



Illinois Humane

A Tribute

He was remarkable in every aspect. He was big, physically impressive, and filled with personality. Handsome as could be. One blue eye, one brown, and a big head with a friendly, jovial look.

He was the best ambassador any rescue could ever ask for. He loved to be out greeting people.

He would lie on his bed—his public perch—and look forward to everyone greeting and petting him. Come sit by him, sit with him. Young to old. When he stood up, he would simply amaze. Weighing in at 150 pounds, Blues was a big, beautiful dog. If you were capable of withstanding a lean, he would lean on you to get that last ounce of affection out of the visit.



He wore costumes with ease. Forever in our hearts in his steam-punk outfit, and the portrait photo that lives on in our photo files as a classic.

Blues was a fundraiser extraordinaire. All he had to do was wear his “donation dog” vest and each pocket would fill quickly. We thank him for every single, \$10, \$20 and even higher denomination he brought in.

As Blues grew older, 10- to 12-year old children would race up to him at public events. They had been visiting with him since they were 3- and 4-years old. Blues was a long-standing major

feature at Illinois Humane’s State Fair exhibit, conducted for years in Conservation World. One year a young woman told us that she and her friends, traveling down from Chicago each year, would talk about him on the way down and make a bee line to Blues upon their arrival. He was their first visit, every year.

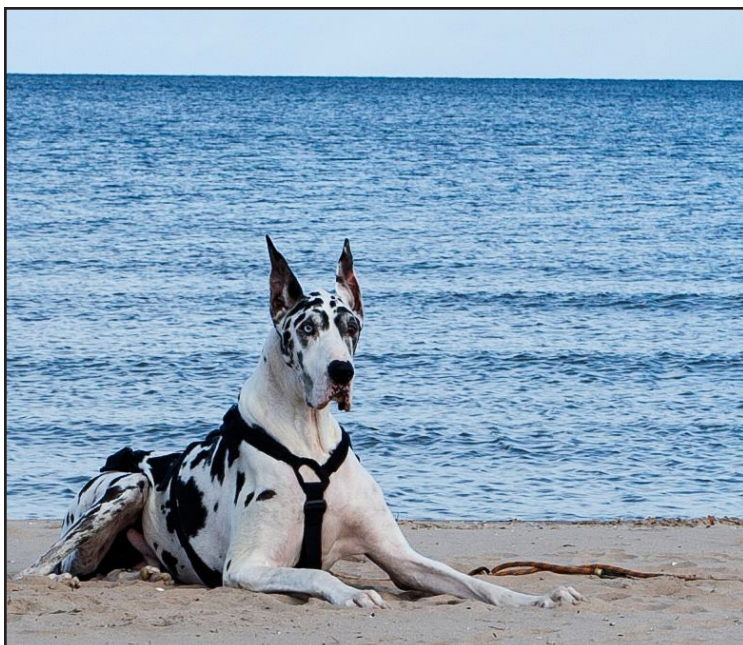
Blues was a rescue. Emily McVeigh, his very dedicated guardian, recovered him from Morgan County Animal Control when he was a fairly young dog. He was being kept in a crate he had long outgrown in a backyard when animal control impounded him. When you saw Blues, in all his magnificence, you just couldn’t believe he had started life in this manner. Who would keep this beautiful dog in such conditions?

Little known to his many fans, Blues was a cancer survivor. At least three times during his life, his cancer recurred and, with treatment, he went into remission. In his last several months, his back legs weakened. He took to a cart wheel chair like a champ, so he could still get out to his adoring public.

Toward the end, the best that could be done is to let him sit on a couch, out on the front porch during the day—which of course he insisted upon doing. Even in his illness, he never lost his appeal. When Blues passed away, an individual stopped at the house and asked about him—a total stranger who was so moved by Blues that he had to stop to find out why he was no longer at his post.

We owe Blues, and his guardians Emily and also Jason Cinotto deep, deep gratitude. Blues was a highlight and joy for all of us, as much for our volunteers as for any patron at an event or exhibit. As for his role as an ambassador, people would see him from afar and have to come see him, whether they had any interest in what was happening with the rest of the exhibit or not. They would stay and chat, and spend more time with him. He loved it. They loved him.





