Spring is in the Air

The lengthening days and occasional nice weather of spring are sure a welcome relief after a long winter. This time of year we can look forward to playing fetch with the dogs in our two big fenced-in yards and the excitement of the cats watching birds flock to our bird feeders. The fun of our May Pet Walk and summer picnics are just around the corner.

In spite of this anticipation, I have to admit that I always have mixed feelings this time of year. The problem is that with warm weather comes kitten and puppy season: it starts as a trickle in April but by June it is a full fledged tsunami of young animals in need. I worry about how we will care for dozens of additional animals and what will happen to the ones we have to turn away when we’re out of space. Sometimes I close my eyes and wonder what it would be like if there were no unplanned litters in the world. What would it be like if instead of two or three homeless pets for every adoptive family we had adopters lined up outside our doors eagerly waiting for the occasional random litter.

Our annual March spay/neuter discount programs certainly made a dent - almost 1000 animals have been altered by area vets in the past 8 years. But still in the depths of kitten season stray/surrender phone calls outnumber adoptions by ten to one. Sometimes I despair that we're dedicated to fighting an intractable problem with no hope of success.

But then, invariably, I notice all of the young adults who show up to walk dogs on cold February afternoons. I see families bringing in their children and overhear them talking about the shelter and how the animals came to be here. Or I get an update letter and picture from an adoptive family and think about how we made a difference in the life of that individual creature... almost 4000 of them in the past 12 years. And so I have hope, hope that we're emerging from the long cold winter of suffering by all of God's creatures, both great and small.

Thank you to Franklin Printing in Glencoe, MN for Printing our Newsletter.

Sponsors Needed!
You’ve probably seen the “Pet of the Week” ads in the Hutchinson Shopper. These ads have proven highly successful in finding homes for the featured animals. Many people tell us they watch for the ad each week. Individuals or businesses are welcome to be a one-time sponsor, or sign on the schedule as a regular. They may have their name listed as the sponsor, or sponsor anonymously. The cost is $25 for each ad. For more information, call the shelter!

I’d like to be a member of the Heart of Minnesota Animal Shelter!
My membership fee will include a one year subscription to the Shelter News, so I will always be on top of what’s going on at the shelter. I will also be able to vote at the annual meeting. I am enclosing a check or money order in the amount of $20.00. Please send my newsletter and updates to this address:

Name__________________________________________________________________________
Street Address___________________________________________________________________
City, State, ZIP_________________________Phone______________________________

☐ Please contact me about volunteer opportunities available with the shelter

The Heart of Minnesota Animal Shelter is devoted to the care of unwanted, stray or abused animals in the form of providing veterinary care, housing and adoption in the McLeod County and surrounding area. We are further devoted to the education of the public regarding animal care and overpopulation.

Anthony Anderberg-HMAS President

Little Maria - Br. Tabby DSH adult that has been with us for 3 years was adopted March 17, 2011. I will miss her constant talking and "help" when doing paper work, but I'm happy she found a home. It already seems quiet in the Kitty Kastle. I was curious about this so I did a little math, Maria came to us as a stray on May 8th 2008. That's 1031 days, just under three years and the longest stay by several months, Anthony.

Update on Little Maria by Fay Fandrich
I have talked to her new mom and dad twice - -little hissing to start out with to the resident kitty but that only lasted for about an hour. Now they share windows and the couch, as well as the midnight stroll through the house. They couldn't love her more.

Eating super and using the box, but miss her talking. Congratulations Little Maria

Officers and Board Members

President: Anthony Anderberg
Vice-President: Roberta Yates
Secretary: Linda Anderberg
Treasurer: Jody Wendoff

Newly Elected 3 year term: Bill Wassenaar
Returning 3 year term: Jolene Ellsworth Barb Ote Carolen Vacel Larry Sorenson
One Year: Jon Guttmiller Evonne McComick Cindy Herr Chir Gatz

HMAS 2010-2011 County Representative: Bev Wangerin
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CONGRATULATIONS AND THANK YOU’S

****HMAS would like to say “Congratulations” to one of our board members.  Larry Sorensen of Sorensen Sales & Rental, Inc. Larry was nominated for Western National’s Community Champions program by his insurance agent Mark Kiesow of J.A. Price Agency, Inc. This program recognizes their commercial policyholders whose outstanding community work has improved the quality of life in their communities. Larry was selected to receive a $1,000 gift from Western National to give to the charity of his choice and he selected the Heart of MN animal shelter. We would like to say “Thank You” for all you do for HMAS.

**** The shelter would like to thank its many donors throughout the year for the support you give the animals. Also, thank you to the many anonymous donors that give so generously!! HMAS

**** Thank you to Litchfield Public Library for the toys, food, blankets and towels that were donated during their animal shelter pet supply drive. Thank you to Dale & Linda Kinson for coordinating this very successful event.

