



Furry Tails



Huron Humane Society
3510 Woodward Ave.
Alpena, MI 49707

www.huronhumanesociety.org

Adorable Adoptables go PUBLIC!

For about a year now, Lori Stephan and the staff at Real Estate One of Alpena have been sponsoring a weekly meet and greet, highlighting a new Pet of The Week in an effort to get more exposure for the animals.

Every Thursday, Real Estate One of Alpena is the buzz around town, via Facebook and on the airwaves as people tune in to their favorite media outlet, and log onto their Facebook account—to get real-time updates on the success of the meet and greet!

The Huron Humane Society Board of Directors came up with the idea to host off-site meet and greets on a regular basis in an effort to meet people halfway. *“Not a lot of people want to physically come out to the shelter, because it’s not the most glamorous environment.”* according to

Executive Director, Natalie Francis. *“The shelter is clean and the animals are very well taken care of; but for the faint of heart it can be sad to see the overpopulation of abandoned animals, and we understand that.”*

WATZ covers the Pet of the Week during the HHS’ weekly broadcast, True North Radio and Alpena Now.com provide media blitz’s throughout the day and The Huron Humane Society Facebook Administrators do a great job of narrating the days events.

If you haven’t made it to one of the meet and greets you should stop in to Real Estate One of Alpena on a Thursday between the hours of



Remi— Recent “Pet of The Week” lounges around the office at Real Estate One of Alpena

10am and 4pm. The featured pet of the week is alternated between cats and dogs. Even if you’re not in the market to adopt right now—stop in to show your support.

Thank you Lori Stephan and the Staff and Real Estate One of Alpena—for helping us adopt out many animals over the past year. You’ve made a lot of families very happy!

- HHS Staff, Animals and Volunteers



Summer/Fall 2010

What’s the Scratch at the HHS?

Board of Directors:

Lori Stephan—President

Jessica Hatch—Vice President

Gail Freeman—Secretary

Shirley Mischley—Treasurer

Deanna Harrison—Trustee

Deb Ward—Trustee

The board of directors meets the third Tuesday of every month at 6:00pm at Real Estate One of Alpena.

Shelter Hours:

Tues —Fri 11 am—4:30 pm

Saturday 11 am—3:00 pm

Closed on Sundays & Mondays

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An Honest Look Inside the HHS

Every quarter I sit down to write the newsletter and find that I have so many powerful things to say... but when it comes time to publish the little-bugger I end up editing most everything out for fear of controversy or the possibility that I'm just being too honest for the public's literary desires.

Instead we end up with cutesy little puppy and kitty stories designed to pull on your heartstrings and cause you to think for a minute... But this time I wanted to cause you to think for a FEW minutes.

Let's face it, the shelter is far from glamorous and most people don't even want to step foot through our doors. Offering many viable reasons like

"I would want to take all the animals home."

But sadly... from where our staff and volunteers sit – we could only hope that were the case. You see – The HHS staff knows the day-to-day all too well. I owe my co-workers and HHS volunteers' a moment to be truthful with the public about some *not-so-pretty facts*; and although none of them had the time (can't imagine why) to sit down and write me a note from their perspective I will do my best to capture a shelter employee and volunteer's perspective.

First, I want to start by introducing you to the HHS staff that you may encounter on any given day.

Tina Rettie – a.k.a. Tiney is part of our caring staff. Tina is the girl that is heard, audibly carrying on conversations with many of our animals. She surpasses the "typical" sweet puppy/kitty talk and jumps right to the real conversations. We love her and have been blessed to have her on staff since August of 2009.

Matt Orr – Matt is the latest team member at the HHS; having only been there a short 3 months however, he has already made furrrever friends! Matt is a true dog lover who radiates compassion for working with dogs in regards to training and behavior issues in every area of his work. You will likely find Matt teaching manners and basic commands to the dogs while he is cleaning their living area. He has a way of handling the animals that makes all the difference in their rehabilitation! Thanks Matt and keep up the good work

Kelsee Stemkowski – Kelsee is a super dedicated staff member. She started at the HHS years ago. She used to come out to the shelter with her mom and volunteer several nights during the week and on Sundays. They would willingly clean kennels, walk dogs, replenish food and water for the dogs and cats. Kelsee has been a dedicated employee. She became a permanent staff member in October of 2008. Thank you for all you do Kelsee!



Gail Robbins – Gail is a true picture of what selfless work looks like. Gail will tell you that she loves all the animals. Feline or canine.... But she radiates selfless

love when she's taking care of our many homeless cats and kittens; many times in her own home! Gail volunteered for about 4 months and was hired on permanently in February of 2008.

