



# Witty Kitties, Inc. Newsletter

A Special-Needs Shelter

Summer 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

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North

Trish Wasek, Webmaster

John McLaughlin, Volunteer

Dona Pearce, President &  
Newsletter Editor

Website Address:

**[www.wittykitties.org](http://www.wittykitties.org)**

**(Check out our new and  
improved website!)**

## THE SAGA OF FINLEY AND WHISKERS

*Trish Wasek*

Here's the itinerary: Leave Lexington, Virginia in the early afternoon for a three-hour-drive to Richmond, Virginia. Upon arriving at the airport, say goodbye to the people who have been caring for you for almost six months (many hugs and tears!). Say hello to your new guardian flight angel friend! Board an American Airlines plane (oh, the security check-in was very scary!) for a two-hour flight to Dallas-Fort Worth. Spend the night at your guardian flight angel's home. (Why are all her kitties trying to get into my bedroom?) Get up early the next morning and return to the Dallas-Fort Worth airport (weren't we just here?). Board another American Airlines plane (another scary check-in!) for a two-hour flight to Cedar Rapids. Say good-bye to your guardian flight angel, and hello to more new people. Another car ride to Witty Kitties, in Solon, Iowa (at least that was a short drive!). Meet your new kitty friends and – what's that?? – an iguana??? Oh my!

From Lexington, to Richmond, to Dallas, to Cedar Rapids, to Solon. So began the current chapter in the lives of Finley and Whiskers. The story of how it came to be is truly one of compassion, trust, and serendipity.

Cats Unlimited ([www.catsunlimited.org](http://www.catsunlimited.org)) is a small, non-profit feline rescue organization in Rockbridge County, near Lexington, Virginia. Like Witty Kitties, it is an all-volunteer organization. Unlike Witty Kitties, it does not have a "shelter" or building. All of its rescued kitties are fostered in a private home while they are waiting to be adopted. They don't have the resources to provide life-long care for special-needs kitties. But Dianne DeMay, Karen Hostetter, and Betsy Cash, of Cats Unlimited, are willing to pull out all the stops for special-needs cats like Finley and Whiskers.

First, meet Finley. He's a very handsome, pure white boy, almost two years old. He was wearing a collar when the Cats Unlimited folks found him in the spring of 2006, so they placed an ad in the local papers, but no one ever responded. They took him in as a rescued stray and had him neutered, as they do with all their rescues. That's when they found out he was positive for feline leukemia virus (FeLV). Nonetheless, they posted his picture and health information on their web site, and soon he was adopted! But Finley's luck didn't last. His new family was having financial problems and a divorce was on the horizon. After only six months in his new home, they returned him, sadly, to Cats Unlimited in January, 2007. Dianne, Karen, and Betsy would have to start the search for a forever home for Finley all over again. Betsy, who provides the foster care for Cats Unlimited felines, took Finley home, but he had to live in a haven so he wouldn't pass the virus on to the



**Finley**

*(continued. . .)*

other kitties she was fostering.

Now meet Whiskers. He's another two-year-old boy who also seemed to have luck on his side, at first. A family in Virginia found this little tabby in November, 2006, and they fell in love with him. They took him to a local spay/neuter clinic to have him fixed, and the first shoe dropped -- he had feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV).



Whiskers

No problem, they said, we want to keep him! So Whiskers was neutered, had some bad teeth removed, and the clinic called the family to come and take Whiskers home. Then the other shoe dropped. The family had spoken to their vet about their new-found stray. The vet told them that

FIV meant that Whiskers was a sick cat, and he should be put to sleep. The spay/neuter clinic couldn't convince them otherwise. So Betsy, whose "day job" is as a vet tech at the spay/neuter clinic, brought Whiskers home to live with all her other Cats Unlimited foster kitties.

Several months passed with no luck finding new homes for Finley and Whiskers. Karen placed display ads in local papers, put their pictures on Petfinder, the Cats Unlimited website, and posted flyers in Lexington, Charlottesville, and Richmond, Virginia. Finally, in early March, she placed an advertisement on www.craigslist.com. (Craigslist is a centralized network of online urban communities, featuring free, classified advertisements).