FEATURED VOLUNTEER
Mary Guggemos

Written by Mary’s daughter Julie Guggemos, she is a senior at Concordia College in Moorhead, MN

When my mother, Mary Guggemos, was asked whether she would like to be a spotlight volunteer for the Heart of Minnesota Animal Shelter, she called me, unsure of whether she should accept the attention. I encouraged her to accept, of course, and told her I would be happy to write the information snippet about her for the newsletter. When Mom told my father and me she was to begin volunteering for HMAS during the fall of 2009, our fair share of curious glances were exchanged. Our house never had a cat; we were definitely not cat people. From the moment Mom walked through the doors of the Kitty Castle in October 2009, she was hooked, and soon so were my father and I. By February 2010, Mom was fostering a lanky, big-eared orange tabby named Garfield, and by the time he grew into his ears, he was a part of the family. Mom’s favorite part of volunteering for HMAS is the love of the cats, from the corky wit of the new kittens to the older cats’ needs for human connections and love. Mom has even taken me and her grandson, Maxwell, to volunteer on the open visiting hours; she loves to show us her passion for the cats and to introduce us to her favorites as they snuggle against her and purr.

Mom said the most surprising part of working at the shelter is that no matter the volunteer, be they young, old, male or female, everyone truly cares for the animals. Whatever she and her team need to do for the animals gets done in the end. Her favorite adoption so far was in February 2011: Maria, the cat with a definite attitude and a distinct meow, found a home. Mom was elated.

HMAs Paws and Claws Benefit Walk Sponsors

**Gold and platinum sponsors**
Bunch Travel
McCormick Enterprises
Sorensen’s Sales & Rental
Citizens Bank & Trust Co
McKinnon Milk Transit
The Village Shop
KDEZ/KARP Radio

All other sponsors:
Prairies Edge Casino Resort
Grand Casino Mill Lacs
Hutch Bowl/Squeakeys
Target
Old Log Theater
Stages Theatre Company
Berk’s Pepsis
Waggin Tails Dog Grooming
Glencoe Veterinary Clinic

Farm-Rite Equipment
Hutchinson Therapeutic Massage Center
Patrick Chapman - Edward Jones Financial Advisor
Richard Larson Builders
Home State Bank
James Young & Associates
Arby’s
McDonalds - Hutchinson & Litchfield
Great Clips
El Loro Mexican Restaurant
Jake’s Pizza
Nails Spa & Wax
Runnings
Buffalo Wild Wings
Victorian Inn
AmeriCIn
Regis Salon
Pizza Hut

Lauphighter Family Sports Bar & Grill
Style Stable
Factory Direct Furniture
State Theatre
Shimmerland
Thimbbleberries
Burger King
Domino’s Pizza
Hutch Cafe
Favorite Trusses
Urban Hair Salon
Genesis Salon
Dundie Floral
Crow River Floral
Little Crow Shooting Sports
Subway
**Heart Of Minnesota Animal Shelter**

**Paws and Claws Benefit Walk**

*Prizes*
*Drawings*
*Contests*
*Food*

*Silent Auction*
*Games*
*Demo’s*
*Vendors*

*Grand Prize: $1,000 Travel Voucher from Bursch Travel*
Any participant that brings in $300 or more is eligible for the grand prize or 2nd or 3rd prize.

*2nd Prize: $150 Gift Certificate from Target*
Any participant that brings in $200-$499 is eligible for the 2nd prize or 3rd prize.

*3rd Prize: $50 Gift Certificate from Best Buy*
Any participant that brings in $125-$499 is eligible for the 3rd prize.

*Team plaque will be awarded*

**Cash Wise Brat Stand**

**Dog Shows**

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**WISH LIST**

- Volunteers to transport animals
- Dish soap
- Large Laundry soap
- Dryer sheets
- Paper towels, toilet paper
- Garbage bags
- Mop heads, Industrial type
- Bleach
- Paper for the copy machine
- Phone cards and long distance
- Leashes
- Durable pet toys
- Cat Litter
- Postage stamps
- Collar

- Hand soap
- shop rat

**VOLUNTEERS**

- Membership Coordinator
- Volunteer Coordinator

**MONEY FOR:**

- Medical Fund
- Spay/Neuter
- Sponsors for Pet of the Week Ad
- Cash

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**Up Coming Events**

May 21st - Paws & Claws Benefit Walk
Sept 10-11 - Rummage/Bake/Book Sale

**Watch for:**
Cash Wise Brat Stand
Dog Shows

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**The Heart of Minnesota Animal Shelter is going GREEN.**

- Cans for Critters
  Our aluminum can collection trailer continues to be a great source of help for the shelter. The trailer is located outside the shelter building, and cans can be dropped off at any time.