Heather Gleason – a.k.a. The Cat Lady... if you have been to the HHS you know who she is! She has a very enchanted-like way with the cats in our shelter. She may have been a cat in a previous life... we don't know. J We just know we adore her compassion and dedication. Heather has been at the HHS since December of 2004.

Natalie Francis – Natalie has been at the HHS for the longest of all of our staff. She came to work for the shelter in 2003. Not to say that all of our other staff and volunteers aren't essential, because they ARE! But Natalie is the glue that holds our organization together on a daily basis. She loves all of the animals, and has a true compassion for the animals that need that extra bit of care to make them adoptable. I think the staff and volunteers will agree – that she is the grounded-level-headed **sanity** that we all need to help us function in a tiring and emotionally draining environment.





An Honest Look Inside the HHS *CONTINUED...*

(I hear her laughing as I write this)

“What Does Your Staff Do Exactly?”

Well, here’s a short list of some day-to-day tasks....

answering phones, cleaning (to include poop scooping and creative mess-management), transporting animals to and from the vet, managing community service workers and inmate labor volunteers, organizing shelter “stuff”, ordering food, coaxing the scared and visibly-shaken animal away from the road

after being abandoned in the middle of the night

and sometimes tied to the mail box or nearest tree etc. with the worlds shortest rope after he/she has been tormented by coyotes and God knows what all night long, medical care of injured or sick animals, wiping the tears off your co-workers face when she gets overwhelmed, unloading vehicles, loading vehicles, shoveling snow, mowing the lawn, fixing broken doors/moldings/fencing etc., fielding phone calls (to include those *not* related to the care and or placement of homeless dogs and cats) i.e. “Why are black dogs so hyper? I don’t think I want mine anymore.” or ...

“Do you have any little dogs that will fit in a purse... cause I want one to match my Louis Vuitton... its green.”

and my *personal* favorite...

“Can you come pick up my rabid-aggressive dog in your personal

vehicle and deal with whatever it is that’s going to probably happen to him after attacking the small child next-door? I mean after all I AM a taxpayer and you’re employed by ME!” , chasing animals through the thickets when they slip their leash or just plain sneak out the door, and many more tasks...I’m sure you get the gist of it. You see.... The truth of it is that each and every one of our dedicated staff and volunteers know what it means to be at the shelter on any given day. They give up their comforts, their pre-conceived notions about saving every animal are forgone, their ability to leave work at work becomes less and less, and their dedication to a self-less cause is stellar and to say the least, commendable.

The point of this article is not to make anyone feel bad for our staff but to hopefully get you to think... perhaps I will cause you to move outside of your comfortable way of thinking, or maybe even motivate you to tell someone about us.

Like *really*.... tell someone about us. We need all the help we can get – and are thankful to all of our supporters. If you feel compelled to help, please let us know. I guarantee your time will be well spent inside our doors. And please – if you’ve never visited the shelter, stop out! We’d love to show you around.

There are no words that can describe the conditions in which we function. It’s extremely emotional but quite happy at times though...

nothing says unconditional love like a big sloppy dog kiss right square on your smacker or like a cat jumping on your shoulder

to offer a quick and caring snuggle with the hopes of getting you to stop for a second and remember why you are there.

And finally....Here’s the honest truth about our funding source... You ready? 87% of our funding comes from you. We depend on 87% of our livelihood, 87% of our available funding for food, shelter, medicine, and other resources to come from our local communities. (The remaining support is obtained through government allocation, i.e. Alpena County, Township of Alpena and the City of Alpena.) Our local supporters dropping their membership renewal in the mailbox is so crucial to our survival. Every penny counts and no amount is too small. We understand, all too well what hard-times look like and we know that our local communities are struggling to get by. All that I ask is for you to read this article with an open mind, an open heart and a willingness to help. We’re doing the best that we can, with all that we have. Together.... I think Alpena and the surrounding areas can make a difference in the functionality of the Huron Humane Society.

For more information on the Huron Humane Society, ways you can help or to inquire about upcoming events – please feel free to email me at volunteers.alpena@gmail.com.

Thank you so much for your support and I hope to see you out at the shelter real soon!

Sincerely,
Val Williams,
Fundraising Coordinator



Pet Photo Contest



Huron Humane Society Pet Photo Contest

3510 Woodward Ave.
Alpena, MI 49707
989-356-4794

www.huronhumanesociety.org



We're looking for special pets to feature in our 2011 People's Pet's Calendar. Your creativity and skill with a camera; coupled with your pets amazing looks could win a spot in it! Upon publication this winter, we'll sell the calendars with all proceeds benefiting the Huron Humane Society.

