



## West Suburban Humane Society

# STRAY THOUGHTS

Don't miss the Event  
of the year - see pages  
7 & 8 for details

## Bungee

Meet Bungee! He came from a pound in central Illinois. A kind citizen noticed Bungee languishing in a cold, wet pen and began an e-mail campaign to get him out before he would be euthanized. Many times, when back yard breeders or puppy mills determine that a dog's health is not 100%, they drop them off at the pound rather than spend money on medical treatment, so good dogs wind up in desperate situations.

At first glance, Bungee appeared to be healthy, although shy. Once in the kennel at WSHS, our staff was able to observe Bungee more closely. He seemed to step on his back feet and have little control over his hindquarters. In addition, Bungee had a painful bladder infection that may have begun months earlier. Our veterinarian immediately took X-rays of Bungee's back and hips, and also prescribed treatment for his bladder infection. Once the vet determined Bungee had hip dysplasia, a trip to the surgeon was in order. Within the first week of Bungee's arrival at WSHS, he had been examined, X-rayed and treated by many doctors and WSHS staff members. Through it all, Bungee maintained a sweet disposition, tolerating everything and making friends all over the place. You can't help but fall in love with Bungee when you look into his eyes. They tell you the horrors of where he has been as well as the love & loyalty he feels for his present caregivers.

Bungee suffered an additional blow shortly after his surgical examination. Due to Bungee's background, one vet suggested that a heartworm test would be a good idea before proceeding with the long process of two hip surgeries and subsequent recovery. Unfortunately, many dogs rescued from pounds have never had any form of preventative treatment or vaccines and heartworm is fairly prevalent. It turned out that Bungee had fallen prey to this dreaded disease. Left untreated, Bungee would have

died an agonizing death. Treatment for heartworm is an arduous process in itself. In order to kill the worms, a dog must be subjected to powerful toxins and monitored very carefully. Since the disease attacks the heart and lungs, Bungee cannot undergo anesthesia until heartworm treatment is completed and a negative heartworm test is performed several months from now.

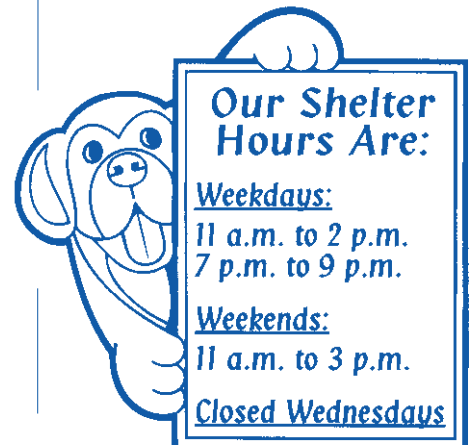
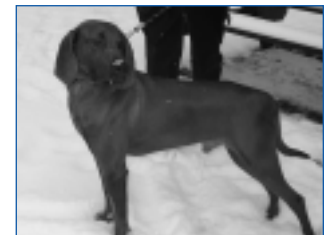
Bungee currently lives in a loving temporary care home where he wants to be a typical 18-month old pup. Another difficulty with heartworm treatment is that the dog must be kept quiet and calm with no running or rambunctious play. Poor Bungee can't understand why he isn't allowed to act like a normal puppy of his age. These activities could also further damage Bungee's back and hips, so his foster family faces careful monitoring and the challenge of keeping a young dog calm. Although the hip surgeries had to be postponed indefinitely, Bungee takes many supplements to help him build muscle and keep arthritis at bay. He receives regular electroacupuncture in his back to alleviate a lack of sensation in his back legs and feet. Aqua therapy (under water treadmill) would really aid in post-surgical recovery, but because of the heartworm, Bungee will have to forego this helpful therapy.

Months from now when Bungee becomes available for adoption, his adoptive family will feel they are the luckiest people in the world. Bungee bonds to people very easily, and can live with children and other dogs. He doesn't have experience with cats, but Bungee is eager to please and learns quickly. He has been house trained and crate trained in his temporary care home.

