



# Fetch!

All the news we can dig up, chase down and drop in your lap ~ February 2011

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[www.wesavepets.org](http://www.wesavepets.org)  
[www.wesavepets.petfinder.com](http://www.wesavepets.petfinder.com)

## Meet AWF's Newest Board Member, Denise Koppenhaver

**Remember Youngers Community Day, Sat., Feb. 26. Support AWF!**

Denise is a long-time AWF volunteer who has become AWF's newest board member. She was born and raised in Perry Iowa. Denise worked for Iowa Electric (now Alliant) for 27 years, starting in Perry, moving on to Marshalltown, and finally to Cedar Rapids. She moved to Anamosa in 1994 where she happily lives with former AWF dog, Trigger (nka Trixie), and her four cat siblings -- Mia, Sassy, Nick and Melody.

Denise started working at the Jones County Sheriff's Office in the Civil Department in 2003 when she first became acquainted with AWF, as the group was just forming at the time, with the support of Sheriff Mark Denniston. In late 2003, Jane Hilton and Denise were the "urgent dog" team. They did that work until the spring of 2008. Now Denise fosters, does transport, and reviews adoption applications. She says she does pretty much anything having to do with the cat adoption process. Denise also heads up the Annual AWF Garage sale in the spring in Anamosa, and she assists



**Denise & Trixie**

with the bake sales held monthly at the Anamosa Walmart. She is currently fostering AWF dog Abbie, but most of her fosters are cats. Denise says, "Rescue is incredibly rewarding, but at the same time, difficult. Every day, working at the Sheriff's office, I see that there are so many dogs and cats who need help, but who don't come into AWF care."

AWF dog, Goldie, who was adopted to a family in Iowa City and re-named Uta, is one of Denise's favorite adoption stories. Uta, an older girl who was left behind when her previous family moved, was the first pet her new family had ever had, and many e-mails flew between Anamosa and Iowa City as they all adjusted to life together. Uta was treasured by her new parents while starting their family and then eventually moving to the East Coast. Uta was a gentle and loving "big sister" to her two brothers. She lived out her golden years with the family, and they were by her side when she left this world.

Denise says that spay/neuter is such a huge key to solving animal over-population, especially for cats. The AWF Cat Team is pro-active, working with local families and businesses who alert the team to cat colonies in the area. All are caught or trapped, if necessary, then spayed or neutered and either adopted, sent to approved farm homes, taken to approved cat rescues, or returned to the areas where the families are happy to keep feeding them. It is a good sense of accomplishment.

Denise lists traveling and shopping as her hobbies, as well as reading. Escaping into an interesting book for a few hours is good therapy. There's not a lot of free time for hobbies these days, though -- Denise remembers a time when she was returning from a trip to London and took a call in the Detroit airport regarding an urgent dog!

To anyone thinking of volunteering. . . there are many jobs that you can do, and every one, no matter how small, is important. We can find the right "fit" for you!

## Volunteer Spotlight

[Editor's Note: This issue introduces David Boehm, a volunteer with AWF who is a member of the Cat Team, and who is very active with the organization. Learning about our volunteers is a great way to promote more cohesiveness in the organization. Since we are scattered far and wide, this column helps us get to know each other better].



*David with Velvet the cat, former AWF dog Rusty on his lap, and Harley (the black & white doggy)*

David Boehm is a very active and involved volunteer with AWF. He takes almost all the cat calls for Jones County, he's on the Urgent Dog Team, receiving pictures and information on the dogs that come in to the Monticello vet office, he's a member of the AWF Cat Team, and he helps Candy Roberg at all of the fundraising bake sales held at the Anamosa Walmart. He can be called on to do most anything for the group, and has been a volunteer with AWF for about four years.

David is originally from Rock Island, IL, but he's lived in Monticello for about five years. He works at the Fareway store there, and says he does a little bit of everything.

Before moving to Monticello, David had seen some information about AWF, so when he came to the area, his wife knew someone who had fostered for the group. David called, and he and his wife started to foster both cats and dogs.

David's family includes his wife, Holly, and three stepchildren: Caleb, Daniel and Christian, plus five dogs and five cats. When David does have some leisure time, he likes to spend it traveling and hanging out with his family.

There are many stories David could tell, but one of his favorites is about a cat that showed up at his home a few years ago in terrible condition. He took her in, and, with the help of the AWF Cat Team, nursed her back to health. She recovered, gained some additional weight, and she was eventually adopted. Today she is a healthy, happy and loved cat.

