

PAW PRINTS



Helping Paws Animal Shelter

2015 ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

ISSUE #61

Save the Date

September 2015

September 19

Responsible Pet Ownership Day

Nature's Feed & Fur the Love of Dogs,
Spring Grove

September 22

Yappy Hour

Onion Pub, Lake Barrington

October 2015

October 3-4

3rd Annual Dog Adoption Weekend

Stade's Farm & Market, McHenry

October 16-18

Autumn Drive www.autumndrive.net

Garden Valley Road, Woodstock

October 24

Wish List Day

Walmart, Crystal Lake

November 2015

November 1

9th Annual Panting for Paws 5K

Lippold Park, Crystal Lake

November 4

Drawing for Fundraising Quilt

Helping Paws, Woodstock

December 2015

December 3

Pictures with Santa

Nature's Feed, Spring Grove

December 13

Pictures with Santa

Helping Paws, Woodstock

2016

February

Have a Heart for Paws

Local businesses

April 14

Human Race

McHenry County College, Crystal Lake

June 12

Paws in the Park

Emricson Park, Woodstock

See www.helpingpaws.net or our Facebook page for more details on actual events.

COMING TO THE RESCUE!

Recently we were presented with an opportunity to save some sweet dogs from a hoarding situation that got out of control. Thankfully, these animals were re-located to the Humane Society of the Ohio Valley, one of our rescue partners so when the call came for help with this terrible situation, Helping Paws was ready! Of the 54 dogs available, we were able to take six — Diamond, Treasure, Spirit, Hope, Magic and Prince — all of them living in deplorable conditions and in serious need of medical attention/care.



At Helping Paws, each and every animal that comes to us is a precious responsibility.

These neglected and ailing dogs were transferred to our shelter on August 4, where our veterinary staff evaluated each dog and provided them with direct medical attention. Many of these dogs have skin infections, hair loss, and were seriously underweight, but all are young and super sweet and can now start to heal both physically and emotionally.

You can help Diamond, Treasure, Spirit, Hope, Magic and Prince as they begin their journey towards a loving adoptive home. Keep posted on their progress by going to our website. You can also help us to help them by making a donation today. Any amount is appreciated and will help get these boys and girls back to being healthy and happy.

DONATE NOW!
www.helpingpaws.net

Annual Publication / Issue 61

Fox Valley

HELPING PAWS

Animal Welfare Association

2500 Harding Lane, Woodstock, IL 60098

815-338-4400 / FAX 815-338-4406

www.helpingpaws.net

www.facebook.com/HelpingPawsAnimal Shelter

Hours of Operation

We are open *every day*

from Noon to 4pm

Tuesdays & Thursdays until 7pm

Board Members

Donna Matejka, President

Sherry Gelasi, Vice President

Ravelle Scherer-Schwab, Treasurer

Marlene Mugavero, Secretary

Sharon Bono-Fabian, Director

Ginny Covalt, Director

Arlene Upatnieks, Director

Advisory Board

Dr. Jeffrey Chemelewski, DVM

Kirk Halma, Certified Professional Trainer

Cheryle Homuth, Certified Professional Trainer

History of Helping Paws

1969

Foster program established for strays until they could find permanent, loving homes.

1971

Helping Paws officially incorporated as the first no-kill animal welfare association in McHenry County.

1995

Helping Paws rented its first facility in Ridgefield which was only able to house cats.

1998

Purchased and remodeled 3,000 square foot building in Crystal Lake which accommodated up to 60 cats and seven dogs.

2006

Designed, built and moved into the current 10,000 square foot facility in Woodstock with the ability to care for three times the number of cats and dogs.

Since its beginning, Helping Paws has found homes for thousands of dogs and cats and averages about 600 adoptions a year since relocating to the Woodstock location.

Thank you to all who help us with our mission, whether a volunteer or donor, and thanks to all the families who have opened their hearts and homes to give a deserving animal a second chance for a happy life.

What is Your Legacy?



Donna with foster dog, Lola.

Donna Matejka, President

I grew up with a father who was much older than most of my friends' fathers. He was very worldly, wise, and philosophical. Born in 1893, he had seen and experienced so much in his life and would often share bits of wisdom with me.