About 150 miles away, in Stafford, Virginia, Kim McCullough, an animal lover/rescuer/fosterer, happened to be checking out craigslist, and saw the ads for Finley and Whiskers. Since she and her husband were preparing for a move to San Diego, she wasn't in a position to adopt either of them, but she still thought she could do *something*. Kim had never been to Cats Unlimited and didn't know Dianne, Karen, or Betsy. But Finley and Whiskers were tugging at her heartstrings! So she did some online research and compiled a list of special-needs animal shelters, including Witty Kitties, and emailed the list to Cats Unlimited.

Amazingly, Kim may have been one of the first "outsiders" to see Witty Kitties' new website. It had been launched only *one week before* Kim compiled the list of shelters! And the *very first email* Witty Kitties received from the "outside world" was from Cats Unlimited, asking for help with Finley and Whiskers.

Well, here we were, hoping that our wonderful new website, with little stories about all the witty kitties, would start a huge run of adoptions. But instead, our first email was from another shelter looking for a home for two cats! The irony! You know what we decided, though, don't you? We had the space for a cou-

ple more cats just now, and Finley and Whiskers needed help. Okay, then!

Now we just needed to figure out how these guys were going to get from Virginia to Iowa. Jenni said she and Torben could go on a trip to Virginia to "snake watch" (Torben has a life-list of snakes!) if we'd take care of the shelter. John and I are retired and we could go out there if someone could take care of our seven cats and two dogs. Maybe the Virginia folks could meet us half-way.

And then the final miracle in this story happened. Kim has a friend, Cheryl Gardner, who transports cats in need. By air. For free. But. . .

Did Cheryl know any of the people from Cats Unlimited? No. Did she know any of the people from Witty Kitties? No. Could she fly with both cats at the same time? No. Would Cheryl, therefore, take two entire weekends out of her life to transport two cats she's never met from a Virginia shelter to an Iowa shelter? Sure! No problem! Oh, by the way, Cheryl lives in Dallas.

The complicated itinerary that began this story now unfolds. . . A former American Airlines employee, Cheryl is able to fly stand-by at no charge, but only on American. So Finley and Whiskers had to begin this journey with a three-hour car ride to Richmond, Virginia, the closest airport to Cats Unlimited that American serves. And because of the flight connections,



Cheryl & Finley at airport

Cheryl couldn't fly from Richmond to Cedar Rapids that same day. So she brought each of these guys home with her for the night, before flying to Iowa the next day. This was not a "one time only" favor, either. Cheryl uses her free airfare retirement benefit to assist cats in need all over the country. In

between her Virginia/Iowa trips, which took place on consecutive weekends in May, Cheryl flew Twinkie, a kitty from Animal Rescue of New Orleans, to her new home in San Francisco. She truly deserves her title of "guardian flight angel."

(continued. . .)

### THANKS!

*Thank you to John Miller, Rea Anders and Diana Anders. John and Rea are high school kids who have been helping with chores on Saturday mornings. Diana is Rea's mom, and she's been pitching in and volunteering, too. The extra help is much appreciated!*

And thus ends the saga of Finley and Whiskers. Who knows what the next chapter will be for these two very special boys? Thanks so much, everyone, for making this happen: *Betsy*, for fostering these guys for months, *Karen*, for beginning the email correspondence that resulted in this happy ending, *Dianne*, for driving the boys to Richmond and sponsoring their stay at Witty Kitties, *Kim*, for coordinating the whole darn adventure. And *Cheryl*. The guardian flight angel. Amen!

### **PARKER FINDS HIS FOREVER HOME!**

*Submitted by Trish Wasek & told by Debbie, Parker's new mom*



**Parker**

Debbie and Dan live on a small farm in rural Kalona. They wanted to adopt some geese, and knew just where to come – Witty Kitties! Yes, besides kitties and reptiles, many other animals are available for adoption here, including pigs, roosters, ducks, and geese!

