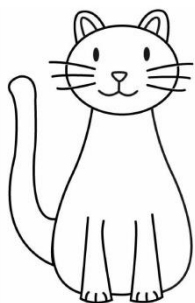




# January 2019 Newsletter - being thankful



## GRAND Opening

**Saturday  
March 16 - 1:00-3:00  
ACHS Hwy 6 W**

Our new Cat House is finished! We are now working on furnishing and decorating the new facility in anticipation of our Open House. All of the cats and kittens are looking forward to their new digs. They will have room to stretch their legs, climb, run and play. Something we dared to dream of in the past has happened due to all of your efforts. There is no way to express the excitement and joy we feel about the new facility. Local businesses, the City of Kirksville, members and friends of ACHS have contributed and made this possible. Plan to attend the Open House on Saturday, March 16, from 1:00 until 3:00 at the shelter location on Highway 6 west of Kirksville. Let's all celebrate together!

### On the Road Adoption

One cold afternoon in January, an over-the-road truck driver came to the shelter. He was looking for a puppy to keep him company in his truck. Luckily for all of us there were a few puppies at the shelter for him to choose from. He had just come from Loveland, Colorado and made a delivery at PetSmart here in Kirksville. He is from Atlanta, Georgia and has been driving trucks for several years. After getting a puppy from the shelter, he was on his way back to PetSmart to get the little type outfitted. This little pup will have many adventures traveling with his new best friend. We love to share our stories with you!



*Davius and Scooby*



Our annual Member Meeting will be held in the New Cat Building, Hwy 6 West, Thursday, March 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:00. Please plan to attend and meet the shelter Board of Directors and Officers. Activities from 2018 will be reviewed and plans discussed for 2019. Your input is needed to help plan the future of the shelter.

This is your community shelter!



### A Word from Percy

Percy, our office cat, warns all to take extra precautions to keep their animals safe this winter. Know your *dog's* limits! Some dogs are more susceptible to the *cold* than others. Check the hood! Cats often sleep in the wheel wells of cars during the *winter* months to keep warm. Wipe their paws! Keep them leashed! Keep them warm! Avoid the ice! Stay inside!

### **BIG THANKS to PETSENSE!**

*We were sad to see our community Petsense close. We are grateful for Angelica Rowland for seeing the ACHS received the pet supplies left when the store closed. The donations are appreciated so very much!*

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## What's Happening at the Shelter?

The shelter on Highway 6 west of Kirksville has been around for almost 50 years. It started out as a single block building and quickly transformed into a concrete building with dog runs and an attached garage which at some point became the area where cats were sheltered. A mobile home was added as an office. Later improvements included storage buildings, a dog pavilion in the back area, a new office in the front of the existing structure, landscaping, a patio, and some fencing.

Today we are trying to catch up. We know a lot more about animal sheltering now. We have increased employee salary to minimum wage (long overdue). We have attended training and an animal care expo. We realized our concrete structure needs repair. Our cats needed a much better environment. Once we realized how bad the current cat area was and how many cats were sick, we knew the new Cat House project was a necessity. It is now a reality and we hope you are as proud and pleased as we are to see it. Yes, we have done all of this "just for cats."

We are now trying to make some modest repairs and updates to the dog area. We have added sliding doors to the dog pavilion so in bad weather the area is not open to the elements. We have improved the gates and kennel doors. We added storage for donated goods. We want to improve the lighting and perhaps add a new coat of paint to the dog kennel area. Just small things we hope will extend the life of the dog building, make the shelter more appealing to visit and result in many adoptions. The long term care of the animals will always be our first priority. Visit us, communicate, volunteer, and donate to ACHS. It is a shelter where animals receive good care and find forever homes.

## Pictures with Santa

Santa (with the help of a few elves) visited Kirksville Farm & Home 12/1/18, and Pawsitive Animalworks 12/8/18. A festive time was enjoyed by all pets and their owners, with over 100 participants receiving their pictures with Santa. Pet treats were distributed by Kirksville Farm & Home. Pawsitive Animalworks provided a delicious hot chocolate bar, including cookies and special treats. Proceeds benefitted ACHS. Thanks to everyone who participated in making this a big success!



