



Fetch!

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

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www.wesavepets.org
www.wesavepets.petfinder.com

How Urgent Dogs are Processed by AWF

Ever wonder just what goes on behind the scenes when you receive a flier telling you about AWF's latest Urgent Dog? What, exactly, IS an Urgent Dog?

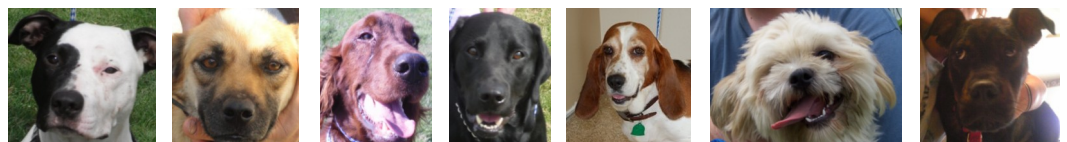
According to AWF's Urgent Dog Guidelines, they are the stray dogs picked up by law enforcement in the county. When someone calls the Jones County Sheriff's Office to report a stray dog, the appropriate agency is contacted to pick up the dog. The Jones County Sheriff's office only picks up dogs outside of Anamosa and Monticello, since both towns have their own law enforcement agency. Those picked up by one of the three Jones County dog catchers or sheriff's deputy go to one of the three vet clinics in the county -- Anamosa Vet Clinic, Wyoming Vet Clinic or Monticello Vet Clinic. Strays picked up by the Monticello Police Department go to Monticello Vet Clinic, and those picked up by the Anamosa Police Department go to the Anamosa Vet Clinic. Under Jones county law, a stray dog must be held for seven days to give the owner a chance to locate and claim the dog.

Once a dog has been taken to one of the vet clinics, clinic staff will contact AWF's Urgent Team to let them know that a dog has been brought in. At this time, the vet staff will get photos (in some instances, a volunteer will take photos), and as much information as possible about the animal (breed, age, weight, etc.) is gathered and given to the Urgent Team.

Melissa Aalfs, who heads the Urgent Dog Program, writes a bio for each dog, posting it on AWF's Petfinder website, and also sends it to Carrie Hoover, AWF's Webmaster, and Dona Pearce, AWF's Flier Creator/Distributor. Carrie posts the dog on AWF's site (www.wesavepets.org), and Dona creates a flier and sends it, via email, to the 300+ names on the distribution list in an effort to network the animal and have it be seen by as many people as possible. Owners have seven days to reclaim the dog. During the dog's seven-day hold, the Urgent Team works around the clock to find an adoptive family for the dog. If, at the end of the Urgent time the dog does not have an adoptive home to go to, then the Urgent Team goes into overdrive to find a foster home for the dog. In some cases, we must also reach out to other rescues and no-kill shelters to take in the dog in order to save it from being euthanized. There are many, many phone calls and emails made on behalf of the animal to find it a temporary or permanent home, and several volunteers give hours of their time to help these animals once they are in AWF's care.

With the downturn of the economy, adoption rates have slowed, and AWF's foster homes are very full. So, if you've been toying with the idea of becoming a foster parent, go to AWF's website and fill out a foster parent application. It's a lot of work, but it will mean the world to a dog you shelter while it's waiting for its forever home.

Pictured below are just a few of AWF's foster dogs



Volunteer Spotlight

[Editor's Note: This issue spotlights a dedicated cat foster, Cherry McCarr]



Cherry, pictured with Franklin, the foster cat that became her own

Ron and I moved to Olin, IA in the spring of 1996 after we both retired. In March of 2009, I opened the patio door to take some food out to a couple of strays we were feeding, and in waltzed Pansy and Daisy, two of the nicest, sweetest tabbies you would want to meet. We think they had been dumped off by our house the night before. That is the first time I found out there was more to AWF than raising money for a shelter in Jones County.

That June, Ripley and Lacy showed up, two of the saddest-looking cats we had ever seen. They surely must have been on their own for some time. That was when I became a foster parent for cats for AWF. My first three fosters after Ripley and Lacy were adopted by three of my family members.

My first experience with bottle-feeding a kitten was with sweet, little, lost-in-the-cold Lydia on New Year's Eve, 2009. We both made it through that experience! The pictures to the right show the three stages of raising a bottle-fed kitty: Lydia as a new baby, Lydia now a few months old and thriving, and the third picture is of a beautiful Lydia, 6 months old, happy, healthy and in her forever home.



Baby Lydia

There have been failures along the way, but knowing the little ones were inside, warm and loved makes you realize that you DID make a difference in their little short lives. They were loved and cared for and not left to suffer on their own.

Everyone asks how we can let them go after we've fostered these wonderful kittens and cats. My answer to that is that I am just so very glad they have found loving homes. There have been around 70 kittens/cats come and go through our home since June, 2009.

I do have a foster failure named Franklin who joined our other three cats in our home. I'm told "Failed Foster" is the name given to a foster parent who ends up adopting their foster animal.

I strongly urge anyone who is thinking about becoming a foster parent to do it. It is very rewarding, and the poor little animals so need our help.



Lydia is thriving as a foster kitty (note heart shape on her chest)

Boots, one of our adult foster cats



The Line-up – kitties we have fostered for AWF



Lydia, age 6 months, in her forever home



The time is fast approaching when United Way will be having pledge drives at many work locations. Please remember, Animal Welfare Foundation of Iowa is approved to receive United Way funds. Even if you work in a different county, AWF can be written in to receive your donation. Many employers offer their employees the options of donating with payroll deduction and vacation donation. We could really use your help right now. The goal that has been set before the AWF Board is to have a location for a shelter in Jones County by December 31, 2012. Thanks for all your help. ~ Kelly Day, President, AWF

CAC (Cat Adoption Center) Open House Ribbon Cutting -- It's Official!