Upon his adoption, Bungee will be heartworm free & have perfectly working hips. He will be neutered and microchipped, with a brand spanking new collar and ID tag. He will have gained weight and muscle and have a great overall prognosis. He will be a well-behaved,

playfully active young boy who is current on vaccines. WSHS is happy to help Bungee. Once an animal is taken into our care, we are dedicated to its health and wellbeing. Sometimes our adoption fee covers the necessary care, but in many cases, as with Bungee's, the adoption fee is woefully insufficient. Double hip surgery alone will cost \$3000 - \$5000. Add to that the heartworm treatment, pre & post surgical therapies and all of the medications and supplements, and it is pretty clear we need help with Bungee's expenses. To date, about 1/4 of the money needed has been raised. Hopefully, by the time Bungee is ready to proceed with surgery, the funds will be in place, but we can't do it alone.

**To make a donation for Bungee's medical care, mail a check to West Suburban Humane Society, 1901 Ogden Avenue, Downers Grove, IL 60525 Attn. Bungee Medical Fund.**



## Upcoming Events 630-960-9600, ext. 25

### MAY

- |                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| 5th Saturday                | Mutts Need Moola!<br>Look for WSHS at Local Jewel Stores.   |
| 11th Friday - 12th Saturday | Petals for Pets Plant Sale.<br>Look for more information on our Second Annual Plant Sale on page 4 of this edition of Stray Thoughts. |
| 28th, Monday                | Memorial Day - WSHS will be closed today.   |

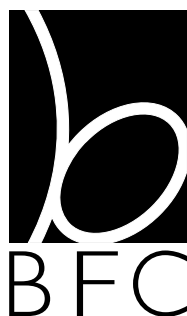
### JUNE - ADOPT A SHELTER CAT MONTH

- |                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| 20th Wednesday               | WSHS General Meeting held at 7:30 pm at the Downers Grove Park District. |
| 22nd Friday- 24th Sunday     | Downers Grove Heritage Fest<br>Stop by and visit the shelter's booth!    |
| 25th Monday - 27th Wednesday | Jewel Shop & Share<br>Stop by the shelter to pick up your coupon.        |

### JULY

- |               |  |
|---------------|--|
| 4th Wednesday | 4th of July - WSHS will be closed today. |
|---------------|--|

BFC donated services to the production of "Stray Thoughts." The design and printing of the newsletter were provided below cost.



INTEGRATEDPRINTMANAGEMENT

1051 N Kirk Rd  
Batavia, IL 60510  
630.879.9240  
800.774.6840  
Fax 879.9260  
www.bfcprint.com

## WSHS Wish List

- Paper Towels
- Food (our animals are on a specific diet: so that we don't upset their digestive system, we must be specific) Purina or IAMS (Dry) cat and dog, kitten and puppy formulas, light formula – cat and dog and senior formula – cat and dog. Any canned cat, dog, kitten and puppy food is fine.
- KMR (kitten milk replacement), small baby bottles and nipples
- Dog and cat toys (washable and indestructible!)
- Cat litter (no scoopable)
- Stamps (to be used for postage)
- Garbage bags (13 & 30 gallon sizes)
- 6" paper plates
- Bleach
- Laundry Detergent
- Volunteers!
- **Monetary donations are always appreciated!**

## West Suburban Humane Society

shelter services include:

- |                         |                           |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| • Pet Adoptions         | • Pet Behavior Counseling |
| • Free Pet I.D. Tags    | • Spay/Neuter Referrals   |
| • Community Education   | • Lost & Found Hotline    |
| • Humane Investigations |                           |

## WEST SUBURBAN HUMANE SOCIETY

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 630-960-9600, ext. 25 to submit articles or receive donation information.

### BOARD MEMBERS:

Ed Cryer, President  
Cindy Johnson, Recording Secretary  
Dawn Drella, Controller/Treasurer  
Jennifer Bahlmann, Director  
Carol Glombicki, Director  
Guy Pinta, Director  
Renee Cantalupo, Director  
Pam Gambill, Director

### THE WSHS STAFF:

Executive Director: Carolyn Mossberger (Ext. 25)  
Animal Care Manager: Sarah Stromberg (Ext. 23)  
Night and Weekend Manager: Catherine Schmitt  
Animal Care Asst's: Vicky Samiec and Bonnie Benton  
Adoption Desk Manager: Kristy Moran (Ext. 10)  
Volunteer Coordinator: Mary Beth Orlandi (Ext. 45)

### 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



www.WSHS-DG.org

# Ready For a Home

## Wizard



### **2.5-year old, Male, Cairn Terrier Mix**

My adorable face and brindle coat catch everyone's attention. I love attention and getting back rubs. They say I am a little bundle of energy that never stops playing ball! I can be picky about my dog friends, so a staff member needs to supervise any introductions with other dogs. My typical terrier behavior may seem a bit intense, which is why I need an experienced adult home without cats. I am already house-trained and am currently going through obedience class at Narnia. I am the star of the class! I know all of my commands and listen right away. If you adopt me, you may continue obedience class free of charge! What a great way to start our new life together.

