



Witty Kitties, Inc. Newsletter

A Special-Needs Shelter

Fall 2007

Witty Kitties Mission Statement

Founded in 2000, Witty Kitties provides quality care and shelter to cats with specific chronic medical needs within the five-state area we serve. Our organization is committed to providing low-cost medical care and spay/neuter services for local shelters, rural cat colonies and individuals with multiple cats. We provide rescue, care and appropriate housing for a variety of reptiles, as well.

As part of our overall service to the community, Witty Kitties works to educate the public regarding proper care of these companion animals and, ideally, to find permanent, quality homes for them.

Board of Directors

Jenni Doll, DVM

Torben Platt,
Reptile Wrangler

Kathleen Schoon,
Volunteer Coordinator

Chris Schoon,
North Campus Coordinator

Trish Wasek,
Webmaster

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Infrastructure

Dona Pearce,
President & Newsletter Editor

WEBSITE ADDRESS:

www.wittykitties.org



THEY'RE NAMED AFTER WHO?

By Jenni Doll, DVM

As anyone crazy enough to be involved in animal shelter/rescue/adoption/fostering knows, you can come across your next little charge in a variety of ways. You may simply offer to help the local animal group, and acquire them that way. Maybe you drive down the road and find a litter of kittens in desperate need of help, and you take them on. Or, perhaps an animal is dumped in your yard. Well, our latest acquisitions are an adolescent pot-bellied pig we call Clementine, three Moscow-mix ducks, and two extremely smelly Billy goats. What sets them aside from all the other animals we have is the way they were acquired. They were owned by a pretty lady. Really.

Now, Torben, I know you think I'm writing this just to embarrass you, but I really think folks will find it as funny as I do. They'll be laughing with you, not at you. IF you were laughing. Really.

So, Torben was delivering mail (his 'money job') one sunny afternoon about a month ago, and he needed a signature for a package. He typically hates this as he needs to get out of the truck and use up precious time going to a door that is usually not going to be answered. At this particular address, however, he saw a pot-bellied pig and some goats with some sort of deformity in their limbs. Torben thought this was interesting, and figured he at least was delivering to someone he could relate to a bit, considering the place looked like a regular special-needs shelter. In addition, he discovered the homeowner was, indeed, at home so he wasn't wasting his time. Gee, this really was lucky. But wait — there is more. The door was answered by an attractive woman.

Yeah, so? Well, since Torben was in a good mood by seeing the yard pets, the day was sunny, AND the particularly nice-looking lady, he became fairly talkative in that charming troglodyte "me-see-pretty-lady!" way.

"Hey, we have pot-bellied pigs and goats, too!" he said. He was thinking maybe she and her spouse would be interested in more, as we had just acquired EIGHT baby pot-bellied pigs a few days before, and really wanted them adopted.

"OH! My husband and I have to get rid of them, and we need to find a home for them by the end of the week!" she responded. I'm thinking this may have dampened his spirits a bit, but Torben went right on with it, not wanting to disappoint the woman. By the end of the conversation they had exchanged phone numbers, and low and behold, we had all the new animals two days after that. Clementine (formerly 'Sweet Caroline') is the youngest pot-bellied pig, who, much to our horror after getting close to her, was wearing a harness that was sev-

(continued. . .)

eral inches too small for her frame. I had to use a knife to cut it off. Weeks later, you can still see a faint imprint of where it was in her hair. The ducks are very tame and easy to keep. But let me tell you — the goats are a handful! I named them Russell (in honor of Jane Russell) and Anderson (for Loni Anderson). Anyone over 40 should figure out why, if they just think about it a bit.

Russell and Anderson are about 2 1/2 years old, and were victims of a fire when they were not quite fully grown. They both have deep, hairless scars on their rear ends. Their hooves are non-existent on the rear legs, and they both have very deformed forelegs. I'm going on my own theory as the lady didn't give Torben any more information about them than that, as her husband was more informed on the subject, but was out of town. (My dear Torben discovered, much to his dismay, that what the lady had in looks, she lacked in brains, and then some. So, once she dropped the animals off at our home, he immediately turned all his attention to the animals. That's my sweetie!).