But of course, as a child I did not appreciate or really understand the words of guidance he gave. One of the things he repeatedly told me was that life is short and I should spend my time wisely. Now years later, so many of his quotes ring true for me. Time flies faster than ever and you realize how short and unpredictable life is. It's important to prioritize and decide what kind of legacy you want to leave behind. Family, friends, and faith are

usually the top three on most people's lists, and time and treasures are well spent here. Another good chunk of time is dedicated to our careers and jobs, which bring in the finances that allow us to pay for our basic needs.

But then there are those extra few hours in our week — our "down-time" where we mindlessly play on *Facebook* or binge watch every new series on *Netflix*. Granted, these are all relaxing and enjoyable. But what if we could add up all those bits and pieces of our down-time and put them toward something productive — something mentally and physically healthy, something that gives back to our community, something that makes us feel good and is fun. Would we get off our computers and cell phones and do it?

I invite you to join our Helping Paws family. Consider sharing some of your time with us and become a volunteer. So many opportunities await you, like dog walking, cat socializing, off-site events, fundraising and more — there's something for everyone. And all to help the animals! What will be your legacy?

Special THANKS to our 2014 Sponsors

Paws in the Park Walk & Pet Fest

Panting for Paws 5K Run/Walk

Presenting Sponsor

Companion Animal Specialty & Emergency Hospital

Platinum Sponsor

Piper Jaffray

Big Dog Sponsors

Camp Bow Wow McHenry
Fox Valley Animal Hospital
Gypsy Glen K-9 Kastle
Healthy Paws Animal Hospital
Invisible Fence
Mary Moltmann & Ed Bennett
Michelle Nowland-Young Living
Nature's Feed
The Animal Doctor
Tuf-Tite, Inc.

Gold Sponsors

American Community Bank & Trust
C.A.R.S.S.

Community Sponsors

Amy's Place Pet Grooming
Camp Bow Wow McHenry
K-9 Motivation
Nature's Feed
Mt. Auburn Cemetery Haven
Northwest Herald
Pet Behavior Innovations
Pound Bakery
Route #14 Sales & Rental
The Woodstock Independent
Tuf-Tite, Inc.
Walmart

Paw Crawl

American Graphic Works
In-Depth Graphics
Mr. Rebate

We depend on your charitable contributions

Visit our website at www.helpingpaws.net for all the ways you can help.

Panting for Paws

5K Run/Walk 1 Mile Fun Run

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2015

Lippold Park, Rte. 176, Crystal Lake

Help Us place pets in their Forever Homes

Run for my life.

Register before October 15 & SAVE \$5

www.helpingpaws.net



Proceeds Benefit Helping Paws Animal Shelter



Platinum sponsor:

GUIDES FOR THE JOURNEY PiperJaffray

One of a Kind



Debuted on April 18 at the Art for the Paws reception, *"I Want a Forever Home"* is a gorgeous hand-made quilt, created and donated to the shelter by one of our wonderful volunteers, Mary Lou Harp. This one of a kind, 66" by 70" lap quilt consists of nine dogs with adorable expressive faces, and 3-dimensional floppy ears and tongues. Paw prints and dog bones contribute to the theme of the quilt. The quilt has been professionally appraised for \$1,700.

Helping Paws is raffling off this fun and beautifully hand-crafted quilt to one lucky winner! Tickets for the quilt are \$5 each and will be available at the shelter through November 3, at all major fundraising events or by contacting Laurie Harp at llharp@sbcglobal.net. The official drawing will be held on **November 4, 2015** and the winner will be notified by email and/or a phone call.

When the Lights Go Out

After the lights turn off and the sun sets on the day, we have one final group of volunteers that readies the shelter for the night. Our evening dog walkers come together each evening and ensure every dog and puppy is given their final walk for the day, cleaned up and tucked in for a blissful night of snoozing.

Lynn and Gene Virzi are the lead walkers for the Sunday night team. They have been volunteers at Helping Paws for four years. During this time they have also fostered several expectant dogs and their new litters.



Lynn and Gene with their Sunday night team.

Lynn has created a special camaraderie for her Sunday night walkers by bringing baked goods in the winter and ice cream during hot summer

nights. She also organizes a Christmas party after their walk on the Sunday prior to the holiday. Lynn picks up dog/cat animal-themed gifts throughout the year that each walker selects.

"We have a great group of walkers," says Gene. "We all chip in, get the work done and then relax before heading home." Both are retired, Lynn from 38 years at the Crystal Lake and Woodstock School Districts and Gene from United Airlines.

