



**midlands
HUMANE
SOCIETY**

Midlands Humane Society
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midlandshumanesociety.org

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Critter Chronicles

Issue 1 | 2015

Greetings from our Executive Director

Welcome to the first issue of *Critter Chronicles*! We are so excited to share the amazing things happening at the Midlands Humane Society (MHS). Here is just a snapshot of what we've accomplished so far:

As of July 31, 2015, 713 cats, dogs and other furry or feathered friends have found their forever homes through MHS. In addition, 211 lost cats and dogs (as well as rabbits and a tortoise) found their way back home with our help. These numbers are impressive, but even more so when compared to 2014. At this time last year, 342 animals were adopted and 66 animals were reunited with their families. In other words, adoptions are up 108% and the number of pets reunited with their families is up 218%! We're very proud of this achievement!

But that's not all! With the help of our veterinarian partners, we have provided thousands of dollars of life-saving medical treatments. Together, we have made sure that every animal that comes to MHS has a second chance at a happy ending.

As you can see, having a Humane Society (in addition to the important services that have always been provided by Council Bluffs Animal Control) is making a profound impact on the lives of animals in need. None of this would be possible without the generous support of our community. Clearly the investment that so many of you made to make Midlands Humane Society a reality was worth it. You have truly saved lives!

Our volunteer program is thriving – providing support in many forms including dog walking, cat care, adoption assistance and daily cleaning of our facility. To date, nearly 6,000 hours of volunteer service have been donated to MHS. We are so thankful, as there is no way we could provide such high-quality care to our animals without our amazing volunteers!

To continue this wonderful work, the need for financial support is great. In addition to maintaining our beautiful new facility and paying our limited staff, there are many costs associated with the direct care of the animals. Our largest animal care cost is medical in nature – everything from incoming tests and treatments, vaccinations, spaying and neutering, and veterinary costs for those that are ill or injured.

This is where we need your help. Over half of our budget relies upon donations and we cannot continue this important work without your support. Our animals are depending on you!

Please consider a tax-deductible donation or sign up online at www.midlandshumanesociety.org/donate to become a monthly donor through our "Simba's Circle of Second Chances" program. Signing up is easy and convenient, and it ensures we can count on the critical funding needed to continue "helping tails find happy endings." Either way, you will be making an important difference in saving the lives of homeless animals in your community!

On behalf of our staff, volunteers and especially our furry friends, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your ongoing support. ***We couldn't do it without you.***

Rosey Higgs

Helping tails find happy endings!



Volunteer orientations are held the first and third Wednesdays of the month.

Upcoming Events

Pints for Paws @ Barley's
Second Wednesday of
the month

Cruizin' for Critters Car Show
August 23

Pet Memorial
September 13

Wag, Walk, Run 5K
September 19

Dog Wash
September

Canines in Costumes
October

Omaha Brewers' Club
November

Pawliday Donation Drive
December

Visit our website for details.



midlandshumanesociety.org



MidlandsHumaneSociety



@Midlandshumane

Event Updates

Vets and Pets Black Jack Run

The first annual Vets and Pets Black Jack Run was held on June 13, 2015 and was a huge success. We had 79 vehicles registered, and with the help of *many* volunteers we raised \$2,500!

The Homes for Dogs National Adoption Weekend | There's No Place Like Home

On August 1, MHS was transformed into the Emerald City from the Wizard of Oz for a one-day national dog adoption event. Visitors enjoyed adoption specials, refreshments, raffles and prizes. We had 15 animals follow the yellow brick road to find there's "no place like home." A big thank you to Adopt-A-Pet.com, Coldwell Banker and Coldwell Banker real estate agents for sponsoring this event!

Heartworm Fast Facts *by Aleah Hemenway*

What You Should Know

- Heartworm is caused from a filarial organism called *Dirofiliria immitis* that is carried by mosquitoes.
- At least 70 species of mosquitoes can serve as intermediate hosts.
- Greatest risk for infection is in animals that live outdoors.
- Animals most commonly diagnosed are medium to large dogs between three and eight years of age.
- If heartworm disease is left untreated, right-sided chronic heart failure may develop.

Signs of Heartworm

- Coughing
- Exercise intolerance
- Unthriftiness
- Dyspnea (difficulty breathing/shortness of breath)
- Blue colored mucous membranes
- Spitting up blood, blood tinged sputum
- Fainting
- Nosebleeds
- Fluid buildup in the abdomen

Prevention

- Dogs should have their very first heartworm test at about six months of age and should be done annually.
- Oral preventatives are available through your veterinarian by prescription.
- Oral preventatives should be given every 30 days throughout the year to ensure your dog doesn't become infected with heartworm.
- Consult with your veterinarian for the best products for your dog(s).

