



# Paw Prints

Newsletter of the Champaign County Humane Society, in its 56th year of caring for animals • Vol 29, No.2 • Oct.-Nov. 2007

## CCHS Welcomes New Executive Director

By Gloria Sax, Board President

September 1, 2007 marked the date Mary "Tief" Tiefenbrunn assumed her new role as Executive Director of the Champaign County Humane Society. Tief brings with her a background in the animal welfare arena, as a founding board member of the Companion Animal Resource and Education (CARE) Center, a volunteer with Illinois Birddog Rescue, and as a board member of the Humane Society for the past two years, all contributing to a solid grasp of companion animal welfare issues. In addition to this valuable experience, she earned a Juris Doctor from Loyola University Chicago School of Law, and served as a Law Clerk for the past 8 years to the Honorable Justice Robert J. Steigmann.

Prior to making the decision to attend law school, Tief earned a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre from Hofstra University in New York. She was a Stage Manager for Children's Theatre Company, North America's largest children's theatre in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and was a freelance Stage Manager for professional theatrical productions in New York, Chicago, and Minneapolis.

Tief intends to continue to improve the quality of life for our shelter residents, increase adoptions, and expand our education and community service programs. She plans to continue to build relationships with other animal welfare groups in our community in an effort to address pet-overpopulation issues that all agencies face.

Reinvigorating our fundraising programs and working with the board and current shelter staff to develop long term plans are primary objectives. To that end, Tief looks forward to communicating the value of our organization to the community and welcoming members of the community to partner with us in accomplishing these goals.

Tief and her partner Bill share their lives with two rescued bird-dogs, Rocky and Daisy, and a feline friend, Suzy. Sadly, since the writing of this article, a second cat and CCHS alum, Cody, succumbed to a very aggressive form of Squamous Cell Carcinoma.

Under Tief's direction, the Board of Directors is confident that CCHS will become an even stronger, more professional, and more well-rounded humane organization. We are thrilled to have her on board.

## Giant Memorial Day Garage Sale Another Huge Success

by Mare Payne

Thanks to the efforts of 103 volunteers who put in hundreds and hundreds of hours unloading, organizing and selling, the 2007 CCHS GIANT Garage Sale on Memorial Day weekend was another tremendous success. The sale grossed \$38,000 and cleared just under \$35,000; and we did it all with one less day of dropoffs due to the volume of donations.

*continued on back page*

## Buying Versus Adopting: The Hidden Cost

By Grace Casillas



When it comes to acquiring a new pet, many people don't understand the difference between buying and adopting. They don't see anything wrong with a pet store as a source for a puppy. Anyone can walk into a pet store and buy a puppy, as long as they have the money to cover the cost. A salesperson is not going to determine the buyer's competence as a guardian for the dog. He is not going to ascertain if the buyer's living situation is appropriate for a dog. He is not going to counsel the buyer on the potential expense of the dog, over the dog's lifetime, for feeding, grooming, vaccinations, routine medical exams and extraordinary veterinary care. Once the sale is made, a salesperson is not going to be concerned about the future welfare of that puppy; the transaction is complete.

In contrast, adopting a puppy from the Champaign County Humane Society or other animal shelter is a different experience. The welfare of the animal is of the utmost importance. Potential adopters complete an application, which is then reviewed and approved by CCHS staff, to ensure that the dog is going to a suitable home. An animal shelter's primary concern is to place animals into compassionate, caring and forever homes. To that end, it screens adopters carefully, with an emphasis on making a good match between canine and human companions.

CCHS, like other shelters, takes the responsibility of finding homes for its animals very seriously. Animals relinquished to shelters have already experienced the stress of being uprooted from their homes. Changes in living situations, such as moving, divorce, illness and even death can result in the relinquishment of an animal that has spent its entire life with one family, in one home. Frequently, it is a case of an owner not being prepared for the obligation and commitment to care for the cute pet store puppy. When acquiring a pet is an impulse purchase, the likelihood of the animal ending up homeless increases.

If pet stores are not choosy about the people who buy their puppies, they are even less particular about the puppies they sell. Most puppies sold in pet stores come from large commercial breeding operations, which have come to be known as puppy mills. The Humane Society of the United States describes

*continued on page 7*



## From the Executive Director

### *Reflections on Homeless Animals Day*

On August 18th, CCHS joined nine other animal-welfare agencies at the Urbana Market at the Square to recognize National Homeless Animals Day. The event marked the first-ever collaborative effort by a recently formed consortium of East-Central Illinois animal welfare organizations. These groups began meeting earlier this year to explore the concept of joining forces to address companion animal over-population in our area. Other communities have succeeded in reducing the euthanasia of healthy animals by taking this collaborative approach, and to its credit, our community is hoping to follow their lead.

