



West Suburban Humane Society

STRAY THOUGHTS

Happy
Valentines Day!
FROM The Animals
at WSHS

Lucky Dogs



I may have a famous name, but my beginnings were anything but entertaining. My name is **Martin Short**. You'll see

how I got this name when you come to meet me at the shelter. Although I am not known for my tall stature, I can be quite comedic. I love to sit on your lap and act goofy, all 42 pounds of me.

Like most of the animals here, I have a story to tell. I also want to tell you about a few of my neighbors here in the kennel. You see, we all have something in common: it was the luckiest day of our lives when we were chosen to become part of the West Suburban family. All six of us needed major medical care, which mostly came as a surprise to everyone.



My buddy **Hambone** and I have several things in common. We are both lab mixes for starters. He got the legs and I got....well, I

have a lot of personality! Although I came from Indiana and Hambone was brought from Quincy, IL, it became obvious right away that we both had serious hip problems. Hambone was so extremely thin that he

needed to gain some weight before he could have surgery to correct an old traumatic injury to the neck of his left femur. This is another fact we have in common: we both have the same surgeon. Each of us was sent to **Dr. Andrea Hayes at Boone Animal Hospital**.

Hambone went first and then he recuperated in one of the shelter's foster homes. He did so well post-surgery that he already came back to the shelter and got adopted! He is so lucky someone took a chance on him.

When it was my turn, Dr. Hayes found out that my injury was one I had been dealing with since I was a puppy. I'm just over a year old now, but I learned to live with a completely dislocated hip. Because my hip was out of place, I have one leg shorter than the others. I have been limping almost my whole life. My bones even grew differently because of this. I had to wait for my surgery because I had a pretty bad case of kennel cough. But guess what! Yep, another similarity to Hambone: I get to stay in the same foster home that he did. Once I am well, I hope to have one last thing in common with my buddy: a home of my very own.

This autumn was particularly remarkable at WSHS because in two months, the shelter took in four dogs that turned out to be heartworm positive. Heartworm is treatable, but takes a tremendous toll on a dog and can cause permanent damage, sometimes resulting in death. Recovery from the treatment is

arduous and takes at least two months. The shelter tries to find foster homes for dogs recovering from heartworm, but sometimes dogs are forced to get well in the kennel, which compounds the risk of complications.

My four WSHS friends who are dealing with heartworm are **Lennox, Noodles, Tiny & Oreo** and what they all had in common before arriving here was neglect. A monthly pill could have prevented this life-threatening disease.



Lennox, a boxer mix, came first. The shelter knew in advance that he tested

positive, but accepted him anyway. Lennox went to a foster home and his treatment began immediately. It became clear in the first few days that Lennox had been someone's pet. He is housebroken and knows obedience commands.

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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

Upcoming Events

630-960-9600, ext. 25

FEBRUARY

- 14th, Saturday Happy Valentines Day from the homeless animals at the shelter!
- 24th, Tuesday Spay Day USA. Stop by the shelter or check our web site at www.WSHS-DG.org for your Spay/Neuter Discount Coupon.

APRIL

- 12th, April Easter – WSHS will be closed today.

MAY

- 8th, Friday 1st Annual Tails at Twilight Dinner and Auction. See page 3 for more details on this exciting new event.
- 16th, Friday – 17th, Saturday Petals for Pets Plant Sale
Look for more information on our Fourth Annual Plant Sale on page 8 of this edition of Stray Thoughts.

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



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:

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Tyson Grover, Director
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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 Beierwaltes & 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**



www.WSHS-DG.org

Auction Cancellation

It is with much disappointment that we have decided to postpone our Tails At Twilight dinner and auction that was scheduled for May 8, 2009. It was a hard decision but one that we felt we had to make in light of the current economy. We did not feel that it would be fiscally responsible for us to proceed with the event at this time. We are hoping to reschedule the event in the spring of 2010 so stay tuned! We appreciate your continued support of our organization and are looking forward to a successful 2009.

Commitment to Caring Club



The West Suburban Humane Society is excited to announce a new form of planned giving called the Commitment to Caring Club. This plan will allow you to effortlessly make a monthly contribution, which will be automatically deducted from your checking account in any amount you choose. By contributing to the shelter in this way, you'll help reduce administrative and postage costs and a greater portion of each dollar you give will go directly to support our mission.



