

Rock County Humane Society

messenger

Spring 2011

2010 SHELTER REPORT

Looking back at 2010, the many positive steps the shelter has continued to take in creating a sustainable resource for the Rock County community has resulted in our best year ever in terms of saving more lives... the progress made over 2009 (which was our best year on record) is cause for celebration. It's also a time to recognize that much work remains to achieve our vision of a safe and loving home for every adoptable animal and humane treatment for all.

It is always difficult to look at statistics in a vacuum because they don't take into account actual intake, sanctuary, owner requested or court ordered euthanasia - or feral cats - or circumstances surrounding specific cases - which can all be very difficult to understand and effectively communicate in "just numbers"... for, as we all know, animals are much more than statistics.

For dogs, we have achieved the rate of an "adoption guarantee" community by placing all healthy and treatable dogs in our shelter. Since 2008, euthanasia for dogs has decreased 63%. This correlates to a 90% save rate for all incoming dogs.

For cats, euthanasia has decreased 42% since 2008. While our community has a long way to go to achieve the same "adoption guarantee" status for cats as for dogs, we have increased our save rate from 30% to over 50% in less than two years.

It is a sad, difficult reality that millions of cats in this country that are stray or homeless or feral will never find homes or a safe outdoor environment in which to live. Cat overpopulation is a national tragedy, and we need to work together to encourage people to commit to their cats for their lifetime, keep them indoors, implement humane Trap/Neuter/Return programs, and spay and neuter to prevent more from coming into a world that can't provide homes for them all.

Despite our inadequate facility and a 17% decline in donations on which to operate, we still saved literally thousands of more lives over the past two years. I am proud of our staff that spins straw into gold and for a community that supports homeless pets even when times are tough for all of us.



- "Orville" and "Warren" enjoy an outdoor play date while they await their new homes.

Over many years, I have experienced the best and worst that people have done to and for animals. That "best" is expressed in many ways, including actions of compassion, empathy, and love. Those values are learned by children by observing how a community cares for its animals. In return for the trust animals have in us, we owe them the responsibility of caring for them.

The community shares this responsibility as a local animal shelter is only as strong as the people who support it. We are asking our community to help us create a safety net by giving more animals homes. If you are not able to adopt an animal, please help us by sending your family and friends to RCHS to adopt their next pet, get involved as a volunteer, and support our operations and programs financially. We are not a government or county agency... every animal we are able to help is made possible by your donations.

We have set admirable goals such that no healthy or treatable pet should lose its life because it is homeless. Those dreams drive us to be the best we can be. But those dreams can only be realized by the entire community working together. Kindness to animals builds a better world for all of us.

Angela M. Rhodes, Executive Director

ROCK COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY

222 S. Arch St.
Janesville, WI 53548

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FAX: (608) 752-4201

E-MAIL:

director@rockcountyhumesociety.com

SHELTER HOURS

Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri
12pm - 7pm

Wednesday

Closed (by appt. only)

Saturday and Sunday
12pm - 5pm

VISIT US

www.rockcountyhumesociety.com

OUR VISION

A safe and loving home for every adoptable animal and humane treatment for all.

RCHS FACEBOOK

Join hundreds of other RCHS Facebook "Fans" online and stay connected to featured adoptable animals, shelter news and events, and more! Simply search for Rock County Humane Society on your Facebook account!

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



• Don with "Cassie" who is still awaiting
• her forever home!

Donald Smith has been volunteering at Rock County Humane Society for a very long time. He recently celebrated his 8th anniversary with our Canine Companion program and is one of our most involved volunteers - regularly putting in eight hour days working alongside our staff. Canine Companions socialize and exercise dogs awaiting their forever homes - a position Don will tell you takes time, patience, and a lot of work.

A good volunteer takes the time to get to know each dog: going slow with those who are shy or a little unsure, offering opportunities for activity and exercise, and providing enrichment and companionship appropriate to each individual.

