, Thomas Kretzmann*

Walter Farchmin  
*Lilo Tipsord, Ingebore Farchmin,  
Heinrich & Paula Schmidt, Gary &  
Diane Stensland, Paul and Christel  
Quade, Joe & Christine Weidner,  
Rodney & Barbara Todd, George &  
Marlene Armstrong, Lieselotte  
Tipsord, A.L. Hatfield, Melinda  
Parker, Ronald Hoyne*

Wallace Boyle – when we think of Saint  
Francis, we'll think of you. You will be  
missed by so many!  
*Robert Smith Family*

Diamond Buddy  
*Margaret Thomas*

Muffin, a beloved canine member of the  
Hannum family for 14 years  
*Greg & Dixie Whitt*

Rusty, a wonderful pet and family  
member for 15 years  
*Daniel Fry*

My most beloved schnauzer, Ariel

Gypsy  
*Sheila Carter*

Katie  
*John & Candy Avallone*

Maggie  
*Bill & Lamar Murphy*

Florence Nash  
*Joyce Hill, Judy Cotter, Mrs. Hannah  
Wall,*

Betty Roe Snyder  
*Snyder & George Electrical  
Contractors*

“Poppy” Pickens – we will miss you  
*Grandma and Grandpa*

Jeanette Kent's mother  
*Bill & Lamar Murphy*

Mike “Bart” O'Brien  
*Susan P. Snyder*

Kathy Butzow's Great Dane, Winner  
*Jane Phillips*

Jane Swartz  
*Gene & Millie Stoner*

Casey, our special Irish Setter  
*Ruth Ann & Jim Williams*

Bernard and Brenda Burke  
*Northern Piatt County Fire  
Department*

Moon Pie  
*Carol & Jeff McClarrie*

Marianne's father, John Gauch, a  
special pet lover  
*Deb Newell*

Paul Zonn  
*Michael & Jolie Trautman, Georgia  
Morgan*

Wilber Weatherford-Schaeffges  
*LeRoy & Diane Neitzel*

Tyler DeJong  
*LeRoy & Diane Neitzel*

Biener and Bandit, Alison, Eric and  
Nicholas Schmulbach's beloved dogs  
*Trish Underwood*

(See Special Thoughts, page 6)

## Special Thoughts

*(Continued from page 5)*

### In memory of ...

Our purr-fectly wonderful cats,  
Mittens and Freckles, and our sheltie,  
Nicky  
*Jim & Kathleen Flaherty*

Beast, 1971-1991  
*Richard Mohr & Robert Switzer*

Wilbur  
*Tom Schaeffges, Steve Notaro, Ann  
Rohlen*

Shelby  
*Curtis, Paula & Spencer Hays*

Autumn  
*Brenda McQueen*

Our beloved nephew, Lloyd Collins  
*Bob & Carol Phillippe*

Elizabeth, our little dachshund, and  
Brownie, our generic beagle  
*Donna & Dick Inyart*

Mittens  
*Hope Eastin*

Your special thoughts are meaningful to those who send them, to those who receive them, and to those who are helped by them. We make every effort to list memorial and honorary donations correctly; if there is an error, please let us know. This issue contains all the special thoughts recorded at CCHS through Feb. 12, 2001.

Erwin Heininger  
*Jay Ananiecki*

Daphne  
*Peter & Joan Hood*

Ella  
*Lois Liay*

David Harvey  
*Roger & Susan Orban*

Walter Wood  
*Mrs. Walter Wood*

Alice and Prissy  
*Joan Klein*

Fred, Boots, Jodi, Adolf, Jake and all of  
our departed pets throughout the years  
*Earl & Diane Buenting, Al & Sandy  
Buenting, Paul & Dee Buenting, Pat  
& Patti Walsh, Andrea Buenting,  
Rachel Buenting*

