

# Help Us Save More Animals Than Ever This Year!

Support our ambitious plans to expand our programs and services this year by making your tax-deductible gift to IMHS online at [www.imhs.org](http://www.imhs.org) or select from any of the funds below and mail in the reply form to IMHS, PO Box 1250, Conifer, CO 80433. Thank you for your generosity and support!

**Yes! I Want to Support the Life-Saving Efforts of IMHS!** Here's my contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_

Enclose Check or Visa/Mastercard (circle one) Card Number\_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date\_\_\_\_\_

Your Name:\_\_\_\_\_ Address:\_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip:\_\_\_\_\_ Telephone:\_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail:\_\_\_\_\_ Contact me about volunteer opportunities: Yes No

## Specialty Designated Funds

- ☐ **Rescue the Rescuers** — Your support of this fund helps with the most urgent operating needs of the IMHS shelter.
- ☐ **'Fix 'Em Up' Spay and Neuter Program** — These essential funds guarantee that all animals coming in to the IMHS system are sterilized prior to adoption. This policy is strictly enforced by IMHS and is central to our efforts to combat pet overpopulation.
- ☐ **'Home Away From Home' Foster Program** — IMHS relies upon the assistance of approved foster families to house and care for many of the pets in our system. While foster families freely give love, shelter and basic training to these pets, IMHS is responsible for their food, bedding and veterinary care. Your contribution to this program will help cover these costs.
- ☐ **'STOP' Shelter-Transfer-Outreach-Program** — IMHS is actively committed to the rescue and care of animals from underserved shelters in our region. As a prime destination shelter, IMHS acts as a lifeline for animals who may otherwise be destined for euthanasia. Your contribution to the STOP program supports our rescue efforts and ensures that all these pets are afforded the full IMHS standard of care.

- ☐ **'Go Dog Go' Project** — Contribute "gas money" for the IMHS van to transport pets in the STOP program as well as on routine trips to/from the vet or to offsite adoption locations, etc. This fund also covers maintenance costs for the van.
- ☐ **'SNAP' Special-Needs-Assistance-Program** — Funds from this program help specific animals requiring non-routine veterinary care (e.g., extraordinary treatments or surgeries extending beyond spay/neuter or routine vaccinations).
- ☐ **'Raising the Walls' Fund** — Contribute to the future of IMHS through this restricted fund created to finance the establishment of a new animal care facility.
- ☐ **Sponsor a Cage** — Help shelter residents during their time at IMHS by covering the cost of care for a specified period of time. A special message, dedication, and/or recognition certificate is posted on a shelter animal's cage for the length of your sponsorship period.

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www.imhs.org



Post Office Box 1250  
Conifer, Colorado 80433



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# Intermountain COMPANION

Spring 2013 Edition

## A Special Kitten Meets His Perfect Match

When Leo arrived at IMHS from an overcrowded shelter that could no longer keep him, we knew we had a special case on our hands. This sweet five-month-old brown tabby hobbled: his short legs were disproportionate to his body, causing a crooked gait. His tail was short with a "corkscrew" curve to the right. Unsure as to the cause of his condition and what his adoptive care may require, the IMHS medical team arranged for Leo to be examined at Lone Rock Veterinary Hospital. With a better understanding of his needs, we knew this lively kitten's outgoing personality would help him endear himself to a potential adopter as quickly as he had become a staff favorite.

The following week, Leo's diagnostic tests from the specialist revealed that his condition was most likely congenital, meaning that he was born with skeletal defects causing his legs and tail to be deformed. Despite his quirky physical appearance, Leo did not otherwise appear to be suffering from any discomfort or inability to get around. The IMHS staff found him a comfortable front-and-center spot in the adoption room, and soon Leo was set up in a high profile cage location so shelter visitors and volunteers could get to know him.

From his first day on the cat adoption floor, Leo made it abundantly clear to everyone he met that he was no ordinary kitten, to be sure! This little fellow could really turn on the charm. Unaware that his malformed frame was anything unusual, Leo's affectionate, gregarious personality shined as he reached out to grab anyone passing his cage, demanding to be noticed.



Leo, now "Crookshank", enjoys his new cat tree.

Continued on page 2



Amber and Megan, dedicated IMHS youth volunteers.

