Summer 2016 was filled with lots of great events for ICAC and none bigger or more exciting than Adopt A Fest. This annual event takes place in early June to help the shelter clear out and make space for the busy summer season. It’s also the start of summer vacation and the perfect time for families to add a new family member.

This year’s event was held on June 3rd and 4th at Potter Park. The 30-hour event started at 12 noon on Friday and went straight through until 6 pm on Saturday. Volunteers stayed all night with the ICAC animals and welcomed visitors adopting at all hours.

Sixty-three animals were adopted including thirty-three dogs and thirty cats. The event also hosted a vaccination clinic with one hundred and twelve animals receiving rabies and distemper shots from VIP Petcare.

Guests helped fund the event by purchasing delicious items from a volunteer-run bake sale, and local businesses, Aldaco’s and Noodles & Company, donated food for the volunteers. Thanks go out to these great community partners and individuals who helped sponsor animals so that special lower adoption fees could be offered.
EXCITING CHANGES AHEAD FOR INGHAM COUNTY ANIMAL CONTROL

Anyone who is familiar with Ingham County Animal Control knows that the staff does a great job caring for the animals at the shelter and work very hard to find every adoptable animal a home. It is also easy to see that this is done in spite of a small and outdated shelter facility.

The current 10,000 square foot shelter opened in 1971, at a time when animal control and animal sheltering were very different than they are today. When the current facility was built, shelter medicine did not exist as a veterinary discipline and animal control was less concerned with finding homes for stray animals than we are today. The current shelter was designed for short term holding of stray animals and lacks proper facilities for many of our current programs. Fortunately, all of that is about to change due to the generosity of Ingham County voters.

Early this year, Ingham County Commissioner, Penelope Tsernoglou, introduced a proposal to put an Animal Control millage on the ballot. The Board of County Commissioners debated a number of options and after thorough deliberation put a six year, 0.24 mil proposal on the August 2 primary ballot.

On Election Day, Ingham County voters passed the Animal Control millage by nearly a 2:1 vote. The millage will generate nearly ten million dollars to construct a new Animal Control Shelter and provide funds to operate the larger shelter and enhance the department’s services.

Service enhancements at Ingham County Animal Control will begin even before the new shelter is built. In early 2017, when the new funding becomes available, the shelter will expand its staff by adding additional animal care and clerical staff. The new animal care staff will enable ICAC to take even better care of the over 3,000 animals who pass through the shelter annually. The new clerical staff will improve customer service at the shelter, including shortening wait times for service. The expanded staff will also allow for expanded hours, and beginning in May, the ICAC shelter will be open on Sundays in addition to the current Tuesday through Saturday schedule, making it much easier for people who work Monday through Friday to adopt animals and access other services.
The staff and volunteers of Ingham County Animal Control and the Ingham County Animal Shelter Fund are excited about the upcoming improvements to the care of animals and service to citizens in Ingham County and say THANK YOU to the voters for overwhelmingly supporting humane animal care and control in Ingham County.

Preliminary design on the new ICAC shelter has already begun, but will intensify after a shelter architect and construction manager are retained in early 2017. The new shelter will be approximately twice as big as the current building and will be built near the current site at the Sheriff Department complex in Mason. In addition to more animal capacity, the shelter will be built to modern animal management standards with separate entrances for animals coming in (surrenders and drop offs) and outgoing animals (adoptions and redemptions). The shelter will feature other disease control measures including separate air handling for different animal areas and improved animal flow through the building. Cat and dog areas will be separated to spare cats the stress of living near dogs and some dog kennels will have their own, attached outdoor yards. Visitor amenities like rooms to meet and bond with adoptable animals, improved adoption and teaching spaces, and better parking will also be incorporated in the shelter’s design. Staff and animals will also benefit from a more efficient lay out, better medical and surgery facilities, and modern kennels and cat rooms.

Construction on the new shelter should begin in the summer of 2017 and be completed in 12 to 18 months after ground breaking. Although most of the cost of constructing a new shelter will be funded through the Animal Control millage, the Ingham County Animal Shelter Fund has committed to funding the shelter’s surgical suite including the operating room, animal prep area and additional medical and surgical equipment. If you are interested in donating to this exciting project, please contact ICAC or the Animal Shelter Fund. More information on the new facility, including donor opportunities and recognition will be available as the design process progresses.

