

PAW PRINTS

A Publication of the Mahaska Humane Society and Stephen Memorial Animal Shelter

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Donations Make A Difference!

In case you missed the front page article in the Oskaloosa Herald, the shelter has two very special "Happy Tails" to share about some very lucky dogs. In late May, a beautiful 3 year old female Collie named Molly was relinquished by her people who could no longer care for her. Molly was an absolute angel! She would "sit pretty" for treats, nudge at your hand to ask for more petting, and steal the heart of everyone she met. Unfortunately, Molly had a terrible secret that was discovered by shelter staff during examination; Molly tested positive for heartworm.

Left untreated, heartworm is eventually fatal, but the treatment is fairly expensive. Costs typically range from \$300-\$500. Only a few dogs have been Heartworm positive since the shelter began testing last November; however, because of the limited resources, heartworm positive dogs usually have to be euthanized, unless there is help available.

Deeply saddened by Molly's positive test, shelter staff asked the Oskaloosa Herald for help. Reporter Jennifer Swanson offered to write a story about Molly and the money needed for her treatment. We were thrilled!



Here's Molly in her new home, engaged in one of her favorite activities, chewing rawhide bones.

Especially when Molly's pretty face made the front page! The story was so effective that the next day at Art on the Square, a kind artist from Nebraska who read the newspaper at her hotel, walked up to the Humane Society booth and gave a \$20 donation for Molly. With several donations from many wonderfully generous people, Molly was saved! (Cont. on page 2)

UPCOMING EVENTS

9/8 - Regular Meeting 6:30 p.m. @ the Oskaloosa Public Library Meeting Room (3rd Floor)

9/22 - Nat'l Farm Animals Awareness Week

9/27 - Adoption Day at Petco, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in Des Moines (by South-Ridge Mall)

9/28 - MAD*WAG 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. at Edmundson Park, Oskaloosa

October - Adopt a Shelter Dog Month

10/20 - Regular Meeting

11/2 - Nat'l Shelter Appreciation Week

11/10 - Regular Meeting

Donations Make A Difference (cont. from page 1)

But that's not the end of this Happy Ending. A few days after Molly's positive test, a friendly, furry fellow named Skipper also tested positive for heartworm. A playful little terrier mix, Skip loved to play with squeaky toys and sit on laps. We all crossed our fingers. If the news article could raise enough money to treat both dogs, then Skipper would be saved too.

Contributions continued to arrive and money from the donation jars was counted. We raised almost \$1,700! More than enough to treat both dogs! The extra money started the Molly Medical Fund, which is reserved for special pets with special medical needs. Recently, the shelter was able to use some of it to treat an older Cocker Spaniel's ear infection.

So far, Molly's story and the community's generosity have resulted in three Happy Tails. All

three dogs, Molly, Skipper and Max the Cocker Spaniel were adopted into loving families. The money raised will continue to positively impact the lives of shelter pets and enable them to find their forever homes.

Donations for the Molly Medical Fund can be sent to the Stephen Memorial Animal Shelter, 2299 235th Street, Oskaloosa, IA, 52577. Thank You!



Skipper was recently adopted by a wonderful family after recovering from his treatment.

Lucky Dog Returned Home Quickly

Recently, a very friendly, lovable Chocolate Lab named Cocoa made his way during an evening "stroll" into our yard. I claim to be an "animal magnet", if there is an animal in need of a home or safe haven, they seem to find their way to me!

Fortunately, Cocoa was very cooperative while I was examining him for identification. Low and behold, he was wearing a Home Again tag, and the microchip number was clearly visible. I called the 800 number on his tag, gave them my information, and within 20 minutes, a very happy and relieved mommy picked him up from our house.

Please help us spread the word about the importance of micro-chipping pets. Just imagine how many strays could return to their loving homes each year if only their owner had taken the time to have them micro-chipped.

Aside from the benefit to the animal and owner, the Mahaska Veterinary Clinic charges a \$25.00 fee to perform the simple procedure, but generously donates 100% of the proceeds to Stephen Memorial Animal Shelter. Definitely a "win-win"!

