



West Suburban Humane Society

STRAY THOUGHTS

Happy
Valentines Day!
From The Animals
at WSHS

BeeBee – A Home of My Own



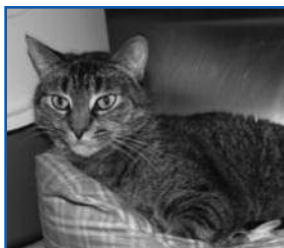
BeeBee

Three long years: that's how long I have lived in this cage. My name is BeeBee and this is my story. In 2006 I was abandoned here at this shelter with no note or any information about me included. There is nothing really remarkable about me; I'm just a plain brown tabby in my middle age. Maybe if I were more stunning, someone would have chosen me by now. Maybe if I were more outgoing or louder or, or.....I don't know, just more something.

My life here at the shelter has been pretty quiet. After the first year, I started over-grooming myself from stress, so I was moved to a quieter location where I could see out a window. I enjoyed watching the birds eat from the feeder in the yard. I became so comfortable in that spot that I began not wanting to leave my cage. I understood that this made it difficult for the folks here to show me, but my heart just

wasn't in it. Now I am in the biggest cage they have here (one perk to being here the longest). It doesn't have a window, but there is more room to stretch and I can step right out onto the floor when I get free-roam time.

I am one of those cats who needs to get to know someone before I can trust them. If I know you very well, you can pick me up and place me on your lap where I will stay and enjoy the attention until you get tired of me. I would make a great companion for someone who lives a quiet life and has no other pets. I have excellent



litter box habits and I am a good eater. Other than the over-grooming, which is under control now, I have been a very healthy, low-maintenance girl. My idea of a perfect home is one where I can sit near a sunny window and lounge the day away, occasionally pretend-stalking the birds outside. My person would pet me and feed me and talk to me in a soothing voice. I

would do anything to have a life like that.

Once I was abandoned, and now I have been waiting three whole years for a family to love. That's more than any cat should have to endure. I'm not special, I'm not young and adorable, and I don't jump up and down to call attention to myself. I need someone to read my story and come here just for me, because I can't compete with the cute little faces of the youngsters. Won't you help me find my forever home?



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, Sunday Happy Valentines Day from the homeless animals at the shelter!
- 20th, Saturday WSHS First Annual Wine Tasting - see page 3 of this newsletter for more details.
- 23rd, 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

- 4th, April Easter – WSHS will be closed today.

MAY

- 8th, Saturday – Petals for Pets Plant Sale
- 9th, Sunday 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:

Pat Rowland, President
 Cindy Johnson, Recording Secretary
 Dawn Drella, Controller/Treasurer
 Tyson Grover, Director
 Renee Cantalupo, Director
 Brian Ledebuhr, Director
 Christina Morrison, Director
 Michele Whitney, Director

THE WSHS STAFF:

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



Wine Tasting



PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE
WEST SUBURBAN HUMANE SOCIETY

Wine & Cheese Tasting

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20TH
6:00PM TO 9:30PM

WINE STYLES IN DARIEN
2445 75TH STREET
DARIEN, IL 60561
PHONE: (630) 985-4526

- RAFFLES
- WINE
- CHEESE
- HORS D'OEUVRES

TICKETS GO ON SALE ON FEBRUARY 2ND AND ARE \$30 PER PERSON. EACH TICKET INCLUDES WINE, CHEESE AND OTHER HORS D'OEUVRES. CALL 630-960-9600 TO RESERVE YOUR TICKETS.

A SPECIAL THANKS TO  **My Chef Catering** FOR GENEROUSLY DONATING THE CHEESE TASTING

RAFFLE WILL BE HELD AT 8:00PM.

RAFFLE PRIZES ARE BEING DONATED BY DOGGIE DEPOT, INC, KARMA SALON & RENEE CANTALUPO.

HEARTY THANKS



Taylor Miles of Downers Grove turned 8 and asked for donations to the shelter instead of birthday gifts. The guests donated \$35 as well as food and toys for the animals at the shelter.

The Teen Lead Club at the Indian Boundary YMCA collected donations on behalf of the animals at the shelter.

Cub Scout Pack #80 collected food, supplies and toys for the shelter.

The We Can Club from Manning School in Westmont collected supplies on behalf of the animals at the shelter.

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

Diane Harke, a WSHS volunteer, hosted a birthday party for her two cats, Scarlett and Milo. Diane asked that people purchase items for the shelter instead of gifts for her cats. From this party, the shelter received many wonderful food, supply, toy and monetary donations.

