



Don't Miss the
Event of the Year!
See Pages 7 & 8
for Details.

West Suburban Humane Society

STRAY THOUGHTS

A Tale of Two Kitties



Minikin

This is the tale of two kitties. Really, there is only me, but I feel like I have been two different cats. My name is Minikin and

this is my story. Back in 2003 on a frigid January evening, I was found, a lonely little kitten, in Joliet, IL. I was taken to Joliet Animal Control and it was there that a staff member from West Suburban Humane Society saw me, scared and alone in a cage. She was picking up dogs to bring back to WSHS, but took pity on me and scooped me up as well.

I settled into life at the shelter pretty well and soon a family came along who wanted to make me part of their family. I was so happy in my home. There were kids and other cats to play with and I could lounge on a bed or in the sun whenever I wanted. It was a joyous life of fun and freedom. Then, after four years of blissful living, my family fell on hard times and had to move to a place that didn't allow cats. Can you imagine a place where we wouldn't be welcome? Anyway, this was devastating to me. I was so anxious and fearful to be ripped from my home and placed in a wire cage, surrounded by others in the same predicament. None of us could understand what we had done wrong to land us here. All I had to cling to was the hope that this would be temporary

and that my family would come back for me. I watched and I waited and I paced my cage, but they never came back. That is when I became a different cat.

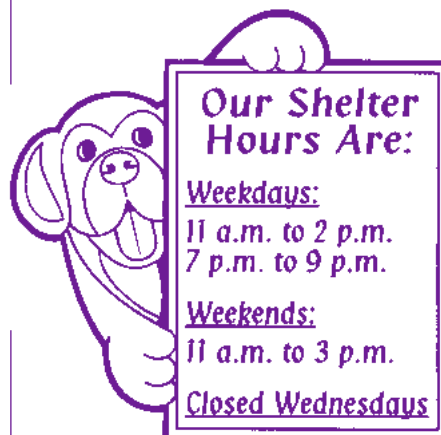
Loss of hope can really change a person, and it's like that for cats too. As time went on, I became more and more depressed. I am ashamed to say that I became difficult to manage and eventually, none of the volunteers wanted to spend time with me. I don't blame them. I was acting very bratty for a very long time. After a while I just let myself go. No one could trim my nails and I used them on everyone who tried to interact with me. I stopped cleaning myself and became covered in mats, but I wouldn't allow staffers to try and groom me. Finally, it got so bad, they had to take me to a vet where I was sedated and shaved completely. These were the darkest years of my life and I just didn't know how to ask for help.

Now here it is, 2009. I am seven years old and I have finally been given my chance. I guess the complaints about my behavior in the cattery became so frequent, I was recently moved to a space in a different building. Here I am away from most of the barking dogs and I am allowed out of my cage to roam the building like a regular cat every couple of days. This change alone has allowed me to feel hope again. My favorite times are when I am out. I love to be with people and "helping" with the chores around here. I help stock the food and I help in the office. If

there are people working, I am there. They love it when I rub myself all over them and flop down for a belly rub on their work. I am alive again and feeling like my old self. I almost didn't recognize me; it has been two years since I lost my home.

I am confident my time is coming soon. I have a nice large spot right by the front door here where I can see all of the comings and goings. Everyone says how beautiful my long, tri-colored fur is. I just have one or two requests for my forever home. I am afraid of dogs and it has been a really long time since I lived with cats, so I may do best as an only pet. I was good with kids in my last home, but really little ones might pull on my luxurious coat by accident, so older kids might work out best for me.

This tale of two kitties will have a happy ending. It just hasn't been written yet.



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									
AMOUNT OF PURCHASE									
03300940									
GROUP NUMBER		STORE NUMBER			DOLLARS		CENTS		
GROUP: West Suburban Humane Society									
YOUR SHOP & SHARE DAYS: 5/11/2009, 5/12/2009, 5/13/2009									
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.									
									