Love is in the Eye of the Beholder

They say everybody loves a lab, maybe even a poodle, beagle, golden retriever — the list of popular dog breeds goes on. But what about a dog that's a little more unusual looking...a dog that kind of defies description but has a heart of gold. Well that dog was Jeffrey—now named Jax. Jax came to us in 2012 from a high kill shelter in Chicago.

He has a Bassett Hound's body and the face of a Pit Bull. He is stocky and solid and loves belly rubs, children and other dogs. Day after day our volunteers wondered why he was not adopted yet. Everybody loved this little boy. Then one day, Shawn Hacker came into the shelter looking for a male Pit Bull as a companion for her female. What Shawn saw was not a strange looking little dog but a handsome, loving dog who could fit in her family. Here is Jax's story from Shawn's perspective:

I can't believe this October will be three years since I've adopted Jax, aka Jeffrey. He'll be 8 years old and is doing great! Thank God Helping Paws saved him! Unfortunately, he sat at HP for another eight months. The volunteers absolutely loved him, but his spirit was breaking. He was always passed up. His major strikes were being part pit bull, (mixed with Bassett Hound) and 5 years old. I was looking for an older male pit bull that would make a great partner for my female, Diamond. I sat in Jeffrey's cage letting him lick my face, and said, "If he's smart enough to get along with Diamond, this is a done deal!" Jax was an easy transition. He's been the best dog ever! The hardest part was he was not cat friendly with my cat Devin, also from Helping Paws. But after a few months they became buds!! I've belonged to Northwest Obedience Club in Cary since 2006, and just love it! Jax has completed basic training, two Novice classes, has gotten his Canine Good Citizen title, and has even done a few Barn Hunt fun matches! He's also registered for competition.

Everywhere I take him, I'm asked about him. He's my little freak of nature!! My family loves him. When people say they want him, I tell them they had their chance! Thank you to Helping Paws and everyone who was involved in taking care of him. When volunteers are crying tears of joy seeing him go to his forever home, it's very moving! I'll never forget it!



WISH LIST



Cleaning Products

Regular Bleach (unscented)
Paper Towels
Tall Kitchen Garbage Bags
HE Liquid Laundry Detergent
Toilet Paper

Dog & Cat Items

Kitten Chow
Friskies canned food (pate style)
Fancy Feast wet kitten food
Kitten Formula (KMR or Hartz)
Cat Beds
Hard Rubber Dog Toys (Kong, Nylabone)
Soft Cat Toys (mice, catnip)
Dog Nylon or Leather Leashes
Dog Nylon Collars
Clay or Scoop Litter

Office Supplies

White Copy Paper and Colored Copy Paper
9-volt Batteries

Other

Walmart, SAMS Club or Menards gift cards

Recycling

Aluminum cans
Printer/Toner cartridges

Happy Tails

This handsome 12-year-old had been at HP for over a year but because of Tigger's age and a thyroid issue he had been overlooked many times. However, Anita noticed him right away, fell in love and adopted him on her second visit to the shelter. "Tigger is such a good boy. He's an early riser like me and follows me around all day. I really enjoy sharing my home with him."

- Anita S.

Originally found as a stray, Elijah was at HP for over two years. Mike, a shelter employee, always took time to visit him. He said he would adopt him as soon as he was able. After leaving the shelter, getting married and getting a place of their own, Mike kept his promise and he and Amelia, his new wife, adopted Elijah. Amelia says: "He's more like a dog than a cat and runs to us whenever we call him. His bond with Mike and me is as strong as ever."

- Amelia & Mike S.

This energetic coon hound mix came to HP when he was just one year old. The longer he stayed, the more stressed he became. After a few weeks of fostering and basic training with Kirk Halma, owner of K-9 Motivation, he was adopted. His new owners say: "We are so grateful to Helping Paws for rescuing him. We couldn't have found a better dog for our family, which includes two other dogs who all get along great."

- Kurt & Kristen J.

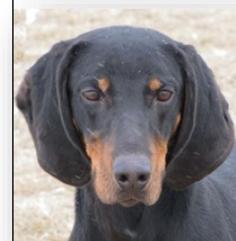
TIGGER



ELIJAH



SHILOH



Art for the Paws

On April 19, the first **Art for the Paws** fundraiser was held and it was a great success! Over 150 people attended the unique art reception at Mixin Mingle to view and enjoy the variety of donated art from many local artists. A 16' x 4' foot mosaic was constructed of the 256 canvases, mounted on specially made panels.



