



Mewsletter

For the friends of the Independent Cat Society, a no-kill cat shelter

Spring/Summer 2005

She's a Hunny of a gal

by Paulette Gonzalez

That darn air conditioner cover! Flapping in the breeze again! Every time we hear it, we think there's a stray cat rummaging in the plastic bags of aluminum cans our supporters donate. Wait . . . there's a tail! There IS a cat rummaging in the bags . . . it's a brown tabby!

And so began the story of Hunny, a cute brown tabby with lots of love to give.

I found Hunny outside one cold, blustery February day, licking the last bits of food from an aluminum can. To my surprise, I was able to walk right over to her and pick her up. "What a honey," I thought. And so, her name.

As you can see from her photo, Hunny's right eye is injured. Our vet says it's an old injury, probably from some kind of trauma. It's not painful or infected, and it doesn't seem to bother her. But it will never be normal.

Hunny has another strike against her. She carries the feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV) in her blood. The virus will be with her all her life, but may never make her sick. In fact, Hunny could live a perfectly normal life. But, it's only fair to say that FIV can cause other ailments, like eye, skin, and dental problems.

FIV is most common in unneutered, stray males. The virus spreads only through bite wounds and mating. FIV in females is more unusual.

Many people don't like to adopt cats with FIV. Maybe they're afraid that an FIV cat won't live very long. But many cats with FIV live as long as a cat without the virus.

Some kind-hearted people realize that FIV cats need homes, too, and so, they open their hearts and homes to them. In fact, the largest animal sanctuary in the world, Best Friends Animal Society, in Kanab, Utah, has an entire room of FIV-positive cats, and many people travel all the way to Utah to adopt and take home one or more of these wonderful cats. These owners report that these cats seem to be more grateful and affectionate than others.

As for Hunny, she couldn't be sweeter! She enjoys being held and petted, and would make a wonderful lap cat for some lucky person or family.



Could that be you? Come and visit Hunny at the shelter, any weekend, or call us at (219) 785-4936.

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Mewsletter

Published for the friends of the Independent Cat Society, Inc.
PO Box 735, Westville, IN 46391
(219) 785-4936 www.catsociety.org

The Independent Cat Society, Inc., founded in 1977, is a nonprofit, no-kill cat shelter on US Rt 6 at the Porter/LaPorte County Line Road in Westville, Indiana.

The Independent Cat Society mission is to promote the welfare of all animals, especially cats, by reducing pet overpopulation, educating the public, preventing cruelties to animals, promoting responsible pet ownership and working for more humane legislation.

Adoption hours:

Saturday, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Sunday, 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Others by appointment.
Please call (219) 785-4936.

Adoption fee: \$65

Includes: Spay/neuter, vet exam, feline leukemia and FIV test; age-appropriate vaccinations; parasite treatment; tattoo ID; and cardboard cat carrier.



Board of Directors

Susan O'Leary, President
Paulette Gonzalez, Vice President
Cate Amador, Recording Secretary
Rebecca Bolton, Corresponding Secretary
Carol Albrecht, Treasurer
Board members: Brenda Mikolajczak, Susan Ogg, Sandy Robelia, Kerry Wolfus.

The Board of Directors meets the fourth Monday of every month.
Please call the shelter for meeting location.

Calendar of Events

ADOPTION SPECIAL: Adopt a kitten or adult cat for \$65, and adopt a companion at no charge. Both cats must live in the same home. Visit the shelter or our Web site, www.catsociety.org, for photos and information about our adoptable cats and kittens!

Summer Open House

Saturday, June 25, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., and Sunday, June 26, 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

It's a Kitten Shower! Welcome our new arrivals with a gift fit for kittens and feline moms! Our moms and kittens are registered for the Kitten Shower (yes, they really are!) at Pet Supplies Plus, in Valparaiso, and Brandt's Old Fashion Pet, Feed, and Wildlife Emporium, in Michigan City. Ask for our Kitten Shower Gift List before you shop. Our Kitten Shower will feature prizes and free refreshments; adoptions of cats and kittens; a plant sale and bake sale; and cat toys, beds and gifts, and homegrown, organic catnip for sale.

Adoptions at Duneland Pet Store

Third Saturday each month, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Also, Independent Cat Society catnip toys for sale. For more information, call the shelter. The store is at 112 12th St., Chesterton, (219) 395-8887.

Check our Web site, www.catsociety.org, for up-to-date information on our future events and to purchase our handcrafted catnip toys and cookie cookbook.

Raise the Roof!

The Independent Cat Society shelter is in desperate need of a new roof. If you can donate to our "Raise the Roof" campaign, please fill out the donation form and mail it with your check or money order. If you are a builder or contractor who can donate materials and labor, please contact us immediately at (219) 785-4936. Thank you for your generosity!

