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VERNON
COUNTY
HUMANE
SOCIETY

Tails

SPRING 2004



Dedicated to the welfare and protection of all companion and domestic animals by promoting programs that benefit the health, safety and well-being of all residents of Vernon County.

Shelter Construction Update

Phase One of the new Animal Shelter is complete! And now, it's time to begin Phase Two.

If you were to drive by the new building at 1150 Nelson Parkway in Viroqua, you would think that it's almost ready to move in. But if you were to open the front doors and walk in, you would see that it is just a large "covered" sand box.

The next step is to get rough-in plumbing in place, in-floor heating tubing and concrete floors. That's when things really take shape:

- ❖ Exterior walls and ceilings can be insulated.
- ❖ Interior walls can be built.
- ❖ Wiring can be run.
- ❖ Plumbing can be completed.

The pieces all start to fall into place, and by this fall there will be a lot of excitement brewing.

You can be a part of this wonderful project. There will be volunteer work days set up where we can all pitch in and do some of the less technical jobs as a way of keeping costs down.

You can make a donation of \$100 and have a commemorative brick engraved and placed on the wall. You could make a larger donation and have your name placed on a "room," cage, or dog run.

Day by day we will watch things take shape. Tours can be arranged for those who want to see the shelter to which they are contributing. Talk to one of the Directors. Give us a call. Become a part of this great cause.

VCHS Launches Raffle—Win a Boat or a \$2,000 Shopping Spree!

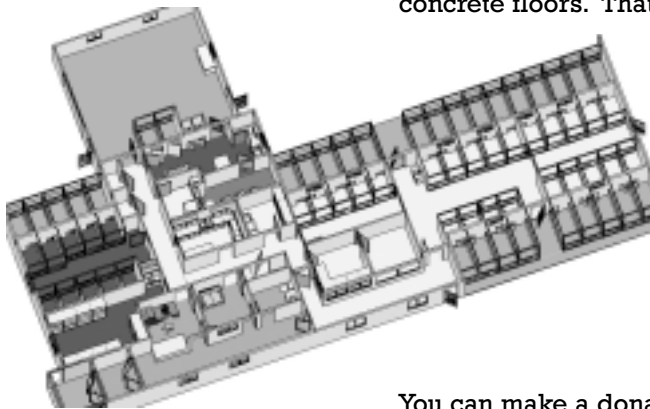
The Vernon County Humane Society is launching an exciting new fundraising raffle, with two exciting prizes:

- "An Early Bird" drawing for a \$2,000 shopping spree at *Buzzy's* and *Buzzy's Simply Country* furniture stores in Viroqua.
- A grand-prize drawing for a 16-foot Monark Marine Tracer 160 SC recreational boat.

The Tracer 160 SC is decked out with a 75HP Mercury Marine four-stroke motor, and a full fishing package, including integrated live and bait wells, trolling motor and fish finder. Trailer is included.

The Early Bird winner will be drawn on Saturday, July 3, 2004, and the Grand Prize drawing will be Saturday, Sept. 18, 2004, during the Vernon County Fair demolition derby.

Tickets are \$5 each or five for \$20, and will be available all summer long from many local merchants, VCHS members and at area events.



"Tell me your friends, and I'll tell you who you are."

An Assyrian proverb

VCHS Salutes 2004 Members!

We're pleased to recognize those individuals, families and businesses that have joined the Humane Society for 2004. Remember, all VCHS memberships are up for renewal at the beginning of every year ... if you don't see your name on the list below, please join today!

Karen Allness
Ramona Abbey
Elsa Banta
Betty Billyard
Alberta G. Bolstad
John & Kate Bonny
Sarah Bratnober
Helen Brothen
Laura & Al Buss
Dave & Lynn Chakoian
Scott Champion & Sarah Mayer
Jackie Christensen
Liz Cifani
Angela Cina
Allan Craig
Leslie & Gary Dahms
Bernard DeLap
Jeannette DeLap
Erland & Janice Dregne
Margery Duncan
Gary & Sue Evers
Helen Felix
Marie & Ted Glover
Mr. & Mrs. James Gratz
Linzi Gronning
Sandra Guy
Betty G. Hanson
Elaine Haugrud
Carletta Heide
James & Ann Hudson
Heidi & David Iverson
Ruth E. Johnson
Barbara Karwoski
Darlene Kerska
Jonel Kiesau & Andy Gorrill
Jenny Koby-Gobel
Debra Koessler-Wieman
& Paul Wieman
Brian & Nancy Kosiak
Karen Kouba
Roland & Doris Lander
Patricia & John Latz
Carl Lindquist & Joy Vickinghoff
Kim Littel

Continued on next page

Got Time on Your Hands?