Generous donors made \$25 donations for a canvas and 130 canvases were "sold" via a blind buy system. We raised over \$9,500 at this inaugural event. In addition to the art, wonderful nibbles, wine and beer was served by Maravela's Catering and acoustic music was performed by local student, Gabby McMillan.

A special thank you to all the artists who created and donated a piece of art to the event and to those who purchased a piece of art. Thank you also to Naté Grindeland, owner of Mixin Mingle for use of the facility and her incredible support, to Kris Blum/Inspired Art Studio in Cary and Lucy Tonyan/The Studio Art School in McHenry for partnering with us to find artists. And thank you to our wonderful sponsors: Mary

Moltmann, Ed Bennett, The Framery, Michelle Nowland, Fox Frame Shop and Michael Stanard/One Zero Charlie. And we can't forget Melissa Knight/Woodstock Independent and Herman at Reprographics in Crystal Lake who both consistently support Helping Paws throughout the year.

If you or your business are interested in being a sponsor for next year's event which will be held in April 2016, email artforthepaws@gmail.com.

Giving Back is the Way

Volunteering and supporting the community is the norm for Dorothy Vetrovec, owner of Nature's Feed, a natural pet food and supply store in Spring Grove. Dorothy started her venture in volunteering at Helping Paws in 2007, walking dogs and cleaning the cat/kitten rooms. Her reasons for volunteering? Dorothy's love of animals and her own four-legged kids and wanting to give to the community.

After volunteering for about a year at Helping Paws, as well as fostering dogs for another rescue organization, Dorothy wanted to do something that would involve helping more animals. In November 2008, Nature's Feed became a reality with a great passion and commitment to providing nutritional products, pet accessories and training that directly benefits the health and wellness of pets.



Nature's Feed staff with Dorothy pictured on far right.

When asked what her favorite thing is about owning the business, Dorothy says "Educating pet owners on the benefits of a healthy lifestyle for their pets and seeing their pets thriving. I especially think it's amazing to see the transformation of good health in pets that are not well when they walk through the doors. I love seeing them get better!"

A sponsorship is a great way for any business or individual in the community to give back and support the animals.

In addition to helping so many animals stay healthy, Nature's Feed also gives back to the community because it's what Dorothy believes in. Special events are held monthly at their store including pet nail clippings, pet adoption events, ice cream social, and more. On average, about \$4000-5000 is raised and/or donated back annually to Helping Paws. Dorothy also came up with the idea for the Have a Heart for Paws campaign that we hold during the month of February. Nature's Feed also became a sponsor for the annual Paws in the Park event in 2009 and has been a major sponsor ever since. Nature's Feed also gives back to and supports other organizations as well.

Helping Paws is so blessed to have such an incredible relationship with Dorothy and Nature's Feed. We look forward to working together to adopt and care for many animals in the years to come.

Remember to ALWAYS spay or neuter your pets!

Giving Back...a Way of Life

Debby Krause started volunteering in March 2011 and her husband, Roger, shortly thereafter, after hearing about the opportunity through a volunteer who goes to her church. Debby is the Lead Cat Cleaner on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings. She trains the new volunteers and ensures that the cat rooms are correctly sanitized and are in tip top shape. Debby also builds a spirit of camaraderie on her cleaning days, by hosting celebrations, such as birthdays and anniversaries, for her volunteer cleaners.



Debby and Roger with two adoptable kittens.

Debby also volunteers on Thursday nights as our receptionist and she and Roger also help foster kittens and socialize them for adoption. They also coordinated a charity motorcycle ride last year which raised just over \$3000 to purchase an industrial dryer for HP. Debby and Roger have four cats, two from Helping Paws. Both Debby and Roger are retired but keep extremely busy. When not at Helping Paws, they also volunteer with Big Brothers Big Sisters and Roger is Membership Chair of the McHenry HOG group. For fun they enjoy riding their Harleys all over the United States.



A big super hero thank you to everyone who supported us at the **McHenry County Human Race** this year. Since 2011, Helping Paws has been participating each April in this event which benefits 50+ local non-profits.

This year's theme was 'Super Heroes' and local animal lovers did not let us down. Over 60 people came out to race and support Helping Paws. This was the most of any charity, earning us the Covidian Award (for the second year in a row) and an extra \$600, totaling over \$2000.00 raised to help care for the animals.