Roy Kimbrell  
*Mrs. Alice Campbell*

Melissa Mitchell's dog-loving dad,  
Robert Mitchell  
*The animal-loving U. of I. News  
Bureau: Jim Barlow, Craig  
Chamberlain, Doris Dahl, Andrea  
Lynn, James Kloeppe, Mare Payne,  
Mark Reutter, Carolyn Rittenhouse, Jeff  
Unger, Bill Wiegand, Marty Yeakel;  
Steve Miller; Bill & Lamar Murphy*

### In Honor of...

Fluffy, Squeaky, Hoppie, Gizmo  
*Rebecca Dohleman*

Janet Prather  
*Janet Jackson*

Reba and Lilli  
*Tericia Builta*

My uncle, George Lukaseck  
*Ruth Audt*

Beryl Mumm's 90th birthday  
*Alex & Henrietta Schwartz*

Tigger Otis  
*Helen Rankin*

Oscar, Kermit, Quincy and Amos  
*Karen Clark*

Jan Holmes and Les Etheridge  
*E.J. & Sherry Webb*

Sushi, Goblin and their wonderful  
parents, Laurel and Doug Slothouber  
*Ronald Keller*

Bob and June Watson  
*Russ, Beth, Andrew & Rebecca  
Whiteford*

Harop, Hootina, Princess, Sowie  
Howie, Kumatsu Graham and Little  
Friend  
*Harold, Ruby & Sherry Slade*

Crystal and John Graham  
*Sherry Slade*

Alberta Marshky's birthday  
*Sherry Slade*

Craig and Penny Dutton  
*Lois Dutton*

Misty  
*Lee-Diane Pettit*

Bruce and Marlene Mather  
*Karin Doving*



Sarah Jones proudly displays her hand-made T-shirt at her birthday party. Sarah, a middle school student at Countryside School, had her friends give presents to the animals at the Humane Society for her birthday. Thanks to her from all of the homeless pets at the shelter!

Betty, Max and Madison Liebovich  
*Cynthia Liebovich*

Tess, Scout and Snuggles  
*Bernard & Prudence Spodek*

Donna Lacina and Mr. and Mrs. Sean Murphy  
*Anna Schertz*

Alysia Cooper  
*Karen Paschke*

Tripples  
*Jeffrey & Susan McGill*

In honor of Kathy Parson's  
son-in-law

Mitzi  
*Robert & Lois Rooney*

Amy Howk  
*Jill Gengler*

Mary Young  
*Editorial & Production team at  
Omegatype Typography*

David Jackson  
*Renita Jackson*

Sue and Jeff Sullivan  
*Tim Shea & Brian Richter*

Ash Newman  
*Robin Decker*

Allison Winter  
*Jill Gengler*

Jan Holmes  
*Elaine Wagner*

Renita Jackson  
*The Elves at Carle Clinic  
Association*

Harriett Weatherford  
*DIA-BO*

Aldo  
*Nancy Romero*

Diane and LeRoy Neitzel  
*Mr. & Mrs. Stanley G. Smith*

Tattoo  
*Sheila Pelichoff*

Happy Birthday Chris  
Aunt "Bert"

Toby and Tucker  
*Ruth Ann & Jim Williams*

Dad  
*Hannah & Jack Snyder*

Tom Schaeffges  
*Lisa Ochoa*

Marianne and Dan Armstrong  
*Deb Newell*

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph W.  
Anderson  
*Carol Grammer*

My dad, a fellow animal lover  
*Peggy Ball*

Barbara Fry  
*Daniel Fry*

Chris, John and Brandon  
Aunt "Bert"

Max  
*Margaret Scheurich*

Her third grade class at St.  
Joseph Grade School  
*Pamela Garrison*

The teachers and staff at First  
United Methodist Church in  
Champaign  
*Brenda Simpson*

Eleanor and Eileen Gifford's  
special birthdays  
*Viola & Joyce Hilgert*

(See Special Thoughts, page 8)

## Special Thoughts

(Continued from page 7)