Whether you have an hour a day, an hour a week, an hour a month, or an hour a year, VCHS and the animals NEED YOU!

Opportunities for volunteering include hands-on assistance at the shelter — grooming, socializing or walking the animals, fostering a special needs dog or cat in your home, assisting with a fundraising event, writing news articles and advertising, transporting dogs or cats to off-site adoption days or to the veterinaria...whatever your talent or skill, there is a place for you at VCHS.

For more information on volunteering, call the VCHS voice mail at 637-6955 and our Volunteer Coordinator will contact you.

Beware of Cat Clumping Litter

Did you know that there are health concerns about using clay clumping litter? Your cat can get sick from it. The common term for this health issue is Bentonite Toxicosis. Bentonite is a mineral found in clay and clay products such as clay cat clumping litter. This mineral is prized for its absorbing and clumping qualities.

Unfortunately, it's believed that clay cat litter may be responsible for the rise in stomach problems in cats. The problem can begin when a cat gets the clumping material stuck to their feet or hair and they lick it off. Over time, the product is suspected of clogging the intestinal tract and causing irritations to the stomach lining. Symptoms may include diarrhea, vomiting (with no hairballs), and irritable bowel syndrome.

There are many products on the market from which to choose, and some are more earth-friendly than clay. Different types include pellets of recycled newspaper, pine, grains, or litter pearls made from silica. You may need to mix your old litter with the new litter type you choose until your cat has become accustomed to it.

Penny Pinching for the Pooches & Pussycats

The staff at the Vernon County Animal Shelter are doing their best to pinch pennies. The way we look at it, the more money we save on everyday items, the more dollars there are to take care of the animals' comfort and medical needs. But, we need you to help us! You, too, can be a penny-pinching person by donating any of the following items to the shelter:

- ❖ Bleach
- ❖ Paper towels
- ❖ Dish soap
- ❖ Cat litter
- ❖ Collars and leashes
- ❖ Newspaper
- ❖ Rawhide chews for the dogs
- ❖ Interactive toys for the dogs and cats
- ❖ Laundry soap

Thanks for your help and support! ~ *The Penny Pinching Persons*

Foster Care is a Special Way to Help

Foster care is for animals who for various reasons need to be in a more home-like environment. Sometimes the animal begins to go kennel crazy, other times space needs to be freed up at the shelter for incoming animals.

Fosters will be screened and required to fill out an application. It will be helpful to have this done in advance so we can call fosters if needed quickly.

Fosters need a fenced yard or some way to safely contain the animal. The food will be provided, as will medical care if needed. All that is required is your love and attention.

If you are interested in fostering, please pick up an application at the VCHS

Continued on next page

shelter during normal business hours (Thursdays from 5–7 p.m., and Saturdays from 1–5 p.m.), or call 637-6955. It would also be helpful to attend the Volunteer Orientation classes offered periodically by VCHS.

Fostering can be a rewarding experience for both the pet and the caretaker. Until we move into our new facility, we rely on foster families to get us through this difficult period.

Calling All Tail-Wagging Tasty Recipes

The search continues for delectable, one-of-a-kind old favorite and soon-to-be new favorite recipes. That recipe you have for Grandmother's Old Fashioned Beef Stew or your sister's recipe for tasty tofu would be just the thing to add to the upcoming VCHS cookbook.

Maybe you make treats for the birds or snacks for the cat; how about submitting the recipes for them? No recipe is too unusual or downright strange for consideration.

To have your favorite recipes put into print, please send them to Barbara McPeak, c/o VCHS, P.O. Box 185, Viroqua, WI, 54665. To submit by email: zooies@frontiernet.net.

Please indicate which of the following categories your recipe best fits: appetizers & snacks, beverages, breads & rolls, soups & salads, fruits & vegetables, main dishes, desserts, vegetarian, pet/animal treats, recipes for/by kids, or miscellaneous. Be sure to include your name, city and state if you wish them to be included with your recipe.

