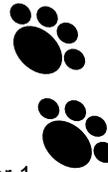


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Prints



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 or phone at 344-7297.

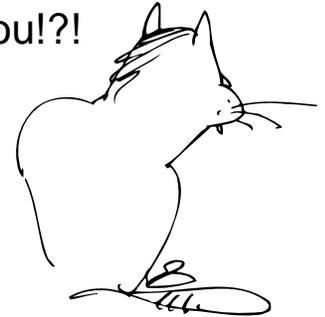
Inside:

- 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.

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 1911 E Main Street
 Urbana, IL 61802
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<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. •

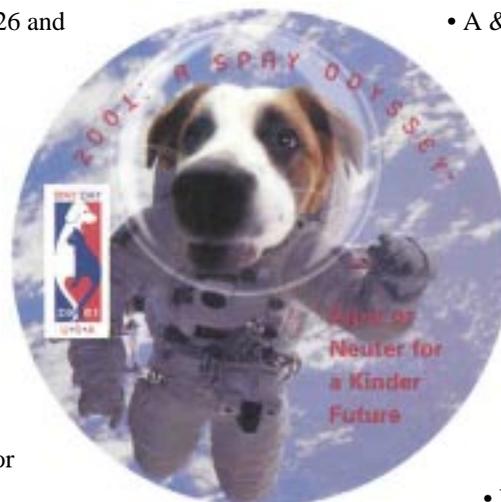
2001: A Spay Odyssey was a great success locally

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
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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

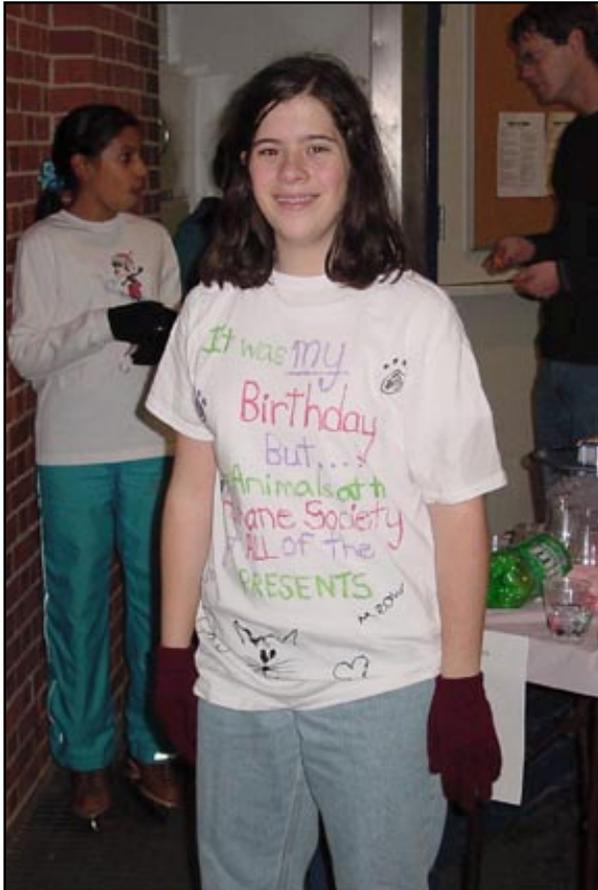
Crystal and John Graham
Sherry Slade

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.

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.”

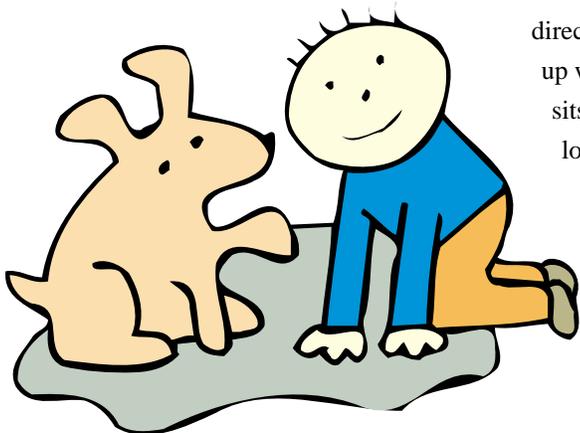
Pam Lowrey, volunteer and PhD coordinator, says that 10 dogs have “graduated” from the program by being adopted in the past month and six



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.

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