



West Suburban Humane Society

STRAY THOUGHTS

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

IAKE ~ A Home for the Holidays



My name is Jake and my story begins all the way back in November of 2007. It was a crisp fall evening when the Joliet Animal Control van's headlights cut across a

pile of dead leaves with two little eyes peeking out. It was me, a cold, skinny young pup, just trying to survive the elements. I was taken to the pound 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 other dogs to bring back to WSHS, but took pity and scooped me up as well.

I settled into my life at the shelter pretty well and soon a family came along who wanted to make me theirs. I was so happy in my home. There were kids and other dogs to play with. I took long daily walks and had lots of toys to play with. Then, after a year and a half of blissful living, my family fell on hard times and could no longer afford to take care of me. As you can imagine, this was devastating to me. I was so anxious and fearful to be ripped from my home and placed in a cage, surrounded by others who were 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 waited, but they never came.

Eventually the stress of living in a kennel began to take its toll on me. I developed phobias of new places and situations. I didn't want to come out of my kennel for walks or playtime with the volunteers. The staff at WSHS knew they had to do something so they sent me to Bark Avenue Daycamp where I spent a glorious month in behavioral training. I loved it there: playing with other dogs and learning how to become a calm, balanced dog. I came back to the shelter where I have been practicing and practicing all that I learned at training, because if I am a very good boy, someone will want me, right? West Suburban



put a lot of resources into getting me back in shape and I don't want to disappoint them. Most shelters would have given up on me, so I am lucky to be here.

Now here it is November 2010 and I am still waiting to find my forever home. I am worried I will spend the holidays homeless again (Christmas 2009 in the kennel was nothing to write home about, I can tell you). All I ask for in a home is one where I am the only dog since I'd like all of your attention for myself. Oh, and I think all cats are fluffy squeaky toys, so none of those for me! I am a staff and volunteer favorite and they are doing everything they can do find me a home. I even have my own Facebook

page. You can visit me at <http://www.facebook.com/jakeWSHS>. Check out what some of my friends have to say about me:

"What an awesome dog! Definitely my favorite!"



"Jake loves everyone. His favorite toy is a squeaky football, although he can't catch it yet, he throws it in the air."

He LOVES tummy rubs and kisses. He also loves to sit in your lap, he doesn't really care what size the lap is, and he doesn't realize he is not small. Although Jake gets cold in the winter and needs a coat, he LOVES ICE CUBES. I wonder if Jake will like the swimming pool when we put it out at the shelter! We all love Jake. He will be a wonderful friend in his forever home, like he has become to all of us at the shelter."

"He loves to sit with you and is very food motivated. He gives kisses too!"

"We're gonna try to find you a furever home buddy. I will tell everyone I know. You sure are a cutie patootie!!!"

Recently, I had to have surgery that amputated the end of my tail because when you live in a small area, your tail hits the wall every time you wag it. I wagged so hard for the ones I love, that my tail split open over and over. It's been just over a year that I've been waiting patiently for my one true family. If you have the experience to keep me happy and balanced, won't you please help make my holiday dream come true and give me the forever home that I deserve?

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

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.

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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.

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West Suburban Humane Society

Vehicle Donation Program

*In addition to receiving a tax deduction,
you will know that your donation was
used to save the lives of homeless dogs
and cats.*



**Call 1-877-CARS-4-US (227-7487)
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Ready For a Home



Sapphire

2 year old, Female, American Bulldog Mix

Hi, my name is Sapphire. I am laid back super sweet girl that is looking for her forever home. I'm a little fearful of new people and new situations. Once I know you, I will be your best friend. I am crate trained and walk great on leash. I know all of my obedience commands. I would do best in an adult only home. I like other dogs but cannot live with another female. I cannot live with cats. If you are interested in adopting me, you need to have owned a dog as an adult. I even come with a free session with my own personal trainer. Stop by and see for yourself what a great dog I am. You won't be disappointed!

Scotch

2 years old, Male, Spaniel Mix

Hi, my name is Scotch. I have been through a lot and am eager to find my forever family. I am a great dog. I am housebroken and crate trained. I walk great on leash and know all of my obedience commands. I am good with kids 8 years and older and other dogs. No cats for me however. I would just chase them all day long. I even come with a free session with my own personal trainer. Stop by and see for yourself what a great dog I am. You won't be disappointed!



Bix

4 years old, Male, Brown Tabby w/White



I'm a little on the shy side. It can take me some time to warm up to new surroundings. Now that I have accepted my place here, I have been able to show more of my personality. I'm a quiet fella who would prefer a quiet home. On the larger side, it can be somewhat uncomfortable living in a cage where the litter box takes up half the space. I'm not complaining, but it sure would be nice to go back to living in a home. I have always had a home until now, and it wasn't my fault I landed here. My family fell on hard times and

couldn't keep me or the other cat they had. They found a home for my friend, but not me. I guess because I am shy, no one wanted me. Can you see past my initial reserve?