## Thanks to the Staff

The ACHS has the best staff ever! They all work together to ensure the shelter is clean and comfortable for our animals. We count on them to get out in the weather to care of the shelter and they seldom let us down. They walk and play with the animals to be sure everyone gets their daily exercise. The list of what they do is long – cleaning kennels, emptying garbage, doing the endless laundry, cleaning the shelter grounds, greeting and interacting with potential adopters. We are very grateful for them.

Our shelter manager, Missy Decker consistently ensures the shelter operation runs smoothly. We ask a lot of her: from managing daily operations; ensuring we are meeting state and local requirements; hire and manage a sometimes inexperienced staff; oversee volunteers; welcome visiting school groups; continue to learn best practices for animal care; work with the public; and on and on. We are so fortunate to have her!

This fall our assistant manager, Shelby Snelling, who had been at the shelter for six years, left the shelter for a new opportunity. We miss her!

**Coming Soon!!**

*New ACHS website!*

*Watch Facebook for an announcement!*



## Sprinkles

When one of our personal furry friends dies, it is a big deal for us. Our grief is real. Our pets are wonderful creatures who we love. They are part of our family. After taking some time to adjust to the new situation without them we take stock of our home, our family, and our other pets. Sometimes we come to realize we have more love to share and our other pets need a new friend. That is what happened recently to one of our adopters. A new kitten was needed to entertain the other cat and bring balance back to the home. Below is little Sprinkles beginning her new adventure. If she only knew how much fun she is going to have in her new home!



## We are Thankful

Thanks to outgoing board members Lonnie Byrns, Carol Hayes, and Debbie Johnson for their many years of work for the ACHS. We welcome board members Derick Garr, Kelley Grgurich, and Brenda Jones and look forward to their new participation on the board.

Thanks to the City of Kirksville for their continued support, especially to Mari Macomber and Reid Yardley.

Thanks to those who donated in memory of a loved one and/or their pet. Thank you to the estates of those remembering the shelter.

Thanks to the County Commission for their renew support. We hope to enter into a new agreement with them soon.

Thanks to every donor and supporter!

## Membership



Now is the time to renew/pay your membership in the ACHS. Your annual membership enables us to hire staff, maintain the shelter, provide needed medical supplies, ensure our animals are spayed/neutered and of course feed them when donations are low.

Members are encouraged to attend our annual meeting to share your concerns and dreams for the ACHS. The Board encourages you to reach out to them whenever you have a question or concern. This is your shelter!

ACHS has a new software system to manage our communication with members. The newsletter can now be emailed. Indicate on the return membership card what form of communication you prefer.

Check the address label on the envelope this newsletter came in. If the year is 2019, your dues are paid through 2019.

## The Shelter is a Necessity in the Community

*Missy Decker, Shelter Manager*

It took many years to realize but the Adair County Humane Society is a community shelter. Every member of the community that has rescued a stray pet, adopted their new best friend, told a family member or friend about a pet in need of a new home or donated money, items, or time is an essential part of the shelter. Making the lives of the pets in our care better takes the community as a whole; this is not something we at the shelter can do on our own.

This past year we have taken on a huge responsibility of building a new facility designed for the health and comfort of the feline friends in our care. This was the first time in decades that we have actively asked the community for help in this capacity. To say that we were shocked at the outpouring of support is mild. We found that we had a community that not only cared about the shelter but they were ready to do whatever it took to make this dream a reality. The community had the same goals that we did in making the day to day lives of the animals in our care better.

Individuals, businesses, and local government supported our efforts to make the shelter a true community shelter. All of the overwhelming support made us accept that we are a very essential part of the community also. Knowing we are not alone in our efforts has given everyone the desire to make the best possible shelter we can for our community.

We never will be able to thank everyone enough for their support and words of encouragement.



## From a New Board Member – *Derick Garr*

People often ask me why I choose to volunteer and donate to the Humane Society. With all of the charities that are readily available, why this group. To understand it, you have to understand how I came to work with them. In 2001, I made a trek through a major snow storm to adopt my best friend Wookie, a Cairn Terrier. I wondered how is Wookie going to change my life. I had no idea. Wookie became my constant companion. He was with me during bad days, good days, and great days. He was always there; always patient; always had a nudge of encouragement; always there to wipe away my tears; there through breakups, moves, and heartache. Wookie never left.

