



# Witty Kitties, Inc. Newsletter

A Special-Needs Shelter for Cats & Critters \* Volume VIII, Issue 3 \* Early Fall 2011



## 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 collaborating with local humane organizations in rescue work and low-cost spay-neuter services. 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.

Website URL: [WittyKitties.org](http://WittyKitties.org)

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jenni Doll, DVM

Torben Platt, Reptile Guy

Kathleen Schoon, Volunteer Coordinator  
Chris Schoon, North Campus Coordinator

Trish Wasek, Webmaster

John McLaughlin, Infrastructure

Dona Pearce, President & Newsletter Editor

## DID YOU KNOW???

*You could see this issue in living color if you subscribed to an email copy of the newsletter! Let us know your wishes at [staff@witykitties.org](mailto:staff@witykitties.org).*



Lex with Torben & admirers

## FIFTH ANNUAL WITTY KITTIES WINE-TASTING & FURFEST WRAPUP!

by Dona Pearce, Witty Kitties Board President

If you didn't attend the 5th Annual Witty Kitties fundraiser this year, you missed out on a lot of fun! The fundraiser was held Saturday, September 10 at the Witty Kitties shelter, and all of the animals who live at the shelter turned out for the event, too. There were horses, llamas, emus, a bear, snakes, including a 15-foot Python, an alligator, chickens, dogs, pigs, goats, and, of course, cats!



Door prizes were given, there were many wonderful Silent Auction items on which to bid (and which enjoyed very brisk bidding by participants!), Witty Kitties T-shirts for purchase, miscellaneous items to buy for gifts or for oneself, beautiful jewelry designed by volunteer Nancy Fultz, who also wins the prize for coming the farthest (from Arizona!), face painting for the kiddies, pictures with the animals, three tables of appetizers, wine and beer for tasting, plus soft drinks and water. Thanks to **The Secret Cellar** for the generous donation of wine! And thanks to everyone who donated food to the cause. It was a marvelous and tasty display, and it was all well received (in other words -- devoured!). All of this was going on while attendees were being entertained by the blues band Little Boy Blue.

Many families came out as this was billed as a kid-friendly event, and they weren't disappointed. Everyone who came seemed to have a wonderful time. The kitties in the shelter were welcoming and happy for the extra attention. Many wandered out to the outdoor enclosures to avail themselves of all the attention they could get and to watch the fun unfold before them.

Once again, this fabulous event could not have happened without many, many hours of planning, cleaning, printing, stamping, mailing, donating, and just plain giving up lots of time to volunteer. Witty Kitties sends out a **HUGE** Thank You to its loyal supporters and volunteers. It really does take a village. We're fortunate enough to have one of the best!

Check out the pictures on this page and the next that will show you a very good time was had by all!



Little Boy Blue. Jack Klapper, drums; Wendy Scholz, bass; Rich Finley, vocals

*Lucifer doesn't seem to mind getting so much attention -- after all, how many times do snakes get petted?*



(More pictures on page 2)

**PICTURES SAY IT ALL -- FUN, FUN, FUN!**



*So many choices! That's volunteer Kraig Ceynar & Witty Kitties' Kat Schoon behind the bar*



*The only way to wear snakeskin -- make sure the snake is still in it!*



*Face painting was very popular with all ages*



*Chris Schoon demonstrates a novel way to feed Ben.  
We recommend you do NOT try this at home!*



*"Wow! This is neat!"*

**YES -- WE'RE ALREADY  
PLANNING A 6TH WINE-  
TASTING/FURFEST FOR  
NEXT YEAR!**

## **NEW ARRIVALS**

By Trish Wasek

### **BEAU**



Beau is a large, two-year-old, FIV+ kitty who belonged to a family, but he didn't get along with the kids so they took him to their vet to be euthanized. Luckily, the folks at Animal Family Vet Care Center in Davenport are very kind-hearted, and thought Beau was an awesome cat who deserved another chance. One of the employees

volunteered to foster him while they waited over two months for an opening at Witty Kitties. Beau loves sitting on top of the haven in his room, looking out the window between cat naps. He weighs over 18 pounds, so we hope he'll stop napping and take advantage of the new cat tree and shelf in his room to burn off a few calories! He's not crazy about being picked up and carried, but he LOVES to be petted, and purrs up a storm. You definitely feel his presence when he curls up in your lap!!

### **QUINTON**

Quinton is about a year old, and was a stray turned in to the Iowa City Animal Care and Adoption Center. He tested positive for the feline leukemia virus (FeLV), and when Jenni saw him, she fell in love and brought him back to Witty Kitties. He is a handsome, sleek, black and white boy who is very friendly with cats and people. Quinton follows you around in the room, rubbing up against your legs, asking for attention. He would make an excellent "supervisory" cat in your home and we're thinking he would bond very closely with one or two humans. He may not look too happy in his photo, but he was just settling in for a nap when we took it. He's really quite cute and a real charmer!