I served on the committee that organized the August event, and was assigned the task of creating a Homeless Animals Day poster. As a result, I spent considerable time reflecting on homeless animals and what a "homeless animals day" should be all about.

It seems that in recent months, the animal welfare community has been quite vocal in response to two crises. Nationally, the Michael Vick scandal has brought the criminal and barbaric conduct of dog-fighting enthusiasts into the open. Locally, many concerned citizens have expressed their outrage and concern regarding the cruelty associated with the retail puppy trade and commercial dog breeding facilities. When issues like these come to the fore, animal welfare advocates are re-energized and people who ordinarily are not involved at their local animal shelter start volunteering to wage protests, raise money, and write letters to the editor. I suppose it is an aspect of the human condition: action comes only when one's sense of outrage outweighs one's sense of inertia.

Unfortunately, while the fur is flying over puppy mills and dog fighting, the "crisis de jour" at animal shelters is the same as it was yesterday and will be tomorrow: another homeless animal has been dropped off to face an uncertain future in a strange, and often harsh, environment. The vast majority of shelter animals are not the victims of heinous cruelty. The media spotlight does not shine on their plight. Instead, the "silent majority" of animals in need are victims of nothing more than ignorance or indifference. We don't recognize it as outrageous because it is so commonplace.

How could we ever afford the energy required to maintain a sense of outrage about a "crisis" that is perpetual?

How can we afford not to?

As I tried to envision my homeless-animals-day poster, my mind kept returning to the lyrics of John Mayer's song, "Waiting on the World to Change." He speaks of the frustration felt by his generation and their sense of powerlessness. He refers to them as "misunderstood." In the refrain, he says that because of these conditions they are "waiting; waiting on the world to change." It seems to me that Mayer has beautifully, though inadvertently, described the life of shelter animals.

But there is a significant difference between the plight of Mayer's generation and the animals whose cages I now walk past every day. While I can appreciate the frustration of Mayer's generation, and at times I even share it, I also believe that when people respond to their circumstances by "waiting" they have made a conscious choice to do so. People can take action. They can organize. They can rise up. They can lead. The homeless animals that wait in our shelters are not there because they have chosen to be passive. They are simply misunderstood. They are simply powerless. And they simply wait.

For them, I too want the world to change. And for that change, I refuse to wait. I invite you to join me in my impatience. I am confident that by working together, whether as individuals or institutions, we can bring about the change we seek and create a better world for our animal companions.

Mary "Tief" Tiefenbrunn



By donating to Community Shares of Illinois where you work, you and your fellow employees are joining a committed group of individuals who share your passion for a just society, your desire to help people in need and your commitment to social change. Champaign County Humane Society is a member of Community Shares of Illinois. Visit [www.cs-il.org](http://www.cs-il.org).

PawPrints is the newsletter of the Champaign County Humane Society. The CCHS, incorporated in 1951, is a nonprofit, nongovernmental organization dedicated to preventing cruelty to animals, promoting animal welfare, and educating the public about humane care and treatment for all animals. CCHS is an "open door" shelter and accepts all animals in need, regardless of age, physical condition or adoptability. PawPrints is a copyrighted publication; permission to reprint any item is given, provided that CCHS-PawPrints is acknowledged. All inquiries and article submissions should be directed to the PawPrints Editorial Committee, in care of CCHS. This issue was designed and edited by Brad Hudson, Gloria Sax, Mary Stuart and Tief. Contributing photographers were Ben Cleary, Gina Papke, Jim Payne & Miriam Young. Portrait of Tief, Daisy and Rocky this page by DMS Photography, copyright 2007. Used by permission. Special thanks to Patricia Wentzel.

#### **Board of Directors Executive Committee**

Gloria Sax  
*president*

Lisa Burgoon  
*vice president*

Vickie Jarrell  
*secretary*

Marlene Walker  
*treasurer*

Brad Hudson  
*at-large member*

#### **Board members**

Amy Fischer  
Rochelle Funderburg  
Judy Gruber  
Leroy Neitzel, DVM  
Shelby Stifle  
Melissa Thomas  
Dan Wood

#### **Executive Staff**

Mary "Tief" Tiefenbrunn  
*executive director*

Jennifer Stone, DVM  
*shelter veterinarian*

Kate Meghji  
*shelter manager*

Lisa McElwain  
*finance manager*

Clay Foley  
*humane investigator/educator*

Greg Lipas  
*volunteer coordinator  
events planner*

#### **Champaign County Humane Society**

1911 E. Main St.  
Urbana, IL 61802  
217-344-7297

#### **Shelter Hours**

Adoptions  
Monday - Friday 2 PM to 7 PM  
Saturday 11 AM to 6 PM  
Sunday: 11 AM to 4 PM

Relinquishing an Animal  
Monday - Friday 2 PM to 4 PM  
Saturday/Sunday - 11 AM to 1 PM

[www.cuhumane.org](http://www.cuhumane.org)

## A Service Dog's Own Story

by Siobhan Senier

When former Urbana resident Beth Finke toured the country to promote her memoir "Long Time, No See" she says the questions after her presentations were all about, guess what?