Mark your calendar for next year's event which will be on **April 14, 2016!** Registration will open on-line on December 1 at www.mchumanrace.org.

Meow Luau Attracts Cat Lovers

The Helping Paws Cat Enrichment Team ended the month of June with their second annual **Meow Luau** on June 28 as part of **Adopt a Shelter Cat** month.

Highlights of this event included Dr. Karen Burgess, DVM at Healthy Paws Animal Hospital discussing the "Top 10 Health Concerns" she sees for cats at her practice and the need for them to have annual wellness checks. Kitty Gilden, a groomer at Fur the Love of Dogs, also talked about and demonstrated grooming techniques.



A total of 26 cats were adopted in June, including Tigger (a shelter favorite). Thank you to everyone who attended and check our website and/or Facebook page for next years' date in June 2016.



Don't Shop
ADOPT

www.helpingpaws.net

Training Your Cat Can Be Fun

Most people do not realize how many things you can teach your cat. Cats are just as trainable as dogs; you just need a little more patience and some very motivating treats. It is fun to teach your cat to come when called, to sit, or to give you her paw. It comes in handy when you want to call her away from dashing out of the house or you want her to sit quietly while you are fixing her breakfast.

Practicing the behavior over and over will result in your cat wanting to do this behavior because it has been rewarded with a tasty treat. Some treats that are very motivating to cats are very small pieces of chicken or tuna. In the beginning most cats prefer to eat these treats off of the floor rather than from your hand. Keep the training sessions very short – starting at only 30 to 60 seconds.

To teach your cat to jump up just put a treat on a chair and say "up" as your cat jumps up to get it. Once she is doing this well, you can then say "up" without the treat on the chair. When she jumps up, immediately give her the treat. Do the same thing with "off" but have her on the chair and put a treat on the floor.



**Cheryle Homuth CBCC,
CPDT-KA, KPA CTP**

To teach a sit, stand up while your cat is on the floor. Wait until she sits then say "yes" and toss her a treat. She will start to realize that sitting gets her a treat. Soon you will be able to say the word, "sit" and she will sit. Be sure to give her a treat when she does!

It is very fun and rewarding to train your cat—not only for you but also for your cat.

Canine Influenza

What You Need to Know

Canine influenza is caused by the CIV virus, but the recent outbreak is from an Asian virus which has not been seen before in the U.S. It is highly contagious and easily spread from infected dogs to other dogs through direct contact, nasal secretions, contaminated objects, and by people moving between infected and uninfected dogs. Dogs of any breed, age, sex, or health status are at risk of infection when exposed to this virus. So far, there is no evidence that it infects people; however, it does appear that some strains of the disease can infect cats.

Canine influenza can occur year round, but requires direct contact with an infected dog or its secretions. Infected dogs develop a persistent cough and may develop a thick nasal discharge and fever. Other signs can include lethargy, eye discharge, reduced appetite, and a low-grade fever. Most recover within 2 to 3 weeks, but secondary bacterial infections can develop and may cause more severe illness and pneumonia. It can be diagnosed early in the illness (less than 4 days) by testing a nasal or throat swab.

Dogs are most contagious during the 2 to 4 day incubation period of the virus when not yet showing signs of the illness. Almost all dogs exposed to CIV will become infected, and the majority (80%) will develop flu-like symptoms. The mortality rate is less than 1 – 2%.

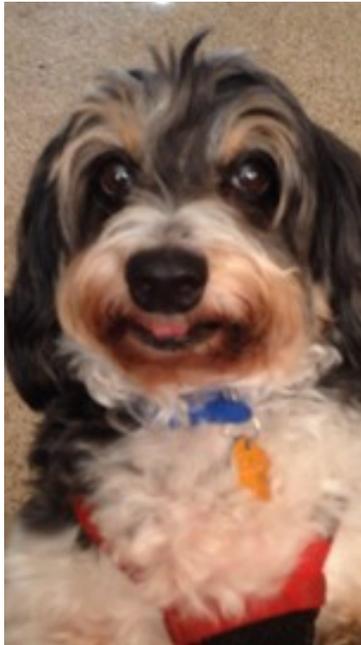
Isolating ill dogs as well as those exposed to any infected dog, good hygiene and sanitation will help reduce the spread of the virus, which does not usually survive in the environment beyond 48 hours and is inactivated or killed by commonly used disinfectants.

