

# Fetch!

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

## AWF Board of Directors

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

## Introducing AWF's Newest Board Member: Candy Roberg



Candy holding Bailey  
(former AWF dog), with  
Shadow, the cat at her feet

Many of you are very familiar with Candy Roberg. Candy heads up AWF bake sales from May through September every year, and with lots of help from other volunteers, gets amazing results from each sale. Candy has been a volunteer with AWF for the past seven years.

Candy is the newest board member of AWF, and she has provided the following information about herself:

Candy was born and raised in Anamosa, Iowa. She works at Rockwell-Collins in Cedar Rapids, and has worked there for 34 1/2 years.

Candy's mother passed away five years ago, and she lives with her dad. She has an older brother living in Mesa, Arizona, and an older sister who lives in Viola, Iowa.

She is a very active volunteer, helping not only AWF, but is secretary for the Stone City Community Center. Candy also is involved with the youth group from her church, and she prepares the bulletins for each Sunday service. She says that being a volunteer means a lot to her. Candy began volunteering with AWF eight years ago. She says, "I read an article in the Anamosa Journal about AWF and went to the very first meeting they held at the Jones County Courthouse. Just to think that these dogs and cats had no one to stand up for them made me very sick. To realize that so-called 'loving families' could just abandon their best friends and not even think twice about it was more than I could stand."

One of her favorite rescue stories is this. "I remember one day in January when a group of AWF volunteers were meeting at the First Baptist Church in Anamosa to discuss the upcoming garage/bake sale. After the meeting, five of us went out to a farm north of Anamosa to help a mother dog and her pups. We put the puppies in a basket and in the back of Denise Koppenhaver's car; two other people caught the mother dog and put her in with her pups. Then, Denise and I took a trip to Muscatine to the shelter with our little brood. The roads were a glare of ice that day, but we made the trip safely and saved that momma dog and her pups."

Candy says that knowing she can help make a difference in the lives of the dogs and cats that come to AWF, and who just need someone to love and care for them, is very satisfying. Her advice to anyone contemplating this type of volunteer work is: "Don't just think about volunteering. **DO IT!** Helping these animals is SO rewarding!"

## Letter from the President, Kelly Day

Hello Everyone!

As many of you know, there have been quite a few changes in AWF the last couple of months. The co-founders have decided to take a well-deserved break; after three years, Paul has stepped down as President; and we have added a couple of new board members. Everyone is starting to settle into their new positions and dig in as we move onward and upward.

Part of AWF's mission is to provide financial support to charitable organizations that rescue and/or care for homeless animals. Because of this, before the co-founders left the board, they recommended that AWF do something to help Saint Rescue. We have taken that one step further; the new Cat Adoption Center.

Nicki Broderson, founder and President of Saint Rescue, has been rescuing cats for over 15 years. Her main resource for adoptions was to adopt them out through her employer's storefront (Earl May in Cedar Rapids) who holds a pet shop license. She pays for all the vet care, but receives no revenue from the adoptions. Since she recently received a license from the state, she can now accept revenue for cat adoptions.

With the introduction of The Cat Adoption Center, AWF and Saint Rescue will work together to take care of the numerous stray cats in Jones County. We receive, on average, calls regarding 10 cats per week that need our help. But it's important to realize that the opening of the Center is not AWF's only goal. The AWF shelter previously consisted of a kennel capable of holding two dogs on the founders' property in Oxford Junction. The Cat Adoption Center will now serve as our shelter location. This affords AWF the opportunity to be more visible in the community, allow walk-in traffic, provide a place to promote all animals AWF has available for adoption, and to increase our volunteer pool. The ultimate goal will be for Saint Rescue to be the primary contact for stray cats in Jones County, with AWF serving as a backup resource for Saint Rescue. With the number of stray cats in Jones County, we will always have cats, but our primary focus will continue to be dogs.

We chose the location of The Cat Adoption Center because it not only fulfills our combined immediate needs, but will provide a place for Saint Rescue to take over on their own once AWF is able to find land and build a facility of our own. The Elm Street location is properly zoned and will allow Saint Rescue to expand as they desire, but

isn't necessarily a location suitable for AWF's permanent needs.