Article submitted by Michelle Hatch

Help Wanted for Adoption Days at Petco

The shelter gets a lot of visitors from the Des Moines area who come to meet the pets they see on our website, www.smas.petfinder.com. So we decided to take the pets to them! In April, the shelter started taking a few adoptable pets to the Petco near Southridge Mall in Des Moines on the fourth Saturday of every month. Petco does not sell any cats or dogs, and encourages shelters to hold



Lucky little Joe found his new home at Petco!

Adoption Days at their stores. We leave the shelter at 8:30 in the morning, set up at Petco from 10:00 until 2:00, and are back in Oskaloosa by 3:30 in the afternoon.

The shelter could really use some additional volunteer help with these trips. If you have a free Saturday and want to help homeless pets find homes, please call the shelter at 641-673-3991.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

The following individuals and organizations have generously given cash donations to the Stephen Memorial Animal Shelter to help our furry friends who cannot help themselves. Thank you!

Kelly Asperheim	Dewayne Hughes	Lois B. Howell Romine
Jeanie Bieri	Julie and Christopher Hyland	Beverly Russell
Sandy Bonge	Kelly Hyland	Bill and Tracy Ryan
Dorothy Brunt	Blanche Jacobs	Peggy Sams
Peggy Dulin	Sonny Klein	Marvin and Deloris Schneider
Linda Eliason	Doyle Milligan	Audrey Stone
Chad Farner	Chuck New	Vern and Susan Thorp
Gene and Beverly Ferguson	Jane and Jerome Nusbaum	Judith Van Rees
Jane and Chris Flander	Pella Rolscreen Foundation	Mildred VanZee
Andrew Glover	Pat Phillips	Phyllis VerSteeg
Myron and Connie Gordin	Prairie State ASC	Carol and Bill Vertz
Connie Groet	Dusty Reed	Shirley Whitten
Steven and Nancy Hatch	Julie Reeves	Larry Witzigreuter
Kathy Hicklin	Kathy Rivera	Darci Youngstrom
Michael Hodoly	Maria and Ana Rivera	

Contributions have been received in loving memory of the following person who dearly cared about animals:

In Memory of Elsie Coleman
 Tom and Louise Doman, Ms. Ellison, Charles La Rue, Susan Zojec

The following individual has been honored for her dedication to animals:

In Honor of Jill Humphrey
 By Larry Witzigreuter

*The above contributions and memorial donations were received between **May 1 and July 31, 2003**. We sincerely regret if a donation made during that time has not been recognized. Please call the shelter at 673-3991 to inform us of any inadvertent omissions. Thank you for understanding.*

Donations save lives! You can help! Please mail contributions to the Stephen Memorial Animal Shelter, 2299 235th Street, Oskaloosa, IA 52577. Or call if you have any questions: 641-673-3991. Thank you for your support.



MAD*WAG COMES TO OSKALOOSA!

Mark your calendars!

Grab those leashes!

Circle your dogs!

MAD*WAG is coming to town!

The first annual Oskaloosa Mahaska Annual Dog Walk and Games is slated for Sunday, September 28 from 1:00 to 4:00 at Edmundson Park in Oskaloosa. The goal of this event is to raise money for the Stephens Memorial Animal Shelter. In the process everyone--people and dogs--will have lots of fun!

Enclosed in this newsletter is a flyer listing the sponsors and activities of MAD*WAG. On the reverse side is the registration and pledge sheet. **Please fill in the registration blanks and begin collecting pledges.** Ask your relatives, your friends, your neighbors and your co-workers for pledges. Remind them that their pledge will help to care for the hundreds of Oskaloosa area homeless and abandoned pets that come to the Stephens Memorial Shelter each year. Bandanas and T-shirts will be given to those earning pledges totaling at least \$25 and \$50.

The opening ceremonies of MAD*WAG will feature an organized dog walk led by Celebrity Dog Walkers (media personalities, city and county officials) and some of the Shelter's "stars." His Highness, Oliver, the King of this year's Drake Relays, will make a royal appearance. The walk begins at the Rotary shelter and winds approximately 1 ½ miles through the park on the recreational trail. Maps will be provided for the walk; an alternative route will be offered for those who do not wish to participate in the entire route.

