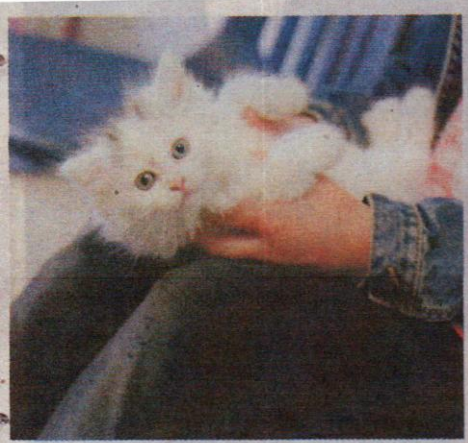


CAUSE & EVENT

Humane Society throws a Kitten Shower



A 6-week-old foster kitten gets plenty of attention. | VIKI GONIA/FOR SUN-TIMES MEDIA

BY VIKI GONIA
For Sun-Times Media

What do you do when you're expecting a gaggle of kittens to show up at your door for an extended stay? Throw a Kitten Shower, of course!

Kitten Season will be upon us in the next month or so, and lasts through the summer into September, so the Hinsdale Humane Society found a unique, fun and educational way to prepare for the kitten onslaught.

The HHS crew invited the public to come to the shelter on April 27, to meet kittens, eat cupcakes and learn about how to handle stray kittens. Around 150 people attended the event, bringing with them donated supplies.

"People donated hundreds of dollars' worth of supplies, especially Kitten Milk Replacement and Baby Cat, which is a special dietary food designated for small kittens," said Executive Director Lori Halligan. "Our supply closet was overflowing!"

In addition to the supplies, around \$600 in cash and gift cards was donated.

The afternoon include a behind-the-scenes tour of

the shelter. Children enjoyed balloon animals and face painting, kitty cupcakes and lemonade.

HHS plans to make the Kitten Shower an annual event.

"We are thrilled with the outcome," said Halligan. "It was an opportunity to talk about felines in a shelter environment and educate the public about the importance of spaying and neutering." Kittens are often found under decks and in garages, "so it is important to talk about what to do when people find kittens and how to prevent litters from happening in the first place."

The HHS cared for over 300 kittens last year, and expects to have similar numbers this year. "Many of these kittens are 'neonates,'" said Halligan, "tiny babies which are placed into foster homes until they are up for adoption."

Donations to help the kittens, as well as older cats, puppies and dogs at the Hinsdale Humane Society are always welcome.

To learn more, go to hinsdalehumane.org or visit the shelter at 22 N. Elm St. in Hinsdale.



Elisa Julian of Hinsdale enjoys kitty cupcakes. | VIKI GONIA/FOR SUN-TIMES MEDIA



Harper Carroll of Western Springs cuddles a kitten. | PHOTO COURTESY OF HINSDALE HUMANE SOCIETY



Orla Wu of Western Springs gets her face painted like a kitten's. | PHOTO COURTESY OF HINSDALE HUMANE SOCIETY



Ellen Wahls of Hinsdale carefully pets a kitten assisted by Jeanine Vaughn of the Hinsdale Humane Society. | VIKI GONIA/FOR SUN-TIMES MEDIA



Vicki Jacobsen, a humane society volunteer, shows off a box of donations. | VIKI GONIA/FOR SUN-TIMES MEDIA



Eryn Becker of Downers Grove gets her face painted. | PHOTO COURTESY OF HINSDALE HUMANE SOCIETY



Hinsdale Humane Society volunteers Makalah Fryrear and Glory Jacquat stocked the shelves with kitten supplies.



Orla Wu shows off her cat face with mom Stephanie. | PHOTO COURTESY OF HINSDALE HUMANE SOCIETY



Lahna Davis of Chicago shows off her feline face paint. | PHOTO COURTESY OF HINSDALE HUMANE SOCIETY