



The Companion

April 2014

Friends Forever Humane Society Newsletter

2014: CELEBRATING 61 YEARS OF GIVING COMPANION ANIMALS A SECOND CHANCE

June is Adopt A Shelter Cat Month!

At Friends Forever, just as is the case with hundreds of other shelters, Spring is “kitten season,” when new kittens join the many other wonderful cats we have waiting for their forever homes. We’d love to introduce you to all of the fine felines at Friends Forever! Like any other pet, choosing a cat requires thought, so here is a short list of things to think about.

1. Consider taking home two. Cats require exercise, mental stimulation, and social interaction. Two cats can provide this for each other even when you’re not around.
2. Find a cat whose personality fits yours. We at Friends Forever can help you find the perfect feline friend – we’re great matchmakers!
3. Have a veterinarian selected ahead of time and schedule a visit within the first few days following the adoption so you’re sure to start out on a healthy note and get the proper medical records started.
4. Make sure everyone in the house is prepared before you bring kitty home – pets are a family affair. When adopting a new cat with existing pets at home, our shelter staff can give you tips on how to make a proper introduction. Socialization is very important, but don’t expect it to happen immediately.
5. Make sure you’ve thought about the short- and long-term costs of a cat. While it may not be a major part of your budget, any pet is a responsibility and there’s a cost associated with that.
6. Be prepared so that your new cat can start feeling at home right away, with a litter box, cat litter, food and water bowls, food, scratching posts, safe and stimulating toys, a cushy bed, and grooming tools.
7. Cat-proof your home. Don’t leave food on the counter as that will teach your new friend to jump up for a bite. Watch to ensure the kitten isn’t chewing on electric cords, and pick up small items like paper clips, which could be swallowed.

Please stop and visit anytime – *we’re ready to help you adopt your first cat*, or bring home a friend for whoever might already be enjoying your care!



CALENDAR

MAY

All month

- Chip Your Pet Month
- National Service Dog Eye Examination Month
- Pet Cancer Awareness Month
- Asthma and Allergy Awareness Month

3 National Disabled Pets Day

4-10 Be Kind to Animals Week, National Pet Week

10 Animal Disaster Preparedness Day, International Migratory Bird Day

16 Endangered Species Day

18-24 National Dog Bite Prevention Week

JUNE

All month

- Adopt a Shelter Cat Month

1-7 Pet Appreciation Week

4 International Hug Your Cat Day

8 World Pet Memorial Day

19-25 Animal Rights Awareness Week

20 Take Your Dog to Work Day

Board Meetings – 4th Wednesdays, 5:45 pm – Freeport Public Library

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Thank You's All 'Round!

It's been a busy spring so far, and I have lots of people to thank!

First on the list are all of the volunteers who made Chili Day happen. Their dedication – and cooking skills – along with the many donations for supplies and recipe ingredients helped us raise a healthy amount for the Shelter. Thank you, volunteers and donors, and of course thank you too to everyone who bought tickets and enjoyed lunch or supper (or both) with us.

Next on the list are the folks who bought and sold tickets in our first-ever March Madness raffle. I'm really pleased with the results of this first-time event and I'm sure it will be even more popular next year.

While two of our other spring events will be over by the time you read this, I hope you will have been able to join us at our rummage sale and Raise The Woof. We had a great time at Raise The Woof last year with three outstanding comedians, a silent auction, chair massage and even psychic readings.

While I'm no psychic myself, I'm predicting a great year for Friends Forever anyway – again, many thanks to everyone who has made 2014 successful so far!

Diane

TREASURER'S LETTER

So far, so good!

It's that time of year again – finally! The robins are back, the flowers should be coming up soon, spring fundraisers are underway...and our yearly audit is coming up. Despite that last point, I love spring. It is a season of new beginnings and abundant possibilities.