After the walk is completed, several activities kick into high gear. A different demonstration will be featured each 20 minutes: these include a herding demonstration by Susan Thorp from the Windrush Kennels; a demonstration of agility by Julie Reeves and dogs of Shadowland Kennels; a search and rescue demonstration by STAR 1 featuring Robin Habeger and Ronan's Golden Talyn; an obedience demonstration by Rich Marks and Mary Heitsman from Shadowland Kennels; and a hunting demonstration by Jim Reeves, also from Shadowland. The Mahaska Veterinary Clinic will also feature a microchip clinic.

Dogs and people alike will have great fun with the contests starting around 3:00! Enter your dog in the Pet Costume contest, the Catch-the-Treat contest and the Stupid Pet Trick contest. All dogs on leashes can compete for the prizes.

MAD*WAG will come to a rousing end with a fitting contest: the Best Tail-Wagger contest! This lucky dog will be the reigning champion of MAD*WAG for 2003. Ceremonies will close with a Blessing of the Animals by Pastor Terry Kleven of St. James Episcopal Church.

MAD*WAG! It's way too much fun to miss. See you there!!

**HELP HOMELESS PETS!
BECOME A MEMBER OF THE MAHASKA HUMANE SOCIETY TODAY!**

If you are not already a member, the Mahaska Humane Society invites you to become one. If you are already a member, please pass this page on to a friend who loves animals and would like to become involved with our community efforts toward animal welfare, public education, spaying and neutering and saving lives.

Types of Membership:

Please submit the form below with dues to a MHS member or mail to:

Mahaska Humane Society
PO Box 404
Oskaloosa, IA 52577

Lifetime	\$100
Supporting	\$25
Family	\$15
Adult	\$10
Child under 18	\$5
Senior over 65	\$5

Annual membership renewal reminders will be sent to all members, except Lifetime. As a member, you will receive a subscription to the quarterly newsletter, "Paw Prints".

Mahaska Humane Society Membership

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

What types of activities would you be interested in helping with? (not required)

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

Dogs in Heaven?

An old man and his dog were walking down this dirt road with fences on both sides, they came to a gate in the fence and looked in, it was nice grassy, woody areas, just what a "huntin" dog and man would like, but, it had a sign saying "no trespassing" so they walked on.

They came to a beautiful gate with a person in white robes standing there. "Welcome to Heaven" he said. The old man was happy and started in with his dog following him.

The gatekeeper stopped him. "Dogs aren't allowed, I'm sorry but he can't come with you." "What kind of Heaven won't allow dogs? If he can't come in, then I will stay out with him. He's been my faithful companion all his life, I can't desert him now."

"Suit yourself, but I have to warn you, the Devil's on this road and he'll try to sweet talk you into his area, he'll promise you anything, but the dog can't go there either. If you won't leave your dog, you'll spend Eternity on this road."

So the old man and dog went on. They came to a rundown fence with a gap in it, no gate, just a hole. Another old man was inside. "S'cuse me Sir, my dog and I are getting mighty tired, mind if we come in and sit in the shade for awhile?" "Of course, there's some cold water under that tree over there.

Make yourselves comfortable." "You're sure my dog can come in? The man down the road said dogs weren't allowed anywhere."

"Would you come in if you had to leave your dog?" "No sir, that's why I didn't go to Heaven, he said the dog couldn't come in. We'll be spending Eternity on this road, and a glass of water and some shade would be mighty fine right about now.

But, I won't come in if my buddy here can't come too, and that's final."

The man smiled a big smile and said "Welcome to Heaven." "You mean this is Heaven? Dogs ARE allowed? How come that fellow down the road said they weren't?" "That was the Devil and he gets all the people who are willing to give up a life long companion for a comfortable place to stay. They soon find out their mistake, but then it's too late.

The dogs come here, the fickle people stay there, GOD wouldn't allow dogs to be banned from Heaven. After all HE created them to be man's companion in life, why would He separate them in death?"