Don enjoys getting the dogs out to play; he says it gives him a chance to learn each dog's personality. When asked if he had a favorite, he thought for a moment and said he couldn't choose, he loves them all! Why does he volunteer? Well, for Don, that's simple: "it gives you pleasure to be with the animals, to work with them, give them love that they need while they're waiting for their forever home."

Last February Don adopted George, a two year old brown tabby cat. They've just celebrated one year together, and Don says "I love him to death. George is the best thing that has ever happened to me."

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Tuesday, April 26, 2011 6:30pm at St. John Vianny Church Marian Hall - 1250 E. Racine St.

The Marian Hall meeting room is located in a smaller building near the front entrance of the parking lot at St. John Vianny church.

Please join us for a presentation summarizing the shelter's financial and operational areas in 2010 while looking ahead to the challenges and opportunities in 2011.

Light refreshments will be served beginning at 6pm.

You do not need to be a member to attend... the meeting is open to the public, and we look forward to seeing many of you there!

HAPPY TAIL



I adopted Henry, an orange tabby cat. He has since been renamed

Colby Jack (yes, like the cheese!) and is a joy to have! He settled in and adapted quickly to living in my home and turns any cat hater into a cat lover! He thinks that he is more of a dog than a cat, since he plays fetch and can now sit on command, though we are working to further his command training. He still loves to play as always, but can actually be quite the cuddler when he's tired. He is the perfect companion for me, and I just wanted to thank you guys so much for helping me find my perfect match!

Alissa K.



Executive Board:

President: Debbie Mills
Vice Pres: David Thill
Treasurer: Julie Michaelson
Secretary: Katie Parenteau
Member at Large: Elise Erdmann

Management Staff:

Exec. Director: Angela Rhodes
Oper. Manager: Jim Hurley
Office Manager: Linda Maze
Kennel Supe: Melinda Markley
Animal Serv. Supe: Kim Rotzoll
Volunteer/Cust. Serv/Develop. Supe: Kate Katzban-Beren

IS FOSTERING IN YOUR FUTURE?

Have you ever thought that you would like to do more to help homeless animals but weren't quite sure how? Maybe becoming a foster parent is the right fit for you! Here are the Top 10 things to consider before taking the plunge:

1. Give your foster animal lots of attention and affection.

The animal you are fostering likely has special needs that require time and energy. The animal may have lived a difficult life before coming to your home and will require medical and behavioral assistance. Do you have the time to spare to help at risk animals?

2. Learn as much as you can about pet care.

Before you bring your foster animal home, learn as much as you can about caring for animals. Learn about medical and behavioral issues and positive training techniques. Know the warning signs that may indicate the animal needs care beyond what you can give.

3. Be prepared to make a financial commitment.

RCCHS provides all basics such as food and litter, crates, collars, leashes as well as medical care such as spay/neuter surgery, vaccinations, testing, and medications. There is no direct cost to the foster, but we certainly appreciate when the foster can help out with needed supplies so our limited resources can go toward helping other animals that need us. RCCHS does not have the resources to provide outstanding medical care beyond our means but will make all reasonable efforts to provide for the care that each animal needs.

4. Make your home pet-friendly.

Before you bring your foster animal home, make sure you "pet proof" your home and have separate accommodations for your new foster animal. For example, remove poisonous plants and protect furnishings. Keep the animal's room warm and comfortable. Also, take steps to prevent the animal from escaping and use crates and baby gates in the house for supervision.

5. Keep your pets up-to-date on their vaccinations.

All animals should be current on the vaccinations your veterinarian recommends. Before you bring home a foster animal, consult with your veterinarian to make sure your own animals have received the preventive treatment they need.

6. Keep foster animals away from your own pets or at risk humans.

A foster pet may come into your home harboring contagious diseases. Even though your pets are vaccinated against many diseases, it's a good idea to keep the foster animal away from your pets as an added precaution, at least for awhile. Be aware that vaccines are not fail-safe nor do they cover all contagious diseases, and there is a certain element of risk for your family and your own pets when bringing a new animal into your home.