## YOUTH VOLUNTEERS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

IMHS star volunteers Megan Womack and Amber Nelson, both high school students, are among the many local students (ranging from 12–18 years) who regularly volunteer at IMHS. Amber and Megan come to the shelter after school on weekdays to help socialize, feed, and care for the shelter animals, and they both have taken the initiative on training and mentoring new youth volunteers. Due to their demonstrated compassion and dedication, Amber and Megan were each recently promoted to the position of Volunteer Youth Leader. IMHS nurtures a sense of compassion in young people by offering animal care and enrichment volunteer opportunities in the shelter and at outreach events. Youth volunteers, we salute you!

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## INTERMOUNTAIN HUMANE SOCIETY

serves animals and people by offering programs that promote animal health and responsible pet-stewardship, and foster compassion towards animals.

IMHS is nonprofit organization established in 1982.

P.O. Box 1250  
Conifer, CO 80433  
Phone 303-838-2668  
Fax 303-838-4419  
www.imhs.org



### STAFF

**Marta Anderson**  
Shelter Director

**Nicole Willis**  
Shelter Supervisor

**Lori Lombardi**  
Shelter Associate

### BOARD MEMBERS

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**Cheryl Ide**  
Vice President

**Wendy Kelsey-Neuman**  
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**Debra Hayes**  
**Sharon Thompson**  
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**Like us on Facebook!** Visit our page at Intermountain Humane Society. Albums are updated frequently to feature animals available for adoption. You can help the animals by sharing our news and albums with your FB friends!



# SAVE THE DATE!

## The 2013 IMHS Annual Members Meeting and Raffle for the Animals

Thursday 5/16 at 6:30 p.m.

**Play to WIN—5 terrific prizes offered:**

**GRAND PRIZE: 50" LG plasma HDTV**

**CharBroil 4-burner GAS GRILL & cover**

**Apple Mini iPad**

**Case of wine from Aspen Peak Cellars**

**Kindle Paperwhite**

**TICKETS NOW ON SALE, only \$2/each!**

Purchase tickets ANY day 8 a.m.–4 p.m. at the IMHS shelter, located in the log building at 67318 US Hwy 285 in Pine Junction, or call 303-838-2668 for more information.

Participants do not need to be present at the drawing to win.

## IMHS Shelter Adoption Hours

Open daily 11 a.m.–4 p.m. and  
open Wednesday evenings until 7 p.m.

*Closed on major holidays.*

**Can't come to the shelter? ADOPT offsite!**

Lovable IMHS felines are available for adoption 7 days/week at several Denver-area PetSmart and Petco locations. Visit IMHS.org for details!

## IMHS Second Chance Thrift Shop Hours

Open Tuesday–Sunday from 10:30 a.m.–6 p.m.

*Closed Mondays.*

The Second Chance Thrift Shop is located on the upper floor of the Log Building in Pine Junction, just above the IMHS shelter. Visit www.IMHS.org for information on volunteer opportunities.

## EVERYDAY HEROES NEEDED!

### IMHS Volunteer Opportunity Spotlight:



Star volunteer Laurel  
with foster pup Oscar.

**FOSTER CAREGIVERS**—IMHS always recruits for responsible foster homes to temporarily house animals needing a home environment from a few days to a few weeks. Foster homes typically work with under-aged kittens and puppies to raise them to adoptable age (8 weeks), and sometimes adult animals when needed. Foster caregivers not only save lives, they prepare shelter animals for the best life possible. IMHS furnishes volunteer caregivers with necessary supplies and provides medical care for foster animals.

This time of year, **foster homes are particularly needed for kittens and nursing felines!** Visit IMHS.org for more information on fostering or call 303-838-2668 and ask for Nicole Willis, Shelter Supervisor.

## Chew on this!



### Declawing Facts & Alternatives

Declawing is bone amputation surgery designed to remove the tip of the cat's toe at the first joint, to prevent destructive scratching.

The process can cause pain and in some cases, lead to complications throughout a cat's life.

Some people have noted cats having problems using litter boxes following declawing. In some cases, cat guardians have reported personality changes in their animals following claw amputation.

Effective alternatives to declawing include providing a scratching post for the cat, nail-trimming, and application of plastic claw "caps" to prevent destructive scratching. Claw caps are easy to apply and come in different sizes and fun colors, and can be purchased in most pet supply stores.

Want to train your cat to scratch on a cat post or special scratch mat? Sprinkle catnip at the location, and your cat will do the rest!

To discourage your kitty from scratching the furniture, temporarily run some strips of double-stick tape in places you don't want her to scratch. Cats are fast learners, and they don't like the sticky feel of the tape on their paws.

### WE'RE HERE TO HELP!

For more information on cat care or feline training ideas, call IMHS at 303-838-2668.

