



Don't Miss the
Event of the Year!

West Suburban Humane Society

STRAY THOUGHTS

Help Us Raise Funds For Our Biggest Event Of The Year!

In this edition of Stray Thoughts:

- Get your Barkapalooza Brochure and start collecting pledges!
- 50/50 Split the Pot Raffle Tickets on page 5.
- Change A Life Coin Cup Drop on page 8.

West Suburban Humane Society has now made it easier than ever to collect donations for our biggest fundraiser of the year, Barkapalooza Walkathon and Pet Expo. If you are planning on participating in this year's event, logon to our website at www.firstgiving.com/wshs. From that site, you can register for Barkapalooza and create your own fundraising web page.

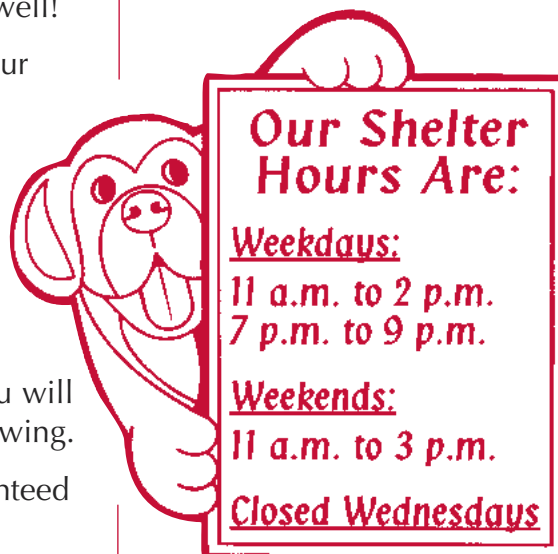
Getting started is easy . . .

- It only takes a few minutes to create your online fundraising page.
- Click the Get Started button.
- Personalize the text and the photo of your online fundraising page to express your passions and your purpose.
- Send the link out to your friends, family, colleagues – anyone you think will help you reach your goal. Ask them to forward it on to their contacts as well!
- When you set up your web page through Firstgiving, you will be entered into our Split the Pot Raffle drawing.
- For every \$100 of donations received, another entry for you will be placed in the drawing.
- The winner is guaranteed a minimum prize of \$1,000! The winning

ticket will be drawn on Sunday, September 26th at the 2pm end of our event.

Last year, we raised almost \$30,000 online. Our goal this year is to raise \$35,000, all to benefit the homeless animals in our care.

Don't delay, set up your fundraising web page today!



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

AUGUST

7th, Saturday

"Pennies for Pets" Open House. Bring your Change A Life container, dump your change and watch the money grow to help our homeless animals.

SEPTEMBER

6th, Monday

Labor Day - WSHS will be closed.

26th, Sunday

17th Annual Barkapalooza Walkathon and Pet Expo - Look for your flyer in this edition of Stray Thoughts!

OCTOBER - ADOPT A SHELTER DOG MONTH

2nd, Saturday

Mutts Need Moola! Look for WSHS at Jewel stores in the Downers Grove area collecting money for the homeless animals at the shelter.

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 systems, we must be specific) Purina or IAMS (Dry) cat and dog, kitten and puppy formulas, light formula – cat and dog and senior formula – cat and dog. Any canned cat, dog, kitten or puppy food is fine.
- ✦ KMR (kitten milk replacement), small baby bottles and nipples
- ✦ Dog and cat toys (washable and indestructible!)
- ✦ Cat litter (no scoopable)
- ✦ Stamps (to be used for postage)
- ✦ Garbage bags (13 & 30 gallon sizes)
- ✦ 6" paper plates
- ✦ Lint Traps
- ✦ Volunteers!
- ✦ **Monetary donations are always appreciated!**

BFC donated services to the production of "Stray Thoughts."

The design and printing of the newsletter were provided below cost.



INTEGRATEDPRINTMANAGEMENT

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
Jennifer Bahlmann, Vice President
Cindy Johnson, Recording Secretary
Dawn Drella, Controller/Treasurer
Tyson Grover, Director
Renee Cantalupo, Director
Brian Ledebuhr, Director
Christina Morrison, Director
Michele Whitney, Director
Ken Eisenberg, 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 Assts: Brigitte Black and Stephanie Rabinow
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

Ready For a Home



Shannon

3-year-old, Female, Pit Bull mix

Hi, I'm Shannon. I am a sweet, laidback girl that is looking for her forever home. I am housebroken and crate trained. I walk well on leash and know all of my basic obedience commands. I am good with kids and other dogs. I am not good with cats. I even come with a free session with my own personal trainer. How can you pass me up!

