

STRAY THOUGHTS

Happy Holidays from West Suburban

Lenny – Home for the Holidays

It was the luckiest day of my life when I was brought to WSHS. Some kids found me one Saturday, hurt and sick. Their dad picked me up and rushed me to the shelter. Because I had wounds all over my front legs, the staff sent me right off to the vet. After recovering from my wounds and a parasite in my blood called hemobartonella, I came back to the shelter for some R & R. I liked that, but I couldn't seem to get well for very long, with one fever after another. Finally, the inevitable happened: I came up positive for FIV, or Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (the feline equivalent to HIV). Not surprising, really, considering I was a stray, intact tom cat. That is the highest risk category for the disease, passed through serious, penetrating bite wounds.

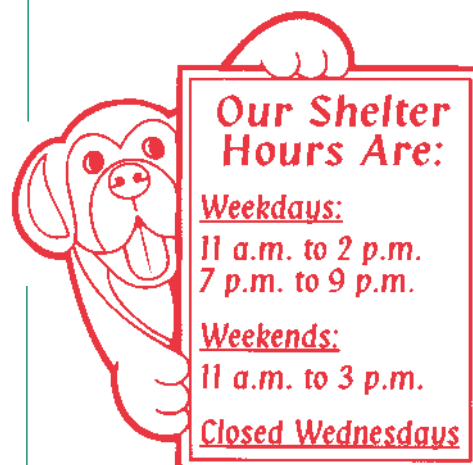
This is not a death sentence for me, not by any means. After returning to the shelter, I have been moved to an

area a bit farther away from the sickcats and I have regained my strength. I am now a playful young man of two with a big appetite. Because FIV is such a slow progressing disease, I can live many healthy years. FIV is not the same as HIV. People cannot get it, and neither can dogs. In fact, indoor, neutered cats rarely pass it to other cats if introduced properly. A family living with an FIV cat should keep vaccines updated on their pets, feed the cat a high-quality diet, and provide an indoor-only, stress-free environment.

No one ever really looks at me here. The volunteers and staff play with me, but I am never considered for adoption because people don't understand the facts of this disease. They think I will always be sickly and die young, or that I will be a danger to them or their other pets. I just really want someone to come along and take a chance on me. I have so much love to give and I am full of playful energy. I am a little bit worried that if I stay here too long, I will keep catching colds, which can be really bad for me since my immune system is compromised. Because of the number of cats coming and going around here, it's only a matter of time before more germs wear me down.

Yes, I was lucky to find a place that cares enough about me to see me

through my health issues, but now that I am strong again, I am hoping for another break. I have lots to offer a family. Will it be yours?



Lenny


West Suburban Humane Society

shelter services include:

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

Shop and Share

Don't forget the following upcoming Jewel Shop and Share Dates:
Help the animals and get your holiday grocery shopping done at the same time!



SHOP & SHARE IDENTIFICATION SLIP

1120940

GROUP NUMBER

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STORE NUMBER

AMOUNT OF PURCHASE


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DOLLARS CENTS

GROUP: **West Suburban Humane Society**
 YOUR SHOP & SHARE DAYS: **12/10/2007, 12/11/2007, 12/12/2007**

SIGNATURE _____

PLEASE SIGN THIS SLIP AND TURN IT IN TO YOUR CHECKER WHEN YOU SHOP.
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WSHS Wish List

- Paper Towels
- Food (our animals are on a specific diet: so that we don't upset their digestive systems, 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 or 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
- Lint Traps
- Volunteers!
- **Monetary donations are always appreciated!**

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



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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.

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

Holiday Hounds and Christmas Cats Open House

Join us Sunday, Dec. 9th, for a very special open house to support the homeless animals in our care. The event will be from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the shelter, at 1901 Ogden Avenue, Downers Grove. Admission to the event will be an item from our wish list. Enjoy refreshments, tour the shelter, visit with the animals and shop for great gifts.

