

# The Watch Dog

A PUBLICATION OF THE COLUMBIA COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY

## OUR MISSION TO HELP by: Susan Bratcher CCHS Executive Director

Each year, the Columbia County Humane Society provides shelter and care to approximately 1,300 animals. Compared to some other shelters, that's not a lot, and compared to some others, that is a lot. Depending on what area you are in the state, depends on how many animals you see.

Naturally, CCHS was started to give animals within our county a place to go if they were stray or unwanted. The changes to animal welfare and how animals are viewed has changed for the better in the past 18 years I have been here. It's changed so much, that CCHS has become a safe haven for animals outside the boundaries of Columbia County.

While we still get our fair share of animals from within our community, we have had to broaden our borders to help animals from outside the boundaries of Columbia County, Wisconsin as well.

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## Volunteer Orientation

Saturday, February 9, 2019

Always the second Saturday of each month!

Whatever your skill or ability, there's a place for you at CCHS!

Please contact the CCHS Volunteer Coordinator at 608-742-3666 for more information.

[www.cchswi.org/volunteer/](http://www.cchswi.org/volunteer/)



The Columbia County Humane Society was incorporated in 1925 in response to growing community need to care for unwanted and abandoned animals. It was recognized as a charitable tax-exempt corporation in 1975. In 1978, the first shelter was constructed. Our new shelter opened in 1998 to accommodate the increasing number of animals needing care and to provide increased services to the community, allowing the Society to continue its humanitarian work well into the 21st century. We strive to educate people in the necessity of spaying and neutering their pets, promote the licensing of all dogs and cats, promote humane education, provide a shelter for the care of unwanted and stray animals, and promote rabies inoculation for all domestic animals.

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CCHS has an active transfer-in network. We help shelters/rescues in Wisconsin, but we have also started relationships outside of our state. While some people do not like the fact that shelters (not only CCHS) help animals from other states, we believe we are playing a role in helping to save the lives of those who would be lost due to overpopulation in other geographical areas.

The transport coordinator at CCHS and the transport coordinators from the other states work tirelessly with communications, networking dogs, and arranging the transports up to our area. We sometimes meet these transports in Minnesota or other parts of Wisconsin to get our dogs. Sometimes we have a transport that comes directly to us.

**As of December 6, 2018, we have transferred in 178 dogs from other shelters/rescues and we have transferred in 39 cats!** These animals may not have had a chance without CCHS.

We feel we are doing good things by helping animals that need our help outside of Columbia County. We are also providing adopters with dogs! If you are looking for a dog or a cat, please seek out your local shelter or CCHS. You never know who's waiting for you in a kennel!



## DEAR SUPPORTERS OF CCHS...

by Michele Baillies, CCHS Board President

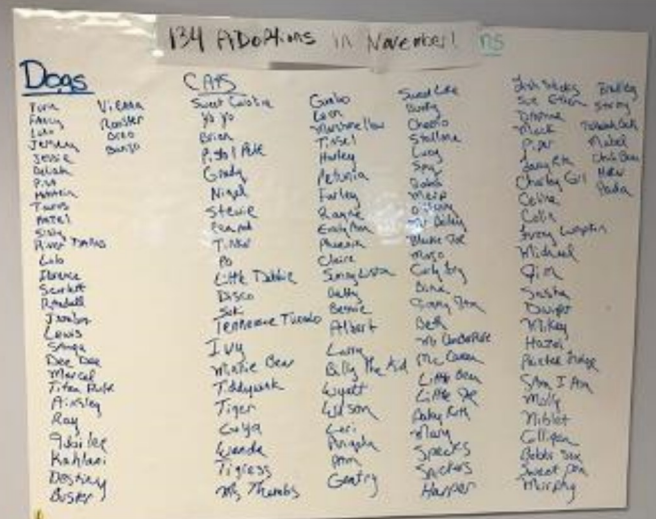
I have been on the Board at CCHS for 15 years and have seen the shelter grow so much! Many animals call it a home temporarily and are not here long. While they are here, we have a wonderful group of staff and volunteers who make their stay easier and more enjoyable.