## Hunter

### **1-year old, Male, Greyhound Mix**

Hi, I'm Hunter. I am a very friendly, sweet and social boy! Even though I am full-grown, I am still as playful as a puppy! I like other dogs, but want to be the "top dog". I can play rough and be a little too bossy for some dogs to tolerate. A WSHS staff member will supervise any introductions with other dogs to make sure I play nicely. I am house-trained and crate-trained, but I need to live with children over 12 years of age.



## Wyeth

### **12.5-year old, Male, Brown Tabby w/White**

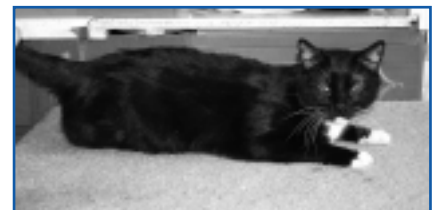
I have a funny name because I was originally part of a litter of kittens with "W" names here at WSHS. I was adopted as a baby, named Tigger, and returned to the shelter at age 12+ because my family couldn't care for me anymore. Due to financial difficulties and the addition of kids who left doors open, my family gave me back. I have to say I look and feel really good for a 12-year-old cat. You would never guess by looking at me. I am talkative and very affectionate. When the staff lets me out to stretch my legs, I like to get to the highest point I can and survey the happenings. Considering how long I was in a home, I have adjusted pretty darn well to living in a cage. Must be my easygoing nature.



## Boxcar

### **2.5-year old, Male, Black and White**

I really feel it's not bragging to say that I am a huge favorite among the staff & volunteers at WSHS. I have been here since I was a young guy, barely a year old. I was never properly socialized as a kitten, so I am a little rough with my play. Here at the shelter, I have shown that I am good with dogs and cats. I love getting out of my cage to run around the office when the shelter is closed. This opportunity has made a huge difference in my life because I was getting depressed sitting in a cage 24/7. If you take a chance on me, I guarantee, you won't be sorry.



# Plant Sale



## Petals for Pets



Come for a *blooming* good time and purchase your spring flowers all while helping the animals at the West Suburban Humane Society.



West Suburban will host their second annual plant sale on May 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm daily



The event will be held at the shelter  
1901 Ogden Avenue  
Downers Grove

630-960-9600 x 25

[www.WSHS-DG.org](http://www.WSHS-DG.org)



Mother's Day is Sunday, May 13<sup>th</sup>  
Flowers make great gifts!

## E-Mail Notice

Would you like to receive shelter news on a timelier basis? We are in the process of gathering e-mails to start an e-mail database. This database will allow us to communicate with you on important issues such as updates on adoptions, special needs animals, upcoming events and more. Send me an e-mail today at [Director@wshs-dg.org](mailto:Director@wshs-dg.org) and let me know that you want to be added to our list or sign up on our web-site at [www.WSHS-DG.org](http://www.WSHS-DG.org).





## HEARTY THANKS

**G**wendolyn Gies of Willowbrook had a birthday party and asked that guests bring donations for the shelter instead of gifts for her. She collected numerous food, supply and toy donations for the animals at the shelter.

**J**ane Rice and the National Honor Society Students at Downers Grove North High School collected over \$100 of food and supplies for the shelter.

**M**aria McConaughy of Downers Grove had a birthday party and asked that guests bring donations for the shelter instead of gifts for her. She collected numerous food, supply and toy donations for the animals at the shelter.

**S**andy Less and the students at Pierce Downers Elementary School had a contest to see which grade could collect the most donations for the humane society. The school collected 425 pounds of food and supplies.

**D**erek Orvis of Costco Wholesale for their generous donation of pet beds, pet food, pet shelters and pet toys.

**M**att Covey and Lisa Dwyer of the Dog Spot in Downers Grove for donating their time and facility to work with some of our dogs with special needs.

**A**lex Brooks of the Midwest Canine Behavioral and Socialization Center in Des Plaines for discounting their dog training and rehabilitation services.

**T**iffany Leung made fabric bookmarks and sold them to her friends and neighbors. She donated the money she raised to the humane society.

**A**manda Miller and Nicole Ring, Student Council Advisors and the Student Council of Indian Trail School for collecting food and supply donations for the humane society.