For those of us with Illinois Humane, his passing was a blow. We all knew it was inevitable but we still so hoped Blues would live forever. All we can do is one last time, tell him we love him, tell him we are sure there are cheeseburgers in heaven and he is getting his share, and thank him—thank him for being Blues.

Many of the animals who came into the organization's care this year exhibiting the greatest needs were those received via the Critical Care program with Sangamon County Animal Control. Illinois Humane's role in this program is to provide emergency care, which often entails taking full custody, for animals coming in via field services, that is, the Animal Control Officers' work responding to calls in the community. Here are some of the more stark and striking stories.

Murphy

In mid January, a call came from one of Sangamon County's Animal Control Officers (ACO), a gentleman with many years

of service as an ACO. "He is intimidating looking, big bully breed boy, but he's a good dog. His ears are bad, he needs to see a vet. It shouldn't be allowed to wait." Something about long-serving animal control officers, they know their craft. This dog indeed needed to see a vet immediately, and this pooch was an absolute gem of a dog.

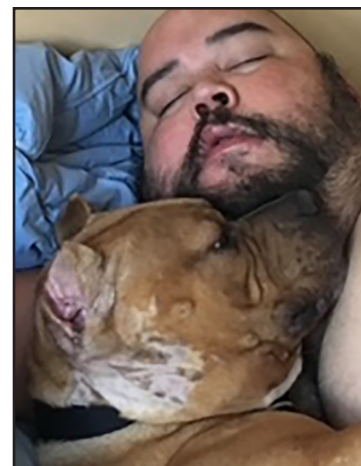
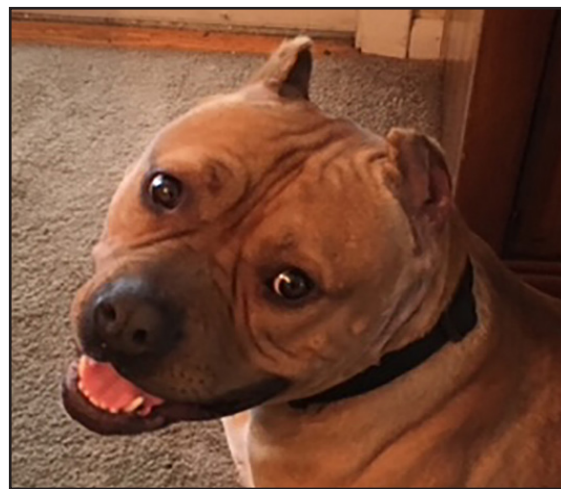
The ACO delivered Murphy to Animal Emergency. Murphy had severely torn ears, most likely from a dog fight from the looks of it. Some dog had gone after him, and gotten a bit of the better of him. It would be best for Murph if Illinois Humane could find him a foster home and continue to advocate for him. Despite how much of a tough bully breed he was in appearance, he wasn't at heart. He needed to be placed appropriately. Little could we know how well our search would turn out.

Ken and Virginia had experience with bully breeds. Our conversation on Friday morning had been with Virginia, and we were not sure if Ginny knew what she was getting herself into. Then she put Ken on the phone. As big and strong as Murphy was, Ken was his human equal. We knew immediately there was no need for concern. Not only could Ken physically handle Murphy, he also knew and loved bully breed dogs. Ken and Ginny were sold on Murphy, they indeed wanted to foster. Arrangements were made for them to receive him on Monday. Fifteen minutes later they called back. Could they pick him up that afternoon? It certainly would be better for Murph to get into foster care as soon as possible.

That afternoon, one of the county facility's volunteers, another self-appointed guardian angel for Murph, was at the facility to walk dogs. When Illinois Humane arrived to facilitate the release of Murph to the foster home, Craig was delighted to hear Murph was going home and was even more delighted to hear he would get to meet the couple. Once they arrived, Craig's obvious relief, knowing he was being delivered into good hands, brought joy to your heart. Murphy jumped up in the pickup truck, right next to Ken and it looked like a match that was always meant to be.

