



# PAWPRINTS

HUMANE SOCIETY OF  
PUTNAM COUNTY  
Volume 4 Issue 2  
Winter 2007-08

## Feral Cat Plea: from the Fabulous Five

I have a story to tell you. My name is Starfish and I was found on the streets left to fend for myself. Someone trapped me and brought me into the shelter. I tell you that I was scared to death and unsure of my fate. The shelter workers were very nice to me and gave me a special quiet room where I could relax. They would come in and feed me and my room-mates and I began to trust them. I was the brave one and came out first. Soon after two more followed. We can now be petted too. We got tested and spayed and now we are ready to find a new home. We may take a little longer to warm up but give us a chance. I feel so lucky to tell you my story.



**Your lucky Starfish!**

Hello. My name is Neptune!! I too was given the feral label. Well, I can tell you one thing, I was scared to death when I came in. Talk about a change of environment!! I have settled in quite nicely in our special room. I really like my new friends too. I am the rough housing one of the bunch and like to bop everyone on the head. I am playing but sometimes they think I am a bully. I need a friend that likes to play. I am not afraid of people anymore. It may take me a little while to adjust but I will be fine and you will just love me!! I am a great catch!



**Neptune Tom**

“I was a feral kitty.”  
“Now I am a shelter kitty”...  
“What could be next?”  
“YOUR KITTYY?”

### Our other Room-Mates



**Zeus**



**Petunia**



**Ferrah**

We are all in search of the same happy ending. A loving home would be the best Christmas gift we could ever hope for.  
*The Fab Five!*

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- We have seen first hand that these wonderful creatures can become adoptable pets. The shelter is researching and collecting information on how we can start a TNR (trap-neuter-release) program in Putnam County. We are looking for volunteers to help get the ball rolling in 2008. Please contact Lainie Settecasi at 317-513-5168 or the shelter at 765-653-5739
- Most importantly please spay and neuter your own pet.

## HOW CAN YOU HELP? Feral cats in our community

Feral cats are the 'wild' offspring of domestic cats and are primarily the result of pet owners' **abandonment or failure to spay and neuter** their animals, allowing them to breed uncontrolled. Feral cat 'colonies' can be found behind shopping ar-

reas or businesses, in alleys, parks, abandoned buildings, and rural areas. They are elusive and do not trust humans. Studies have proven that **trap-neuter-release** is the single **most successful method** of stabilizing and maintaining healthy feral cat

colonies with the **least possible cost** to local governments and residents, while providing the best life for the animals themselves. Putnam County has several feral colonies.

### How can you help?

## Pantha' Homerun: Thru Pantha's Eyes



### "Pantha"

"it was those eyes that drew me right in"  
Dennis Ponzio

***Petfinder.com helping animals at the shelter find forever homes. Pantha is one lucky cat to have found Dennis.***



Pantha says, "Give us a chance, we come around and make wonderful pets"



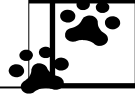
**Little Blake. A shelter resident plays Peek-a-Boo!**

Momma cat and I (Baby Boy) were surrendered to the shelter in the spring of 2007 due to a family move. Very saddened of our change and we were put into separate cages. Things looked up as we were re-homed together through the Petsmart Adoption Program. Well, I was the mischievous one and got us both into trouble. They called me a menace and we did not fit their lifestyle. Strike one! Placed again into a different home, Strike Two for me!! I guess they figured out it was me that was the trouble-maker. They kept Momma and we were separated and back to the shelter I went. Things did not look good for me until my foster angel stepped up to the plate. She has a "thing" for big black cats and my brown eyes pleaded to her for help. I was now placed in a home that had 3 HUGE dogs and quite a few felines. Well, needless to say I was the low kitty on the totem pole. Rambo Kitty is in charge here so I better mind my manners. I tried to snuggle up close to my foster mom but had to fight my way through a menagerie of 4 legged critters. It was not worth it so I

opted for sleeping on her feet. Oh don't get me wrong, she loved me just like all the others but she had a plan for me. Leash training, yes you heard me, leash training. I am de-clawed so thoughts of a therapy cat were in order. I got my picture taken while I was sunning outdoors and my coat was shining. My eyes of brown were intriguing too. A new nick name was given as well, Panther, now I liked that. A brief description of me and my mug was placed on PETFINDER. And my game begins.

