



West Suburban Humane Society

STRAY THOUGHTS

**HAPPY
HOLIDAYS!**
FROM:
WEST SUBURBAN
HUMANE SOCIETY

S.T.A.R Dog at WSHS

As everyone watches the dollar shrink and the financial markets plummet, no one understands more than a not for profit, the value of generosity and the importance of an effective donation. West Suburban Humane Society has certainly started to feel the pinch of a poor economy and understands the need to spend wisely. In the spirit of a value added donation, West Suburban hopes to find support for one of their most important programs, the **S.T.A.R. (Special Training and Reinforcement) program**.

The S.T.A.R. program sends dogs with behavioral problems, to camp! The problems can range from aggression to fear. Many animals have been neglected and abused, and they have developed negative behaviors to help them cope.



In the spirit of helping needy animals, Midwest Canine in Des Plaines and Bark Avenue

Daycamp in Bartlett, offer a 50% discount on every dog they rehabilitate. Daily, continuous training & behavioral modification is provided and the results have been highly successful.

A good example would be Asia. She was a pit bull mix that came to the shelter with her 6 puppies, from Joliet Animal Control. The puppies were all quickly adopted but Asia was always passed by. She was a sweet girl but not well socialized around people. She would growl and snap out of fear. We sent her for two weeks of training and when she returned she was a different dog. She was happy, good with other dogs and great with people. She is now adopted and living happily with a family in Carol Stream.

West Suburban is a no kill shelter. Only extreme cases of aggression or poor health call for euthanasia. Because of this longstanding, thirty five year old policy, many animals with issues may stay at the shelter a very long time while waiting for that perfect family to come in and adopt them. This not only causes more stress to the animal, often making their issues worse, but it is very costly to the shelter. Money is spent on maintaining the animal instead of adopting more animals.

The training investment of these animals is costly, but the results have been many. West Suburban feels the training costs will save the organization

money in the long run and better yet, it will save a life!

Please donate to this worthy, effective and dollar wise effort. For more information, contact Carolyn Mossberger at 630-960-9600, ext. 25 or email director@wshs-dg.org.

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

Our Shelter Hours Are:

Weekdays:

11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Weekends:

11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Closed Wednesdays

SHOP AND SHARE

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

SHOP & SHARE IDENTIFICATION SLIP									
1130940						AMOUNT OF PURCHASE			
GROUP NUMBER		STORE NUMBER				DOLLARS		CENTS	
GROUP: West Suburban Humane Society YOUR SHOP & SHARE DAYS: 12/15/2008, 12/16/2008, 12/17/2008 SIGNATURE _____									
PLEASE SIGN THIS SLIP AND TURN IT IN TO YOUR CHECKER WHEN YOU SHOP. PARTICIPANTS CAN MAKE PURCHASES AT ANY JEWEL-OSCO ON THE DATE ABOVE. IDENTIFICATION SLIPS ARE NOT TO BE DISTRIBUTED IN FRONT OF ANY JEWEL-OSCO.									

Jewel-Osco

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
- Lint Traps
- Volunteers!
- **Monetary donations are always appreciated!**



INTEGRATED PRINT MANAGEMENT

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

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

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:

Guy Pinta, President
 Cindy Johnson, Recording Secretary
 Dawn Drella, Controller/Treasurer
 Jennifer Bahlmann, Director
 Pat Rowland, Director
 Tyson Grover, Director
 Renee Cantalupo, 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 Assts: Kendra Crawford & Brigitte Black
 Adoption Desk Manager: Kristy Moran (Ext. 10)
 Volunteer Coordinator: Patti Miller (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**

Tails at Twilight



Save the Date

West Suburban Humane Society
invites you to join us for our

1st Annual Tails at Twilight

Friday, May 8, 2009

6:00 to 11:00 pm • Dressy Casual

The Abbington • 35002 Route 53 in Glen Ellyn, Illinois
Dinner and Complimentary Champagne • Cash Bar