### In honor of ...

Our fabulous cat, Hannibal  
*Laura Hartman*

Casey  
*John & Tracey Baldwin*

Justice Robert Steigmann  
*Barbara Nelson*

Grandma Gifford's 80th birthday, to  
thank her for all those bowls of water,  
and for loving me and all animals  
*Smokey*

Mary Paster  
*Mary Haring*

Harold and Annetta Barteel  
*Cheryl & Richard Buse*

Happy 82nd birthday, "Grandpa"!  
*Zak & Bailey*

Mildred Barnett  
*The Kruideniers*

### Special Thanks to...

Amdocs, for generously allowing its  
employees to enjoy a casual dress day  
in exchange for a contribution to  
CCHS

Mrs. Mathews' class at Cunningham  
Children's Home/Gerber School for  
helping raise money for homeless pets

Karen Koenig for sponsoring "Jersey Jo  
Wolcott Day" in honor of her boxer's 4th  
birthday

Kenwood and Robeson schools in  
Champaign for their wonderful Pennies  
for Pets programs. Together the students  
raised more than 100,000 pennies! Thank  
you!!!

The 6th, 7th and 8th grade students at  
Wesley United Methodist Church in  
Urbana for holding a bake sale and  
donating the proceeds to the shelter.

Jenny Ravanh and the Philo Grade  
School 5th and 6th grade classes for  
donating much needed supplies as part of  
their annual Holiday Party. The students  
voted to give gifts to the pets instead of  
to each other. Thank you so much! •

## Sales of home-made biscuits benefits CCHS

Many thanks to Mutters Dog Biscuits for its thoughtful  
contribution to the Champaign County Humane Society.

Locally owned Mutters Dog Biscuits  
(<http://www.mutters.net>) offers  
specialty canine treats including  
Peanut Cookies, Carob-Covered  
Peanut Cookies, Sun-Dried Tomato  
Cookies, Pill Popping Pumpkin  
Muffins, Cheese Cookies, Pie  
Crust Cookies and Banana  
Biscotti.



Mutters are sold in two sizes, regular (approx. weight,  
1/2 lb.), \$3/bag, and large (approx. weight, 1 lb.), \$5/bag.  
They're available for purchase at Nally, Haasis & Bauer  
P.C., 41 E. University Ave., Champaign, IL, 61820,  
(2nd floor), or by contacting Deb at 359-1000 or  
[dffeinen@nhb-law.com](mailto:dffeinen@nhb-law.com).

Your purchase benefits CCHS as Mutters donates a  
portion of its profits to benefit the shelter animals. •

"Mutters are absolutely the best. If our two Labradors  
liked them any more, I could teach them to do  
algebra with them."

—John S. Rogers, Champaign

"My rating for Mutter's Dog Biscuits ... Two Paws Up!!  
When I first tried these biscuits I just couldn't believe  
the difference! Freshly baked with no preservatives  
and incredibly good flavor. My absolute favorite is the  
pink heart-shaped biscuit with the biscotti coming in a  
very close second. I'm always a very good dog but I  
am especially good when I know a Mutters cookie is  
involved. For my fellow pups out there ... if your  
parents haven't brought Mutters home for you yet  
then make sure they read this! Not only are these  
cookies delicious, but they're good for us, too! Only  
fresh ingredients are used and only ingredients that  
are good for us. Please try some today! You don't  
know what you're missing."

—A very satisfied customer,  
*Elmo, CCHS alum*

## A Fetching Ball

A masquerade dinner and auction to benefit  
the homeless pets at the Champaign County Humane Society

Many thanks to the volunteers and participants who helped raise more than \$25,000 at our first Fetching Ball on Oct. 27 at Hawthorne Suites.

The inaugural event featured a dinner and masquerade ball, as well as a silent auction, a live auction and a raffle.



Pictured from left are Jill Niles, CCHS board president; Kristin Jenkins, volunteer; Mary Young, board member; and Harriett Weatherford, board member and past president, at the Fetching Ball.