Dennis Ponzio, who resided in Milwaukee Wisconsin was surfing the web in search of a third kitty to add to his family. Somehow Dennis typed in the wrong zip code and landed on our site. It was love at first sight. Dennis dreamed of someday owning a black panther. Dennis emailed my foster mom and later realized of his mistake and would not be able to get Panther due to the distance. Now my foster mom is very good at working things out if this was going to be my future home. A family was adopting a pup (Reno now named Jord) from the shelter and they

too lived in Wisconsin. After speaking to this wonderful family, they were happy to get me to my new home. Two cats would be my companions, Khyber and Asia, and of course Dennis would be my new master. This is going to be fun!! Now, my foster mom warned Dennis of my past, but had only seen a few issues with me, counter jumping, leaping in the refrigerator, and lying in the path of human feet. She told him if it does not work out, she wanted me back. Here are some of my tricks that I have played on Dennis. I figured out how to turn lights off and on since they are touch censored. At 3:00 am I like to turn them on and when Dennis is dressing at night, I turn them off so he can not see. I lie in his path to see if I can trip him; I jump on the counter to steal his evening meal (rib-eye steak). I pull his hair at night because I want some attention, Dennis tells me he has not much to spare. I have knocked down things off counters and I try to blame the other two, Dennis does not buy it thou. I have been compared to the ex-wife due to all my whining. I steal



### Pantha's story continued

the others food at any chance. He calls me a pig, the devil, and a few other choice words. He has an Italian temper, but he only stays mad at me for a few minutes. I thought he renamed me "NO" because he says that a lot, but has given me the cool name of "Pantha." I tend to get sprayed with the bottle and spend some time in the "time-out room" under Dennis's bed. Khyber and Asia think its funny when I get into trouble and they lie by

the door as if they are "On Watch" to make sure I do not sneak out. When I get on the counter, they tattle on me too. I am just looking for some cheese which is my favorite snack. I know I have brought some life into this place and keep ole Dennis on his toes. Dennis emails my foster mom and signs off with "No you're not getting him back", or "Nancy, what have you gotten me into?" But I know we are made for each other. Dennis takes me to the

park on my leash, now how cool is that? He lets me snuggle up close at night too. I believe there is someone out there for each one of us. When you adopt a shelter pet, give it some time, we come around. It has been about one month since I have been here and I finally decided this is where I want to stay. I have been minding my manners a bit more but of course I do not want life to become boring. I thank my lucky stars for HSPC for not giving up on me, my foster momma

for believing in me, PETFINDER, and of course Dennis and the Motley Kitty Crew. I have scored a HOME-RUN!! Now I am HOME safe!

Pawsitively Perfect Together,  
Dennis and the Menace (Pantha)

Bailey with the "dog woman" getting a much needed hug!



### NOT AN ANGEL: Author Unknown

NOT AN ANGEL...  
The young pup and the older dog lay on shaded sweet grass watching the reunions. Sometimes a man, sometimes a woman, sometimes a whole family would approach the Rainbow Bridge, be greeted by their loving pets, and cross the bridge together.  
The young pup playfully nipped at the older one. "Look! Something wonderful is happening!" The older dog stood up and barked, "Quickly. Get over to the path." "But that's not my owner," whined the pup, but he did as he was told. Thousands of pets surged

forward as a figure in white walked on the path toward the bridge. As the glowing figure passed each animal, that animal bowed its head in love and respect. The figure finally approached the bridge, and was met by a menagerie of joyous animals. Together, they all walked over the bridge and disappeared.  
The young pup was still in awe. "Was that an angel?" he whispered. "No, son." The older dog replied. "That was more than an angel. That was a person who worked rescue."



#### HSPC ANNUAL RUMMAGE SALE

May 2008

Will begin accepting items in March

More info to be announced in the local paper



Tess (redbone) and Delilah (Dalmatian) Running Buddies at HSPC

# Paws for Some Howl-ween Fun!

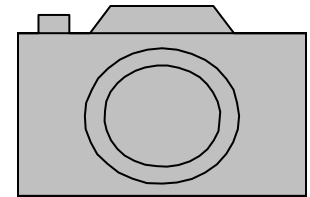
By **Rachelle LeJeune**

Ballerinas, princesses, batmen, witches, fairies, pirates, and Indians filled the streets of Greencastle, but the cutest trick-or-treaters of all, were three of our furry friends from Putnam County Humane Society. Athena, Tyson, and Hope donned bright costumes and marched contentedly alongside Supervisor Katie Brown and volunteers Cherisse and Rachelle LeJeune, all of which handed out candy. While some of these costumes were meant to scare the bravest of souls, the dogs show-

ered every child with puppy kisses regardless! To see Michael Myers, Frankenstein and mummies laughing as the dogs licked their hands is a sight not often seen. All three dogs loved the attention they received and patiently sat while dozens of costumed children crowded around to pet them. A hoot and howling good time was enjoyed by all!



