



Illinois Humane

As the year comes to a close, a year that marks Illinois Humane's 22nd anniversary, we have a heartwarming story that spanned 20 of those years – a story the telling of which is long overdue. Starting

in 2005, Illinois Humane has sponsored a group of retirees that visits nursing homes with their Illinois Humane foster dogs or their own dogs, whatever dogs were appropriate for the facility.

In these pages we tell the story of a situation central to our mission. Instrumental in initiating a neglect case in April of this year in partnership with local animal control, we provided safe haven and ultimately a permanent safety net for the animals involved. We held seven dogs, 6 among them Brittany Spaniels, for six months as the custody

portion of the cruelty case remained pending in court. This sort of drawn out unsettled custody is to be avoided at all costs in a cruelty matter, and there are several provisions in the Illinois Humane Care Act that are designed to address forfeiture or relinquishment of the animals. But not one of these provisions worked in this case, due to complications additional and accessory to the neglect case.



An adorable moment with this resident and the dog Joan in 2007.



We also have a few of our customary stories about successful adoptions, which is the end game for all of our work. Get our four leggers out of trouble, recovered and rehabilitated and into caring homes capable of meeting their needs.



On the prior page, the photos on the right show Illinois Humane alum Duke, the little guy, with his canine sister Seneca. Duke is a Chihuahua mix who in late 2024 landed at local animal control but quickly transferred to Illinois Humane. In April of this year, Duke found his wonderful forever home. Seneca, all of three months at the time, very much needed a canine sibling. Seneca is a Labrador, Poodle, Bernese Mountain Dog mix. She was big at three months. Duke, who lives up to his big name in spirit and energy, was a perfect playmate. Not very old himself, Duke was just over a year at the time of the adoption. To this day, the two are inseparable playmates.

The Brittannies and their mix breed housemate Chase, who came to us as a result of the above mentioned neglect case, are all wonderful dogs. This is fortunate, given we have had to hold them so long with no start toward getting them placed. Their great temperaments,

endearing them to all who have handled them, has been a big plus. They certainly did not deserve the conditions in which

they were kept. In that this case came to Illinois Humane first, our outreach to Animal Control was that if they would seek and secure a search warrant that led to seizure of the animals we would hold the animals. Animal Control has a better direct line to obtaining a search warrant in that, unfortunate as it is, they are all too frequently before the courts with these cases. However, Animal Control, as is every other shelter in the state, is overwhelmed with animals. If we can help by holding

animals, particularly in cases that may pend, it is a valuable partnership for both entities.

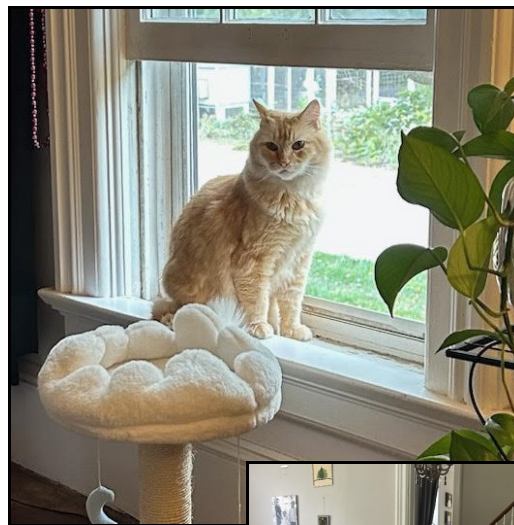
Two of the dogs are on medications. The owner refused to give the medicine to Animal Control at the time of seizure. Working together, Animal Control and Illinois Humane quickly remedied this failure, but it was an added frustration. The dogs are all moving into their senior years, and were all overweight. Very fortunately, the kennel staff where the animals are being kept have provided them with ample



playtime and activity. We have gotten the animals on proper diets. They have lost the weight they very much needed to lose. At the average age of these dogs, developing diabetes is a real danger. They are on safe ground now.



In mid January 2025, we received a message that a household was interested in fostering, maybe even fostering to adopt, one of our kitties who had been with us a long time. Fender, a handsome orange tabby had caught their eye. The household collectively decided they wanted to give an animal that may not be attractive to others, a chance. As arrangements were being made to do a trial with the kitty in their home, they saw we had another long term orange tabby, Squier, and asked if they could take him too.



If you note a pattern in the cats' names it is true, these two came in together as an intake of multiple cats who became known to us as the "guitar kitties". They were all named after makes of guitars. They came to us in 2016. Part of the issue with these kitties, why they were difficult to adopt, is that they were bonded to each other among the multiple animals that came in together, and easily stressed. They had been indoor/outdoor cats in a home that had become insolvent and the owner disabled. For these kitties, we needed a special home that would work with them

Fender has become the special friend of one of the family members in particular, pictured above. He is also now getting ample, ample window time, which he loves. Squier is assimilating as well, a little more slowly, but he has started to actively join the household – on his own terms of course. This development in 2025 could not be more welcome!! We get regular heartwarming updates from the adoptive home.

About 20 years ago, a group of retirees started taking mostly Illinois Humane foster dogs to local nursing homes or similar facilities. The group chose Tuesday at 10 a.m. as its time for the visit and frequently they went someplace for lunch afterward. In 2025, the group still visits and represents Illinois Humane, but most of the dogs are the owners' own animals and a few of them are certified therapy dogs. Lunch has remained a constant, and



Illinois Humane foster dog Dolly wearing her nurse costume visits at a memory care facility



Volunteer Mary Midden introduces Baron to a resident.

they go to places to eat that allow dogs if at all possible, resulting in more exposure for the rescue group and fun for the dogs.