David derives pleasure from his volunteer work with AWF from the fact that so many cats and dogs from Jones County are helped to find good and loving homes.

He urges people to sign up as volunteers. "It's easy," he says -- "just go to the website ([www.wesavepets.org](http://www.wesavepets.org)) and fill out a volunteer application. If you're not sure what you could do, AWF has many different areas that you could choose from, such as helping at fundraising events, fostering, and many other things. All you need to do is express an interest in volunteering, talk to other volunteers, and you're sure to find your niche in the organization."

Dates to  
Remember



**February 26, Community Days - Younkers.** To volunteer, contact Jessica Castelli at 319-892-3135, 319-899-1831, or email: [jess.castelli@gmail.com](mailto:jess.castelli@gmail.com)

**March 6, AWF Adoptable Dogs at PetSmart,** 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. If you would like to help escort a foster dog to PetSmart, contact Brandon Franklin at [bf514921@hotmail.com](mailto:bf514921@hotmail.com).

**April 3, AWF Adoptable Dogs at PetSmart,** 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. If you would like to help escort a foster dog to PetSmart, contact Brandon Franklin at [bf514921@hotmail.com](mailto:bf514921@hotmail.com)

## Call for Volunteers

AWF is looking for volunteers for the following positions:

- Board members, especially someone interested in being secretary and taking minutes at board meetings
- Database administrator to keep track of foster dog records
- Volunteer coordinator

If you're interested in filling any of these positions, please call or email Paul Morris, President of the Board:

Email: [pmmr@netins.net](mailto:pmmr@netins.net)

Cell #: 319-481-1349

If you've been thinking of volunteering, AWF welcomes your help! No job is too small and all are important to keep the organization running smoothly. Go to [www.wesavepets.org](http://www.wesavepets.org) and fill out a volunteer application.

THANK YOU!

## Kudos to the AWF Cat Team!

AWF's Cat Team has been working to raise money for spay/neuter/vet work, and had a successful Bake Sale in Anamosa a few weeks ago. They recently completed the monumental task of delivering phone books in Anamosa, which took a lot of time and volunteers to accomplish.

The phone book delivery project was headed by Heidi Hubbard. Volunteers involved in this project were Kelly Day; David Boehm; Debbie (David B.'s aunt); David's uncle, who provided a trailer; Coreen and Tracy Yousse; Nicki Broderon and six of her family members, Brandy Pint, Martin Hubbard, Shay Helgens, Cindy Entwistle, Cheryl Samuelson; Robin Morris; Paul Morris; and Ron and Cherry McGuire. Heidi says, "This has been a monumental task, and we would not have been able to get this done without all of these great volunteers."

The bake sale was managed by Candy Roberg, who got her bakers together to help raise funds to spay/neuter abandoned animals in Jones County that are not AWF animals. The Nielsen Fund has been set up for the money collected from these projects. The fund got its name because the recent bake sale was originally scheduled to raise funds to help Larry Nielsen spay/neuter approximately twenty cats that had been dumped on his property over time. He provided food and shelter for them, but because of the large number of cats, Larry needed help getting them spayed or neutered. He had a shed that the cats would sleep in at night for warmth. He would close them in each evening and turn on a heater for them. One week before the bake sale, the shed caught on fire overnight and all of the cats perished. The AWF Cat Team decided to go ahead with the bake sale and use the money for other Jones County citizens who need help with spay/neuter issues.

With the funds from these projects, more cats can be spayed or neutered, which means fewer kittens looking for homes each spring. Out of a terrible tragedy has come new hope for limiting the cat population in Jones County, and the AWF Cat Team, consisting of Denise Koppenhaver, Heidi Hubbard, David Boehm, Cherry McGuire, Anne Cirves and Kelly Day, are to be commended for all of their efforts to ease the cat population of Jones County and provide help for residents who need low-cost spay/neuter options.

## In Memory of Speedbump, aka Speedy

by Cherry McGuire

I foster kittens, and in late September, I was given three babies who were just a couple days old. Two died within 12 hours. I hesitated to name the third one, because everyone was sure he would not last a week. Each time I went in the bathroom, where I kept him, I expected the worst. It didn't seem long, though, before he would hop out of his box whenever I went in there.

He had a tiny purr even before his little eyes were open. He would hold the bottle with both front feet, and his tiny ears would wiggle while he drank milk. He was probably about three weeks old before the name Speedbump just seemed the right name for him. He was very little for his age, but kept up pretty well chasing through the house with the older foster kittens.

