



Stray Thoughts

Spring 2024 News, Events & Adoption Information www.WSHS-DG.org

Because of Your Generous Support, Coco and Jax Live Happy, Healthy Lives

Coco and Jax are 12-year-old Persians who were adopted in 2015. They were recently returned because their owner had a lifestyle change and could no longer take care of them. Given their age, we felt that a vet check-up and bloodwork were in order.

At the appointment, the vet discovered several issues. Jax is in the beginning stage of kidney disease and needs to have a dental where, most likely, all his teeth will be removed. Coco has stage 2 kidney disease, asthma and a heart murmur. She also needs a dental but will need an echocardiogram by a cardiologist before undergoing the procedure. Because of their kidney disease, both cats must be on a special diet for the rest of their lives.

As you can imagine, all of these procedures and the special food are expensive. Still, at West Suburban Humane Society, we make a lifelong commitment to the animals in our care. We always take them back no matter the reason and provide the necessary care to give them the best chance to live a happy, healthy life and find a new family.

We wouldn't be able to provide above-and-beyond care to animals like Coco and Jax without the contributions of our generous supporters. Your donation allows us to continue our life-saving work of helping animals in need.

Even after all they have been through, Coco and Jax are sweet and loving. They enjoy the attention they receive from all the staff and volunteers but look forward to being adopted by a new family. Thank you for giving them a chance to have a happy, healthy life.



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Kittens are Coming!

“Kitten Season” is around the corner, and we need your help to care for as many as possible! Fostering kittens is the first step on the way to their forever homes. There is no cost to you – WSHS provides everything you need. You just add the love!

Learn more at:
www.wshs-dg.org/get-involved/foster



WSHS Wish List

- Paper Towels
 - Anti-bacterial hand soap
 - Dog Leashes (no retractable leashes)
 - 6 foot and 30 foot
 - Food!
 - Any **canned** cat, dog, kitten, and puppy food
 - For dry food, we use only Purina One dog and puppy formula and Purina One cat and kitten formula
 - Kitten milk replacement
 - Pet safe ice melt/salt
 - Dog and cat toys (we especially like Kong and Nylabone brands!)
 - Cat litter – unscented, clumping and/or clay
 - Postage stamps
 - Hand sanitizer
 - Six inch paper plates
 - Disinfecting wipes
 - Ziplock bags – gallon and quart sizes
 - Laundry detergent
- Monetary donations are always appreciated!**

West Suburban Humane Society

Board Members:

Mark Motuelle, President

David Welch, Vice President

Sarah Marshall,
Recording Secretary

Kerry Kopera,
Controller/Treasurer

Dr. Lyn Edmonson, Director

Bob Koch, Director

Marci Levites, Director

Susan Liddi, Director

Scott McMillin, Director

Brian Wasielewski, Director

Maria Wrobel, Director

WSHS Staff:

Executive Director: Carolyn Mossberger

Director of Development: Heather Kash

Adoption Counselors: Carol Thygesen, Eric Van Clevon, Roberta Diehl, Nanette Delaney, Cassidy Santen, Sarah Coolidge

Animal Care Team: Brittany Askeland, Jennifer Miller

Intake/Foster Coordinator: Lexi Vitale

Volunteer Coordinator: Heidi Janss

Events Coordinator: Kelsey Burge

Humane Education Manager: Deanne Tomanovich

Stray Thoughts is an official publication of the West Suburban Humane Society, a not-for-profit, volunteer-based animal shelter. No city, state, or federal funds support WSHS. Donations are tax-deductible as allowed by law. Please call 630-960-9601 to submit articles or receive donation information.

Our adoption center is open for visitors but adoptions are being handled by appointment only. Check our website wshs-dg.org for up-to-date information.

Adoption Center:

1901 W. Ogden Avenue, Downers Grove, IL 60515
E-mail Address: Director@WSHS-DG.org
Phone: (630) 960-9600 • Fax: (630) 960-9604

Ready for a Home

Alfie Male | 3 years old | Bloodhound

Hi, I'm Alfie, a 2-year-old Bloodhound with red fur, charisma, and a beautiful singing voice! When I'm out, I love meeting people and dogs! I like to snuggle or go for a long walk so I can explore all the smells. I'd prefer to be an only dog because I don't like to share, but I do love playing with other dogs! My breed is known for being affectionate and gentle, but we can be difficult to train if we're distracted by our nose. Also, if I feel like you aren't paying as much attention to me as I deserve, I'll bless your ears with the sound of my breed. Also, drool happens, and it is nothing to be ashamed of. I'd love to start out in my new home by doing an obedience class so I can build a bond with my new family. I've already done a lot of training so I'm ahead of the game! If you want to take me home, apply to meet me today!



