

**Minutes  
Iowa County Humane Society  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Monday, October 27, 2008**

Members Present: President: Mike Wagner, Secretary: Mary Whitmar,  
Rhonda Marten, Carrie Baumhover

Others Present: Shelter Director Theresa Durst

Absent: Treasurer: Todd Novak

Board meeting called to order at 6:40 pm

The board would like to recognize and thank the citizens who were present and participated in the board meeting this evening.

**Minutes**

Minutes of the September 22<sup>nd</sup> board meeting were reviewed. A motion was made by Carrie to approve the minutes as written, seconded by Rhonda. Motion carried.

**Outreach Director/Humane Officer Report**

Report is as attached.

Cheri was not present but relayed to Rhonda that the Madison Area Holiday Fantasy in Lights will be donating \$2000 to the ICHS this year.

It was noted that the Cram the Van event, Rummage Sale and Walkathon were all very successful events. Special thanks to Bridget Dickler and Liz Bothfeld for their work on the Rummage Sale and Walkathon.

**Operations Director Report**

Report is as attached.

Theresa reports that overall adoptions are down and the cat population is at and above capacity. We are in need of more foster homes for kittens.

Volunteer assistance is needed the second and fourth Saturday of each month for adoption days at Pet Smart West. Help is needed to transport the animals as well as help at Pet Smart. It is hoped that if enough volunteers can be found we can expand to each Saturday of the month.

Volunteers can help as much or as little as their schedules allow.

Inmates from the Iowa County Jail have begun volunteering and have helped with cleaning kennels and other tasks at the shelter. It seems to be working out very well so far with the inmates being cooperative and good workers.

The Lands' End Woof Walk promotion has been very beneficial for the shelter. Over 65 Lands' End employees have volunteered to walk dogs. Recently Lands' End increased their donation from \$3 per dog walked to \$6! There is the possibility that the program may be extended beyond the original date of October 31, however this has not been verified.

Theresa has done some comparisons from 2007 to present and found that our intake of animals is up by about 20%. With adoptions being down and more animals coming in this is not good news. Efforts are being made to brainstorm for ways to increase adoptions.

Rhonda asked what Theresa had found for information from other shelters regarding weekend hours. The consensus was that being open on the weekends increased adoptions and activity.

Theresa will put together a proposal for the next board meeting for a new schedule of hours to begin in January which would include being open both Saturday and Sunday and open late one evening a week. This would mean being closed a day or two during the week.

The public was in support of this idea as well.

Rhonda also asked about the progress on a second line at the shelter. This is still not in place, Theresa will be getting back to us.

## **Financial Report**

Reports are attached.

In Todd's absence Rhonda reviewed the financial reports as of September 14<sup>th</sup>. In general we are still in a very precarious position. While we have had money streaming in steadily from fund raising efforts and donations, the expenses continue to build. Some progress is being made on old debts but it remains a struggle.

Mike expressed apprehension about our financial status going into the winter months ahead with increased expenses looming ahead. This sentiment was echoed by the public and the board as well.

Theresa is going to look into the Housing and Energy program through the SW CAP to see if they can be of any help with winterizing or at least evaluating what can be done.

Suggestions came from the public that we advertise in the paper for volunteers to assist with upcoming needs for the winter. Mike noted he may have found someone to help with snow plowing this winter.

There was some discussion about a Capitol Campaign to get a new and more efficient building. This may be something we look at in the year ahead, starting with a steering committee to investigate options.

## **Fundraising**

There are several upcoming events.

November 1<sup>st</sup> - Craft and Bake Sale at the Dodgeville Middle School from 9 am to 2 pm.

November 9<sup>th</sup> - The ICHS "Fun" Raising Silent Auction at Dodger Bowl Lanes. From 1 pm to 4 pm. We have 160 baskets this year with something for everyone!

Also The Badger Kennel Club Dog Fair at the Alliant Center in Madison.

November 29<sup>th</sup> is the a Five Band Benefit with Bob Rocks at the Red Room. 7 pm to ???

December 7<sup>th</sup> - Pet photos with Santa at Pet Smart West.

Dave Ladd mentioned that his company is saving aluminum cans for the ICHS. Theresa or Cheri

## **Comments from the Public**

The floor was opened for comments from the public. Interaction was great!

Dave Ladd stated that his staff and employees will donate their aluminum cans to ICHS. Theresa or Cheri will contact his office to work things out. Perhaps a volunteer can pick the cans up on a day Dolphin's is open since they are located so close.

This brought a question regarding the Terra Cycle plastic bottle drive we were doing in 2007.

Mary will look into the reason this ended.

Samantha Atkinson of Spring Green Pet Resort asked questions about why our payroll was so high and asked about several aspects of operations. She is a boarding kennel manager and had several suggestions for cutting expenses. She is going to come to the shelter and meet with Theresa to see if there are suggestions she can make to help reduce our costs. She also had a possible resource for buying cat litter in bulk to save money there.

Linda Narveson presented the board with a list of great fund raising ideas for future use. She is willing to help us move forward with these.

The board has scheduled a special meeting to be held November 6<sup>th</sup>. This will be closed meeting to discuss staff issues.

The next regular meeting of the board is scheduled for Monday, November 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at the Stonefield Apartments meeting room.

Mary made a motion to adjourn. Motion seconded by Carrie. Meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Whitmar  
ICHS Board Secretary