Huge Thanks!

Thank you **Woodmen Life Chapter 6011** and their volunteers for helping with our lawn, planting flowers and landscape upkeep. Woodmen also donated our flag and flag pole. Additional thanks also goes out to **Sean Mills with T.A.G. Trucking & Construction** and **Roger and Margo Young with D.C. Electric!**

Much Appreciation!

Stop by to see our beautiful garden donated in memory of Jack and Doris Barton by Dr. & Mrs. Michael Crawford, Amy Crawford and Earl & Mary Barton.

Please Donate Today

To make a donation, mail your payment along with this slip to Midlands Humane Society, 1020 Railroad Avenue, Suite A, Council Bluffs, IA 51503 or donate online at www.midlandshumanesociety.org/donate

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____

E-mail address _____

Bisa's Success Story



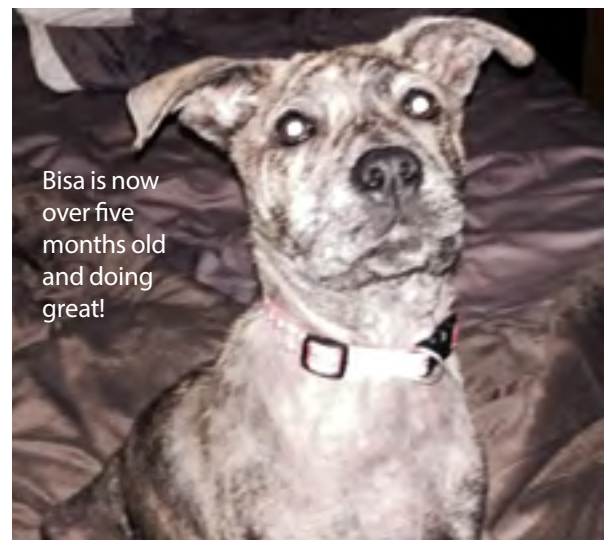
Bisa (pronounced "Beesa") was found likely abandoned, missing most of her fur with sore, itchy skin. Bisa's veterinarian examination revealed she was suffering from demodectic mange and secondary skin infections, as well as multiple types of intestinal worms. This poor girl had been suffering for some time, before a Council Bluffs Animal Control Officer found and rescued her.

Bisa, which means "greatly loved" in African, was chosen as her name as it was apparent she had not received much love yet, but in the days and months ahead, she surely would. MHS couldn't do this lifesaving work without your support.

Bisa is being fostered while she recovers with **April Balm**. April started Bisa's own Facebook page (Our Girl Bisa, Midlands Humane Society), in hopes of making people aware of the care required in severe cases, like Bisa's, but also to show that most animals can recover from sad beginnings and go on to live full lives.

Fostering animals who do not have families of their own is one way people can volunteer and make a difference. Welcoming an animal in need of socialization or medical care into your family is a wonderful gesture that allows animal shelters to assist more animals while still meeting the needs of those in foster homes. *Visit our Foster Program page on our website for more details.*

Midlands Humane Society sends out huge thanks to April and her family for fostering Bisa, with additional appreciation going out to **Jimmy Palmer of kreativelement.com** for helping us tell Bisa's story through photo and video.



Bisa is now over five months old and doing great!

Vet Tech Tip

By Aleah Hemmingway

5 Top Reasons Your Cat Won't Use the Litter Box

1. Medical issues
2. Furry bottoms
3. Litter box liners
4. Arthritis
5. Other outside cats

If you would like additional information on why your cat won't use the litter box, please visit with Aleah or Tiffany, our resident Vet Techs!

Recipe Corner

This month's recipe goes out to the canines. To cool your pooch off and keep them busy while playing in the yard, mix three cups of water with 16 ounces of low sodium beef, chicken or vegetable broth and put into ice cube trays or a big plastic bucket and set in freezer. Once frozen, set on counter to thaw a bit, turn upside down in the yard and let your pooch lick away! Take these treats out on hot days or anytime your pooch needs to keep busy.



MHS Youth Leader Program



Meet volunteer Jackson Rackley who is a student at Lewis Central and is also enrolled part-time at Iowa Western Community College and University of Nebraska-Omaha working on double majors in history and science. Even with his busy schedule, he still finds time to give to MHS! Thank you, Jackson!

"The reason I volunteer is the joy of finding homes for animals not fortunate to already have one."



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Shout Out!

Congratulations to Jenny Hansen who clocked in the most volunteer hours for the month of June. Jenny had 66 dog walking hours and several additional clerical hours!