Pickles Female | 2.6 years old | Boxer Mix

Hi, I'm Pickles and I love everybody! I really appreciate the time people spend with me, whether it's walking, playing or just sitting nearby. I just want to belong to someone. Whether you're a family, a couple, or an individual, I would love to be your gal! I'm not a fan of kennel life. It can be noisy and overwhelming. I'm a low to medium energy dog and would be comfortable living almost anywhere. I dream about the simple pleasures of a dog's life, such as walks, playtime, and affection. I recently had a sleepover at a volunteer's house, and they said I was a wonderful guest – 5 stars! Please apply to meet me today, you won't be sorry. Whether you choose to foster or adopt me, I'll be overjoyed to come home with you!



Chardonnay, Female | 1 year old | Calico

Hi, I'm Chardonnay, and I'm a sweet little lady! My coat has all the colors and is oh-so soft to the touch. My personality is affectionate, gentle and a little goofy. I'm a fancy lady, but I'm not opposed to rolling around on my back to get what I want! I'm a pretty easy going gal – my only need is to stay on my special diet so I don't have skin allergies. Besides that, I can live with other cats (but you'll have to manage my diet – you can talk to the adoption desk about it), people of all ages, and with a slow enough introduction, even dogs. Send in an application to meet me today!



Pippa Female | 11 years old | Siamese Mix

Hi, I'm Pippa! I'm a beautiful flame point Siamese whose owner sadly passed away. I won't be without a home for long, though, because my personality is just as flawless as my appearance. I'm a sweetheart who loves people of all ages. When someone comes to my room, I rush to the door to greet them with a series of chirps and little meows. Then I rub against their legs and purr. I'm pretty playful for an older girl. When I'm done playing with my toys, I usually settle in and make some biscuits before I take a nap. I'm very affectionate and chatty, so if you want someone to snuggle with and confide in, look no further. Apply to meet me today!



Emails from Adopters

Hello,

We made it home and she is slowly getting used to being here. She has been in and out of her litter box area and will meet her fur friend jubilee over the next couple of days! She was calm in the car ride home and anxious to come to look around.



More to come!

Brianna, Maureen. Kuromi, Briel!

Hello WSHS,

I wanted to let you know that Daisy is doing terrific We changed her name to Cricket and she has been thriving. She is starting to lose her baby teeth and has gotten much bigger! Cricket loves to show off her



parkour moves and has been known to be a hilarious blur of fur when people try to photograph her

We love Cricket and her personality so much and are so incredibly thankful to West Suburban Humane Society for helping place Daisy/Cricket with us!

Hello,

Slick is doing really well. He has stopped jumping on us already and is learning leash manners. His visit with the vet went great! She loves him and we are set up with a trainer starting in a few weeks. He is enjoying a Starbucks pup cup for doing so well on the walk!



Hi guys!

Just wanted to let you know that Wallace is doing great! He was a December adoptee and quickly became a permanent part of our family!



His likes:

- Food!
- Hanging out in the sink
- Drinking from the faucet
- Playing hide and seek
- Bringing his toys to bed
- Stalking the yard critters from the window
- Being involved in the things we do

His dislikes:

- Not being fed on time
- His harness
- Being brushed (we are working on this)

Thanks for letting us adopt him! He is so loved!

Hello,

Pluto's name is now Yogi. He's a bundle of energy, but he's ours. He's perfect. The other pic is a with his big brother Finnegan (formerly Speck), another WSHS alum.



Thanks for all you do!

Hi there!

Things are going great with Bowie (now Leo). He and Luna are getting along great!

Lisa



Above & Beyond

Stephanie Norlund serves our cats and dogs in so many ways. She is a foster parent to both cats and dogs – sometimes coming to the shelter with very little notice in an emergency situation. She volunteers at the shelter on multiple shifts each week, and is a key part of our social media and marketing team. She led our expansion into a Tiktok channel, and is part of our social media team. Stephanie is willing to help wherever needed; always putting the needs of our animals first. She truly goes above and beyond for our shelter!

