



West Suburban Humane Society

STRAY THOUGHTS

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

Crinkles ~ A Home For The Holidays



Hi, I'm **Crinkles!** Take a look at my ears if you want to know where I got my name. My story is one of survival, so don't feel sorry for me. I am lucky and I hope my luck holds out and results in a home of my very own.

On a dewy spring morning in 2008, a shelter employee arrived early to begin feeding the animals. She was greeted by a taped up cardboard box next to the shelter door. Cautiously, she opened the box, worried about what might jump out at her. When I poked my funny ears out to explore my new home, she could tell right away what a friendly guy I was.

Everyone at the shelter thought I was special back then. They couldn't understand what had happened to land me in such dire circumstances. I mean, that's pretty bleak, sealed up and tossed out like I was nothing, that's pretty low. When that box opened, though, my life changed dramatically. My ears, which are deformed due to chronic, untreated ear infections, were restored to health and it only took three months for me to get adopted, not bad for a mature cat.

Flash forward to the summer of 2011: the shelter was contacted by an

animal control agency in central Wisconsin because I was dropped off there by my adopter who claimed he was allergic to me. Luckily, my WSHS microchip led the trail of ownership back to WSHS. I am so fortunate WSHS is so committed to all the animals that pass through their doors, because they immediately agreed to get me back. Good thing, too, because my life wasn't safe at animal control.

Once safely back at this shelter, work began anew to overcome obvious neglect. My ears were infected again and I had a broken tooth that required surgery to remove. I was visited by a wonderful groomer who gave me yummy treats. I also now have a condition that causes my eyes to be permanently dilated. My doctor says this is no big deal unless I am outside in bright sunlight, and since I will never be an outdoor cat again, no worries there. The shelter even put me on a special diet to help keep away the ear infections. I love it - food is my favorite pastime!

Since I was having surgery, my doctor checked my blood to make sure I was otherwise healthy. That darned broken tooth could be the thing that saved my life, as it turns out. I was found to have a liver problem, a type of hepatitis that cats get. I'm now on medications to keep my over-active immune system from attacking my liver. If this had gone undiagnosed, who knows how long I would have lived?

So here I am, at my beloved shelter, the only place where I have ever felt valued. Since I am a mature fellow of 10+, requiring special food and medications, my chances for another adoption are slim. I am ever so grateful for this place, but it's not a home. The cage is a lonely place at night and on weekends.

The shelter is looking for someone who will take me home as a hospice cat. This means WSHS remains responsible for all of my expenses and the family who takes me in only has to give me my oral medications, take me to the vet every so often, and provide me with a comfortable, loving home. This last part is simple - I am easy to love. I do fine with other friendly cats and dogs and I'm good around kids. I am a low maintenance cat and don't jump up on counters or tables. I spend most of my time lounging and eating....did I say I like to eat? It's a good thing the shelter will provide all my food.

If you can find it in your heart to open your home to a fella who doesn't deserve to live his golden years in a cage, please contact the shelter at 630-960-9600 x23. They can answer any questions you might have about me, my condition, or how the process of taking me home works. Feel free to come meet me in the meantime, I'll be here, waiting...



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.

1141 N Raddant Rd
Batavia, IL 60510

630.879.9240
800.774.6840
Fax 879.9260

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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.

BOARD MEMBERS:

Pat Rowland, President
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Michele Whitney, Recording Secretary
Lana Powers, Controller/Treasurer
Tyson Grover, Director
Renee Cantalupo, Director
Brian Ledebuhr, Director
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Ken Eisenberg, Director
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Brian Krajewski, 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 Stefani Grimes
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



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.