Live and Silent Auctions to benefit the
animals in the care of WSHS

Auction Items Needed

We are in the process of accumulating items for our dinner/auction, Tails At Twilight, which will be held on Friday, May 8, 2009. 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, ext. 25 or email her at director@wsbs-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
- Art work
- Facial
- Handmade items (like sweaters, pottery)
- Case of fine wine
- Car wash
- Car detailing package
- Movie tickets
- Hotel overnights
- Restaurant certificates
- Zoo events
- Museum memberships
- Garden items
- Chicago tours
- Theater tickets

- Sports tickets
- Concerts
- Disney events
- Spa packages
- Small appliances
- Massage
- Manicure/pedicure
- Airline tickets
- Vacation home
- Jewelry
- Children's classes
- Car driving classes
- Limo services
- Furniture
- 2009 air show hotel reservations

- Smithsonian weekend
- Homemade dinners delivered
- Dog walking services
- Cat sitting services
- Grooming packages
- Vet visits
- Tickets to Indianapolis 500
- Dinner and a movie
- Dinner and a play
- Boat trip
- Tickets to Great America
- Wisconsin Dells weekend
- Geneva weekend

On behalf of the animals,
Thank You!

Ready For a Home



Jackson

8 year old, Male, Rat Terrier

Hi, my name is Jackson. I was returned to the shelter because my owners had a baby and could no longer keep me. When I arrived at the shelter, the staff noticed that I was pretty high strung. I had some behavior issues that they were a little concerned about so they sent me to two weeks of training at Bark Avenue Day Camp in Barlett. While I was at training, I learned all of my basic obedience commands, "sit", "down", "stay", "heel" and "come". I also learned how to be picked up, have my feet handled and my nails clipped. I am calmer, happier dog since my stay at training. I also found out how much I like other dogs. My ideal home would not have any children or cats. If you fall in love with me and decide to take me home, I come with a free session with my own personal trainer. What more could you ask for? If you are willing to give a guy like me a chance at finding his forever home, I promise to repay you by being your friend for life.

Intrigue

1 year old, Male, Shepherd Mix

Hi, I'm Intrigue. I arrived at the shelter with my two sisters in April of this year. At that time, we were 9 month old puppies that were found living under a trailer. We were all very sweet but not well socialized. Because I was the most well adjusted of the group, I stayed at the shelter and my sisters went to live in a temporary care home. It soon became evident to the staff that I needed some work. I was very sweet and friendly but didn't have a clue how to walk on leash. I was also very skittish in new situations and was terrified of loud noises. They decided to send me to the Midwest Canine Behavior and Socialization Center in Des Plaines. I was there for almost a month. During my stay, I learned how to walk on a leash. I also learned some basic obedience commands; "sit", "down", "stay" and "come". The trainer said that I was a special case. I am going to need a loving, patient family that is willing to continue to work with me on my fear of noises and new situations. I love other dogs so it would be great if my new family had one. I would do best in a home with children 10 years and older. If you have a little time and a lot of love to give, how about giving me a chance to be the dog I know I can be. You won't regret it!



River

7 year old, Male, Grey and White DSH

You should see me when I sleep. They tell me I am the cutest thing, with my front feet curled up under my chin. I was returned to the shelter I came from as a kitten because I had some medical problems that my adopter could not afford to address. Once I got back here, it was discovered that I had a stones and crystals in my bladder. I had surgery to remove all the bad stuff and now I am on a good diet that keeps it from coming back. I am very loving and like to be brushed. I don't have any claws at all and would love nothing more than to be your lap companion. I have reacted pretty well to the other cats and dogs here, but I might prefer a quieter home. Don't let my history stop you from coming to see me!



Wooster

10 year old, Male, Black and White

Goodness I just don't get it. One minute I am living in a comfy home, then all of a sudden I am a barn cat. Then, I wind up at animal control where they discover I have a microchip, and I end up back where I started, at this shelter. It's actually good I came back here because I have a really good appetite and they feed me really well here. I am a super friendly, loving cat, so I'd like a home where there is lots of love, please. If you are looking for a cat that will fit right into your home, that's me! I am very easy-going and could probably live with cats, dogs, kids or anyone.