The staff and volunteers of Ingham County Animal Control and the Ingham County Animal Shelter Fund are excited about the upcoming improvements to the care of animals and service to citizens in Ingham County and say THANK YOU to the voters for overwhelmingly supporting humane animal care and control in Ingham County.

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**Holiday All-Nighter**

**Ingham County Animal Shelter**

**Holiday All-Nighter**

**Saturday, December 17th - Sunday, December 18th**

Volunteers will be staying for a Holiday All-Nighter at the shelter from 4:00 p.m. Saturday, December 17th until 4:00 a.m. on Sunday, December 18th.

Adoption fees will begin at $45 from 4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 17th, drop to $20 from 8:00 p.m. - 12:00 a.m., then end with “chose your own” adoption fees starting at 12:00 a.m. and lasting through 4:00 a.m.

Prices include the pet’s spay/neuter, vaccinations and micro-chip. In addition, there will be hot chocolate, refreshments, a Kennel Decorating Contest at 8:00 p.m. and an All-Nighter Pajama Contest at 11:00 p.m.

The goal is to put every pet in a home for the holidays!
Rabbits as House Pets

When most people think of rabbits as pets, they think of a wire-bottomed elevated cage in the backyard, or perhaps a small indoor cage, both with quiet staring animals doing nothing more entertaining than chewing. But given the right living situation in which to shine, rabbits are intelligent, affectionate and very entertaining companion pets that can give many years of enjoyment.

The term “house rabbits” has gained traction to describe rabbits kept indoors. When these social little creatures are given the opportunity to interact with their people and room to run, their very individual personalities emerge. They can learn tricks, snuggle up to their human buddies, race through the house showing off with jumps called “binkies,” play with their toys and greet guests enthusiastically. And of course they’re adorable!

Rabbits are very easily litter-box trained. They can either be free-roaming with a designated litter box and feeding area, or provided an enclosure sufficient to allow for a litter box, bowls for pellets and water, a hay rack or other device for dispensing hay, and plenty of room for the rabbit to move about. Penned rabbits need time each day outside of their enclosure for exercise.

Rabbits are not low maintenance and should not be considered starter pets or pets for young children. They are fine-boned and are easily injured if dropped or held incorrectly. Each day they require clean water, a litter change, fresh hay (VERY important for digestion and dental health), a small quantity of timothy hay-based pellets and ideally, fresh greens. In addition, although they do not require vaccinations, they may require veterinary care which may be more expensive than comparable care for a dog or cat. Like other companion animals, they may live longer and exhibit fewer behavior and health problems if spayed or neutered. And because rabbits like to chew, rabbit-proofing areas of the home will likely be necessary.

The Ingham County Animal Shelter often has rabbits available for adoption. They arrive at the shelter as strays or are surrendered by those who can no longer keep them. All rabbits are spayed or neutered before becoming available for adoption. If you are considering adopting a house rabbit, the House Rabbit Society provides excellent advice on their care requirements at http://Rabbit.org, and advice is also available from shelter staff and volunteers.

2016 Halloween Party

On Saturday, October 22nd, animal lovers from across mid-Michigan descended on the University Club in Lansing for the third annual Halloween Party fundraiser supporting the Ingham County Animal Shelter Fund. This year’s events, the family-friendly “Little Ghouls and Goblins Ghostly Gathering” and the adults only “Ghostly Gala” raised close to $8,500 for ICASF!

Kids enjoyed trick or treating, pumpkin decorating, dancing, games, activities, and arts and crafts during the day. Later, adults partied the night away to fun music, delicious cocktails, a fun costume contest, and spooky activities and experiences. The event was made possible through the generous support of a number of local businesses and countless volunteer hours.