Emma Segrest of Downers Grove turned 10 and asked for donations for the shelter instead of gifts for herself for her birthday. The guests donated food and toys for the animals at the shelter.

Emmy and Ashton Wilson emptied their piggy banks to make a Christmas donation to the shelter. Emmy donated \$79.41 and Ashton donated \$18.75. Their parents matched their gift and donated another \$100 to the shelter.

The Whittier School Student Council hosted a sock hop charity event and purchased items for the shelter from the proceeds.

Stefan and Jack Neumann turned 10 and asked for donations for the shelter instead of gifts for themselves on their birthday. They donated the money their guests gave them to the shelter.

Jim Gibbon of Strictly Neon in Crestwood, IL, donated new bulbs



for our outside sign. The value of this donation was \$250. Visit www.strictlyneon@core.com or give them a call at 708-597-1616 for all of your sign needs.

Community Bank of Downers Grove hosted their Holiday Sharing Program and WSHS was one of the nonprofit recipients of the program.

Natalie Rizzo of Elmhurst donated some of the money she raised from babysitting to the shelter.

Michael and Sierra Iuro donated \$20 from their piggy banks to the animals at the shelter.

Max Schooley of Downers Grove had a birthday party and asked for donations for the shelter instead of presents for him. He collected money as well as food and supplies.

The fifth grade students at Pierce Downer Elementary School had a fundraiser and donated \$64.50 to the shelter.

Jessi Cuthbert of Lombard held a Thanksgiving raffle and raised \$23 for the shelter.

Makenna Tallon of Downers Grove recently lost her 14 year old cat, Gimpy. In honor of Gimpy, she made handmade toys for all of the cats at the shelter.

Livia Kramer of Elmhurst celebrated her 8th birthday. Rather than asking for gifts, she asked that guests make donations to the shelter. She collected \$140 for the animals in our care.

Lombard Chiropractic in Lombard hosted a Wellness Day and donated the proceeds to the shelter. They donated \$100 along with food and toys.

Nate Tenorio of Downers Grove celebrated his 10th birthday. Rather than asking for gifts, he asked that guests make donations to the shelter. He collected numerous food and supply donations.

Catie Hohnstein of Wheaton asked for money to donate to the shelter for her 12th birthday. She donated \$60 to the animals in our care.

The children's youth group of St. Matthew United Church of Christ in Wheaton, IL made blankets and dog treats to sell to their congregation and had a raffle to raise money. They collected \$350 and donated it to the shelter.

Beatrice Beirne of Downers Grove donated food and supplies to the shelter in honor of her birthday.

Ready For a Home



Eloise

3 year old, Female, Redbone Coonhound

I'm a sweet and mild mannered girl who will easily fit into your life. I am very people-friendly and am good around kids and dogs. Even though I like other dogs, I cannot live with them because I tend to be possessive of my owners. Although I like kids, I'm not too playful so I'm best suited to a home with adults or teens. I love walking and running and ride well in the car. I'm told I have a "stunning" reddish brown coat of fur that's soft to the touch. I really enjoy being petted and brushed and will put my head into your lap for a good neck massage. I'm a bit smaller in size than most redbone coonhounds. Once I get to know you, you will find me to be a loyal, attentive and faithful companion. I have never really had a family to call my own. Could I be part of yours?

Poncho

9 year old, Male, Chihuahua Mix

Hi, I'm Poncho. I can't believe I'm back at the shelter again. I was adopted from here 5 years ago but recently got returned because my owners were moving and couldn't take me with them. I am such a sweet guy. I am housebroken and crate trained, I am good with kids 12 years and older, I don't mind other animals but can't live with them because I tend to be possessive of my people and my food. I know my basic obedience commands and even a few tricks. I love to be held. If you are looking for a calm, older guy to share your home with, then I'm your man. Won't you give me a second chance to find my forever home?



Cocoa

7 year old, Female, Tortie

You should stop by and visit me. I am one of the nicest cats here, if I do say so myself. I am clean, neat and sweet! I've been super low maintenance and friendly while awaiting my forever home. I do well with other cats and even the dogs who stick their wet noses up to my cage don't bother me. I am just an all-around good cat. All I ask for is companionship and love. Do you have any to spare?

