



Don't Miss the
Event of the Year!
See Insert
for Details.

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!

Shop at Amazon and
help the shelter raise
funds on page 3.

50/50 Split the Pot Raffle
Tickets on page 5.

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 this 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.

* * * *

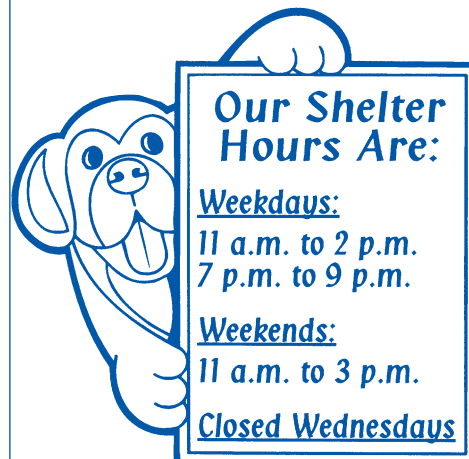
- For every \$100 of donations received, another entry for you will be placed in the drawing.

- The winner is guaranteed a minimum prize of \$1,000! The winning ticket will be drawn on Sunday, September 25th at the 2pm end of our event.

* * * *

Last year we raised almost \$25,000 online. Our goal this year is to raise \$30,000 all to benefit the homeless animals in our care.

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



Upcoming Events

630-960-9600, ext. 25

AUGUST

6th, 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

5th, Monday

Labor Day - WSHS will be closed.

25th, Sunday

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

OCTOBER - ADOPT A SHELTER DOG MONTH

8th, 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
- Dog and cat toys (washable and indestructible!)
- 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.
- Cat litter (no scoopable)
- Stamps (to be used for postage)
- Garbage bags (13 & 30 gallon sizes)
- 6" paper plates
- Lint Traps
- Volunteers!
- KMR (kitten milk replacement), small baby bottles and nipples
- **Monetary donations are always appreciated!**



INTEGRATED PRINT MANAGEMENT

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 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.

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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**

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 or Visit

Call 1-877-CARS-4-
US (227-7487)

www.donationline.com

Or

www.WSHS-DG.org

West Suburban Humane Society Launches Fundinco!

We've discovered a great way to raise funds – The Fundinco Solution. It's super-easy, and all you have to do is shop at Amazon.com after visiting the link below. For every dollar spent at Amazon.com, we will receive a commission on the purchase! There are no additional costs to you, no logins, and no strings attached. Simply visit:

<http://www.fundinco.org/orghome.php?orgid=15>

and off you go to Amazon.com where you can shop and raise funds! You can buy just about anything at Amazon and at great prices, including most things you already buy on a daily basis.

Make sure to add the Fundinco link above to your favorites (a.k.a. bookmark) so that you can come back anytime you shop online and raise money.

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 25th 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 26th 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. ***Don't forget our new location – Lisle Community Park!***

E-Mails and Letters From Adopters













I just want to thank you so much for allowing my family to adopt a little puppy back in 2009. Her name was Tisket and rescued from Joliet I believe. She was 12 weeks old when we brought her home from my neighbor who is a foster parent for you. You sent her to training because she was so afraid of everything. I often wonder how her sister is doing. I understand she was also adopted. I believe her name was Tasket. We renamed our little one Bella, simply because when I first saw her picture you had fattened her up and she had a big belly. She is doing wonderfully and happy as a clam. She is so smart and playful. We go to an off leash dog preserve often for her to play with friends, hike and romp around. We also have play group. Any of my friends who have dogs are always allowed to bring them to my house.

Well I just wanted you to know how thankful I am that you ended up with our Belly Bell and she ended up with us. We had a lab mix who passed away after 15 ½ years only four months before we found Bella. I never thought I would get another dog. Thank God I did! Included is a picture of her now.

Sincere thanks,

Gigi

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>
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www.WSHS-DG.org

Ready For a Home



Hash Brown

1-year-old, Male, Miniature Pinscher

Hi, I'm Hash Brown. I am a sweet and friendly guy who is looking for my forever home. I am a great dog. I am housebroken, crate trained and walk great on leash. I know all of my basic obedience commands. I am good with cats and other dogs. I would do best in a home with children 12 years and older. If you are interested in adopting me, you should have prior knowledge of my breed. Stop by and see for yourself what a great dog I am. You won't be disappointed!