*“Halloween” a recipient of the foster care program Foster Care Program*



**A SPECIAL THANKS!**  
**Earl Huddleston** has devoted his time and patience volunteering at the shelter taking photos of the animals. Earl does a outstanding job and captures the animals in such a way! These photos are placed on Petfinder.com and are also on our website. A great picture and the perfect story is what helps them find a good home. Many adoptions have occurred and we have reached many surrounding states. Often a family will travel 5-6 hours just to adopt one of our special friends.

## Magnificent Morris (Felv +)



Morris, a shelter stray, had much charisma and charm. Morris warmed his way into everyone’s heart he met. Morris was tested and the results were positive for Feline Leukemia. Morris seemed so healthy and full of life. This disease is usually fatal but research is showing that a cat can live many years with proper care and nutrition. It is contagious but they can be placed with another feline that has the same diagnosis. Morris was placed on PET-



*LUKE...A Special Needs Lab. Luke is blind and was taken to the shelter in hopes of finding him a home. A very special dog indeed..found his way into a wonderful home that has a guide dog for his new companion.*

FINDER and his lucky day came. Gabrielle, a graduate student from ISU was in search of a companion for her FELV cat named Malcolm. Gabrielle made a visit with her fiancé and they knew it was a match. Morris turned on the charm and his loud motor and went home that day. Malcolm and Morris quickly became best friends and wish them both a long healthy life of happiness.

Morris and Malcolm share the same outlook on life: *“Live each day to its fullest.”*



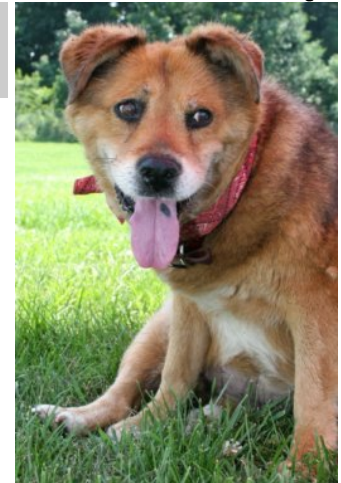


## In Memory of: Gerdy the Office Asst.

Gerdy was found roaming the streets of a neighborhood barely able to stand up from dehydration and lack of care. Gerdy luckily found her way to HSPC shelter by way of a volunteer who knew the shelter was a safe place for her. Gerdy was seen by a vet, who gave her the best of care. Blood tests were given and it seemed Gerdy was very old and any surgery may cause complications. It was decided to let Gerdy live out her life in hopes of finding a nice place to rest. Medi-

cine was given to help her feel better. She shared a special bond with Lainie, the shelter manager. Gerdy would lie at her feet and be very content as long as Lainie was in sight. The office just seemed to be her home and Rocko the shelter cat seemed to accept sharing the Office Assistant responsibilities. Her favorite snack was cheeseburgers and French fries. If Gerdy did not have long to live, she sure was going to enjoy the time she had. Gerdy

passed on October 23, 2007, but did not leave this earth unloved. Gerdy called the shelter home and she was forever grateful. She touched many lives and will not be forgotten. She had a heart of gold.



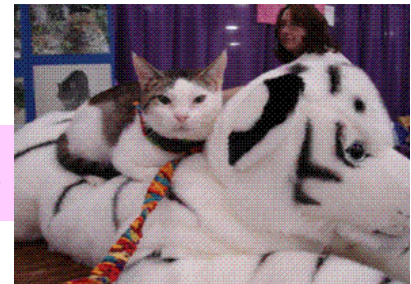
**Gerdy :One Special dog that called the shelter HOME!**

*Just this side of heaven is a place called the Rainbow Bridge. It is a place like no other and our beloved pets are there waiting to be reunited and cross that bridge together. Visit the site at [www.rainbowbridge.com](http://www.rainbowbridge.com)*

## Over the Bridge ..... "Wheezy Hudson" A very special bond between foster mom and cat    Sept. 1, 2007

Wheezy Hudson was brought into the shelter on February 13, 2006. Wheezy had a severe upper respiratory infection and needed medical care. A visit to the vet showed that Wheezy suffered a viral infection and all her teeth had to be pulled. Recovery for this princess certainly would require a lot of TLC. Heather Hudson, a cat specialist and wonderful foster mom stepped up to rescue Wheezy. Wheezy warmed her way into everyone's heart. She

traveled with the Heather and went on several family visits. Wheezy would often sport dresses or some sort of attire to fit the occasion. She only wanted to please and was always so tolerant. Wheezy attended many shelter events and was often seen in an Aldi's box raising money for shelter animals so that they would get the care that she received. Wheezy would sit hours patiently letting children pet her, dogs sniff her, and simply look adorable. Wheezy loved the outdoors and learned to walk on a leash. She had a special walk



