

WINTER 2024

HSMCIL
P.O. Box 7
Macomb, IL 61455

HSMCIL.ORG

facebook.com/hsmcil

Instagram:
hsmc_mcdonough

PayPal:
hsmcil@hotmail.com

Venmo:
@HumaneSocietyofMcD
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Meetings

When: First Monday of each
Month
Time: 5:30 pm
Location: American Legion,
Macomb



Humane Society of McDonough County

Waggin' Tales



SEASONS GREETINGS,

I have to share a wonderful mailing I received the other day that typifies the generosity of animal lovers. You may recall the story of Delko from last spring. Delko, an older, big German so much pain. He had pretty much lost all hope and desire to go on. With lots of loving care and patience from shelter staff and volunteers, he eventually gained strength and the will power to get moving again; he started enjoying his walks and new friends. A couple from Luther, Michigan saw his picture and description on Pet Finder and drove to Macomb with their mature GSD girl to adopt him. They have kept in touch about his progress and life on the farm. Their most recent correspondence was a letter of thanks for having Delko in their lives, with a \$1,000 check enclosed to support the New Animal Shelter Campaign. As I said about them once before, "Angels do walk among us."

And talk about generosity and the uplifting of our spirits. We have over \$900,000 raised for the new animal shelter and are at a point where we are honing in on how much it will actually take to build the new facility and where it will be located.

We have spent the last year exploring options for renovation and have pretty much concluded that a new structure is the most cost efficient avenue to take. We are determined to use whatever resources we can locally to keep the costs under control while still having a shelter of which we can be proud; one that will be durable and serve the needs of animals and the people in our county.

Casino Night on March 1st will be our next major fundraiser for the new animal shelter. We raised \$100,000 with the first two Casino Nights, held in 2023 and 2024; we are hoping for another very successful event this year. Attendees will enjoy the same outstanding venue and casino equipment as in previous year, with lots of fun to be had. So mark your calendars and be ready to "play."

We're highlighting a few of the "happy ever after" adoption stories of shelter animals who so needed a home that came with loving attention and patience. This year's very successful Brix Challenge is a big part of how we support these needy animals and we are so grateful to Chris Brix and those who respond to his challenge. Foster parents, volunteers and, of course, the shelter staff all contribute to happy outcomes. And we can't forget Pet Supplies Plus where cats are showcased and end up finding homes. My new kitty Ziggy Stardust (aka Stripe) spent time there.

Enjoy this *Waggin' Tales* edition and please share it with friends. We'd love to increase the HSMC membership numbers and have even more people informed and involved. We hope you and the animals have a great 2025.

Bonnie Smith-Skripps

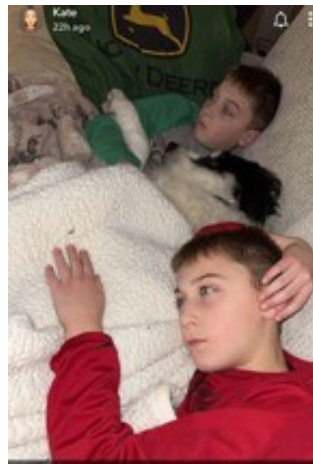


We invite you to attend the HSMC Annual Meeting on January 28th at 6:00 p.m. in the Community Room of City Hall. We will serve a light supper (appetizers) and review our programs and goals. The 2025 Board will also be elected at that meeting.

Happily Ever After Adoptions

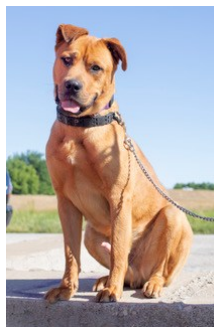
We are always happy to share these stories. So many pets in shelters never get adopted.

Beta arrived at the shelter after the devastating death of her "dad" and then the loss of her new caretaker due to health issues. This sweet beagle girl was adopted, but then returned because of separation anxiety. She went to Gossel's Dog House for foster care and continued a friendship while in foster care with one of the Shelter dog walker volunteers. Beta now lives a happy life with Sue, her husband and two other beagles on the farm. She is so happy she even dresses up for the holidays.