ICASF supporters are invited to join us on Saturday, October 28th, 2017 for the “Heroes & Villains Masquerade Ball: A Celebration of Good vs. Evil” Halloween Party at the University Club.
On August 22, Ingham County Animal Shelter and over 50 other shelters from around Michigan participated in the BISSELL Pet Foundation’s Empty the Shelters free adoption day. At the ICAC event, 47 cats and 19 dogs went to their forever homes with all the adoption fees paid for by the BISSELL Pet Foundation. Adopters also took home Adopt Boxes furnished by the Foundation containing collars, leashes, toys and other valuable pet supplies. Statewide, over 1,900 animals were adopted at the various Empty the Shelters events.

The BISSELL Pet Foundation, headquartered in Grand Rapids and associated with the BISSELL vacuum and carpet cleaner company, exists to assist animal welfare organizations. This includes helping to reduce the number of animals in shelters and rescues through pet adoption, spay/neuter programs, microchipping and foster care. The Foundation is already planning Empty the Shelters events for 2017 and beyond.

Ingham County Animal Control appreciates the support of this generous animal welfare partner. Events like Empty the Shelters are an important part of our adoption efforts and have helped us to find homes for every adoptable animal that has entered the shelter for the last four years.🐾
In May, a Good Samaritan found an injured calico kitten in Williamston. Unable to care for the poor kitty, she took her to a local veterinarian who called ICAC. When the kitten arrived at the shelter, she had a broken leg and her tail was broken and badly damaged too. Despite her injuries, she was a happy cat that would undoubtedly make someone a loving pet - the shelter staff named her Dandy.

Dandy's injuries were evaluated and it was decided that the best treatment would be to amputate both the leg and tail. While this may sound severe, cats and dogs usually get along fine with three good legs – especially if they are young and otherwise healthy. Also, as any Doberman pinscher or Manx cat will attest, tails are overrated. Dandy proved both of these facts true by making a great recovery. Dandy is now known as Dandy-Lion and lives with her adopted mom Samantha and her new “sister” a German shepherd mix dog named Delilah. Despite the difference in their sizes, the two D sisters wrestle-play constantly and Dandy does a great job grooming Delilah.

Two more happy endings thanks to many members of the animal loving community: Good Samaritans, local vets, the Animal Shelter Fund, ICAC and – most importantly – all our supporters who provide us with the resources we need to go the extra mile for sick and injured animals that come to our shelter.
Employee Spotlight – Sarah Schertel

Sarah Schertel has been working at ICAC since May 2014 as an Animal Control Officer (ACO) after graduating from Olivet College with a double major in criminal justice/law enforcement and animal behavior. She has also served for two years on the executive board of the Michigan Association of Animal Control Officers (MAACO), representing the state, ACOs, as well as helping to plan the Great Lakes Animal Welfare Conference put on by MAACO and Michigan Humane Society each year. Sarah also trains service dogs for Canines for Change, a service dog organization from Grand Ledge, that helps people with epilepsy, autism, diabetes and PTSD. She has two rescue dogs of her own, one from Canines for Change and the other from ICAC.

Sarah is passionate about her job, and particularly likes that it allows her to educate the public in the proper care and treatment of animals and to provide them with the resources that allows them to look after their pets successfully. She feels that although the job is perceived as solely enforcement, the more important parts of the job are programs such as the “Pit Stop”, “Feline Fix It”, and Neighborhood Licensing programs at the Outreach Center. This year Sarah is also organizing the “Pets Need Santa Too”, program, in which underprivileged pets receive holiday gifts on Christmas Eve delivered by an ACO. She is currently attending training as a National Cruelty Investigator so she can better serve the citizens and pets of Ingham County.

Sarah says that she loves to receive updates on previous cruelty cases or strays and hear their happy endings. In particular, Sarah was involved in the “Spartacus” case (see story in this issue), in which a puppy was found abandoned in a dumpster but now is fully recovered and in a happy home. Sarah says: “I always keep at least a few before and after pictures hanging in my truck and I switch them out every few months to remind me of how important the work is that we are doing.”

It’s not just all dogs and cats – recently Sarah impounded a 7 ½ foot-long boa constrictor that was found outside a storage unit in Lansing. It is now healthy and in a rescue home.

Volunteer Spotlight – Connie Page & Tom Conner

ICAC VOLUNTEERS WIN SADIE AWARD

In October of 2016 it was announced that ICAC volunteers, Connie Page and Tom Conner, had won the annual Sadie Award from the Animal Law Section of the State Bar of Michigan. This award recognizes Connie and Tom for helping “countless animals in need of a helping human hand to lead them to happier and healthier lives.”