In the month of November, we had 134 animals find forever homes! We wish them a happy and healthy life and are thankful that the community adopts homeless animals from CCHS.

We have done so many things in the past years to update CCHS so that the animals are comfortable while here. We have grown from a few foster homes to having many loving fosters. I am so excited about all of our wonderful foster homes who open up their homes to stray or sick animals. It warms my heart. We couldn't do what we do without them. Thank you!

Fostering or adopting may not be an option for everyone. For some individuals, making a donation to CCHS can help provide care and housing for all adoptable pets until they can be placed in permanent homes.

**We appreciate all your support!**



# HAVE A HEALTHY HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

by Jessica Dredske, CCHS Board Member

The holidays are a time of giving, sharing and spreading joy! Holiday gifts for pets have good intentions, but make sure you do your homework. We have all seen the stores stock the pet aisles with Christmas treats for our loved companions. Yet what we fail to realize is, just how harmful these treats are to the health of our pets. Many of these so called "treats" end up with negative consequences and unexpected visits to your veterinarian over the holidays.

Upon testing, these chews have shown traces of arsenic, mercury, chromium and formaldehyde. The vast majority of these rawhide or other products are made from cattle or horse hides. Their journey starts with the hides being soaked in a toxic sodium sulphide solution to remove the hair and fat. More chemicals are used in order to split the hide into layers, which is then washed with hydrogen peroxide to give the white "pure" look and remove the rancid smell. Then comes the pretty festive colors and the glue to form cute shapes.



If that wasn't bad enough, these types of treats regularly cause intestinal blockages, poisoning from chemical residue, and choking. The chews get slippery when wet, and are near impossible to get hold of to save a choking dog. Leave them in the shop where they belong, or if some well intending person buys them for your pet, put them safely away for later, then dispatch to the trash.

Instead, try out this healthy homemade recipe: Cinnamon Delights!

Incorporating cinnamon in a pet's diet is a great idea, especially for diabetics. It contains an active ingredient that mimics insulin and helps improve blood sugar regulation. Here's one way to add it to your pet's food.

## CINNAMON DELIGHTS

### Ingredients:

- ½ to 1 tsp. cinnamon
- 1/2 cup hemp protein powder
- 1 cup lean ground beef or ground turkey
- 2 eggs

### Procedure:

1. Mix all the ingredients together. Spread into an 8x8-inch greased baking pan, and bake at 350°F for 30 minutes.
2. Once done, loosen the edges and let cool. Cut into bite-sized pieces.
3. Store extra portions in the freezer or refrigerator and consume within one week. If stored in the freezer, this can stay fresh for up to three months.

# WHY YOU SHOULD CONSIDER ADOPTING AN FIV+ CAT

by Pat Klitzke, CCHS Board Member



I adopted Evander in May of this year. He was one of the most affectionate cats I had ever seen! He gets along with cats and dogs and was a huge favorite at CCHS. The volunteers were crazy about him because he was so friendly. Evander got passed by for adoption by many people because, although they really liked him, they were afraid to adopt a cat with FIV. I was the lucky person who adopted Evander (the orange and white cat in this picture) and am thrilled to have him. He came into our house like he had always lived there and instantly got along with all of my other cats. He took a little while to get used to my dog Hannah, but they are now best buddies! His best friend is Whizbang, and they love to curl up together for naps. Not only has Evander enriched my life, he has made Whizbang very happy to have a new best friend!

FIV stands for Feline Immunodeficiency Virus, a disease that weakens a cat's immune system. Many cats live for years without showing any signs of having FIV and they do not need to be on medication. Shelters all over the country have FIV+ cats up for adoption and many of these cats end up spending months and even years waiting to be adopted. That is heartbreaking. These cats deserve better. They shouldn't be in shelters; they should be in a home with a family who loves them. However, when people hear that a cat is FIV+ it seems to scare them, but it shouldn't. It is not a death sentence; many FIV+ cats live long and happy lives. In reality, the risk of transmission is minimal, as FIV can only be transmitted between cats by deep bite wounds. They can safely sleep together, groom each other, share food and water bowls, toys, and litter boxes. Humans, dogs, and other animals can't contract FIV.