~author unknown

Lounging in Luxury

The Kuranda Company in Annapolis, Maryland generously offers dog beds to animal shelters at half price. Earlier this year, our shelter purchased one to try out and gave the testing honors to Maggie, a big, sweet Rottweiler. She loved the new bed! As an added bonus, shelter staff really liked it, too. The bed was sturdy, easy to clean, and gave Maggie a nice resting place off the concrete floor. Much more sanitary than the ratty old blankets we were using, the bed was also more attractive and appealing to visitors considering adopting a pet. We couldn't wait to buy more!

Thanks, again, to the generosity of many people, the shelter was able to raise the \$500 needed to buy beds for all the adoptable dogs and puppies inside. By the time you read this, they will all be enjoying a little extra creature comfort.

Donations truly make a difference!



Maggie thinks her new bed is pretty cool!

Levi enjoys relaxing in style.



Did you know?

- Dogs jump on people for one of two reasons, or both. They want to greet you at face level to say "Hello" and/or they are testing you to see if their position in the group is dominant or subordinate to yours.
- The ancestor of all domestic cats is the African Wild Cat which is still in existence today.
- Horses usually live to be 20-25 years old. The oldest horse lived to be 62.
- Ferrets were probably domesticated by Europeans who used them for hunting rabbits. The first ferrets came to the US over 300 years ago on ships in which they were used for rodent control.

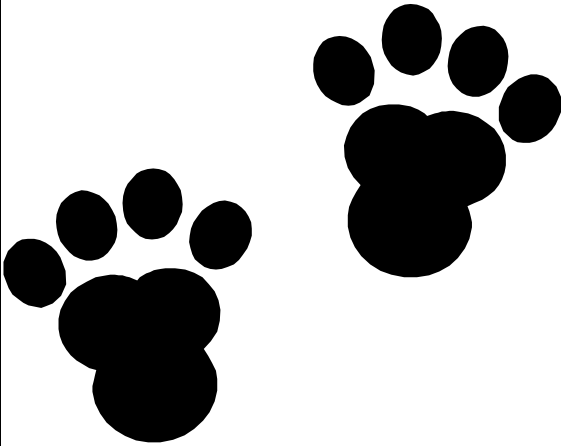
KIDS CARE!



What a wonderful surprise! This summer, several enterprising and thoughtful young people in Brenda Ewing's Daycare raised \$337.37 with lemonade stands and a rummage sale. They used it to buy a TON of gifts for the animal shelter. Everything from basic necessities like bleach, paper towels, collars, and canned food, to some really fun stuff for the shelter pets like toys, treats, squeaky toys, rawhide bones, and small stuffed animal snugglers. They even bought two nice, new clippers to replace our old, overly used ones. Thanks, Brenda and the Daycare Crew!

**MAHASKA HUMANE
SOCIETY
PO BOX 404
OSKALOOSA IA 52577**

Mailing Label Here



SPAY/NEUTER PROGRAM CHANGES

The Mahaska Humane Society Spay/Neuter Program subsidizes the cost of spaying or neutering dogs and cats owned by residents of Mahaska County who cannot reasonably afford to pay for the procedure.

Originally, the program was set up so that anyone and everyone could obtain a maximum of 3 coupons per year by a simple verbal request. The rules have been revised and approved by the Board per the following:

- 1) An applicant must complete and sign an application form and return it to the Mahaska Humane Society Assistance Program Coordinator (Jane Funni).
- 2) Select the veterinarian they wish to perform the surgery and schedule the appointment for their pet.
- 3) Pay for any and all pre and post operative treatment and all required vaccinations.
- 4) Have sufficient assets to care for and feed their pet(s).

There will be an expiration date established for each approved application and no funds will be disbursed for any surgery after the expiration date on any certificate issued.

Eligibility for approval of a spay neuter certificate will be based primarily upon household income levels as compared to the Federal Poverty Level guidelines. Reasons other than income for requesting assistance will be noted by applicants and considered by the Program Coordinator.

Please feel free to contact Jane Funni, 673-6025, Michelle Hatch 672-1293 or Monica Becker 673-3991 with any questions.