Upcoming Events

630-960-9600, ext. 25

MAY

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| 2nd, Saturday | Mutts Need Moola - Look for WSHS at Local Jewel Stores |
| 9th, Saturday –
10th, Sunday | Petals for Pets Plant Sale
Look for more information on our Fourth Annual Plant Sale on page 4 of this edition of Stray Thoughts. |
| 11th, Monday –
13th Wednesday | Jewel Shop & Share
Look for your coupon in this edition of Stray Thoughts. |
| 25th, Monday | Memorial Day - WSHS will be closed today. |

JUNE – ADOPT A SHELTER CAT MONTH

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| 6th, Saturday | Barkaritaville - See insert in this newsletter for more information about this exciting new event! |
| 10th, June | WSHS General Meeting held at 7:00 pm at the Downers Grove Park District. Hear what's new at the shelter, partake of refreshments and enjoy a great guest speaker. |
| 26th, Friday –
28th Sunday | Downers Grove Heritage Festival
Stop by and visit the shelter's booth! |

JULY

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

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

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:

Pat Rowland, President
Jennifer Bahlmann, Vice President
Cindy Johnson, Recording Secretary
Dawn Drella, Controller/Treasurer
Tyson Grover, Director
Renee Cantalupo, Director
Brian Ledebuhr, Director

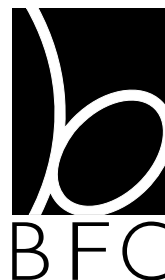
THE WSHS STAFF:

Executive Director: Carolyn Mossberger (Ext. 25)
Animal Care Manager: Sarah Stromberg (Ext. 23)
Night and Weekend Manager: Catherine Schmitt and Jen Laurinaitis
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

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

Ready For a Home

Bee Bee

5 year old, Female, Brown Tabby

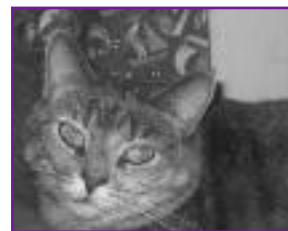
When you come to WSHS, you will have many cats to choose from. I don't stand out as particularly special because I am a brown tabby. But guess what, good things come in plain brown wrappers! My problem is that I am a curvacious gal in a small cage and this makes me, well, cagey. In a home, I love to be loved and can be the most loyal companion. I will be your one and only, and you won't be sorry. Please come visit me today!



Trudy

3 year old, Female, Grey Tabby DSH

I'm a beautiful, muted calico/tabby mix. My fur is very soft, and I'm very quiet and shy. I came to WSHS when I was young and pregnant. My kittens have all been adopted, but I am still here because I am learning to trust. I have made great strides since moving into an office here. I have begun to play with toys and I really enjoy talking to the birds outside my window every morning. I like being with the other cats because they give me courage. In fact, I need to live in a home with another cat. Stop in and ask to see me, I'm in the front office.



Sweet Pea

5 year old, Female, Shepherd/Rottweiler Mix

Hi, my name is Sweet Pea. I was recently returned to the shelter because I did not get along well with the new baby in my home. I am a great dog. I am housebroken, crate trained and obedience trained. I am picky about my dog friends and cannot live with cats. I need to live with children at least 10 years of age. I am going to make a great dog for some lucky family. Could that family be yours?



Droopy

5 year old, Male, Basset Hound

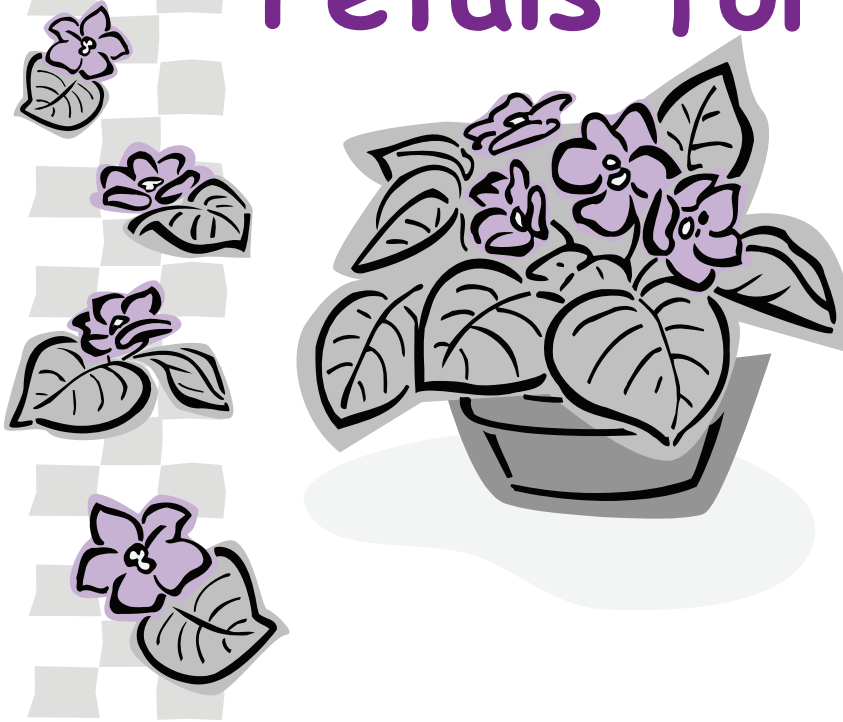
I'm a pretty handsome fella, even if I do say so myself. I am a laid back guy that is looking for his forever home. I am good with kids, cats and other dogs. I walk well on a leash and know my basic obedience commands. Because of my breed, I cannot live in an apartment. I am going to make an excellent addition to some lucky family. Could it be yours?