Chauncy

11-year-old, Male, Rat Terrior

Hi, my name is Chauncy. Boy have I had some rotten luck. I was in a home for over 8 years and recently picked up as a stray by Bolingbrook Animal Control. They tried to contact my previous owners but none of the phone numbers worked and they did not come forward to reclaim me. I was originally adopted from WSHS so Bolingbrook Animal Control sent me back here so I can find my forever home. I am a quiet guy that wants nothing more than someone to cuddle with. I am good with cats and other quiet, laid back dogs. Because of my age, I would do best in an adult only home. I still have a lot of love to give, so please give me a chance. Stop by and visit me today!



Nickel

8-year-old, Male, Grey Tabby

Do you need any office assistant? Let me show you my resume. While you are typing, I can offer encouragement and keep your lap warm. You can even practice one-handed typing while you scratch my chin with your other hand. You will get plenty of multitasking done with me at your desk. I am ready to come home with you and the only compensation I require is room and board! I am fine with other cats and even dogs. I am what you call a lap cat, so if that's what you are looking for in your next assistant, I will clear my schedule!



Enzo

6-year-old, Male, Black and White DSH

Yo! I'm Enzo. I am a fantastic young man. I'm affectionate, fun, and very good looking. I will make a great addition to just about any family. Won't you please come in and meet me?



From Wags To Riches Raffle



West Suburban Humane Society is sponsoring a 50/50 Split Raffle. The winner of the raffle will receive 50 percent of the monies collected. The winner is guaranteed a minimum prize of \$1,000.

The winning ticket will be drawn on Sunday, September 26th at the 2:00 pm end of our 17th Annual Barkapalooza Walkathon and Pet Expo. The winner will be notified by phone no later than Monday, September 27th at 5:00 pm.

Suggested donation for each ticket is \$5.00

Or 6 tickets for \$25.00, giving you 1 free ticket!

Or 15 tickets for \$50.00, giving you 5 free tickets!



Need more tickets? Stop by our adoption center at 1901 W. Ogden Avenue in Downers Grove or call 630-960-9600, ext. 25. Remember to include your name and mailing address when you call and tickets will be mailed immediately. Tickets will also be sold throughout the day at Barkapalooza.

E-Mails and Letters From Adopters


















Dear Staff,

I brought Ricki home from the shelter less than a week ago, and she had made herself right at home, as you can see by the photos, and now is up-to-date on all her shots. She loves having a little wrestle time with me when I get home from work. And last night she ran over to me from across the room and butted her wet nose on my nose and then went about her cat business. She had her vet check up today at the Arlington Heights Cat Clinic and is very healthy except could use a little teeth cleaning. Thank you very much for keeping her happy and healthy until I found her at your shelter.

Diane Shak



From Wags To Riches Raffle

<p>Name _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>Phone _____</p> <p> West Suburban Humane Society 1901 W. Ogden Avenue, Downers Grove, IL 60515 630-960-9600</p>	<p>Name _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>Phone _____</p> <p> West Suburban Humane Society 1901 W. Ogden Avenue, Downers Grove, IL 60515 630-960-9600</p>	<p>Name _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>Phone _____</p> <p> West Suburban Humane Society 1901 W. Ogden Avenue, Downers Grove, IL 60515 630-960-9600</p>
<p>Name _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>Phone _____</p> <p> West Suburban Humane Society 1901 W. Ogden Avenue, Downers Grove, IL 60515 630-960-9600</p>	<p>Name _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>Phone _____</p> <p> West Suburban Humane Society 1901 W. Ogden Avenue, Downers Grove, IL 60515 630-960-9600</p>	<p>Name _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>Phone _____</p> <p> West Suburban Humane Society 1901 W. Ogden Avenue, Downers Grove, IL 60515 630-960-9600</p>
<p>Name _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>Phone _____</p> <p> West Suburban Humane Society 1901 W. Ogden Avenue, Downers Grove, IL 60515 630-960-9600</p>	<p>Name _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>Phone _____</p> <p> West Suburban Humane Society 1901 W. Ogden Avenue, Downers Grove, IL 60515 630-960-9600</p>	<p>Name _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>Phone _____</p> <p> West Suburban Humane Society 1901 W. Ogden Avenue, Downers Grove, IL 60515 630-960-9600</p>
<p>Name _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>Phone _____</p> <p> West Suburban Humane Society 1901 W. Ogden Avenue, Downers Grove, IL 60515 630-960-9600</p>	<p>Name _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>Phone _____</p> <p> West Suburban Humane Society 1901 W. Ogden Avenue, Downers Grove, IL 60515 630-960-9600</p>	<p>Name _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>Phone _____</p> <p> West Suburban Humane Society 1901 W. Ogden Avenue, Downers Grove, IL 60515 630-960-9600</p>
<p>Name _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>Phone _____</p> <p> West Suburban Humane Society 1901 W. Ogden Avenue, Downers Grove, IL 60515 630-960-9600</p>	<p>Name _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>Phone _____</p> <p> West Suburban Humane Society 1901 W. Ogden Avenue, Downers Grove, IL 60515 630-960-9600</p>	<p>Name _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>Phone _____</p> <p> West Suburban Humane Society 1901 W. Ogden Avenue, Downers Grove, IL 60515 630-960-9600</p>

