

TAILS FROM THE FURSIDE

SUMMER 2024



Willis just needed grace [4]



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Blind cat living his best life [16]

Adoptable APL cats and dogs aren't just at our shelter

By Evelyn Taylor

Potential adopters will find APL cats and dogs available at places other than our shelter.

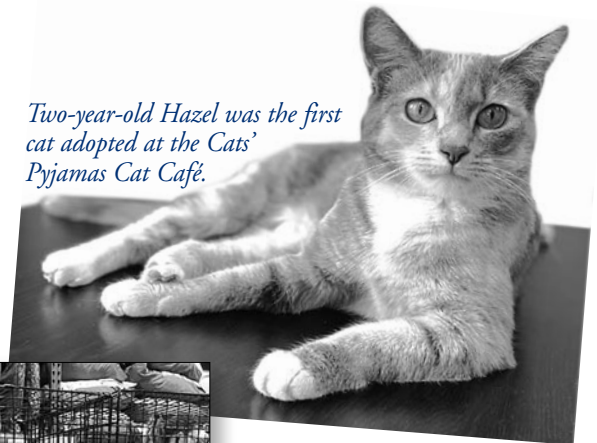
APL'S shelter is a lifesaving stop on the road to new homes for dogs and cats. During their stay, the sick are made well, the injured healed, and the abandoned sheltered until adoption. Good things happen every day!

Some folks, though, are so overwhelmed by the number of animals in need that they avoid visiting the shelter. Lucky for them—and for animals waiting for their new homes—they can meet dogs and cats out of the shelter at off-site locations. Most days, and certainly on weekends, area businesses welcome APL animals to events that lead to the adoption of hundreds of dogs and cats into new homes every year.

APL is especially grateful to PetSmart in Springfield, the host of weekend and occasional special adoption events for many years. Where better to see cats (and the occasional canine) than at

APL's partnership with the Cats' Pyjamas Cat Café was off to a great start, with multiple cats available for adoption. Comfortable furnishings gave them a homelike setting (left) where customers could interact with them and perhaps decide to adopt one. Sadly, the building the café occupied burned on June 19. All the cats were safely evacuated.

Two-year-old Hazel was the first cat adopted at the Cats' Pyjamas Cat Café.



PETSMART

APL cats at PetSmart attract lots of attention from feline enthusiasts of all ages, and stores in Springfield and Forsyth account for hundreds of adoptions each year.

a store catering to animal needs? Virtually every Saturday and Sunday of the year, PetSmart welcomes a dozen or so cats and the volunteers who oversee their

care and adoption. For several hours each day, potential adopters can view and interact with the cats knowing that any supplies they might need for an animal addition to the household are nearby.

The Springfield location also makes available (on a rotating basis with other animal-welfare organizations), a set-apart room for adoptable cats

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Summer 2024

Tails From the Fur Side is published four times a year for members of APL, which is dedicated to caring for ill, injured and abused homeless animals and coordinating the adoption of those animals by responsible pet owners; it further is committed to ending companion animal overpopulation by offering high quality, low-cost spay/neuter services.

The board of directors meets regularly at 5:30 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of January, April, July, and October at Laurel United Methodist Church, 631 S Grand Ave West, Springfield, Illinois. Send inquiries and requests to be placed on the agenda to admin@apl-shelter.org.

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Readers' comments are welcome. Please send them to Tails From the Fur Side in care of the APL address listed above.

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APL RESPECTS PRIVACY
It is the policy of the Animal Protective League of Springfield and Sangamon County to respect the privacy of its members and donors. While the organization receives requests from time to time to share or sell its mailing list, the APL board has made it a policy not to sell or share its mailing list with anyone. Although funding is always a concern, the privacy of friends of APL is of greater importance to the organization and its leadership.

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS



Dr. Richard Speck

I've always thought it was sad when people say they hate to get up in the morning and go to work. I am grateful I've never had that problem, especially since I began working at APL. My list of positives has only grown.

Of course the deep satisfaction I get from helping animals is always at the top of my list. Seeing the happy eyes of an animal who is restored to health is a special pleasure. The relief and joy of people who love seeing their animal or any animal restored to health is second.

Working at a not-for-profit animal shelter is a unique, positive experience. Animal people are special because of their devotion to animals. Their hope and good will is contagious. APL staff are talented, devoted, and very hard workers. They are essential to both to the organization's success and my own.

It is restorative to be around retired people, employed people, teenagers who devote after school hours and vacation time...anyone who is willing to give time to help animals live better lives. All of these selfless people are a joy to be around. Deep friendships are formed.

My satisfaction goes beyond on-site animal care givers, volunteers and staff. I get much gratification working with the people who volunteer to be on APL's board of directors. These devoted people give hours of their time to make sure the wheels of APL's

care operation keep turning. Planning and oversight are not fun. It is hard but necessary work. I am proud to labor with them.

I also am gratified by members of the public who support APL's animal welfare work. I meet you in the grocery store, at APL events, and in social settings. We share a bond and a mission to save as many animals as we can. I've said this before, but we could not do it without you.

This brings me back to why I like going to work each morning. I love the people who work with me directly, who support APL through volunteering, who donate to help us, and who aid an animal... any animal...in a quiet, personal way. All of you are a vital part of what I do.

It gives me a surge of satisfaction to see the world of caring for and loving animals expand. I love sharing my thoughts with you through this column and in person. This partnership, along with the devotion of the people I work with, is what keeps me going.

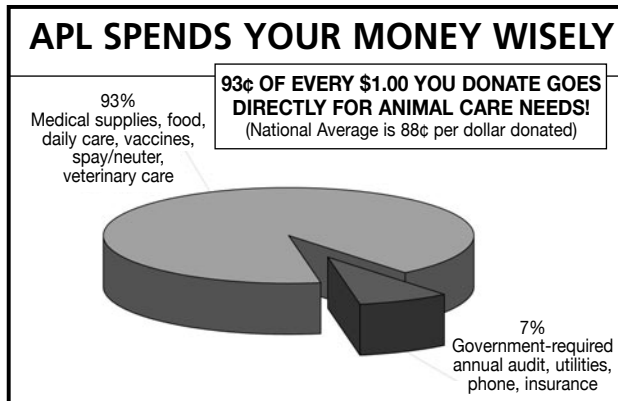
The people who surround me make all the difference.

That is what makes me happy to get up each morning.

Animal people are special because of their devotion to animals. Their hope and good will is contagious.

Richard L. Speck DVM

Richard L. Speck, DVM
President



APL's Mission

The Animal Protective League is dedicated to caring for ill, injured and abused homeless animals and coordinating the adoption of those animals by responsible pet owners; it further is committed to ending companion animal overpopulation by offering high-quality, low-cost spay/neuter services.



Lots of vertical space at Pet Supplies Plus gives cats like this one from APL the opportunity to peer down from a high perch.



that customers may visit during store hours. For several years, the PetSmart in Forsyth has extended APL's reach to the Decatur area with a similar space that houses available cats nearly full-time. Store employees monitor the cats and provide care when an APL volunteer isn't available to daily clean cages, change bedding, and refresh food and water.

What a difference both PetSmart locations make! In 2023, 421 cats found new homes thanks to the Springfield (299) and Forsyth (122) stores.

Pet Supplies Plus on Springfield's north end is an important adoption partner. A small room with lots of vertical space is occupied by just one cat at a time, but cats don't linger there long before someone adopts them. Store employees care for the cats who reside there until their adoption. Fortunately, the store's convenient location, just a mile or so away from the shelter, makes it easy to take a new cat when the prior cat has been adopted. More recently, Pet Supplies Plus in Chatham has hosted an adoption for APL animals.

In the past year, Petco has stepped forward to host APL adoption events. Many area businesses provide opportunities for cat or dog adoptions by providing indoor space for events and parking lots where we can park our Mobile Adoption Unit (MAU).

Summer is a busy time for our MAU, which first went on the road ten years ago. As many as two dozen cats and dogs can be safely transported to area festivals, adoptions events, and community gatherings for where they are introduced to potential adopters who might never visit our shelter.

APL's relationship with downtown Springfield's Cats' Pyjamas Cat Café was off to a great start, with more than a dozen cat adoptions in just a few weeks. Sadly, the building occupied by the cat café and other businesses burned on June 19. All the cats were safely evacuated, though the building and most of its contents were destroyed. The café's 18th and final adoption was to café owners Tom Raymond and Samantha Enz, who made Chief their new housemate! Our hearts go out to Tom and Samantha, who hope to reopen in another downtown location.

Potential adopters who wish to see cats and dogs without delay are welcome at our shelter from noon to 5 p.m. every day of the year, except for major holidays. We always have cats and dogs waiting for new homes!