Lisa Jo Clark has been a dedicated kennel volunteer for many years. Not only does she volunteer with the dogs, but she has the unofficial title of being our webmaster. She designed our website and makes sure that it is kept up-to-date and looking good! Lisa Jo also designs new pages as requested for events such as Barkapalooza and Pawction. She also serves on our marketing committee and designs all of our pride and advocacy merchandise. Lisa Jo exemplifies what it means to be an Above and Beyond volunteer!



Plant a seed for West Suburban Humane Society

As the days get longer this spring, it means more time to focus on what matters most. Why not seize the extra moments and plan for tomorrow. It's also an opportunity to support the future of WSHS with a gift in your plan. WSHS has partnered with FreeWill to help you create a free will and make a lasting impact on the hundreds of homeless animals we care for every year.

Ready to start your Free Will?

Visit <https://bit.ly/WSHSFreeWill0424>

Have you already included us in your will? Follow the same links to let us know!



Questions? Contact
Development@wshs-dg.org

FREEWILL



**West Suburban
Humane Society**

Volunteer Spotlight

The Sunday afternoon kennel shift is always open to new volunteers because they know that more people equal more time outside for the dogs. Rechelle Reyes, shift coordinator, also believes that everyone should aim for their “yellow dot” status so that they can take the dogs off property. More people, more walks, more time outside is their recipe for a kennel full of happy pups!

The shift has almost 30 years of WSHS experience between them, from veterans Rechelle Reyes and Sarah Moylan to Katherine Musto, Marni Pyke and Maddie Frankie, who have several years under their belts, to newcomers Neill Tabotabo and Ed and Eli Piotrowski. They all get along well together and always put the dogs first. Their goal is to give every dog more than 30 minutes away from its kennel on a Sunday afternoon. Sarah recognizes that everyone on the shift really cares about the dogs and wants them to have fun.

Spending lots of time with the dogs allows these volunteers to learn more about behaviors of different dogs. Katherine knows that each dog has their own unique personality and looks forward to learning all about them. Sarah has learned that patience is crucial especially when working with new dogs that haven't settled in or rambunctious dogs that can get overly

excited in a kennel environment. Ed and Eli have increased their handling skills and know how to keep the dogs active and social in a safe way.

The team's enthusiasm for our animals has led them to volunteer in other areas of WSHS as well. Neill and Rechelle help at Barkapalooza each September. Sarah has also volunteered in the cattery on two other shifts, and Marni and Maddie spend their alternate weekends on a cattery shift too. Neill fostered two puppies in need this past year and ended up adopting one of them.

So, what keeps these volunteers coming back weekend after weekend? There's not just one answer. Rechelle has never had a dog in her family, so she comes here to get her dog fix with 20 of them. Katherine loves seeing the animals find their forever homes, knowing each of them is deserving of the best. Sarah says that taking the dogs out in groups to play always makes her laugh. Ed and Eli will always have a favorite in the kennel, and they look forward to seeing them the most. Eli will even spend time looking at the WSHS dogs online when he's not here. Marni and Maddie enjoy everything about their time at the adoption center, from the cute and cuddly puppies to the shy cats and scared dogs. Getting a cat to purr or a dog to wag their tail warms their hearts.



Hearty Thanks

The Downers Grove Area Newcomers chose West Suburban Humane Society to be the recipient of their Sipping for a Cause event. They raised and donated \$5,360.



Petals for Pets
plant sale fundraiser
benefitting our cats and dogs

FRIDAY, MAY 10TH

West Suburban Humane Society
1901 W. Ogden Ave | Downers Grove, IL
12 PM - 7 PM

New Location - One Day Only!

Proudly Sponsored By



The poster features a black and white dog and a tabby cat sitting behind a wooden picket fence. The background is a soft-focus green and white floral pattern.



West Suburban
Humane Society

1901 W. Ogden Avenue
Downers Grove, IL 60515

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Golf Outing

Join us for an afternoon on the links to benefit the our cats and dogs!

Prairie Landing Golf Club
2325 Longest Dr, West Chicago

July 29, 2024
Noon Shotgun Start

Sponsored by:

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Questions? Contact Events@WSHS-DG.org
or visit <https://WSHSgolf2024.givesmart.com> to register or learn more



Upcoming Events:

Trivia Night: May 4th
American Legion | 6 - 9pm

Plant Sale: May 10th
West Suburban Humane Society
Noon – 7pm

Barkapalooza: Sept. 29th
Lisle Community Park
5K Run: 8am-1pm
1 Mile Walk: 9:30am
RescueFest 9am

Pawction: Dec. 2nd
West Suburban Humane Society
6 – 8pm