The family that adopted him loved him dearly and kept his name, shortening it to Speedy. One Saturday morning he was just fine, but by that afternoon he was a very sick boy. He fought the battle until Monday. Once thought not to survive his first week, Speedy lived for four months. While his little life was way too short, he was a very happy, well-loved and well-cared-for kitten during that time. He will always have a special place in my heart, his adopted family's hearts, and the hearts of all who met him.

[Editor's Note: AWF is very grateful for all of its foster parents, and especially for Cherry & her husband, Ron, who both love little fur babies so much they keep fostering, all the while knowing they can't save them all. The ones they do save are fortunate, indeed, to experience a taste of heaven on earth].



Speedy and his family

*AWF extends its sympathies to the adoptive families of Speedy (aka Speedbump), and of Jennifer, also known as Henry Rainz, two sweet kittens gone too soon, but well loved during their short time here.*

# Happy Tails! -- Adoption & Rescue Updates of AWF Dogs



**Archie**



**Brandy**



**Cooter (courtesy)**



**Deebo**



**Gia**



**Ember**



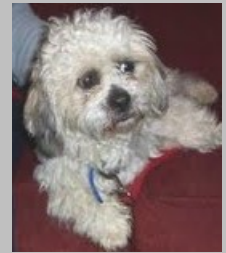
**Jovi**



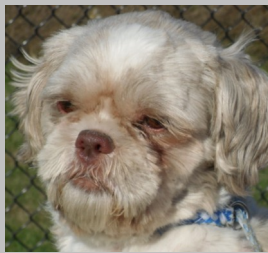
**Chesney**



**Sheldon**



**Spanky**



**Gizmo**



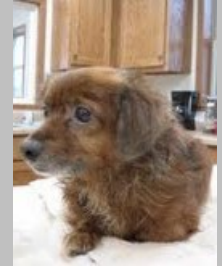
**Glory with her dad**



**Heidi - to rescue**



**Jeffrey**



**Kyle**



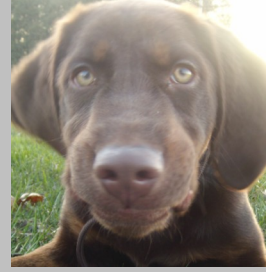
**LadyBug-courtesy**



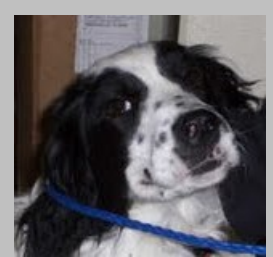
**Luca**



**Miles**



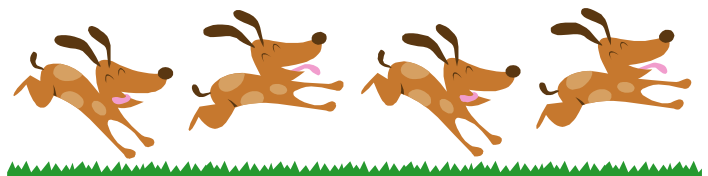
**Sebastian**



**Franklin**



**Irvin**



# Happy Tails! -- Adoption & Rescue Updates of AWF Cats



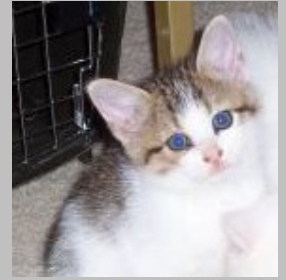
**Tyler**



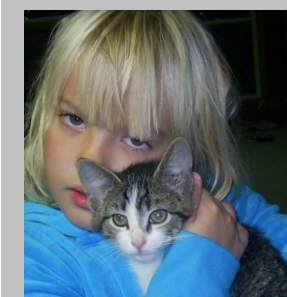
**Gage**



**Bryce**



**Chelsea**



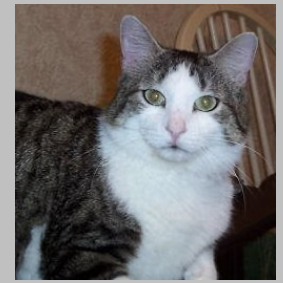
**Zeus**



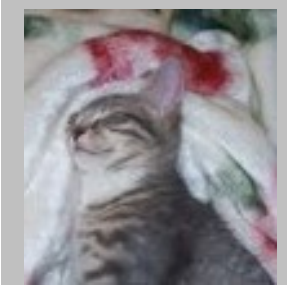
**Angelina**



**Speed Bump**



**Jax**



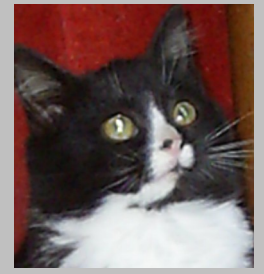
**Loki**



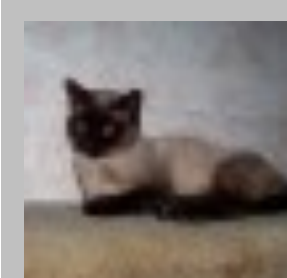
**Luigi**



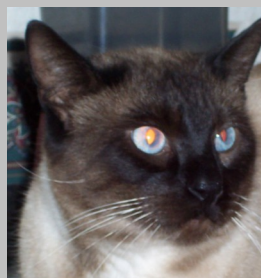
**Claire**



**Posh**



**Sarah**



**Hugo**



**Inspector**

**Picture  
not  
available**

**Charcoal**

Thanks to the efforts of many AWF volunteers, almost all of the dogs and puppies and all of the cats and kittens shown on these two pages were adopted into loving, forever homes. AWF has made a big difference in the lives of these animals. Without the intervention of AWF, and all of the work done by AWF's volunteers to find homes for these animals, they could have suffered a much different fate. If you have been thinking about volunteering, don't delay. Just do it! Sign up on AWF's website: [www.wesavepets.org](http://www.wesavepets.org). Thank you!