So, I'm assuming the feet were so painful due to the fire, the goats walked on their carpi (wrists; some folks call them "knees"). As time went on, they simply became accustomed to this, and the legs never straightened entirely, and cannot be forced to straightened either. (There are other reasons for goats to walk like this, but I ruled them out, for those of you who are goat experts, which I'm not.)



Anderson — he's not rising. This is how he walks — on his knees.

The Saturday evening I decided to neuter them, I also planned on cutting certain parts of the joints, tendons, etc. to straighten the legs, splint them, and magically

have two cured goats. As usual, things got more complicated. After the neutering was done, I did Russell's right leg, the worse, angled beyond 90 degrees. The amount of cutting was more than I had anticipated. Also, the joints had articulations in the position they were in, but not at the sites they would have been normally, leading me to decide they were young when they were injured. This also worries me regarding the amount of stability they'll have left in the legs.

So, the evening got darker. There I am in the front yard with two sleeping goats, smelly as Billy goats can be, cutting away. Little K was having an unusually uncooperative night, crying like crazy that I was preoccupied with the goats too long, making Daddy run all over for her amusement. She kept saying, "Mommy not looking at mee-ee-ee-eee! Mommy not love mee-ee-eee!" This amused the neighbors who were out on their lovely Saturday evening walks past our house. One guy gave a

thumbs-up. I'm not sure what it meant, but he had a big smile.

Torben eventually did what any devoted husband will do when he sees his wife having a hard time with a lengthy project. He called our best friends, Kathleen and Chris. They were on our front porch in minutes, drinking beers and margaritas, toasting my good fortune in doing yet another "I've-never-done-anything-this-difficult-yet-must-make-it-work-surgery." Unfortunately, Little K was still very vocal.

Poor Russell finally had his leg straight, but with no skin with which to close the wounds, I had to bandage it heavily, and put on a temporary splint. A cast can not be put over an open — and likely contaminated — wound, considering where I was doing surgery, so I was now set to change his bandage every 2 to 3 days, which



Russell with his bandaged front leg

is what I've been doing ever since. Needless to say, I'm more than grateful Russell's left leg was the least severe of the two goats, so it didn't need to be done. I decided to postpone Anderson's surgery for another time in the faraway future, giving him a much-needed hoof trimming on his freakishly long and odd-shaped front feet.

So, for the last three weeks I've been knocking Russell out (for fear of killing him with frequent sedatives, I use Domitor, an extremely expensive, yet 100% reversible anesthetic), remove the bandages, flush the joint like crazy (yes, it got very infected), and replace it with a clean bandage, then replace the cumbersome metal cage-like splint to his leg. He also gets plenty of antibiotic and pain meds daily.

Russell is such a mellow goat, and is a real trooper, nibbling on my head sometimes when I tend to him. He eats and poops like a....well.....goat. His brother also likes to get attention, and he'll walk right on top of both of us, making sure we know he is there. Unfortunately, they still smell like Billy goats, and the odor lingers greatly in my clothes and on my skin. I need to shower anytime I've worked with Russell, especially when socializing with anyone outside of my home. Since Russell has a tendency to lie on the same side, I frequently need to pick him up and turn him over. I'm very surprised I have not had my eye impaled by one of his horns, as he likes to whip his head backwards when getting up. I turn my head to the side, making the back of my head his striking place.

I should mention Russell can't get a break anywhere, and that he also acquired a new injury to the hoofless

back rear foot while in his lengthy lying position, but it extends my already gross and perhaps boring story. Let's just say that foot now needs to be bandaged and hurts a lot, too.