The beauty of the match continued to unfold. Murph's foster Dad is a disabled veteran impacted by PTSD. Murph proved himself immediately as a dog who could provide assistance. When Ken gets into his hideous nightmares, Murphy cuddles up and nudges him awake. Murph has gotten to the point where he anticipates the dreams, and can warn Ken by nudging him awake before things get really bad. Murph has helped this family in many ways, including providing security and comfort to Ginny when Ken is away.

Once Ken discovered Murphy's natural instinct for assistance, he introduced him to veterans meeting in group sessions. Murphy is now in formal veteran assistance training. He continued to meet with the veterans before his formal training though, and Ken got him lined up with a veterans' assistance dog



vest early on. Murphy is very, very handsome in his vest. Murphy is a tremendous comfort to the veterans, and big enough to be a great companion for them all – particularly when they need some physical support.

Murph's care required ongoing support from Illinois Humane. His neuter was difficult, in that he is a middle-age dog. There was a lot of bruising. Also, he needed corrective surgery for a ruptured cranial cruciate ligament in a hind leg. Shortly after bringing him home as a foster, Ken and Ginny indicated they ultimately wanted to adopt Murphy. He has fully recovered from his leg surgery and officially became a member of the family this fall.

Nala

Nala was brought to the emergency clinic the evening of March 17. The person who dropped her off disavowed any ownership of Nala, said she had been hit by a car, didn't leave his name and left. On the recommendation of the on-duty animal control officer, the emergency clinic contacted Illinois Humane. The organization assumed financial responsibility for Nala's veterinary treatment. The X-rays revealed no broken bones, a pneumothorax (collapsed lung) and mild abdominal bleeding. She was given buprenorphine for pain and Cerenia for nausea and IV fluids for dehydration. With time, the collapsed lung and slight internal bleeding were expected to correct themselves, as long as Nala was kept on supportive care.



A person claiming to be her owner called the emergency clinic early in the morning of March 18. His information was forwarded to Illinois Humane, which initiated Illinois Humane's investigation of his ownership claim, his ability to care for the animal, and ultimately, his truthfulness regarding the nature of Nala's previous care, and his status in the immediate future. He was in the middle of a prosecution for home invasion, which could result in a significant prison sentence. He continually failed to show up for appointments with Illinois Humane to review Nala's care, despite continuing requests for Nala's return. Ultimately, Illinois Humane triggered the lien provisions of the Illinois Animal Welfare Act, demanding full payment of veterinary expenses before further consideration of release. Illinois Humane also provided a case report for the States Attorney's office citing potential neglect on the part of the owner. Despite being out of jail for many weeks, he himself had not resumed custody of the animal prior to the car accident and the caretakers not only abandoned Nala at the emergency clinic but signed over a release of custody to Illinois Humane.



Back to Nala herself, on March 18 she was transferred to Capitol-Illini Veterinary Services. X-rays confirmed the emergency clinic's diagnosis of no skeletal fractures. Nonetheless, she was not bearing weight on her right rear leg, a torn or stretched medial collateral ligament in her stifle was suspected. Her leg was put in a cast. Capitol Illini graciously maintained Nala while Illinois Humane worked through the initial stages of the ownership question. On March 23, Nala was sent to an Illinois Humane foster home with a special love for Mastiffs. Off she went with the cast still on her right rear leg, with instructions for exercise restriction. Nala's cast was removed on March 26, but the exercise restrictions remained. As this home was known to do, they worked miracles with Nala's socialization with their existing dogs, worked with and ultimately stabilized her diet (which was off due to the confused care she had previously received), maintained her exercise restrictions, and supported the gradual full recovery of strength in the affected leg. And then, they worked extensively with Nala's adoptive home to make sure her transition was smooth.

On April 26, the lien expired without being fulfilled and Nala's legal custody was transferred to Illinois Humane. Illinois Humane's foundation in neglect and cruelty investigations and animal law put the organization on sound footing to work with the law for the best outcome for Nala.