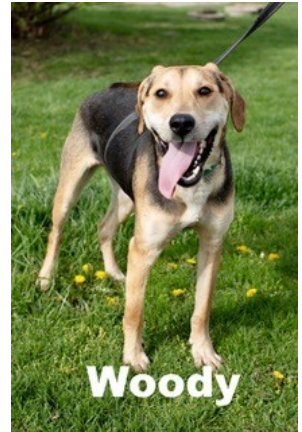


Ruger is a Great Pyrenees mix that was a young, active big pile of fluff when we met him. He was adopted by a young family and is loving life on the farm with his two "brothers." He's become quite the lapdog, despite his size.

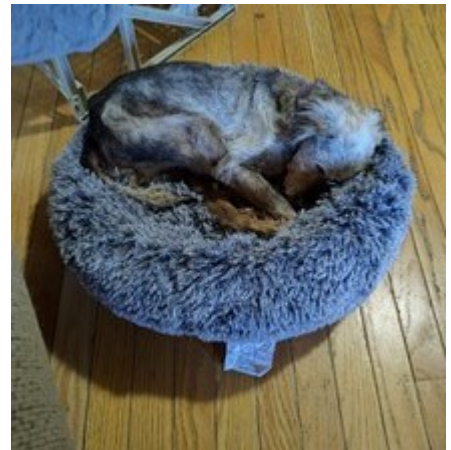
Tuffy was a challenge at the shelter. He was starved for attention and didn't know how to contain himself when he was with a person. He hung on tight and wanted to play tug of war with the leash. Skip took on the task of helping him learn to walk on properly on a leash and Lars invited him to stay at Gossel's Dog House. Close to a year later he now as a family of his own and enjoys the comforts of his forever home.



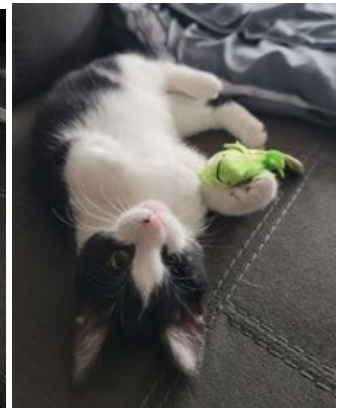
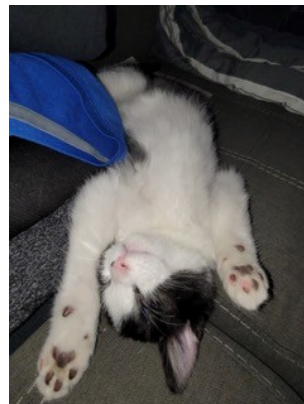
Woody (aka Cooper) has finally found his forever home. He came from a litter of pups that was left in the drop-off kennels about year ago. He was adopted a couple of times, then returned to the shelter because of his unruly “puppy” behavior. Zack, his new dad, came to the rescue. Now named Eren, this young boy lives with his sister Mica (who was the runt of the same litter), and another adopted dog, Bruno (now Sonny), that went through heartworm treatment at Zack’s house. All are great friends, and are very much loved.



Mimzy looked pretty much the worse for wear when she was picked up as a stray. She was very thin, with straggly fur, and seemed like she didn’t have much eyesight due to cataracts. She had a spa day and learned her way around the shelter premises, enjoying her daily walks. This spry older girl now has her home with Amy and Ken and their pack of pets. She is” living the life!”



Frankie (now The Bandit) had a severe eye infection when he came to the shelter requiring the removal of an eye. After he regained his health Frankie was a very active boy and was soon adopted. His new mom, Kelly Lucas, says, "Despite The Bandit’s bum start in life, he is a spirited little kitty and he LOVES to play!! I'm so happy he is here! I hope to give him the best life he deserves!"