By joining this club, you will pledge a monthly gift to help WSHS continue to fulfill its mission of providing quality care to the animals in its charge, striving to find the most suitable homes possible for them, and promoting humane education in order to help end the fight against animal abuse, neglect, and overpopulation. Your checking account will be charged monthly in the amount of your choosing, and that amount may be changed or discontinued with 30 days notice.



To become a member of the West Suburban Humane Society's Commitment to Caring Club, please complete the form on page 4 and return to the attention of Carolyn Mossberger, West Suburban Humane Society, 1901 W. Ogden Ave, Downers Grove, IL 60515.



Thank you in advance for your dedication and support of the shelter and its mission. If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact Carolyn at 630-960-9600, ext. 25.



Commitment to Caring Authorization Form

AUTHORIZATION AGREEMENT FOR CHECKING ACCOUNT WITHDRAWALS

Name: West Suburban Humane Society
(Please Print)

I/We, _____, hereinafter called Payor, hereby authorize West Suburban Humane Society, hereinafter called Company, to initiate debit entries to my/our checking account at the financial institution named below, hereinafter called Depository, in the amount indicated.

Name of Financial Institution: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Routing/ABA No: _____ Account No: _____

Monthly Amount: _____ Effective Date: _____

(Please provide a photocopy of a cancelled check or a voided check.)

This authorization is to remain in full force and effect until Company has received written notification from Payor of its termination in such time and in such manner as to afford Company and Depository a reasonable opportunity to act on it.

Signature

Date



Ready For a Home

Cappy

7 year old, Male, Husky Mix

Hi, I'm Cappy. I am a sweet, friendly and independent guy that is looking to find my forever home. I recently arrived at this shelter from the Illinois Valley Animal Rescue which is located in Central Illinois. I was turned in by my owner who had to move and couldn't take me with. While he owned me, I lived outside, tied to a tree. I was actually at the Illinois Valley Animal Rescue for over two years and nobody looked at me. They asked WSHS to take me and find me a home. I would do best in a home with children 8 years and older (due to my strength and energy level) and no cats. I am picky about my dog friends. I would love a home with a large fenced in backyard. I am hopeful that I will find my inside, forever home soon. Can you help me out?



Fuller

4 year old, Male, Spaniel/Terrier Mix

Hi, my name is Fuller. Let me tell you a little about myself. So when I came to the shelter, I was really in bad shape. Skinny (only 17 lbs), anemic and very lethargic. I went to a foster home where I got excellent care. I gained weight and now have more energy than I know what to do with. I love to run and play and in case you're wondering, I'm totally housebroken. At the foster home, I learned lots of tricks. I can sit, stay, give paw, roll over, circle you (walk around you) and if you throw one of my toys, I'll bring it back to you. When you feed me, I'll sit patiently and wait for your "ok" before I gobble my food down. I love learning new tricks, so if you adopt me, I'm very eager to learn (and I'm a quick study too!). I love these plushy squeaky toys and kong toys with a treat in it. I get along great with other dogs and even like cats. I have just one issue and that is that I'm terrified of strangers. So if I back off from you, it's not because I don't like you. . . I'm just scared. That's the reason I came back to the shelter; to get used to having different people walk me and feed me and hopefully I'll get rid of this fear that I have. But believe me, after I get to know you, we'll be best friends.



Pee Wee

8 year old, Male, Black DHS

I had the good fortune to live in a foster home for a while, so there is a lot known about how I will be in a home setting. I crave human companionship and I give as much love as I get. I have been quite a lap cat in my foster home and I like to curl up with the other cat here. I even get along great with the dog! Now that I am back at the shelter, I am even more eager to find my forever home. my foster family really loved me. I have that effect on people. Won't you come visit so I can show you how good we'd be together?