So far, two of our possibilities have materialized so I can report on them. The Chili Day event has come and gone. This year, after paying the bills, we netted \$4,084.30. This is much better than we did with this event last year. If you remember, last year we had a really bad snow storm on the day of the Chili event, which caused a lot of folks to not make it out of their houses, so we only netted \$2,942.14 in 2013.

The second event I can report on was new this year. It was the March Madness Raffle. The winners and the prizes are listed in this newsletter so I won't mention them again here. I will report that after the prizes are paid out we will net \$2500, which is pretty good for a first-time event.

Next on the agenda is the yearly audit which will happen in a few weeks. I still have a lot of reports and other information to collect and organize, but considering how well we did financially last year, I'm not concerned, which is a nice change from the past couple of audits. We seem to be doing better with each one, so here's hoping we can keep the trend going.

After the audit, we go right into the spring rummage sale, and then Raise the Woof. A lot of preparation is going into these two events right now, and everyone is pulling for a good outcome to both functions. I look forward to reporting on them in the next newsletter.

For these and other outcomes of the rest of the possibilities, we will need to wait and see. While we wait, Ray and I have a new beginning at home to enjoy. We adopted a new cat from Friends Forever – her name is Mira and she is 11 ½ years old. She has let us know that she is tired of the back bedroom and is ready to join

the rest of the cats to have the run of the house. We will be letting her try it this evening. It should be fun.

Enjoy your Spring!

Terri Matthews, Treasurer
Friends Forever Humane Society

Please note that in order to help with newsletter costs, we have elected to discontinue publishing actual financials in the newsletter. However, these are always available to you by calling the shelter or emailing us at info@friendsforeverhs.org.



Congratulations to our March Madness raffle winners!



\$500	1 st prize*	Bev Tannis
\$159	2 nd prize	Joe Serafini
\$95.40	3 rd prize	Mark Gridley
\$63.60	4 th prize	Denise Book
\$31.80	5 th prize	Ray Matthews

Many thanks to everyone who supported Friends Forever with your ticket purchases!

*1st prize –the greater of \$500 or 10% of total dollars in ticket sales;
2nd prize – 5%;
3rd prize – 3%;
4th prize – 2%;
5th prize – 1%

Friends Forever Board and Staff Board

Diane Heeren – President
Brian Wheelock – VP
Karen Christen – Secretary
Terri Matthews – Treasurer
Carole Dickerson
Connie Larson
Marilyn Smit
Doug Toepfer
Pam Wilson

Shelter
Carol Falconer – Manager

Contact any of these folks through the Shelter

Email:
petsrus966@hotmail.com
Phone: 815-232-6164

Pet Pointers!

Email your good ideas to newsletter editor Marilyn Smit at marilyn.smit@m45.com.

How to Help Your Dog Be a Good Neighbor

Now that the weather has improved, your dog may spend more time in your yard and you'll probably be out walking him/her more often too. Making sure that your dog is "neighbor friendly" isn't just a good thing for the neighborhood, but also will help ensure that you don't get an unwelcome call from animal control!

While you can do something about your dog, you can't do much if anything about how your neighbors perceive your dog. Here are some tips to make the process less stressful for everyone.

Take the first step

If you have neighbors who appear to be frightened or annoyed by your dog, ask them what specific behaviors are bothersome.

Don't get defensive

Don't explain or justify any behavior until you really understand what's happening, some of which you might not even know about. For example, you may not ever see Spot charging the fence or growling from a window. Focus on listening, and apologize for any problems.

Be respectful

Some people just don't like dogs or are truly afraid of them, no matter what the circumstances. If this is the case, you need to respect that viewpoint; think of something that you really don't like or that scares you and imagine what it would take for someone to change your mind.