And the best of that outcome was yet to come. Jay and Harvey had become settled in life and dearly wanted to adopt. Nala fit their ticket perfectly. They spent a good amount of time with the foster home, to learn about Nala and all of her particularities and idiosyncrasies. To this date, there are still playdates with the foster's Mastiffs. Nala herself has a wonderful, affectionate temperament, which helped greatly throughout the process of her care and ultimate re-homing. Illinois Humane's foundation in pertinent law was an important factor in the resolution of this case in the best interest of Miss Nala.

Ollie

In the middle of May, an Animal Control Officer brought little Ollie in from the field. He was a 1.38 pound orange tabby fur ball with very severe conjunctivitis and a broken jaw. The emergency clinic initiated treatment for the conjunctivitis, but the jaw would require a specialist. Illinois Humane sponsored the evaluation and setting of the jaw by Northgate Veterinary Clinic in Decatur, and provided ongoing controlled foster care for several weeks. At that age, the vets set the jaw with buttons! Ollie's jaw healed well. At the end of June, Ollie again visited with Dr. Baker at Northgate, for a recheck prior to starting vaccinations. A discolored tooth was noted, and x-rays were taken. The left lower canine was determined to be dead, and was extracted. Ollie was noted to have an overbite; the veterinarian predicted that his lower canine teeth could impact the roof of his mouth, which will need to be monitored as he ages. Ollie has grown into a very handsome adult, and we look forward to his finding his forever home.



PHOTO CREDIT: Emily at BlueWolf Photos

Lola

Lola was brought to the emergency clinic by animal control the evening of May 21 after apparently being hit by a car. Illinois Humane was contacted, and agreed to take custody under our Critical Care Program. There were mild abrasions on the left of her face and right foreleg. Her left eye was found inflamed with evidence of a hemorrhage, and no iris reflex response to light. X-rays revealed no fractured bones, and relatively normal internal organs. She was observed to be quiet, alert and responsive. Ocular stain revealed no damage to her corneas. Blood work showed a response to inflammation or infection. Lola was given intravenous fluids for dehydration, Buprenex for pain, and Unasyn antibiotic. She spent the night at the emergency clinic. The next morning she was transferred to Capitol Illini for additional evaluation and to establish care. She was walking normally. Her upper and lower left canine teeth were broken at the gumline. On May 27, her Illinois Humane foster home revisited Lola's condition with the vet, noting all issues seemed to have resolved except that she was still favoring her right foreleg. With negative X-rays for fractures, radial nerve damage was suspected. Onsior anti-inflammatory tablets were prescribed. However, it was not long, with minimal additional medication, before Lola was back to 100 percent. Upon further consultation with the vets, it appears that Lola dodged any long term nerve damage.



PHOTO CREDIT: Emily at BlueWolf Photos

Lola is a beautiful girl and very affectionate. She is quiet yet personable and will make someone a wonderful companion.

Burma

Burma, an adorable tabby, was brought to the animal emergency clinic by Sangamon County Animal Control on the evening of August 4. He had a large deep circumferential neck wound that appeared to have been inflicted by an embedded collar yet no collar was evident. Burma had to be sedated, the wound was too deep and extensive to stitch. Ninety percent of the circumference of the neck was deeply cut. The wound was cleaned, necrotic and dead flesh removed until healthy muscle was revealed. More cleansing, a sugar bandage applied, and the wound was dressed with wet and dry packing and bandaging. Antibiotic, anti-inflammatory and pain meds were administered.

After the initial care, it was obvious this case would require tricky daily care and medical monitoring. Illinois Humane retained Burma in foster care and for the next several days, the wound was repeatedly cleaned, given low level laser therapy, dressed with sugar bandaging and re-packed by Illinois Humane's veterinarians with Capitol Illini Veterinary Services. The bandage had to be fortified. The extensive wound, while healing, was very itchy for Burma. The bandage had to withstand his constant scratching. The good doctors at the emergency clinic and Capitol Illini did amazing work with this little one. His healing progressed beyond any and all expectations.