Their wish lists include warm beds to sleep on during the cold winter nights, new toys to play with and good food to eat. Our goal is to make sure all of the animals feel safe, warm and loved until they can find their forever home. A special feature at this year's event will be our Home for the Holidays tree. The tree will be covered with dog bone wishes and cat fishes, each with a dollar value. Purchasing a bone or fish will help us buy a special item that our furry friends have been wishing for this holiday season.

Please call us at (630) 960-9600, ext. 25, if you would like more information about our Open House.

From the staff, volunteers and pets of the West Suburban Humane Society, we wish you a joyous holiday season!

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- Volunteers!
- Monetary donations are always appreciated!

Holiday for the Animals takes on a spring time twist!

In the spirit of the holidays we hope you will again generously give. However, all items will be accumulated and used for our upcoming, first time CAT-tillion Dinner and Auction, with a tentative date of April 26, 2008. Many items will be needed to make this first time effort a real success. Do you have a talent, work for a company that can help or have a connection for tickets or events?

We have created a list of needed items. If you can contribute please call Carolyn Mossberger at 630-960-9600 X25 or e-mail her at Director@WSHS-DG.org. The list will be posted on the web site so you can see what has been donated and what items are still needed.

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| • golf outing | • garden items | • children's classes | • vet visits |
| • art work | • Chicago tours | • car driving classes (like Autobaun) | • tickets to Indianapolis 500 dinner & a movie |
| • facial | • theater tickets | • limo services | • dinner & a play boat trip |
| • hand made items (like sweaters, pottery) | • sports tickets concerts | • furniture | • tickets to Great America Wisconsin Dells weekend |
| • case of fine wine | • Disney events | • 2008 Air Show hotel reservations | • Geneva weekend |
| • car wash | • spa packages | • Smithsonian Museum weekend | |
| • car detailing package | • small appliances | • home made dinners delivered | |
| • movie tickets | • massage | • dog walk services | |
| • hotel overnights | • manicure / pedicure | • cat sitting services | |
| • restaurant certificates | • airline tickets | • grooming packages | |
| • zoo events | • vacation home | | |
| • museum memberships | • jewelry | | |

On behalf of the
animals, Thank You!



Ready For a Home



Jenine

9 year old, Female, Grey tabby

My family fell on hard times so they had to bring me back here. They were very sad, and so am I. They wrote a nice note about me, so if you come see me, you can read all about what a great cat I am. I only ever lived with older kids, but I really liked them. I was introduced to other cats and dogs in my home, and while it took some time to warm up, I ended up liking them all. Please stop by the shelter and visit me. You'll see what a sweetie I am.

Minikin

5 year old, Female, Brown tabby dlh

Wow, what a difference a day makes. One day I am in my home, trying to adjust to the upheavals of an active family and the next day I am returned to the shelter I came from, only now I am no longer a cuddly little kitten. Now I am a beautiful, majestic specimen of the feline variety. Can you blame me if I am crabby about my circumstances? I admit it, I don't like being caged and I let everyone know it. All I can say is that I can be the best cat there is in a nice quiet home where people respect me and I feel loved. Does yours fit the bill?



George

2 year old, Male, Rottweiler Mix

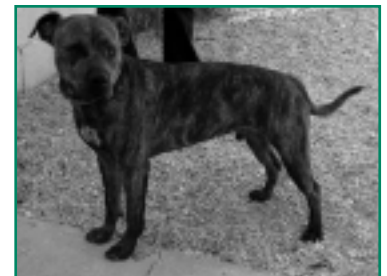
Do you have a pool? How about a lake or a pond? I really love to play in the water, so if you take me home, we'll have to get a baby pool at the very least. As you can see by my picture, I am quite a handsome guy. What you may not see is that I'm also very intelligent. I'm not really one of those dogs who acts goofy all the time. I prefer to exercise my mind with my body. We can go for really long walks (or swims!) and practice all the things I learned at board-and-train. For instance, you can see how far away you can walk from me while I stay where you told me to. That's a fun game! I am housebroken & crate trained, and I even get along well with cats! I enjoy playing with other dogs, too. I do require an owner I can respect and trust because I might get afraid otherwise. I am a relaxed, calm and friendly when I know my family has my back. Did I mention I like water games?