Suggested donation for each ticket is \$5.00
 Or 6 tickets for \$25.00, giving you 1 ticket free!
 Or 15 tickets for \$50.00, giving you 5 tickets free!

Ask The Trainer

Food aggression is a common issue in dogs for two main reasons. The first is that canines naturally guard their food in the wild, and the second is that a significant number of dogs see themselves as dominant over their humans. This short article is not meant to teach you how to resolve your dogs food aggression issues but rather to illustrate how it is taken care of by a skilled trainer or behaviorist. I hope that by reading this you can see that there is a light at the end of the tunnel and that your dog can be helped.

Whenever I am called in on a food aggression case, the first thing that I do is establish some control over the dog. When a dog sees himself as dominant, it makes sense in his brain to guard his resource and to tell you to back off. Food aggression is often called resource guarding, which actually includes any resource from rawhides to kibble to even his human as they pet him. My first step is taking the dog for a walk in the proper manner. If the dog doesn't respect you as you walk, there is no way that he will respect you as you start the resource guarding training. I focus on teaching the dog to walk behind me in a calm submissive fashion.

Once I have achieved some control over the animal during the walk I am now

ready to start working with the resource. I will start preparing the dogs food and expect him to maintain an appropriate distance as I work. If the dog is showing too much excitement I will claim my space and my food by backing him up until he remains at least a few feet away. When I put the food down I will immediately stop the dog using my leash if he tries to eat it. This is to establish that the food belongs to me and not to him. When ready I will tell the dog OK and allow him to start eating. After about five seconds I will say the dogs name and gently pull him away from the food. The purpose is to start teaching him that I control the meal, not him. I repeat this step until there is no growling, snarling, or tension from this action.

The next phase is backing the dog off of his food. This is where food aggression can take an instant turn for the worse because we are now truly addressing the issue. With the leash on the dog I will slowly place my shoe onto the bowl and slowly back the dog away from the bowl. The leash is a crucial element here because it gives you the highest chance of not being bitten. I repeat this step over and over until the dog shows no frustration or aggression. Once I see that I can say the dogs name to tell him I am

approaching and back him off the bowl easily, it is now time to start taking the bowl by hand. In the dogs brain it doesn't matter if you take the bowl using your shoe or your hand, so once you can do one you can do the other.

Overcoming food aggression in a dog is not a safe or an easy task. This article is not meant to encourage you to try this at home, and I take no responsibility for any injuries that occur while trying this. I have written this to show you how a responsible and skilled professional can achieve remarkable results in as little as a few weeks. To truly explain how I work with resource guarding in every possible scenario would take an entire book, so if you have any questions feel free to contact myself or any competent behaviorist.

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



HEARTY THANKS

The employees at Rexroth Bosch Group in Hoffman Estates did a donation drive and collected numerous food and supply donations for the animals at the shelter.

The eighth grade students at Indian Trail Junior High in Addison collected donations for the shelter.

The student council members of Schlesher School in Lisle collected donations on behalf of the shelter.

The student council members of Indian Trail Elementary in Downers Grove organized a fundraiser on behalf of the shelter. They collected numerous food and supply donations.

Beth Tikvah and Joseph Wolff of Elk Grove Village collected donations for the shelter as part of their confirmation class.