Yes! I can help the Independent Cat Society RAISE THE ROOF!
Enclosed is my gift of:

___ \$15 ___ \$30 ___ \$60 ___ \$150 ___ other

to help put a new roof over the cats' heads and keep them safe and dry!

Name:

Address:

Telephone:

email address:

President's Message

The cats are looking for a new roof to keep their furry little heads dry.

The shelter's roof is 15 years old and must be replaced as soon as possible. Near the front door, the wood under the roof is gone. Water has seeped inside and soaked the drywall in the laundry area. Mold and bacteria are growing and have spread to the adjoining room of cats. The outside light on the building won't stay lit, as water is shorting the wiring.

We don't have extra money to replace our roof, but it's not going to last through another wet spring or snowy winter. So, we are officially announcing our **"Raise the Roof"** campaign. We need your help to get the roof replaced immediately.

If you can donate to our "Raise the Roof" campaign, please send your donations to: **Raise the Roof, Independent Cat Society, P.O. Box 735, Westville, Indiana, 46391.** A donation form is on page 2 of this newsletter. Or, go to our Web site -- www.catsociety.org -- and donate conveniently through PayPal. Please indicate that your donation is for "Raise the Roof."

If you're a contractor or roofer who can donate materials and/or labor, we could sure use you!

In this issue, take a look at our "teenagers" who need homes, on page 4. These beautiful kittens are "growing up" at the shelter. If you can adopt one or two, they would surely appreciate a real home!



Five-year-old Tangerine is a sweet, affectionate long-haired orange tabby. She needs to be an only pet in a quiet home

By popular demand, our Summer Open House will again be a "Kitten Shower!" Last year, our supporters enjoyed purchasing shower gifts for our needy pregnant moms and babies. We decorated the shelter in pastels and celebrated our new arrivals. Please join us again this year! Both Pet Supplies Plus, in Valparaiso, and Brandt's Old Fashion Pet, Feed, and Wildlife Emporium, in Michigan City, will participate by displaying our Kitten Shower Wish List for shoppers.

For information on these and all our events, adoptable cats, and other programs, visit our Web site, www.catsociety.org. As always, we thank you for your friendship and support!

Wish List

Please help us make the cats wishes come true!



We desperately need a new roof on our shelter! Please contact us immediately if you, or someone you know, can provide donated materials and construction services: (219) 785-4936. Thank you!

Special needs:

- New 2x4s for indoor repairs

Supplies:

- Litter
- Paper towels
- 6" & 9" paper plates
- Bleach
- Laundry detergent
- Large and x-large trash bags

Food:

- Fancy Feast: ground variety, not chunks or sliced
- Innova, Iams, Eagle Pack or Science Diet canned or dry food

Office:

- Postage stamps
- 35mm color film
- Buff and colored card stock

Please note: Our list changes frequently. We do not use litter pan liner bags, hooded litter pans, newspapers, or Pine Sol and other cleaners containing phenols. THANK YOU!

Thank you for your gifts! Please allow us to give you a receipt for your tax-deductible donations.

Income/Expense Statement: January 2004 - December 2004

INCOME		EXPENSE	
Adoptions	16,560.00	Advertising	2,239.88
Building Fund	405.00	Bldg & prop	3,331.15
Donations	80,440.48	Food	9,654.54
Fundraisers	6,783.19	Food, Eagle Pack	7,031.31
Grants, corporate gifts	9,000.00	General supplies	1,989.81
Memberships	6,930.00	Financial fees	632.47
Non-taxable sales	5,114.74	Misc expenses	1,729.22
Pledges	320.00	NIPSCO	2,165.86
Resale	736.98	Payroll	44,452.44
Resale Eagle Pack	3,379.75	Payroll taxes	3,937.78
Sponsor-A-Cat	22,325.00	Postage	2,870.48
TOTAL INCOME	151,995.14	Printing	4,183.40
		Telephone	1,051.71
		Veterinarians/medical	62,627.77
		TOTAL EXPENSES	147,197.63
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)			4,797.51

Let's do Christmas over again!

This winter's snowstorms kept our adoption rate unusually low at the holidays. Many kittens who expected to go "home for the holidays" did not.

Please don't let them turn one-year-old at the shelter! Give these kittens the "Christmas" they deserve -- adopt one (better yet, two!) into your loving home.

These cuties are already spayed and neutered and have all their vaccinations. All you have to do is add the love to make them purr-fectly happy!



Alexander

Handsome Alexander, born in June 2004, is an active, playful boy, looking for a permanent home!



Elmo

Cute little Elmo is sweet and loving. He was born in March 2004, and would make a wonderful pet for a loving family.



Anthony

Anthony, born in May 2004, is an active, playful boy who is anxious to have a bed and a home of his own.