## Canine College comes to Champaign County

The PhD (People helping Dogs) program kicked off at the shelter in mid-January, and the results have been nothing short of stellar. The program pairs volunteers with canines who need a helping paw learning basic obedience. Using positive techniques, volunteers teach basic commands such as “sit,” “off,” how to take treats gently and how to walk nicely on a leash.

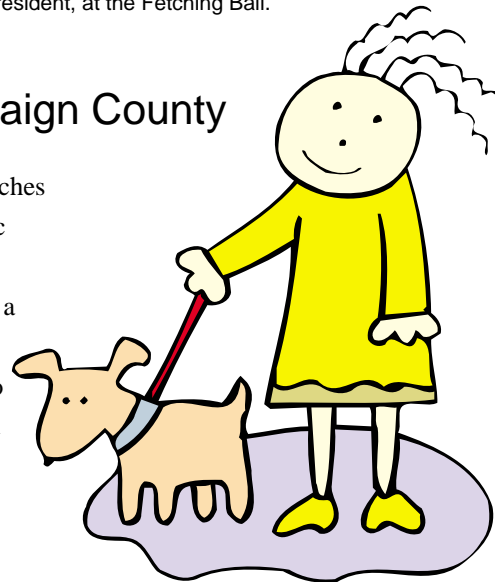
“The program is great

because it teaches dogs the basic skills they need to make a smooth transition into a home,” said Stephen J. Notaro, CCHS

executive

director. “New owners’ faces light up when their newly adopted dog sits on command in the shelter’s lobby.”

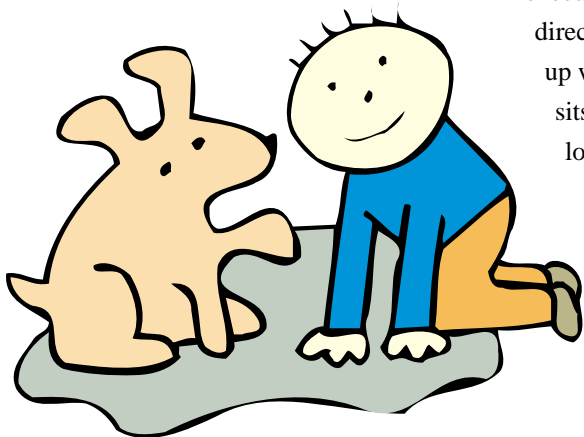
Pam Lowrey, volunteer and PhD coordinator, says that 10 dogs have “graduated” from the program by being adopted in the past month and six



more are currently enrolled in “class.”

Our goal for the PhD program is to have enough volunteer help to have every shelter canine enrolled in school while they wait to be adopted.

If you would like to help with this or any other volunteer activity, please contact Pam at Pam@cuhumane.org or 344-9314. •



## Living with your allergies ... and your pets

One thing to know about being a pet owner is that it is never easy. While pets bring joy and companionship to our lives on a daily basis, they also require training, veterinary care, time, love, attention and even tolerance. And that tolerance is especially necessary when a pet owner is allergic to his or her companion animal.

Studies show that approximately 15 percent of the population is allergic to dogs or cats. An estimated one-third of persons in the United States allergic to cats (about 2 million people) live with at least one cat in their household anyway. In a study of 341 adults who were allergic to cats or dogs and had been advised by their physicians to give up their pets, only one out of five did. What's more, 122 of them obtained another pet after a previous pet had died. It's clear that the benefits of pet companionship outweigh the drawbacks of pet allergies for many pet owners. Living comfortably with a companion animal despite being allergic to him requires a good understanding of the allergic condition and adherence to a few rules.

All cats and dogs are allergenic (allergy-causing) to people who are allergic to animals. Cats tend to be more allergenic than dogs for most allergic people, although some people are more sensitive to dogs than cats. Contrary to popular belief, there are no "non-allergenic" breeds of dogs or cats; even

hairless breeds of dogs and cats may be highly allergenic. Dogs with soft, constantly growing hair – the poodle or the bichon frise, for example – may be less irritating to some individuals, although this may be because they are bathed and groomed more frequently. One dog or cat of a particular breed may be more irritating to an individual allergy sufferer than another animal of that same breed.