- Used Cell Phones and Empty Laser and Inkjet Printer Cartridges
  Collection drop off points at both the cat or the dog building. If you want someone to come and pick them up, call 320-587-7470 leave message.

- Newsletter vs email
  If you would like to have the HMAS newsletter sent to you by email. Please email your email address to contact@heartofminnesota.org or go to www.heartofminnesota.org

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**Rummage Sale**

**Items Wanted**

- Donations of new and gently used items for the Heart of MN Animal Shelter’s annual fall rummage sale.
Please do not drop items off at the shelter.
For pickup call:
Roberta 320-587-7652 or Jody 320-234-7375

***NO clothing Please***

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**Remember to drop off your Cash Wise Points for Animals at the shelter if you cannot utilize them!**

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**What Can Your Donation Give US?**

| $2  | A small toy to pass the long hours waiting |
| $5  | A bone for the dogs                          |
| $10 | A fun string toy for the cats                |
| $15 | Feeds us for one day                         |
| $20 | Keeps our web site running for one month    |
| $25 | Provides fresh cat litter for the entire group |
| $50 | Buys special foods for sensitive stomachs   |
| $75 | Helps over population by sterilizing one animal |
| $200| Buys Cat Condo-Buys a condo which give the cats lots of extra room to move around or house 2 cats |

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**Volunteers**

- Membership Coordinator
- Volunteer Coordinator

**MONEY FOR:**

- Medical Fund
- Spay/Neuter
- Sponsors for Pet of the Week Ad
- Cash

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**Special Thanks to our Platinum & Gold sponsors:**
Bursch Travel, Citizens Bank and Trust, McCormicks Enterprises, Sorensen’s Sales & Rental, McKimm’s Milk Transit, The Village Shop, KDUS/KARP Radio.

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**Celebrity Guest**

**KARE 11 Meteorologist**

Sven Sundgaard - 9:45am to 11:45am

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**Saturday, May 21, 2011, McLeod County Fairgrounds**

- 9:00 am: Registration—10 am: Walk Begins
- **Come with or without a pet and enjoy the day**

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**Pledge Forms available at the shelter or online at Heartofminnesota.org**

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**List**

- Hand soap
- shop rat

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**Hand soap**

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**What Can Your Donation Give US?**

- $2  A small toy to pass the long hours waiting
- $5  A bone for the dogs
- $10 Makes all of our bedding Downy fresh Buys us a shiny new collar and leash
- $15 Feeds us for one day
- $20 Keeps our web site running for one month
- $25 Provides fresh cat litter for the entire group Helps us find a home with a newspaper ad
- $50 Buys special foods for sensitive stomachs Trips to the vet for one of our ill friends
- $75 Helps over population by sterilizing one animal Keeps us all warm during a cold winter month Perches in our cat play area or gravel in dog runs
- $200 Cat Condo-Buys a condo which give the cats lots of extra room to move around or house 2 cats

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We've been pleasantly surprised with how people oriented Darwin has turned out to be. Without knowing his past, he acts just like he's been raised and handled well by humans. He's always jumping up on a lap, or assisting me in my office when I'm working from home. He has us well trained on his feeding times, and we can always tell when it's close to feeding time, because he comes to whomever is around and gets very lovey! He loves his laser toy (he's getting a new one for Christmas), and there are at least 5-10 furry mouse carcasses in various parts of the house that he carries around in his mouth and plays with at his leisure.

His only "bad experience" was that we had to have him declawed shortly after he came to our house, because of potential damage he could have done to our house and the other animals in it. He recovered very quickly from that experience, however, and has been his normal, active, bratty, cute self ever since.

We've had some experience adopting adult cats, as we acquired the past 3 cats we've had (or have, in the case of Darwin's house mate) from family members who had passed away, but this is the first time we did an adoption of a cat from a shelter. Our experience at the shelter was excellent, and as you can see from the comments above, the cat we adopted has been wonderful. Both Pat and I look at your website on occasion just to see who's still there and who has been added. And I can tell you without a doubt that if we could see our way clear to having more than 2 kitties at a time, we'd be back for one of those cute little Darwin-like kittens that came in this past summer!!

Thanks to you and all that you do to make these beautiful animals safe and secure until they are lucky enough to find good homes. We're sending a donation through your website before the end of the year to help in some little way, with the work that you do.

Here's a recent photo of Darwin and his new "girlfriend". Thanks again, and Darwin sends a GREAT BIG THANK YOU as well!! from Pat & Dave