Nima

6 year old, 2 paw declaw, Male, Buff Tabby

Aren't I gorgeous? My eyes and my fur compliment each other and I have such a sweet face. At least that's what they tell me around here. I was returned to this shelter because I had some bladder infections and my family couldn't afford to treat them. I do require a special diet. It's called CD and is for cats with a history of bladder infections. Since I have been back at the shelter, I have not any any problems medically and I have been very affectionate. I will say that I am a typical cat in that I like my space and I like to be allowed to come to you for affection instead of being scooped up out of nowhere, which scares me.



Pet Health Watch by Dr. Main, DVM

With bringing in the New Year what is new in veterinary medicine?

As we all know science is constantly moving forward. For example there is now an injectable antibiotic that lasts 14 days in the patient's system and a new chemotherapy drug for the treatment of mast cell cancer. Along with these new drugs is an amazing new technology called Class IV laser therapy.



Lasers have been around for a long time. In fact it was Albert Einstein in 1916 that first postulated the theory of lasers to support his Theory of Relativity. The late 1960's saw the first low power therapy lasers being used on human patients. Since that time scientific progress has brought more sophisticated and more powerful therapy lasers for our use in the treatment of companion animals.

Lasers use tiny particles of light called photons to treat pain, inflammation, and to stimulate wound healing. As it turns out, laser light or photons must be one wave length or color, very orderly within the beam, and very tight and concentrated to be effective in therapy. In addition the photons must be delivered with enough power given a fixed wavelength to get proper tissue penetration to stimulate wound healing. The newest laser machines today meet all the criteria for delivering light in the proper way to effect a very positive result.

So what happens when the proper beam of light is directed at unhealthy tissue? The process is called photobiostimulation. When the light particles contact the cells, they stimulate the unhealthy cells to begin functioning again. Unhealthy cells absorb the energy from the laser beam and begin to function. This process results in pain relief, reduction in inflammation, and accelerates cellular healing.

Now let's look a little deeper into this process called photobiostimulation. Photons penetrate to the individual cells and stimulate both the cell membrane and structures inside the cells. Small structures inside the cell called mitochondria specifically absorb the energy from the photon beam. In turn the mitochondria are turned on and begin to fuel the cell back to normal function. With increased production of cellular energy, along with the production of certain chemicals and enzymes from these cells, the process of healing and pain reduction begin to fall into place.

Some benefits of laser therapy include stimulation of acupuncture trigger points, stimulation of the immune system, improved circulation, improved nerve function, pain relief, and accelerated tissue repair. This non-invasive modality initiates many biological processes to stimulate the patient to heal itself!

Class IV laser therapy can be used to treat a wide range of medical problems. Essentially anything that is painful, has inflammation, or is not healing can be treated with the therapy laser. This includes both acute injuries and chronic conditions. The laser can be used to treat musculo-skeletal problems like arthritis, ligament injuries, back pain, fractures, hip dysplasia and the like. In addition the laser can be used to treat a wide range of dermatological conditions including allergies, lick granulomas, anal gland infections and many more. Indeed laser therapy has a wide application for our companion animals.

Typical treatments can be completed in 15 minute sessions. Acute injuries may require 1-3 treatments whereas chronic injuries may require 2-3 treatments per week for 4-6 weeks.

The treatments are noninvasive and completely safe for the patient. Class IV laser therapy is an exciting and beneficial modality that is now available for use in our 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



Doggie Daycamp



Contact us for more information:

BARK AVENUE DAYCAMP
1540 Hecht Dr.
Bartlett, IL 60103
www.BarkAvenueDaycamp.com
info@BarkAvenueDaycamp.com
Phone: 630-289-8470

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visit.**

Ask The Trainer by Matt Covey, Suburban K9

As a dog trainer that specializes in behavioral issues I hear a variant of this phrase from someone new every day. "I don't understand why my dog does this, I've done obedience training with him, and he'll sit when I ask him to." "This" can refer to biting, growling, pulling on leash, running away, fighting, and destroying the house.....

I have noticed that when people get a dog they usually start to train him right away, but it is done for the wrong reasons. Most people train a dog simply because that's what you do, you get a dog and then you teach him to sit. The problem that I see is that most training is now done in one of two ways. Most training involves treats or huge amounts of praise and excitement to shape the behavior. Using these methods is a great way to shape a certain action with your dog but I want you to analyze what you are creating. When we teach a dog to sit, down, come, or stay using these techniques they usually learn it very quickly, but what does that really help? The action that we just taught them is now an excitement tool; the dog performs his trick in order to get a reward and ends up more excited than when he started. This is a fine way to teach the dog to roll over, give paw, sit pretty, crawl or a thousand other tricks but it shouldn't be used for obedience.

