Dear Supporters and Friends,

We are teaming up with Petco Love Foundation for National Foster a Pet Month. What does this collaboration mean? This collaboration is geared for shelters, nationally, to help raise awareness around fostering and why fostering is essential.

Did you know that one female cat can give birth to 1-7 kittens within their gestation cycle? Due to this, an estimated 20 million kittens will be born this year, globally. This is the sole reason shelters around the country and world need volunteers, just like you, to help with community cat programs and initiatives. In educating the general public about TNR (tag-neuter-release) programs, feline diseases, and help with managing cat colonies; animal advocates can eliminate the over crowding in shelters, unwanted pregnancies, and prevent unnecessary euthanasia.

The best way to volunteer is to become active in fostering these animals. According to The Humane Society of the United States, it is suggested that there is only 8% of households in the U.S. that foster dogs and cats out of the 6.3 million companion animals that enter U.S. shelters yearly. Out of the 6.3 million companion animals estimated, stray cats and kittens make up the majority of this staggering number. Shelters are coming together to make an impact on reducing these numbers.

Making a difference doesn't have to be a hard decision; it only involves simple acts of stewardship and compassion to help the smallest or largest of lives.
Meet Vinny, one of our show-stopping AARP catalog cover models. Vinny joined the shelter in 2021 after being returned due to some behavioral issues. The Story County Animal Shelter caretakers went to work to help solve this problem. Low and behold, all he needed was a feeding change to help him become more comfortable and thrive in his older adult years.

He has stolen the hearts of many shelter employees and can be found enjoying his days under endless amounts of blankets. He prefers fleece, but he keeps his complaining to a minimum. He has a specific regiment of rearranging his bed every morning, eating a particular C/D diet food, followed by filling his evening with biscuit-making and purrs.

I started fostering in high school when I found a mama cat and her 7 kittens in my tack room. During the hot California summer, I raised them in my bathroom and found homes for them all, two of which stayed with my family. I took one of my cats to college with me, Nala, and adopted a kitten from SCAS, Nuka, a few years later. Sadly, Nuka was diagnosed with FIP and passed at 6 months old. I was grieving and so was my Golden Retriever, Simba. I decided to get back into fostering and help out the shelter that brought such a lovable kitten into my life. Kittens are impossible to go wrong with and are easy for my grumpy cat to warm up to. My dog absolutely loves kittens and now knows what it means when he sees a kennel coming home with me. Our first litter was 4 kittens who truly set my fostering life in stone. Walking into my room to find Simba passed out on my bed with 4 kittens collapsed on him was the most precious thing. I’ve got a puppy who’s still new to the kitten thing but quickly learning from Simba how to parent the kittens. Animals have always been a major part of my life, with fostering I can reach out to more animals in need and help prepare them for the world and their future adoption, their forever home.

I love it, and so do my dogs!

"If we can inspire an additional 2% of households with pets to foster today, we can end preventable euthanasia in U.S. shelters tomorrow.”

- Petco Love Foundation
I Found a Stray Kitten! What Should I Do?

Before taking in a stray kitten, it is important to assess the situation! Consider these four following things:

**Condition**

If a kitten is in good condition, more than likely, it has been cared by its' mother recently.

**Good Condition**
- Clean and alert
- Chunky and well-fed
- Not in distress

If you mark all this criteria, more than likely, mom is right around the corner! Try your best to reunite if unweaned.

**Bad Condition**
- Dirty or covered in waste
- Visibly underweight
- In distress or needs medical attention

These kittens may need orphaned. Please contact your local animal welfare organization.

**Age**

**0-5 Weeks**
- Uncoordinated
- Closed or baby blue eyes
- Unweaned; dependent on nursing

These kittens should be kept with their mom, either by trapping the family and placing them into foster care or leaving them with the mom until they are all fully weaned. After that, make arrangements to trap the family to sterilize.

**5-12 Weeks**
- Playful and coordinated
- Able to walk and run
- Eating food independently

These kittens are at their peak to become socialized. This is an ideal age to take into your local animal welfare organization to begin the adoption process.