**D**ianne Washburn and the Peer Leadership Group at Pleasantdale Middle School in Burr Ridge for their \$50 donation. The money was earned by hosting a pizza sale during their boy's home basketball games.

**M**aggie and Anna Clink of Elmhurst and Shannon Thomas of Westmont all had birthday parties and asked that guests bring donations for the shelter instead of gifts for them. They collected numerous food, supply and toy donations for the animals at the shelter.



**K**endall Fulton of Westmont had her 8th birthday and asked that guests bring donations for the shelter instead of gifts for her. She collected numerous food, treat, supply and toy donations for the animals at the shelter.



**M**att and Alison Gill for their generous donation of a digital camera and standing blow dryer. They have both come in very handy here at the shelter.

## ANIMAL RESCUE – Are you prepared?

The other day, our doorbell rang and it was a neighbor reporting she had seen a stray puppy and had come to us for help. It was 14 degrees outside with a wind chill of 0 degrees. We were able to “capture” the dog after 20 minutes of work and then got the dog to our warm house and into a safe cage. The pup did not want to come with us, besides being very cold and scared, he was acting aggressively which is not normal for a 3-4 month old puppy.

We live in unincorporated DuPage County so we contacted the DuPage County Sheriff's non-emergency number (630-407-2400) for assistance because it was Sunday and the DuPage Animal Control (630-407-2800) was closed. Within one hour, the police came to be sure the dog was controlled and not a danger to anyone. The Sheriff's department then contacted the Animal Control staff, and they arrived in less than an hour to pick up the dog.

The dog had no collar and had not been “chipped” for identification. He would not allow anyone to come near his head, which could indicate he had some kind of head trauma or may have been beaten. The county told us an Animal Control officer was willing to take the dog home to work with it. We later heard a person claiming to be the owner finally contacted Animal Control after six days. We don't know if the County released the puppy to him or not.

Are you prepared? Are you ready when your doorbell rings or when you may see an animal in need? How about an extra dog or cat lead. I have friends who carry leads in their car in case they spot a stray cat or dog. Do you know what city or county department to call in your area? Do you have their phone numbers handy? You can call the shelter for help but remember, our staff isn't always there to answer your questions. Please don't bring a stray to the shelter without contacting our staff first.

Ed Cryer

## From the President – ADDITION PROPERTY ACQUISITION

After many months of negotiations, we have been able to purchase the property to the south (4323 Stonewall) of the two properties we presently own. In our forward planning of a new building, we have had a problem with what we should do about our existing facility. We were thinking that we would have only two temporary alternatives; shutting down while the construction was going on or relocating the shelter to some other location. Either of these solutions would have had a time span of at least 1 year or more. This additional property will allow us to build a new facility using our second property as well as this newly purchased real estate for the new building. The existing facilities would stay until we were moved into the new building at which time the old buildings would be torn down and the area would become additional parking. Our new building will have space for educational classes and meeting space to help serve the community. As you probably know, we have struggled with the parking issue for years so the additional space will be a big help.

Well, that was the good news! Now for the reality news; a new building is not in the plans for the near future. We could start a large capital campaign; however the professional fundraising experts are warning us that it is not a good time due to economic concerns by the general public and their willingness to support our effort much less having to pay their own bills. A campaign would also negatively impact our ongoing needs for support of our existing facilities and its maintenance.

We could get a mortgage, however our concern is if something happens which impacts the economy and draws financial support away from WSHS, then we would stand a chance of having to default on our mortgage and lose our shelter. This is not a risk the Board is willing to take at this point in time.

This doesn't mean the Board isn't working on this new building project. There is a lot of work to be done prior to the start of construction, and that effort will continue.

Please feel free to contact me with your questions, suggestions and comments,

Ed Cryer

President@WSHS-DG.org

## Emails and Letters from Adopters

Hello,

My name is Amy at least that's what my new caretaker calls me (I hate the term owner). My real name is Elizabeth, but that was many lives ago in a far off place called Lombard. I'm a grand old dame now, people keep trying to guess my age by computing human years into cat years but I know my age – I'm beginning to feel it now. The man I allow to take care of me found me at the West Suburban Humane Society. I'd been there for 2 years. They were absolutely the kindest people, both to me and the other felines, and yes, ugh, dogs. You see my previous owner was a grand old dame herself when she passed. There was much commotion and all kinds of goings on, but a kind stranger brought me to the wonderful shelter in Downers Grove. Oh, the stories I've heard from the other felines. Really, why are people so indifferent to us? Don't they realize that we are God's creatures too? Well, one day a man showed up inquiring as to which cat had spent the longest time at the shelter. Well that was me! I didn't know if I would take to him - would he be loving and kind, would he take care of me should I become sick and sometimes I just want to be left alone to curl up in a quiet corner. I can tell you now, that everything is quite satisfactory. Oh, he has his quirks, but overall, I know I am loved (and the food is good too!).