Recently, we found what we believe is an ideal site for AWF to eventually call home. However, without additional financial support, it does not fall within our budgetary guidelines. While finding land is one of our top priorities, it will always be second in line to caring for and saving the animals in our area. If AWF was to buy land outside its budget, it could end up risking the well-being of the animals our volunteers work so hard each day to save. It is for this reason that we are asking if you know anyone that has the resources to help make up the difference in price, that you ask them to please contact a board member to discuss. Nothing would please us more than being able to make an offer on this land since it's land that meets all of our guidelines...well, except that one little important one – price!

In the meantime, Denise Koppenhaver and Carrie Hoover will continue to keep looking for land that is suitable and within our budget:

### Guidelines for land to acquire

- Minimum 3 Acres Zoned Commercial or 5 Acres Zoned Agricultural (the preference is for 5 - 10 acres)
- Hwy 151 Corridor (between Anamosa and Marion) or possibly on or just off of Hwy 1
- If on gravel, it must be within ½ mile of a paved road

If you have any leads on land, please contact Denise ([Kdenise0353@mchsi.com](mailto:Kdenise0353@mchsi.com)) or Carrie ([hoovers@mchsi.com](mailto:hoovers@mchsi.com)).

We also have a need for someone to work with taking videos of our adoptable dogs. It would be nice to have individual videos of dogs with foster parents. The foster parents should speak to the dog's personality, energy level, likes and dislikes, etc. We plan to play the videos at the Cat Adoption Center during the hours it is open in hopes of increasing dog adoptions.

The Board has many other tasks to address, but they will



**The new sign for The Cat Adoption Center in Anamosa**

*(President's Letter continued, page 3)*

## President's Letter (continued from page 2)

have to wait until we get The Cat Adoption Center up and functioning. We are hoping to open the Center on June 2<sup>nd</sup>, but are waiting for a couple of things to be completed before we can set a definite opening date. **With all of the changes, it's important that you take note of the changes in our contact information. Our phone number is now (319) 462-5683, and our mailing address is:**

**Animal Welfare Foundation of Iowa  
PO Box 573  
Marion, IA 52302**

**The Cat Adoption Center is located at:**

**118 S. Elm Street  
Anamosa, IA 52205**

**and will serve as our business address.**

As president, I hope that everyone is as excited as the Board of Directors and I am with this positive step forward towards our ultimate goal – a permanent location for all AWF animals. Thank you to all our volunteers for your support in AWF's newest endeavor!

I would personally like to thank those who have helped with preparing The Cat Adoption Center for use. They are Gretchen Chamberlain, Tracy and Carrie Hoover, Denise Koppenhaver, Candy Roberg, Paul & Robin Morris, David Boehm, Deb Hosch, Anne Cirves, Emily Phelps, Nicki Broderson, Coreen and Tracy Yousse, Shari Neal, Steve Reyhons, Irv and Brenda Graver, Cherry and Ron McGuire, Lisa Tallman and Scott, and Jane Hilton.

Thank you,  
Kelly Day, President

Dates to  
Remember



**June 5, 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).

**June 11, Petco event, at Petco**, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Contact Gretchen Chamberlain for more information or to participate: [glchamberlain@live.com](mailto:glchamberlain@live.com)

**June 18, Bake Sale at Walmart in Anamosa, 8 a.m. - noon.** Contact Candy Roberg to help set up, tear down, or bake: [robergcandy@hotmail.com](mailto:robergcandy@hotmail.com).

**July 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).

**July 16, Bake Sale at Walmart in Anamosa, 8 a.m. - noon.** Contact Candy Roberg to help set up, tear down, or bake: [robergcandy@hotmail.com](mailto:robergcandy@hotmail.com).

## Tips for a Safe, Safe 4th of July for Everyone!



**Don't** take your pet to fireworks displays. The explosions of the fireworks are loud to the human ear. Imagine how loud it sounds to your dog, who can hear sounds up to 60,000 cycles per second. That's three times greater than the human ear can even register.

**Do not** leave your pet in the car. With only hot air to breathe inside a car, your pet can suffer serious health effects, even death, in a few short minutes. Partially opened windows do not provide sufficient air, but do provide an opportunity for your pet to be stolen. This practice is also illegal in the state of California.