PHOTO CREDIT: Emily at BlueWolf Photos

Burma would require continuing veterinary intervention and monitoring for some time to come. He was transferred to Dr. Chrissy Braun and Cat Nap from the Heart animal rescue in LaGrange Park. The excellent care Burma received under Illinois Humane's program was critical for this kitty's ultimate ability to thrive. Despite the severity of the injury, he impressed each and every one of his veterinarians with his affectionate nature. If he pulled through, and all signs were good that he would, he was destined to make someone a wonderful companion someday.

Cora Bell

On October 7, Animal Control responded to a call from a woman who found a dog lethargic and obviously very ill in her back alley. She brought the dog into her house, gave her a bath, and called animal control. The dog had tar marks on her. The call was late in the business day and no vet was on hand at the animal control facility. Illinois Humane was asked to assist.

Illinois Humane's veterinarian, Capitol Illini, was able to receive the dog as an emergency case. She was diagnosed to have parvo, a potentially lethal condition. Her stabilization was initiated and she was then transferred to the animal emergency clinic for continuing stabilization and supportive care. This transfer back and forth continued the next day.



Cora had gained strength to the point of being able to stand and walk a bit on her own. She favored one of her hind legs. An orthopedic exam was performed, and it was determined there had been a fracture but it had healed on its own and was sufficiently recovered to the point it would ultimately support her weight and be functional without surgery.

Cora Bell was retained at the animal emergency clinic throughout the weekend. On Sunday, in that Cora was not recovering significantly on her own despite the stabilization, a decision needed to be made. Continue the difficult process, sometimes to no avail, of trying to bring her around, or put her down.

As soon as Cora's diagnosis was made on October 7, Illinois Humane contacted the Animal Protective League, who had personnel with a specialty in working with parvo afflicted dogs. APL had agreed to take the dog, but this was somewhat conditioned on the results of the orthopedic exam. The results of that exam became available late on Friday. In that no surgery was necessary and the leg would be functional, the concern that possible additional orthopedic care would be required was eliminated. So, on Sunday, October 10, when decision time rolled around, APL was willing to receive the animal and Cora was transferred to APL. The very, very happy news is, Cora made it, and as of this writing, is up for adoption.

There are great results to be had in collaboration!

Assistance via Critical Care

Among the cases presented this year were a couple with which the owners were involved. Zeke, a phantom doodle, came in via Animal Control with terribly cut up legs, thought to be the result of a car accident. His owners came forward but were unable to cover the costs of the emergency care and the follow up care. Illinois Humane assisted. The owners were a young family, both individuals work, with young kids. The dog was central to their lives. He had gotten out the front door somehow, and been injured.

In another instance, Illinois Humane stepped in when Animal Control was called to assist with a house fire. One dog died in the fire, the other was burned and suffered smoke inhalation. Illinois Humane supported the one dog's maintenance on oxygen at the animal emergency clinic while the owner worked through the difficult decision to put the dog down. Our personnel, working with the vet and the owner's father, assisted the owner, having just suffered the trauma of the fire, make the decision; and our personnel stayed with the owner while the procedure was done when her father could not bring himself to do so.



R.I.P

Illinois Humane remembers animals that came into emergency care from animal control who could not be saved. In early February, Kanan, a very sweet bully breed for whom we had already identified a potential foster and adoptive home, could not overcome toxin

poisoning despite the organization's best efforts to provide veterinary intervention. Also in early February, Niko, a very handsome black and white kitty, succumbed to spinal injuries believed to be the result of being hit by a car. And in late June, a kitten thought to be four- to six-months old came in, in very bad shape. One eye was gone, the other eye was not in good shape. Apparent neurological damage resulted in the kitten continually moving in one direction. And, the poor little one was acting aggressive. Euthanasia was advised.

Harmony

In mid June, in response to a call from Sangamon County Central Dispatch, Illinois Humane agreed to receive Harmony for immediate emergency veterinary attention and foster care. A Good Samaritan couple had received Harmony in response to a Facebook post from an individual seeking to find placement for his dog. The dog had been with his uncle for years, and the uncle claimed he could no longer keep the animal.