*"Wheezy" at a special event raising Funds for medical needs.*

with a wiggle as if she knew she was cute. Although Wheezy suffered different illnesses, Heather never gave up on her and provided her with the best care. Wheezy passed on September 1, 2007 with kidney failure. Her time spent with Dan(husband) and Heather will never be forgotten and she touched them like no other cat has.

## Family Focus: The Tucker's, Williamson's, Ness's and Cox's By Rachelle LeJeune

Have you ever heard the saying, "To the world you may be one person, but to one person you may be the world?" In this case, to one dog or cat, four very devoted, patient and caring families have changed animal's lives in unforgettable ways. Many animals come thru the shelter doors confused and uncertain of their destiny. It's the volunteers and their countless efforts to have a positive effect on the animal's well-being. To see the animal wag a tail, sound off a perfect purr, keeps them coming back. It is the reward in volunteering that they can make a difference in the animal's life.

**Joe and Sheri Tucker** and their daughters, Jessica and Bridget, have made volunteering at HSPC a family mission. The Tuckers started helping in the spring and have since then fostered almost a dozen cats, raised over one thousand dollars for the shelter, and spent every free weekend and available opportunity taking care of the dogs and cats at the shelter. Sheri admitted, "The whole experience really enriches your life. I guess I'm being selfish because I'm getting something out of it too." Every member of the family has found one way or another to share their talents. Joe built numerous shelves in the cat room, and helped to create large silo to hold cat litter. As Sheri expressed, the animals are always in her head and heart. For her and her family, she believes that they see their work as a mutual need, and it has brought them closer together.

**Shelley Williamson** and her daughters Madison, Taylor, and Olivia began volunteering over two years ago when they discovered it was a fun family project and rewarding opportunity for

volunteers of all ages. Taylor found her specialty in walking dogs, and she has even earned the title as "dog woman" while her sister Olivia is known as "cat woman" around the shelter. Their mother, Shelley, expressed support of youth involvement at the humane society. "If children learn to be good to animals, they learn to be good to people as well." The animals have proven to be patient teachers of responsibility, kindness, and commitment for Madison, Taylor, and Olivia. Shelley also believes that while at the shelter it gives families a chance to focus on the animals and their needs instead of worrying about the usual rush of every day life. "The only hard part is getting attached to the animals." Williamson concluded.

"It's important to find opportunities to work with your kids says **John and Pat Ness**. They believe it is important to instill responsibility and kindness in children at a young age. "And if you can make it fun as well, why not?" After a year and a half, the Ness' and their two children, Victor and Kristen, are still making their volunteer time at the shelter a priority. Since the family does not have any dogs of their own, they are grateful for the time that they can spend with the canines. However, they still help in every way possible with all of the animals. "I find it so rewarding to see staff members who are entirely devoted to finding these animals homes instead of euthanizing them...they really go above and beyond what other shelters do." Ness commented. She also believes that the animals she and her children help care for realize that they have been saved from a certain fate, and seem to express their gratitude in one way or another. "Working with the animals will pay you back in some way or another," says Ness.

While many families often go



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so many different directions, **Juleena Cox** and her three children have continued to find time since late July to share something all of them enjoy. Cox appreciates working with her two daughters and son in the shelter environment and believes that children can learn an extensive amount of compassion for animals and people. "It's nice for them to see the value and impact of their work," Cox says. Since her youngest daughter Tessa has aspirations of being a vet, Cox believes this is the perfect opportunity for her daughter to work with animals. The Cox family also fosters cats from the shelter. "This is a great way for the kids to take on a certain amount of responsibility," Cox says. Many dogs and cats depend on the attention and care provided by volunteers, and the Cox family has never disappointed them!