Miss Muffet

5 years old, Female, Grey Tabby

Just like the nursery rhyme, I'm little. I am a six year old kitty who looks like a kitten! I'm very sweet, petite, and I need a forever home. I'm rather reserved here at the shelter, but give me my own castle and watch me bloom! I had a little issue with my teeth and they all had to be pulled, but I like soft food and can even have a little dry food, too! Please give me a chance!!



Ask The Trainer

As the proud owner of a new puppy you are probably dealing with two very common "issues" that are typical of young dogs. The first issue that I hear questions on the most would be potty training, and the second would be nipping or "biting". Housebreaking a puppy takes work, but with a little knowledge and some specific rules it can be much easier than anticipated.

When bringing a new puppy into the home it is important to know two facts. An eight week old dog cannot hold his bladder for a long period of time and he doesn't know that he is expected to. When the puppy lived with mom, he was allowed to walk two feet from his bed and pee and then walk back and lay down. Now he is in a new environment where people get mad when he follows the rules that mom set up for him. We need to teach the dog a new set of rules, don't go to the bathroom in the house and go to the bathroom outside in a timely manner. Keep in mind that to a dog the house is just a place, carpet and rugs are meaningless to him, your bedroom is not special, anywhere is free game to do his business. I take a young dog out about every thirty minutes to go outside when I first bring them home. Teach a word for going such as "go outside." When he does go, immediately praise him, give him a treat, and repeat his command for going. Once that is in place I start expecting the dog to go every time I take him out. If the dog refuses to go after a reasonable amount of time because he wants to walk around and sniff I will take him inside and put him in a cage for fifteen minutes. This prevents the dog from coming inside and peeing on the floor immediately. After fifteen minutes I will take him outside and tell him "go outside" as we wander around until he goes and I will then praise him for going.

The dog should now know that we like when he goes outside, so we need to teach him that we don't like when he goes inside. The key to this is NEVER letting him out of your sight until you trust him. Use gates, playpens, etc. or just follow him when he wanders off. If he goes and you don't catch him, it is too late to correct and your potty training will be set back. Every "accident" should be a learning experience for you and the dog. If I see him going I will say NO in a firm voice, rush him outside, and praise him if he finishes out in the yard. Keep in mind that every dog is different, you can change the loudness and harshness of your voice based on the dogs temperament. The goal is to get across the point that you aren't happy, not to terrify the pup. This is a system that works very well, but a lack of consistency will undermine your efforts. The first month will not be fun, following you dog constantly and always watching, but it is very attainable to have a fully potty trained dog by four or five months of age.

Nipping is the second issue that I hear questions about frequently. Young dogs nip each other constantly throughout the day as the play, and they learn certain rules. They learn not to nip too hard, or the other dogs get mad and not to nip "mom" when she isn't in the mood. We now want to teach the pup not to ever nip humans. A nip is one of two things, a dominant type of play or a correction, neither of which should be used on humans whether child or adult. When the dog is eight weeks old I gently correct the nips by pushing the dog away and saying "no" in a firm voice. Don't yell the word, but it is equally important not to use baby talk as you tell him no. If the puppy is in a rambunctious mood I will find a toy and start playing with him.

It is important that the dog doesn't learn to nip so that we play with him, so I always correct and then take my time finding a toy to play with. If the dog gets worse the more you correct there are many different ways to address the issue.

If a dog is extremely persistent, a leash and collar can be left on him so that he can be given a leash correction each time he crosses the line and the hand corrections don't work. If neither of these two approaches works, chances are you have a dominant puppy and may need some professional advice on how to proceed.

As you progress in training your dog and teaching him manners it is very important to keep in mind that dogs are pack animals and do not learn like humans. You cannot rationalize or negotiate with a dog and still maintain your position as the leader. When finding a trainer be leery of anyone who goes to either extreme in methods of training. Some trainers want to give dogs treats for everything and never correct and others are extremely harsh and can break the spirit of the dog. Look for someone who understands dog behavior and maintains his leadership without resorting to food bribes or anger and aggression. If you have any questions or need assistance with your dog I would love to provide you with the knowledge to build the relationship that you want with your dog.

Please address questions and suggestions for future training articles to:

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



Pedigree Grant

The Pedigree Foundation awarded West Suburban Humane Society a grant for the innovative work we do to help dogs in need find loving homes. In the foundation's inaugural year, they were overwhelmed with hundreds of applications. As one of a few special recipients, they supported our efforts to increase adoptions by awarding us a grant in the amount of \$24,000. The grant was given to us for our 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.

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. That is why we created the S.T.A.R. program. 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!

HEARTY THANKS



Gianna Suriano of Lisle had a 7th birthday party and asked for donations for the shelter instead of gifts for her. She collected food, toys, bedding and paper towels.



Molly M of Naperville had a 1st birthday party and asked for donations for the shelter instead of gifts for her. She collected numerous food and supply donations.



The employees of Roux Associates collected donations for the shelter. They collected food, supplies and \$250.



The Village Children's Academy in Westmont donated \$25 from the proceeds of a car wash that they hosted.



Kristina Barsketis of Downers Grove had a birthday and asked for donations for the shelter instead of gifts for her. She collected \$100 for the animals in our care.



An online coupon blog, www.deranged.me.com donated 46lbs of Purina kitten chow to the shelter.