Do something about it

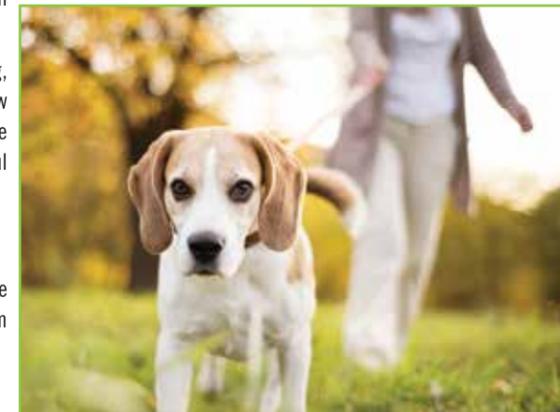
Once you know what specific behaviors are freaking out your neighbors, focus on them. Chances are that unless it's something you really can't change – like a general dislike of dogs – improving a specific behavior is something that will make your dog a better dog overall, not just "more liked" by the neighbors. Work with people who know you – and your dog – to change your dog's behaviors, or consult a trainer.

Don't force a meeting!

Remember that dogs are great at picking up on fear or discomfort, and you don't want that to be the perception they get from your neighbor, or you when you're around the neighbor! Make sure that you AND your dog are really ready before you encourage a

meet-and-greet. There may be plenty of positive steps you can take to help your neighbors feel more comfortable and/or be less annoyed without ever actually having your dog meet them in person. If you've done a good job listening, you'll have a better idea what the desired behavior looks like, whether or not that includes an in-person/dog get-together.

Friends share good ideas, and the Friends Forever newsletter is eager to hear yours! Do you have a tip about how to get your cat to take medication? A favorite game you invented to play with your pooch? The best formula ever for getting doggie smell off your sofa? We want to know about it! Send via email to newsletter editor Marilyn Smit at marilyn.smit@m45.com



Thank you...

To the generous people who've helped Friends Forever through memorials and donations. The following lists cover the timeframe from January 25 – April 8, 2014.

In Honor of...