Evander is five years old and is happy and healthy! He is absolutely thriving in his new home and we are so lucky to have him as a member of our family! I would not hesitate to adopt another FIV+ cat. My experience with adding Evander to our family has been nothing but positive.

## 9 COMMON CAT MYTHS DEBUNKED

Adapted from an article by Jacque Lynn Schultz, C.P.D.T., Companion Animal Programs Adviser, National Outreach, *Petfinder.com*

**Cats have nine lives.** Fact: this myth most likely originated from Egyptian gods and religions, where sun god Atum-Ra...would assume [cat] form...when visiting the underworld. Throughout the ages, cats continued to be considered magical and otherworldly, and their resilience in surviving falls from high places and long confinements without sustenance continues to amaze us!

**Pregnant women cannot live with cats.** Fact: while toxoplasmosis is a risk for fetuses, a woman is more likely to catch it from handling raw meat or digging in the garden... Cat guardians can protect themselves from cat related exposure by emptying the litter box daily, having someone else clean the litter box, or wearing rubber gloves and a mask if the litter box task can't be foisted onto anyone else!

**Cats can steal the breath of babies.** Fact: cats are heat and comfort seekers. Curling up next to a baby in a crib meets both those needs. However, if the cat chooses to press up against the face of a bundled infant who is too young to turn away...breathing may be hampered. Keep cats out of the nursery.

*Continued on page 5...*



# PAULINE

by Erica Zellmer, CCHS Board Member

Please consider adopting a shy or scared kitten or cat!

## Here's my story:

I decided to foster a one year old cat named Pauline. She had been at the shelter for months and people just weren't looking at her. (Probably because she growled, hissed, and put her ears back when anyone paid any attention to her!) When volunteers took her out of her cage to hang out with her in the visiting room though, she turned into a little snuggle bug. I thought that if I could take her home for a while, I could show her that humans aren't so bad and then she could get adopted.

Well, that turned out to be a foster failure for me because my husband and I fell in love with her and she's now our permanent fur baby! You wouldn't even know she was the same cat!

"P", as we lovingly call her, is a wonderful, loving, snuggly cat that lays on my lap while watching TV and sleeps with me every night. She also really came out of her shell and loves to play (I think she missed out on her "kitten hood" so now she's making up for it). I feel so blessed and I'm glad I gave her a chance. I really hope other people will do the same and give the quiet, shy, or scared animals a chance because they will be rewarded with a wonderful pet!



...continued from page 4.

**Cats purr only when happy.** Fact: purring is one of the first sounds kittens can make. They can purr by the time they are 48 hours old. While nursing, both mom and kittens can be heard to purr. But while purring is often heard at times of contentment, cats can also purr when in pain or the throes of death.

**Cats hate water.** Fact: while most cats hate baths, many find water fascinating and spend time pawing at dripping faucets or demanding...water for a fresh drink. Kittens, in particular, find sinks and showers a source of amusement...

**Cats are nocturnal.** Fact: cats are crepuscular. They are most active at dusk and dawn when prey abounds and hunting is best. The construction of their eyes allows them to see well in low light. Cats only need 1/6 of the light humans do in order to decipher shapes, but cannot see in absolute darkness.

**Black cats are bad luck.** Fact: there are nearly as many superstitions about black cats bringing luck as being unlucky. However, in one study...patients with dark colored cats were up to four times more likely to suffer an allergy attack... Researchers speculate that darker cats produce more allergen in their skin and saliva. So, if adopters are mildly allergic to cats, it may be smart to steer them to lighter colored ones!

