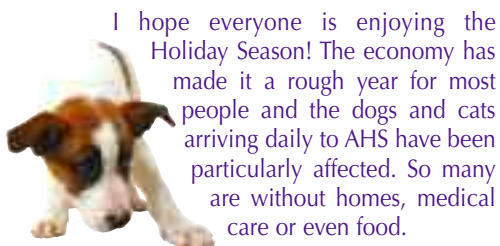




# FUZZ BUZZ

Issue 14, Winter 2010

## Shelter Buzz



I hope everyone is enjoying the Holiday Season! The economy has made it a rough year for most people and the dogs and cats arriving daily to AHS have been particularly affected. So many are without homes, medical care or even food.

While AHS has now passed the 16,000 mark with dog and cat adoptions since opening in 2002, we find ourselves looking back at a year of decreased donations. Even with all of the success and accomplishment of the past eight years we still rely on you to help us save the lives of these unfortunate dogs and cats. Things will recover eventually for everyone but in the meantime we desperately need your help! Please consider making a tax deductible donation to Animal House Shelter this year so that we can continue to care for the homeless dogs and cats that are flooding into the shelter.



Thank you!!

*(Signature)*

Lesley Irwin - President AHS, inc.

## Puppy Mill Dogs Rescued by AHS

AHS has taken in over 60 puppy mill dogs in the just past three months. Laws are being changed in Missouri, where over 4,000 puppy mills are breeding dogs. But the owners of many of the puppy mills in that state refuse to abide by the new laws which provide for more humane conditions for the dogs and puppies they are housing. So they are now dumping old breeder dogs at animal control facilities which is when AHS is called in to rescue them.



Puppy Mills mass produce puppies to sell to pet stores across the country. Most mills house approximately 40 different breeds of dogs and 40-50 of each breed, making up to 1500 dogs in some cases in deplorable conditions. The dogs only have enough room to turn around in a small wire cage with a wire floor for their urine and feces to fall through.



Fortune

The only time humans come near them is to put food in, tattoo their ear, shave them down or to pressure hose them once a year! They are never touched with compassion, never petted or held when they are afraid. Usually no medical attention is provided for any of them. They are simply kept in those tiny cages and bred year after year without seeing sun, grass or being able to play their entire lives. Most puppy mills consist of wooden shacks with no ventilation, heating or air conditioning. (cont. page 2)



*“We give dogs time we can spare, space we can spare and love we can spare. And in return, dogs give us their all. It’s the best deal man has ever made.”*

M. Facklam

# ANIMAL HOUSE SHELTER

## Puppy Mills (cont.)



Tiny puppies are taken away from their mothers when too young so they look cuter at the pet stores. If the mother, father or any pups are not the right color, do not produce a big enough litter, have a medical condition or if the puppy mill is simply shutting down these animals are often shot or drowned.



Until the laws are changed to make the mills illegal, this extreme abuse will continue. The ways you can help are to spread the word to not adopt from pet stores and to support shelters like AHS so that we can continue to rescue these poor mothers and fathers



and they can, for once in their lives, be able to enjoy freedom and feel compassion from humans!



## Amelia Learns to Trust



Amelia is a 6 year old female Husky. She has been used for breeding her whole life and has never known human kindness. She was first brought to us because she was dumped at animal control by the breeder -- seems she was getting older and was of no use to him anymore. We almost lost her within 24 hours of her arrival because she had pyometra, an infection of the uterus which in most

cases is fatal. She was raced into our vet and they performed a spay to stop the infection from spilling into the rest of her body and killing her.



Amelia's whole body would shudder if we touched her, not because of her infection, but because of her fear of humans. Dylan, the owner of



The Doghouse of Barrington, graciously offered to take her into his facility and socialize her with the group of dogs he has in his care. The Doghouse is a day care facility for well socialized dogs. The 'pack' has been able to turn Amelia around and teach her how to be a 'normal', confident and well balanced dog. Thanks to Dylan and his staff Amelia is no longer fearful of humans and will soon be ready for adoption. Please consider sponsoring or adopting Amelia, she deserves a normal life!