**Keep your pets** indoors in a sheltered, quiet area. Some animals become destructive when frightened, so be sure you've removed any items your pet could destroy or may be harmful to your pet if chewed. Leave a television or radio playing at normal volume to keep him company while you're attending 4th of July picnics, parades, and other celebrations.

**If you know** that your pet is seriously distressed by loud noises like thunder, consult with your veterinarian before July 4th for ways to help alleviate the fear and anxiety he or she will experience during fireworks displays.

**Never leave pets** outside unattended, even in a fenced yard or on a chain. In their fear, pets who normally wouldn't leave the yard may escape and become lost, or become entangled in their chain, risking injury or death.

**Make sure** your pets are wearing identification tags so that if they do become lost, they can be returned promptly. Animals found running at-large should be taken to the local animal care center, where they have the best chance of being reunited with their owners. Two forms of ID are always best when it comes to protecting your pet. If an individual finds your pet, the first thing he or she will look for is an ID tag.

*~ from Best Friends Network*

# Sheriff Mark Denniston Retires

by Denise Koppenhaver



Mark, Doris & Clyde

After 33 years in law enforcement in Jones County, and 15 being Jones County Sheriff, Sheriff Mark Denniston will soon be retiring. AWF will definitely miss Sheriff Denniston when he retires on June 30th, as he has always been a big AWF supporter. When contacted by the AWF co-founders back in 2003, he was very pleased to support the group since there had never been anything in

place in the county to help the stray dogs. Whenever AWF has asked for his help or an opinion in an animal-related issue, he always does his best to help or offer guidance within the law. Early in his career as sheriff, Mark was responsible for helping draft the county ordinance regarding stray animals.

Mark lives in Oxford Junction with his wife Doris, who works at Rockwell in Cedar Rapids, and former AWF dog Clyde and their cat named Kate. Their daughter, Amy, lives in Cedar Falls and is in Walmart management. Son Travis is in the Coast Guard stationed in Grand Isle, Louisiana. Son Derek is an Anamosa police officer, living in Wyoming, Iowa.

Clyde was adopted about three years ago from an abandoned litter of pups. Mark selected Clyde from this litter. Kate was rescued as a stray in Oxford Junction. Clyde is Mark's fishing companion and loves boating with the family. Clyde always accompanies the family and their friends on camping and boating trips throughout the summer. Like most dogs, Clyde senses when they are preparing for a trip and becomes very excited, knowing a trip is in the near future.



Clyde ready for a day of fishing

Thinking back over his career, Mark remembers seizing a local horse from a neglectful owner just a few years ago. The Sheriff's Office received numerous calls from concerned county residents. Several times he requested an equine vet to evaluate the horse's overall condition.

Upon the third visit from the vet, he told Mark that "it was time" to seize the horse since it had lost a great deal of weight. Mark immediately contacted Carla Siebert of Equine Rescue and together they formed a plan. The horse was seized about two days later without incident. As the law states, there was a court hearing where the owner was found guilty of animal neglect. The horse, who had been in the care of Equine Rescue, was sold at an auction and, with the help of Carla, is now in a safe home where he is well cared for.

When asked what would be the one thing that would best help the homeless animals in Jones County, Mark replied, "a shelter." He was hoping it would be built before he left office and still has hopes that it will one day become a reality.

## Volunteers for Cat Center

AWF is looking for volunteers to help staff the new Cat Center. To date, these are the people who have agreed to help:

- Annie Locher
- Emily Phelps
- Karla Chapman
- Lisa Tallman
- Melanie Snell
- Shari Neal
- Tracy McCarty

- AWF's Cat Team
- Anne Cirves
  - David Boehm
  - Denise Koppenhaver
  - Heidie Hubbard
  - Kelly Day
  - Cherry McGuire

If you would like to volunteer for this new and exciting project, please contact Denise Koppenhaver ([kdenise0353@mchsi.com](mailto:kdenise0353@mchsi.com)). Thanks to all who have signed on to help!