PFIFER



Dogs and cats are available at our shelter seven days a week (except for major holidays) from noon to 5 p.m. Pfifer, who underwent a leg amputation after arriving at the shelter with a badly injured leg, is currently available for adoption.



Our mobile adoption unit (MAU) can be found at special events in and around Springfield, giving folks an opportunity to meet cats (and the occasional dog) outside of a shelter setting.

The brightly colored MAU accommodates as many as two dozen cats and dogs, who travel in comfort year round.

Grace saved an amazing dog

By Mike Tavares, APL Planning Pathways Coordinator

Willis—a brindle pit mix—came to APL as a stray with his sibling Bruce on April 22, 2023. Bruce was quickly adopted, but Willis barked and jumped at his kennel door when would-be adopters passed by. The dog's behavior was evidence of stress and frustration. Unfortunately, this behavior could be misinterpreted as aggression by the public.

Both dogs were sweet but excitable. They preferred to do everything together, but they were placed in separate, facing kennels once they were ready for adoption. Bruce was soon adopted, as he was super handsome and showed well in a kennel, sitting patiently while prospective adopters browsed. That's when Willis's behavior became a barrier to his adoption. His constant barking and lunging at his kennel door scared people away. What Willis was communicating, though, was his need to be away from the kennel noise and stress. Over-excited when being leashed for a walk, on two occasions he broke the skin of two kennel attendants, leading to a bite record. Willis was put on medication to help him settle down.

About that time I was appointed kennel manager, and a priority for me was helping the dogs who were in distress. Willis was near the top of the list. I understood that he meant no harm with either

bite and was just struggling in his environment. I started helping him by bringing him out to the play yard and having him run off a lot of built-up energy and frustration.

After a good twenty-to-thirty minutes of activity, I would take him inside into the tub room where it was quiet, and he would sleep most of the day.

His behavior seemed to depend on whether he



Meet Mike

Since June, Mike has served as APL's Planning Pathway Coordinator.

He is responsible for day-to-day and long-term planning for best outcomes: In other words, he develops strategies for setting up shelter cats and dogs for success by addressing each one's behavior and physical needs. Each animal has a treatment plan that may include training, compensating for a missing limb, or even medication.

In the new position, Mike is expanding on the knowledge and experience he gained working with dogs like Willis while serving as Kennel Manager.

"There's a learning curve," says Mike, and "I will be growing into this job," which provides opportunities to consult with others, research new approaches to training, and develop specialized plans for each animal. Mike will work directly with some animals and also in conjunction with staff members to implement the plans so that training is consistent and progressively builds on small successes.



That's Willis (left) resting with his best canine friend, Ever, who has also found a home with Mike.

got quiet and/or play time. On days when I was absent and staff had too much on their plate to provide these activities, Willis was much more frustrated. So, on my days off I would sometimes take him for Doggy Day Out, giving him time away from the shelter for car rides, a pup cup (ice cream or whipped cream), or a hike.

I quickly noticed a change in his behavior the more time he spent away from the kennel, and he started showing how smart, gentle, sweet, and

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Left: Mike and Ever. Mike adopted Ever after the dog spent nearly four years in the shelter and occasionally in a foster home.

Ever, happily adopted

Willis's best canine friend, Ever, has found a home. . .with Willis and Mike! It's been a long road to Ever's adoption. He was brought to APL along with two other strays on June 8, 2020, who were soon adopted. But Ever was timid and defensive, which quashed his chances of finding a new home.

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Ever (left) and Willis. Ever likes to play in water, Willis does not. But Willis loves Ever and stays close.

Former APL cat an unexpected service animal

By Alexis Haven, APL Development Director

Service dogs are amazing. They loyally protect their owners and help them navigate the day-to-day hurdles that often accompany mental and physical disabilities, illnesses, or disorders. But what about service cats? A three-month-old kitten adopted from APL in October 2023 unexpectedly became a guardian for a toddler named Zuri.



A three-month-old kitten at the time of her adoption, Minni quickly became attuned to changes in Zuri's condition.

In June 2023 Zuri unexpectedly went into a coma caused by undiagnosed Type 1 Diabetes. Zuri's parents dove head-first into their journey of navigating their daughter's medical needs. They also wanted a kitten for Zuri, one who would be a distraction and a companion. Their search for the perfect furry friend led them to APL's shelter.

A litter of kittens stood out to them immediately, and a little calico—Minni—was the only one without adoption prospects. That was about to change. Zuri and her parents visited with all of the kittens. Every one was cute, sweet, and playful, but when Minni nuzzled into Zuri's arms, her parents later recalled seeing an "immediate connection." Minni found her forever home that day, and Zuri found a best friend and an unexpected fierce feline protector.

From the moment the three-month-old kitten arrived at her new home, she stayed at Zuri's side. And right away her parents noted patterns in Minni's behavior. When Zuri's blood sugar levels were off, Minni would run to her side and lie by her feet. Type 1 Diabetes can cause both spikes and dips in blood sugar levels that require close monitoring. One of several different, not-so-fun, but very important devices, sends an alarm to Zuri's mom's phone when her blood sugar levels drop. But when the family's wife was slow connecting to the phone, it was Minni to the rescue. She raced to lie by Zuri's feet, and her mom knew what was needed immediately. Shortly after, the alarm went off.

So, is Minni's behavior just a coincidence? No. British veterinarian Dr. Alice Barker says that "there are lots of ways cats can sense illness in humans, be it by smelling chemical changes in the body causing a shift in pheromones or recognizing subtle changes in body language, facial expression, or even body temperature." A 2018 study published by the

National Library of Medicine found a link between body temperature and diabetes. "Thermoregulation is known to be impaired in individuals with T1D, especially when associated with long disease duration, poor glycemic control, low aerobic fitness and neuropathy. Most of these alterations are attributed to the reduced skin blood flow, cutaneous dilatation, sweating, and thermosensitivity."

Whatever the reason for Minni's health-related intuition, be it changes in body temperature, hormones, or body language, Zuri's parents say that Minni is truly a service cat and everything their family hoped for and much more. She sits with Zuri while she takes a bath, plays gently with her, and is sensitive to her needs. It's not only amazing but further proof that animals—dogs and cats alike—love us and care for us just as much (or more) than we love and care for them.



Even as a kitten, Minni had an uncanny ability to sense when Zuri needed help.



Now an adult, Minni is Zuri's constant companion, serving as a gentle playmate and fierce protector.

The adopter of Minni—a sweet cat who came to APL as a kitten—has first-hand knowledge that cats have remarkable intuition that can change and even save lives.

A dog's behavior at any shelter isn't a complete picture of how he will be in a home where there is consistency, love, and peace of mind.

Grace saved continued from page 4

obedient he really was. I wanted to adopt him, but dogs weren't permitted in the apartment I was renting at the time, so I moved. I adopted Willis on September 18, 2023, the very day I picked up keys to our new home.

Today I would describe him as the perfect dog for my lifestyle and activity. He blends into my home life wonderfully, the family loves him, and he is no longer constantly nervous and anxious, even after weaning him off his behavioral medication. There was an adjustment period, of course, but Willis's behavior was nothing compared to what it was in the kennel. I feel very confident bringing him

wherever I go. Although he is shy at first, he warms up to people quickly. His favorite things to do are snuggling on the couch, playing soccer, and romping in the yard with his brother Ever.

Willis's journey to his forever home is one I am always proud to share because it is a testament of how important it is to show love and grace to all dogs, especially the ones who are struggling the most and difficult to handle. It is important to remember that a dog's behavior at any shelter isn't a complete picture of how he will be in a home where there is consistency, love, and peace of mind.



Ever

Ever continued from page 4

But kennel and office staff were certain that there was a great dog hidden behind that shy and fierce-looking exterior. They had seen for themselves that it took patience, consistency, and many visits from new people to break down Ever's defenses. As staff gained his trust, Ever could be found

most days hanging out in his kennel in the volunteer coordinator's office.

Ever was shy with other dogs as well, but he overcame it with patient introductions. He and Willis became fast friends, a connection that Mike honored by taking Ever into his home in May 2024.