## Please Help Us to Help Princess



Princess is a 4 year old female Boxer that was left in an apartment with no food or water. She surely would have died if a good samaritan had not removed her. He then brought her to AHS to see if we could take her in. We quickly

noticed that Princess couldn't shut her mouth all of the way and she had what appeared to be a tumor coming out of the front of her mouth. We settled Princess in for the night at the shelter and raced her to our vet the next morning. The vet explained that she has been living with Gingival Hyperplasia for quite some time which has caused her gums to swell over her teeth and become so severely infected that she has now developed an infection in her lungs. We immediately started her on antibiotics. But she needs to have surgery after her course of antibiotics to have the diseased gum tissue removed so she can close her mouth and be healthy again. Please consider sponsoring Princess so we can get her this essential medical procedure and the ongoing care she will need after the surgery.

## Unwanted Dog Deserves More



Jessie is a 4-5 year old American Staffordshire Terrier mix currently up for adoption. She came to the shelter when she was 2 years old and AHS has been taking care of her for the past 3 years. She has been consistently passed up by adopters because of her high energy. She loves people so much that she comes in the adoption room with too much

excitement and it deters people from adopting her. Darrel Hager of *Sit Means Sit Dog Training* in Chicago was kind enough to take Jessie into his 3 week board and train program so that she would have a better chance of finding a forever home.

During her 3 week stay with *Sit Means Sit* Jessie learned off-leash training and the following commands: "Sit", "Down", "Come", "Place", "Heel", "Quiet", "Off", "Kennel", "Spread 'em" and the release command "Ok, Take a Break". Most importantly, Jessie was heavily socialized with other dogs.

*Sit Means Sit Dog Training* is offering Jessie's new owners free lifetime group dog training classes in Chicago! Jessie has obedience training mastered, she's potty trained and she's a big couch potato. Jessie likes to snuggle, run off leash in a field, play tug, chew on twigs, chase carrots, go on runs, sleep under the covers or on her doggie bed and eat beef basted doggie cookies. Please come visit with her and consider adoption or fostering. Jessie would like to open presents for Christmas with her forever family this year and, after being in a shelter for so long, deserves that home of her own.

# FOSTERING SAVES LIVES

## Fostering – The Gift of Happy Endings

Our Foster Care Program has grown more than ever this past year due to the increased number of puppies, kittens and pregnant moms being rescued by Animal House Shelter. Please consider taking one or more of these orphans or mothers into your home to foster them. Foster care, even for as little as two weeks, makes an enormous difference in the lives of these animals. AHS provides playpens, cages, litter boxes, bowls, toys and food. Until they are ready for adoption, puppies and kittens in foster homes need to visit the shelter every two weeks for vaccines and make one trip to our designated veterinary clinic for neutering. Every kitten, cat, puppy or dog that goes into foster care makes room for AHS to rescue another from being euthanized. If you can help now or in the near future please fill out the foster application after clicking the Online Application button on our home page. Once approved you will receive weekly alerts of those in urgent need of foster. If you are available to help right away or have questions please send an e-mail to [AHSFosterHotline@gmail.com](mailto:AHSFosterHotline@gmail.com). Thank you!



"I have always wanted to help more and after a few years of fundraising for Animal House, I always admired the volunteers that 'got their hands dirty helping', so when I received an email from the shelter about groups of animals needing fosters, I thought what a perfect opportunity to get more involved.

The puppies have been a lot of work, but the rewards of seeing their 9 sweet faces everyday makes us forget about the work. They all are super sweet & smart, Vinnie is the runt but he loves to wrestle with all his litter mates, especially Gia! Joey & Paulie love to play together & Mikey & Johnney are best buddies. Ronnie & Jersey are playful but are ok being alone. Theresa is a sweet girl who loves to retrieve balls & play with everyone. As they have grown they look more like Lab / Bulldog mixes.