June

5-year-old, Female, Cattle Dog/Retriever Mix

Hi, I'm June. I am an affectionate gal that just loves attention. I am good with kids, cats and other dogs. I walk great on leash and know my basic obedience commands. I am mellow and will make a great addition to any family situation. Stop by and visit me today!



Adia

2-year-old, Female, White w/Black DSH

Sarah McLachlan wrote a song about me! I feel so famous. And I even have a video on Youtube. I will try not to let it go to my head. You can see for yourself what a nice cat I am. I like to be held and I have a quiet demeanor. I'm calm, friendly and loving. What more could you ask for?



Maya

5-year-old, Female, Brown Tabby DSH

Is there a match out there for me? I am a single striped female looking for companionship. No walks on the beach for me; kitties are for inside! I do like to get cozy and I adore quiet evenings at home. You can count on me to be low maintenance and clean. If this sounds good to you, I'll be here, waiting....



HEARTY THANKS

Jamie Killian, Ella Jordon, Liam Jordon, Vivian Brunke and Julitte Brunke raised \$11.89 for the animals at the shelter.

The 5th Grade Junior Girl Scouts, Troop 1730 at Schafer School in Lombard held a supply drive and collected over 350 items for the shelter. They also used some of their cookie money to buy fleece and made 12 blankets for the animals.

The employees at McCain Foods in Lisle, IL raised \$338.00 for the animals at the shelter.

Brigid O'Brien of Elmhurst had a bake sale and donated the \$16.60 she raised to the shelter.

Tyler, Abby and Carly Bleau collected \$30 from an Easter egg hunt and donated it to the shelter.

Olivia Faris of Glen Ellyn turned 9 and asked for donations for the shelter instead of gifts for her. She collected \$230.

In honor of The Patrick Miracle, Obey Media donated \$300 to the shelter.

Jan Montalbano, a WSHS volunteer, donated \$625 that was raised at a charity auction from a doll convention that she was the chairperson of.

Madelyn Baur turned 7 and asked for donations for the shelter instead of gifts for her. She donated \$170.

In Memory of their dog Sage, Sandy and Joe White of Downers Grove donated food, toys, leashes and medication to the shelter.

The staff and 5th grade students at Hawthorne School in Elmhurst heard about the dog Patrick in New York, whose abuse and rescue made national news. In his honor, they donated \$35, toys, treats, books, cleaning supplies and food.

Evan Lenz of Downers Grove turned 9 and asked for donations for the shelter instead of gifts for him. He donated \$150 as well as supplies and medications.

The 5th Grade T.E.A.M. Service Leadership Club at Steeple Run Elementary School in Naperville collected food for the animals at the shelter.

Kat Rutkowski donated food and supplies to the shelter.

Erika Chagdes turned 10 and asked for donations for the shelter instead of gifts for her. She donated food, toys and treats to the animals at the shelter.

The home owners at Yorkshire Manor in Naperville had a bake sale and donated the proceeds of \$85 to the shelter.

The Sunday school students at Faith Lutheran Church in Brookfield, IL donated supplies to the shelter.

Allison, Leah, Jamie, Tess, Taite and Dina had an art sale and lemonade stand and donated the proceeds of \$80 to the shelter.

The National Honor Society of Downers Grove North ran a fundraiser on behalf of the shelter. They collected food, supplies and \$412.75.

The Teeny Tiny Team donated \$50 to the animals at the shelter.

The P.A.W.S. Club at Wheaton North High School hosted various fundraisers throughout the school year and the shelter was one of the recipients of the funds raised. The students donated \$200 to the shelter.

Stephanie Salerno from Woodridge, IL heard that the shelter needed donations so she used her own money to purchase food and supplies for the animals in our care.



Ask The Trainer

Socializing a dog should be a fun and positive experience for both of you. Although the term gets used frequently, many people don't fully understand what it means. Socializing a dog is just teaching them what is normal in a human world. They see that meeting and smelling new dogs and humans is a normal part of life. They also learn about non-living things. Socializing a dog also refers to exposing them to trucks, buses, cars, bikes, hats, jackets, horns, and every other part of daily life. When a dog is properly socialized he should be able to walk down a busy city street full of people, dogs, and cars without any fear.