Membership

Want to join the HSMC? Do you need to renew your membership? Use the QR code or go to hsmcil.org/membership to view our membership options.

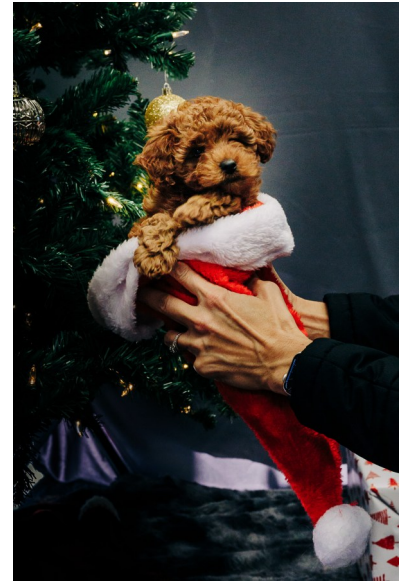
Your HSMC was active this fall with several community activities. We participated in Moon over Macomb in October, brought shelter dogs to the WIU Veterinarians Club Bark in the Park at Spring Lake for Halloween, and Krista Skien graciously donated her time and talent to take photos at our Pawladays Photo Booth during Dickens on the Square. Fun was had by all.



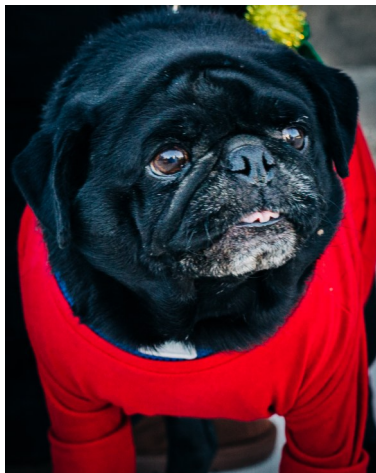
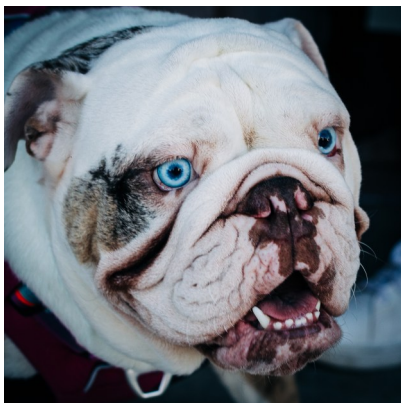
Moon over Macomb



Bark in the Park, WIU Veterinarians Club



Photographer Krista Skien donated the \$10 sitting fee per photo for a total donation of \$260 to the HSMC.
Thank you, Krista!



Business Members

- ABCDecluttering/Elisa Rasmussen
- All Pets Veterinary Clinic
- American Legion Post 6
- Clugston-Tibbitts Funeral Home
- The Community News Brief
- Dawg Haus
- First Mid Insurance Group, Beau Ingledue
- Gossel's Dog House
- Green Shingle Graphics
- Haymakers
- Hickory Kennels
- McClure, DMD PC
- No Place Like Home
- Owl Storage
- Pet Supplies Plus
- Royal Printing
- RWE Renewables Americas LLC
- Square Music Macomb
- Krista Skien Photography
- Sweet Briar Corner Market
- The Wine Sellers



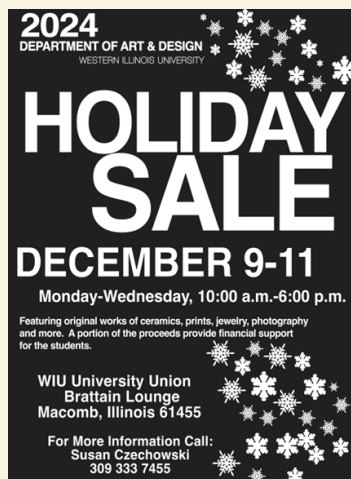
HSMC Christmas tree at Pet Supplies



Thank you to the Pella Foundation for their \$2,000.00 donation!
Thank you to Maurice's for their donation of food and supplies!