In August, the group gathered at Rose Hutches' house for a cookout birthday party for one of the longtime members of the group, Kenny Lynn, who was marking his 90th birthday. Most of the group were current active visitors, but a sizable number who no longer go on a regular basis showed up to celebrate Kenny and to reunite with others. Dogs, of course, were invited.

During the 20 years since Illinois Humane has sponsored the group, there have been four married couples: Kenny and Edy Lynn, Mike and Jeanne Kienzler, Dave and RoseAnn Culbertson and John and Judy Comerio. Following the deaths of Edy, Jeanne, Dave and John, the spouses have continued with the group when possible. Another volunteer, Mary Midden, was faithful in her attendance. Mary did not own a dog and for several years could not drive, but the rest of the group saw to it that she had one of their dogs and door-to-door transportation to the facility, lunch and back home. Mary died at 96 this past March. At one point in the group's history, Veralee Williams brought her cat, who loved the attention and behaved very well. The residents loved that option!

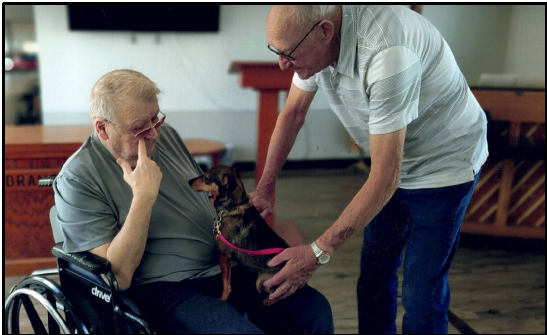


The four in the back row from left are Mike Kienzler, Kenny Lynn and his dog Brie, Joan Rothfuss and Michele Phillips. Seated in front is Veralee Williams with the dog Lordy, Lordy. The remainder of the group: from left starting with DeeDee Woodson in pink with her dog Molly, Teresa Lynn, Vivien Graf, Pam Catalani, RoseAnn Culbertson, Diane Bobeck, Rose Hutches, Dorothy Kilian getting a loving look from her dog Connie and Jean Afflarbach.

Some of the sites visited include Lewis Memorial Christian Village (now Arcadia), Springfield Supportive Living, The Crossing at Rochester (formerly Carriage Crossing), Regency Care, Springfield Supportive Living, Centennial, Hollybrook, United Cerebral Palsy of Lincoln Land, The Crossing at Rochester, The Villas in Sherman, Oak Terrace, Springfield Terrace and Bickford House. They

still visit the first three. Several of these healthcare facilities (and others not listed) no longer exist. Volunteers from this group also took the Illinois Humane dogs to adoptions, dog washes, fund-raisers, parades, photos with Santa and schools.

The visits have been good socialization for the shelter dogs who began the activity and a few times resulted in adoptions by staff or visitors. They have been good exposure for Illinois Humane, and, of course, they have provided friendship and outings for the volunteers and dogs.



Volunteer Kenny Lynn introduces Brie to a resident



Illinois Humane foster dog Coalmine brings a smile to a resident.



Volunteer Veralee Williams and Chester visit with a nursing home resident in 2007

In years past we have featured Tommy's (formerly known as Turkey) story. The little senior Shih Tzu turned up at Animal Control right before Thanksgiving 2023 with a complete urinary block. After a year's worth of care and treatment, Turkey's urinary condition had stabilized. He remained unblocked with good test parameters for a number of months. Right at that point, we had a wonderful home come forward willing to provide him with all the care he would require. His name was changed to Tommy, and he continues to do very well. We recently received a photo of him (black with a white blaze) with his very good friend Miss Coco who comes to stay with him or he with her when pet sitting is needed.



As has been our mission for each moment of our 22 years, a primary focus is the care, rehabilitation and placement of animals that are the subject of abuse – as a safety net to make sure such animals get the significant amount of care they need. This year, little Timber came in. The vets could not determine what caused the severe skin condition, but they were sure it was neither genetic or by any means a result of natural causes. The condition included sores. The veterinarians indicated Timber's skin would never completely recover, so he would require coverings throughout his life. Well, fortunately we found the perfect foster who quickly asked to adopt him. The last photo we received as the adoption was finalized is an adorable picture of him in his pajamas.



And just to keep this balanced a little bit between the canines and felines, we would like to introduce you to Squid, just because he is beautiful and cute at the same time. He is a young cat who came in from the cold suspected to have been a stray way too long. He is FIV positive. He needed some groceries. However, he needs no coaching on how to be an incredibly affectionate personable little guy. He will be a wonderful new family member in some lucky home.



We wish we could report, after 20 plus years of dedication to this work, the need in our communities has decreased. All reports and our own experiences confirm the opposite. What has improved, partially due to our advocacy in the local communities, is the response to these situations. Good response brings the animals out of bad circumstances, but overloads the sheltering systems. The cost of rehabilitating and caring for the animals is ever rising. We thank you, very sincerely, for all of your past support. Our dedication to making good things happen, be it nursing home visits or stories of miracle recoveries and placements, is steadfast. We ask for your continuing support.

Jane McBride, President