I use obedience for two main reasons. The first is to get a dogs respect and the second is as a calming tool. Think about it, when you tell your dog to down, do you want him wagging his tail and squirming in place barely able to control himself, or laying

there contentedly waiting for you to calmly release him? Do you want to have to offer him a treat to listen, or do you want him to lie down at any point for any reason with any distraction around? When we teach a dog to listen to us because we are in charge, not through bribery, we automatically assume the leadership position. This simple change can help so much in our daily lives. Submissive dogs display fewer behavioral issues than dominant dogs and happier lives result.

When looking for a trainer, look for someone who is firm yet fair. The trainer should strive to teach dogs to listen without using bribery and without resorting to using pain and fear.

This is very tough to do and is a skill acquired through years of practice and learning. I call the recent training phenomenon of humanizing dogs the "big box training method." Large stores that hire thousands of trainers each year don't have the luxury of finding experienced and skilled trainers (they also can't afford them), so they hire trainers that practice the easiest method which is treat based training. Quick results ensue, but the dog never becomes obedient or calm, he just learns a bunch of fun tricks. There is nothing wrong with teaching your dog tricks in this manner, just don't expect obedience to mean anything if you do it this way.

If you train your dog and get the obedience results you were looking for, but still have some behavioral issues, it is now time to call in a behaviorist. As a professional behaviorist I help

owners deal with any issues that may come up, from resource guarding to unprovoked aggression towards humans or dogs. Just like doctors that specialize in different fields, all dog trainers are not equipped or trained to deal with every issue that can arise. Some trainers focus on agility while others focus on training hunting dogs. You wouldn't go to your local podiatrist to get treatment for cancer, just as you shouldn't go to your local agility instructor for help with behavioral issues. My biggest goal when working with dogs and humans is to teach people that obedience and behavior modification are two completely different things, but can be used together to get phenomenal results. For more information on Matt's training visit www.barkavenuedaycamp.com.

Please address questions and suggestions for future training articles to:

**Matt Covey
West Suburban Humane Society
1901 Ogden Avenue
Downers Grove, IL 60515
director@wsha-dg.org**



E-Mails and Letters From Adopters

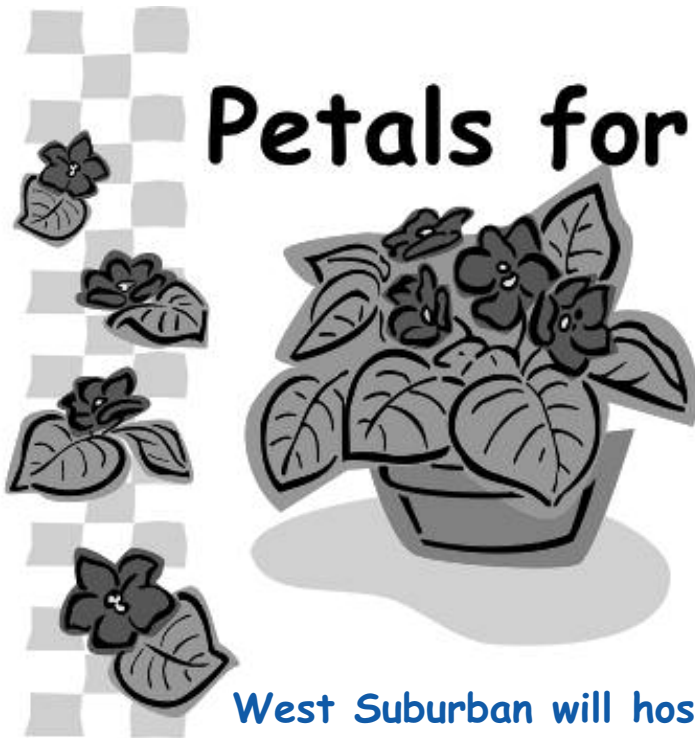


Hello All,

Here is the wonderful dog that we adopted from you in late August. Dottie is now Pepper and she is just a great dog. It was amazing how quick she learned all the general commands in a blink of an eye. Not only that, we taught her to sit up with her paws in the air, play dead, speak, but only when she is allowed to, roll over, and of course fetch and drop. It was so sad that she didn't know how to play, but now that is all she wants to do! But we don't love her just because of her tricks she is just wonderful and is quite the lap dog as you can see. We thank you so much for taking in Pepper because we would have never had her.

The Magros'

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 8th and 9th
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