For those of you who wonder "WHY?" — I guess I'm still working on him because he still behaves and eats and drinks as much as his brother, making me think he is happy enough. I also feel like I need to make it a success after putting him through so much. I think the second reason is more for me and not for him. I know it is selfish, but I'm very sensitive to his behaviors and am hoping I can detect when he has had it with me. That is a real problem, I think, for anyone in this business — how far to go with an animal. Some people don't believe an animal should go through anything remotely painful to save it, as there are plenty of healthy ones who need help. Sometimes, I'm in that group. Others think an animal should be saved at all costs, regardless of pain inflicted and quality of life. I know I'm not in that group, as I've seen animals slowly die, painfully, at the hands of well-intentioned, but poorly-informed people. But this is one of those that is in the middle for me. I bounce back and forth about why I'm putting so much effort into him, and I can't give a simple explanation, except that I'm not in denial to think it is only for him. I know there is selfishness, no matter how small, in me, and in other people like me, that makes us do what we do.

And that is the end of this story.



USE A MOUSE - HELP A KITTY!

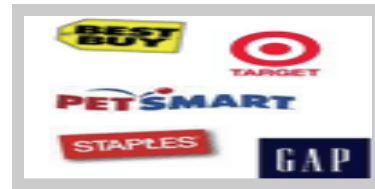
By Chris Schoon

What if you could generate cash donations to help out all the critters at Witty Kitties with a single mouse click? Well, now you can, just by using a new search engine called GoodSearch. Every time you search for anything on the Web, GoodSearch kicks in a donation to support your favorite charity. Like, for instance, Witty Kitties.

It doesn't cost you a thing — the money they donate comes from their advertisers. And, from personal experience using the site, the searches are Google-quality. Search engines generated more than \$6 billion in revenue last year. Just think of all the needy little fuzz-heads we could help with a fraction of that kind of loot! The web site is: <http://www.goodsearch.com>. And, now there's more from GoodSearch. It's called GoodShop, and every time you shop online, a percentage of the sale can go to your favorite non-profit. More than 100 great stores — including Target, Macy's, The Gap, Best Buy, Nordstrom, PetSmart, Staples and Wal-Mart — have teamed up with GoodSearch to do just that. The next time you're looking for a new book, computer, DVD, pair

of shoes or clothing, go to GoodShop first. It's simple. No username or password is required. Just designate your favorite charity or school, click on the store's logo from the GoodShop site and then shop as you normally would. You'll get the same great prices, but every time you place an order, you'll be supporting your favorite cause with donations that average around 3% of the sale but can exceed 20%! Needless to say, GoodSearch is really excited to offer you this new service, and we hope you'll help spread the word.

So, whether you're searching or shopping, you can donate to your favorite cause, all with the click of a mouse!



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Staff and Volunteers of Witty Kitties,

Five years ago, on October 5, Kathleen Schoon introduced me to Witty Kitties. On that day I adopted a kitten with FIV that I named Braveheart. Last August I took him to the vet and he was given a clean bill of health. He is a very happy cat and loves to wrestle and play with his toys. When he is not roughhousing he likes to lay beside me and have his tummy and his ears scratched. Braveheart has been such a blessing in my life and is very therapeutic.

I would like to suggest that people adopt a Witty Kitty because they are so grateful to have a private home. God bless you and your work, and thank you for giving me the blessing of Braveheart.

Sincerely,
J.J. Suchsland and Braveheart
Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Mixed Breeds/Special Needs

By Nancy Fultz

*I'm the latest thing, a special, one-of-a-kind edition,
Be the envy of your rich friends; make me your next addition.
What some see as flaws, I think makes me extraordinary,
Take me home, so I don't end up in a pet cemetery.
I don't have 'papers,' but I have a loving heart and soft fur,
I'll shower you with love, affection, and a quiet, soothing purr.*

*I'm not Siamese or Persian, but it doesn't make me blue,
I've been perfectly designed for one thing only — to love you.*