The majority of cases were seen in Chicago, but a few isolated cases occurred in McHenry County. It is hopeful that the major risk has passed. An influenza vaccine for dogs does exist, but since this current outbreak is from a new strain of virus, it is not known if the current vaccine offers any immunity. Please contact your veterinarian for advice regarding vaccination or suspected exposure.



Dr. Jeffrey Chemelewski, DVM
Fox Valley Animal Hospital

Love Has No Age Limit



Bailey, a long-haired dachshund, was so fortunate to have been loved and protected his whole life, until at the age of 9-1/2 his mom passed away. Concerned family members, who themselves were unable to keep him, took Bailey to Helping Paws with the hope he would be adopted by another family who would love and care for him. He was very frightened at the shelter. Rather than being put in a cage, staff allowed him to stay in the office under a desk during the day.

One day a very lucky, older volunteer, Marlene, saw him. He came out from his 'safe spot' and jumped up to greet her, and when she bent down to say hello he gave her a big smooch. He had decided, as did she, that they were meant to adopt each other.

Bailey has become his new family's loving companion as much as they are his. He is a champion at sitting up and will also howl when his tummy is getting empty. Extra perks are that he is completely housebroken and loves to sleep in late like his elderly owners. "We will always be so grateful for the years we will have to share with him."

If you are a senior (65+), we urge you to think about adopting one of our senior dogs or cats. Not only will the adoption fee be waived, but one of those pets will enhance your lives with unconditional love and devotion. **Adopt a Senior Pet** month is coming up in November so check our website and Facebook for information about available seniors.

In Memorium

On January 18, 2015, we lost a wonderful volunteer and dog lover, Tom Treptow. Tom lost his battle with cancer and the world lost a truly kind, generous and caring person. Tom was a professional painter by trade and not only volunteered his painting services at the shelter, but helped fix and build many things including our outdoor catios (cat patios). Tom also volunteered with a Golden Retriever rescue group. He leaves behind his beautiful wife, Penny, and his beloved Golden Retriever, Sunny. Tom is greatly missed by all his friends at Helping Paws.



In Loving Memory

In memory of our 'Friends of Paws' who passed away within the last year...

Lynn Anderson, Bob Barnes, Sr., James Berquist, Brian Blanchard, Lorraine Bochner, Boyd, Irene Brockmann, Ruth Bruch, Janet Carter, Judith Cassidy, Cathy Davis, Kathy Durkee, Nathan Finch, Olive Frame, William Fuller, Betty Goulding, Sherri Hall, James Handke, Dan Helstrom, Debbie Henry, Martina Hough, Lucille Jerzak, Robert Kluck, Sam Knebel, Rhonda McCabe, Cheryl Michon, Odana Moody, Kim Nichols, Bill Oestreich, Jo Oliver, Ursula Orzolek, Ulee Prindiville, Michael Ralston, Irene Reczkowicz, Susan Reeb, Mary Frances Roback, Judy Ruark Wilt, Anna Rybaruk, Donald Sanders, Charlotte Seel, Joan Simonson, Sharon Swanson, Sandy Terlikowski, Patti Tinkey, Tom Treptow, Janet Troyer, Bob Turnquest, Andy VanderWoude, Linda Weidner, Alice Mae Wilson, Dolores Zdon, and Dee Zellman

... and our gratitude to all those that made donations to the shelter in their memory.
(Our apologies for any unintentional omission.)

Fox Valley
HELPING PAWS
 Animal Welfare Association
 2500 Harding Lane
 Woodstock, IL 60098
 815-338-4400 815-338-4406 FAX
 www.helpingpaws.net



Non-Profit Org.
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2012, 2013, 2014, 2015
 Voted Best Shelter

Remember to ALWAYS spay or neuter your pets!



Bella



Ben



Charles



El Dura



Faucet



Ginger

Pictured are many of our 'special' cats who have been at the shelter for quite some time — overlooked by potential adopters. Some are very shy, others have on-going medical issues.

None of these cats have been sponsored. But you can be the first to sponsor one of these cats and help us continue to provide them with the best care possible.



If you would like to be a sponsor, please include your name and the name of the cat(s) you would like to sponsor on the enclosed donation slip.

You will receive a photo of the cat(s) sponsored and a photo will also be placed in the HP foyer with your sponsorship recognition.



Jerry



Kelso



Leo



Rusty



Tippy



Victor

Sponsorship Contribution: 3 months-\$50 / 6 months-\$75 / 1 year-\$100 / 10 years-\$500