*Words cannot express how thankful we are to these dedicated and caring families, so we'll leave that up to the dogs and cats to convey! Families are an amazing force when they work together, and we are grateful for their continued help and support.*



**An Angel and Chance**



## RODS AND RELICS: Supporting the shelter

This year on 8<sup>th</sup> of September the Putnam County Rods and Relics Car Club had their annual car show to benefit the Humane Society. The rain did not hamper the turn-out and they managed to double the contribution this year. With the help from local sponsors and participants the group raised \$2,000 dollars. The shelter used the funds to maintain the everyday costs of the

shelter. Rods and Relics also sponsored the rental of a van to pick up a load of pet supplies at the Wal-Mart Distribution Center. The shelter appreciates this wonderful community support and the funds are for a wonderful cause.



*“If children can learn to be good to animals, they can learn to be good to people well.”  
Shelley Williamson*

*Pictured are the Rods and Relics Annual Car Show event...Busy are the volunteers unloading supplies for the animals.*

## Hope's Light

Hello! My name is HOPE. I was a stray looking for food to nourish myself and my unborn babies. Someone shot at me and hit me in the hip. A nice person came to my rescue. I was taken to the Humane Society of Putnam County where I began to deliver my pups. I was struggling and the staff rushed me to the vet. Emergency surgery was performed and I deliv-

ered eleven pups and two did not survive. The staff stayed with me and my babies around the clock for 2 days. Sadly none survived. Although we are all saddened of my loss, my pups were very loved while they were with us. My spirits remain high and I am hopeful to find a good home. Can you help my friends at the shelter so they too can get medical care if needed?

Hope is one lucky dog. Hope has found love with her new friend Katie, a DePauw student. Katie works at the shelter and the two shared a special bond. Hope is officially the cat-care taker and resides in the cattery until to two can make the trip to Georgia. Hope is going HOME!

*Hope ... in the shelters care getting some much needed TLC.  
Soon to be a Southern-Belle*



## Buddy and Alice a Perfect Pair!

Buddy was a shelter surrender this past summer. Brought in with two others, Buddy seemed to know there were good things in store for him. Buddy sat patiently waiting for the perfect home. Buddy was chosen to go to Petsmart for a Saturday adoption event.

Thrilled to go for a ride, Buddy loaded into the van. Buddy had high hopes of going home today. Tom Sinclair came into the store to purchase dog food. Buddy's face spoke 1000 words. Tom came over to meet Buddy to say Hello! The rest is history. Buddy found

himself in a loving home with two companions. Alice a pit bull mix fell head over paws for Buddy, who is also a pit mix. It was a match made in heaven. They make such a perfect pair.



*Alice (left) and Buddy enjoy a rest after a romp in the yard.*

**SHELTER WISH LIST:**



Warm washable Bedding.



Paper Towels to help keep my home clean.

Can you donate a few hours a week? A handyman is needed to help with general maintenance around the shelter. Call the shelter if you can help. 765-653-5739



A place to call my own!



- Items needed:**  
 Computer  
 Wet/Dry Vacuum  
 Metal Trash Cans  
 Exterior Windows and Doors  
 Dog and Cat food dry & can  
 Laundry soap and bleach  
 Rocks for the driveway  
 Dryer sheets



Kitten food for me and my friends.



Toys for us play with!



Foster Homes!

Treats to keep us happy!



Volunteers to walk us!





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[www.hspcanimals.org](http://www.hspcanimals.org)

**“The Little Kitten that Could” by Heather Hudson**

I want to tell you a story about the little kitten that could. Teenie was brought into the shelter along with her 4 brothers and sisters by a garbage man who was making his rounds when he stumbled across the kittens. They ended up in my care. Teenie was the runt of the litter. We ended up combining two mom's with three litters and bottle feeding everyone trying to make sure that there was enough milk to go around. Even though Teenie was the smallest of all she pushed her way up and ate when

she was hungry. As new moms came into the house she would inset herself into these new litters so that she could continue to nurse instead of moving onto solid food like her brothers and sisters. At 2 months old Teenie weighed only 9oz and the vets didn't give her much hope. But Teenie wouldn't give up, despite a bladder infection and a herniated belly button, she continued to go where she wanted when she wanted. Teenie climbed in and out of different pens with different moms as she

pleased. With a little persistence Teenie was eventually weaned. When she was 6 months and 4.5 lbs she went to get spayed and the vet noticed that she had a polyp in her ear. It was determined that she didn't have an eardrum and that if the polyp was not removed it would continue to grow and could cause damage. Putnam Co was able to obtain a grant from United Animal Nation in California to cover most of the cost of the surgery. With a little fundraising effort, surgery was underway.

Teenie is recovering and doing wonderfully. Teenie would like to thank everyone who donated money and especially United Animal Nation of California whom without the surgery would not have been possible.

**“THE ALLMIGHTY”**



**Teenie**