ANIMAL CARE

- Canned cat food (paté style)
- Canned dog food (ground style)
- Dry cat and dog food (any brand) for our Community Pet Food Bank
- Pet taxis—all sizes
- Dog and cat toys
- Corrugated cardboard cat scratchers (order through www.stretchandscratch.com or www.imperialcat.com/adoptacat.php)
- Clay kitty litter (non-clumping)
- Resealable sandwich bags (such as Ziploc)
- Resealable gallon bags

GIFT CARDS

- Walmart
- Amazon
- Office Depot



CLEANING SUPPLIES

- Bleach
- Toilet paper
- Trash bags—39 gal. or larger
- Paper towels
- Dryer sheets
- Distilled water

OFFICE SUPPLIES

- 8.5-by-11 copy paper
- Letter-sized manila file folders
- Sticky tack
- 9-by-12-inch heat laminating pouches
- First-class forever postage stamps

Ordering from our Amazon and Chewy wish lists is easy

APL has Wish Lists on Amazon and Chewy. For our Amazon wish list, go to our website—apl-shelter.org—and click on the icon at the top of the page. Finding our list on Chewy.com takes a few steps. On their main page, click on “Give Back,” then “Donate to a Rescue.” Enter “Animal Protective League” in the “Find a Shelter” box to access our list. Orders from both lists can be shipped directly to APL. Your donations of much-needed items conserves funds needed to provide veterinary care to cats and dogs. Thanks!

MISCELLANEOUS

APL gladly accepts the following gently used items with no holes, rips, tears, or frayed edges.

- Bath towels
- Washcloths
- Hand towels
- Dog houses
- Wire dog crates
- Dog toys and cat toys
- Other pet supplies (collars, leashes, beds, etc.)

However, for sanitation purposes, we **cannot** accept pillows and used cat towers.

FOOD BANK

Your donations of dry food for cats and dogs help ensure that beloved pets of owners on limited incomes get the nutrition they need.

Remembering John

John Robinson “was willing to help out wherever needed,” says shelter operations manager Mary, of the volunteer who died unexpectedly in May 2024.

“Wherever needed” included a daylong drive halfway to Nebraska and back again to return APL cats to our shelter after they’d had dental work performed by APL’s former shelter vet, who now resides in Nebraska. Last summer, as a Junior Volunteer leader, John cheerfully mentored a group of teens learning about shelter work, and he was looking forward to returning this summer.

Enthusiastic and personable, he delighted last summer’s group with custom-made cards for “Werewolf,” a favorite game of the JVs. He had especially looked forward to his second summer leading a group of Junior Volunteers, leaving those he had mentored in 2023 disheartened on their first day.

An unappointed ambassador for APL, John was unfailingly polite and kind, and he enjoyed chatting people up. A former IT specialist for the Walt

Disney Company in California, John was in his element when he was tinkering, whether with computers or ideas about ways to streamline routine tasks around the shelter.

John also loved dogs. He enjoyed taking shelter dogs for walks, and he could be found cleaning kennels when the staff needed help. But he loved no dogs more than his own two—Odin, a one-eyed rat terrier he adopted from APL in May 2023, and Thor, a Cairn terrier from Sangamon County Animal Control, that he took home a few months later. We know he’d be happy that both have found new homes.

Those who knew John miss his wit, creativity, and good cheer. We are grateful for the time he was with us. It just wasn’t long enough.



APL volunteer John Robinson led a group of Junior Volunteers in 2023 and was looking forward to the same this summer. Sadly, John passed away in May 2024.

We’re chill!

Thanks to generous donors who made possible the purchase of a new refrigerator for the shelter’s isolation unit. It’s in place and doing what we

want it to do: keeping medications, vaccines, and special food cold and frozen dog treats frozen.

Many warm thanks to these donors:

Dennis & Susan Belk
Ann Hopkins
Genevieve & Joe Segretto
Lyle & Cherrilyn Johnson
Sheryl Turpin

Ley Metals Recycling
Mark & Kelly Jacob
Deborah & Richard Dirksen
Michael Burk
Donald & Margaret White

Mary Beth & Ash Boysel
Roston Cooper
Anonymous



Donors provided the funds to purchase a new refrigerator to safely store vaccines, special food, and other animal necessities. Though it may not store what your own refrigerator keeps, we’ll bet you set stuff on top of yours the way we do!

We could really use . . .

When an organization like APL oversees the care of thousands of cats and dogs each year in our shelter and spay/neuter clinic, you’ll appreciate our need for technology. The purchase of three Chromebooks—essentially small computer tablets—will improve the efficiency of electronic recordkeeping. And guess what: those little computer wonders get cats and dogs into homes quicker!

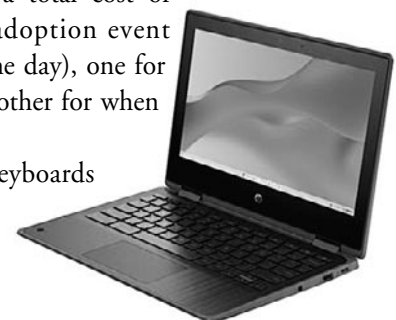
How is that? Since APL began using Chromebooks at off-site adoption events, adopters no longer must travel to the shelter to sign and complete adoption documents; they are completed on the spot. Before, adopters often had to wait until the following day or weekend to complete paperwork. Imagine finding “the one,” only to have to wait to take him or her home.

We already have three well-used Chromebooks that are constantly being juggled among staff and

volunteers, with the priority being availability for adoption events. At offsite adoptions, Chromebooks quickly access medical records we keep on every animal—records that are easily forwarded to adopters, saving us time creating and copying paper files. Even cats and dogs in the shelter and foster homes have improved chances of being adopted quicker because potential adopters can view photos and records of animals not at the event.

Three more Chromebooks at a total cost of \$1,500 are needed: one at each adoption event (sometimes we have two on the same day), one for adoptions at the shelter, and still another for when all the computers are in use.

One more thing: The smaller keyboards on Chromebooks make them less inviting for cats to walk on!



OUR NEW VET

WELCOME TO NEW SHELTER VET, DR. CATHY BEST

Shelter veterinarians remain in high demand and short supply, making APL especially fortunate to have Dr. Cathy Best on staff. The veterinarian shortage, which has hit private practices as well, has prompted increased veterinary costs and longer waits for visits. In response, some vet schools have increased enrollments, and several new vet schools have been established.

At a time when veterinarians are in such short reply, readers will understand why we're overjoyed that Dr. Cathy Best has signed on as APL's full-time shelter vet! She began working part-time in late 2023 and moved to full-time this spring after leaving private practice.

APL's founding spay/neuter clinic veterinarian, Dr. Richard Speck, was instrumental in attracting Dr. Best to APL. The two had worked together years before at special Sunday spay/neuter days sponsored by APL before our clinic opened in 2006, and he's "been after me ever since," she says, to join the clinic staff. After twenty-four years in private practice, Dr. Best was ready for a change.

A native of Pennsylvania, Dr. Best moved to the Midwest three decades ago to attend the University of Illinois School of Veterinary Medicine, and she's been in Illinois since. What was



We are so happy that veterinarian Dr. Cathy Best left private practice to provide care to cats and dogs in our shelter. She can be found examining and treating animals in the shelter, performing surgeries in the clinic's operating room, and administering vaccines to privately owned dogs and cats at APL's monthly wellness clinics.

her motivation for becoming a vet? She says that, like many of her fellow students, "I was a farm girl and watched *All Creatures Great and Small*" [the original series] broadcast on PBS from 1978 to 1990.

The change from private practice to shelter medicine has been a welcome one. Now she gets to help animals without

regard for an owner's finances. "I used to recommend APL" to those who couldn't afford veterinary care. "Now I get to help critters without worrying" about an owner's financial situation. "It's better to be on this end" when animals need help, she says.

Not surprisingly, Dr. Best has several pets of her own—one hound dog mix ("I usually have one dog at a time") and five cats, with the number of felines varying "wildly."

When not caring for cats and dogs, Dr. Best likes to garden, raising both vegetables and flowers, the latter which she is slowly converting to native species.

Now, after spending a few months becoming familiar with the shelter and getting to know APL's staff, she is quite comfortable in her new work setting. Laughing, she says, "It's the right kind weird." We might add, "She's the Best kind of weird."

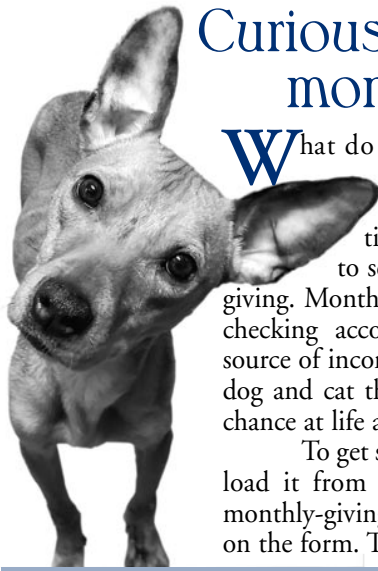
Honor a loved one with a personalized brick



If you haven't, take a walk around the Memorial Garden near the front entrance to the shelter. The path is paved with personalized bricks bearing messages of love, remembrance, and thanksgiving. Is there a special person or a companion animal that's you'd like to honor with a brick on the walkway?