### **ANGELINA BALLERINA**

Angelina is a sweet, little 8-month-old kitty who came to us because she had cerebellar hypoplasia (CH), a neurologic condition that makes her wobbly on her feet. We were concerned about her big, round belly when she arrived, so Jenni opened her up and found a belly full of puss due to pyometra, a disease of the uterus. After surgery and antibiotics, she has fully recovered. Almost as an afterthought, Jenni tested her for FeLV (she had already tested negative a month before coming to Witty Kitties). Sadly, she tested a very strong



positive. Perhaps it was just too soon for the virus to show up in her blood on the first test. Her CH is not severe, and she walks pretty well, but she does have a pronounced head bobble when she tries to eat. She can jump on and off a regular-height chair with no problems. Her favorite toy is a wooden busy box and she loves trying to get the balls out through the holes in the box. After having survived so many problems in her short life, doesn't she deserve a loving home of her very own for however long she has left? We certainly think so!

### **WHERE ARE JENNI & TORBEN'S COLUMNS???**

Missing Jenni and Torben's columns? Don't despair! They'll be back in the next issue. They needed a well-deserved break from writing so that they can re-charge and get those creative juices flowing again.



### **THANK YOU, NEW PIONEER COOP!**

A **BIG** thank you goes to New Pioneer Coop in Coralville for occasionally providing food for Ben the Bear that they cannot sell. Since Ben weighs 500 pounds, and has a pretty good appetite, this gesture is **MUCH** appreciated.

And if other stores or food producers or distributors don't want to be left out, they can contact us via our website ([www.wittycat.org](http://www.wittycat.org)) if they have food that Witty Kitties could use: Ben, the pigs, and coyotes like non-citrus fruits and veggies, lettuce, carrots, bread, etc., just to give these stores an idea of what could be used.

### **THANKS!**

Kat Schoon  
Volunteer Coordinator



## VOLUNTEER CORNER: RAMBLINGS FROM A VOLUNTEER

by Lora Schmoll



*Lora & her cat Riki*

the first few decades of my life as a cat person.

A few of the fine felines I've had the pleasure of spending time with stick out in my mind. Samuel was a tiny, black kitten when my mom found him out on our country road. Many years later, after we moved to town, Samuel kept traveling the 7-8 miles to get back to the acreage, and the people who lived there would call and say, "Your old, black cat is out here again."

Roon, the Persian, had beautiful long, gray hair, but when you set him up on our wooden pole fence he'd fall off. We just thought he was stupid and didn't know how to be a farm cat. When we acquired Roon, I remember going down into a dark basement and looking at cats in cages and feeling very confused. Why would anyone keep their cats like this? Beard, a slender, black and white cat with a black 'beard' on his chin loved to ride around with me in my '66 Ford Fairlane when I was a teenager. Arrow, another black and white, came with me to the University of Iowa. We lived in a tiny mobile home that was ten feet wide, and I kept telling him, "Hang in there little, black and white buddy. Someday we'll live where there are trees and pasture for a horse." Moses was delivered in a little basket and had that tall, skinny super-model Egyptian cat look. Manners would lay down and look cute when I was mad at him.

It happened when I was teaching fifth grade in Cedar Rapids. I'm not completely sure what caused the odd feelings I was having, but an unknown force took possession of me. When I tried to talk to Moses and Manners about it, they would look at me with disgust, stick their tails straight up in the air and bolt from the room. For some reason, I decided I wanted.....a dog! I started looking through the pet ads in the newspaper.

"Hi. I'm calling about the Shiba Inus," I said curiously when a woman answered the phone. "Umm.....and what is a Shiba Inu?" I asked, feeling like an idiot. I tried to dignify my stupidity by thinking this would at least be a learning experience.

Dogs were not allowed in the house on the southwest Iowa acreage where I grew up. Mom's take-your-shoes-off-at-the-door attitude also prohibited my father from bringing in his horses or the trick mule, Joker, that entertained at the Democratic National Convention in St. Louis. Occasionally, a 'special' cat was allowed to come inside and live with us. That may be part of the reason why I spent

"They're dogs. They look like a miniature Akita," she answered, without judgment.

I asked a few more questions, and that same day my boyfriend, Jeff, and I drove his truck out to take a look at the three, free Shiba Inus. An older woman answered the door. I could see a wheelchair in the background as she limped out of the house. She showed us the first dog. "I keep her separate. She has a bad leg and the others beat up on her. She's healthy, though. Had four litters of puppies in four years. The other two dogs are down there."

We walked away from the scruffy, little, white dog with the bad leg and moved down a small hill towards the barking and row after row of chain link kennels.

"How many dogs do you have?" I asked looking back up the hill. She was steadyng herself against a tree.

"Around seventy-five."

There was a man using the water from a garden hose to move the dogs about. I made my eyes as huge as possible and looked at Jeff to show him telepathically what I was thinking without having to say it out loud. "Let's go," I whispered. "Not without that little white dog," he said firmly. "You can't leave her here." Thank goodness he had a sense for what needed to be done. All I wanted to do was escape. Jeff walked back up the hill, leaned over the pen, picked her up and put her in my arms.