1 + 1 = 4,372

No, it's not new math. That's the number of dogs that 1 female dog, 1 male dog, and their offspring can produce in just 7 years. Dogs haven't learned to use birth control yet, so it's up to YOU, the owner, to make sure they can't reproduce. Why should you spay or neuter your pet? Spay/neuter surgery is a one-time cost with a long-term benefit. It's a small price to pay for the health of your pet and the prevention of more unwanted animals.

Spaying or Neutering is Good for your Pet:

- It helps dogs and cats live longer, healthier lives.
- It can eliminate or reduce the incidence of health problems that can be difficult to treat.
- It eliminates the possibility of uterine or ovarian cancer, and greatly reduces the incidence of breast cancer in female dogs.

Spaying or Neutering is Good for You:

- It makes pets better, more affectionate companions.
- Neutering cats makes them less likely to spray and mark their territory.
- Spaying a female dog or cat will eliminate her heat cycle. Females in heat can cry incessantly, show nervous behavior and attract unwanted male animals.
- Unsterilized animals often exhibit more behavior and temperament problems.
- Spaying and neutering make a pet less likely to bite.
- Neutering makes pets less likely to roam the neighborhood, run away, or get into fights.

Spaying and Neutering are Good for the Community:

- Communities in the United States spend millions of dollars to control unwanted animals.
- Irresponsible breeding contributes to the problem of dog bites and attacks.
- Animal shelters are overburdened with surplus animals.
- Stray pets and homeless animals can be both a safety and health risk for the community.

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Christa Love
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Jackie Von Ruden
Ruth White
Juan Widner
Sonja Williams
Judy Wilmes
Norman & Marigene Wiltrout
The Zoo - Anne & Steve Zastrow



"We act as though comfort and luxury were the chief requirements in life, when all that we need to make us really happy is something to be enthusiastic about."

Charles Kingsley
1819-1875
English clergyman, writer

Humane Society Receives Memorial Donation

Janet Schipper presents more than \$5,000 in donations to Anne Zastrow of the Vernon County Humane Society to help support construction of the new Vernon County Animal Shelter. The contribution included \$2,500 in memorials from family, friends and the community in memory of Joe Schipper, who passed away in January. Joining in the presentation are Ms. Schipper's grandchildren, Hayley, Rebecca and James, and her daughter-in-law, Pamela Schipper. The animal food preparation kitchen in the new shelter will be dedicated to the memory of "Jim and Joe Schipper—Good Cooks, Hearty Eaters, Guardians of Animals." VCHS is raising funds to complete Phase II construction of the new animal shelter on Nelson Parkway in Viroqua, and hopes to open the new facility in October.

Attention Duffers! Golf Outing Planned

The Vernon County Humane Society is planning our first annual "Dog Leg" Golf Outing fundraiser for this summer at the Vernon Hills Golf Course in Viroqua. The event will be held on Friday, July 16, beginning with a shotgun start at noon.

Any golfer or duffer can be guaranteed a good time with fun, food, prizes, and the satisfaction of continuing to make Vernon County a better place.

Individual and team registrations are welcome. For more information or to register, call us at 637-6955 (we're keeping a list!) or send us an e-mail to golf@vchumane.org.

Ask the Vet

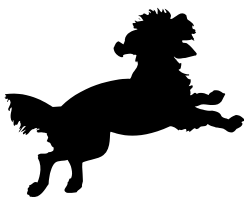
Answers to this issue's "Ask the Vet" questions are courtesy of Dr. Dane Piper of the Piper Veterinary Clinic in Viroqua. If you have any questions on these or other topics, please call Dr. Piper at 637-3333.

What do I do if I find wild baby bunnies without their mom?

Note that wild rabbits (and bunnies) are just that—wild. As much as we would like to intervene when we see abandoned bunnies, the likelihood that we will be successful in replacing the mother is very small. If you see unattended bunnies, it is best to just leave them alone. The mother will probably be back after you leave.

When should I get my puppy's tail docked?

For those anticipating spring puppies, remember that tails should be docked before the puppies are 72 hours old. Any later than that will require anesthesia, which is generally avoided until they are at least 4 months old. At that point, it becomes surgery and is much more complicated.



"I have only two kinds of days:
happy and hysterically happy."

Allen J. Lefferdink, whom we
believe was "owned" by a dog.

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Send suggestions, submissions
and "Ask the Vet" questions to:

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Visit us online at
<http://www.vchumane.org>

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