Upon viewing the dog, the couple was horrified. She was emaciated and completely covered in fleas. She was close to being despondent. They started to call all government animal control outlets and non-profit rescues they could identify throughout central Illinois for help with the animal. The couple themselves could not afford the veterinary intervention and ongoing care this dog obviously needed.

A Great Dane, the emergency clinic confirmed she was emaciated and dehydrated, had several significant skin growths, and a severe flea infestation. Fortunately, Illinois Humane has a foster home with a specialty in Great Danes who could accommodate the dog. Harmony's story was featured on Illinois Humane's Facebook page, to publicize the neglect this case represented.



Within a couple days, the foster home experienced discharges from the dog. The condition was recognized by veterinarians to be an open pyometra (ruptured uterus) and Harmony was rushed to the University of Illinois. She had no chance of survival without surgery, and due to her condition the veterinarians gave her little chance of surviving surgery. The only option that would allow Harmony a chance was to undertake the surgery. Harmony pulled through. Since, Harmony has been working through a number of conditions due to the severity of her original neglected state, including bronchitis and pancreatitis. Her original weight at time of intake was 77 pounds. She has stabilized at just over 100 pounds (a proper Dane weight). Harmony has an excellent temperament. She deserves every bit of care she has received.

Most recently, Harmony has been diagnosed with Multicentric B cell lymphoma at least stage IV substage A. Despite being Stage 4, the diagnosis is considered an early diagnosis and the prognosis for treatment is hopeful. Ninety percent hopeful. Harmony has learned how to play with her canine housemates. She enjoys the extensive social

interaction she now receives. She in particular enjoys snuggles and cuddles. We continue to work with her care, with an eye toward giving this girl the best second chance in life possible.

Advocates Bill, Illinois SB 153

Illinois Humane was the lead proponent and advocate for legislation introduced by Senator Linda Holmes this past year, which would amend the Illinois Code of Criminal Procedure to allow for the appointment of a special advocate in criminal matters concerning animals to assist the court in the interest of justice. Pursuant to the bill, advocates would be licensed attorneys or law students working under the authority of Supreme Court Rule 711.

The need this legislation is designed to meet is to ensure the cases are addressed, at all, in the first place, and secondly that the cases are appropriately evaluated in the charging decision and administration of the matter. Prosecutors unfamiliar with criminal provisions applicable to animals would be assisted by the special advocates to not only gain a grasp of applicable law, but also with any legal



research that may need to be done for the particular case. Further, the special advocates may be able to bring to bear resources – such as appropriate care for the animals during pendency of the case, model pleadings for use of the state’s security and forfeiture provisions, and experts for use in trial or in the evaluation of the best resolution of the matter.

The bill is modeled after Connecticut’s Desmond’s Law, which has been in effect for five years. Illinois Humane secured the testimony of Connecticut prosecutor Tom O’Brien for the Senate and House hearings, who could relay his experience working with advocates in animal cases in that state. Illinois Humane’s own extensive experience working with prosecutors in criminal cases was brought to bear, providing case examples of how such assistance can be helpful in the efficient resolution of these matters. Mr. O’Brien testified that not only do the prosecutors value the special advocates’ assistance, but so do defense attorneys in that the advocates are often able to recommend a resolution that is in the best interest of the animals and all parties involved short of a long protracted prosecution.

The bill passed the Senate. Time was short and proved insufficient to secure sufficient votes in the House. The bill will be introduced as a House bill in 2022, sponsored by Rep. Daniel Didech.

A case at hand, Illinois Humane prepared a case investigation for the neglect suffered by the dog Harmony in Montgomery County. It was submitted to the State’s Attorney and supported by local animal control, and yet the local State’s Attorney never responded. There was just no response, to discuss the matter at all. Local animal control indicated that seldom have their cases been addressed by the local State’s Attorney’s office. An advocate could play a role in tracking these cases, requesting to consult with the State’s Attorney and offering assistance to see that justice is done in these matters.