EXOTICS CORNER

By Torben Platt

Greetings from the "exotic corner/funny farm" of Witty Kitties. We have had a pretty eventful summer with many comings and goings. Our pot-bellied pig population has fluctuated quite a bit (to put it mildly). We started the summer with 9, had one death (while we were on vacation, and since then have received 9 more and adopted out 6, leaving us with a total (as of this minute) of 11.....I think. Anyway, I do know there is a lot of high-pitched squealing if anyone walks through the yard with anything resembling food. We also have been given 2 more goats and 3 more ducks who add to the whole funny farm atmosphere here at the house. Reptile-wise, we have taken in a few small snakes and one alligator, appropriately christened Lex Luthor by his former keepers (that's Lex pictured with me, in the picture above). He is about 6 feet long and weighs about 70 pounds. This gives us a total of 3 alligators and 2 caimans, more crocodilians than any animal shelter in Iowa, I'd venture to guess. All the gators, turtles and most of the lizards spent the nice warm summer in their outside enclosures but had to be moved inside this fall, but where? There wasn't any room in the lizard lounge or snake room, and my suggestion of our house was vetoed by the powers that be (wife). I am pretty good at handling animals, but building cages or (in this case) rooms for them isn't really my strong suit. Luckily, I work with a talented carpenter at the post office, and we have John on the board who can apparently do anything. All I had to do was let them at it and get out of the way! Now one-half of our garage has been converted into a heated "gatorarium". It's quite an experience to walk in there, especially with the lights off. The splashing and hissing would give anyone pause, even me. It would make a good Halloween "trick" if we run out of treats.



Torben & Lex Luthor

Ok, I need to wrap this up because I see my wife has just come home with my daughter and what looks to be a very gravid (pregnant) savannah monitor lizard in her arms. The hits just keep on coming! Thanks to you all for your support.

Torben

FALL FUNDRAISER A "TASTEFUL" SUCCESS!

By Trish Wasek

The kitties and reptiles say "Thank you and bless you!" to everyone who came to the Witty Kitties Wine Tasting at the Secret Cellar on October 7. Over 60 wine enthusiasts and animal lovers joined in the fun, and we had a fabulous time!

If you've never been to a wine tasting, it's a great way to sample different wines to see what you like. You just take your wine glass from table to table, and get a taste of whatever strikes your fancy. We also had some ciders and beers for the non-wine drinkers, plus a table full of hors d'oeuvres. You did not leave this event hungry or thirsty!



Kathleen Schoon & Tim Dermott



Torben, an unidentified helper & Lauren from The Secret Cellar give Lucifer — um — several hands!

In addition, some very special animal ambassadors from Witty Kitties were the guests of honor. Lex Luther, the alligator, and Lucifer, the Burmese python, drew a crowd of onlookers as they romped in the grass on an unusually warm (make that hot!) fall day. (Actually, Lex *wanted* to romp, but most of the time Torben or Jenni were sitting on top of him to keep him close by!). Meanwhile, Witty Kitties Morris, Whiskers, Zeus, Spice Girl, and Candy Pants lounged in their havens, pretty much oblivious to the festivities, but showing everyone how healthy and gorgeous a "special-needs" cat can be (see adorable pictures of Candy Pants, Spice Girl, and Zeus in the next article).

And let's not forget to mention the live music! Kathleen Schoon and Tim Dermott drew a toe-tapping crowd of their own while performing wine and cat-themed tunes in the background. You can watch video of Kathleen and Tim performing on our website, www.wittykitties.org. Click on "News and Activities" on the left side of the page and follow the links.

An *extra special thank-you* goes out to Lauren Cannon, owner of the Secret Cellar, Shueyville’s “beverage oasis,” who generously donated 50% of all ticket sales and 10% of all store sales to Witty Kitties. The kindness and generosity



Attendees at Witty Kitties’ first wine-tasting fundraiser enjoying the wine and the beautiful day

of everyone who made this event a huge success will directly benefit the kitties and reptiles that live at Witty Kitties. We have several projects in mind to help make their home even more comfy. If you’d like to pitch in and help, we’re having a “work day” on Sunday, October 28, from noon – 5pm. Just stop by and we’ll find something for you to do!

Finally, if you missed this fundraiser, don’t despair. You will have another chance next fall. We’re planning on making it an annual event!

NEW ARRIVALS

By Nancy Fultz



Rusty is a sweet marmalade cat. He came to us from Cedar Rapids. He was allowed to wander outdoors, even after being diagnosed with FIV. Some neighborhood cat lovers were concerned that he might be spreading the virus to healthy cats, so Witty Kitties was contacted, and, luckily, we were able to make room for him. He is still a bit overwhelmed by all the cats and activity at the shelter, but he is coming around.