Personalized clay bricks create the path around the Memorial Garden. You'll find an order form on our website: www.apl-shelter.org/brick.

The beautifully crafted engraved clay bricks are a permanent part of the garden. Choose either a 4" x 8" brick with up to 3 lines of text for \$100 or a 8" x 8" brick with up to 6 lines of text for \$200. You'll find an online form on our website: www.apl-shelter.org/brick. Stop by the shelter or call (217-544-7387) if you need a printed form. Proceeds from the sale of the bricks support APL's life-saving work.



Curious about monthly donations?

What do these 258 donors know that you don't know? Well, probably a lot of things! But as far as monthly donations go, they know that it's easy. Easy to set up and easy to keep track of their giving. Monthly donors—through a credit card or checking account—provide APL with a steady source of income that ensures every sick or injured dog and cat that comes through our doors gets a chance at life and health.

To get started, complete the form, or download it from our website—www.apl-shelter.org/monthly-giving—and send it to APL at the address on the form. Thanks!



Thanks to our monthly donors

through June 30, 2024

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Kathleen Kenyon
Charles King Jr
Michael Kislung
Julie and Donn Klor
Gary and Valerie Koch
Robert Krawczyk
Jill Krippel
Deborah Krohe
Justin Kurfman
Tamy J Kuzel
Lawrence and Judith Lafary
Sharon LaFollette
Nancy Laird
Ricky Lanham
James and Stacey Larson
Brad and Tara Leiningner
Heather Lenhart
Heidi and Peter Leu
Laurel Leuenberger
Gwen Lewis
Michael and Nancy Long
June Ludwig
Gabriel and Madaline Luhn
Lynn Luttrell
Beth Maney
Greg Manfroi
Patty and Randy Marcolini
Dale and Myrna Marfell
Margaret Richard and Molly Gray
Mary Hudgins and Richard Schachtsiek
Michelle McAnarey
Tara and Bill McAndrew
Tina McCausland
Linda McCord
Sylvia McDonald
Teresa and Jim McLean
Chris and Kathy Mehuy
Patricia and Lawrence Melaik
Paul C. Miedema
Judi and Jim Miles
Nova Mizeur
Autumn and Gregory Moses
Tony Moyer and Dana Cowan-Moyer

Yes! I want to donate to APL using automatic withdrawal



Please clip or copy this form and return it to address on this form.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Please make a monthly deduction from my checking account

\$100 \$50 \$25 \$10

Other _____ (please, not less than \$5)

On the 1st 10th 25th of each month

I am enclosing a blank check marked VOID. APL cannot process your donation without it.

Signature _____

Please make a monthly charge to my credit card

\$100 \$50 \$25 \$10

Other _____ (please, not less than \$5)

Name on card _____

Visa Discover MasterCard

Exp. Date _____

Card number _____

Security code (3-digit code on back of card) _____

Signature _____



Return to: Animal Protective League
Attn: Deana Corbin
1001 Taintor Road
Springfield, IL 62702-1766

Dan and Yvonne Mueller
Jeff and Maribel Mueller
Lisa Natale
Judy Neff
Justin Negro
Jennifer Nicholson
Luann Nicolosi
Janice Nobbe
Tracye and Greg O'Connor
Felicia Olin
Kendra Onnen
Gunes Ozyurt
Nicole Pacheco
Pate Trucking
Mark and Suzanne Pettyjohn
Betty Pfaffl
Gilbert Pritchett
Thom Pritchett
Jennifer Rada
Randy Sullivan's Training Center Inc
Daniel Rappaport
Ken Rausch
Joseph Reese
Gary and Jeana Reinbold
Paula and Kenneth Reveal
Tad Rice
Chris Richey
Pat Richey
Mike and Lori Roate
Connie Roberts
Samantha and Pat Roesch
Sonja Rogers

Jonathan and Marsha Rohrer
Audrey Roman
Blake and Sarah Ross
Nina and Edward Rossini
Rebecca Rowe
Christina Roy
Linda Runles
Lynne Rynders
Anna Sakach
Elena Samoilova
Nichromelt San Diego
Amy Schmidt
Connie Schneider
Evelyn Schumacher
Brian Schwartz
Virginia Self
Kathryn Seymore
Robert Shaefer
Darren and Diane Siltman
Denise Simon
Kathleen Smalley
Donna Smith
Mark Sommer
Val Sommer
Dean and Deborah Spindler
Deb Stahl
Phil Steinberg
James Stewart
Sarah Stone
Barbara Stults
Mark and Michelle K. Sullivan

Aaron and Catherine Szerletich
Claire Cooper Tapscott
Rebecca Taylor
Mary Theyssen
George Thomas and Deb Bonner
Jim Thompson and Sandra Easdale
Suzanne Traylor
Diane Treat
Lisa Trone
John Valtierra
Cynthia VanEtten
Larry and Patricia Wade
Veronica and Micah Walk
Richard and Lorine Wallin
Donna Walters
Julie Wargo
Claudia Warren
Charlene Wasilewski
Kris Weaver
Karen Weidhuner
Val Sommer
Therese Weitekamp Martin
Ashley Welker
Sandy Wemple
Sam and Kathleen Wheeler
Randy Winchester
Sharon Wunder
Daniel Yuhas



Deana Corbin
and Ping

Donations
of antiques,
housewares,
toys, and every-
thing else make
our Annual
Upscale Sale
a successful
fundraiser.

Reflections of the **EXECUTIVEDIRECTOR**

Donors made 2024 Upscale Collectible Sale possible

A volunteer at our 2024 Upscale Collectible Sale noted that we were generous in our thanks for volunteers who spent days preparing and selling thousands of items for the benefit of APL animals. Missing though, she said, was similar recognition of those who donated the myriad items that made the sale possible.

So let me give a shout to all of our supporters whose donations of antiques, housewares, toys, holiday décor, exercise and camping equipment, books, and other items provided us an important source of income. As readers well know, APL can accomplish as much as we do because volunteers devote their time to staffing adoption events, cleaning, and walking dogs. And there always are volunteers behind the scenes helping with sewing, filing, and photographing our cats and dogs.

But what leads eager customers to the annual sale is the wide array of reasonably priced



Every item you see in this photo was donated by someone who took the time to consider what to donate to our annual sale, packed it up, and delivered it to the sale site. Without donors and their donated goods, there could be no sale.

items. By the looks of the merchandise, it appeared that many donors to the sale were downsizing or simply paring down their possessions (thanks Marie Kondo!) We are grateful that donors held onto boxes of toys and housewares, as well as such larger items as chairs, tables, and medical equipment until our 2024 sale came around. Antiques are passed

along for another person to treasure. Framed pictures find new walls to adorn. Gently used toys become treasured playthings for toddlers.

Thank you again for taking the time to identify, load, and transport your donations to the 2024 Upscale Collectible Sale. Quite literally, we couldn't have done it without you!

Round up your credit and debit purchases to help cats and dogs

Here's an easy way to donate to APL: sign up for the automatic rounding up of your debit or credit card purchases.

How does rounding up work? Purchases you make are rounded up to the nearest dollar and the difference is donated to APL. All those less-than-one-dollar donations add up to make a big difference. To start, grab your credit and debit cards, go to APL's website—www.apl-shelter.org—and set up your account with the secure, third-party vendor.

Receipts are provided for tax purposes, and participants can cancel at any time. Frequent card users will likely exceed the \$9.99 per month minimum. If not, the amount will be rounded up to \$10, meaning if you've accumulated \$8.78 through your purchases, an additional \$1.22 will be added so that your total donation is \$10.

Get started on our website: www.apl-shelter.org/round-up-for-rescues. Thanks!



Make your legacy improving the lives of cats and dogs

Create a free estate plan online

Calling all friends of animals! August is National Make-A-Will Month, and FreeWill.com makes creating estate planning documents easy and free. We encourage you to support the future of the Animal Protective League by naming APL as a beneficiary. **Here's what you can achieve in just 20 minutes:**

- Ensure that your loved ones—whether they have feet or paws—are cared for and protected.
- Gain the peace of mind that comes with having your affairs in order.

- Support the lifesaving work of APL and ensure its future of protecting vulnerable cats and dogs.

More than one million people have trusted FreeWill to help them create a will and protect all they love, all with no cost or hassle. Your information won't be sold to other entities, so there are no follow-up solicitations. Discover the potential of your legacy by starting your quick, easy, legal, and free **will** today at www.FreeWill.com/apl.