In Honor of Paws and Claws Deann Atkins and Crystal Ruter

Don and Judith Stansfield

Betty Woods 1/2 Birthday

Thomas and Linda Balbac

Julie Niemann

Joanne and Kerry Schultz
Hank and Rose Steuart

Betty Wood

Arnold Wood

Dennis Raders

Mary Jo Dalton

Winnie's Birthday

Kathleen Napholz

Gracie's 9th birthday

Micheal and Judith Gerharz

Robert Perry

Norma Skaggs

Clifford & Sharon Lang

David & Deborah Meyers

Tina Lessenger Sims

Deborah Nordgren

Donald & Virginia Maves

Danny Krum

Linda Truckenmiller-Krum

Andres & Jane Bardelas

Kay Boschulte

Gerald & Gwen Vietmeier

Gary & Patricia Quinn

Dennis & Mary Book

Kendall & Beverly Knautz

Keith Smith

Janet Patterson

Michael & Susan Perry

Brent Fonana

Franklyn R. Gonder

Seth & Julie Rachlin

Edwin McCullough

Marilyn Smit

Furry Friends

Donna Eisenbise

Sunny

Liz Spooner

In Memory of

Rita Lobdell

Pat Kelly

Ronald & Suellen Steele

Greg Steele

Joe Kish

Nancy Kish

Teddy Germain

Gertrude Germain

Julie Ransom

Fran and Darrell Ransom

Barbara Hendee

Richard & Karla Hendee

Norman Taylor

Norman Taylor Trust

Chris Opolony

Thomas Opolony

Keith Stott

J.D's Pet Paradise

Quinn Construction

Carole, Steve and Charlie Kaney

Jerry and Betty Donmeyer

Perfection Cleaning and Restoration

Bill and Lauri Plambeck

Kimberly and Kyle Preston

Carolyn Stott

Peter and Lori Willging

Kathy Bookman

Mr. and Mrs. Galles

Patricia Riddell

Caroline Stoddard

Michael Schony

Davina on her birthday - March 1

Pat Kelly

Maddy and Cleo Greene

Rick and Lisa Powell

James L Morris, Dante, Tanner & Vinny

Karyn Hall

Joe, Hilda, Mr. beagle, 3B and Fluffball

Pat Kelly

Candy

Jill & Mike Rohner

Lilly, owned by Hunt and Sue Thomas

Kathy Sheriff

Andrew and Beverly Thomas

Cathy William's Doberman, Syd,

AKA Sydney Bean,

therapy dog extraordinaire

Carole Dickerson

Skittles and Tootsie

Lindsay Williams



The best doctor in the world is the veterinarian.
He can't ask his patients what's the matter. *He's got to just know.* – Will Rogers

We're pleased to include an article from a Freeport-area vet in the Friends Forever newsletter! Authors will change from issue to issue and will focus on a seasonal or other timely pet concern. Thank you, veterinarians!

BITE BACK During Flea and Tick Season!

Flea and tick prevention – or treatment, if it's too late for prevention – is an important part of taking good care of your cat or dog. We live in an area where these pests are a regular occurrence, no matter how careful you are or how clean you may think you are keeping your pets and your home.

Fleabites may be more than an itchy annoyance to some dogs and cats: they can cause flea allergy dermatitis, an allergic reaction to proteins in flea saliva. A pet's constant scratching in this situation can cause permanent hair loss or other skin problems. Fleas feasting on your pet's blood can also lead to anemia and in rare cases, death. The most common flea is *Ctenocephalides felis*, simply known as the cat flea, although it certainly does not discriminate among canines, felines, or humans. The cat flea is perfectly formed for its mission: to latch onto a warm body

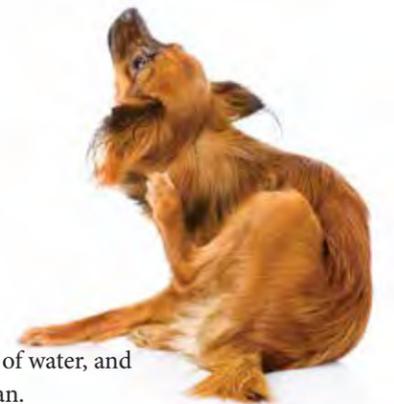
and suck its blood. The entomological equivalent of Superman, cat fleas can jump as high as 13 feet and consequently have no trouble leaping onto tall dogs in a single bound!

Ticks are just as dangerous as fleas. The diseases that ticks cause and transmit are unpleasant for both humans and pets and serious cases can even be fatal, so do not take these bloodsuckers lightly. Some of the more well-known diseases associated with ticks include Lyme disease and Rocky Mountain spotted fever.

When flea and tick problems get out of hand, you cannot simply treat or apply preventives to your pet and possibly think you're going to win the battle. Pet owners must make a conscientious effort to really eliminate these pests by treating their pet, yard, and home.



Here are our Top Ten safety tips and guidelines for flea and tick prevention this year.



1. Read the label carefully before using any insecticides or pesticides. If you don't understand the wording, ask your veterinarian or call the manufacturer. Even if you've used the product many times before, read the label because the directions or warnings may have changed.
2. Follow the directions exactly. If the product is for dogs, don't use it on cats or other pets. If the label says use weekly, don't use it daily. If the product is for the house or yard, don't put it directly on your pet.
3. Keep multiple pets separated after applying a product until it dries. This will help prevent one animal from grooming another and ingesting a drug or pesticide.
4. Talk to your veterinarian before using a product on weak, old, medicated, sick, pregnant, or nursing pets, or on pets that have previously shown signs of sensitivity to flea or tick products.
5. Monitor your pet for side effects after applying the product, particularly when using the product for the first time.
6. If your pet experiences a bad reaction from a spot-on product, immediately bathe the pet with mild soap, rinse

- with large amounts of water, and call your veterinarian.
7. Call your veterinarian if your pet shows symptoms of illness after using a product. Symptoms of poisoning include poor appetite, depression, vomiting, diarrhea, or excessive salivation.
8. Do not apply a product to kittens or puppies unless the label specifically allows this treatment. Use flea combs to pick up fleas, flea eggs, and ticks on puppies and kittens who are too young for flea and tick products.
9. Wash your hands immediately with soap and water after applying a product, or use protective gloves while applying (don't use those gloves for other purposes).
10. Store products away from food and out of children's reach.