Lindsey

5 year old, Female, Tri Color Tabby

My New Year's resolution for 2009 is to go home. This April I will have been here at WSHS over half my life. Don't get me wrong—I've been in much worse places. When I was very young I had to live outside and fend for myself, which was absolutely no fun at all. I wound up pregnant at an animal control facility in one of the south suburbs when the wonderful people at WSHS found me and took me in. That was April of 2006 and at that time they estimated that I was almost 2 years old. My foster families said that I was really good to my kittens, who all got adopted pretty quickly, but here I am. Still. I can't complain too much because I've got a warm place to stay, good food to eat, and lots of love and attention from the staff and volunteers, but it's getting really cramped in here and I really need some time and space to get out and stretch my legs.

I have been a pretty lucky one here at WSHS. The WSHS staff and some of the volunteers have been working with me for a while now so that I can learn to trust people. I was even blessed by Pastor Jones at Faith United Methodist Church in Lombard last October! I've come a long way, but what I really need is the chance to go into my own home and become part of a family. I'm looking for a quiet home where I can be the kitten I've never had the chance to be. My new family, one with no children under the age of 16 and no other dogs or cats, will need to be patient with me and give me lots of love and attention for a little while until I get the hang of living with people.

If you will let me be the love of your life, I'll let you be mine. Promise!



HEARTY THANKS



Marti Truemper, Student Congress Advisor at Lisle Senior High School and her students had a winter giving contested and collected numerous food donations for the animals at the shelter.

The employees at Carlson Wagonlit Travel in Downers Grove for their numerous food and supply donations.

Emmy and Ashton Wilson emptied their piggy banks to make a Christmas donation to the shelter. Emmy donated \$33.13 and Ashton donated \$28.93. Their parents matched their gift and donated another \$60 to the shelter.

Danielle Losurdil of Woodridge saved her allowance and donated \$36 to the shelter.

Katie Lauder of Oak Brook turned 12 and asked for donations to the shelter instead of gifts. She collected food, toys, treats and \$45.

Savannah Fedi of Downers Grove hosted a fundraiser on behalf of the animals at the humane society. She collected numerous food and supply donations for the shelter.

Maggie Clink of Elmhurst turned 7 and asked for donations to the shelter instead of gifts. She collected food, supplies, gift cards, stamps and money for the animals at the shelter.

Catie Hohnstein collected \$105 in donations in lieu of birthday gifts. Her family adopted their dog from us 3 years ago and she wanted to give back to other animals.

Cub Scout Pack 134 of Bolingbrook hosted a pet food drive and collected numerous food and supply donations for the shelter.

Tom Finucane of Downers Grove collected numerous food and supply donations for the shelter as part of his confirmation class mission project.

Calee O'Connor of Darien had a birthday and asked for donations for the shelter in lieu of birthday gifts. She collected numerous food and supply donations.

Jamie Meza, a third grade teacher at Schafer School in Lombard and her students collected numerous food and supply donations for the animals at the shelter.

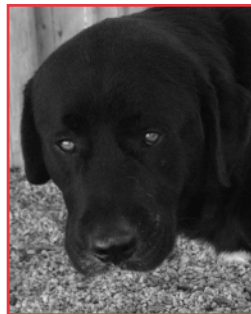
Lucky Dogs continued

The shelter staff figured his owner found out he had heartworm and couldn't or wouldn't pay for treatment, so he had to go. Lennox spent almost three months in foster care before coming back to the shelter. He is now heartworm free and completely healthy. I am happy to report that Lennox has now been adopted into a loving family who will see that he receives regular vet care for the rest of his life.

Next came **Noodles**. When word came that Noodles was living outside, tied to a tree near a house that was getting condemned, the call went out for a temp home. He was emaciated from being fed a diet of ramen noodles and baby formula. I guess he's lucky he was fed at all. A volunteer came forward and Noodles began his new indoor life. No one was terribly surprised when Noodles turned out to have heartworm. His heart was enlarged so the treatments had to be given at monthly intervals.

At this time, Noodles is still in treatment, but he is feeling so much better. His foster family reports that he is much more energetic and happy. Even his fur has regained its luster.