Sangamon County Animal Control

In the course of the past year, it became apparent that local animal control in Sangamon County was dangerously insufficiently staffed, including veterinary services. In June and July, the facility started to experience a seasonal influx of cats. In that all sheltering facilities were experiencing the same, as can be customary from year to year, the county facility could not transfer enough cats out and was faced with housing cats under these circumstances.

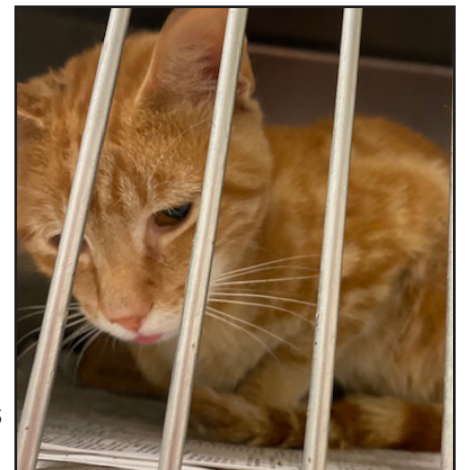
The stress cats experience in shelter housing can trigger upper respiratory diseases and the spread of panleukopenia virus (cat distemper) if an infected cat comes into the facility census. These diseases spread rapidly and can be deadly if not properly handled.

Illinois Humane started to sound the alarm with county and city officials in June and July. It was suggested an emergency meeting take place with all local stakeholders to try to bring resources to bear, in an attempt to minimize what was becoming a catastrophic disease outbreak. These warnings went unheeded, as did the multitude of similar attempts made by employees, volunteers and other partnering agencies to gain attention on the dangerous conditions. After months of attempts at internal discussions with management, the concern of the employees was ultimately officially submitted in October in the form of a “letter of no confidence” in the management of animal control to the Sangamon County Board.

At the end of September, requests from staff and partnering non-profits were issued for help with what had become a completely overwhelming situation. Cats were dying in the facility. Space to house additional animals was at a premium and healthy animals were being mixed together with sick cats.

Illinois Humane, along with every other partnering organization, pulled both sick and healthy cats to attempt to provide proper care. Many of the sick cats were too sick to save, and the organizations were losing a percentage of those pulled. Given Illinois Humane’s somewhat limited capacity, in that the organization is a foster network only, only six were pulled, of which two were lost. Another cat had been handled very late in July, at the beginning of the disease outbreak. Friday, a young cat, recovered rapidly, and had since been placed.

Illinois Humane has continued to pursue aggressive measures to focus the attention of county and city officials on the shortfalls that



have led to the catastrophic disease outbreak—which with proper protocols and staffing could have been minimized—as well as long standing issues with the handling of dogs under the current circumstances which has resulted in unnecessary euthanasia. Illinois Humane is in a better position to conduct aggressive advocacy measures in that our work with the county does not entail in house volunteers nor do we have a customer relationship with the county. Our relationship has been to provide extensive assistance through the Critical Care program, which has certainly given us a window into the lack of veterinary services at the facility itself. Through the past year, the county secured only two-three hours of veterinary care per week, provided on only one day of the week.



PHOTO CREDIT: Emily at BlueWolf Photos

We celebrate the five cats who survived the outbreak—Friday, Travis, Phoenix, Amanda and Abbie—and we hold dear in our hearts the two we lost, Destin and El Guapo. They will not be forgotten. Our dedication to continue our advocacy, as difficult and uncomfortable as it is at times, to improve our local animal control will remain strong. Animal welfare and animal control are ever evolving toward a community approach. Collaboration is essential for successful live outcomes.



PHOTO CREDIT: Emily at BlueWolf Photos

Illinois Humane deeply appreciates your past support, especially in the last two years.

Your contributions have made an undeniable difference in the lives of the animals in our care, our committed fosters, and in those whose families have been extended by an additional four-legged member. The vast majority of our funding, your donations, is used to pay for the medical needs of the animals that come into our custody. We continue to dedicate our budget to their care.

We so appreciate your contribution to our mission, and ask for your continuing support.



PHOTO CREDIT: Emily at BlueWolf Photos