When starting the process of socialization it is important to take it slow. Do not take an eight week old puppy to downtown Chicago for the afternoon. If the dog is used to being home with mom and the other puppies, you need to ease him into the human world. I use this time to practice leash skills so that the dog can get used to walking calmly past new things. Many dogs that have aggression issues towards bikes and cars develop this behavior with extreme excitement being the primary cause. Through time this can awaken a dog's prey drive and lead to barking, growling, and lunging.

As we work on a dogs leash skills we start to



incorporate new situations one at a time and see how he handles them. If I see fear or anxiety I will take note of this and continue working each day until the fear goes away. One important part of desensitizing a dog is helping calm them down each time. When you try to desensitize a dog by throwing them into a scary situation without calming them down, the fear will become worse through time. The easiest way to calm a dog down is to use the "Heel" command. This works so well because it gives the dog a calm job to do and allows him to start to feel your energy. If you are calm and confident the dog will naturally start to follow you because you are his rock in new situations.

When socializing your dog with other animals it is very important to pick the right dogs. A dog attack or bite at a young age can be very tough for a puppy to overcome. Only allow your young dog to meet dogs that you trust and that know how to play appropriately. This is also the time to teach your dog how to interact with other dogs politely. Calmly stop him each time he gets too rough, mounts a dog, or barks excessively.

As you socialize your puppy with new people make sure that you see a variety of ages, races, and sizes. I make sure that a puppy is exposed



to big men, children, and people of a different race than you since those are the three groups of people that are most likely to cause fear in a dog. Allow your dog to see that people laughing, hugging, and running around is all a normal part of life.

Sometimes people ask me if they should refrain from socializing a dog so that he will be a better guard dog. That is the process of creating a dangerous dog, not a family pet who will also protect when needed. The idea of socializing a dog is teaching him what is normal and what isn't. When a dog has seen people act normally for years he will be better equipped to know what isn't normal. If a person looks in your window at night, chases you down the street, or starts screaming at you, your dog will know that this isn't normal and should exercise his instinctive guarding behavior. As you socialize your dog keep in mind that this is a lifelong process which means you have to keep exposing your dog to these situations periodically throughout his life.



Pet Health Watch by Dr. Main, DVM

Dear Dr. Main:

What are some tips to avoid a dog bite?

Any dog is capable of biting, including a family pet. Bites can be a significant cause of injury to pet owners and their children. We live in a society of dog lovers yet canine aggression is the most common reason to relinquish a pet to the shelter. This article will cover some basic tips to prevent dog bites and promote safety with the pets that we love.

First of all dogs and people do not always speak the same language. Often a dog or a person may misinterpret a signal which could lead to aggressive behavior. Some examples of this miscommunication will be given. Further, sometimes dogs may be experiencing subclinical pain and be more reactive than expected. In this situation it is best not to be very physical with the pet. Vigorous hugging or petting may be too much for a pet with subclinical pain. The most important message that is lost between people and pets is that there are simply times that dogs do not want physical interaction. This missed signal often can lead to a mishap.

How do we read a dog's body language? Here are some signals that should be helpful. Anxious dogs display visible signs like yawning, lip licking, panting, opening their eyes wide, dilated pupils, pinning their ears back, and turning their head to avoid eye contact. A frightened dog may simply freeze while being touched. Dogs that are anxious or frightened are more likely to bite if they are pushed. They may appear alright then lunge and bite.

Another signal that might be mistaken or misinterpreted is that a dog rolling over onto its back may be a dog's way of saying stop rather than an invitation for petting. The best way to interpret the behavior is by looking at whether the dog or the person initiated the interaction. If the person approached the dog for the purpose of interaction the dog is usually telling the person to disengage. On the other hand if the dog initiated the interaction by approaching the person and then rolling onto its back it is probably solicitation for attention or play. A stiff tense body means forego petting and a relaxed body means petting should be fine.