Leo

Leo, born in May 2004, is sweet and playful, and is looking for a forever home!

Nikki travels across the Rainbow Bridge

One “Lucky” cat becomes his “Appurrentice”

Hello to everyone, and thank you for your kind support of me as the new Sponsor-A-Cat Spokespurrson. As many of you know, our original Sponsor-A-Cat Spokepurrson, Nikki, passed over the Rainbow Bridge just before the holidays. Nikki had lived at the shelter nearly all of his 15 years, and toward the end, he battled one medical problem after another. I am proud of my friend Nikki, because up until the end, he was courageous and strong. Nikki’s pawprints are too big to fill, but I will do my best to try to be as good a representative of Sponsor-A-Cat as he was.

First, I’d like to tell you a little about myself. My name is Lucky, and I came to the shelter in April 1997. My health is good. Recently, I lost a little weight because I had a sore tooth and it was difficult for me to eat. But once these humans figured out what my problem was, I went to see the feline dentist and now I’ve put weight back on and I’m feeling as spry as ever.

If any of you have been to the



The Nikki

shelter when it’s not open, you may see me wandering the halls. That’s because I’m really the unofficial shelter “manager.” I live in a room in the shelter, but every time certain of my favorite humans show up there, I persuade them with my wily charms to let me out of my room, so I can find a soft blanket, warm from the dryer, so

I can take a nap in the laundry room.

Lots of people say I’m cantankerous. I say you have to be, with all the youngsters coming in to the shelter. They have to know from the start who’s boss!

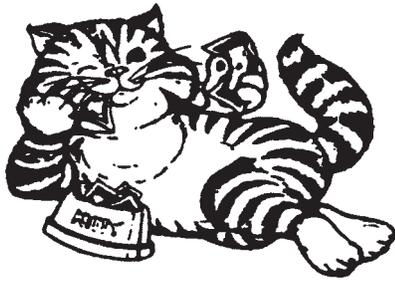
I thought I’d end my message with some information about how well our original Sponsor-A-Cat, Nikki, led the Sponsor-A-Cat program. We began three years ago, in 2002, with 23 cats sponsored and \$13,627 in revenue from the program. By the end of 2004, 162 cats had sponsors and we raised \$22,395 from the Sponsor-A-Cat program. Under Nikki’s leadership, we increased the number of cats sponsored by 86 percent and revenue nearly 40 percent! Also, thank you to our Sponsor-a-Cat volunteers who work so hard to make the program a success.

Thanks to you, Sponsor-A-Cat is one of our largest and most successful fundraising programs. It accounts for 15 percent of our yearly revenue.

So . . . tell a friend. Sponsor-A-Cat is a great gift -- for someone you love, -- or just for you!



Lucky



Can't adopt? Sponsor-A-Cat!

Live in an apartment? House too crowded already?
The next best thing to adoption!
Choose from two payment options:
\$120 now for one full year of Sponsor-A-Cat
OR \$10 (or more, if you can) per month.

YES! I want to Sponsor-a-Cat from the Independent Cat Society.

I have enclosed a check for:

_____ \$120 for one year of Sponsor-A-Cat

_____ \$ 10 for the first month of Sponsor-A-Cat. I pledge to send \$10 each month to Sponsor-A-Cat.

_____ \$ 20 for the first month of Sponsor-A-Cat. I pledge to send \$20 each month to Sponsor-A-Cat.

The sponsor will receive a photo and biography of his or her Sponsor-A-Cat.

Name of sponsor _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Telephone _____

Month of sponsor's birthday _____ email address _____

Mail to: Sponsor-A-Cat, Independent Cat Society, P.O. Box 735, Westville, IN 46391

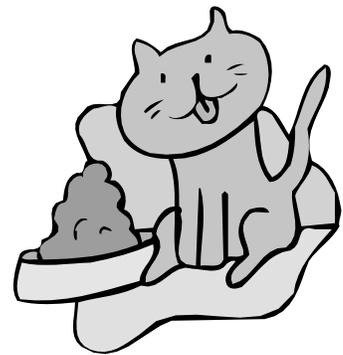
We're having a

Kitten Shower

at our Summer Open House

Saturday, June 25, 10 am - 4 pm

and Sunday, June 26, 1pm - 4 pm



Door prizes Free refreshments Plant sale Bake sale

Adoptions of our beautiful kittens and cats

Cat crafts, toys, beds, homegrown catnip, and more!

Ask for our Kitten Shower Gift List

for our moms & kittens at these local merchants:

Pet Supplies Plus, Valparaiso

Brandt's Old Fashion Pet, Feed and Wildlife Emporium, Michigan City

Thank you . . .

Kathy Erickson, for donating a Pet Temp ear thermometer, from our Wish List. What a time-saver!