Art Student Donates Proceeds from Her Prints to HSMC

Carolyn Foster donated the proceeds to us from the sale of her Adopt, Don't Shop prints at the WIU Student Art Sale. She dropped a check off to us for \$320. Carolyn does have additional prints available



**HSMC Annual Board Election
City Hall Community Room
Date: Monday, January 28, 2025
Time: 6 pm**

Director: Open to HSMC members interested in helping the animals of McDonough County by donating their time and talents to shaping the future of this organization. The purpose of this Society is the prevention of cruelty to animals, the relief of suffering among animals, and the extension of humane education.

Slate of Nominees for 2025

Board Positions	Nominees to Date	Board Positions	Nominees to Date
Officer/President	Bonnie Smith-Skripps	Director	Jen Tibbitts
Officer/Vice President	Dana Moon	Director	Candice Biswell
Officer/Treasurer	Terri Hare	Director	Brian Waller
Officer/Secretary	Amy Betz	Director	Brandi Baker
Director	Dave Monninger	Director	Savannah Ballard
Director	Patti Douglas	Director	Loren Dimmitt
Director	Sharon Lindahl	Director	Open
Director	Ann Stites		

**The Brix Challenge 2024
Record breaking results**

For eleven years Chris Brix has challenged others to join him in raising funds during the month of October for the HSMC annual operating costs. Each challenge has been met with enormous support and this year's Brix Challenge saw record-breaking results, raising over \$37,800. That is amazing, exciting and heartwarming and means great things for many animals in need in McDonough County. All of the funds raised will be used directly to help homeless and needy animals. These dollars fund the ongoing services and programs provided to provide specialized medical care to shelter animals, promote the shelter cats and dogs, and assist pet owners in emergency situations via the Angel Fund as well as through the Pet Food Pantry.

Our regional media venues helped us reach a large number of people again this year. With their support, that of members and friends, local businesses, mailings, social media and word of mouth Chris Brix's challenge was met with enthusiasm that started early and continued throughout. One generous couple chose to donate their Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from their IRA to the Brix Challenge, something others may decide to do in the future, as well. We are extremely grateful to everyone who participated in any way. It's difficult to express how much that kindness is appreciated or to explain the positive effect it will directly have on the animals whose lives it will touch.

Our most sincere thanks to everyone who participated in Brix Challenge 2024 for your gracious support, for caring about the welfare of our community's animals, and for your confidence in and partnership with the HSMC. As Chris Brix reminds us, once again, one person's dream, shared with others, can collectively create a reality of positive difference. Thank you



Shelter Staff:

- Zach Welch
- Malique Reardon
- Tristin Kirkham (part time)
- Annetta Ogle (part time)

MCDONOUGH COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER

101 E. Tower Rd.
Macomb, IL 61455

(309)837-2989
mcas@macomb.com

OPEN:
MONDAY - FRIDAY: 11AM - 5PM
SATURDAYS: 10AM - 12PM
SUNDAYS & HOLIDAYS CLOSED

Watch Facebook or your email for a date when ticket sales go live!

The poster features a dark background with casino-themed elements like playing cards (aces and kings), gold coins, and a red heart. The text is primarily in gold and white. At the top, it says 'HUMANE SOCIETY OF MCDONOUGH COUNTY' in a gold, sans-serif font. Below that, 'CASINO' is written in large, gold, beaded letters, and 'Night' is in a gold, cursive script. The event details are in white and gold sans-serif fonts. A small logo of a cat and dog is in the bottom right corner.

HUMANE SOCIETY OF MCDONOUGH COUNTY

CASINO
Night

Join us for the 3rd annual Casino Night to raise money
to build a much needed new animal shelter.

MARCH 1, 2025

7:00 PM - 11:00 PM

PARK PLACE OF MACOMB
127 E. CARROLL ST., MACOMB, IL

\$50 PER PERSON
REGISTER AT HSMCIL.ORG