The source of irritation to pet-allergic humans? Glands in the animal's skin secrete tiny allergy-triggering proteins, called allergens, that linger in the animal's fur but also float easily in the air. Allergens are present in the animal's saliva and urine, too, and may become airborne when saliva dries on the fur. The severity of reaction to these allergens varies from one person to the next, ranging from mild sniffing and sneezing to life-threatening asthma, and can be complicated by simultaneous allergies to other irritants in the allergy

sufferer's environment.

If your or a family member's allergies are simply miserable, but not life-threatening, take these steps to reduce the symptoms. To begin with, create an "allergy free" zone in the home – preferably the bedroom – and strictly prohibit the pet's access to it. Use a high-efficiency HEPA air cleaner (available at almost any home and garden store or discount department

store) in the bedroom. Consider using impermeable covers for the mattress and pillow because allergen particles brought into the room on clothes and other objects can accumulate in them.

Use HEPA air cleaners throughout the rest of the home, and avoid dust-and-dander-catching furnishings such as cloth curtains and blinds and carpeted floors. Clean frequently and thoroughly to remove dust and dander, washing articles such as couch covers and pillows, curtains and pet beds. Use a "microfilter" bag in the vacuum cleaner to effectively catch all the allergens you vacuum up.

Bathing your pet on a weekly basis can reduce the level of allergens on fur by as much as 84 percent. Although products are available that claim to reduce pet allergens when sprayed on the animal's fur, studies show they are less effective than a weekly bath. Even cats can become accustomed to being bathed; check with your veterinarian's

Enclosed is my

- Donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_  Gift membership of \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Special donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_  in memory of  
 in honor of

*Please print*

Please send an acknowledgement of this gift to

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State & Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to the Champaign County Humane Society. Mail the form and your check to:  
CCHS, 1911 E. Main St., Urbana, IL 61802. Gifts to the CCHS are tax deductible. Thank you.

staff or a good book on pet care for directions about how to do this properly, and use whatever shampoo your veterinarian recommends as best for your pet.

Don't be quick to blame the family pet for allergies. Ask your allergist to specifically test for allergies to pet dander, rather than making an assumption. And understand that allergies are cumulative. Many allergy sufferers are sensitive to more than one allergen. So if you're allergic to dust, insecticides, pollen, cigarette smoke, and cat dander, you'll need to reduce the overall allergen level in your environment by concentrating on all of the causes, not just the pet allergy. For example, you may need to step up measures to remove cat dander from your home and carefully avoid cigarette smoke during spring, when it is difficult to avoid exposure to pollen.

Immunotherapy (allergy shots) can improve symptoms but cannot eliminate them entirely. They work by gradually desensitizing a person's immune system to the pet allergens. Allergy-causing proteins are injected under the person's skin, triggering the body to produce antibodies (protective proteins) that block the pet allergen from causing a reaction. Patients are usually given one dose per week for a few weeks to months (depending on the severity of their allergy) and then can often manage with one injection per month.

Additional treatments for allergies to pets are symptomatic, including steroidal and antihistamine nose sprays and antihistamine pills. For asthma, there are multiple medications, sprays and inhalers available. It is important to find an allergist who understands your commitment to living with your pet. A combination of approaches – medical

control of symptoms, good housecleaning methods, and immunotherapy – is most likely to succeed in allowing an allergic person to live with pets.

Of course, if you do not currently have a pet and are considering one, and know you are pet-allergic, be sure to consider carefully whether you can live with the allergy before you bring a new pet home. Except in the case of children, who sometimes outgrow allergies, few allergy sufferers become accustomed to pets to whom they are allergic. Too many allergic pet owners obtain pets without thinking through the difficulties of living with them. And too often they end up relinquishing pets, a decision that is difficult for the owner and can be life-threatening for the pet. Pets deserve lifelong homes.

*Copyright © 2000 The Humane Society of the United States. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission from HSUS.*