Leo's Story continued from page 1

When IMHS volunteer dog walker Cheryl came through the shelter one day to give her "hellos" to the cats and first laid eyes on little Leo, she instantly fell in love. His funny-shaped body and delightful personality—the whole Leo "package"—appealed to Cheryl from that very first moment.

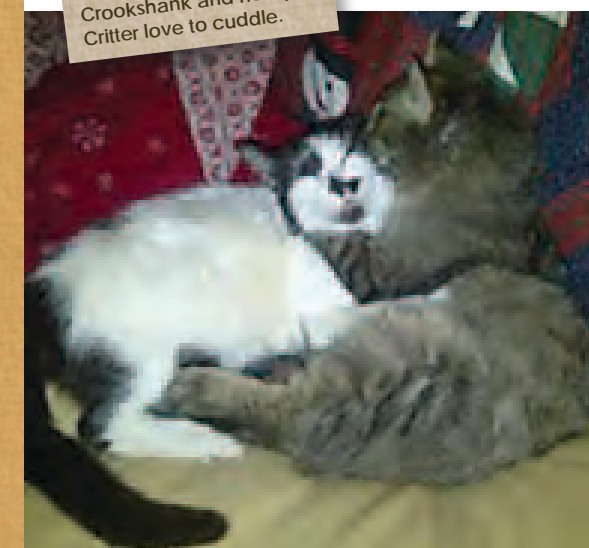
"I'm going to have to foster this one. He is special," Cheryl told us....and we secretly held our breaths, knowing that "foster" in this case was code language for "try to convince my husband that we should adopt."

Leo happily spent the next three weeks as a foster at Cheryl's home and quickly became a big hit with the other cats. However, Steve was more reluctant to get too attached. Says Cheryl, "Steve's first reaction was, 'He is such a cute kitten, and look at how well he plays with the other cats! But we don't need another cat.'" By the third week, Cheryl had renamed Leo "Crookshank" (also the nickname of Steve's little brother), and Cheryl knew that Crookshank had stolen Steve's heart when he said, "He can stay...but no more fosters!" Adoption papers were signed shortly after, making Crookshank an official member of Cheryl and Steve's household.

Cheryl reports that Crookshank spends his days scampering through the house, climbing the cat condo tree, playing with his two new sibling cats and "stalking" the friendly, curly-haired resident dog. Says Cheryl, "Now our family is complete!"

*Very special thanks to the entire medical team at Lone Rock Veterinary Hospital for the care they provided to Leo, and for ALL they do to help the animals of IMHS!*

Crookshank and new pal  
Crittter love to cuddle.





# SNAPSHOTS FROM THE WAGS & PURRS BOARD



Brooklyn's sweet personality won her a new chance at a home.

## Brooklyn Hitches a Ride to IMHS for Adoption

When IMHS accepted a transfer of cats from an overcrowded Denver shelter on December 27, 2012, the staff was surprised when a young tan female pit bull was unexpectedly delivered to our front door, right along with the cats. Because a breed restriction ordinance prohibits pit bulls from being adopted in the city of Denver, the transferring shelter "snuck" her to IMHS in hopes that a forever home could be found for her in the Foothills.

With one look at this sweet girl, named Brooklyn, the IMHS team couldn't refuse! Right away a comfortable space was made in the shelter for this friendly, affectionate girl. Later that day, she was photographed for the website and integrated in with the rest of the shelter "pack."

It didn't take long for Brooklyn to charm everyone she met—staff, volunteers, and shelter visitors alike! On January 1, 2013, when the Walsh family came to IMHS looking for a new canine family member, Brooklyn became the very first animal adopted from IMHS in 2013. On New Year's Day, this incredibly sweet girl who was lucky to hop a ride out of Denver with the cat transfer, went home!



Cleo: At IMHS 3 weeks...  
ADOPTED 12/2/12



Lilly: At IMHS 2 months, 5 days...  
ADOPTED 1/21/13



Vivian: At IMHS 4 months, 1 day...  
ADOPTED 12/18/12



Autumn finds love with the Koenigsberg family, Dec 2012



Shawn Leigh and new love Zoe, Dec 2012



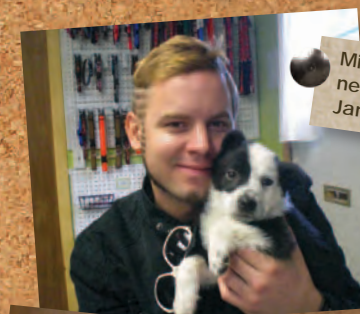
Winnie and Sabrina: At IMHS 2 months, 3 days...  
ADOPTED 12/12/12