In any event, on one of those perfect, early spring days a few weeks ago, Debbie and Dan stopped by to look at some of the geese. Jenni happened to be outside, and she invited them in to the shelter to see all the cats, as well. Here's the rest of the story, in Debbie's words:

"We lost our cat, Tigger, about a year ago due to old age. We decided not to get another house cat until we moved and got settled in. We looked at the cats [at Witty Kitties] without really intending to adopt that day. When we walked in, Parker immediately came over to us, grabbed my husband's leg, and started playing and purring. We fell in love with him immediately.

"He has made himself at home with us and actually has "adopted" us. He is never out of our laps and purrs constantly. He is so loving, and he usually puts his paw on our faces when we hold him. But he never uses his claws against us. He loves to run and play in the early mornings and evenings, and just runs all over the house. He *tries* to get his tail in the air, but of course he can't. [Parker has a spinal injury that prevents him from raising his tail.]

"Parker is just so unusual in that he has never displayed any bad temper. I don't know what kind of life he had before, but it seems that it has not affected his loving personality. We are very fortunate to have gotten such a loving and demonstrative cat, and he will always have a home with us.

"Of course, the geese are doing fine, too!"

Parker was one of our favorites at Witty Kitties. He is about six years old and has feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV). FIV weakens a cat's immune system, which will eventually limit Parker's ability to protect himself against other infections or illnesses. But FIV is not necessarily an early death sentence. And FIV cats *can* be adopted into homes with other cats, since casual contact, sharing food bowls, etc., will *not* spread the disease. (For more information about FIV, go to [www.wittykitties.org](http://www.wittykitties.org) and click on "Special Needs"). Parker lived at Witty Kitties for nearly four years waiting and hoping to find his forever home, and now he has! Thanks so much, Debbie and Dan, for taking him into your hearts and home.

### **WITTY KITTIES WISH LIST**

Our Wish List remains the same as in our last issue, but a few things we could really use are:

- Cat food (Purina Cat Chow, original formula in the blue bag, is the favored brand)
- Plastic grocery bags
- Newspapers
- Cat litter (scoopable, please)

And, as always, we appreciate those of you who contribute — ***in any way*** — to Witty Kitties. You allow us to keep growing and to keep going.

**THANK YOU!**

### ***Note from the Prez & Editor:***

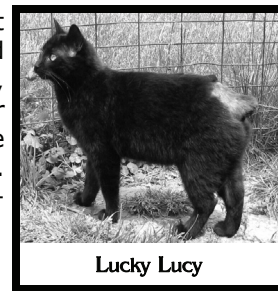
Apologies to Trish Wasek for misspelling her name in the Winter 2007 issue. Trish and her husband, John McLaughlin, are our newest volunteers (and that word doesn't begin to describe all they do!). Trish is also our new webmaster, and you'll enjoy the article about our gorgeous new and improved website. Be sure to check out both the article (page 7) **and** our beautiful new site! You may also notice a slightly different look to the newsletter. Your editor keeps making ongoing efforts to improve the look and readability of each issue. Enjoy!

***Dona***

## SOMETIMES THINGS WORK OUT

*Note: This story is reprinted with permission from the Dynamite Coupons booklet that was delivered to homes in the Iowa City, Coralville, & North Liberty area, May 2007*

While cold calling the other day I heard a kitty crying in the distance and wondered what was up. I'm a cat lover and curious by nature, so I tracked down the kitty, only to find her under a dumpster next to a building that was being constructed. She was scared, covered in mud, ribs showing, hungry, and looking for a friend. I leaned down to pick her up and she went right up my arm, sat on my shoulder, and looked at me like, "Save me... Please!" I called my wife, told her the story and that I was taking the kitty to Dr. Peterson to see what he thought and see if we could save her. After lots of medical attention, antibiotics, plenty of nutritional food, lots of TLC, and a bath, it was determined that because of a spine injury, "Lucky" had no control of her tail and had trouble with her bladder. She was diagnosed as a "Special Needs" kitty.