Dueling Pianos was more than entertainment for Sunny, a two-and-a-half-year-old pit bull terrier mix who mingled with the crowd at the March 2024 fundraiser. The aptly named Sunny, a transfer to APL from Sangamon County Animal Control a month prior, went home with her new owner on March 9.

You can help APL dogs find new homes

Do you like dogs? Need a dog “fix” but can't take on the full-time care of one? You can make a life-altering change in a canine's life by volunteering as a dog handler.

Our dogs would love to see more of you! Volunteer dog handlers have so much to offer dogs who are awaiting new owners. With more handlers, dogs have more opportunities for walks, romps in the play yard, and participation in special events. The extra exercise (in addition to their twice daily walks) is good for their bodies and minds, leaving them healthier and happier during the times they are kenneled.

Handlers who are comfortable taking a dog where people gather—at APL adoption events, special events, festivals, and community gatherings—place dogs before new audiences. More exposure increases the likelihood a dog will find his forever home.

With a little time and training, you'll be able to experience the joy of making a difference, one wagging tail at a time. Sign up to volunteer through APL's website: www.apl-shelter.org/new-volunteer.

NEWSBites

You may think it is hot, but it is far worse for the paws of animals who are much closer to the ground. When it is 87 degrees air temperature, asphalt is 143 degrees. Paws will get burned. If it is too hot for your bare feet, it is too hot for theirs.



APL's Donuts & Dogs June fundraiser attracted runners and walkers of all ages. Here, determined young people were quick off the starting line.

Cats gotta scratch that itch to scratch!



Our shelter does our best to set up cats for success in their new homes by providing scratchers for their cages and in our open rooms. Cats who learn to use cardboard scratchers are more likely to turn to them instead of furniture when the urge to stretch and flex their paws strikes. And the scratchers are therapeutic, helping to alleviate stress and anxiety.

Don't wait to order scratchers and have them sent directly to APL. Our cats are itching to scratch! Order from these vendors:

- www.stretchandscratch.com
- www.imperialcat.com/adoptacat

You can be a life-saver!

Temporary homes needed, especially for kittens

Puppies, kittens, and adult dogs and cats need temporary homes all year, and never more so than in the summer and fall. Some are too young for adoption and need a place to thrive until they're ready to go to new homes, others are recovering from illness or injury, and some need the calm of a quieter home.

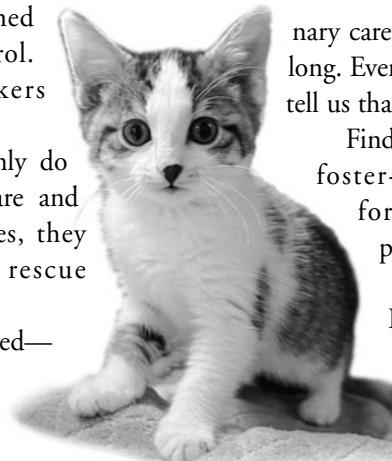
During warm-weather months, kittens sometimes arrive at APL's shelter by the dozen, especially if nearby animal-control agencies are flooded with intakes. Just a couple of months ago (June 2024) APL sent out a plea for foster homes so that we could take in one hundred kittens from an overwhelmed Sangamon County Animal Control. Thank goodness foster caretakers rose to the challenge!

Fostering is life-saving. Not only do these special volunteers provide care and comfort to their furry housemates, they make it possible for APL to rescue more animals.

APL provides everything needed—food, bedding, crates, any medications, other supplies, and veteri-



Kittens, including the cuties here, have flooded our shelter this summer.



nary care. The commitment can be short or long. Even a week can make a difference! Just tell us that you're available.

Find out more at www.apl-shelter.org/foster-homes. There's an application form there to get you started, or pick up the form at the shelter. If you have questions, text or call Leah at 217.801.3298.

Don't wait to get started saving lives!

NEWSBites

Cats are popular largely thanks to their interesting personalities, which are both independent yet needy and affectionate. These characteristics could be a product of our naturally developed relationship. While dogs have been selectively bred to love and trust us, cats have been left to their own devices and likely still see themselves as independent but view humans as a potential source of food and shelter. *International Fund For Animal Welfare (IFAW)*



Create a lasting legacy of your love for cats and dogs

Make a planned gift to the Animal Protective League

Your planned gift is a promise to help the most vulnerable cats and dogs. Ones that have been abandoned, neglected, and abused . . . are sick and injured . . . or surrendered to animal-control facilities where they may face euthanasia.

Your support will help ensure that funds will be available in the future to ensure the welfare of cats and dogs.

Give the gift of life and love to the neediest animals in the following ways:

Make an estate gift—either a specific dollar amount or a percentage of your estate—to APL.

Designate APL as the beneficiary of an insurance policy, annuity, trust, or retirement plan assets.

Talk to us about defining your legacy of love for animals, and then consult an attorney or financial planner for guidance in making a planned gift. For additional information, email ahaven@apl-shelter.org, or phone 217.544.7387.



Do you sew?

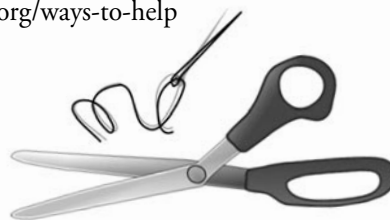
If you sew, we'd love to have you make one or more of these to provide privacy and comfort for dogs and cats:

- Kennel curtain
- Cat cage curtain
- Trap cover

The patterns are simple and could be a beginner's sewing project. There's no need to purchase fabric if you have old sheets (in good condition), or even old clothing. Buttons and elastic may be needed, depending on the pattern.

How many do we need? A bunch! The cats and dogs in our shelter will be grateful for every one we get, although we doubt that the feral cats will appreciate your work on the trap covers.

You can find the patterns on our website: apl-shelter.org/ways-to-help



If you sew, you can provide privacy and comfort for dogs and cats.

Pen Pals help APL dogs and cats

Be a Pen Pal. It's easy. An engraved tag with your brief message will be affixed to a cat cage (\$100), outdoor dog run (\$100), or indoor dog kennel (\$250). Or sponsor a room (\$1,000) and have your message engraved on a plaque. Pen Pal plates and plaques are displayed for one year.

You'll find the order form on our website—apl-shelter.org. Click on "Donate," then "Pen Pal." We can also email or mail you a form. Just ask! Contact Evelyn Taylor at etaylor@apl-shelter.org or 217.685.1610.

Current Cage & Kennel Sponsors through June 30, 2024

In memory of Little Bun (cat cage)
Sue & Steve Arnish

Thank you to sponsor (cat cage)
Charmaine Black

In memory of Margie, our sweet little APL adoptee (cat cage)
Larry & Linda Smith

In memory of Jill Schuele (dog run)
Connie Hess

Honoring Sambo (cat cage)
Beverly Evans

In honor of Mary West & Jean Northrup (cat cage)
Katherine McGuire

Thank you to sponsor (dog run)
Paula Ferrier

In memory of Sasha & Mattie (dog kennel)

William & Pamela Andrew

Thank you to sponsor (cat cage)
Sharon Wunder

In loving memory of Aunt Jan
Christie Hovey

In memory of Mini & Abby
Joseph & Marla Pisarek

In memory of Jack-Jack
Jean Scherer

In memory of Kevin J. Cox
Linda Cox

In memory of Peggy Dean (cat cage)
Ronald Dean

Rex, Enjoy long runs again (dog run)
Scottie & Diane Beville

Current Room Sponsors through June 30, 2024

In honor of APL animals, staff and volunteers
F. Lucille Foster

Thank you to room sponsor
Kathy Giannangelo

In memory of Ronald & Barbara Coleman
Ron Coleman Jr.

In memory of Glinnis and Charles (Bud) Holler
Their family

Current Cage & Kennel Sponsors

through February 15, 2024

Thank you to sponsor (cat cage)
Meredith & the Mahoney Cat Team

In memory of Dan Malensky (cat cage)
R.K. Rees

To Toonces & PB, the best loaner cats ever!
(cat cage)

Mike & Lori Roate

In memory of Jim Doyle (dog run)
Marti Doyle

I want to be a Pen Pal and help APL animals!

Here's my order:

I want to sponsor the following:

- \$100 cat cage
- \$100 outdoor dog run
- \$250 dog kennel
- \$1,000 room

Pen Pal donors help APL care for senior dogs like Tempress.



Please engrave the plate (cat cage, outdoor dog run, of dog kennel) with the following name/brief message

Your name (please print) _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Please make checks payable to APL and mail to 1001 Taintor Rd., Springfield, IL 62702. Credit card payments accepted at the shelter and online at www.apl-shelter.org.

SPECIAL THANKS TO...