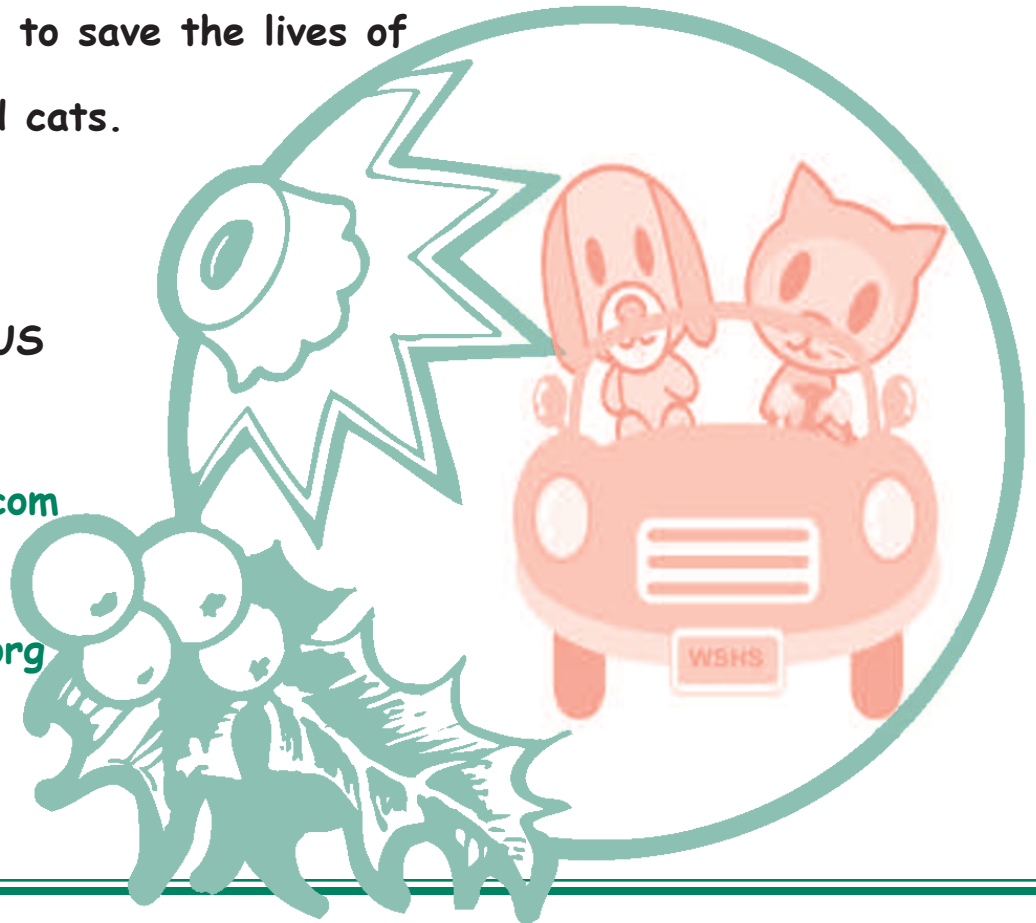
Call or Visit

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

www.donationline.com

Or

www.WSHS-DG.org



West Suburban Humane Society Launches Fundinco!



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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.

Ready For a Home



Alize

5 years old, Female,
Dalmation Mix

Hi, I'm Alize. I am a sweet gal that is looking for her forever home. I am a great dog. I am housebroken, crate trained and walk great on leash. I am good with kids 8 years and older. My only issue is that I am not a fan of other animals so if you are interested in adopting me, I need to be your one and only. Stop by and visit me today!



Lucinda

7 years old, Female, Ahasa Apso Mix

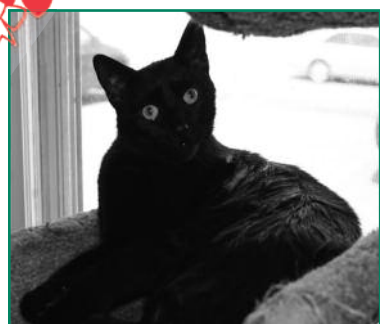
Hi, I'm Lucinda. I am a good gal that is looking for her forever home. I am housebroken, crate trained and walk great on leash. I know all of my obedience commands. I am very smart! I am good with other dogs but I need to be the only pet in my home. I like to be the queen of my castle. I would do best in an adult only home and if you are interested in me, you should have previous dog experience as an adult. Stop by and see for yourself what a great dog I am. You won't be disappointed!