Katie and Molly Moutvic and Lance and Mikaely Evans of Glen Ellyn saved their money and donated \$20 to the shelter.

The student council members of Lisle Senior High School organized a volleyball fundraiser and donated the proceeds of \$1,000 to the shelter.

Norman Tchun of Lisle made a \$200 donation to the shelter.

Maci Schaub of Downers Grove turned twelve. Instead of asking for gifts for herself, she asked for donations for the humane society. She collected a total of \$44.32.

Zoe Kupka asked for donations for the shelter instead of birthday gifts for herself. She collected \$387 for the animals at the shelter.

The Happy Dog Barkery in Downers Grove collected \$30 in donations from their first annual Easter Egg Hunt and donated it to the shelter.

Linda Paulin of Downers Grove won ION Television's Match and Play Holiday Giveaway. Part of the prize package was a \$500 donation to the charity of her choice. She choose to have the money donated to the shelter.

Mya Lizzardro had a 12th birthday and asked for gifts for the shelter instead of gifts for her. She collected food and \$95 for the shelter.

Tessa and Logan Lawler, Donna Stevens and Jacklyn Haralamos of Darien had a lemonade stand and raised \$30.75 which they donated to the shelter.



Pet Health Watch by Dr. Main, DVM

Do cats get urinary bladder stones?

Bladder stones in cats are relatively common. In fact 15% of all cases of lower urinary tract disease in cats involve a urinary bladder stone. There are two types of stones in cats that each occurs about 50% of the time. The stone types are struvite and calcium oxalate. The struvite stone is composed of magnesium, phosphate, and ammonium. What causes these stones to form?

There are several factors that lead to stone formation in cats. The acidity or pH of the urine is the most critical factor in stone formation. In general struvite stones will not form if the urine pH is below 6.4 or mildly acidic. However if the pH gets below 6.0 then there is increased risk for calcium oxalate stones to form. Other factors include the type and quantity of minerals being produced by the kidneys that end up in the bladder as well as whether there is infection in the bladder.

In general as mineral concentrations build up in the urine these minerals or crystals aggregate and stones are formed. For example if the urine pH is too high and the kidneys are producing a lot of minerals there is a good chance a stone will form. In cats about 95% of the time the struvite stone is sterile. This means that infection in the bladder if not present.



The most common age for stones to form is between 4 and 7 years. Both males and females get bladder stones equally as frequently. The Ragdoll, Oriental short hair, Domestic short hair, and Himalayan breeds have increased risk to develop stones.

How would you know if your cat had a bladder stone? The most common symptoms or signs include bloody urine, straining to urinate, and increased frequency of urinating with small amounts of urine being produced. If these signs are noticed then a visit to the veterinarian will be needed. The veterinarian will complete a history, physical exam, urinalysis, radiograph (X-ray), and possibly ultrasound of the urinary tract to determine if stones are present. If your cat is male and showing these signs, then you should visit your veterinarian as soon as possible. Male cats can get urethral obstructions which can be life threatening!

If stones are found, then in general there are two treatment options. The first option is the surgical removal of the stones followed by stone analysis and then a prevention diet. The benefit of this approach is that it is definitive and expedient. Surgery also yields a stone for analysis. The disadvantage is that it is invasive and requires general anesthesia.

The other option is dietary dissolution of the stone. The dietary treatment is only effective

on struvite stones and not the calcium oxalate stones. This treatment is better in female cats that have smaller stones and have struvite crystals in their urine. The average time to dissolve a struvite stone is 4-6 weeks. During this time and for several weeks after the stone is dissolved the patient should be on antibiotic therapy. The benefit is that it is non-invasive. The disadvantages are the failure rate (20%), costs of antibiotics and repeat radiographs, and the time it takes to resolve the problem.

Once a patient's stone is resolved, then prescription diets are fairly successful at preventing the reoccurrence. These diets maintain proper urine pH and reduce certain minerals in the urine. Increasing water intake by feeding canned food will also help prevent stone formation. However, monitoring urine for pH and presence of crystals 2-3 times per year is recommended.

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

\$\$ CHANGE A LIFE \$\$

**COME FILL THE POOL
WITH YOUR CUP FULL OF CHANGE**



**August 7 2010
11 a.m. – 1 p.m.**

**At the Shelter – Front Lawn
Treats will be served**

**Pickup a cup at the Shelter!
630 960 9600 www.wshs-dg.org**