**12+ Weeks**
- Typically 3+ pounds
- No longer nursing
- Proportionate or lanky body

These kittens are at their peak to become socialized. This is an ideal age to take into your local animal welfare organization to begin the adoption process.
Situation

It’s important to remember that every situation will be different and requires for your best judgement about when and how to intervene. However, if you have questions, the best solution is to consult with your local animal welfare organization.

Safe Situation
- Mother is present
- Caregiver is present
- Family has food and shelter

Un-safe Situation
- No one is caring for the kitten(s)
- Kitten(s) are exposed to extreme weather or hazards
- Needs medical attention

Ability

Community resources are a large factor into how you may respond to the situation. It’s important to assess your abilities, while working within your means and capacity, to provide the most positive outcome for the littlest felines.

ASK YOURSELF:
- Are you or someone you know able to temporarily foster the kitten(s)?
- Have you reached out to your local animal welfare organization? Do they provide foster home opportunities or offer other lifesaving programs?
- Are you able to provide or have sterilization resources for the family?
Summer Tips

It’s Hot Out!

Don’t Leave Your Pet in the Car!

A car can overheat even when the window has been left cracked an inch or two. Young, overweight or elderly animals, or those with short muzzles or thick or dark-colored coats are most at risk for overheating. Shady spots offer little protection on hot days, and move with the sun.

Many states and local governments have laws that prohibit leaving an animal unattended in a motor vehicle under dangerous conditions, which includes hot days. Your car could be damaged or you could be charged with a crime.

90° 102° 120°

Even if the temperature outside is only 70°, the inside of your car may be as much as 20 degrees hotter! On an 85° day, it only takes ten minutes for the inside of your car to reach 102°. Within just 30 minutes, the car’s interior can climb from 85° to a scorching 120°.

If you see an animal trapped in a car on a hot day, try to locate the owner or call 911! Stay by the car until assistance arrives.

Looking Ahead....

Saturday, June 18th, 2022  Carpet One is collaborating with the Story County Animal Shelter to host an adoption event at their Ames location. Adoption event will be from 11am - 1pm. Click the QR code for more details.

Saturday, September 17th, 2022  The 10th annual Chasin’ Tails Memorial Fun Run will be taking place in memory of Connie Innis. All proceeds will be given to the Story County Animal Shelter. Follow the Chasin’ Tails Fun Run or the Story County Animal Shelter Facebook page to stay up to date with details.

T-Shirt Sales!!!  Story County Animal Shelter has organized their 2nd fundraising t-shirt sales. Currently, we have raised $695.42!! These proceeds will be distributed to the animals to help with routine medical needs, emergent situations, and to help with providing basic necessities to live a comfortable life. If you haven’t gotten your t-shirt yet, please feel free to still partake in this fundraising event by visiting our Facebook page!
We are taking foster applications for any individual or home that is wanting to spread some extra love this year! Without fosters, we wouldn’t be able to provide the extra care, attention, and love to all the kittens that come through our front door. Fostering is quite simple!

1) Fill out an application and get approved!
2) Stop in to get your fosters and all the supplies you could dream of!
3) Start squeezing those cute little kittens!
4) We’ve got your back through this whole process, with free training and support!

Please go to storycounty.iowa.gov and look under the Animal Control and Shelter tab to fill out an application or message us directly through Facebook! If you would rather get involved through making a donation, click the QR Code for our updated kitten supply wish list.

"As an animal lover, I really enjoy volunteering at the the animal shelter...it is such a rewarding experience. My favorite part is spending time with the animals and helping make their stay at the shelter a little easier. The staff and other volunteers are the best and make even the toughest jobs fun."

ASHLEY MOFFITT

Ashley Moffitt has been volunteering for the Story County Animal Shelter for two years. The shelter has enjoyed utilizing her talents while seeing her passion grow for the animals she helps care for. She is usually one of the first to volunteer to work and spend time with behavioral dogs. The animals thank her for all the time she donates, which is evident in the relationships they have with her. Thank you for all your help and dedication Ashley!