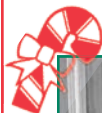
Cinco

2 years old, Male, Black DSH

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?



Ellie

9 years old, Female, White with Brown Tabby DSH

Pick me, pick me! I lived with one family my whole life up until now, but they couldn't keep me or my friend Cinder when they were forced out of our home. I was well loved in my home and friendly to all I met. I am very tolerant and allow little ones to carry me around. If you are looking for an all-around good cat, I am your girl. If you want two cats, Cinder and I are compatible, but we are not required to be adopted together. He might need a quiet home due to his shyness, but not me. I like to be where the action is!





HEARTY THANKS

Miles and Sarah King of Elmhurst held a lemonade stand and donated the \$34 they raised to the shelter.

Girl Scout Troop #51816 donated \$70.50 that they raised to the shelter.

On **Ben Schmid's** 6th birthday, he asked for donations for the shelter instead of gifts for himself. He donated \$70.

On **Anthony Fojtik's** birthday, he asked for donations for the shelter instead of gifts for himself. He donated food, supplies and money.

On **Mikayla Sweeney's** 8th birthday, she donated the money her grandmother gave her to the shelter.

On her 10th birthday, **Jillian Foster** of Downers Grove asked for donations for the shelter instead of gifts for herself. She donated food, supplies and toys.

Ethan, Nicholas and Abigail Jones donated \$25 to help the animals that we rescued from the floods in Missouri.

Anthony Trantina collected donations for the shelter for a one month period. He collected \$55, paper towels and paper plates.

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church in Winfield regularly donates cat and dog food to the shelter.

On **Bridget Linder's** 10th birthday she asked for donations for the shelter instead of gifts for herself. She donated paper towels and dog toys.

Michaela Langnickel turned 9 years old and her sister **Marissa** turned 6. In lieu of presents, they asked for donations for the shelter. They collected food, treats and toys.

For the month of July, the **employees at Uncle Bub's restaurant** in Westmont, IL donated 10% of their total tips to the shelter. They donated \$212.55.

Mackenzie and Parker McGuire had a lemonade stand and donated the \$17.73 they raised to the shelter.

Pure Ambiance Salon in Villa Park held a fundraiser and donated the proceeds of \$501 to the shelter.

On her 10th birthday, **Grace Costello** of Downers Grove asked for donations for the shelter instead of gifts for herself. She donated cat food and \$18.

Greyson Metz turned 9 years old and **Jack Reuth** turned 10. In lieu of presents, they asked for donations for the shelter. They collected \$340, 1 book of stamps, 22 rolls of paper towels, 78 rolls of toilet paper, 224 paper plates, 1 bottle of bleach, 250 garbage bags, 2 bags of cat food, 31 cans of cat food, 1 bag of cat treats, 4 bags of dog food, 2 cans of dog food, 3 boxes of dog treats and 13 dog toys.

On her 12th birthday, **Gabrielle Spinosa** of Downers Grove asked for donations for the shelter instead of gifts for herself. She donated food, supplies and \$105.

On her 8th birthday, **Jordan Fliegelman** of Westmont asked for donations for the



shelter instead of gifts for herself. She donated dog and cat food.

Dog food, dog bowls, cat food, leashes, leads, nail clippers and dog medicine was donated in memory of **Sasha Pup** and **Grandma Kitty**.

On his 7th birthday, **Trevor Zikuda** of Lisle asked for donations for the shelter instead of gifts for himself. He donated \$80.

Lena Hendricks, Tabitha Dickinson and Elisabeth Deegan of Downers Grove donated \$65 to help the animals at the shelter.

Simone Schuller and Charlotte Klasing of Downers Grove donated \$115.98 to help the animals at the shelter.

Pure Pooch of Miama, FL donated \$25 to the shelter on behalf of **Sara Jollenbeck** who was one of their contest winners. She won a bottle of Pure Pooch all natural dog shampoo and the opportunity to have a donation given on her behalf to the shelter of her choice. She chose West Suburban Humane Society as the recipient of that donation.