Tiny, like myself, has an ironic name. He is a Newfoundland mix and should tip the scales at 100 pounds or so, but he was much lighter than that. Like so many dogs with no history of vaccines, Tiny got



kennel cough at the shelter. This is doubly dangerous for a dog with heartworm because both illnesses tax the heart and lungs. It was much more difficult to find a

temporary care home for Tiny, and he was forced to remain at the shelter after his first treatment. It was a rough week for Tiny, but eventually a volunteer took pity on him and took him home. Tiny has just completed his last treatment and will be up for adoption in about a month. He is a young dog, so hopefully there will be no permanent damage.



Lastly, there is **Oreo**, a bluetick coonhound. She came to WSHS pregnant with eight puppies. Before she

delivered, a heartworm test was run and sadly, she came up positive. We all worried for her because she was very thin and about to give birth. Heartworm treatment had to be postponed for three months until she had weaned the puppies and regained her strength. She managed to whelp the puppies without suffering complications. When the puppies were six weeks old, they came down with parvo, which came from Oreo. Although the puppies are in no danger of contracting heartworm from their mother, she couldn't protect them from parvo. Not all of the puppies survived, despite heroic efforts, but the remaining pups have been weaned. Now Oreo can concentrate on getting healthy herself. She will begin heartworm treatment soon and start the long road to a healthy, happy life where she will be loved and cherished even more for what she has been through.

Yes, indeed, we are the lucky ones. Because of our health problems, we surely would have been the first to go at animal control, and there aren't many shelters who treat these kinds of problems. That's what makes WSHS so special. Each cat and dog is treated as a family member and I for one am grateful. I may be short, but I have a long life ahead of me thanks to WSHS. When I get my forever home.....well, that's a story for another day.

Pet Health Watch by Dr. Main, DVM

My dog has been limping on his hind leg for a few days what could be wrong?

Hind leg injuries are very common in our dog companions and the problem is often located in the dogs' knee. A dog's knee is the second joint in the leg above the foot. Because dogs stand on their toes, their heel bone and ankle is the first joint above the foot. Whereas in people the knee is the first joint above the ground.

More specifically dogs often injure their anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) within the knee, in fact this is the most common hind leg injury in dogs. Some experts feel the ACL rupture is underdiagnosed in the canine patient. Early diagnosis is important in that osteoarthritis develops in the joint rapidly once the ACL is ruptured.

The ACL is one of several ligaments within the joint that stabilize the knee and allow for proper function. The function of the ACL is to prevent the tibia or, "shin bone", from excessive forward motion relative to the femur or "thigh bone". This injury is slightly more common in large breed dogs, often 5-7 years of age and more frequently in Rottweilers and Labrador retrievers than other breeds.

Active or working dogs are more likely to rupture their ACL especially if they are overweight or have underlying illness. Some experts have theorized that subclinical bacterial infection of the ligament could be a factor in ACL disease. None the less almost

any dog could chase out into the yard and rupture his or her ACL. ACL rupture may be slightly more common in the winter months with the ground being so much more slippery.

As a pet owner your dog will have a significant and persistent lameness if there is an ACL injury. Usually this will be obvious but occasionally dogs will hide their injury fairly well. The final diagnosis is made at the veterinary hospital. Your veterinarian will make the diagnosis mostly based on patient history and physical exam findings. Radiographs of the joint can be helpful and supportive in the diagnosis especially if the injury is older. In addition a hip radiograph is important to determine if there may also be a problem in the hip joint, for example hip dysplasia.

Once the diagnosis is made then treatment options must be considered. Many experts feel that the only treatment for a ruptured ACL is surgical. The reason for this viewpoint is that without surgical stabilization degenerative arthritis will ensue quickly. When the ACL ruptures the knee becomes unstable, this leads to aggressive wear and tear of the joint surfaces causing arthritis. However, even with surgical stabilization arthritis is likely to occur, just at a much slower rate. As with many medical conditions the decision should be customized to the individual patient. The age and overall physical condition and level of activity of the patient should be taken into account. In general surgical patients return to a higher level of function than nonsurgical

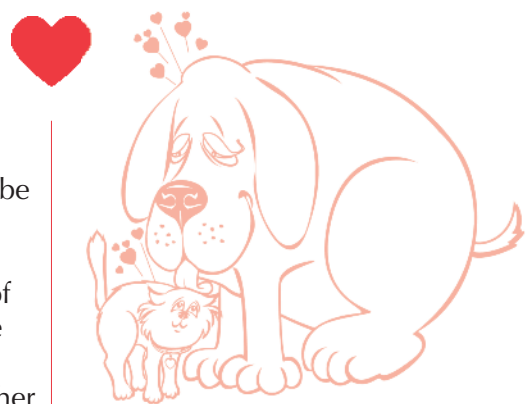
patients. In fact many large breed dogs will remain lame if they are not surgically stabilized.