Sterling is a playful one. He is a rescued stray from Sharon Center, Iowa. He loves to hide and pounce on cats when they’re chasing the laser pointer. He’s still a kitty and his purr-sonality is still forming.



He is FeLV+ and is being sponsored by Pat Farrant of the Johnson County Humane Society. Perhaps you’d like to sponsor one of our kitties — see “How to Help” on our website for more info.

STILL AT THE SHELTER

By Nancy Fultz

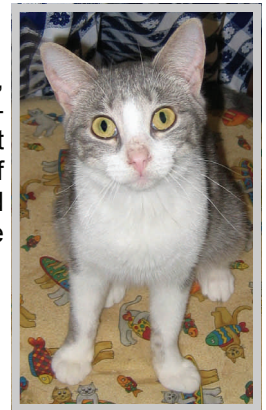
Zeus is one of our newer residents, and he has settled right in to his new surroundings. He isn’t bothered by all



the other cats, and keeps pretty much to himself. He loves visitors, and jumps down from his perch to greet people. He might be greeting you because he’s hoping you have a treat or canned food, but he won’t hold it against

you if you don’t. He’s a handsome guy with chocolate points and blue eyes. He does have a cataract on one eye, but it causes him no concern.

Candy Pants is the perfect kitty, beautiful, full of energy, and playful. But the really great thing about her is she is also a lap kitty. Lots of kitties are too busy playing and don’t want down time, but she thrives on it.



Spice Girl is playful and has the correct name — there’s just a touch of spice in her. She’ll let you pick her up, but



not for long; then she’s off chasing the laser pointer or pouncing on another cat. She’s a black-and-white blur when it’s play time!

These sweet cats got to go to the wine tasting and they had such a good time. They were all outgoing and asked for attention. They love visitors, and at least one of them will greet you at the door. Come see them, along with all of the other sweet cats at Witty Kitties!

HAPPY ADOPTION STORY!

By Trish Wasek

Grande, a 6-year-old tuxedo cat with feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV), was adopted last June by Jessica Smith of Cedar Rapids. Jessica came to the shelter to visit, and was originally interested in a couple of other cats. But then she and her daughter sat down in the FIV room, and Grande stole their hearts. Here's what Jessica tells us about Grande's new life with her:



"I am proud to have adopted a special needs cat and I would hope that other people might think it's a good idea too. Grande and I live in an apartment, and we have pigeons landing on our window ledges and that gets us both excited, for different reasons. I enjoy looking at the colors of the pigeons and Grande just likes looking at would-be prey! She is a very playful cat, and when we first got her my 7-year-old daughter got her a teaser. It has purple feathers and a few shiny ribbons -- she just loves it -- she carries it around and lays on it, and if I pick it up she is right there. She enjoys batting around balls and she is the most dexterous cat I've ever met. She can throw a toy mouse up in the air and actually catch it.

"At our old apartment she never tried to go out the door, but ever since we moved, I let her walk up and down the halls. There are a lot of cats on our floor so she goes in people's apartments and nobody minds her because she's so sweet. So now she has a lot of new friends, feline and human. (I think she likes other cats as long as she doesn't have to live with them!). She lives the life of a princess -- low stress and lots of love.

"I call her my toothless princess (Editor's note: many FIV cats have gum/tooth problems). I just love her so much, and she loves me, too. She is never far away, and she talks back when you talk to her -- all different kinds of vocalizations -- she coos, squeaks, and her little voice is so raspy. Every one who meets her comments on her voice and how sweet she is.

"Grande is the perfect kitty for me; she talks to me and cuddles and plays. But mostly it's just having someone around that I love and who loves me back, whether I'm in a bad mood or whatever. She really seems to know when I need her. I am so grateful to have her. Thanks to all of you for making it possible."

FIV cats can live for many years, and as Jessica indicates, are no different than any other cat! An FIV cat can live with other cats without transmitting the virus, as long as the cats get along and do not fight. (FIV is

passed from cat to cat through deep bite wounds.) Sharing food and water bowls, litter boxes, and even grooming each other will NOT spread the virus. So, the next time you're ready to adopt, won't you please consider one of the gorgeous FIV+ cats now living at Witty Kitties? To meet them all, visit www.wittykitties.org and click on "Meet the Kitties."

