



Heartland News



April 2023

SPRINGTIME IS (FINALLY) HERE!

Microchipping

Here at Heartland, we have implemented a new element to our adoptions. Along with shots and neutering, we will be microchipping every kitty that goes out the door.

A microchip is a small, electronic chip enclosed in a glass cylinder that is about the same size as a grain of rice. It is injected under the skin using a hypodermic needle. It is no more painful than a typical injection. The microchip is not a GPS device and cannot track your animal if it gets lost. When an animal is found and taken to a shelter or veterinary clinic, one of the first things they do is scan the animal for a microchip. Studies show that microchipped animals are far more likely to be returned to their owners.

However, they are no substitutes for rabies tags. Microchips are great for permanent identification that is tamper-proof, but nothing replaces a collar with up-to-date identification tags. The best reason to have your animals microchipped is the improved chance that you'll get your animal back if it becomes lost or stolen.

Once your pet is microchipped, there are only three things you need to do: 1) make sure the microchip is registered; 2) ask your veterinarian to scan your pet's microchip at least once per year to make sure the microchip is still functioning and can be detected; and 3) keep your registration information up-to-date.

Stranger

This little kitten showed up on the porch of one of our volunteers (see below left). He was a challenge to catch but he seemed to have no intention of leaving the safety on (and under) the porch. He was finally trapped and brought to the shelter.

It was fortunate for this little guy to be rescued. He has limited use of his right front paw. He gets along great in spite of this. He would definitely have been at a huge disadvantage if he had been left to fend for himself. Running, climbing and trying to escape from the dangers outdoors would have made him easy prey.

He has flourished at the shelter. He was very scared and shy after being trapped but he has settled in nicely. He loves to play with the other kittens, and it is amazing to see how far he has come. He hasn't let his limitation slow him down.

He is now neutered and current on vaccinations and has won the hearts of all the shelter volunteers and visitors. This brave little guy is ready to find his forever family and he is lucky the shelter found him - or he found us! But it will be his adoptive family that will really be the lucky ones.

He was named Stranger after appearing on that porch out of nowhere. It is very rewarding to watch a scared homeless kitten develop into a playful loving cat. He and others like him are why we do what we do. It's a win for all of us.

Stranger



One of many 2023 adoptions (so far)



Since this is our first newsletter for 2023 we thought we would share numbers and comments from 2022. It was a very busy year.

We set a record for number of adoptions for the year. We adopted out 156 cats and kittens to loving homes. Coincidentally we also took in 156 to the shelter. Spay/neuter number was 120 for the year.

The number that is hard to believe is the number of cats that we had to turn away because we were full. The number was 905. The number seems high for a shelter as small as ours, but it may be low since shelters often get calls asking if they will take litters of kittens. This could be as many as seven babies plus the mother to be taken in all at once. The calls are not just local but are also from surrounding towns. It is hard to turn them away, but when the cages are full there is no choice. Last year seemed like an especially busy time during kitten season.

We are hoping for another successful year in 2023. We thank everyone who has adopted from Heartland and thank them for sending referrals our way. We do think we have the best kitties!!!



Support for Heartland Pet Welfare provided in part by:



A few more of our 2023 fur-ever adoptions

DONATION CARD

- Yes, I can volunteer
- \$10 a month Sponsor-a-pet
- \$20 Yearly membership
- \$50 Initial vet check/check-in for one kitty
- \$125 Cat food and litter
- \$200 Shelter supplies
- \$ _____ Other

Name		Phone	
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Email			
Enclosed:		<input type="checkbox"/> Check <input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard <input type="checkbox"/> Discover	
Card Number		Exp. Date	
Signature		CVV	
Mail completed form and donation to: Heartland Pet Welfare 2720 Wacker Rd Savanna, IL 61074 Thank you.			