They are pure love & joy. My husband & I will miss them & pray for them to have only great experiences in their future."  
*Jennifer & Luis*



## We Want to Live and Be Loved -- Can You Make Room for Us?



We are two sweet, lovable, six month old kittens who are looking for a good home. You see we cannot go to a regular home with other cats or kittens because we tested positive for Feline Leukemia. We have been told that we might grow out of it and then we would be immune forever. What we are looking for now is a home where there may be a positive cat needing a friend or a home that will take both of us. We don't want to go to a special shelter where we would have to grow up

without someone to love us. We really would love to have a home where we can be around people all the time, who would give us lots of hugs and petting and freedom to run and play. If you can help us out please call the shelter to setup a time to come and meet us in our foster home. We are looking forward to meeting you and will work real hard to win your heart!

Thank you,  
Li'l Gray and Tiffi

FeLV is a serious disease of the feline world. However, many cats that are exposed to the virus develop antibodies and are able to fight it off. This is especially true for cats that are free of parasites, are current on their routine vaccines, and are fed a good diet. Humans and dogs do not get this disease.

It is caused by a retrovirus and kittens born to mothers that have the virus are infected in the womb. There is no current medication that will kill this virus. Treatment is aimed at keeping the immune system as strong as possible and utilizing medication as needed. We only treat the symptoms of the secondary diseases that occur because of the immunosuppression caused by the virus.



These cats have a chance of dying from this virus in several years, and are the potential source of infection for other cats, yet they are perfectly normal otherwise. Even though FeLV positive cats may not have a long life it is very possible for them to have a good life -- if someone could find it in their heart to adopt them.

AHS thanks all the foster families & volunteers who work tirelessly to make a better life for the homeless animals!



Nonprofit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit No. 170  
Barrington, IL

**ANIMAL HOUSE SHELTER**  
13005 Ernesti Rd. Huntley, IL 60142  
847.961.5541

**AHS BOARD:**

- Lesley Irwin
- Shirley Irwin
- Lawrence Irwin
- Shane Adams
- Mary K Graffeo
- Maggie Pfannenstiel
- Jennifer Jackman
- Nicole & Jay Mueller
- Lance Marcinek

Visit AHS online at [www.animalhouseshelter.com](http://www.animalhouseshelter.com)

## Arizona Rescued Twice



This sweet little, owl-faced tortie has seen her share of pain and suffering. Arizona was brought to a vet in Indiana in terrible shape. She was full of maggots! She went through 5 hours of touch-and-go surgery where her whole lower spine and pelvis lay exposed and her tail had to be amputated. During this long ordeal, and while

under anesthesia, Arizona gave birth to a tiny kitten! She spent days in intensive care clinging to life. Finally it was apparent that Arizona would survive but then her owners turned their backs on her, abandoning her to the generous veterinarian.

Arizona slowly regained her strength and managed to give comfort and love to her little girl through all her pain. Her baby found a home in only a few days. But it was then that Arizona needed to be rescued a second time. AHS stepped in and she was transported to Huntley along with two little orphans that she nurtured after her baby was taken.

Now Arizona needs that final rescue -- to a real home where she will be cared for and loved.



After Surgery

## Looking to AHS for a Chance at Life!



Angel is a four year old female Boxer who was left outside, chained, with no food or water and near death from starvation when animal control finally took her. Animal House was then asked to rescue her and immediately said yes.

Angel is a sweet, gentle soul who just wiggles in delight whenever she sees people. You can see the appreciation in her eyes for the food, warm blankets and the many hugs and kisses she is now receiving at AHS while she waits for the right family to adopt her. Please consider sponsoring Angel while in our care or opening your home to her where she can share her unconditional love for many years to come.



## Winter Will be Warm this Year Thanks to AHS and You

Winter is only one year and has only known a life of neglect. She was abandoned in Indiana, left in the cold with no food or water and was eventually picked up by a good samaritan. The stress and depression of being abandoned made her susceptible to mange and she lost more than half of the hair on her body. She also has secondary skin infections. Despite everything, Winter is the most affectionate American Bulldog you will ever meet. AHS is providing all of the nutrition, skin treatments and

antibiotics she needs to get healthy again but we really need to provide her with a home. Please consider sponsoring Winter while in our care or adopting her so she can finally be safe and warm with a loving family for the first time.