Richard Zuraski for a grant through Fidelity Charitable at the recommendation of the Salus-Zuraski Charitable Giving Fund
Nancy Bahre & John Langfelder for another generous grant through Schwab Charitable
Edie Family Charitable Fund and **Deborah Edie** for recurring grants through Schwab Charitable
Michael & Karen Beckmann for a grant through Schwab Charitable
The King's Daughters Organization Fund through the Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln for a generous grant
Springfield Rotary Foundation for a generous donation
Ley Metals for generously funding a new refrigerator
Aaron Hodel and Alyssa Galster for their generous donation of supplies
Employees of Levi, Ray & Shoup, Inc. for a donation from a casual day event
Russell Harrison for a donation through **River View Farms**
Addison Hohimer for conducting a drive that resulted in a large number of needed supplies being donated to the shelter
Trinity Lutheran Church-Women With Mission, for a special donation
Best Friends Animal Society for generous, on-going support
AARP Chapter 195 and **Joyce Fuiten** for a donation

Glass Doctor for repairs made to APL shelter's front door
Todd Donley of Donley Trucking, Williamsville, for donating and spreading gravel on APL's driveway
June Stark and Desiree Johnson for proceeds from a homemade bracelet sale
Susan Danenberger and Danenberger Family Vineyards for ongoing donations
Bank of Springfield, Giganti & Giganti Fine Jewelry, and Staff Carpet for choosing APL as a beneficiary of the 39th Caddyshack Open
Coalition of Rainbow Alliances and Brian Sylvester for a donation from their Food Drive
Fiona Grimaldi for a special donation
Carrie Barlow for a donation to purchase toys for the animals
Jerry Gaston for a beautiful quilt wall hanging for use in APL's shelter and a quilt for silent auction for Trivia Night
Sharron Lafollette for a new picnic table for APL's Junior Volunteer program
BJ Grand Salon for a generous donation
DuBoise 3-5 ASD Room for a generous donation
Girls on The Run, Sanford School, for a generous donation
FedEx for a generous donation
Dr. Robert Lowenthal for donating medical supplies and syringes

Liam & Owen Albaugh for a donation of cat supplies
Dennis & Susan Belk for fully funding a new refrigerator
Center for The Visually Impaired, Springfield Noon Lions Club, Little Flower Catholic School, Springfield Knights of Columbus Quarter Auction Group, and Springfield Rotary South for inviting Development Director Lexi Haven to speak about APL
Adam Solomon of Soloman Colors, Inc. for providing the following staff with funds to donate to APL: **Aaron Szerletich, Stefanie Paul, Lee Williams, and Josh Decker**
Sarah Smerz and Rocki of The Morning Show for weekly featuring APL's Pet of the Week on **WNNS Radio WICS Newschannel 20** production staff and midday anchors **A.J. Gersh, Alexandria Rayford, and Nick Patrick** for hosting APL's Pet of the Week segment
Butler Funeral Home and Cremation Tribute Center for ongoing support.
Joe Blankenship of Dog Class Professional Dog Training for his hard work and support for the dogs at APL
Nate Shephard of Rediscover Your Dog for supporting training dogs at APL
George Rank's for hosting a Chili Cook Off and donating the proceeds to APL

Christy Freeman, Jeff Williams and DIM Art House for organizing the APL/DIM Art House Gallery Show
Scoop Du Jour, Chatham, for hosting the APL/DIM Art House Gallery Show
Win, Lose, or Draught for hosting a Celebrity Bartender fundraising event for APL
Spartan Valley Olive Oil Center and Gyros Stop for hosting a Block Party fundraiser for APL
Big Steve for promoting APL Events on **WYMG radio**
Lillian Peterson for donating garage sale proceeds to help cats and dogs
PetSmart on Veterans Parkway for hosting weekly adoption events with APL
Petco on Veterans Parkway for hosting first Saturday of the month adoption events with APL
Maribis of Springfield for hosting an adoption event with APL
Camping World in Springfield for hosting an adoption event with APL
The Cats' Pyjamas Cat Café for partnering with APL to foster and adopt APL cats
Springfield Ski & Boat Club for hosting the Touch-a-Truck fundraising event for APL
Girl Scouts of Central Illinois for hosting an adoption event with APL

Five Star Veterinary Center for hosting an adoption event with APL
Wolf Creek Farms for their Beautiful Mother's Day petunias and donation of extra flowers
The Worship Team, First Cumberland Presbyterian Church, for a donation
Judy Mann, Dubois ASD Room, and Allen Grady for a donation
Grant Middle School for cat and dog food
Henry Benati for a donation in lieu of birthday gifts
Comfort for Critters for handmade blankets
Ozzy Couperider for a donation in lieu of birthday gifts
Christina Yoc, Farmer's Insurance, for items
Grace Place Clothes Closet for items
Sugar Creek YMCA Youth for dog toys
Denise Kerhlikar for a generous donation
Miss Jr Lil Pawnee, Tinsley Lewis, for dog food and supplies
Fit Club for towels
Home Community Education for handmade cat pads
Bill Doran Company for supplies
Rochester Junior High Social Justice Club for pet supplies
Chase Bank East Side for pet supplies and canned cat food
Serve Illinois Day of Living for towels

APL thanks everyone who contributed to the success of its **2nd Annual Dueling Pianos: Ryan Levi and Levi, Ray & Shoup Inc.** for Presenting Sponsorship; **Tito's Handmade Vodka** for Platinum Sponsorship; **Bank of Springfield** and **Butler Funeral Home and Cremation Tribute Center** for Gold Sponsorships; **Fine Finishes Inc, R.Watts Electric Inc., Raising Cane's Chicken Fingers** for Silver Sponsorships; and **Proforma DLC & Associates** for Bronze Sponsorship. **Dannenberger Family Vineyards, Unique Enchantments, Springfield Lucky Horseshoes, Gyros Stop, Penny Lane, Sky Zone Trampoline Park, Peases's at**

Bunn Gourmet, Gypsy Soul, Indigo Restaurant, Capital City Music, Bella Boutique, 1st and 3rd Boutique and Wine Bar, Bella Milano, The Rail Golf Course, Fire & Ale, Village Tea Room, Flourish Flower Company, Cooper's Hawk, Reimaginings by Peggy, All About Wine, Malibu Jacks, Willow and Birch, and Car Wash City for generous donations to the silent auction. **Mike & Cortney Fortune**, owners of **Thirteen Stripes Live Edge Furniture** for creating and donating a handmade Black Walnut bar table.

Special Thanks — *continued from page 18*

Vaida Keen for birthday gift cards
Lillian Stevenson for donating the proceeds from a garage sale
UTG, Robert Half, Horace Mann, Garter, Davita, Caterpillar, Abbott Laboratories, AT&T, CSC, and IBM for matching their employee gifts to APL

Nancy Hay for a generous donation on behalf of her son
St. Agnes 8th grade class for supplies
Serena Selinfield Girl Scouts of Central Illinois for support

APL thanks everyone who supported the **Annual Upscale Collectible Sale** and made it a successful fundraiser: **Raising Cane's Chicken Fingers** and **Bank of Springfield** for Co-Sponsoring the event. **Route 66 Motorheads Bar and Grill, Raising Cane's Chicken Fingers, Taco Gringo, Scoop Du Jour, George Ranks, The Stadium Smokehouse Bar and Grill, The Curve Inn, and Evelyn Taylor** for sponsoring lunches for APL Volunteers, **Carmax** and **FedEx employees** who helped with setup and teardown. Thank You to **ALL Volunteers** who donated their time to staff the event.

BRODY



He's young and handsome and ready to go! The three-year-old pit bull mix is looking for a home with lots of opportunities to run and play. Brody enjoys pouncing on and chasing a ball.

APL thanks everyone who contributed to the success of its **Spring "Wonka" Trivia Night: Vancil-Murphy Funeral Home, Title Sponsor; Tito's Handmade Vodka, Co-Sponsor** and for donating merchandise for the Best Decorated Table prize; and **Raising Cane's Chicken Fingers, Co-Sponsor, Bank of Springfield, 2 Round Sponsor;** the following Round Sponsors: **Robin Watts and R Watts Electric Inc., Heartland Credit Union, Curry's Family Pharmacy, Gyros Stop, Scoop Du Jour, Tails to Remember, First Church of the**

Brethren, Die Hard Games. Special Thank you to our **In-kind Sponsor Peases's at BUNN Gourmet** for donating **Special Prize Round** gift baskets of candy to each member of the winning team. **Big Steve from WYMG, Betsy Buttell,** singer/actor and **Mary Jo Curry** and **Michael Rapier of the Mary Jo Curry Band** for being **Celebrity Judges.** **Linda Gudel** and the **Columbian Grand Hall Staff** for helping with setup and service.