Hayley Gardner and Ellory Graff of Glen Ellyn collected \$100 for the animals at the shelter.



The employees at United Behavioral Health had a book sale and donated the \$887.50 they raised to the shelter.

Accenture held a Jean's Day and donated the proceeds of \$440 to the shelter.



Allison Puccillo of Downers Grove donated money in honor of her 10th birthday.



Cozzi Corner restaurant in Downers Grove and the Cozzi Corner Car Club had a 50/50 raffle and donated half of the proceeds collected to the shelter. They also collected food donations on our behalf.



E-Mails and Letters From Adopters

To the West Suburban Humane Society and all of its employees and volunteers,



This is the Cummings family (Rich & Katie) and we adopted a shepherd mix pup named Matches--now named Oliver (we call him Ollie)--and we simply wanted to thank you for your guidance and all the care you put into this wonderful dog. Quite frankly, he has been nothing less than the perfect dog for us: easy going, fun, energetic, happy, well trained, got used to his new home quite quickly, loves his new mother (even more than his father--he follows her around everywhere she goes), is playful, loves to go to the dog park and play with all the other dogs, and sprints faster than any dog I have seen in a long time; he sleeps through the night, doesn't make a mess of the house, is spoiled rotten, but most importantly is very much loved. My wife and I already cannot imagine our life without this little guy. We are so happy! And so is he!

We will bring him around very soon to come and visit.

Thank you so much.

Sincerely,

Rich & Katie Cummings



A BIG THANK YOU

To all of our Barkapalooza Sponsors Grand Champion - \$2,000 Sponsor

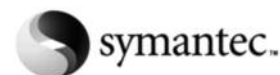
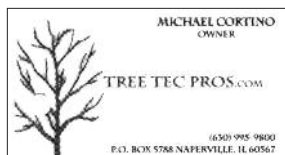


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 Downers Grove Reporter



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

- 1st Place** – Larry Sacks of Villa Park raised \$4,860 in pledges. Larry is generously donating the \$500 he won as top pledge contributor back to the shelter.
- 2nd Place** – Cindy Johnson of Downers Grove raised \$1,870 in pledges.
- 3rd Place** – Eva Smith of Glen Ellyn raised \$1,200 in pledges.
- 4th Place** – Kurt Mohr of Downers Grove raised \$1,100 in pledges.

Congratulations to our 2010 Wags to Riches Raffle Winner!

Kat Malkowski of Romeoville, IL was the winner of the 50/50 Split the Pot raffle.
Kat won \$1,616.50!

Pet Health Watch by Dr. Main, DVM

Behavior; Do we need to dominate our dogs?

The idea of the dominance theory in dog training is outdated and old. Dogs that misbehave are not necessarily dominant and owners are not necessarily failing in an "alpha" role.

The basis for the theory of dominance was old research on captive wolves and observations of their social interactions which was extrapolated to companion dogs. Recent research on wild wolves shows this theory is more myth than fact. New research describes the role of wolf leaders as parental in nature. They lead, teach, and care for their pack members rather than control a competitive hierarchy. When mature, the offspring do not compete to overthrow the pack leader; instead, they leave the pack, find a mate and start a family of their own.¹

Clearly the dominance theory is not a good model for the companion dog. Further, other studies show that dogs have changed because of domestication. There is a complex interspecies relationship between a companion dog and its human family. This relationship involves genetics, socialization, fear, conflicts, learning, behavioral pathology, and disease. Awareness of these factors and reading situations correctly is important in shaping the behavior of the dog.

For example, a person approaches a dog that averts its eyes and lowers and turns its head to the side. This dog is showing an unwillingness to interact. If the person pushes this dog or reaches for this dog there is a risk the dog will snap. Another example is a dog showing anxiety exhibiting panting, lip licking, placing the ears back and tight to the head, and brow furrowing. This anxiety stricken dog will not do well with an "alpha" leader and further is not showing dominant behavior.²

When punishment is applied to an inappropriate situation the human-animal bond is damaged. Punishment might include an alpha roll, lip pinches, or other physical reprimand. If a dog is not taught a new response to a situation he is likely to continue with the old response. Teaching a new response is much better than applying a physical correction. Anything that creates stress, anxiety, or fear in a dog is damaging to the relationship.

Training methods should be positive and focus on teaching what is desired rather than punishing what is unwanted. Each family has different needs, requiring different levels of training. Further different dogs have different limits in their behavior realm. Dogs vary in their tolerance of handling and certain situations. Some dogs are genetically very social and

enjoy being included in everything and others need self time.

In general dogs like consistent and predictable interactions; and they want to know what they should do and what the outcome will be. Dogs often use body postures and facial expressions to show what they will do. Dogs watch what we do more than listen to what we say. Take time to notice how the dog is responding to what we do. By watching how the pet responds, we can then alter the situation and let the dog understand what to do.

As we replace the old dominance theory with new training concepts, the human-animal bond should grow stronger.

Please address questions and suggestions for future animal health articles to:

Dr. Main
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director@wshs-dg.org



Reference:

Horowitz, D: Do we need to dominate dogs? NAVC Clinician's Brief.25-27 July 2010

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