Archie: At IMHS 2 weeks...  
ADOPTED 11/23/12



Lulu: At IMHS 3 days...  
ADOPTED 12/9/12



Michael and new pup Peyton, Jan 2013



Frank drove 10 hours to adopt perfect pup Coco, Jan 2013

Rowan: At IMHS 10 days...  
ADOPTED 11/21/12



Remi: At IMHS 1 month, 4 days...  
ADOPTED 12/24/12



Mia with new feline love Bonzai, Nov 2012



John and tennis-ball crazy pal Tyrone, Dec 2012



Captain: At IMHS 3 months, 7 days...  
ADOPTED 12/13/12



Capellini: At IMHS 9 days...  
ADOPTED 12/21/12



Felix: At IMHS 1 week, 1 day...  
ADOPTED 1/3/13

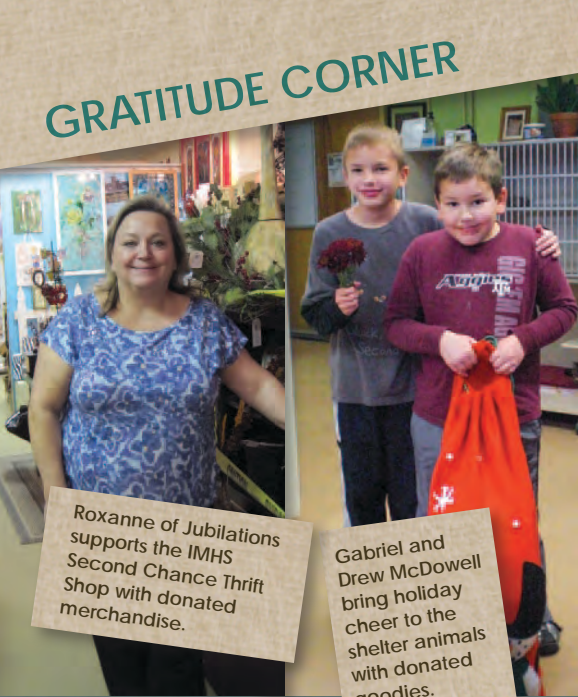
The Maher family with senior dog Maggie, happy to go home at last! Nov 2012



Sissy, joyful to finally go home with Dean, Jan 2013







## GRATITUDE CORNER

Big thanks go out to the following for their extraordinary kindness and support of IMHS:

**Lone Rock Veterinary Hospital** for their kindness and flexibility in seeing IMHS shelter animals on short notice when needed, and for extending charitable discounts for our special cases.

**Dr. Jennifer Grimm, DVM at Diagnostic Imaging, P.C.** for offering pro bono imaging services to special-needs IMHS shelter animals. Thank you for making a difference!

**Phil and his staff at Bear Country Glass** for his kindness in replacing the cracked windshield on the IMHS animal rescue van free of charge.

**Gabriel and Drew McDowell** for collecting items from the shelter's wish-list and delivering the goodies to the IMHS to brighten the animals' holidays!

The following **vendors from the Denver Merchandise Mart: Scooter at White Dove, Roxanne at Jubilations, and Terry Moore & Associates (including Marvin and Pam!)** for donating incredible quality merchandise to our Second Chance Thrift Shop. Your donations do so much to help the animals!

**Buster's Natural Pet Supply**, for free use of their store space to do IMHS photos with Santa as a holiday benefit for the shelter animals. Thank you!

Our eternal thanks to **Megan Selkey** for her talent in designing this newsletter, and to **Trish Nichols and the team at WhiteWave Foods** for donating the printing and materials.

## TO MAKE A DONATION TO IMHS:

Visit our website at [IMHS.org](http://IMHS.org) or mail your check to IMHS, PO Box 1250, Conifer, CO 80433. Your gift is 100% tax-deductible and your support for our work is enormously appreciated!

## COMMUNITY NEWS

**Big thanks** to the following businesses who supported the 2012 silent auction to benefit the animals of IMHS

### ST. BERNARD supporters (gifts valued at \$250-\$499.99)

#### 285BOUND.COM

25997 Conifer Rd., Unit D5, Conifer  
720-608-0285

[285bound.com](http://285bound.com); [facebook.com/285Bound](https://facebook.com/285Bound); [twitter.com/285bound](https://twitter.com/285bound)

#### HAIR, ETC (with stylist Cookie Sonholz)

26367 Conifer Road, Conifer  
303-838-2157  
[coniferhair.com](http://coniferhair.com)

#### KAT'S PETS

Hand-Painted Pet Portraits  
[katspets.com](http://katspets.com)