APL's Memorial Garden

In loving memory of Kay Petard her beloved pets, with love, The Bandy Family

Sean Bandy

In loving memory of Abigail Edwards. She shared her love and heart with all living creatures. Rest in peace Abbey

Beth Edwards

My Mother Mary loved helping abandoned pets who she raised

Sandy White

Placing a brick in our peaceful garden is a wonderful way to remember a person or pet, or to honor a living person, pet or event. for information about ordering a brick, find the form on our website. Please be aware that there is a lag time between placing orders and receiving the bricks because a minimum number of orders is required before the company will begin production.

AXEL



Axel, a handsome seven-year-old pit bull mix, is a true sweetheart. While he may prefer to be the only furry friend in the household, his love for his human companions knows no bounds.

APL thanks everyone who contributed to the success of its Annual Donuts and Dogs 5K Fun Run/Walk: **Jenifer Sellers, State Farm Insurance Agent,** for water station sponsorship; Gift of Hope Donor Network for Promotional Sponsorship, **Bank of Springfield** for Doggie Pool/Cool Down Sponsorship, **Raising Cane's Chicken Fingers, R.Watts Electric Inc., Silver Sevens Gaming Pub and Parlor, Heartland Credit Union, Five Star Veterinary Center, Johnson & Johnson Auto Service Center, and Peaceful Tails End-of-Life Veterinary Care for T-Shirt Sponsorship.** Special

thank you to **Esporta Fitness, Big Jake's Dog Treats, Brookhills Golf Club, Sky Zone Trampoline Park, and Raising Cane's Chicken Fingers** for donating prizes to the event. Thank you to **Hipstress Hailey's Color Portal, Esporta Fitness, Raising Cane's Chicken Fingers, Gift of Hope Donor Network, Big Jake's Dog Treats and Cornett Sno Shack** for being vendors at the event. Special thank you to **Mel-O-Cream** for donating donuts to all 5K participants and **Butler Funeral Homes and Cremation Tribute Center** for donating bottled water to the event.

UPCOMINGEVENTS

Illinois State Fair Camping and Parking at APL..August 3 - 19
 Kitten Circus at APL, 12 p.m - 5 p.m.August 31
 First Sunday Midwest Bazaar at Orr Building,
 8 a.m. - 4 p.mSeptember 1
 Get Your Licks on Rt. 66 at ScheelsSeptember 24
 Boo Bark at Stuart Park, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. October 19
 APL Chili Supper at Columbian Grand Hall October 27

Fall Trivia Night at Columbian Grand Hall,
 7 p.m. - 10 p.m.November 8
 APL Giving Tree November 23 - Dec 31
 First Sunday Midwest Bazaar at Orr Building,
 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.December 1
 Wreath Pickup at APL, 12 p.m - 5 p.m. December 6-7
 Tree of Lights at APL, 5:30 p.m.December 14

Gravely injured kitten finds life and love

Blind luck

By Evelyn Taylor

No one thought the small orange kitten would survive. His forehead was terribly swollen, most likely from a vehicle strike, and he was, as one staffer described him, “flat out” when a kind woman from the Pawnee area brought him to the shelter. He was in such bad shape that there seemed no point in vaccinating him, a standard for new intakes. Then he had a seizure.

But the two-month-old kitten unexpectedly made it through that first October night, and then the next day, and the day after that. The staff named him Escanor. As Escanor recovered, it became clear that he was blind. Disoriented and safely caged where staff could keep an eye on him, he spent his waking hours circling in place, a common behavior following a brain injury. Unable or unwilling to eat on his own, the staff fed him by spoon and syringe.

Once recovered from the initial trauma of his accident and with no more seizures, Escanor went to a foster home Thanksgiving Day for care and to follow his progress in adjusting to home life. Confined to a cage at first, he quickly began eating on his own. He put his circling behavior to use by walking in ever-expanding circles until he found his food dish. No matter the time of day he loved to be held.

Then it was time to see how Escanor coped in larger spaces. Placed in a “corral,” he circled only when trying to find something: his little house, food dishes, and litter box. Though foster kittens are typically kept isolated from cats already in the house, Escanor was an exception, with



Even in December 2023—two months after he arrived at APL with a frightful head injury—Escanor’s brain was still healing, as evidenced by his nonsymmetrical eyes.

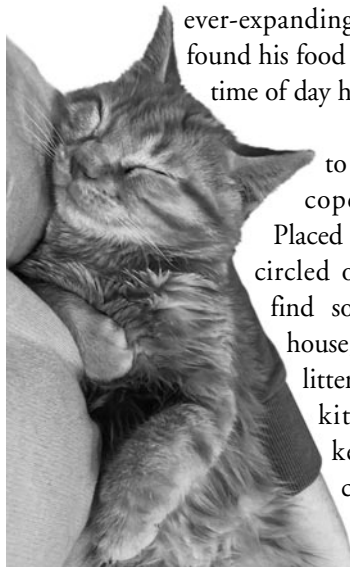
the adult cats jumping in and out of his corral to snack on his food and use his litter box. The adult cats were, for certain, acting out of gluttony and convenience, but they were teaching Escanor how to interact with other cats. And soon they had taught him how to climb out of his corral!

In much larger house-world, Escanor explored on his own and followed the adult cats, sometimes trying to grab their tails. At three weeks in his foster home, he began to chase them, expertly avoiding chair legs and other obstacles. In the evening, especially, when the sound of thundering cat feet interrupted the quiet, Escanor was typically the cat in pursuit.

Escanor’s time in a foster home prepared him to be available for adoption in February. But it turns out his foster caretaker wasn’t prepared to give up the charming orange tabby, and his adoption was finalized on April 16, 2024.

Thank goodness Escanor’s rescuer brought him to APL. Thank goodness for shelter vet Dr. Cathy Best and the loving care of shelter staffers who coaxed him through recovery.

Escanor has fully adjusted to his permanent home and its human and feline occupants. With those confusing and painful weeks behind him, the now-seven-pound cat is living his best life—a life that was unimaginable when he arrived at APL’s shelter gravely injured and near death.



Escanor, shown here in his adopter’s arms proved irresistible to his foster caretaker. His adoption was finalized in April 2024.

VOLUNTEER!

Help animals in need, learn new skills, and make friends. As a volunteer, you’ll have the opportunity to assist with such tasks as feeding and walking animals, cleaning kennels, socializing cats and dogs, and helping with adoption events. We also offer training and education programs to help you develop your skills and learn more about animal care.

Start by completing the volunteer information form on our website at apl-shelter.org/volunteer. If you have questions, email volunteer@apl-shelter.org. If you do not have access to our website, call 217.544.7387 ext. 227. We hope to see you around the shelter!

Bequests from wills/estates received by APL

The Animal Protective League was the grateful recipient of special bequests from wills/estates of the following people. APL is honored to have earned the trust of these donors, and will use the funds to protect and provide for needy animals as was their wish.

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DONATE YOUR VEHICLE to benefit APL

Got a car, truck, motorcycle, boat, or RV that you'd like to donate to help our cats and dogs? You don't have to drive or tow it to a dealer! APL will take the vehicle off your hands and use the money to support our shelter operations. Donors will need a clear title to the vehicle and car keys. Vehicle donors incur no expenses—even for vehicles that are no longer in driving condition.

For additional information, call APL at 217.544.7387.



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Take your aluminum, brass, copper, and old radiators to Lake Area Recycling, 2742 South 6th St., Springfield, and ask them to credit the earnings to APL. We appreciate the company's support.

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You can make it happen

APL is all about stretching our budget, and you can help us get free kitty litter by signing up at www.catspride.com/litterforgood. Click on the "Sign Up Now" banner and follow the simple

instructions to nominate (vote) for APL. It's easy. It's free. And just a couple minutes of your time can help us save thousands of dollars a year. Thanks!



