



Witty Kitties, Inc. Newsletter

A Special-Needs Shelter for Cats & Critters * Vol, X, Issue 3 * Fall 2013

Andy

Siman

Patticake

Toast

Pitch

O'Malley



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.

TAKING INVENTORY—PART II

by Jenni Doll, DVM

If you can recall my last article was all about the list of animals who inhabit the 14 1/2 acres we call our "little peace of heaven....and rarely hell...only sometimes".

Not sure how the llamas didn't make it into the article though I had written it back then. Perhaps my "Copy and Paste" fingers got tired and didn't pass it onto Dona. At any rate, I think it lets me off the hook from having to dig something original out of my head for this latest article. Way to go subconscious! So here they are (drum-roll) the Llamas of Witty Kitties!

Llamas: Lorenzo was originally a young llama Torben and I purchased at an auction in about 2002. This was pre-enlightenment when buying animals was something we just did. Who would have thought? When Lorenzo attempted to mate with the pot-bellied pigs we had at the time, almost killing them, I gave him to someone who wanted a breeding male. I had not castrated him yet as I had learned it is best to wait until a llama is 3 or 4 years old to do this. So, Lorenzo went to live with the Stark family where he proceeded to father a few crias. When Mr. Stark became ill a few years later, I took Lorenzo and Emma. Lorenzo's mating days were over before he got off the trailer,



Lorenzo

though. I finally got to do my first llama surgery. When Mr. Stark passed away, I then took Sparkles and Sammy, Emma's half siblings and Lorenzo's children. Though Sparkles had been a visitor to various retirement homes, harness trained and able to navigate stairs and narrow doors, we can't seem to handle her. But Sammy, who had never been handled, became enamored with me. His first weeks here were very dangerous to me. Though I castrated him the day he came, his waning hormones were very much an influence. He wanted to jump on top of me every chance he got. For the first time ever, I was actually afraid to do chores. One day when my knit hat had fallen off while I ran out of the pasture to get away, I asked Torben to retrieve it. Torben got all macho and strutted into the pasture. The hat was on the top of the hill near the cat shelter building. After "showing Sammy who was boss" by chasing him off, Torben picked up my hat and sauntered down the hill towards our house. The grin on his face didn't last long as Sammy turned and took off down the hill and planted both fore feet on his back. I can't remember if I was kind enough to warn him first. I do remember laughing hysterically as he hadn't believed me when I told him how aggressive Sammy could be.

Today Sammy is the favorite of everyone who visits the llamas. He loves to get right up to you and put his nose in your hair so he can smell you. He is sweet. He is similar to Tootsie, as well. He doesn't

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jenni Doll, DVM
Torben Platt, Reptile Guy
Kathleen Schoon, Volunteer Coordinator
Trish Wasek, Webmaster

John McLaughlin, Infrastructure
Amy Holcomb, Facebook Manager
Dona Pearce, President & Newsletter Editor

Website URL: WittyKitties.org

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: staff@wittykitties.org

THE LLAMAS OF WITTY KITTIES (CONTINUED)

seem to understand boundaries of other animals, especially Willow, our horse. Every other animal knows that when Willow is eating, you stay away or get bit. But Sammy seems to forget this and waltzes right up to her as though invited, only to get a chomp on the neck. He always seems so surprised and hurt by this. He is a very confused llama.

Photos by Trish Wasek



Sparkles



Emma



Sammy

WITTY KITTIES ACCEPTS PAYPAL!

NEWS FLASH!

by Trish Wasek

We have healthy kittens!



A trio of them, and their mom, were discovered living outside a local restaurant. The kittens had probably never seen the inside of a house, but the mom was quite sweet and friendly. The restaurant folks said they definitely could not stay – it would be against the rules and all. Their future sounded bleak if it was up to the restaurant people. Fortunately for this cat family, they were taken to the Iowa Humane Alliance low cost spay/neuter clinic, where Jenni performed the surgeries and then rescued them. They are now safe and sound in the Witty Kitties infirmary.

The kittens were born around the first of September and are as cute as can be. Biscuit and Small Fry are brown tabby girls, and Shoe is an orange tabby boy. (Photos are on our website.) We are spending lots of time socializing them, particularly Small Fry, who was really pretty wild when they arrived. Every day they are getting more and more used to people, and are now crawling into our laps and licking baby food off our fingers!

Cornbread, their mom, is barely more than a kitten herself, perhaps 8 or 9 months old. She is very tame and sweet. We can easily approach her and pick her up and hold her. She loves to be petted and gets along great with her kitty roommates.

Cornbread and her kids have all tested negative for FIV and FeLV. They are vaccinated and ready to go – just in time for Christmas! If you're looking for an addition to your family, please give these kitties a look – they don't belong at a special-needs cat shelter!