Club Landmark, an equestrian youth group associated with the American Saddle Horse Association collected donations on behalf of the shelter. They donated 250 cans of cat food, 44 bags of cat treats, 50 nylabones and over 60 servings of dog food, cat litter, kitten warmer pad, kitten bottles and 45 collars and leashes.

Cheri Erhart of Montgomery donated 370 pounds of dog food that she collected in honor of her birthday.

Arianna Morris and Isabelle Genin had a lemonade stand and donated the \$12.25 to West Suburban Vet and asked them to use the money toward a shelter animal that needed surgery. **West Suburban Vet** doubled their donation and credited our account \$36.75.

The Alyssa Pagano Memorial Foundation generously donated \$10,000 to the shelter to be used for a cattery remodel project.

The Glen Ellyn Junior Woman's Club collected donations on behalf of the shelter. They donated food, supplies and \$175.

A. Hart and L. Gustas collected donations for the shelter to earn their silver award for Girl Scouts. They collected and donated food, toys and supplies.



Ask The Trainer

Training dogs with treats is a polarizing topic in the dog training world. Some trainers say that it is awful and others will tell you that if you don't train with treats then you must be cruel. The truth about treat training a dog is that there is a time and place for it. The two main times that I will use food rewards to train a dog are when I am teaching commands to a very young puppy and when working with dogs that are having trouble coming out of their shells.

When training a young puppy with treats it is important that we don't create a dog that enjoys food more than praise from his owner. With an eight week old puppy I will start the training process and use only verbal and physical praise at the beginning. Only if I see that he quickly becomes bored with training will I phase in food rewards to keep him engaged. As soon as the dog becomes proficient with his basic commands I will start a more structured leash training program without food rewards. The reasons for removing the food rewards are to ensure that the dog listens to me because he respects me, and to practice training with a calmer mindset. If we continue treat training as the dog ages the

end result will be a dog that listens pretty well when the treat is the best option around, but will probably never be 100% reliable off leash. The reason for this is that there is always going to be a distraction that is more appealing than the treat. I use obedience as a way to gain respect from the dog and constant bribery is not a viable way to gain respect.

The second situation where I typically train with food rewards is when I am working with a dog that is having trouble coming out of his shell. This typically comes up with puppy-mill dogs or dogs from a hoarding situation that a rescue group sends me for training. These dogs don't have a respect or dominance issue with humans, they have trouble accepting people as their friends. I use food with these dogs to make training around new people a fun and exciting experience. If these dogs see the cage or the car as a terrible place I will give them something good to associate positive feelings with that particular spot.

The thing that separates a great dog trainer from a mediocre trainer is

identifying which approach to take with each dog. Most dog training is actually a very easy process that is based on repetition. The important thing to realize is that each dog needs a different approach. An excitable dog needs a training program that is very calm in order to help him relax. A timid dog might need an exciting training program to help build up his confidence. If dominance is an issue with the dog then it is important to ensure that we are training for respect. If you are training for fun (tricks and agility) then treat training is definitely the way to go since you are just playing a fun game with your dog. When training dogs always keep an open mind and make sure that your training fits your dog and your relationship will be much better as a result.

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



Volunteer Spotlight – Tuesday Mid-day Kennel Volunteers

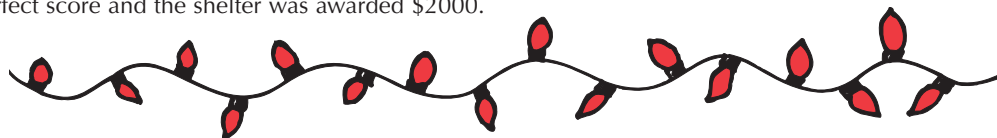


On Tuesdays from 11:00 am – 2:00 pm, we have a group of volunteers, most of which have been working together for over 5 years, who stand out as an extraordinary shift. Fran Stenberg, Nancy Sohl, Joyce Byan, Joyce Redlich, Mary Ward, and Jan Montalbano are the volunteers who make up the Tuesday Mid-Day Kennel Crew. During this shift, the shelter is open to the public, so the volunteers are responsible for talking to potential adopters and helping dogs find their forever homes, as well as socializing with the dogs and keeping the kennel area clean.