There are several surgical techniques used to stabilize the canine knee after a ruptured ACL has occurred. Consultation with your veterinarian is recommended as to what might be best for your dog.

Regardless of the surgical technique your dog will require 4-8 weeks of rest post operatively, and will take 6 months to fully heal from the procedure. Physical therapy in the post-op phase can improve outcomes for function. Pain management and joint supplements will also be important in the process.

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



E-Mails and Letters From Adopters

To the staff at West Suburban Humane Society,



Remember me? I survived the hurricane that I am named after a few years back.

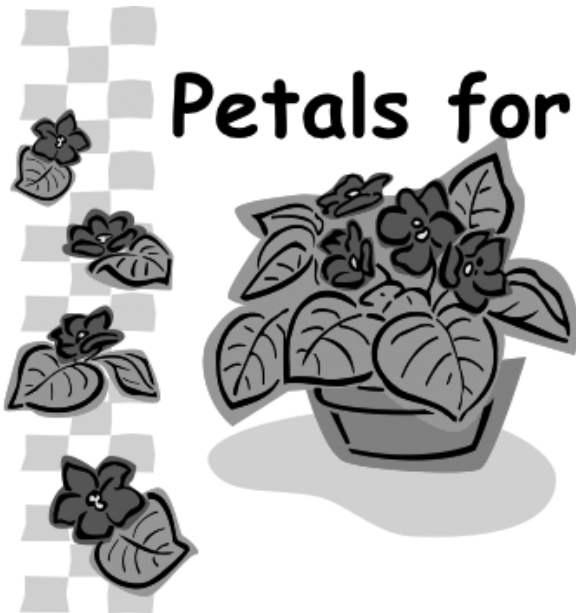
After I was rescued from the storm I spent 2 1/2 years at the West Suburban Humane Society in a cage. Why did I get stuck in a cage for so long, you ask? It's simple really. When I was out of my cage meeting people who might adopt me, and someone picked me up, I was not the sweet cat I have since become. I was sure they just wanted to put me back in the cage and all I really wanted was to be free. After reading my story in the WSHS newsletter, "Stray Thoughts," my new friend was determined to get me out of that cage and now I live with her.

When I first came to my new home I was quite insecure and chose a hidden spot under my friend's desk behind something called a paper shredder. As time went by, I discovered floor to ceiling windows where I can sit and watch squirrels, chipmunks & birds during the day and raccoons, possums and skunks at night. Once in a while an animal that looks just like me passes by and I get very excited. I still like to play with the laser pointer as well as small boxes, tunnels, cubes, etc., and I'm particularly fond of an old, red Nordstrom shopping bag. I have a lot of toys to play with, in fact my friend's son said all those toys remind him of his childhood. My friend says that her big dogs had small toys while her small cat now has lots of big toys that take up lots of room. My friend has never lived with a cat before, only much larger Dobermans. She always said, "if you have to bend over to pet it, it just isn't a dog." Now she says, "if you have to bend over to pet it, it just might be a cat," and that's where I came in. She takes good care of me and I have decided to adopt her. I like to sit on her lap, but not for too long though. I don't want to spoil her. I feel more at home here every day. Sometimes she puts me in my cat carrier, and as far as I am concerned, it is just another cage. At least I'm never in it for very long though. I am a very lucky cat. I survived a hurricane, the West Suburban Humane Society took me in and eventually found me a good friend and a nice home with no cages. My friend calls me the upside down cat since I like belly rubs. By the way, I don't play with my water dish any more, I have plenty of toys and lots of room to roam now.

Love, Katrina



Petals for Pets



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

West Suburban will host their fourth annual plant sale on May 9th and 10th from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

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

630-960-9600 x 25