

Cats waiting for homes

By **Robb Murray**
The Free Press

MANKATO July 23, 2009 09:44 pm

— When you rolled out of bed this morning and put on that bathrobe and poured that coffee, you probably had no idea that just a few minutes away, a tragedy was brewing.

Cats. Dozens of them. White ones, gray ones, calico, black. All colors, all styles. All with nowhere to go. They are homeless. They need you (queue that sad commercial with Sarah McLachlan and her sad song). There are 52 kittens at the Blue Earth Nicollet County Humane Society, each of them in need of a home. Katherine Nelson, a member of the BENCHS board of directors, said she can't remember a time when they had this many kittens at the shelter.

"They come from the side of the road, they bring 'em by the bushel baskets, we have pregnant moms," Nelson said. "This year we have white, multi-colored, calico, gray ones with extra toes — they're just not going ... I know the economy is really, really rough, but it doesn't change anything for these animals." Times are so tough that BENCHS is willing to cut you a deal. Adopt one kitten, get one free. Pay \$125 for the pair and, after you get them spayed or neutered, BENCHS will give you \$50 back.

The kittens are current on the shots they're able to get — the rabies shot, for example, isn't administered until they get older.

This isn't the first time they've had a feline surplus. Just a few months ago they had dozens of cats waiting for homes. The fact that it's happening again, Nelson said, is alarming.

It's apparently happening all over. Cat overpopulation has been reported in the Twin Cities. Martin County's humane society is full.

"We're so afraid these kittens aren't going to go and we'll end up with teenagers that have never been outside of a kennel," Nelson said.

Anyone wishing to adopt a kitten can call the shelter at 625-6373, or stop by anytime between 7:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. Normal adoption hours are 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, but there are usually people on site all day during the week. Ring the doorbell and they'll answer.

Copyright © 1999-2008 cnhi, inc.

Photos



Katherine Nelson, a member of the Blue Earth Nicollet County Humane Society, said the number of kittens dropped off at the shelter has exploded this summer. More than 50 of them are now at the shelter. The Free Press