HEARTY THANKS



First United Methodist Church of Downers Grove did a Blessing for the Animals and did a food drive for WSHS. They collected numerous food and supply donations for the animals at the shelter.



Ben Airdo of Elmhurst had a birthday and asked for donations to the shelter instead of gifts. He collected numerous food and supply donations for the animals in our care. Ben and his family also adopted a cat from us and Ben is going to volunteer with his parents as soon as he is old enough.

Emma, Samantha and Kaysie Stuba of LaGrange operate a lemonade and hot dog stand every summer to earn some spending money for summer activities. This summer they expanded their business venture to include hand-decorated flip flops. They were so successful this year that the girls decided to donate some of their profits to charity. They donated \$40 to the shelter.

Miller Elementary School in Westmont raised \$200 for the shelter.

Drew and Emma Swenson of Downers Grove had a lemonade stand and donated the proceeds to the shelter.

Abby Armato turned 14 and asked for donations to the shelter instead of gifts. She collected numerous food and supply donations.

The Student Council of Lisle Senior High School had a volleyball tournament and donated the proceeds to the shelter. They raised \$1,000 on our behalf! A big thank you to Marti Truemper, Student Council Advisory and students Kyle Muelhausen, Joe Reeder, Ryan Muir and Naomi Gunaratne for coordinating the event.

Maggie Quick of Elmhurst had a 7th birthday party and asked her guests to make donations to the shelter instead of gifts for her. She collected \$97.59.

Natalie Schilling of Glen Ellyn had a 10th birthday party and asked her guests to make donations to the shelter instead of gifts for her.

Erin Menich of Woodridge had a 10th birthday party and asked her guests to make donations to the shelter instead of gifts for her.

Cari Nodus and Kaila Tu had a lemonade stand and raised \$27.89 for the shelter.

Joey and Rachel Chiappetta of Elmhurst had a birthday party and collected toys, food and \$160 for the animals at the shelter.

Katie Vanzandbergen and Claire Cornell of Elmhurst had a lemonade stand and raised \$75 for the shelter.

Alena Stankaitis had an 8 year old birthday party and Grant Stankaitis had a 10 year old birthday party and collected gift cards, cat collars, cat toys and cat food for the cats here at the shelter.

Danielle Swenson of Elmhurst turned 7 and asked for donations to the shelter instead of gifts. She collected numerous food and supply donations for the animals in our care.



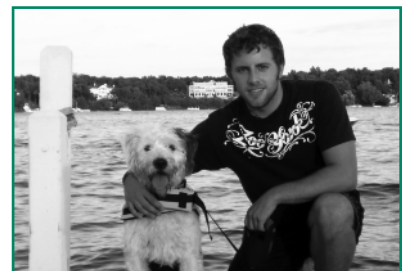
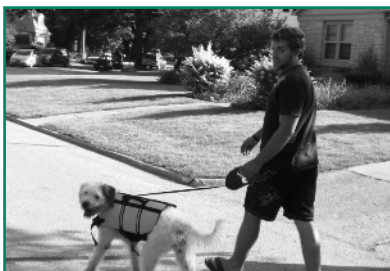
E-Mails and Letters From Adopters

To the staff at West Suburban Humane Society,

I just wanted to let everyone know that Herbie is doing great. He is doing really well with his training and is running about 3-4 miles a day with my boyfriend and me. I am going to attach some pictures of Herbie that I have taken. We took Herbie up to my lake house in Lake Geneva, WI and he loves to swim!

Thanks again for everything!

Christina Barranco



Pet Health Watch by Dr. Main, DVM

Are all aggressive behaviors in dogs the same?

Aggressive behavior in our pets can be a frightening sight, and sometimes leaves us wondering where this behavior came from. Certainly all dogs are innately capable of showing aggression but few actually demonstrate the behavior.