Open House was September 3, enjoyed by cats AND humans! 118 S. Elm St., Anamosa, housing free-roaming, ready-to-be-adopted cats and kittens. We are especially happy that we use no cages!



Front Row: Suzanne Marrek; Laurie Stone & friend; Krista Kaminski & friend; Nicki Brodersen, SAINTS Rescue, & friend; Kelly Day; Gretchen Chamberlain; Candy Roberg; Donna Connley; Cyclopedia Hatcher.

Back Row: Marv Marrek, Jill Parham, Denise Koppenhaver, Carrie Hoover

Dates to Remember



October 2, 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. **FOSTERS: Bring your dogs to get them seen and find their new, forever homes!**

November 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. **FOSTERS: Bring your dogs to get them seen and find their new, forever homes!**

October 1, Pumpkin Fest parade -- lineup begins at 11 a.m., parade at 2 p.m. Looking for foster dogs to be in parade. AWF will also have a booth at the festival.

2012 AWF Calendar



Simon, Rossi & Lita from the 2011 calendar



HOWLIDAY BAZAAR

WANTED: Volunteer to Organize AWF's Annual Howliday Bazaar

Volunteers are needed to help organize and run this year's Howliday Bazaar. The event will again be held at the Avacentre in Cedar Rapids, with the date yet to be determined.

Please contact Gretchen: (319) 447-0305 or glchamberlain@live.com if you can help.



Looking for that perfect Christmas or Holiday gift? AWF will once again be selling calendars featuring some of the wonderful cats and dogs that the Foundation has rescued. These calendars should be available approximately the first week of December at several locations, including: the new Cat Adoption Center in Anamosa; Coffee Emporium and Simply Divine Candy Shoppe, both in downtown Cedar Rapids; the Anamosa Vet Clinic; the BP gas station, corner Hwys. 51 & 1; or by contacting Gretchen at (319) 447-0305 or at glchamberlain@live.com. Petco in Marion has also agreed to let us set up a table to sell calendars on the weekends. Check our web site at www.wesavepets.org for more information as December nears.

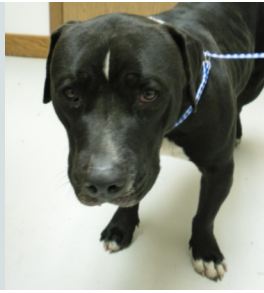
Happy Tails! -- Adoption & Rescue Updates of AWF Fosters



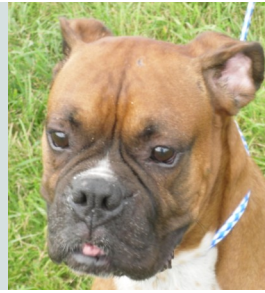
Jasper went to "Save Our Setters"



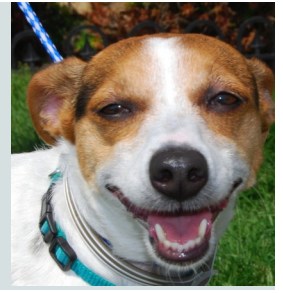
Jessi



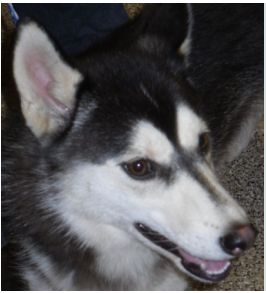
Jarid



Marty



Pippa



Santana



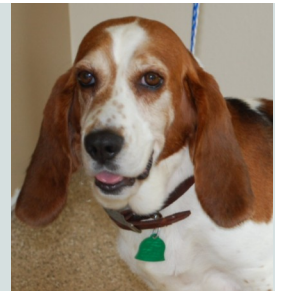
Boston



Tiger



Morris



Aimee



Mandy

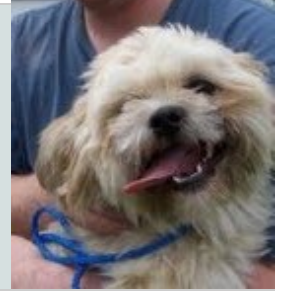


Brianna



Picture not available

Lynx the cat



Chuckles



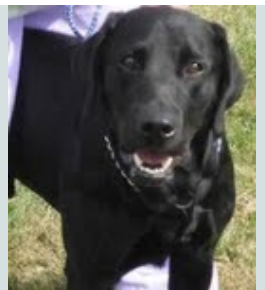
Timber



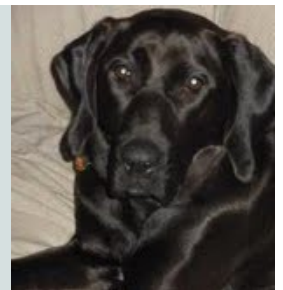
Abigail



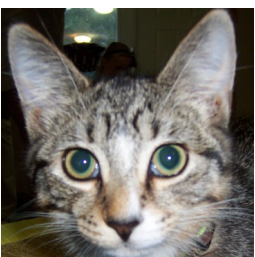
Ava (courtesy)



Fritz



Marissa



← Huey



Cleo

All either were either adopted into forever homes or moved to shelters in order to get a second chance to experience life the way all dogs should! Thanks, volunteers -- YOU help make it happen!