Contest Rules:

- All photos must be "non-professional"
- Each photo may include no more than 4 animals
- Photos should be 3" x 5"
- Photo resolution should be at least 300dpi (no ink jet photos please J)
- Photos that are blurred or have red-eye will not be accepted
- Photos will not be returned – So remember to keep a copy for yourself J
- Judges will be local Alpena animal lovers
- Entries must be received by September 24th 2010**
- A signed entry form along with the \$10 entry fee must be submitted with **EACH** photo
- Make entry fee checks payable to: *Huron Humane Society*
- Winners to be announced **no later than** November 27th
- Voting tallies will not be made available to entrants or the public until contest is complete

Please send entry form and \$10.00 entry fee with photo to the Huron Humane Society by September 3rd, 2010

HHS Photo Contest Entry Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Pet's Name: _____

Pet Info: Male Female Age: _____ Breed: _____

1st Choice Month: _____ 2nd Choice Month: _____

Pet Owner/Guardian Signature: _____

As owner/guardian of the pet(s) and as the individual who holds the rights to the photo, by signing above: I grant the Huron Humane Society full and complete rights to use the submitted photo for use in the future. I understand that I will receive no compensation for use of the submitted photo.





HHS Motorcycle Run a Success!



For six years the HHS has held their annual Cruizin' for Critter's Motorcycle Run in early June in an

effort to raise funds for the operational Budget .

Years past have generated near \$3,500 of much needed funds to help us sustain our daily operations.

The 2010 Motorcycle Run was a huge success! Denny Mayo, Chief's Bar and Grill, and many volunteers devoted countless hours and resources (both financial and otherwise) to the organization of our 2010 run.

And the efforts paid off. This years Motorcycle Run generated just over \$4,100 of much needed financial support!

Thank you Denny, Brian, Chief's Staff, the riders and all of the volunteers who helped to make this years run a success! We couldn't have done it without you!

- *The Animals of the HHS*

Save the Date—HHS Annual Gala Celebration:

March 19, 2011

Every year the Gala Planning Committee, a group of very talented volunteers, come together in the fall months to support the Huron Humane Society. These volunteers have been meeting for six years-faithfully and dutifully in an effort to pull together the Huron Humane Society's largest fundraiser—The Annual Gala Celebration.

The Annual Gala Celebration has brought in as much as \$15,000 in years past and we are hopeful that we will meet and/or exceed that number for 2011!

The committee members: Kathy Garant, Barb Chrzan, Lynn Kendziorski, Deanna Harrison, Natalie Francis and Val Williams

organize the event in it's entirety from the items available for live and silent auctions right down to the napkins on the VIP table. Each year they work extremely hard to bring in new and exciting auction items in an effort to attract more and more people. The 2011 event is already boasting their signature Disney Vacation Package for a family of four complete with Airfare, Golf Packages from all over Michigan for the golf enthusiast, jewelry items, priceless artwork and a few surprises!

If the Gala is an event that you have not attended in the past, you should mark your calendar and plan to come. The even will be held on Saturday, March 19, 2011; Tickets are generally

\$35.00 per person which includes the prime rib/chicken roma dinner complete with many sides, salads and dessert; and admission to the live and silent auction. The event is held at the Holiday Inn of Alpena who is known for their impeccable service and faithful support for the Huron Humane Society. So mark your calendars—you don't want to miss the HHS Annual Gala Celebration!

If you would like information on joining the planning committee or more information on the 2011 Gala, please contact Val at

989-306-0314 or via email at **volunteers.alpena@gmail.com**

We hope to see you there!





Don't Chance Losing Your Furrrr-Ever Friend!

Each year thousands of lost and abandoned animals are taken in by shelters and humane societies across North America.

Some of these animals never make it home because they can't be identified. Microchipping offers pet owners the only truly permanent method of identifying your pet and linking the animal back to you.

Collar tags can break or become unreadable and tattooing can become illegible. Increase your pet's chances of getting home safely and take advantage of our discounted offer today!

Reasons to Microchip Your Pet

- Only true permanent method of pet identification
- Best chance of your pet returning to you after going missing
- Quick and painless procedure, similar to vaccination
- Lasts for the lifetime of your pet

Standard Microchipping Rates of \$50.00 per pet discounted to \$40.00 with use of this coupon.

Appointment necessary to qualify for discount. Some restrictions may apply - not valid with any other offer. Contact the HHS to schedule your appointment today.

**\$10.00 off
Microchipping
For Your Pet**

Call The HHS
to Take Advantage of this offer TODAY!