Then in November of 2017 Wookie stopped eating. The vet was so patient and offered several options as to how we could proceed. We tried several but to no avail. Finally, the vet gave me the news I had been dreading since that day many years ago in 2001. It was time for Wookie to go home. The decision was made. I held on to him until he breathed his last breath. And then, my world just stopped. In one fell swoop, my world was gone. My buddy, my companion, my guardian, my world – just left.

The next two weeks, all I could do was sleep and cry. I would look over to where he was supposed to be, and there was nothing, no one to wipe away my tears. Two weeks into the grieving process, I found myself absent minded in the dog food aisle at PetSense, I realized I no longer needed to get his favorite dog food. I almost broke down right then and there. But then I got to thinking. With as much joy as Wookie offered me, he would want me to pay that forward, help other dogs that weren't as lucky as him. I grabbed the biggest dog food bag I could manage, and headed out to the humane society. Missy, an acquaintance for years, was warm and friendly and asked me why I was suddenly in the middle of her office with a monster bag of dog food. I lost it and started to cry. My baby Wookie was gone. But I realized there are so many others that are still here, so many best friends at that building just waiting to meet their new masters.

We hatched a plan to have an adoptathon at my business, rue21. I wanted to test the waters and see if there were people looking for their new best friend. It was a HUGE success. Every time a dog was adopted that day, I knew Wookie was with each one of those people. I knew I was on the ground level of something special. That's when I knew I had to try and get on the board. These dogs need to be given their best life until their homes become permanent. I knew there was more we could do: better facilities and better outreach. We can always do more. That's why I am here. I want better. Not only for these beautiful dogs and cats, but for everyone who has ever found their best friend on a whim while visiting the Humane Society.



### Do You Remember?

An early picture of the ACHS, perhaps 1970s or 1980s.  
Come on March 16<sup>th</sup> and see the difference!

## 2018 – How Did We Do?

2018 was a great year for ACHS. Our 2018 income and expenses exceeded all expectations. More money was received from membership, donations, individual and pet memorials, estates, and fundraising than we thought possible. In addition, businesses donated materials and individuals donated their time and efforts. But we spent a lot too. However our income exceeded our expenses. The remaining money will be used to complete projects started in 2018. This all resulted in our big dream becoming a reality. The new Cat House has been built and will be ready for occupancy soon. We have begun repairs to the existing structure. We cannot begin to thank all of you enough for all you have done.

As for the animals, it was a great year for them; 154 dogs/puppies and 108 kittens/cats were adopted and 31 were sent to rescues. Our return to owner number was 109. This represents many happy pet owners being reunited with their lost animals, and many new furrever homes and new friends!

2018 was a big success and we look forward to another great year with your help!

## About Adair County Humane Society

**Hours:** Mon - Fri: 9 AM - 4 PM, Sat: 9 AM - 12 PM

**Location:** 22376 State Highway 6, Kirksville, MO 63501, 660-665-8038

**Our mission** is to provide a nurturing and safe environment for the homeless, abandoned and neglected animals in the Adair County area. We are a privately run 501(c)(3) non-profit organization (gifts are tax deductible) funded by donations from the citizens of Kirksville and the surrounding area. ACHS is not affiliated with nor does it receive funds from any state or national organization. The Adair County Humane Shelter is operated under the certification of the Missouri Department of Agriculture

### Adoption Fees

Adult Cats: \$115 and up	Kittens: \$25
Adult Dogs: \$120 and up	Puppies: \$40

**Volunteering** - We happily accept offers to volunteer at the shelter. All volunteers must attend an orientation. Volunteering hours are 12 PM - 4 PM on weekdays.

### Membership

If the year on your address label is 2019 your membership fees are up to date. If it is not, your annual membership fee is due. If there is not a year on the label, you are receiving this newsletter in the hope you will become a member. Use the enclosed envelope to send your membership fee and/or donation.

### ACHS Staff

Shelter Manager: Missy Decker

Shelter Assistants:

Corey Acton	Alicia Albrecht	Gavin Bedford
Lillie Church	Taylor Duncan	Christy Taylor

### Director

Krista Baker

### Board of Directors

Derick Garr	Greg Gordon	Kelley Grgurich
Nita Jeffries	Brenda Jones	Valerie Johnson
Janine Sevits	Kim Smith	

### Shelter Veterinarians

Dr. David Moore	Dr. John Moore
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