**Cats always land on their feet.** Fact: as a tree-climbing species, a cat depends on its ability to survive falls. The feline vestibular system and vision work together with a cat's flexible spine to allow it to right itself and even to "parachute out" in a manner similar to the flying squirrel. However, while they can usually right themselves, they can still sustain serious injury.

**Cats are loners.** Fact: outdoor cats are solitary hunters, but most will choose to live in a colony near a food source. Studies of barn cats show matrilineal groups were created by a founding female, her daughters, and their kittens. When males reach around 18 months of age, they leave the area and strike out on their own. The kittens of domesticated cats are best prepared to fit into a multi-cat household when they are kept with littermates until at least 8-10 weeks of age!



CCHS would like to thank Turning Point Realty for having a donation drive for us during the month of November! Thank you for all of your hard work to help the animals at CCHS! We greatly appreciate it.



Gavin J. and family brought all of these donations and raised \$603 in cash and brought the staff \$50 in gift certificates to spend. Thank you very much! Gavin and his uncle are pictured with Jubilee, a CCHS dog.



We're sending a huge shout out to Rusch Elementary for hosting a donation spot for our shelter! We appreciate all of the support from the staff, students, and parents that helped out!



On behalf of everyone here at the shelter, including all of the critters, we want to say THANK YOU to everyone who stopped by to support our shelter at our May fundraising event at Knuckleheads! We ended up with many wonderful donations! Also a special thank you to the staff at Knuckleheads for being so welcoming and kind to us and for making it all happen! We look forward to working with you again!



CCHS was presented a \$2,872 check from our August Cruisin' for Critters event. Pictured is Executive Director Susan Bratcher and Steve Johnson. We would like to thank Chapter 166 Star Touring & Riding for organizing the event, the people behind the scenes, sponsors, donors and participants for making this event successful. We would also like to thank Steve's wife Brenda for donating \$50. Thank you very much to all! Hope to see everyone next year!





Thank you to the UW Madison Vet School for making us October's shelter of the month! Every month the school picks a shelter to collect donations for. Thank you to Lisa M. for bringing the donations to us!

Alex E. did a very cool thing! He celebrated his 10th birthday by donating a variety of supplies and \$56! Thank you Alex!

Haile B. celebrated her 12th birthday this year, and collected gifts for the animals at CCHS! Thank you so much Haile!

## ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

CCHS yearly memberships are due at beginning of our fiscal year: July 1.

We depend on community contributions to maintain the high standard of care for the shelter animals and continue on-going programs in the area!

Our membership application is on our website, or you are welcome to send a check, use PayPal, or call our main office with your credit card information.

### MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

- Pet \$5
- Senior Citizen \$10
- Individual \$15
- Family \$25
- Patron \$50
- Benefactor \$100

### SPECIFIC DESIGNATIONS

Please consider making an additional gift to support two of our designated programs.

- Bibi Fund – Extreme Medical Need**
- Cat Colony Fund – Trap/Neuter/Release**



CCHS Volunteer Orientation is the second Saturday of every month, 12pm at the shelter. If you are interested in volunteering, there are four steps:

- 1. Become a CCHS Member (online)**
- 2. Complete the Volunteer Application (online)**
- 3. Bring with you, an application & a check for \$20\* (payable to CCHS), cash, or visa/mastercard**
- 4. Attend our Volunteer Orientation!**

\*Your \$20 includes one CCHS Volunteer t-shirt. Additional shirts are \$7 for each family member!



# PET CHEMISTRY IN MATCH-MAKING

Adapted from Jennifer at *AdoptaPet.com*



When we're talking about match-making you and your home with a new pet, the kind of chemistry we're talking about is "the interaction of one personality with another," and some of the "sympathetic understanding" type of chemistry. Figuring out how your personality interacts with a potential new pet, and how that pet's personality will mesh with the other pets and people in your home, can sometimes feel like scientific experiment with all its complexities! There are some elemental guidelines you can use to help you make the most of your meet and greets with potential adoptees. These can help you be more likely to pick the pet that makes those little hearts and cherubs dance happily around your heads for the rest of your lives!