I searched for several days and finally found an animal shelter that specialized in cats with special needs and met Jenni Doll, DVM...another "Animal Angel," as I call them. They are people who give of themselves so beyond the norm that it amazes me, and all they want to do is help. After describing Lucky's problems, I was asked to bring her to the shelter and they would see if they could help. After examining Lucky, I was told that I was right about her injuries, but Jenni was willing to do the surgery she needed and would do what she could to help this poor kitty.

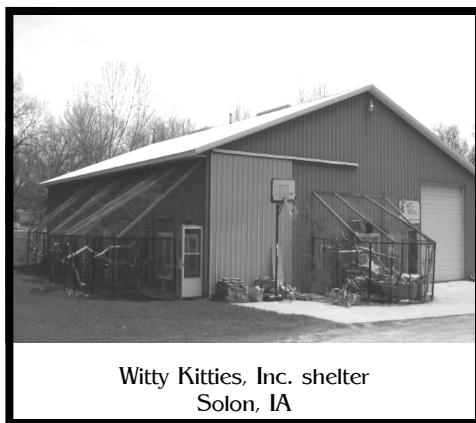
This story had a good ending. Lucky will be with people who will care for her needs, give her love, and hopefully someday she will be able to be adopted. I am writing this letter to see if you will help these "Animal Angels." They have a website ([www.wittykitties.org](http://www.wittykitties.org)). Please, please, please --- help them with whatever you can. These are selfless people who need the support of those of us who can help. You can mail any donation to Witty Kitties, 3133 Roberts Ferry Rd, Solon, IA 52333.

Sincerely,

Peter Stark, Dynamite Coupons

830 Hemlock Ct., Robins, IA 52328; Office/Home: 319-378-9876; E-mail: [dynacoup@msn.com](mailto:dynacoup@msn.com)

*Update on Lucky:* Lucky Lucy (she was just too cute and needed a middle name!) couldn't use her tail, which just dragged behind her, and had to have her bladder emptied manually when she arrived in late April. Jenni spayed her and amputated her tail and started her on antibiotics. Just a few weeks later, she is a little pistol of a cat, full of personality, with a little nubbin of a tail that will be so cute once all her fur grows back. And she's emptying her bladder, almost completely, on her own now. She loves people and is extremely affectionate. She's not quite as enthusiastic about some of her feline roommates, however! We're estimating her age as about one year, and we hope that we'll be able to list her on our website as "none" for special needs...a few more weeks and we'll know for sure. Peter was certainly her guardian angel while caring for this little girl, and we're so happy that he put in the effort to find a solution (us!) that would give her a chance at life. Thanks so much, Peter, from all of us at Witty Kitties who have fallen in love with this little gem of a kitty! (For more pictures of Lucky Lucy, go to [www.wittykitties.org](http://www.wittykitties.org) and click on "Meet the Kitties" and then on "Other Special Needs Kitties").



### WITTY KITTIES CELEBRATES JUNE AS ADOPT-A-SHELTER-CAT MONTH

When the stresses of a world in turmoil, or merely a bad day at the office, threaten to overwhelm you, remember that help is just a cat-in-the-lap away. Feline therapy (i.e., a cat-in-the-lap) eases anxiety by lowering blood pressure and releasing "feel good" endorphins. At this time of year when animal shelters are overflowing with cats of all ages, there has never been a better time to adopt a feline therapist and let a cat heal your heart and soul.

Witty Kitties, Inc. joins Petfinder.com and The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) in declaring June Adopt-A-Shelter-Cat month. All of us at Witty Kitties invite you to partake in some relaxation therapy by stopping by the shelter to meet our available feline therapists! We think you'll find that "special-needs" cats make for the best therapists (see the article in this issue about Parker).

We're always at the shelter on Saturday mornings, or give us a call at 319-848-3238, or send an e-mail to set up an appointment — [www.staff@wittykitties.org](mailto:www.staff@wittykitties.org). And thanks for all you do on behalf of animals in need everywhere!