Amy and her caretaker Ken Convalle



# West Suburban Humane Society

Presents:



14th Annual

## BARKAPALOOZA

WALKATHON & PET EXPO

**Sunday, September 30, 2007**

**10:00 am - 2:00 pm**

**Rain or Shine**

**Kids Walk Free!**

- 🐾 **Great prizes based on collected pledges - the more you collect the more you win!**
- 🐾 **Registration at 9:00am**
- 🐾 **Micro-chipping will be available for a small fee and "Vet Advice" for free.**
- 🐾 **A blessing for the animals will be given at 10:00 am**
- 🐾 **Don't want to walk - just come & shop with our many vendors.**
- 🐾 **Clowns, Face Painting, Balloon Sculptures**
- 🐾 **Breed Specific Rescue Groups**
- 🐾 **Kids and Kindness Zone**
- 🐾 **Give-aways—Crafts—Food—Special items for Children**
- 🐾 **For more information call: West Suburban Humane Society at (630) 960-9600, ext. 25; [www.WSHS-DG.org](http://www.WSHS-DG.org); Come with or without a dog, bring the family, **but no other pets please.****

Waiver: In consideration of my signing this agreement, I hereby for myself, my heirs and administrators assume any and all risks which might be associated with the walk. I waive and release any and all rights and claims for damages which I may have against the organizers and any others connected with this event, their representatives, successors, and assigns for any and all injuries or damages of any kind whatsoever suffered by me as a result of taking part in the walk and any related activities. I also give full permission for use of my name and photograph in connection with this event.



A circular logo for the BARKA PALOOZA Walkathon 2007. The logo features a cartoon dog with a white body and black face, wearing a collar with a tag that says "2007". The text "BARKA PALOOZA" is written in a stylized font around the top, and "Walkathon" is written in a script font at the bottom. The year "2007" is also visible on the dog's tag.

## “BARKAPALOOZA”



**at Patriots Park - 55th Street (between Fairview & Main)**

**Sunday, September 30, 2007 - 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 pm (rain or shine)**

SPONSOR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)	ADDRESS, CITY, ZIP	PHONE	PLEDGE
		TOTAL	

• Donation fee is \$10.00 per adult - children 12 and under free.

- Donation fee is \$10.00 per adult - children 12 and under free.
  - **Walkers with \$100 or more in collected pledges WALK FREE & receive an event shirt.**
  - All pledges are due on or before event date.
  - Bring this sheet and your collected pledges the morning of the walk. Your pledge dollars will help the animals in our shelter. Money collected before the event can be mailed to, or dropped off at, West Suburban Humane Society's Development Office. (630) 960-9600, ext. 25.
  - Water, snacks, first-aid and dog curbing materials will be provided along the route for you and your leashed canine companion.
  - Dogs under 4 months of age, vicious dogs, or female dogs in any stage of heat will not be allowed to participate. **Dogs only please.**
  - Each canine participant will receive a Walkathon bandanna.
  - ALL GUESTS WILL RECEIVE A *"BARKAPALOOZA"* registration gift.
  - **I CANNOT WALK BUT WILL HELP SHELTER ANIMALS WITH A DONATION OF \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**Credit Card Number**\_\_\_\_\_ **Exp. date** \_\_\_\_\_

WALKER'S SIGNATURE

WALKER'S NAME-PLEASE PRINT

---

PHONE

DOG NAME

ALUMNI

ADDRESS (STREET, CITY, ZIP)

PARENT OR GUARDIAN'S SIGNATURE (IF UNDER 18)

AGE (IF UNDER 18)

—(See Waiver On Other Side)

**How did you hear of this event?**

Please keep a duplicate set of receipts for your records — no copies available at event.

**FOR OFFICE USE**

### MONEY COLLECTED

Reg. Fee (\$10): \_\_\_\_\_

**Pledges:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Collected:** \_\_\_\_\_