## Personality vs Looks

We assume you've decided how much looks, or more technically, physical characteristics, are important to you. If you have your heart set on a silver tabby, a little fluffy dog, or a big muscular brindle dog, that will narrow down the pets you choose from – but it doesn't eliminate the importance of personality chemistry.

## Personality Elements

There are personality "tests" for pets created by animal behaviorists, just like there are for people. But for a regular person, there are some simpler ways to assess an animal you're meeting. Keep in mind that pets in a shelter setting can and often do act very differently than pets in a home. If you have very strict personality requirements, like say you have a home with small children or multiple pets, and don't feel confident in your ability to train or work with a pet that might not be an ideal fit, selecting an adult pet that has been in a foster home environment is one great way to get a more solid idea of how that pet will likely do in your home.

### Element #1: Energy Level

Do you run 6 miles a day and want a partner? Want a cat that wants to play with toys for hours? Or are you looking for a couch potato pet... or somewhere in between? Energy level is one of the most important elements. If you have older pets, saddling them with an energetic pet may make them grumpy, not youthful.

### Element #2: Independence

So many adopters are drawn to the pets who are up at the front of their cage, rubbing on the bars begging for your attention. Take the pet out and spend time with them. Do they explore the yard or room, or are they like velcro to your leg or lap? What kind of pet do you (and your pets) want? Velcro, independent, or in between?

### Element #3: "Je ne sais quoi"

This is the elusive element that so many adopters yearn for, the "je ne sais quoi" or "I don't know what"; it's...[the natural] attraction that some pets inspire when we meet them. This is what people often think of when they think of "chemistry" with a pet. There doesn't seem to be any scientific way to measure this element! Listen to your internal emotions, the feelings that you get when spending time with a particular pet!

There should be no rush when you are looking for chemistry with your future pet. **Take your time in picking a pet to adopt, so that you'll be willing to work through the inevitable bumps as the pet gets adjusted to you and your home (and vice versa!) and you'll be happy with each other for the rest of the pet's life.**





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Lori Melton

5 bags sheets & blankets  
Dog food  
Dog food & treats  
Cat food  
Toys, food & money  
16 Dog/pet beds  
Toys  
Bleach & Paper towels  
Supplies  
Supplies  
Cat food & meds  
Baby food, dish soap,  
cat food, bleach & paper  
Towels  
Supplies  
Supplies  
Cat food  
Litter  
Bag of towels  
Supplies  
9 bags of items  
Dog supplies in memory  
of Ryan Dorn  
Dog food  
Treats  
Food, treats & toys,  
bed/blanket & gate  
Supplies  
2 large dog beds  
Cat food & treats  
Supplies  
Supplies  
Supplies  
Dog crate  
Cat food  
Food, toys & cleaning  
Supplies  
Supplies  
Cat food  
Towels & cat food  
Money  
Dog & cat food  
Supplies  
Dog food  
3-18lb cat food  
Cat litter, bags, food &  
soap  
Blankets  
Cat & dog food, treats,  
paper towels, bleach &  
\$50.00  
Dog food  
Dog food

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Meds  
Supplies  
Cat food & litter  
Dog bed  
Dog beds & towels  
Dog food  
Cat food & litter  
Dog food and blankets  
Dog food  
Royal Canin dog food  
2 carriers & donation  
Dog food  
Bedding  
Donation  
Cat food & bleach  
Pet beds & toys  
Blankets, sheets, misc. bedding  
200# cat litter  
Cat litter  
4 dog beds  
Toys, food, paper towels, etc.  
Dog chews  
Volunteer  
Pet beds  
Supplies  
Cat food  
Chew toys, pee pads, dental  
chew treats  
Advatix - 8 doses  
14 cases dog & cat supplies  
Cat litter  
Toys, treats , blankets, & food  
Blankets  
9 bags of items  
Supplies  
Paper folders



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