Aggressive behavior is at its worst characterized by biting. Bites can range from a mild nip or near miss to a deep penetrating bite wound. In many ways a dog's mouth is like our hands, in that they have exquisite control over their mouths. It is usually very intentional on the part of the dog as to whether a bite is a near miss, a mild nip (inhibited bite), or a more serious deep bite. Clearly a deep bite correlates with a more serious behavior problem. Other signs of aggression would include growling, showing teeth, dilated pupils, hackles raised, ears forward, and intensity in body posture. Human injury is always possible with dog aggression and great care must be taken in these situations. Let's look at some of the different types of aggression.

First, a common error is to assume that dominance is the underlying motivation of aggression. True dominance aggression directed at people is, in fact, very rare and only slightly more common toward other dogs.

Fear is probably the most common cause of aggression especially toward humans. Dogs may also be afraid of other animals or inanimate objects. This can be confusing, for example if a dog is afraid of the bath tub, this

dog may show aggression to its owner that is placing the dog in the tub. Yet fear aggression of the tub is the underlying cause. In this case desensitization from the tub or avoiding the tub would solve the aggression. Further in a dog with fear aggression of strangers, a problem can be avoided if the stranger knows not to corner or reach for the dog.

Territorial aggression primarily involves a dog protecting its domain or area. In this case risks are greater for a problem to occur. Whereas a fearful dog would avoid a confrontation a territorial dog will approach and initiate aggressive interaction with strangers who enter their perceived territory. The seriousness in this case would be determined by the dogs' intensity of aggression. Any dog that has bitten deeply or repetitively is a much more serious risk than an air snapper, or an inhibited biter, or a nip and run dog.

Redirected aggression can occur dog to dog, or dog to human. In an example a person walking their dog, "Spot", encounters another dog, but this other dog is a distance from the person and "Spot". Next "Spot" sees the other dog and becomes agitated, and then when "Spot" is unable to reach the distant dog, he begins to initiate aggressive behavior toward his owner. In essence "Spot" is redirecting his aggression toward his owner. In this case confrontations with other dogs should be avoided and counter conditioning for the sight of other dogs should be started.

Protective aggression involves a dog perceiving a threat and responding by initiating aggressive behavior. In fact this behavior could be appropriate to the situation, for example in the case of a burglary.

Possessive aggression and predatory aggression are two other forms of aggression that can occur. With possessive aggression dogs will guard a certain toy or bone or even a chair. And in predatory this would involve a dog hunting and perhaps killing a rabbit or other small animal.

As we can see aggression can have many different root causes. In treating aggression it is very important to determine the correct cause of the problem and then match up the correct treatment plan. A mismatched treatment plan could actually make the problem worse. Aggression is a serious problem because of the potential for human injury. Often a veterinary behavioral specialist is consulted on these cases. Certainly aggression toward a human is a big worry and should be addressed right away.

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



A BIG THANK YOU

To all of our Barkapalooza Sponsors

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 Downers Grove Reporter



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

- 1st Place** – Larry Sacks of Villa Park, IL raised \$2,610 in pledges. Larry is generously donating all of the \$500 he won as top pledge collector back to the shelter.
- 2nd Place** – Luanne Patno of Downers Grove, IL raised \$1,750 in pledges.
- 3rd Place** – Cindy Johnson of Downers Grove, IL raised \$1,255 in pledges.
- 4th Place** – Annie Morey of Woodridge, IL raised \$1,132 in pledges.

Congratulations to our 2008 Wags to Riches Raffle Winner!

Paul Bernasek of Western Springs was the winner of our 50/50 Split the Pot raffle.
Paul won \$1,390!

Above & Beyond for Shelter Pets



Charlotte

I was hoping for a miracle when I saw that WSHS staff member walk into Joliet Animal Control. You see, I

had been sitting there for a while, a six month old kitten, with a badly broken leg. Lucky for me West Suburban cares deeply for sick and injured animals, because that day, when she was there to pick up dogs, this staffer saw me and took me too.