The dog.

"That book was about losing my sight, having a kid, adjusting, staying married," she sighs, then immediately breaks into a smile. "But really, all everyone ever wanted to know about was my Seeing Eye dog!"

Many people are curious about Seeing Eye dogs-how they are trained, how they know how to do the seemingly miraculous things they do. At her "Long Time, No See" presentations Beth wanted to refer audience members to good books about guide dogs. "But there weren't any," she says, "So I decided to write my own."

"Hanni and Beth: Safe & Sound," a picture book for children between ages 4 and 10, was published October 15 by Blue Marlin Publications. It is the touching tale of the relationship between Seeing Eye dog, Hanni, and Beth. Told from the point of view of Hanni (her name rhymes with Bonnie), the story depicts her feelings as a playful dog -- as well as her devotion as a loyal companion-- whose number one job is to keep her partner safe. Their teamwork and love for each other are evident on every page. The book also contains four pages of "Notes," which further describe the Seeing Eye School and how Beth and Hanni became friends and partners.

Beth moved to Chicago in 2003, but soon she'll be back in town with her Seeing Eye dog Hanni to promote this beautifully illustrated children's book-- you can see this dynamic duo at the Urbana Free Library and Jane Addams Bookstore on Saturday, November 3. The Urbana Free Library program at 11 am is intended for kids, no books will be sold at the event. If you want a signed copy of "Safe & Sound" -- complete with a rubber stamped impression of Hanni's paw print -- you'll have to come to Jane Addams Bookstore, 208 N. Neil in Champaign to meet Hanni and Beth between 2 and 4 pm on Saturday. More information about the book signing is available at 217-356-2555.

The book is also available in Braille (no pictures) from a non-profit organization called Seedlings ([www.seedlings.org](http://www.seedlings.org)) A portion of the proceeds from every print book sold will be donated to Seedlings to help them continue to produce high-quality Braille books for children.

"Safe & Sound" is Beth's second book. In 2003 the University of Illinois Press published "Long Time, No See," a moving and often funny memoir about Beth's life in Champaign-Urbana, her experience losing her sight as a young woman, sticking through subsequent tough times in her marriage, and raising a son (now 21) who has significant physical and mental disabilities of his own. The book made The Chicago Tribune's list of favorite nonfiction books for 2003, as well as the Book Sense 76 Top Ten List of University Press Books.

Beth continues to write for National Public Radio, Chicago Public Radio, Woman's Day, the ChicagoTribune, Dog Fancy, The Bark and other publications. She teaches a writing course for senior citizens for Chicago's Department on Aging and works part-time at Easter Seals Headquarters in Chicago. "I'm their Interactive Community Coordinator", she explains. "That's just a fancy-schmanzy title that means I moderate the Easter Seals Autism Blog." Beth says she is the only blind woman in America being paid to moderate a blog -- so far no one has challenged her claim.

Beth also has her own personal blog. "It's a dogblog, of course!" she laughs. The "Safe & Sound" blog follows Beth and Hanni's travels on their book tour, you can link to it from her website at [www.bethfinke.com](http://www.bethfinke.com)



Used by permission Blue Marlin Publications

"Everyone who sees a Seeing Eye dog in action wonders about the dynamic between dog and human being, and now Beth Finke reveals all the intelligence, caring and love that goes into this unique partnership by letting a dog, Hanni, tell her story. The pairing of Finke's clear and animated writing with LeTourneau's precise and expressive illustrations perfectly reflects the lively relationship between proud and responsible Hanni and proud and intrepid Beth, not only showing young readers how remarkable Seeing Eye dogs are, but also how a person without sight can live a full, creative, and pleasurable life."

- Donna Seaman, *Booklist* editor and author of *Writers on the Air*

Hanni and Beth will be in the area soon, including these appearances:

On WILL radio's "Focus 580" program,  
Friday Nov. 2 at 11 am

At the Urbana Free Library,  
Saturday morning, Nov. 3 at 11 am

At Jane Addams Bookstore,  
208 N Neil in Champaign  
Saturday Nov. 3 from 2-4pm

At this last venue, Beth will sign books and stamp Hanni's paw print in them

# SPECIAL THOUGHTS

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 FROM MARCH THROUGH JUNE 2007.

## IN MEMORY OF

**Murphy Armstrong,**  
in memory of my friend,  
I miss you  
*Brigadier and his parents*

**Barbara Auteberry**  
*Christine Scarce, Charles,  
Marilyn & Robby Johnson,  
Patricia Hall, Gary & Kelly  
Sullan, Barbara & Steve Beckett,  
N. L. Shaw, Kenneth Breeden,  
S. Reynolds*

**Helen Baldwin**  
*Janet Haubold, Grace Walton,  
Yvonne Dudderard, Judith  
Johnson, Phil & Paula O'Bryan,  
Mary Margaret Graham, Joan  
Williams*

**Jim Bickel**  
*Elizabeth Grubar*

**Bill Boswell**  
*Jim & Shari Eide*

**Brooklyn, good friend to  
Harriett Weatherford and  
Tom Schaeffges**  
*Jack & Shelby Stifle, Karen  
Koenig, Yoram & Carol Mizrahi,  
Barbara Meyer*

**Calvin, beloved cat**  
*Anonymous*

**Casey**  
*Amanda McWilliams*

**Phyllis Casselman**  
*Charles McLaughlin*

**Amber, beautiful companion  
of Paul and Joyce Cottingham**  
*Nina Cottingham*

**Charlie, a treasured friend and  
CCHS alum**  
*Carol Woodcock*

**Chelsea, beloved companion  
of the Kamm family**  
*Margaret Cupps*

**John S. Clifford**  
*Patrick J. Clifford*

**Roberta Cox**  
*Isabelle Brink*

**Cardi Crause**  
*Terry & Shelley Scott*

**Deacon, there will always be a  
void in our lives without you**  
*Rick & Cheryl Munds*

**Connie Difanis**  
*David & Jeannie Crockett*

**Jenny, beloved pet of Ken and  
Jean Dugan**  
*Dogs-R-It*

**Brenda Dyar**  
*C-U USBC WBA*

**Howard Garver**  
*Margaret Garver, Phil & Janet  
Warner, Ronnie & Janet Parker,  
Sherry & Danny Bryant, Ellen  
& Lawrence Roessler, Walter  
& Ruby Jacobs, Mary Beddoe,  
James & Janet Jacobs, Mr. &  
Mrs. Bobby Loveless, Shirley Dye*

**Gertrude, Grace's beloved cat**  
*Griswold Family*

**Mary Beth Greene and her  
beloved pets**  
*Ken and Nancy*

**Amy, loved by Patti Giertz**  
*Dogs-R-It*

**Glenna**  
*Joseph & Janet Saban, Jane &  
Robert Bradley, David & Carol  
Lins*

**Marian Glennon**  
*Ivy Glennon*

**Ruth Goodyear**  
*C-U USBC WBA*

**Hannah, a CCHS alum who  
gave 15 years of unconditional  
love**  
*Elizabeth Braver, Anne Hart*

**Hercules**  
*Patricia Morris*

**Gene Hool**  
*David & Sylvia Davis*

**Ibsen**  
*Howard Berenbaum & Megan  
McLaughlin, Faye Lesht*

**Ellen Cilenti Jepsen**  
*News Gazette Newsroom Staff*

**Anita Kurth**  
*Patricia Vaughn*

**Kelly, our beloved dog**  
*Martha & Howard Lamb*

**Bill Lankford**  
*Ann Chan & Umberto Raiboli*

**Edward and Maurine Lotz**  
*Jerry Lotz*

**Luke**  
*U. of Illinois College of Liberal  
Arts & Science Administration*

**Thomas "Bob" McCabe**  
*Chuck & Sarah Lee*

**Maddy**  
*Diane & George Miller*

**Maggie**  
*U. of Illinois College of Liberal  
Arts & Science Administrative  
Staff*

**Max**  
*Nancy Loch & Lena Bevoy*

**Buster, Beloved chow of Ted  
and Kay Meharry**  
*Delora Seibrecht*

**Queenie B. Mills and her  
beloved pets Lady and Pele**  
*Jeannie Difanis Crockett*

**Murphy, beloved companion  
of Mike and Lyn Jones**  
*Ranger, Rick & Heidi*

**Natalie Misa**  
*Anonymous*

**Max, beloved companion of  
Bob Martin**  
*Karen Koenig*

**Lucille Moore**  
*Joseph & Ellen Noonan, Eileen  
& Bill Kohen, Amanda &  
Roger Houser, Robert & Rebecca  
Withers*

**Rosie, beloved pet  
of Rosie Mossman**  
*Dogs-R-It*

**Beryl Mumm**  
*Marguerite Wilson, Jack & Bar-  
bara Bonnell, Susan Chapman*

**David Nance**  
*Sherilyn Hanoke, Robert Martin*

**Ozzy Mann**  
*Elizabeth Sudlow*

**Oscar**  
*Elissa Libman*

**Reveler**  
*Wayne Schillinger*

**Lexus, loving companion of  
Martha Osterhoff**  
*Sherry Slade, Wayne Schillinger,  
Jim & Lois Campbell*

**Dolly**  
*Joyce Hoffman, Lincoln Book  
Bindery Staff*

**Warren Pacey**  
*Jack & Shelby Stifle*

**Peabody, a friend's lovely cat  
companion**  
*Judith Fair, Helen Satterthwaite,  
Alice Gillies, Sandra Broadrick-  
Allen, Liesel Poppelbaum,  
M. E. Dowd*

**Piper, Snickers, Samantha  
and Ace**  
*Judith Heck*

**Bud Pottorf**  
*Connie Brown*

**Quincy**  
*Vanda, Robin, Heather, RK &  
Holly*

**David Sanstrom, love also  
from Max**  
*Stan & Joan Sharp*

**Shadow**  
*U. of Illinois College of Liberal  
Arts and Science Administra-  
tive Staff*

**Skipper, in loving memory**  
*John Pruett*

**Lynn Stalker**  
*Betty Schmeling*

**Stan**  
*Trish & Siobhan,  
The Somervilles*

**SPC Lucas Starcevic**  
*Richard & Ava Tomson, Thomas  
& Barbara Kleiss, Violet &  
Walter Jenkins, Lowell & Ellen  
Mennenga, Hugh & Janet  
Gallivan, Carolyn O'Rourke,  
Beverly Denson*

**Gizmo, beloved companion of  
Mary Stuart**  
*Caroline Hibbard*

**Tess, beloved companion of  
the Spodek-Ostrow family**  
*Bernard & Prudence Spodek*

**Toby, Mrs. Grabow's little  
white dog**  
*Jane Facer*

**Molly Troutt, Happy "Molly  
Day" 2007**  
*Andrew Troutt*

**Adam Van Melle, in loving  
memory of your love of  
animals!**  
*Robin, Stan & Raine*

**Warren, for the 15 happy years  
you graced our lives!**  
*John, Fiona, Jack & Julian*

**Margaret Williams**  
*Betty Ross*

**Glenna Wilsky**  
*Marcia Busboom*

**Ruth B. Wilson**  
*Lyle & Maryann Johns, Fonda  
Smith, John & Kay Place,  
Jack & Patty Murray, Glenn  
Babb, James Murray Family,  
Pat & Fred Smith, George &  
Marge Morris, Roger & Nancy  
Flack, Don & Carol Turner,  
Charlotte Baxter, William &  
Sandy Wilson, William Cresap,  
Paul Wilson*

**Mary Emma Ziemer**  
*Judith & Rich Blaney*

**Zeus, First Dog of Siobhan  
and Greg**  
*Beth & Brad*

## IN HONOR OF

**Fern Cozad, thanks for putting  
up with me!**  
*Roy E. Cozad*

**Kathy Chao, Happy Birthday!**  
*Janet Wesse*

**Carole Chapman, to a great  
Mother, Grandmother and  
teacher!**  
*Stephen, April, Christina, Gabie,  
Grace, Nathan, Ian and all your  
former students*

**Margaret De Cardy**  
*Dale & Carol Eliason*

**Emily and Richard Lankau,  
Congratulations on your  
marriage**  
*George & Sharon Lewis*

**Amie Pankau**  
*Kim Pankau*

**Michelle Roberts, Bryce,  
Cameron and Abbott**  
*Elizabeth Andrejasich*

**Marcia Rotunda,  
Happy Retirement!**  
*U. of Illinois Office of Technology  
Management Staff*

**Tres, in honor of her new life  
with Brett McLeod**  
*Sherry Slade*

**Janet Wesse**  
*Kathy Chao*

**Our thanks to those who have  
collected much needed items  
or raised funds for CCHS**  
*Amy Wiltzius, Claire Woodley  
and Karen Woodley, Sandy  
Bayles, Barbara Deem, Kristine  
Herman, Scott Lindberg, Amber  
Owens, Lisa Dalbey, Elise Ahn,  
Brenda, Emily and Anna Black*

**Kids Care – Generous kids  
who ran lemonade stands,  
or bake sales, or asked for  
presents for animals instead of  
birthday gifts**  
*Katie Bell, Aidan Hendron and  
the 2nd graders at Holy Cross  
School, Lily & Cassie Morgan,  
Kate Love, Miranda Glennon-  
Nerone*

# Try End-of-Year Giving: It might be “less taxing” than reading this article

by Mary “Tief” Tiefenbrunn

I’ve been on the job for less than 60 days and already I’ve been given an impossible task: Write an article that people will actually read . . . discussing the Internal Revenue Code. When I was assigned this task, I politely informed the PawPrints editor that his expectations were perhaps unreasonable (“preposterous” would be more accurate, but I didn’t want to appear irascible); however, I would give it my best shot.

That said, given the nature of the subject matter at hand and my intense desire to meet objectives, I will shamelessly employ the time-tested technique relied on by school teachers everywhere: You will be quizzed on the content of this article at its conclusion.

Have you ever wondered why you receive so many requests for donations at the end of the year? Yes, it’s partly because thoughts of “giving thanks” and “goodwill toward mankind” naturally give rise to feelings of generosity and savvy fundraisers know that it is lucrative to tap into those feelings. But it is also because those same savvy fundraisers have toiled over the Tax Code, looking for ways that charitable giving can reduce a donor’s annual tax burden. Who can resist a classic win-win scenario?

The basic win-win aspect of charitable giving of course comes in the form of the warm feelings it gives the giver and the financial support it provides the receiver. However, because the United States government uses laws and regulations, e.g., the Tax Code, to encourage desirable behaviors, the “win” for the charitable giver is a little sweeter than just a warm fuzzy feeling. The charitable giver gets a tax break as a reward for doing good.

Keep in mind that charitable contributions only help you at tax time if you itemize deductions. That means you have to (1) keep track of your donations and (2) file the long Form 1040 and Schedule A. It makes sense to itemize your deductions if your total deductions will exceed the “standard deduction” for your filing status. For example: If you are a single tax payer, your standard deduction for 2007 will be \$5,350. If your charitable donations, plus other deductible expenses, such as mortgage interest, real estate taxes, and state income taxes exceed that amount, you should itemize your deductions for a bigger tax break.

In addition to the basic tax-deduction described above, the Tax Code provides some rewards for giving that might be particularly helpful to individuals who already plan on making generous end-of-year contributions.

Here’s one example of a win-win giving plan available now, but perhaps not after January first. Under the Pension Protection Act of 2006, individuals who are 70.5 years of age or older by the end of the year can make a charitable gift to CCHS by transferring funds to us directly from an Individual Retirement Account (IRA), without paying federal income tax on the distribution. This provision applies to gifts of any size, up to \$100,000. This qualified charitable distribution (QCD) also counts toward the required minimum distribution from traditional IRAs, so if you are currently being taxed on such distributions (which may also cause you to pay tax on Social Security benefits), this option may be especially beneficial. This provision is currently set to expire as of December 31, 2007.

Another way to reduce your tax burden while making a gift to CCHS is by donating appreciated assets. As you probably know, if you sell stock, bonds, or real estate that has increased in value during 2007, you will have to pay capital gains tax. However, if you donate that asset to a charitable organization before the end of the year, you avoid paying the capital gains tax and you can take a deduction for your charitable donation. Before making a gift of appreciated assets, you may want to consult with your financial planner or accountant, just to make sure that it is a good idea for you.

These are just a few of the ways that charitable giving can be a win-win option at tax time. In another edition of PawPrints, we’ll discuss the tax benefits of making charitable giving a part of your long term financial and estate planning.

Now, because I always follow through on a threat, here is the year-end-giving quiz:

The Internal Revenue Code . . .

- (a) is a warm and fuzzy statute
- (b) encourages charitable giving by making it tax deductible
- (c) applies only to revenue earned indoors

In order to utilize the Charitable Rollover Provision, you must be:

- (a) at least 70.5 years old
- (b) clicker trained
- (c) dedicated to paying as much income tax as possible

Before making a charitable gift of stock, you should

- (a) check with your doctor about possible adverse reactions or side effects
- (b) consult with your financial planner
- (c) look left, look right, then look left again

The Editor of PawPrints has

- (a) a lot of nerve
- (b) unreasonable expectations
- (c) a thankless job
- (d) all of the above

Answer key:

- (1) b; (2) a; (3) b; (4) c



Pingua considers her tax options with the same enthusiasm most of us exhibit.