*Huron Humane Society
3510 Woodward Ave
Alpena, MI 49707
989-356-4794*

Offer Expires 9-30-2010





Charlie's Plea



I'm **Charlie**—the senior-dog that lives in the lobby and front office of the HHS. I'm pretty comfortable at the shelter and I don't envision getting adopted anytime soon; I would prefer in fact, to stay by Tiny's side and get the love and care I never knew. There was a time however, when I wondered if my frail and feeble body would ever know love.

At 10 years old my family

abandoned myself and my brother leaving us to fend for our selves. Thankfully a caring soul found us and helped us get to the HHS. We had no idea why, couldn't imagine what we had done that was so awful; only that perhaps they just couldn't afford to take care of us anymore, or perhaps.... We were just too old. Who knows... However, as scary as it was adjusting to the shelter life, my brother was adopted and I have been completely rehabilitated! When I arrived at the shelter I had not been groomed.... EVER! My ears were matted to my legs....

Can you even imagine? I am getting more and more healthy everyday, thanks to Tiny! She has shown me what love really is and helped me look and feel so much better.

If you know of a n animal that is being mistreated, neglected or abused—don't sit by and let it go on. I was fortunate to be released from a neglectful situation—but I am the exception. Contact the HHS for info on how YOU can help rehabilitate abandoned animals like myself.

989-356-4794.

Doggie Obedience Takes a Positive Turn

Susan Ratz of Grooming By Susan has been a longtime supporter of the Huron Humane Society. Susan has assisted with many of the abandoned animals that have come to the shelter in need of some extra TLC.

Susan specializes in grooming and obedience. She helped with Charlie (story above) when he came to us matted and neglected beyond belief. She has also worked individually with some of our shelter dogs in an effort to make them more adoptable.

Now... Susan offers not only her **grooming** services through Grooming By Susan but she also offers **obedience training** for dogs and their people!

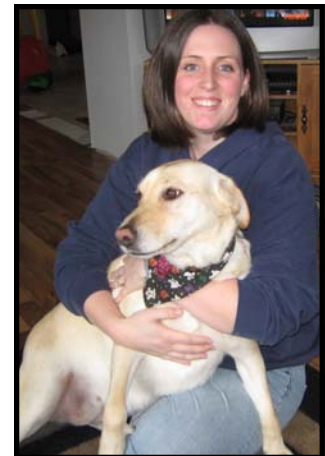
Susan's Group Obedience Classes begin Mon Sept. 13th at 5pm. All

fully vaccinated dogs are welcome! This class uses balanced training techniques with an emphasis on the positive! In this class dogs and owners will learn basic commands. Classes are 1hour long and will run every Monday for 7weeks, the cost is \$100 a dog.

Susan also offers Private Training/ Problem Solving Lessons for dogs that need more one-on-one help or are having some behavior problems. She always offers free evaluations for private sessions, rate: \$40/session (approx 1hr), or 6wk... private obedience \$200. Don't wait until your dog's behavior gets out of hand, do something about it today.

And certainly—if you're bringing home a puppy - consult with a trainer to assist in basic training concepts.

Call for more info or to schedule your consultation with Susan today! 989 -590-2395



Susan and Her Adopted Dog
Nina

*Huron Humane Society
3510 Woodward Ave.
Alpena, MI 49707*

Phone: 989.356.4794
Email: manager.hhs@verizon.net
www.huronhumanesociety.org



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We Speak for Those Who Cannot Speak for Themselves



Help Us... Help The Animals

HHS Wish List

- Laundry Detergent
- Soft Cat Food
- Kitty Litter
- Dog Treats
- Dog Beds
- Paper Towel
- Linens i.e. Sheets, Towels, Blankets etc.
- Bleach
- Fabric Softener
- Printer Paper
- Office Supplies
- Collars & Leashes

- Lifetime Family/Couple Voting Membership..... \$150.00**
- Lifetime Individual Voting Membership..... \$100.00**
- Family/Couple Voting Membership (Yearly)..... \$40.00**
- Senior Voting Membership (Yearly)..... \$20.00**
- Individual Voting Membership (Yearly)..... \$25.00**
- Student Voting Membership (Yearly)..... \$10.00**

*Do You Wish to Receive the Newsletter Electronically? **Y** or **N***

If YES—Please Supply your Email Address _____

Use "Donate Now" Button online at www.huronhumanesociety.org

OR Send this form with your donation in the attached envelope.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Please Specify the type and amount of membership dues or donation.

New Membership _____ Renewal _____ Donation Amt\$ _____