## Exotics Corner

By Torben Platt

Greetings from The Exotic Corner. We are enjoying a nice warm Spring so far, warm enough, in fact, to move some of the more heat-loving denizens of the Exotic Corner of Witty Kitties to their outside enclosures. The iguanas, savannah monitor, and bearded dragon are all basking in sunlight next to the entryway to the shelter, sharing their confines with a few rabbits and doves (see photo). The two caimans, two alligators, and two turtles are in their enclosure in our yard. Everybody looks healthy and happy. I believe the alligators should be big enough next summer to warrant a change of venue, so say your goodbyes when you get the chance.



We have recently had a few "newbies" that could be considered exotic show up at the shelter, one of which is another fox, who is currently ensconced in our garage. She is a tad bitey (and nervous), so we are not letting her in the house, but she is very pretty and loves to play with Mama dog. Jenni has christened her "Amelia". We had another pot bellied pig dropped off who also has been banished from inside our house (much to his indignation), and resides in the garage and front yard. He tends to knock our daughter over, and though she has forgiven him, we thought it best that he stay outside. His name is Roscoe and he loves to eat.....well, just about anything. Jenni successfully reared a baby grey squirrel and he came on our latest three-day reptile hunting drive (along with the three dogs) and behaved admirably. He is being returned to the "wild" this week so he's enjoying his last few days of luxury living in our sunroom.

On the reptile end of things we were given a snake that a young man purchased at the Kalona auction as a ball python, a very common snake in the pet trade that attains a maximum length of about 5 feet and generally has a mild disposition (we currently have four of them at Witty Kitties). He dropped it off while I was at work, and Jenni told me that she was sure it was not a ball python but possibly was a Burmese python, another snake that is usually docile, although it gets considerably larger (Lucifer is a Burmese python). I casually opened the box, and as the snake's open mouth shot out missing my cheek by about an inch, I correctly identified it as an African rock python. These snakes are rarely seen in the pet trade because they get really big and they are typically really mean. Ours is no exception. I, of course, love him. He will join the long list of reptiles in my care that I lavish love and care on and that just want to, in return, hurt me. You gotta respect that attitude.

That's about it for now, Have a great summer animal lovers!

**Torben**

## MEMORIALS

*In memory of 'Cleo' and 'Catullus' by Cindy Thompson-Adhikari.*

*In memory of Muriel Watson, beloved aunt of  
Jerry and Jon Kinnamon, and friend of Sondy Kaska*

*In memory of 'Misha,' cat of Ronnye & Dennis Wieland,  
by Lois James.*

*In memory of Jim and Jerry Buttleman's guinea pig, 'Precious,'  
by Sue & Don Novak.*

*In memory of 'Precious,' by Marge McGowan*

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***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 enclosed envelope, or go to our gorgeous new website and make a gift online.***

## HONORARIUMS

*In honor of Janet Williams & Jan Gigliotti for collecting money and splitting their donation between an elephant sanctuary in Tennessee and Witty Kitties!*

*In honor of Debra Lee, a loving friend to all kitties,  
by Thomas & Sharyl Hiuko.*

*Wayne & Darlene Schilling honor Joe & Linda Skvor on their 17th wedding anniversary. Congratulations!*

*In honor of Cindy Thompson-Adhikari, my niece,  
by Nancy Thompson.*

*In honor of Shane Skvor's 8th birthday, by his parents,  
Joe & Linda.*

*In honor of Cheryl, Kim, Dianne, Karen and Betsy — thanks for giving us another chance at life!  
Love, Finley & Whiskers.*

## "WHERE HAVE ALL THE VETS GONE?"

By Jenni Doll, DVM

As most of you know, I've been doing a lot of work with Karla Sibert of the Iowa Equine Rescue and Awareness League (IERAL), a service that has more cases than it can handle. The big problem is that this almost one-woman-show (Karla's) is provided **NO** money from government agencies. She's on her own, having to deal with animals that are in serious trouble.