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In memory of

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"Da Dawg" Fredericks

Ray Fredericks

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Mindy & James

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In memory of

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Marsha &

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Sabina Jennings

In memory of William

& Aldona Klutnick

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for their birthdays

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Dolores Knox

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Paula Tolbert
Daniel & Diane
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In memory of
Terrance Tranquilli
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Paul Carlson
SPECIAL NOTICES
In honor of Laura
Kinney's recent
birthday
Andrea Campbell
In honor of
Dr. William Severino
Brian & Deb DeLoche

In honor of all living
creatures, especially
kitties
Janet Bryan Davis
In honor of my
fur babies
Jim & Nancy White
In honor of
Carol Bedini
Carolyn Camille
In honor of Dave
Oswald's recent
birthday
Beth Szilagyi
In honor of
Susan Beard
Gary L. Hampsmire
In honor of Audrey
Rovey's sweet spirit
Brazilla Leonard
In honor of
Michael Keeton
Lauren Keeton
In honor of Scott M.
March on Father's Day
Catherine Marcy
In honor of Christopher
Demeroukas
Michelle Demeroukas

Gifts to APL in memory of beloved pets

Diesel, beloved pet
of Brentan Hickman
Mona Hickman
Malcolm, dear pet
of Brigid Leahy
Megan Swanson
Ralphie & Rani,
loved pets of Stephen
Sandercock
Laura Hamilton
Dakota, cherished
black lab of Kelli Lewis
& Don Seidens
Debbie & Steve Shanle
Odie & Jack, beloved
pets of Mr. & Mrs.
Kyle Lucas
Karen Downey &
Aaron Bowman
Sadie, beloved dog of
Dan & Anita Troemper
Dwight O'Keefe
Moma Cat & Gingles,
our cherished pets
Charles &
Janice Perino
Peppy, my beloved
tuxedo cat
Sunda Papp
Lucy, dearly loved dog
of Dave & Lynn Miller
Kathy & Steve
Rothenberg
Bella Isabella Rossellini,
Murphy Boy, Benji,
my loved pets
Carolyn McGeath
Tommy, beloved pet
of Janet Williamson
Pat Schlobohm
Mazie, my four-legged
buddy

Mike Castelletti
Sadie, cherished dog
of Lisa Murphy
Bea Leonard
Maddie, treasured
dog of Ryan &
Jessica Gibbs
Kevin & Rita Schultz
Dan, beloved cat of
Dale & Ardith Mueller
Rita & Kevin Schultz
Jake, our dear cat
Janet & Todd Baker
Precious, my
beloved cat
Carmen Koches
Mr. Duke, beloved dog
of Cheyenne Stratton
Emory Wellman
Baxter & Stella,
beloved pets
Charles &
Elizabeth Smith
Miss Abbey Herbek,
cherished Bichon of
Barbara & John
Herk
Alice L. Smith
Bella & Oscar,
beloved pets
Gary Ori
Juno, best friend
and beloved pet
Michelle McAnarney
Chico, sweetest pet
of Mike & Linda
Krawczonek
Stacy Boss
Sophie, beloved pet
of Theresa Moore
Chris Reid

Bobby, dear pet
of Marie Novy
Christy Delaney
Chopper & Nestle,
beloved pets of
Robert Stults
Tracy Morgan
Bo, my dear pet
Tracy Morgan
Cheese, beloved
kitten of Cindi &
Rick Norman
APL Family
Henry, treasured kitten
of Helen Seymour
APL Family
Skye, dear pet of
Dee Kowalski
Debbie Maras
Roxie, beloved pet
of Michelle Ronan
Deanna Muzzy
Ava, dear pet of
Bobbie Martin
Michelle Stratton
Big Boy Jax, our
cherished pet
Chris & Bridget
Conlon
Sir Charles Brandon
& Lady Jane Gray,
our beloved cats
Richard Schachtsiek
Emma, my deeply
loved cat
Debra Kinsey
Jake, my beloved pet
Tim Wagoner
Zoey, my dear pet
Loretta Muench

Tubby, my treasured
dog
Jody Altun
Bailey, our beloved pet
Judi & Jim Miles
Saphira, my
treasured dog
Ann Beard
Brandy, my beloved pet
Ann Beard
Simon, my dearly
loved pet
Beulah Allison
Cinder, our
treasured pet
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Camden, my
beloved pet
Kathy Cox
Mia, my cherished pet
Janet Eagen
Snickers, my
dearest pet
Kim Lupall
Baker, our beloved pet
Janet & Todd Baker
DD, my treasured pet
Mellissa Hurley
Snickers, by
beloved pet
Marilyn Fromm
Bella, my beloved pet
Trisha Fluckiger
Toby, my dearly
loved pet
Chyenne Taylor
Junior, my beloved pet
Kathleen Clark
Buddy, my beloved cat
Logan Thornton

Hope, my treasured pet
David Davis
Marley, my dearest pet
Kathy Bell
Ellie, my beloved pet
Karen Hav
Frankie, my
beloved pet
Rebecca Page
Maci, my cherished pet
Deb Stahl
Bo, my dear pet
Tracy Morgan
Cole, my beloved pet
Lisa Waters
Frank, my beloved pet
Jane Joost
Charpann, my
treasured pet
Lee-Ann Buragner
Zaty, my cherished dog
Sherry Smock
Daisy Mae, devoted
dog of Jerry & Patty
Lorton and Katie
Dave & Carolyn
Lorton
Colt, beloved cat of
Melissa Campbell
Ed & Judy Wollet
Chachi, beloved pet of
Christine Barber
& Family
Deborah Santini
Louise, my
cherished pet
Max Corlas
Peach, dearly loved pet
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Pebbles, Sue
Thompson's

beloved cat
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Ginger, dearly
loved pet of Don
& Alyce Foster
Mary Culp Daugherty
Mindy, our deeply
loved dog
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Missy, my
beloved friend
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of Mr. & Mrs. Steve
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Teddy, treasured dog
of Patricia McGovern
Jan Droegkamp
Parther, beloved cat
Cindy Mosley
Clous, beloved pet
Robin Watts
Jaci, treasured dog
Sharon Conboy
Lola, dearly loved dog
Ann Vaughn
Molly, cherished pet
Mike & Margie Sgro
Bella, beloved pet
Severino Family
Jack/Lily, beloved pet
Joe & Cherfel
Breslada
Oliver, beloved pet
Luke Laker
Sophie, cherished dog
Laurie &
Rich Karman
Gimpy, beloved cat
of Evelyn Taylor
Diane Cape



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Office hours: 8:30-11 a.m. and noon-5 p.m. every day

Visit animals by appointment*
noon-5 p.m. every day

SHELTER PHONE: 217.544.7387

APL WEB SITE:

www.apl-shelter.org

APL SHELTER EMAIL ADDRESS

info@apl-shelter.org

Interested in adopting? To begin the adoption process, please complete the online adoption application. The office will follow up with an appointment time.

AVAILABLE FOR ADOPTION

REEKA Reeka is a delightful three-year-old pit bull mix brimming with love and affection. She would appreciate a calm canine companion, but don't expect her to befriend a cat. Gentle and communicative, she would be a wonderful addition to any household, especially for one wanting to add a second dog to the family.



NOXEEMA Miss Noxeema Jackson (her full name) is a dignified nine-year-old Siamese who embodies grace and tranquility. She spends her days lounging in her cozy cage, where she welcomes affection with gentle licks and a soft paw inviting head pets. A sweetheart who enjoys quiet moments and gentle companionship, she can become overstimulated with too much fuss.



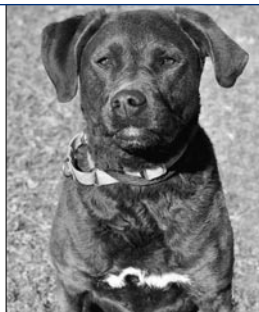
LOUISE Louise is a delightful two-year-old Labrador Retriever mix dog whose heart is as big as her personality. The epitome of friendliness, Louise doesn't know a stranger. She's playful and energetic, never passing up a chance for a game of fetch or a brisk walk. Yet she also knows when it's time to relax, offering a gentle presence when you need a calm companion. Louise is in a foster home, so call the shelter to set a time to meet her.



DILLY Sweet Dilly arrived at our shelter as an injured, underweight, unkempt stray. Clearly, the outdoors had not been a happy place for her, and at some point she picked up the FIV virus (which weakens the immune system) likely from a bite of an infected cat. Provided with conscientious care, though, she may well live a normal lifespan, Dilly's laid-back nature is reflected

in her preference for cozy and comfortable spots to lounge snuggled into a soft blanket.

BLUE Blue is a five-year-old Chesapeake Bay Retriever mix with boundless enthusiasm for life. Playful and friendly, she wants to have the kind of home life she had for four years before her owner became ill. If you're searching for a loyal and spirited companion to share your adventures and brighten your days, Blue is ready and waiting to meet you!



SCRUFFY We don't know how this handsome orange fellow came to be called Scruffy. He was found as a stray and required medical treatment upon his arrival at the shelter. The ten-year-old gentleman has a laid-back attitude and a heart of gold. You'll find him blissfully lounging in his home at the shelter. With his affectionate purrs and contented snoozes, Scruffy is sure to bring peace and joy to the heart of his new owner.



Check out these great cats and dogs—and lots of others—any afternoon from noon to 5 p.m. at APL's shelter, 1001 Taintor Road, north of the Illinois State Fairgrounds.