#### LONE ROCK VETERINARY HOSPITAL

66529 US 285, Bailey CO 80421  
303-838-7494  
[lonerockvet.com](http://lonerockvet.com)

#### NEPTUNE CHIMNEY SERVICE

34074 South Garfield Lane, Pine, CO 80470  
303-838-0717

#### PRECIOUS MEMORIES PET CEMETERY AND CREMATORY

5815 East Hwy 14, Ft. Collins, CO 80524  
(970) 482-7557  
[preciousmemoriespetcemetery.com](http://preciousmemoriespetcemetery.com)

IMHS's Dog Enrichment Program  
is proudly sponsored by  
The Kyjen Company



### Another Happy Tale...

## Wilbur Gets a New Leash on Life

When IMHS was called to the rescue by local animal control officers to accept a pair of unclaimed stray border collie mixes, the shelter team got busy preparing a comfortable spot for the new arrivals. On first meeting the unneutered teenage dogs, dubbed Wally and Wilbur, the IMHS staff was puzzled as to how two such young, sweet dogs could go unclaimed after waiting five full days at the animal control shelter for a guardian who never came.

In getting to know Wally and Wilbur, the whole IMHS team fell in love right way—what a delight these two smart boys proved to be! Although they were initially frightened and their black-and-white coats were muddy and caked with grime, it was easy to see that these young fellows, once cleaned up, would make wonderful companions to some lucky adopters. Right away Wally and Wilbur were bathed, and it was arranged for them to be neutered, micro-chipped, and receive full medical treatment by the IMHS volunteer veterinary staff so they could be placed up for adoption.

Wally, the more traditional-looking black and white border collie, found his forever home just days after coming to IMHS. Knowing how important it is for pups and teenage dogs, in particular, to transition quickly from the shelter into a home environment where they can begin forming a solid bond with their new family and training can be optimized, the IMHS team was pleased to bid farewell to Wally and see him ride away with a loving family to start his new life.

However, sweet Wilbur, with his mostly white coat and black freckles, lingered at IMHS as weeks went by, waiting to be noticed by that perfect someone. With his offbeat good looks and easy-going temperament, it was a mystery to the shelter's staff and volunteers how darling

Wilbur could go overlooked for so long. The IMHS dog enrichment volunteers devoted special care to training Wilbur to walk better on a leash, and provided him with socialization and “romp time” in doggie play groups each day to keep him busy. During this time, Wilbur became a very special favorite of the volunteer dog-walkers and enrichment team, and as each day went by it was hoped that he'd meet an active family to take him home.

Five weeks later, when Mark and Kathy visited IMHS looking for the perfect companion for their border collie Sky, who had been adopted from IMHS in 2010, Wilbur's luck took a turn for the better. For Mark and Kathy, the search for Sky's playmate had been a challenge, and after meeting a number of dogs, they still hadn't found that perfect fit for their family.

But when Kathy and Mark first laid eyes on Wilbur, they saw something special in him. He was about the same size as Sky, and Kathy said, “He was a little funny looking but so very, very cute!”. As Sky and Wilbur were introduced to each other, the match seemed hopeful and Kathy reported, “There was plenty of playing and no tiffs at all.”

For Mark and Kathy, the decision to have Wilbur join their family was an easy one. Soon after meeting him, Wilbur's adoption papers were signed, and the IMHS team rejoiced that he'd finally found such a terrific forever home! According to his new family, “Wilbur's personality was a good fit right off the bat.” Now Wilbur and Sky are best friends. Their favorite pastime is playing Frisbee together. Kathy reports that Sky retrieves and drops the Frisbee on command, and her sidekick Wilbur swoops in to steal it away. The family now carries extra Frisbees to accommodate the needs of both dogs!

## IMHS WISH LIST



The shelter uses the following items often and has an ongoing need for the supplies listed. Your donation of the items listed below is tax-deductible. IMHS relies solely on donations and the generosity of the community in order to fulfill our mission. Heartfelt thanks for your compassion and support!

Canned cat and dog food, puppy/kitten and adult formulas

Dry cat and dog food, puppy/kitten and adult formulas

Baby food, chicken or turkey formulas

Peanut butter

Clay non-clumping cat litter

Pellet cat litter (Good Mews®, Feline Pine®, or wood stove pellets)

Hand sanitizer

Bleach

Laundry detergent

Dish liquid soap

Paper towels

Ziploc® baggies

Distilled water by the gallon

30- and 45-gallon trash bags

Rubber gloves

Copy paper

Business envelopes

1st Class postage stamps