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Just the Facts Lourdine Florek, Owner
 Tuesday, March 21, 2017
 Hoopeton's only locally-owned daily news publication!
 P.O. Box 441, Hoopeton IL 60942 www.justthefacts.net



Charlie Waggles gets some scratching from Hoopeton Police Ofc. Anthony Linares as Sgt. Jim DeWitt and Ofc. Thomas Showers look on.

Serial kisser Charlie Waggles arrested in Hoopeton

Serial kisser Charlie Waggles was arrested March 14 by Hoopeton police. And that's just what he wanted. Charlie, a nine-year-old Staffordshire Terrier mix, was a

Vermilion County Animal Shelter (VCAS) dog, arriving last November after being a "repeat offender" who ran away from his home multiple times before being See WAGGLES on other side

NEW lineup at VFW
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Waggles continued from other side

surrendered by his owners.

At a December 10 Christmas party at the shelter, several people were taken by Charlie and were interested in adopting him. Then Charlie was diagnosed with an incurable, aggressive form of melanoma.

Because VCAS does not allow seriously ill dogs to be adopted, it looked like Charlie lost his chance for a forever home.

The VCAS Foundation paid for his existing tumors to be removed. After the successful surgery, on December 27, Misty Hueston, a VCAS volunteer from Westville, brought Charlie to his forever foster home.

Health worries at bay for now, Charlie has time to concentrate on his Facebook page and cross items off his bucket list. That's where his arrest comes in.

Nestled among such things as "kiss the queen," "have a birthday party," and "eat a cheeseburger" is "get arrested." But how to accomplish that?

As luck would have it, VCAS director Paige Brown is mother to Hoopeston dispatcher Jenna Brown, who received permission for Hoopeston Police Department to help Charlie out.

Charlie was brought in to the station to be booked at about 4:30 p.m. Unlike most arrestees, Charlie arrived by semi truck - crossing another item off his list - accompanied by Hueston's family.

At the station, he and his accomplice, Paige Brown, spent time in the cell and his mug shot was snapped before he and Hueston were taken to an interrogation room for intense questioning by local media.

Satisfied with the answers, Charlie was free to ride in a squad car before returning to the station, where he received a police department patch. Hueston said she planned to put it on a bandana for Charlie to wear.

Charlie has been able to cross off quite a few items on his bucket list. He's eaten a cheeseburger, kissed Katie Brown, Vermilion County Fair Queen and had a birthday party.

The party helped accomplish another, ongoing item, raising money for the VCAS Foundation. Charlie is also encouraging people to take part in the upcoming VCAS rummage sale on April 22. Information about donating items and the hours of the sale will be posted on the VCAS Facebook page.

Other items that have already been done include riding

in a fire truck, getting served in a bar, riding in an airplane, ringing in the new year, visiting a nursing home, going on a blind date, and bringing Kong toys to all his friends at the shelter.

Some have to wait for warm weather, like going to the river, playing in the mud and having an outdoor showing of "All Dogs Go to Heaven."

The item on his list that Charlie seems to like the most is "getting 500 hugs." He's well on his way with more than 200 hugs since word of his story and his Facebook page were started in January.

Lying in the interrogation room, Charlie hears "what a good boy" and gets up for some scratching and petting.



Paige Brown, director of Vermilion County Animal Shelter, is tickled by Charlie Waggles' attitude about having his mug shot taken.

"He loves being touched," Hueston said. "If he's around people and they're not touching him, he's offended. I think he would have made a good therapy dog."

Along with his bucket list, people have suggested things for him to do, and made them happen, such as a trip to an indoor beach in Covington, Ind.

Hueston thinks all pets should have a bucket list. "I encourage people to have a bucket list for their pets. They'll have memories."

Charlie is not in pain and acts like a dog younger than his years but that won't last forever. People have offered to purchase a final resting place in Danville for him but Hueston plans to keep Charlie close even then, on her property so she can visit him when she wants.

Besides, she doesn't want to focus on that with so many of Charlie's bucket list items left to do, including one that's just for the two of them: a quiet day with Mom.

From the Blotter

Police are investigating a hit-and-run accident reported Sunday. An unknown vehicle hit a 2001 Mazda owned by Timothy Lane, of Hoopeston, while it was parked in the 600 block of East Chestnut.

Belinda D. Solis, 33, of Hoopeston, was arrested after police were called at 5:52 p.m. Sunday to a domestic call in the 100 block of East Lincoln.

Wanted on a Vermilion County warrant, she was released on bond with a new court date.

Briefly

At the library

Spring Break Family Movie, 2 p.m., Thursday, March 23. Parents and children are invited to enjoy the fun new animated musical "Sing!" Free popcorn will be served. Bring your own drinks (closed containers).

Kids ages 8 and under should be accompanied by an adult.

Weather

Mostly cloudy, then chance of showers today. High 52. Tonight, mostly cloudy. Tomorrow, sunny. High 41, low 26.

Classifieds

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