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!

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 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
www.WSHS-DG.org

Visit our second location on Saturday, May 9th at
Four Lakes Village of Lisle
Intersection of Rt. 53 and 59th Street
Follow the signs to the ski hill.

HEARTY THANKS

Dawn Mchugh of Downers Grove raised \$155 for a church project and donated it to the humane society.

The **American Government Class of York Community High School** completed a civic action project. They sold cookies and used the money to purchase items from our wish list. The students collected numerous food and supply donations for the animals at the shelter.

The **SASED Multi Needs students at Westmont High School** sold dog treats to raise money for the shelter. They raised a total of \$120.

Taylor Leven and Nesma Hamounda asked for donations for the humane society instead of gifts for themselves for their 13th birthday. They raised \$135 and collected dog and cat food.

The **fifth grade class at Pierce Downer Elementary School** held a charity auction and raised \$80.40 for the shelter.

The **students at Oakbrook School in Wood Dale** conducted its annual Change for Change drive in February. Of the money collected, \$265.78 was donated to the humane society.

The **fourth graders from St. Joseph's School** donated food and made goodie bags for all of the dogs at the shelter.

The **student council at Forest Hills School in Western Springs** sold candy kisses and raised \$208.79 for the humane society.

Becky Wade of Downers Grove saved money from her weekly allowance and donated \$40 for the animals at the shelter.

Lace School in Darien has an after school program for their students called **Kids4Good**. This group does a variety of community service related projects. The kids choose the shelter as one of their projects and collected \$200 for the animals in our care.

Olivia Sanders of Downers Grove did a mission project as part of her confirmation class. She started with \$10 seed money and grew her money to \$17.50 which she donated to the shelter.

Morgan Majcen of Burr Ridge had a lemonade stand and donated all of the money she raised to the shelter.

Max Schooley of Downers Grove had a five year old birthday party and asked for donations for the shelter instead of gifts for him. He collected numerous food and supply donations.



The **Build-A-Bear Workshop Bear Hugs Foundation** for their generous gift of \$1,000.

To our shelter volunteers, **Diane Harke, Bob Harke, Karen Berger, Kurt Mohr, Nancy Johnsen and Bill Johnsen** for donating their time on a Saturday to do a huge clean up project for the shelter. They saved us a considerable amount of money by volunteering to do the job themselves. Thank you also to **Jim O'Callaghan** of ARC in Wheeling, who donated masks and heavy duty bags for us to use during the clean up.

The **Circulation Department at the Villa Park Library** collected donations and raised \$95 for the shelter.

The **employees of Magnetrol Interational in Downers Grove** donated food, supplies, \$56.42 in stamps and \$653 to the animals at the shelter.



The students at **Henry Puffer School in Downers Grove** held a Pennies for Pets contest. The students all brought in their spare change for a week. They raised a total of \$1,611.35 which they donated to the shelter.

Thank you to **Community Bank of Downers Grove** for featuring us in their annual Christmas Sharing program. For each donation the bank received for our shelter they matched it with a like amount. We received donations totaling \$1,740.

Yarning for a Cause, a group of sophomores at Hinsdale South High School, knitted and donated cat beds for the cats here at the shelter. They also collected food and supply donations on behalf of the animals.

The **employees of Bosch Rexroth Corporation in Hoffman Estates** donated food, supplies and money to the shelter.

The **Honor Students at Downers Grove North High School** stood outside of local Dominick stores and collected food, supply and monetary donations for the shelter. They collected \$945.20.