7. Recognize your limits.

Fostering requires a great deal of time and energy—both emotional and physical. Don't overextend yourself by fostering animals too frequently or animals that you cannot handle; you may burn yourself out.

8. Return the animal to the shelter on time.

The shelter depends on you to make its program work. Be sure to return the animal to the shelter at the scheduled time. If you decide to adopt an animal you foster, go through the shelter's normal adoption process. If a friend or relative wants to adopt the animal you are fostering, that person must go through the shelter's adoption process—not yours.

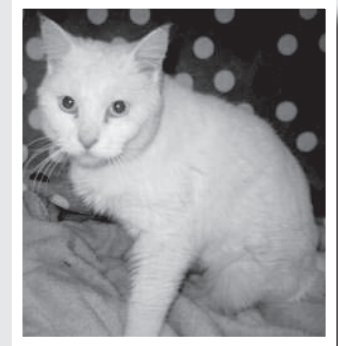
9. Understand that some foster animals will not survive.

Many animals that arrive at the shelter come from unknown backgrounds. Despite your best efforts, the animal you foster may develop a severe illness or behavioral issue that cannot be treated. Do the best you can to help the animal, but accept the fact that you cannot save them all. And saying goodbye is hard!

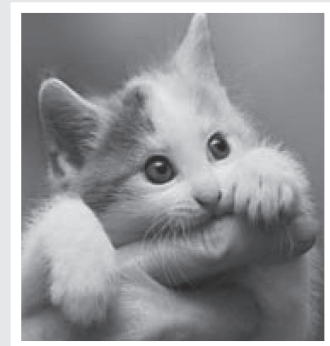
10. Enjoy being a foster parent.

Although fostering takes a great deal of time and commitment, it can be an incredibly rewarding experience. You are temporarily providing a needy animal with a loving home environment and helping that animal become more suitable for adoption into a responsible, lifelong home. Be proud of your efforts!

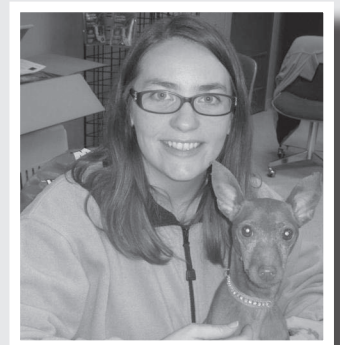
If you are interested in learning more about foster opportunities at RCCHS, please contact the shelter at 752-5622 and ask for the foster coordinator. We are always looking for dedicated foster parents!



- Anita, a lovely girl with special needs, was patiently awaiting her new home while residing in foster care. ADOPTED!!



- We are always in need of foster homes for kittens, especially unweaned babies without mothers and nursing litters.



- Our Foster Coordinator, Juanita, spending quality time with timid "Sue Ellen" who needs some special one on one time!

MEMORIAL DONATIONS

Signe Fagan	in memory of	William Lambert
Hansen Funeral Home	in memory of	William Lambert
Crandell and Janet Bliss	in memory of	Richard Ramsdell
Kathleen Podkova	in memory of	Joan Raymond
Dr. Stephen/Rebecca Johnson	in memory of	Carlton and Helena Hughes
Eric and Joni Cullen	in memory of	Richard Ramsdell
Neal Schneider	in memory of	Richard Ramsdell
Arthur and Sheela Arnold	in memory of	Richard Ramsdell
William John Wartmann	in memory of	Richard Ramsdell
Carol and Charles Smith	in memory of	Othella Ambrose
James and Anita Martin	in memory of	Linda Benash
Pam and George Kiskunas	in memory of	"Oreo" the rabbit
Loreen and Timothy Markus	in memory of	"Mille" and "Maddie"
Randy and Kathleen Fenske	in memory of	Jay Pearsall
Gene and Romaine Schneeberger	in memory of	"Dotty" & "Sandy" Heinen
Kevin Uitz	in memory of	Mary Pettitt
Martha Magee	in memory of	"Princess," "Hanna," "Blackie," & "Ringo"
Joyce Gray	in memory of	Robert Gray
Phyliss and Shellie Wintlend	in memory of	Gene Wintlend
Karla Nitz	in memory of	Donald Helgeson
John and Patricia Lucey	in memory of	"Holly"
Sharon Arneson-Scott	in memory of	"Bailey"
Dennis and Janis Dvoracek	in memory of	Donald Helgeson
John Goudreau	in memory of	Donald Helgeson
Kim and John Falligant	in memory of	Taylor Falligant
Elizabeth Herrling	in memory of	Ross Herrling
Dennis Hessian	in memory of	Deb Hessian
Deb Burns	in memory of	"Sneakers"
Shirley Sirek	in memory of	Michael Sirek
Frances Denner	in memory of	Gary Denner
Kathleen Hudy	in memory of	"Radar" & "Melman"
Joni Cullen	in memory of	Peter Anderson
Dawn Olson	in memory of	"Snickers"

HONORARIUMS

Lucinda Schuettpelz	in honor of	Heidi Gottschalk
Sherry Gunderson	in honor of	Rock Haven Staff
Cindy Alfano	in honor of	Blackhawk Tech. Student Services
Rebecca Kleyman	in honor of	Tom & Lisa Buros
Laura Hedgecock	in honor of	Jane Anderson
Old Fashion Bakery	in honor of	Dennis and Rose
Cathy Knudson	in honor of	Jeff, Jessica, and "Jersey" Knudson
Romaine Schneeberger	in honor of	"Gracie Ann"
Petra Horst	in honor of	"Leelan" the RCHS alumnus dog
Mike and Carol Romack	in honor of	Chris and Becky Stanek
Cynthia Wroblewski	in honor of	Milton East Elementary Teaching Staff

**All memorial and honor donations \$100+ are listed in print newsletter. All other memorial and honor donations are listed on our website and updated monthly.*

LOOKING FOR MORE EASY WAYS TO GIVE?

Constantly "Googling" on the internet? Just switch your search engine to **GoodSearch.com** and select Rock County Humane Society as who you "GoodSearch For." Every time you search, a donation is made to RCHS!

You love to shop, right? RCHS is a member partner with **IGive.com**. Every time you make a purchase over the internet by going through IGive.com, a portion of your total purchase price is automatically donated to RCHS. It doesn't cost you any more...but RCHS gets a portion of the sale price from the extensive list of online stores. Visit www.igive.com today to register!

You might not love to shop for groceries, but it's a necessary evil ... why not make it more pleasant by donating to RCHS to help feed our animals while feeding your family.

- Sentry** – simply save your Sentry receipts and send them to RCHS ... ask the cashier for a green "Funds for Friends" sticker and RCHS gets a portion of total receipt sales that we submit.
- Logli's** - offers a SCRIP program where members can designate credit for their grocery purchases to our shelter by having their Logli card scanned each time they shop. Use RCHS ID # 500006500.

SPECIAL GIVING APPRECIATION

Mike Niemann and Tom Joyce for hosting the spectacular Holiday Victorian House tour and raising over \$700 and collecting and delivering loads of much needed shelter items!

The Estate of Katharine McIntosh

The Estate of Jackie Marshall

The Estate of Anne C. Reinert

Yolanda Murray for donating 1/2 of her cash raffle prize back to RCHS!

Elizabeth and Harold Dettinger for their generosity in honor of their 19th wedding anniversary!

Cost Cutters for hosting a successful fundraiser for RCHS!

Don Sartell for a most generous donation to benefit our shelter!

"an animal's eyes have the power to speak a great language."

—martin buber