SUMMER TOURS A BIG HIT FOR IOWA CITY KIDS

by Trish Wasek

Imagine walking into Witty Kitties and being terrified. That's what it was like for a few of the kids who came to visit us this past summer. Many of the grade-school age day campers of the Neighborhood Centers of Johnson County had never even touched an animal. By the time they left, however, they were seasoned veterans who had held everything from a cat to a snake!

Although timid at first, the kids started out in the cat shelter, playing with the cats. They were amazed at how soft their fur was. Some of the kids were brave enough to sit on the couch and hold a cat in their lap! Next came looking at the llamas, horse, and donkey, which were pretty cool (even though it was kind of stinky). Everyone thought it was a good thing that Lex the alligator was behind a chain-link fence. The emus were "weird." The huge tortoises were very pettable. Ben the bear was a big hit, and watching him eat marshmallows was really fun! You could feel the kids' confidence growing with each new animal they encountered.



Finally, we went into the snake room – I wasn't sure about how this would go. We started by looking at Lucifer, our docile (but very large) Burmese python. Oh my goodness – some of the kids wanted to know if they could pet him! Then they held a ball python in their hands. Finally, they wanted me to drape Kingie, Kirsten Platt's pet king snake, around their shoulders like a necklace. It was an amazing thing to see the change in these kids after only an hour!

The Neighborhood Centers of Johnson County is a community-based, family-centered human services agency that offers youth programming in certain low-income neighborhoods of Iowa City. NCJC gives the kids all kinds of educational and social opportunities throughout the year. Many kids participate in program activities from pre-school through high school. For more information about this wonderful organization, see www.ncjc.org.

AMY HOLCOMB JOINS WITTY KITTIES BOARD OF DIRECTORS

by Trish Wasek

After many years on our Board of Directors, Chris Schoon decided he needed a break and reluctantly submitted his resignation this fall. (He promised to keep sending the current Board his funny emails, though!). We were thrilled when Amy Holcomb, of North Liberty, said that she was willing to take Chris's place. After a unanimous vote, we immediately added to Amy's responsibilities by naming her our Facebook Manager (some of the current board members are actually Facebook illiterate...imagine!).

Amy and her daughter, Cynthia, have been volunteering at Witty Kitties nearly every Saturday for the past six years. Amy knows the personalities and quirks of all the kitties because she always manages to spend time with them after scooping and mopping. A couple of them have even found their way into her home – more on that later.

Amy spends a great deal of her spare time trapping feral cats in her neighborhood and taking them to the Iowa Humane Alliance (IHA) in Cedar Rapids for altering (see www.iowahumanealliance for more info about this awesome organization). Amy volunteers at most IHA events, and is also a Johnson County Humane Society board member and volunteer. JCHS helps pay for the feral cat surgeries and helps manage several feral cat colonies in Johnson County.

In her non-volunteer life, Amy is a Supported Community Living Counselor at Goodwill of the Heartland. She shares her home with Fluffy, her dog. Fluffy somewhat reluctantly shares the rest of *his* home with two previously feral kittens and five cats, including Grace and Lucky, both former Witty Kitties. (Adopting a Witty Kitty or two is a definite plus for joining our board of directors!).

Grace is a sweet girl who is treated like the princess she is, having long conversations with Amy and purring the nights away as she sleeps on Amy's pillow. Lucky is the very sad-looking gray and white kitten seen at the beginning of the Witty Kitties video on the "About Us" page of our website. He's quite the character, and is an expert at finding unique lounging places, as seen in this photo!



HAPPY ADOPTIONS!

by Trish Wasek

SALLY

Sally lived on a farm and was a very scared and shy girl when she was rescued. She had an injured leg, and Jenni had to amputate her right rear paw. The farm owners were willing to take her back, but a three-legged outdoor cat isn't ideal. So we worked hard at taming and socializing this very timid kitty. Our efforts paid off, and before long she was a true love-bug. She'd sit in your lap and press herself into your body, trying to get close.

Jeannie Link, one of our awesome volunteers, fell in love. Sally's room was Jeannie's first and last stop every time she and her daughter, Marianna, came to volunteer. But an allergic husband and three other cats already in the house did not bode well for an adoption. Jeannie even encouraged another volunteer to adopt Sally. Eventually, however, true love (and an incredibly nice hubby) won out!



Jeannie, Sally, & Jeannie's daughter, Marianna

Jeannie tells us that it was a slow process getting Sally accustomed to her new home. Sally reverted to a shy little thing for the first week or so, letting only Jeannie hold her, and otherwise hiding under the bed. Jeannie's other cats seemed to care less, so at least they weren't going to be a problem. With time and encouragement from Jeannie and Marianna, Sally finally ventured out of the bedroom after a couple of weeks and now is right at home. She spends much of her time in Jeannie's lap, which is exactly where she was meant to be all along!