Malachi

1 year old, Male, American Staffordshire Terrier

When you come to visit WSHS, you will notice me right away because of my striking brindle coloring. I came to this shelter from a home that I shared with other dogs. My owner knew I needed more exercise and discipline than she could give me, so she brought me here. We were both very sad about that, but I have learned so much since my arrival. I went to a board-and-train facility where I learned how to properly socialize with other dogs. I was also taught good people manners: how to heel, sit, come and stay. I am proud to say that I am in tip-top physical condition, so I would like a home where exercise is a priority. We can be running buddies or I'll use a treadmill – I love to run on one! Because I am so strong, it is recommended that I live in a home with kids who are at least 12 years old. One other little thing: I don't like cats. Please come see me and I'll show you all I've learned!



E-Mails and Letters From Adopters

Dear WSHS Family,

Peggy Sue here. I got to keep my name because my new family said since it's pretty much been my name since you first found me, it was only fair to keep it. They said I obviously knew it was my name because I always respond to it when they say it. Mom calls me Pegs sometimes but that's okay.

I went to my new vet on my way home. He said I looked great, seemed to be in very good health and that I behaved very nicely.

My first day I sniffed around for awhile until I found a safe place to hide and observe. They paid attention to me but didn't bother me or try to come after me. After a few hours I came out to check things out – that's when I met my new sister – Aloysius. I hissed, she hissed back, I growled, she growled back and then we both went and did our own thing. I went back to my "hiding place" but came out and spent the evening exploring. I was even brave enough to go upstairs all by myself.

I love it here and my new family loves me a lot, I can tell. My sister is very sweet and she tries to be my friend but we both think we're the boss around here. I can't help but hiss when she gets too close but when she's sleeping I go right up to her and sniff. I don't hiss every time any more and I don't always walk away when she gets too close anymore either. I think she understands because she keeps giving me chances to be friends with her. We kind of look alike. We have the run of the house and it's great! We have windows every where and even get to go "outside" (our glassed in porch) where I can safely chase chipmunks, birds, bunnies and squirrels. We both sleep with Mom and Dad at night but on opposite sides of the bed of course. Oh yah, almost forgot – we get treats after dinner every night!

I still prefer to do the approaching rather than being approached, but Mom and Dad understand. They really like to pet me and scratch behind my ears so I usually let them. Sitting next to Dad on the arm of a chair or couch is one of my



favorite places. I even like my 2 year old human nephew. He doesn't chase me or anything and sits still and lets me sniff.

Thank you for taking such good care of me when I was with you. My new family thanks you also. No offense, but I'm not coming back.

Love,

Peggy Sue



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Pet Watch by Dr. Main, DVM

Dear Dr. Main:

What is minimally invasive surgery?

Minimally invasive surgery accomplishes the goals of traditional surgery by the use of sophisticated equipment designed to work through very small ports. The advantage is greater comfort for the patient, outstanding hemostasis (control of bleeding) and view of the surgical field. Minimally invasive surgery in the abdominal cavity using a rigid video scope is called laparoscopy.

I first learned about laparoscopy four years ago while attending a meeting in Orlando, Florida that was specifically focused on liver diseases. A portion of the course was an introduction to laparoscopic surgery for the purpose of obtaining liver biopsies. I was impressed by the incredible optics, visualization of the liver as well as the techniques for obtaining fabulous biopsy samples leading to accurate diagnoses. I often say what can be seen laparoscopically is as beautiful as a sunset.

Since the time of the meeting I have brought laparoscopic technology into West Suburban Vet. In addition, we have had specialists come into the hospital for the purpose of training the staff on laparoscopic procedures. We have been performing liver biopsies and with the additional training and

experience we are performing other procedures including spays (ovariectomy).