I was ushered straight to the vet where my leg was splinted. That felt much better and I was relieved. I made sure I let everyone know how happy I was to be out of pain. They thought I was just the best kitten ever. When it was time for a check-up, the shelter vet (West Suburban Veterinary Associates) felt that my leg was not healing properly and that I should see a specialist who could use pins and screws to fix me. That is when I met Dr. Andrea Hayes of Boone Animal Hospital. She took a look at me and delivered great news: my body had begun to heal and surgery would not be necessary! My leg was reset in a cast and I was sent off to foster care for six weeks.

I loved my foster home; they even had a three legged cat for me to play with. Just before the six weeks were up, I started chewing at my cast. It really bothered me, so Dr. Hayes took it off to see what was going on. It turns out that my skin was very badly damaged in some spots under the cast. This was devastating news. I have to admit that my foster mom and Dr. Hayes' staff had a hard time keeping me from licking these areas. This meant I had to be kept in a cage and monitored very closely. Dr. Hayes agreed to let me live at Boone Animal Hospital for free while they fixed my skin.

At one point, there was discussion of amputating my leg, but Dr. Hayes was very tenacious. She tried everything,

including a new experimental product, to get my skin to heal. Her staff even came up with a device that kept me from licking the area. They cared for me so well and I am whole now because of them. They even took up a collection amongst themselves to help pay for my treatment.

The day I returned to West Suburban was bittersweet. The Boone staff said I was very special to them and they tell me I never lost my sweet personality throughout my ordeal. It was scary to leave, but it was also a step closer to finding my forever home. Now I am back at the shelter, completely healthy, just waiting for that special person to come and choose me. My road has been long, but hopefully it will end with a family of my very own.



Muncie

I was ten years old when I was returned to the shelter from which I was originally adopted at age two. My

owners said they were having a baby and didn't want me sneezing all over their newborn. At least they were honest. I had been experiencing chronic sneezing. Once I was back at the shelter, the extent of my problem was soon realized.

It was immediately apparent that I had severe dental disease, so shelter staff hoped that getting it under control would fix my problems. West Suburban Veterinary Associates performed dental surgery; including extracting many of my remaining teeth and sewing closed a small hole in the roof of my mouth. I healed well and was a model patient. Once off of antibiotics, though, the sneezing began again. I was put back on antibiotics and the sneezing stopped. Each time the medicine was discontinued, my symptoms returned.

During this time, a man came to see me who was very interested in adopting me.

He was unsure, though, because he was afraid I might have to be on medication for life. The shelter took me back to their vet to recheck my mouth and it was discovered that the hole in the roof of my mouth had reopened. Every time I ate, debris would get clogged in the hole and cause my sneezing.

My doctor decided it was time to consult a specialist, so I was referred to Dr. Cindy Charlier of Fox Valley Veterinary Dentistry & Surgery. One of the shelter's dedicated volunteers drove me to see Dr. Charlier, who was nice and also concerned about my well-being. Dr. Charlier was confident that she could fix my problem permanently. She didn't want the fact that I was a shelter cat to stand in the way of receiving treatment, so she offered to reduce her fees by 50%, which made it affordable for the shelter.

Because of Dr. Charlier's generosity and dedication to shelter animals, my surgery was scheduled and completed in no time. Skin was grafted from one part of my mouth and applied as a patch over the open hole. This problem had gone on for so many years; I was surprised it could be fixed so quickly. If it weren't for the shelter's perseverance, I fear I would never have been deemed adoptable.

Lucky for me, my surgery was a complete success and the gentleman who had expressed interest in me was willing to wait for me to get better. Shelter staff kept him updated with my progress, and when Dr. Charlier finally gave me a clean bill of health, he came to take me home. We have been living in harmony ever since and are so happy to be together. Whatever I have been through was all worth it. I am so very grateful to the shelter, their vet, the volunteer who spent hours driving me back and forth to appointments, Dr. Charlier, and especially my new friend who saw my potential and waited for me. I may be ten, but I have a new lease on life!