Standard deductions for each filing status:  
Single (or married filing separately): \$5,350  
Head of household: \$7,850  
Married filing jointly: \$10,700

# Dog Fighting's Real Victims

by E. Barbara Meyer

*"From the moment you read that indictment, it turns your stomach. It's incomprehensible to me that this could happen - the fact that this actually exists in our society".*

When NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell made this statement at a press conference in July he reflected the shock and disgust of a nation. While many Americans were aware of dog fighting before the Michael Vick scandal, few had given any thought to its horrific reality. The members of the Champaign County Humane Society did, when in 1982 they passed a resolution of condemnation against all blood sports.

Organized dog fighting rings in Champaign County are reported infrequently. Stephanie Joos, Director of Champaign County Animal Control, can recall only one case in the last five years. Raids and arrests have occurred in South Holland, Decatur, Pontiac, and Springfield. In Chicago, dog fighting is considered epidemic by the Chicago Police Department. It estimates that 25% of kindergarten through sixth graders in the city have attended a dogfight. The CPD has created a special task force to address the issue, along with DAWG (Dog Advisory Working Group), a coalition of Chicago Police and community groups.

In urban areas, informal street fights are more common than highly organized dog fights. The organizers are less likely to be concerned about their dogs' injuries or provide veterinary treatment to maimed or dying dogs. The dogs are likely to have been raised for ferocity alone, making them a significant danger to humans as well as to other dogs.

The real victims of this horror are the dogs. It's estimated that pit bull type mix-breed dogs make up half of all dogs admitted to rescues and shelters in urban areas. When rural shelters are included, that population is only reduced to 30% of all dogs admitted. In Urbana-Champaign, dogs impounded by animal control officers for running at large, neglect, or viciousness are cared for at the Animal Services Facility in Urbana (ASF). Dogs are also held there in conjunction with pending court cases, which can place a tremendous burden on the facility. Joos reports that in 2005, ASF was required to hold seven pit bull mixes for 99 days. She cautions that any dog, but especially the energetic pit bull, can go "stir crazy" after that length of time. Special housing and handling are also required if they are deemed dangerous.

While the overall return-to-owner rate at ASF is 45%, most pit bulls and pit bull mixes are never claimed. Owners can't or won't pay the fines, and the requirement stipulated in state law that the dog be sterilized after its second impoundment further discourages people who believe a dog has to be intact to be tough. Unsocialized, untrained, neglected, and scarred, most of these dogs must be euthanized. They are simply not good candidates for adoption and present too great a risk to the community to rehome.

At CCHS, we see a slightly different side of the breed. We now use the more descriptive term, "bully breed," to refer to American Pit Bull Terriers, Pit Bull mixes, American Staffordshire Terriers, Cane Corsos, American Bulldogs, English Bulldogs, and Mastiffs. The term has a double meaning. On one hand, it refers to the bulldog ancestry present in these dogs, and on the other it offers the caution that these dogs are going to require an experienced and knowledgeable owner. Bully breeds make up 17% of the dogs brought to CCHS. Virtually all are owner relinquished, which means they were cared for by someone with at least enough compassion to bring them to us when they were no longer wanted. We see less of the characteristic scarring around the head, neck, and front legs -- the tell-tale signs of dog fighting. Generally, these dogs are brought to CCHS for the same reasons other dogs are relinquished: the dog is too much trouble, too hyperactive, too annoying, or requires too much time.

CCHS performs temperament evaluations on all dogs we receive. This gives us clues about sociability, sensitivity, fear, and aggression. We consider the dog's history and the observations of the staff to determine whether a dog will be put up for adoption. As an additional precaution, if determined suitable for adoption, the bully breeds are classified as "special adoptions." Special adoptions require the new dog owner to enroll in training classes or meet with a private behaviorist to ensure that the special needs of the dog will be understood and accommodated. Even though carefully screened, bully breeds spend more time at the shelter than other dogs and are less likely to be adopted overall. Shelter Manager Kate Meghji states that "many potential adopters are completely unwilling to adopt even the nicest ones", and cited one of her favorites, the sweet and gentle George, who was with us from May to the end of August before he was finally selected.

One of their more endearing traits, loyalty and devotion, was deliberately bred into them in order to make them easier to handle in the fighting pits. They are the most abused of all dogs, and we owe them. We owe them kindness and loving respect, and whether by careful rehabilitation or humane euthanasia, we owe them an attempt to make up for the horrors that have been inflicted upon them.

Buying vs. Adopting, continued

them as "abusive factory farms that treat dogs like production machines."