Follow these guidelines to help keep fleas and ticks at bay, and "bite back" when you have to!

Emily Kuntz, DVM
Freeport Animal Hospital
321 E. South St. Freeport, IL 61032 • 815-232-4916

One Year At A Time



Back in 2013, I shared with all of you that one of my goals for the year was an adoption per day. Since we're closed on Mondays, it's only fair to take those out of the total goal, so I subtracted 52 of those from the 365 days in the year, which made my goal to have 313 animals adopted out by the end of the year.

Our total adoptions in 2013 were.....343!

While that feels really good, I know that there is no real final achievement in this goal. It's estimated that there are 5 to 7 MILLION homeless animals in the 3,500+ shelters in the US alone. That's a staggering number, and the only way I can think about it is one animal at a time, one day at a time. I'm firmly committed to increasing our adoptions, which means more animals out of the shelter and in safe, loving homes. So I'm focused on that, and I want to hit 400 in 2014!

Will you help me? You can do many things besides actually adopting a cat or dog. For example, spread the word about FFHS by continuing to remind your friends and families of the wonderful dogs and cats we have here waiting for their forever homes. You also help when you support our fundraisers, and when you take the time to visit and share a smile – and a scratch or two – with the great animals in our care.

With your help, we'll have hundreds of great reasons to celebrate a successful year in 2014.

Thank you for all you do!

Carol Falconer
Friends Forever Shelter Manager

CHOOSE ME! HERE ARE TWO FABULOUS PETS READY TO BE YOUR FOREVER FRIENDS!

For more information on these and other wonderful adoptable pets, call the Shelter at 815-232-6164 or visit us at www.friendsforeverhs.org

RUBY SFD (single female dog) – Hello! I'm Ruby, and I'm a gem. I'm about 3 1/2 years old and have beautiful brindle and white markings. I'm still occasionally uneasy about being in the shelter – my owner got really sick and had to bring me here, and I miss my home sometimes. But I love people of all ages, cats, and most dogs (some dogs that are bigger than I am make me a little nervous). I'm housetrained and quiet, and the nice people here say I have a gentle soul that you can see reflected in my face. I sure hope another family comes to meet me soon so that I can give them all my love. I'm ready to sparkle for you!



PENNY SFC (single female cat) – Hi! My name is Penny, but the folks at Friends Forever say I'm priceless. I was abandoned here with my four babies, all whom were adopted. After they were weaned, since no one had come yet for me, I fostered three nursing kittens who were also adopted when they were old enough. So now I've raised seven babies who have found their forever homes – I hope my turn is coming soon! I'm pretty elegant-looking with my beautiful stripes and colors, and I get along well with other cats. I'm not even two yet, so I have a lot of years of love to give. I'm sure ready to be your lucky Penny – come meet me soon!



Donations

Phyllis Alexander
Alpha Beta Chapter 191
Tianna Beyer
Denise Book
Harold & Cheryl Book
C. Elaine Bourne
Brian and Mary Brandt
Lorene E. Bruce
Kimberly Buresh
Brad Butterworth
Jan Carlson
Cassidy Challengee
Elizabeth Clark
Donna Cornelius
Barry & Lisa DeBoor
David and Brenda Dorsey
Angela & Craig Downen
Lee Emford and his cat Maggie
Faith Lutheran Church
First Lutheran Youth
Freeport Family Chiropractic
Brett & Stephanie Freimuth
Michelle French
Judith Gonder
Joseph Graham
Mark Gridley
Kendra Hartog
Matthew and Amanda Hartzell
Richard & Karla Hendee
Sylvia Hoggatt
Shelila Hooper
Richard & Althea Hornung
Darleen Incelli
Teresa Jenkins
Jill Johnson
Luanna Kish
Jan Klever
Cheryl Kneubuehl
Dennis & Kay Koerner
Erna Krischak
Jonanna & Michael Leopold
Scott Lillie
Carrie Livingston
Steve & Kim Lorig