MEMORIALS & HONORARIUMS

*In Memory of **Betty Pittman**, beloved mother of Dona Pearce, by:*

Warren & Trish Ball, Duane & Connie Bellinger, Paul & Connie Bischoff, Mark & Sharon Butterworth, John & Colette Carroll, Pat Carroll, Dave & Peg Colton, Ralph & Deb Daniello, Vicki Daufeldt, Betty Edenson, Brian & Betty Edmunds, Tom & Becky Furlong, Terry & Bonnie Grosshauser, Gary Hafner, Cindy Herlein, James & Betty Houseman, John & Diana Littrel, David & Ruthanne Meloy, Brian & Pat Mundell, Louise MacEachern, Jon & Dona Pearce, Robert Pearce & Rachele Galloway, Sara Riesenberg, Dick & Wanda Salemink, Geraldine Schomberg, Steve & Janie Schomberg, Bob Sheets, Mary Singleton, Richard & Patricia Shope, Anton Vanicek, Karen Wittler

*In Memory of **Mary Saluri**, beloved mother of Diana Russo, by Mark & Diana Russo*

*In Memory of **'Elliot,'** beloved cat of Jennifer Woods by Jim & Jerry Buttleman*

*In Memory of **'Pongo,'** beloved dog of Sheryl, Rob, Zach & Marie Sargent, by Jim & Jerry Buttleman*

*In Memory of **'Kirby,'** beloved dog of Dean & Alison Keegan, by Kathleen Schoon*

*In Memory of **'Midge,'** beloved kitten of Jane, Brian & Alexia Watson, by Kathleen Schoon*

*In Memory of **'Chickie,'** beloved chick of Jenni Doll, by Bob & Lynda Hembera*

*In Honor of **Jordon Smith**, by his parents, Valarie & Michael Smith*

*In Honor of my sister, **Margalea Warner**, by David Crombie*

*In Honor of my good friend, **Carol Thompson**, who helped with my indoor cats as I recuperated from surgery by Sheryl Hansen*

Honoring or memorializing a person or pet pays a special tribute, and also helps the animals at Witty Kitties who depend on us for their care and comfort. You can use the envelope enclosed with this newsletter, or go to our wonderful website and give a gift online.

VOLUNTEER UPDATE

By Kathleen Schoon, Volunteer Coordinator

I am so pleased to be able to write to you about a few new and greatly-treasured volunteers who have joined the team at Witty Kitties over this summer and fall.

Back in June, we received an email query on our web site from Nancy Fultz. She said that she had recently retired due to health reasons and had moved to Iowa to be near her boyfriend, Tim Dermott (our talented guitarist at the recent wine-tasting event). She had been a very active volunteer at a shelter for cats called Four Paws in Arizona and was “looking for the right fit” at a local shelter where she might be able to volunteer. We practically fell over ourselves trying to prove to her that we were that “perfect fit”, and, thankfully, we convinced her to spend her time at Witty Kitties.

Nancy brings a great deal of experience with fund raising efforts, and we have been tapping her for ideas. She comes to the shelter several nights each week to help with the chores and does an incredible job (this report coming from the lucky one who does the morning chores the next day!). The cats adore her, and she is never too busy to stop to brush them and give them the individual attention that they all crave. Needless to say, we love Nancy!

We are also truly grateful that she introduced us to her boyfriend, Tim, who is an excellent guitar player. Tim agreed to lend his musical talents, as well as his complete one-man band set-up, to provide the entertainment at our recent wine tasting at The Secret Cellar. He was also kind enough to let me dust off my vocal chords and sing with him at the tasting. Those of you who came to the event know what a wonderful addition his music was for the event. Our sincere, heart-felt thanks go out to both Nancy and Tim for all of the love and energy they have brought to our shelter. We hope both of them have found a permanent home with Witty Kitties.