Puppy mills are the most common source for pet stores due to their reliance on a continuous supply of puppies. Pet stores will claim to sell puppies acquired from reputable breeders; however reputable breeders do not sell to pet stores. Reputable breeders screen their clients as carefully as shelters do. Buying a puppy from a pet store only perpetuates puppy mill cruelty, or what the HSUS calls "the miserable industry that churns out puppies for profit." At the worst facilities, the dogs live in outdoor cages and are exposed to extremes of climate. The standards of many animal welfare agencies would characterize conditions at these commercial breeding facilities as inhumane.

The role of the "class B" broker retail trade. The broker purchases commercial breeders and then sells the need for the retailer to maintain a variety of responsible breeders. Their from one broker, who can provide puppies.

This process often involves crating long distances in conditions that well-being. The stress they endure exchange increases the puppies ease.

Pet stores that utilize large counting on their customers being designer toy dog than in being well issues or the nation's over-population.

Fortunately, anyone who has ever adopted a pet from a shelter knows the rewarding feeling of having saved a life. The difference between buying and adopting is clear. When you adopt from a shelter, you support the humane treatment of animals. When you buy from a pet store, you perpetuate the system of selling dogs through unregulated and often ruthless channels. For true dog lovers, the choice is not difficult.



is another troubling aspect of the large quantities of puppies from them to retailers. This eliminates business relationships with a vast entire stock can be purchased the most popular and marketable

ing and trucking puppies over are dangerous to their health and in this breeder to broker to retailer chances of succumbing to dis-

mercial breeding operations are ing more interested in the latest informed about animal welfare tion of dogs and cats.

Betty, pictured above, is one of the puppies recently adopted from CCHS

## CCHS Needs Your Support!

Please join us in our efforts to promote humane attitudes and prevent cruelty and suffering in our community by becoming a member of the Champaign County Humane Society.

Diamond Paw \$500    Gold Paw \$250    Silver Paw \$100    Bronze Paw \$65    Four Paws \$35

Name  
Address  
City/State/Zip

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ day \_\_\_\_\_ evening \_\_\_\_\_ cell

e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

This gift is \_\_\_\_\_ in honor \_\_\_\_\_ in memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Message for Pawprints: \_\_\_\_\_

For my gift of \$25 or more, please send acknowledgement of this gift to:

Name  
Address  
City/State/Zip



Please make checks payable to Champaign County Humane Society  
Mail this form and your check to CCHS, 1911 E. Main St., Urbana, IL 61802  
As a private, nonprofit, nongovernmental organization, CCHS receives no tax support

Garage Sale, continued

Sale hours Saturday were lengthened, with the bag sale starting two hours later than in the past. We heard lots of great comments from shoppers who appreciated the ease of navigating our redesigned layout. The Czars and Czarinas deserve special thanks for their efforts to manage their departments.

Donations from hundreds of generous supporters overflowed Kesler Hall and the auxiliary space – a moving van donated by Hutchcraft Van Service. A second semitrailer donated by Cornerstone Courier of Buckley was dedicated to collecting the unsaleable clothing and shoes, which along with the remainder clothing, shoes and other fibers, were sold to a clothing reseller in St. Louis. By delivering our goods ourselves to the reseller, our price per pound was doubled.

The success of the Garage Sale was possible through the generous donations of local businesses. Once again, Alexander Lumber, Champaign, lent us the plywood that formed our tables; Blum's Office Machines, Champaign, supplied the cash registers; the U. of I.'s Division of Intercollegiate Athletics lent us six-foot tables; Schnucks, Urbana, let us borrow shopping carts; Champaign Do-It-Best Hardware and Champaign ACE Hardware gave us masking tape; Lowes discounted two cases of it; Rogard's gave us masking tape and marking pens; and ACE Hardware of Mahomet and Panera Bread on Kirby Ave, Champaign gave us garbage bags. Bidwell Concessions once again gave us a percentage of their profits from their stand at the sale.

The newest corporate supporter was the City of Urbana's U-Cycle, which provided totes for recycling and contracted a 4-cubic yard dumpster for cardboard on our behalf. U-Cycle helped make recycling efforts of cardboard, paper, glass and plastic much easier.

Thanks go to all the volunteers, donors and shoppers who participated in this annual event! Next year's sale is May 23 and 24.



The view of the main sales floor from the entrance to Kesler Hall, prior to the doors opening to the public.



Exercise equipment, bicycles and other oversized items were organized outside Kesler Hall at 5:30 am on sale day.

**PawPrints**

Champaign County Humane Society  
1911 E. Main St.  
Urbana, IL 61802



Nonprofit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
Paid  
Permit no. 453  
Champaign, IL  
61822