## We' Get Mail & Pictures!



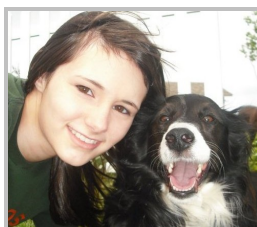
**Holly & dad John**

We are finally getting around to sending you a photo of Holly, formerly AWF dog Chloe.

She is doing VERY well here. She's only awake about 8 hours total in the day. She sleeps on one of her beds on the floor beside our bed at night, and during the day, she prefers sleeping in her kennel, which sits in the corner of the dining room, or on a blanket in front of the air vent. Holly currently weighs 107 pounds.

Holly is learning to ring the small cowbell that I hung on the handrail at the top of the stairs to let me know she needs to go out. It's beautiful to see her racing around the back yard in the snow this winter, although my flower beds were pretty well shot during the growing season!

God bless you all,  
John and Alice Hale

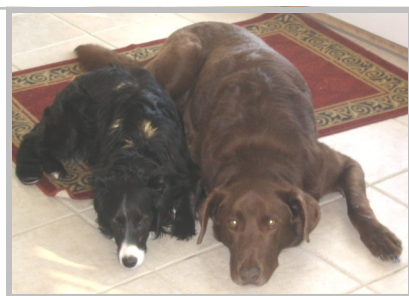


**Erynn & Bree**

Dear AWF,

My family likes to joke that we adopted Bree because our Chocolate Lab, Cooper, needed a puppy! Truthfully, I think we **all** needed her. She can lift anyone's spirits with her goofy personality, and she's incredibly loving and loyal. I have no clue what we'd do without her. As for Copper, I've never seen him so full of life. Thank you so much, AWF, for bringing us together.

Erynn Day & Family



**Bree & Copper enjoying some quiet time**

## Lita is Still Seeking Her Forever Home

*by Melissa Aalfs*



This beautiful girl is Lita. She has been patiently waiting for her forever home to come along for quite awhile. She is between 3 and 4 years old, weighs 61 pounds, and is, we think, a Shepherd/Husky mix. Lita is a fantastic girl with a great love of life and she is so happy! A very smart girl, she is looking for an active family that will enjoy having this loving and loyal girl as a member of their pack.

Lita currently lives with 13 other foster dogs, and she has no issues with anyone in the house -- she loves everyone. Lita is a super-sweet girl who enjoys the simple pleasures in life -- a smooch here and there, a scratch behind the ears, playing with her foster siblings, hanging out on the pet bed, and just looking too cute for words.

Lita is such a sweet girl, as you can see in this picture. She has a very expressive face.

Lita loves to hang out in the back yard, keeping her eye on her best friend, Mr. Squirrel, so her forever home must have a fenced-in yard. She would really enjoy having another dog in the home to bond with.

If you think Lita would be the perfect addition to your family, please contact Melissa Aalfs:

**Email: [mlaalfs@netzero.com](mailto:mlaalfs@netzero.com) or phone 319-415-1270**