SYLVESTER

Sylvester came to us from our friends at PALS (Poweshiek Animal League Shelter) in Grinnell, Iowa. He had been on our waiting list for a while, and then we got word that due to an influx of kittens at PALS, he needed a new home urgently. Karen and Gary Schroeder of Grinnell are great supporters of both PALS and Witty Kitties, and they transported him to us.

Sylvester is one of the sweetest strays we've ever known. He loved everyone he met and it was difficult to understand how he could have become a stray. He was handsome, healthy, and cuddly, so our hopes were high for an adoption.

Cassie Kehoe and her partner, Scott James, were looking for a playmate for their FIV+ cat, Skylar. They saw Sylvester on our website, came to meet him, and he stole their hearts! Here's Cassie's update: "Everything is going very well with Sylvester. He is such a sweet boy! He quickly adjusted to life here, and Skylar has accepted him as a brother. They love to play to-

gether and spend time together. They have their little tiffs, but nothing out of the ordinary. They each have a cat tree of their own, but choose to sleep on the same one! We are so happy to have Sylvester as a new addition to our family. Thank you again for choosing us to be Sylvester's forever family! We just adore him!"



Cassie Kehoe, Sylvester & Scott James

MEMORIALS & HONORARIUMS

In memory of Don and Sue Novak's cats Addie & Sami-Sosa, sweet kitties who will be deeply missed, by Jim & Jerry Buttleman, Cedar Rapids

In memory of Sweet Pea, a special dog loved by Ronnye & Dennis Wieland, by Margaret and Douglas McGowan

In honor of the joy and love that Andy and Eliot brought to Judy's life, by Gilmore (keeper of Nancy Hauserman)

In memory of Jake and in honor of Dr. Sullivan, by Maria Urice

In loving memory of my most favorite dinosaur in the whole wide world, Little One. I never knew I could love an iguana so much. I grieve with your human parents...so many tears. Til we meet at the Rainbow Bridge! Love from your petsitter, Lisa McKirgan, Cedar Rapids

In memory of Tuesday, the sweet-natured tabby/torti in Room 2 at Witty Kitties, by Jeri McGillicuddy, Cedar Rapids

In memory of Fat Tuesday, by Gary & Karen Schroeder, Brooklyn, IA

In memory of Sonny, a wonderful pug and beloved pet of Dirk & Debbie Dunbar, Columbus, OH, by Barbara Dunbar, Cedar Rapids

In memory of our beloved kitty, Phantom, who died on June 8 at 10 1/2 years of age. He was our sweet tub-o-love. By Bill and Kathy Hicklin, Solon

**Those we love don't go away,
They walk beside us every day,
Unseen, unheard, but always near
Still loved, still missed, and very dear.**

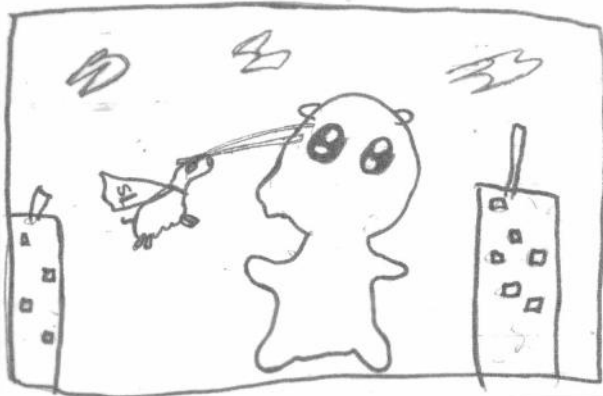
~ Unknown

The Super Lama, by Kirsten Platt, age 9

Once upon a time there was a super lama. Super lama was sniffing the flowers when..... A giant gummi bear came (Duh Duh DUUUH!) but he was a nice gummi bear but behind the nice gummi bear there was an EVIL gummi bear (Duh Duh DUUUH!) Super Lama flew to the rescue. Super Lama used his heat vision to melt it but that didn't



confused not because the gummi bear screamed but because lamas are not very bright and are always confused anyway... The gummi bear said he didn't feel anything because he was sleep walking. The gummi bear didn't mean any harm and would like a spot of tea instead. So the gummi bear and super lama had a spot of tea and everything was peaceful.



work. So super lama tried to stake the evil gummi bear to death, then the super lama remembered that it's just a gummi bear so he could eat it. that would solve everything. to bad Lama is allergic to gummi bears. all of the sudden the gummi bear screamed "ahhh!" super lama was



Witty Kitties, Inc.
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Giftgiving Witty Kitties

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 to Witty Kitties, Inc., 3133 Roberts Ferry Rd., Solon, IA 52333. **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. No stamp? No problem! **Now you can also give via PayPal -- check out our home page (www.wittykitties.org).**

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



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 (please provide city, state and zip)