Ray Matthews
Evangeline McCarthy
Donna McCourt
Betty McKenna
Pat and Jill McKenna
Stephen McMillen
Paul & Norma Meier
Tanya Miccolis
Betty Lou Miller
Mary E Miller
Robert and Mary Milller
Loren E Morgan Jr.
Jennifer & Rick Mullen
Rebecca Nailor
Kathleen Napholz
Diane Neal
Deborah Nordgren
Thomas Opolony
Dina Oppenheimer
Kristi Pahlas
Elaine Pro
Brandy Quinn
Bob & Katie Remer
Cindy Reuber
Cheryl Rice
Rita K Rowe
Virginia Runte
Betty Rupnow
Joe Serafini
Eric Sorensen
Garett Stahl
Audrey & Art Stees
Beth Street
Betty Swalve
Nelda Thrumen
Mary Timmerman
Dan & Sarah Todd
Ethan Trampel
Henry and Nicole Trampel
Kathryn Ubben
Jennifer Vola
John Watkins
Paul Watkins
Jon & Pam Wolfe



Wish List

We appreciate all donations!
Here is our wish list, including both daily-use items and those we have included as special, larger donations that will add to the safety and security of our staff, visitors, and animals. If you have questions, please contact the shelter.

- Daily Use**
We ALWAYS need these Items!
- Purina Dog and Puppy Chow
 - Purina Cat and Kitten Chow
 - Paper towels
 - Toilet paper
 - Double pocket folders
 - High efficiency (HE) laundry soap
 - Garbage bags (55, 39, and 13 gallon)
 - Gift cards from Staples, Menards, Farm & Fleet, Walmart and Home Hardware
 - Clay cat litter
 - Chew bones
 - Treats
 - Bleach
 - Puppy piddle pads
 - Large cat litter box liners

- Shelter/Park Improvement and Maintenance Items**
- 6x6 treated posts 8' long
 - Security camera system
 - Picnic tables
 - Benches for the dog park
 - Large dog kennels
 - Grooming table
 - Gator or similar UTV with dump box for park maintenance
 - New(er) van or conversion vehicle

Special Request
We would like a tablet (iPad or similar) to be able to bring to adoption events, use as a second computer at the office, and generally allow us to be more portable in our computing. If you got a new one at the holidays, we'd be happy to receive your older one!

Friends Forever Humane Society

966 Rudy Road
Freeport, IL 61032

Phone: 815-232-6164
Email: info@friendsforeverhs.org

Visit us online at:
www.friendsforeverhs.org

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Freeport, IL
Permit No. 105

Change Service
Requested



Putting Pets in Forever
Homes Since 1953

MEMBERSHIPS

All memberships renew one year from the date of inception. Have you renewed yours yet?

Yes! I wish to become a member of Friends Forever Humane Society.

New Membership Renewed Membership

Lifetime \$1,500 (one-time fee)

Patron \$250 or more

Couple \$60

Individual \$40

Senior (62 and over) \$25

Person with Disabilities \$25

DONATIONS

I wish to make a donation!

Membership dues enclosed \$ _____

Donation enclosed \$ _____

MEMORIALS & HONORARIUM

I wish to make a gift

In memory of _____ Gift amount \$ _____

In honor of _____ Gift amount \$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____

Please make checks payable to: **Friends Forever Humane Society**
and mail to us at 966 Rudy Road, Freeport, IL 61032

Name _____

Phone _____

Address _____

E-mail _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____