Karla receives dozens of calls a month about horses (and other species) that folks suspect are being neglected or abused. After a visit to the site, often she'll determine the suspicions are unfounded. Sometimes, a friendly visit with the owner may result in a relationship where she is able to educate folks on some husbandry needs. She often provides de-wormer and feed, if necessary.

When she finds animals who really need assistance, she'll visit the site with a sheriff or deputy, often arguing with them when they feel it isn't really necessary for them to waste their time with such matters. When things are really bad, she'll enlist the aid of a vet, and if everyone is on the same page, the horses are removed from a nasty situation. This requires lots of people, trailers, and gasoline – not to mention places to foster the horses while they recuperate from their trials and ordeals. Karla provides food, boarding, medical care, etc.

She testifies in court when the owners actually think they can get the animals back. Karla even educates the law enforcement officers and county attorneys on the laws, and how to write a warrant for the removal of the animals without missing any details so that there's no risk in losing a case.

When the animals are adopted, Karla only asks for a \$100 donation for each animal. Its bad enough IERAL has to spend so much time and money and emotion on cases it would rather never see, but unfortunately, there are dozens of legitimate cases out there that will never be seen, often due to county law enforcement or attorneys who look the other way. Then there is the money. . .

AND, getting a vet! To remove horses, a sheriff, with a warrant, and a vet need to be present, unless animals are in near-death situations.

Recently, I was asked to go to Harrison County, a nine-hour round trip, but, unfortunately, I couldn't go. You'd think ONE vet from the State of Iowa would be able to go, right? However, the **ONLY** vet on the scene was the vet of the owner in question!

I'm so angry at the results of this incident. The vet did a crappy job, and, when over an hour late to the farm, claimed the 2 minute and 40 second phone call we

had at 11:28 that morning was "an hour of arguing and threats, making me late." That is what he told the sheriff at the beginning of the visit!

Does **anyone** know of a vet who would be willing to go on these calls? Mind you, there's usually no payment, but what about doing what is **right**? This isn't some radical animal rights group willing to seek out cases. These animals come to IERAL! We've called the Iowa VMA, the state vet, etc. You need not be an equine vet. A starving animal is not hard to identify. Body scoring is a piece of cake, and no judge will dispute charts and pictures.

If your vet has an Iowa license, they are qualified! Being in a small animal practice is not a disqualifier. Fear of something new is no excuse for turning a blind eye to animals literally starving or thirsting to death. This is **not** an exaggeration. I've got so many pictures as proof.

So, go bother your vet. It is a worthwhile act, not monetarily, but it symbolizes why most of them became vets, right?

Thanks,  
Dr. Jennifer K Doll

### LETTER FROM HUMANE SOCIETY LEGISLATIVE FUND TO WITTY KITTIES Big Wins for Iowa's Animals in 2007

Dear Chris,

Thanks to the work of humane advocates like you, 2007 was a winning year for animals in Iowa. Lawmakers took steps to save wild animals from the pet trade, banned Internet hunting and protected doves from target practice.

#### Wild Animals Saved from the Pet Trade

Lawmakers overwhelmingly supported S.F. 564 to prohibit private possession of dangerous wild animals as pets in the state, which will help protect public health and safety as well as animal welfare. Wild animals can attack, they can spread disease, and the average citizen cannot provide the care they need in captivity. Governor Chet Culver is expected to sign S.F. 564 into law very soon.

#### Pay-per-View Slaughter Banned

Iowa joined 28 other states when Governor Culver signed H.F. 671 into law on May 11, banning the cruel and unsporting practice of Internet hunting — also called remote-control hunting. This pay-per-view slaughter utilizes Internet technology to allow a computer user to aim and fire a weapon, mounted on a mechanized tri-pod, to kill captive wildlife from hundreds or even thousands of miles away.

#### Doves Remain Protected

An attempt to legalize dove hunting in Iowa was once again defeated, sparing thousands of birds from becoming living targets. This year, in a state where dove hunting has been unlawful since 1918, state Senator Dearden introduced S.F. 82, which would have created a new mourning dove hunting season. Thankfully, this bill failed to make it out of committee, in part due to the actions of humane advocates who voiced their opposition to this bill. We may need your help again next year if there is a continued threat of dove

(continued. . .)

hunting legislation, to make sure lawmakers know that the people of Iowa simply don't want the bird of peace used for target practice.