Donna Flanagin and **Flanagin's Bulk Mail**, for donating her services and postage for our last 2004 newsletter mailing and the mailing of our appeal letter. Donna and her staff are very kind to us throughout the year, every year.

Claudette Fritts, for making beautiful cat beds for the cats and for our fundraisers.

Cindy Fulton, of **Jeffrey's Good Soap**, for her generosity.

Sharon Jaros, for her generous donation of the Las Vegas trip she won in our raffle, valued at \$900.

Ralph and Ginny Heavilin, Joan Hildebrand, Robert Jones, William and Judy Lyzak, Janet Myers, and Robert and Barbara Thompson, for their generosity.

Sandy Robelia, for keeping us supplied with cat toys to sell.

Unity Foundation of La Porte County, for its grant for spay/neuter services.

Betty Wiegand, for a new cage.

Our foster parents, for opening your hearts and homes to our needy cats.

Our volunteers, for your dedication to our cats.

Our employees, for keeping the shelter clean and our cats well fed and healthy.

Ark of the Dunes, Maple City Animal Hospital, McAfee Animal Hospital, North Central Emergency, Vale Park Animal Hospital, and Westchester Animal Clinic for their generosity and dedicated care of all our shelter cats.

In Loving Memory of . . .

Julie Grott -- Gerald Grott

Michael Harrigan -- Beverly Harrigan

Rev. Tom Hildebrand -- Joan Hildebrand

Grace Hunter -- Patti Press

Adeline Janowski -- Howard Vedell

Marion Keane -- Patricia Keane

Minnie Mei -- Marsha Wetmore

Michael Minard -- Mattie Minard

Sue Schmidt -- Patti Press

Melvin Tracht -- Mildred Tracht

Andy/& Barney -- Ralph Heavlin

Angel Punkin -- I love you always and we will be together again.

Butchy -- Pat Chudsynski

"Hobie Cat" Costa -- Terry Wigand

Honey -- Nathalie Pennington

Nietzsche - Megan Utley

Nikki -- Carol Bodine, Judith Cieslak

Pixie -- Genevieve Novak

Simon -- John Simmerling

Tessa, Jennie, Ajax, and Andy -- Robert & Barb Thompson

Toby -- Joelle, Megan, Louise & Joel Vale

Twink -- Marie LaDonne

Tipper & Heidi -- Orval Shepherd

In Honor of . . .

Leah Balsham -- Paddy Namara

Debra Deutsch -- Louise Vale

Julie Dull -- Josephine Arnold

Emily's birthday -- Michael Olack

Jean Gerometta -- Angelo and Francesca Veltri

Cindy, Phil, Bunny, and Bailey McGuire -- Sue O'Leary

Terry Pfeiffer's birthday -- Jas

Sandy Robelia -- Marlana Albright

Jack Simmerling -- Charles and Ann Hoch

All items were received 9/12/04 - 2/9/05. Kindly limit your message to 20 words or less.

If we have inadvertently omitted your notice, please call us, (219) 785-4936, so that we may correct our error.



for sale at the Independent Cat Society!

16.5 lb bag -- \$22.50

6.6 lb bag -- \$11.25

All-natural, no by-products or artificial preservatives High protein from meat, not grain

Buy this healthy food for your cats and support the shelter!

Available for purchase Saturdays, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., & Sundays, 1 p.m. - 4 p.m., Rt 6 & Co Line Rd, Westville

INDEPENDENT CAT SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 735
WESTVILLE, IN 46391



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit
Organization
US Postage Paid
Valparaiso, IN
Permit No. 134

**DON'T MISS
THESE EVENTS!**

Summer Open House:
It's a Kitten Shower!
June 25 & 26

Adoptions at Duneland Pet Store
Third Saturday of the month
112 12th St., Chesterton, Indiana

Visit us on the Web at www.catsociety.org

Will you help the Independent Cat Society cats?

Become a Member!

Annual Dues:

- \$1,000 Corporation
- \$500 Life
- \$100 Gold Star
- \$50 Family
- \$25 Individual
- \$10 Student
- \$10 Senior

Donate or Volunteer!

- I am donating \$_____ for the care of the cats and kittens.
- I am donating \$_____ to the Building Fund.
- I will help groom cats at the shelter.
- I will help give cats their medications.
- I will help at fundraising events.
- I will be a foster parent.
- I will donate my cat-themed artwork or crafts for fundraising events.
- I will bake for fundraising events.
- I will make adoption follow-up telephone calls
- I will help cats get good homes by becoming an adoption counselor.
- I will help take care of the grounds and maintain the shelter.
- I will distribute flyers for fundraisers.

Name _____ Address _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

This is a new address. Do not send a "thank you" note. Telephone _____ email _____

Clip and send to: Independent Cat Society, Inc., P.O. Box 735, Westville, IN 46391