March Volunteer of the Month

Kendall County Animal Control is pleased to announce that our Volunteer of the Month Award for the month of March goes to: Brett Hildebrand

Brett has been volunteering with Kendall County Animal Control for about 10 months. He can always be counted on to be at the shelter every Saturday, all day, helping to clean, walk the dogs, and socialize the cats. Brett is a wonderful team player and works hard alongside the staff and other volunteers. He is always willing to help with whatever tasks need to be done. Brett is an incredibly dedicated volunteer and everyone appreciates his seemingly never-ending enthusiasm for the animals and for the organization.

Brett lives in Plainfield with his family and his dog.

Congratulations and thank you Brett!

Update on Haske

Haske, the Pit Bull mix highlighted in last month’s newsletter, had his second FHO surgery and is doing great! He continues to go to therapy and has shown solid improvement. He celebrates his first birthday this month and what a gift it would be for him to find his forever home! Please share his story and help Haske get adopted!

Haske smiles with adoptable dog Foo Foo.

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Upcoming Volunteer Orientations

- Wednesday, April 24, 6:30–8:00 pm
- Tuesday, May 21, 6:30–8:00 pm
- Thursday, June 20, 6:30–8:00 pm

Please visit our website, www.co.kendall.il.us, or call, 630-553-9256, for more information!
Kendall County Animal Control Knows the Importance of Education

Kendall County Animal Control (KCAC) truly believes in the power of education and has provided many exciting education programs in the past month to the local community as well as animal welfare professionals nationwide.

On March 18, Anna Payton the head of KCAC, presented at the Texas Unites Conference in Austin, TX. She discussed the importance of training all staff of animal welfare organizations to provide education to their communities in order to increase compliance and decrease issues such as the number of animals in shelters, spay/neuter, etc.

On March 27, Anna did a presentation to college students on Pit Bulls for Aurora University’s Animal Rights Organization. There was discussion on pit bull related topics such as breed identification, history, myths, and breed specific legislation.

On April 4, Anna spoke at a full school assembly at Churchill Elementary School in Oswego. The teachers at the school were on focusing on responsibility so Anna talked with the students about what it means to be a responsible pet owner. There were over 725 students in attendance.

On April 12 at the National Conference for the Association of Professional Humane Educators (www.aphe.org) in Detroit, MI, Anna presented on the importance of humane education for animal welfare organizations. The conference was held at the Detroit Zoo and animal shelter, zoo, aquarium, and other related animal welfare professionals were in attendance.

If you would like Kendall County Animal Control to do a presentation for your school or organization, please contact Anna at 630-553-9256 or via email at apayton@co.kendall.il.us.

Donations Needed!

Animal Control is currently in need of the following:

- Velveeta or generic cheese product
- Canned dog food
- Hot dogs
- Soft dog treats
- Kitten food
- Metal pooper scoopers

Thank you for your generous support!
National Pet ID Week

National Pet ID Week is this month, April 14 – 20. This is the perfect time of year to focus on identification for pets since the number of animals running loose increases during spring and summer as people are more likely to be spending time outside, kids are home from school and may accidently leave gates or doors open, fireworks can startle pets, as well as a variety of other reasons. Thus during this time there is an increase of animals that come into Animal Control.

One of the main goals of Animal Control is to reunite lost pets with their owners. We use every resource available to us in order to accomplish this. However, the best way owners can insure they are reunited with their pet is to have proper identification for their animal. Your pet should always have their collar and ID on at all times even if they are in your house or in your backyard in case they escape. The following are suggestions for insuring your pet has proper identification:

1. Make sure that you not only have a current rabies tag for your pet for the county you reside in, but also insure that it is securely attached to your pet’s collar. This is not only required by law, but it is extremely beneficial to your pet. Be sure to attach your tag as soon as you receive it so you don’t forget. A tag is not going to help your animal return home if it is sitting on your counter.

2. You can also get an ID tag to display on your pet’s collar as well. ID tags are available at pet stores such as Petsmart and Petco as well as online. An ID tag should have at least one phone number on it and preferably your address too. Make sure you get a new tag if you move or your information changes.

3. The most foolproof form of ID for your pet is a microchip as it is a permanent method of identification. A microchip is about the size of a grain of rice and implanted underneath an animal’s skin between the shoulder blades with a syringe. Animal shelters, vet hospitals, and even some police departments have scanners that they use to scan animals. If they have a microchip, a number comes up on the scanner. The number is a part of a national database that will then be contacted to get the owner’s information. Microchips are especially beneficial in the event that your pet is not wearing their collar or it slips off. Vet hospitals offer microchipping as well as some animal shelters. (Kendall County Animal Control microchips all animals that leave our facility whether they are reclaimed or adopted, but we do not microchip animals for the public.) As with ID tags, make sure you update your information with the microchip company if you move or your information changes.

One final note, please remember that pet IDs are not just for dogs! Cats also should have identification. Microchipping your cat is highly recommended as cat collars come off very easily and many cats do not tolerate wearing a collar.

Providing your pet with proper identification will help insure a happy reunion if you pet is ever lost!
Kendall County Animal Control is the County agency responsible for the enforcement of the state statutes governing rabies control in domestic companion animals. The State of Illinois requires that all dogs be vaccinated against rabies by a licensed veterinarian. Compliance with this law is monitored through the issuance of rabies tags for all dogs residing in the County. All dogs are required to wear their rabies tags when off of the owner’s property. If a pet is lost, rabies tags also provide an excellent means of identifying your pet.

Kendall Co. Animal Control also enforces the County’s ordinance that prohibits dogs from running at large in unincorporated, residential areas. Animal Control also reports animal bites as well as pick up stray dogs that are in a contained area. Stray dogs may also be brought to the facility during business hours. Dogs and cats are available for adoption at our facility.

March Summary

There were many memorable moments in March. Among them, staff and volunteer favorite, Grant was adopted into his forever home. Here is a quick breakdown of KCAC’s numbers for the month of March:

- Dogs reunited with their owners: 14
- Dogs adopted: 6
- Dogs placed with rescue groups: 3
- Cats adopted: 3
- Cats placed with rescue groups: 6
- New volunteers: 5

Grant, ready to go home with his new family.