I had a dog! Scarlet, my very first dog, and she was going to live in the house! But she was afraid to come in the house. She was also afraid of the car, but we went on car rides and I treated her to a Wendy's hamburger for being so brave. I introduced her to her new little kitty brothers and she was afraid of them, too. The cats accepted her and took great joy in the fact that she was such a coward. Without any prior knowledge about this breed, it had been an excellent choice. Scarlet was very clean, catlike and aloof in the way she sat back, crossed her little front paws and viewed the action without participation.

Finally the dream came true and we moved to a place with trees and pasture for horses. Jeff and I got married and we live with lots of dogs and cats and horses, but Scarlet's not here anymore. She grew old and sick quite a few years ago and we had to make the hard decision. The hard call. A really hard call because our regular vet was out of town and I had waited too long. After 3 - 4 calls, a doctor finally agreed to come to our house. She must have sensed the desperation in my voice. The doctor and her husband gave my very first dog the peace that she deserved right there on the front porch that evening. That's how I met Jenni and Torben.

**Ramblings from a Volunteer (cont. from pg. 6)**

Life is really good with the trees and the pasture with horses and the dogs and the cats. I just retired after teaching for 32 years. When people that don't know me ask what I do, I tell them I'm a cowgirl/philosopher. I'm also Maggie the Maggot dog's mom, and a volunteer at Witty Kitties.

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**MEMORIALS & HONORARIUMS**

*In honor of **Kitty and Benny Russo**, our very loved (and unspoiled, of course!) kitties, by Mark and Diane Russo*

*In honor of **Witty Kitties**, by Anonymous*

*In honor of **Dr. Jenni Doll**, by Princess Gracie Holcomb -- thanks for helping me*

*In honor of **Phoebe**, kitty of Stewart Prince, by Jenni Doll*

*In honor of my cat **Lucky**, and **Mary Blount** for rescuing him when he was a very sick kitten, and **Dr. Jenni Doll and the Witty Kitties volunteers** for saving his life, by*

*Cynthia Holcomb*

*In memory of **Lottie Wasek**, Trish Wasek's mother, by Witty Kitties*

*In memory of **Stewart Prince**, my husband. My lifetime love and I reconnected after 42 years. We had the gift of a little time together and a brand new love.*

*By Bobbie Prince*

*In Memory of **Harry**, a former FIV Witty Kitty. Thank you for allowing us to share a year of our lives with Harry. We miss him dearly, yet we know he is at peace.*  
*From Wendy and Makayla Kadner*

*In loving memory of **Bob**, a very special cat who floated into the lives of Britt and Barbara Johnson in the flood of 1993, from Sondy Kaska*

*For **Charlie Bear**, the naughty little Chihuahua who came to us bald and skinny, and left furry and rolly-polly, from Jenni Doll & family*

*For **Cool-Jaw-Buck**, wonderful dog of Anya, Mike, & Hanna*

**Memorials & Honorariums (continued)**

*In memory of Sue and Don Novak's cat, **Emie**, who had five toes. My sister and her husband took Emie in many years ago when no one wanted her.*

*By Jerry & Jim Buttleman*

*In memory of **Crackers**, a Golden Retriever of Randy, Misty and Josh Newman, by Jerry & Jim Buttleman*

*In memory of **Teddy, Pepper, & Timmy**, our late pets, by Roger and Joanne Rayborn*

*In memory of **Sunday**, beloved cat of Beth Pelton. Sunday died on August 11 after 14 great years with Beth. By Kathy Janz*

*In memory of my cat **Howie**, the cat of a lifetime. He was a best friend to cats who needed him, and he was my best friend, too. And in memory of **Sam and Strypes**, beloved cats of my mom and me, by Cynthia Holcomb*

*In memory of **Buck**, the wonder dog, and **Feival**, the best little kitty brother a girl could ever have, by Anya Doll & Mike Johnson & Hannah Doll-Schmitz*

*In memory of **Mr. Whiskers**. Thanks for giving him such great care. He was a neat cat -- shy, but sweet.*  
*By Dianne DeMay & Jeff Scott*

*In memory of our mother, **Eleanor Louise**, by Margalea Warner & David Crombie*

*In memory of **Gracie**, & In honor of **Gary & Karen Schroeder & their cats** who gave Gracie the chance to be a kitten, by Amy Parker & Matt Schikore*

*In memory of **Jamie**, a very active, playful kitten who, sadly, tested positive for FeLV. This donation is on behalf of one that didn't make it for those that have,*  
*from Doug & Deb Hammer*

*In memory of **Annie May Monk**, pet of Yvonne & Jeff Monk, by Freeman & Margery Marsh*

*In memory of **Calvin**, our beloved feral-kitten-turned-lap-cat with attitude to spare. Even with six other cats, our home seems empty without her,*  
*by John McLaughlin & Trish Wasek*

**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.



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[WWW.WITTYKITTIES.ORG](http://WWW.WITTYKITTIES.ORG)

### 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 website ([www.witykitties.org](http://www.witykitties.org)).

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

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

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

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

(please provide city, state and zip)



Early Fall 2011

Want to get your newsletter electronically? Give us your email: \_\_\_\_\_