The Sadie Award was created in 2001 and recognizes exceptional effort on behalf of animals from those not involved in the legal or legislative system. Tom and Connie were nominated for this award by fellow volunteer, Tracey Sonneborn. The award will be presented in a ceremony held in late 2016.

Tom and Connie began volunteering at the shelter in 2013 and have made a huge impact on the shelter, creating the PSP cat adoption program and Senior Pets for Senior People program. Tom passed away in June of 2016, and is greatly missed by the shelter staff and volunteers. Prior to Tom’s passing, both he and Connie worked as adoption counselors and medically trained volunteers, and volunteered for weekend mobile adoption events and Whisker Wednesdays at the shelter. Both were active in the millage campaign for a new shelter. Connie continues to work toward their goals of helping the shelter animals, and a memorial fund was started in memory of Tom to help cats in need.
IN OUR HEARTS FOREVER

IN HONOR

Patricia Broom
In honor of
Max

Meghan Cavanaugh
In honor of
Maeve Cavanaugh

IN MEMORY

Linda Danhof
Linda Staebell
In memory of
Aaron Colby

Dianne Fors
In memory of
Ally

Gerry & Lynda Vandevusse
In memory of
Annelise McGoff

George & Debra Carter
Mike & Kelli Garland
Tony & Myriam Lane
In memory of
Bob Lane

Cammie Cavanaugh
In memory of
Brian Cavanaugh

Sharon & Roland Bunting
Diann Joblonski
In memory of
Bruce Onweiler

Julie Pierce
In memory of
Buster Porter

Ingham County Kennel Club
In memory of
Chris Conklin

Deb Bavery
Jared Cypher
Jill Bauer
John Neilsen
Teri Morton
Ingham County Flower Fund
In memory of
Daniel Dolehanty

Mildred Spurbeck
In memory of
Daniel John Fisher

Bill & Kay Paff
Carol Brooks
Diana Reid
Jan Wilson
John Reid
Joyce & Jim Mitchell
Kathy Sedell
Lenegene Brooks
Lorraine & John Cain
Mary Lou Cross
Sally Becker
In memory of
Dean Chick

Dave & Debbie Duane
Georgia Grovesteen Rinkel, Mike
Todd & Cindy Luks
Virginia Gibson
Donna Baillancourt
Vevay Township employees
Mr & Mrs E White
In memory of
Frank Maj Jr

Cindy & Jan Levine
Connie Korloch
Laura Browne
Susan Korloch
Tom & Jean Halm
Reich Family
In memory of
Innes (Dolly) Nellor

James Hartford
In memory of
Jack & Leota Hartford

Bruce Harriston
Richard Lamb
Tim Young
In memory of
Joyce Ambler

Michelle Garver & McLaren
Radiology staff
In memory of
Julie Hansen

Mr & Mrs Harvey Miller
In memory of
Lisa Bertells

Darlene Rusnell
Dick, Barbara, & Tim Hall
Jeanne Johns
Mary Curtis
Midge Clemetsen
Pam & Jim Neal
Penelope Laggis
In memory of
Mary Andrews

Michelle Smith
In memory of
Mike Wigman

Sharon Laumer
In memory of
Patty Epley

Marilyn Ebaugh
In memory of
Patty Shaffier

Andy & Kay McEntee
Bobbi Kay Hei
Dave & Linda Smith
Frieda & Brent Reed
Gatis & Mara Lusis
Gene & Sandy Wriggelsworth
Ken & Charlene Thelen
Linda DeLand
Sharon Sofia

Ingham County Flower Fund
In memory of
Robert Lane

In memory of
Ruth Don

Sharon Purdy
In memory of
Snickers Purdy

Autumn Shaffier
Barb & Jim Paul
David Groves
Don Dickmann & Kathleen
McKevitt
James Turner
Kathleen Imre
Katie Meyer
Marilyn Deussen
Patricia Mangis
Sue Fujitani
Susan Brundage
William & Linda Trevarthen
In memory of
Tom Conner