Today's access password is "bellyrub"

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



**Sherlock**



**Marlow**



**Shadow**



**Gwen**



**Drew**



**Magnum**



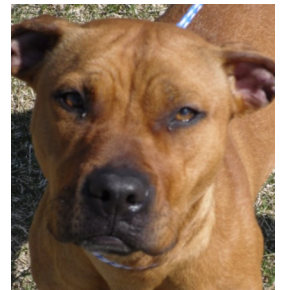
**Dita**



**Sara**



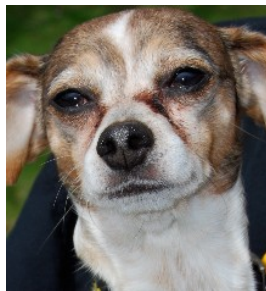
**Daxton**



**Liv**



**Chelsey**  
(transferred to  
Doodle Rescue  
Collective)



**Jerry** (transferred  
to Almost Home  
Humane Society of  
North Central Iowa  
- Ft. Dodge)



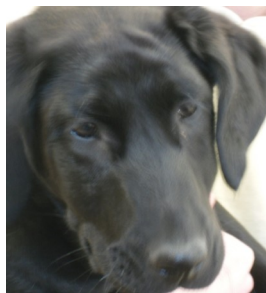
**Tina** (transferred  
to Almost Home  
Humane Society of  
North Central Iowa  
- Ft. Dodge)



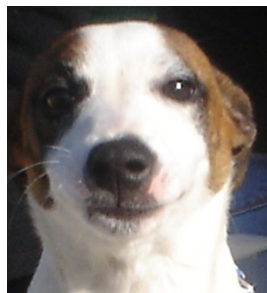
**Annie** (aka Lily), on left, & **Sadie** (aka Star)  
have found their forever homes & seem  
quite content!



**Reo**



**Vinnie**



**Giovanni**  
(aka Jasper)



**Quinn** (transferred  
to Almost Home  
Humane Society of  
North Central  
Iowa - Ft. Dodge)



**Keesha**

# Brandy's Plight

by Heidi Hubbard

Brandy, aka Piglet, was born sometime around June of last year. She came into AWF's foster program in the fall with extreme breathing issues.

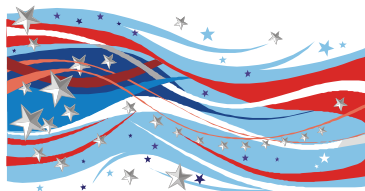


Even as a kitten, she spent most of her time just sitting around focusing on trying to take her next breath. She didn't play at all, nor would she make it up or down the stairs. These activities required more oxygen than she could take in.

Brandy would also try to eat everything she could, but she would throw up almost everything she ate. Because she couldn't keep food down, she didn't grow much nor put on weight. AWF treated her for an upper respiratory infection and eased some of her breathing issues, but she still spent most of her time breathing out of her mouth.

For the next six months, we had her in and out of the vet's office, trying to improve her ability to breathe. We tired five different medications to see if we could get the issue cleared up. Finally, after exhausting all other options, the vet referred us to Dr. Kathy Graf at the Eastern Iowa Veterinary Specialty Center in Cedar Rapids. Dr. Graf looked at Brandy's medical history and suspected that Brandy had a mass in her nasopharynx that would require surgery.

On March 29, Brand had surgery at the clinic and Dr. Graf found a benign nasal polyp, 2 cm by 1.5 cm by 1.5 cm, that was blocking both nasal passages. Since the surgery, Brandy has been doing very well and enjoying her new-found freedom of breathing normally. She is playing with all of her kitty friends in her foster home, and she loves everyone. She follows her foster mom around like a little puppy, and she's finally putting on weight. Brandy has a 25% chance of another polyp growing back. If that happens, she will require a surgery called bulla osteotomy, which would prevent a polyp from growing again. AWF is hoping this won't happen and that Brandy will live a long and happy life.



# We Get Letters!



Hello Cherry, Heidi & Kelly -

Just wanted to take a minute and thank you and say hi. We love our Bella Mae (formerly Shadow), and she loves us, too. She's the sweetest little thing!

She sleeps with her momma, plays with sweatshirt strings, and plays very well with her dog brother, Coal. She's our new little princess. We couldn't be happier with her, and we're pleased that she has adapted so well to our home.

Thanks again,

The Pennington Family

# Happy Tails (continued from pg. 5)



Sadie



Ruthie



Annie

# A Great Reason to Volunteer!

DID YOU KNOW? Studies show that no matter what their health is when they start, volunteers have less stress, less depression, and longer lives.