Thank you so much for your calls, emails and personal visits to your Iowa lawmakers. These victories remind us that together, we can make a difference. You can help secure even more victories for animals telling your friends and family in Iowa to join our online community. The more people we can reach on animal protection issues, the better our chances for future successes.

Sincerely,

**Mike**

Mike Markarian, President  
Humane Society Legislative Fund

P.S. To learn how you can get even more involved in animal protection issues in Iowa, please contact our state program coordinator, Scott Wilson, at 515-961-4901.

**ARE YOU INTERESTED IN RECEIVING YOUR NEWSLETTER ONLINE?**

Would you like to receive your newsletter via email and save a tree? Witty Kitties knows many people like the convenience of receiving newsletters, ezines, etc. via email. Just let us know your preference. If you decide email delivery is for you, send your email address to [news@wittykitties.org](mailto:news@wittykitties.org), and the issue after this one will be delivered to you by email.

If you like getting a hard copy, of course we'll be happy to keep you on our mailing list. Just let us know your preference.

THANKS!

**WITTY KITTIES LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE!**

*By Trish Wasek, Webmaster*

Let me be honest. Scooping poop is not my favorite thing to do! So when my husband, John McLaughlin, and I discovered Witty Kitties last fall, I was hoping to find another niche to fill as a volunteer. I mentioned to Jenni and Kathleen that I'd love to help with the website. Their eyes got really wide and they pretty much said, "Go for it!"

So I spent the winter months scooping a little poop, but mostly learning the ins and outs of building a website from scratch, which we decided would be easier than modifying the existing one. Luckily, we found a web host company that had great software, templates, and support. After many helpful suggestions from the rest of the board, our new site was launched on March 6, 2007. Here are some of its new features...

**Donate Online**

My favorite new feature is that you can now donate electronically – no need to wait for the newsletter and envelope! We accept Visa, MasterCard, Discover, and American Express through PayPal, an online payment processing site. If your donation is for a memorial or honorarium, you can give us that information during the last step of the "check-out" process. Electronic donations are secure, and save you time and a stamp! Click on "*How to Help*" for more information.

**E-mail Updates**

Did you miss seeing Torben Platt and Chris Schoon on KCRG news in April? Or listening to Jenni Doll's interview on "*The Story*" on WSUI in May? Sign up now to receive email updates about Witty Kitties news and activities! We promise not to inundate you with junk email. Just click on "*Contact Us*" to sign up. (By the way, you can click on "*News & Activities*" to catch up on the above stories and more).

**Newsletters**

Speaking of news, did you know that the *Witty Kitties* newsletter is now posted on our website? If you read something interesting, now it's easy to share it with a friend by emailing a link to our *Newsletter* page. You can also catch up on back issues you missed. (Check out the premier issue, in which Jenni describes how Witty Kitties began!) Click on *Newsletters* for all the past issues.

**Kitty Profiles**

Last, but definitely not least, each and every witty kitty now has its very own page on our website, with photos and a short biography. (We've also listed all of them on [Petfinder.com](http://Petfinder.com)). Hopefully, more of our kitties will find a forever home with the added "publicity." Click on "*Meet the Kitties*" to read all about our current residents!

If you haven't yet visited the new [www.wittykitties.org](http://www.wittykitties.org), we hope you'll check it out soon! There is a lot of good information there, and we'd appreciate hearing what you think. Send your comments and suggestions to [staff@wittykitties.org](mailto:staff@wittykitties.org).

**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 driveway (3133 Roberts Ferry Rd.).**

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

**THANKS!**

**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](http://www.wittykitties.org))!**

Gift: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Memorial for: (name) \_\_\_\_\_

Person  Pet

Honorarium for: (name) \_\_\_\_\_

Person  Pet

Send notification to: (name) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(please provide city, state and zip)