In fact, most female dogs and cats from the humane society are now spayed laparoscopically. Lets look at how this works and the benefits of the procedure.

Anesthesia considerations as well as pain medications are the same as a traditional spay. Two very small openings approximately 1/3 of an inch each are made one above and one below the umbilicus (navel) both openings on the midline. Carbon dioxide gas is flowed into the abdomen to distend the cavity. One opening is used for a rigid scope that has a camera attached that transmits a picture to a monitor in the operating room. The monitor becomes the eyes of the surgeon. The other opening is used to pass surgical instruments into the abdominal cavity; that are then watched by the camera system. Using specialized laparoscopic equipment the spay is performed. Overall there is far less handling of the tissue and the surgical maneuvers are very precise.

The end result is a surgical procedure that is much less traumatic to the patient. There is less bleeding, less pain, and far better visualization of the surgical field with this procedure. In fact with the distention of the abdomen, the eye of the scope being with in the abdominal cavity, and with the outstanding xenon

lighting on the scope, the view far exceeds traditional surgical approaches. In addition the closure is very small and often tissue glue is used on the skin so that no suture removal is needed.

Liver biopsies and spays are not the only procedures that can be performed laparoscopically. In addition gastropexies to prevent dogs from bloating, other organ biopsies, and abdominal exploratory can be performed. Also the equipment can be used for urinary bladder procedures (cystoscopy) as well as rhinoscopy and bronchoscopy. As with all these procedures they are minimally invasive, offer very precise tissue handling through outstanding visualization of the surgical field.

These procedures are a big step forward in quality of care and comfort for animals. It is very exciting that this level of care is available and currently being utilized on many West Suburban Humane Society pets.

Please address questions and suggestions for future animal health articles to:

Dr. Main
West Suburban
Humane Society
1901 W. Ogden Avenue
Downers Grove, IL 60515
director@wshs-dg.org



HEARTY THANKS



The employees of Primacy Relocation in Lisle, IL for their generous food, supply and toy donations.

...

Henry Schmidt of Downers Grove turned five and asked that his birthday party attendees bring items for the shelter. Henry collected numerous food and toy donations as well as \$90 for the homeless animals.

...

The school age kids from The Village Childrens Academy and their teachers Miss Meg and Miss Maggie held a car wash and donated the \$60 proceeds to the shelter.

...

The Student Council members from Whittier Elementary School in Downers Grove for their \$50 donation.

...

The employees of United Behavioral Health in Schaumburg for their generous food, supply and toy donations. The employees also raised \$800 for the shelter.

A drianna Everhart celebrated a milestone birthday in July. Her husband had a party in her honor and the guests brought items from our wish list as gifts. They collected over \$300 in monetary donations as well.

...

Two young girls, Jenna and Courtney, each ran a website company that sold lotions and pictures frames. Their companies made a total of \$36.31 which they donated to the shelter.

...

Danielle Fite, Samantha Loudermilk and Hannah Seidenfuss had a carnival that raised \$121 for the animals at the shelter.

...

The Smith Family Fund of The DuPage Community Foundation for their generous \$5,000 grant.

A BIG THANK YOU to all of our Barkapalooza Sponsors

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 Downers Grove Reporter

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Cat's Meow - \$250 Sponsors

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This year's Barkapalooza Walk-A-Thon and Pet Expo Pledge Contributors:

1st Place - Gail Monick of Bensenville, IL raised \$1,710 in pledges. Gail is generously donating \$250 of the \$500 she won as top pledge contributor back to the shelter and the other \$250 to Noah's Wish.

2nd Place – Elyssa Smith of Glen Ellen, IL raised \$1,610 in pledges.

3rd Place – Jen McDonnell of Wheaton, IL raised \$1,346 in pledges.

4th Place – LuAnne Patno of Downers Grove, IL raised \$1,110 in pledges.

Congratulations to our 2007 Wags to Riches Raffle Winner!