What about a tail wag? Tail wagging dogs can bite. Tail wagging can not be equated to friendliness. Tail wagging can be a sign of fear, stress, alertness, or arousal, as well as happiness. A wagging tail signals a dog is ready to interact. One must look to the rest of the dog to determine how this dog will interact. Again, a stiff posture and stiffly wagging tail might indicate arousal or threat. Also one must look at the context the dog is in. A dog being approached by its family members is different than a dog being approached by a stranger. In both situations a tail wag may be present.

Here are some additional safety tips. In general dogs do not always want to befriend strangers. An outstretched hand and prolonged eye contact may be viewed as a threat by a dog. When guests meet an unfamiliar dog it is best to resist touching, staring, or reaching toward it. Rather guests should talk to the owner or sit near by. Dogs that want to interact will let the guest know. Next it is generally best to let sleeping dogs lie. Most bites that involve family

members occur when the dog is startled from a resting or sleeping position. It is best to move a dog by a verbal command rather than pulling it by the collar or nudging to the desired position. Further do not teach a dog to relinquish a possession by unexpectedly taking it away.

Finally the last myth is that a dog's misbehavior, especially aggression, is about dominance. This myth has lead to harsh corrections and at times bites to owners. The alternative view is that misbehavior stems from fear, self-defense, or defense of resources. Approaching the behavior by alleviating the fear and self-defense is a much more productive venture than an owner-dog battle for dominance.

Aggression behavior can not be cured, but it can be prevented or moderated. Avoiding triggers and having predictable and gentle interactions is a big step in the right direction. Hopefully these tips will help us relate to our pets better and more safely.

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



Volunteer Spotlight



Erica Reh has been a cattery volunteer at WSHS since February of 2008. She works on the Monday evening, 7:00 – 9:00 pm shift. She also fills in for holidays when she can and helped out at Barkapalooza last year. Both Erica and

her husband, John, plan to volunteer at Barkapalooza again this year.

Erica says she enjoys the WSHS staff, "They are always friendly and make me feel valued as a volunteer", and the other volunteers on her shift are great. She enjoys being the "catnip fairy", bringing in catnip toys and fresh catnip that she grows on her balcony. She finds the showing shift especially rewarding because she "loves matching cats up with their new families".

As a WSHS volunteer, Erica has learned "more about socializing cats and reading (their) body language". She has found that many people looking to adopt a cat believe they need to declaw the cat, but Erica and the other volunteers on her shift "show them how easy it is to trim the cats' nails" and recommend a

good scratching post (Drs. Foster and Smith Ultimate Scratching Post).

At her home, Erica and John have 2 Sphynx (hairless) cats, Yambo (10 yr old gray and white) and Gordy (5 yr old pink and lavender). They also have a 125 gallon saltwater aquarium with 13 colorful fish, shrimp, snails, crabs, and coral, which is Erica's primary hobby. She also enjoys "running, spending time at the Morton Arboretum, hanging out with John and our kitties, and preparing and eating delicious vegan food". Erica and John also have "a dog exercise and pet sitting business, Dogs Love Running! which is very fun and definitely keeps us busy!"

Mark Furlong has been a volunteer at WSHS since March of 2010. He is a kennel volunteer on Monday mornings and Wednesday evenings, and can frequently be found on other shifts as a sub. He helps at special events and is a member of our newly formed Animal Welfare Committee. Mark did take in one temp care dog, Fritz, a blind, heartworm positive Schnauzer, who he and his wife, Karen, decided to adopt before the heartworm treatment was finished. Mark now enjoys 1-2 mile walks each day with Fritz.

As a WSHS volunteer, Mark most enjoys "getting to 'meet' all the different dogs and working each week with the Monday morning cleaning team" (Larry, Lindsay, Geri, and Dottie). Mark has "learned a lot about handling dogs and appreciate much more the diversity of their spirits and personalities. (He's) come to enjoy the company of even those breeds that (he) might have shunned before (he) came to WSHS". Also, Mark says "I've seen how an organization that works with volunteers, contributions and a few incredible staff members can do so much for these animals. I guess I never realized before I came here just how much good could get done at a small organization like WSHS".

Mark enjoys cooking, photography, travel, and spending time with his two nieces (who also volunteer at an animal shelter). He also works a couple of times a month at an Outreach program with his father-in-law where they "sort and package surplus medical supplies...for shipment to places in crisis like Haiti and Japan".