Jessica Clines also deserves our heart-felt thanks for spending many of her summer mornings helping us with the daily chores. She is back in school now and very busy with other projects, but we hope she will fit us into her busy schedule again in the future.

Thank you Nancy, Tim and Jessica. We could not do this without you. For all of you reading this article, please remember, there are always things to be done and **WE NEED YOU!** Log onto our website and email us at staff@wittykitties.org to let us know if you can join the team. The payment of purrs, kisses and outpouring of love from our Witty Kitties is the best payment you can ever receive!



HIDDEN DANGERS IN YOUR KITCHEN

By Dona Pearce (taken from familycircle.com)

The following six foods can make your cat or dog very sick:

CHOCOLATE — we all know this is very hazardous to both cats & dogs. Theobromine is in all chocolate, and is similar to caffeine. It can affect the heart and central nervous system. Watch for diarrhea, vomiting, rapid heartbeat or muscle trembling.

ONIONS — A chemical in onions, n-propyl disulfide, breaks down red blood cells and prevents them from carrying oxygen. Can cause blood in urine, weakness, rapid breathing and fast heart rate. Serious threat.

SALT— hazardous to dogs and cats. As little as **1 teaspoon** ingested by a 10-pound dog can cause illness. Salt changes how the body holds fluids. In some cases, it can trigger swelling in the animal's brain. May cause symptoms of tremors and seizures, and may cause death.

RAISINS OR GRAPES — hazardous to dogs. Pets can get sick from a **half ounce of raisins or a handful of grapes**. Doctors still aren't sure why, but grapes and raisins can make kidneys fail in 48 hours. Watch for stomach upset and vomiting. May lead to kidney failure and death.

GUM OR CANDY CONTAINING XYLITOL — hazardous to dogs. A few pieces could be dangerous. Xylitol, a common sweetener, causes a sudden drop in blood sugar. Watch for weakness, seizures, liver failure — and sometimes death.

MOLDY OR SPOILED FOODS — hazardous to dogs and cats. It depends on the food and amount of mold, but even a **mouthful of old cheese** can cause illness. Tremorgens, a toxic by-product of some mold, interferes with normal nervous system functions. Watch for symptoms of vomiting, tremors and seizures. Can be fatal in large amounts.

If you suspect your pet has eaten something that may cause illness, call your vet or the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center at 888-426-4435. They'll want to know your pet's breed, age, weight, sex, symptoms and how much of the suspected food your pet consumed.

If your pet has difficulty breathing, suffers a seizure or loses consciousness, take it to a pet hospital immediately.

Fat Tuesday, one of our beautiful Witty Kitties, says, "THANKS" to everyone who supports our shelter!



Witty Kitties, Inc.
3133 Roberts Ferry Rd.
Solon, IA 52333

To find Witty Kitties. . .
Take I-380 to the Swisher/Shueyville exit (No. 10).
Go east one mile to Club Road (which becomes Curtis
Bridge Rd.). Turn right.
Go one mile to Sandy Beach Rd. & turn left.
Go 1.1 miles to Roberts Ferry Rd.,
turn right, then left at the 3rd drive-
way (3133 Roberts Ferry Rd.).

Please call (319) 848-3238 and leave
a message to schedule an
appointment.



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REMINDER: Set your
clocks back one hour
NOVEMBER 4!

Gifts, Memorials and Honorariums

Want to honor or memorialize a family member, friend or beloved pet? Want to give a monetary gift to Witty Kitties? Just fill out the information below and send your check in the envelope provided in this issue. **Your donation is tax deductible, and we'll publish your memorial or honorarium in a future issue. We'll also send a complimentary copy of the newsletter to the person you honor or the family of the person or pet you memorialize.** Just provide the necessary information below and then send this form back to us in the envelope enclosed in this issue (don't forget to add a stamp!). No stamp? No problem! **Now, YOU CAN ALSO GIVE ONLINE — check out our new website (www.wittykitties.org)!**

- Gift: \$ _____
- Memorial for: (name) _____
 Person Pet
- Honorarium for: (name) _____
 Person Pet

Send notification to: (name) _____

_____ (please provide city, state and zip)