Raymond Pogwizd of LaGrange Park was the winner of the 50/50 Split the Pot raffle. Raymond won \$1,730 and generously donated \$480 of his winnings back to the shelter.

Rescue Rainbow Bridge

Unlike most days at RainBow Bridge, this day dawned cold and gray, damp as a swamp and as dismal as could be imagined. All the recent arrivals were confused and concerned. They had no idea what to think for they had never experienced a day like this before. But the animals who had spent some time waiting for their beloved people knew exactly what was happening and began to gather at the pathway leading to the Bridge to watch. They knew this was something special.

It wasn't too long before an elderly animal came into view, head hung heavy and low with tail dragging along the ground. The other animals on the pathway...the ones who had been at RainBow Bridge for a while...knew the story of this sad creature immediately. They had seen it happen far too many times

Although it was obvious the animal's heart was leaden and he was totally overcome with emotional pain and hurt, there was no sign of injury or any illness. Unlike the pets waiting at the Bridge, this dog had not been restored to his prime. He was full of neither health nor vigor. He approached slowly and painfully, watching all the pets who were by now watching him. He knew he was out of place here. This was no resting place for him. He felt instinctively that the sooner he could cross over, the happier he would be. But alas, as he came closer to the Bridge, his way was barred by the appearance of an Angel who spoke softly to the old dog and apologized sorrowfully, telling him that he would not be able to pass. Only those animals who were with their special people could pass over the RainBow Bridge. And he had no special beloved people...not here at the Bridge nor on Earth below.

With no place else to turn, the poor elderly dog looked toward the fields before the Bridge. There, in a separate area nearby, he spotted a group of other sad-eyed animals like himself...elderly and infirm. Unlike the pets waiting for their special people, these animals weren't playing, but simply lying on the green grass, forlornly and miserably staring out at the pathway leading to the Bridge. The recent arrival knew he had no choice but to join them. And so, he took his place among them, just watching the pathway and waiting.

One of the newest arrivals at the Bridge, who was waiting for his special people, could not understand what he had just witnessed and asked one of the pets who had been there for some time to explain it to him.

"That poor dog was a rescue, sent to the pound when his owner grew tired of him. They way you see him now, with graying fur and sad, cloudy eyes, was exactly the way he was when he was put into the kennels. He never, ever made it out and passed on only with the love and comfort that the kennel workers could give him as he left his miserable and unloved existence on Earth for good. Because he had no family or special person to give his love, he has nobody to escort him across the Bridge."

The first animal thought about this for a minute and then asked, "So what will happen now?"

As he was about to receive his answer, the clouds suddenly parted and the all-invasive gloom lifted. Coming toward the Bridge could be seen a single figure...a person who, on Earth, had seemed quite ordinary...a person who, just like the

elderly dog, had just left Earth forever. This figure turned toward a group of the sad animals and extended outstretched palms. The sweetest sounds they had ever heard echoed gently above them and all were bathed in a pure and golden light. Instantly, each was young and healthy again, just as they had been in the prime of life.

From within the gathering of pets waiting for their special people, a group of animals emerged and moved toward the pathway. As they came close to the passing figure, each bowed low and each received a tender pat on the head or a scratch behind the ears. Their eyes grew even brighter as the figure softly murmured each name. Then, the newly-restored pets fell into line behind the figure and quietly followed this person to the Bridge, where they all crossed together.

The recent arrival who had been watching, was amazed. "What happened?"

"That was a rescuer," came the answer. "That person spent a lifetime trying to help pets of all kinds. The ones you saw bowing in respect were those who found new homes because of such unselfish work. They will cross when their families arrive. Those you saw restored were ones who never found homes. When a rescuer arrives, they are permitted to perform one, final act of rescue. They are allowed to escort those poor pets that couldn't place on Earth across the Rainbow Bridge. You see, all animals are special to them...just as they are special to all animals."

"I think I like rescuers," said the recent arrival.

"So does God," was the reply.

--Author Unknown--