Letters From Adopters



Hello-

We adopted Froggy back in January; we received the letter in the mail to see how he is doing. I keep forgetting to mail it. I attached a picture of Froggy. He is doing great and he is such a good boy. We kept his name Froggy but sometimes we call him Mr. Frog (lol!). He loves car rides and playing with other dogs! He sleeps in bed with us at night. He will be going to doggie daycare once a week starting in a few weeks, so he can play with other dogs.

We just wanted the Animal Shelter to know that Froggy is doing great!

Thank you, Meggin, Bryan and Froggy

Pet Health Watch by Dr. Main, DVM

How do I know when it's time to euthanize my aging dog?

It was a bitter cold winter evening in mid-December. I was on my way to a local restaurant to pick-up a turkey dinner for my golden retriever, Jenna. While that may seem odd, it was a test of sorts because Jenna's appetite was starting to diminish. In a few days, Jenna was turning 13 years old and had health issues. Was it time?

While driving to the restaurant, my thoughts turned to the day my wife and I first laid eyes on her. Of a litter of nine, she was the only puppy to walk over to us. It was as if Jenna had picked us rather than my wife and me picking her. It was love at first sight for all of us. Thoughts of her filled my mind: Jenna loved chasing seagulls, swimming in the ocean, taking a pair of socks out of the laundry and having a family member chase her around the house. Jenna loved to take walks, wrestle, and play in the snow and turkey dinners. How could it be time so soon?

Jenna had been through chemotherapy for lymphoma at the age of eight. The summer of 2008 she had a malignant intestinal mass removed from her small intestine. In the fall, ultrasound studies showed a mass and some nodules in her liver. Jenna clearly had her problems, but she always seemed to bounce back. Jenna's patience, love and devotion to her family seemed to sustain her. She always stayed near us and relished all the



affection showed to her. She was always happy to see us and greeted us at the door, but things were changing. Her walks were reduced to 4 or 5 houses down the block before she would tire. She struggled to get up to greet us and she didn't eat the turkey dinner.

My wife and I anguished over the decision when to euthanize Jenna. Our hearts were breaking. The anguish, the sorrow, and the responsibility of making the decision were pounding on us. How could we let her go, but it was time.

Jenna being Jenna took care of everything. It was a Friday afternoon, on December 12th that Jenna's liver tumor began to bleed. My wife and I were with her as she went quite peacefully and quickly. Despite the knowledge of her medical condition, and her age, we were heartbroken.

It's been four months since Jenna's death. Her two buddies Jacques and Sadie have also recently passed away by humane euthanasia. They too were old with many medical problems.

Throughout my professional career, I have given advice about how to make the decision for euthanasia. The signs are many: consistent inappetence, pain, senility, soiling, immobility, or other significant behavioral changes. There is usually a medical reason for these changes, but the decision is almost always

based on the behavior of the pet. With this in mind the decision for euthanasia is made carefully and to the best of our ability. The decision is almost always valid and correct despite being a very difficult and painful process. Looking back at Jenna, Jacques and Sadie, I know it was their time. If anything, we may have waited just a bit too long to put them to rest. The turmoil of making the end of life decision comes with the territory. Simply put, letting go of something you love and determining when it is their time, is no easy task.

As much as we agonize over the difficult decisions, I know with my own, definite suffering was prevented. I am grateful for the option of humane euthanasia, but it's truly a bear. In the end, it is our human struggle, our careful decision making and our love for our animal companions that preserves their dignity and limits their suffering.

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





West Suburban Humane Society

Presents:



16th Annual

BARKAPALOOZA

WALKATHON & PET EXPO

Sunday, September 27, 2009

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; 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.

West Suburban Humane Society

1901 W. Ogden Ave. • Downers Grove, IL 60515

630-960-9600 • www.WSHS-DG.org



“BARKAPALOOZA”

Walkathon and Pet Expo
with a blessing for the animals



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

Sunday, September 27, 2009 - 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 pm (rain or shine)

DONATION SHEET

DONATION SHEET			
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 \$**

Checks preferred

Credit Card Number_____ **Exp. date** _____

WALKER'S SIGNATURE

WALKER'S NAME-PLEASE PRINT

PHONE

DOG NAME

ALUMNI

YES_____ NO_____

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: