

# Comforting paws for law students

Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law students headed to the library for final exam cramming were met with a pleasant surprise when several furry, four-footed friends greeted them at the door.

The law school hosted its fall exam stress-relief day at the Ruth Lilly Law Library on Nov. 30, including pet therapy. Dogs and cats visited with students throughout the day, representing organizations ICAN, Love on a Leash, Healing Paws and the Indiana Judges and Lawyers Assistance Program. •



Mischa the Maine Coon cat has visited numerous stress relief events, drawing in students and professors alike with her distinctive appearance, bright eyes and tufted ears. Owner Kari Morrigan, a JLAP representative, said such events are great opportunities to engage with students and inform them about the options available to them for support during school.



JLAP representatives Loretta Oleksy, back right, and Ashley Hart, front right, talk with students during the stress relief event. As an IU McKinney graduate, Hart said her dog Judge served as her personal therapy dog during her law school experience and hopes that he can bring that same comfort and joy to others.



Judge, a 4-year-old German Shepherd-Malinois mix, greeted students with nose budes and a wagging tail. His owner and companion Ashley Hart said that as a newly certified therapy dog, this was Judge's first time on the job. Hart said he's still learning the ropes of what it means to be a pet therapist, but Judge had no trouble making every visitor he met smile.