All of these volunteers enjoy spending time with each other and the dogs, and helping with adoptions, which is apparent when you see how they work together as a team. As Fran says, "We care about doing a good job as a team on the shift and support each other both on the shift and in our personal lives". According to Nancy, each week after they

all catch up on personal events, they "make a schedule of inside rotation". Each volunteer is scheduled for 20-30 minutes to spend inside the kennel so there is always someone available to talk to potential adopters, and when there are no visitors the "inside person" is checking water, cleaning messes, doing dishes, etc. Meanwhile, the other volunteers work together to take all of the dogs out in the play yards.

This shift was put to the test last year when a woman walked in 2 minutes before the shift ended asking to see the dogs. Though their shift was almost over, the volunteers graciously offered to stay to show the dogs. Nancy walked the woman through the kennel while the other volunteers waited patiently so they could walk out together, as usual. When Nancy and the visitor came out of the kennel, the woman announced that she was a secret shopper from Petfinder's "Maddie's Fund". Because of the way this shift handled the shopper, we received a perfect score and the shelter was awarded \$2000.



A BIG THANK YOU

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



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 **Downers Grove Reporter**

Blue Ribbon Winners - \$1,000 Sponsors



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Renee Cantalupo



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ASSOCIATES, P.C.**

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Brian Krajewski, DuPage County Board
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Chicks 'n Salsa

DuPage County State's Attorney Bob Berlin
The Baltimore Family (Darryl, Jodi & Penny)
Citizens for Circuit Judge Bob Gibson

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

1st Place – Larry Sacks of Villa Park raised \$5,450 in pledges. Larry is generously donating the \$500 he won as top pledge contributor back to the shelter.

2nd Place – Brian Krajewski of Downers Grove raised \$4,825 in pledges.

3rd Place – Kurt Mohr of Downers Grove raised \$2,276.91 in pledges.

4th Place – Cindy Johnson of Downers Grove raised \$1,783.85 in pledges.

Congratulations to our 2011 Wags to Riches Raffle Winner!

Daisy Garriga of Bolingbrook, IL was the winner of the 50/50 Split the Pot raffle.
Daisy won \$1,679.00!

Pet Health Watch by Dr. Main, DVM

Is there anything new in the treatment of cancer patients?

The medical field of oncology, or cancer medicine, is growing at a fast pace. Researchers and clinicians are working together to better understand cancer biology; which in turn is leading to new treatments. In addition to new treatments, new methods to detect cancer and to help predict outcomes are becoming available. This article will look at one new treatment and one new cancer marker.

In order to develop new treatments and find new cancer markers, researchers have to dig deep into the inner workings of cancer. Much of the research is focused on minute aspects cancer cells. As it turns out it is within the tiny details of these cells that researchers are finding the answers that lead to new therapies and better diagnostics. Let's place a magnifying glass on the subject and see a few things that are new in the world of cancer.

First we will look at a new cancer marker. Thymidine Kinase (TK) is an enzyme that is present in the cells of both people and dogs and in fact most living cells. Simply stated, thymidine kinase is essential in building DNA. This enzyme helps to place one of the building blocks of DNA into its structure. DNA is at the center of every cell with in the nucleus of the cell, the brain of the cell. Anytime a new cell is produced a complete new set of DNA is needed. Consequently, when cell growth or proliferation of cells is needed then the TK enzyme is needed. The TK enzyme is only present in the body when cell division (proliferation) is occurring.

Further when normal cells divide the cell degrades the enzyme quickly after its use. So, with normal cell division the enzyme stays at a low level consistently. However

with cancer cells the TK enzymes rises for cell division but then is released into the circulation where it can be measured.

The TK enzyme if elevated indicates malignant proliferation. This means cancer cells are present and proliferating. Further depending on the level of the TK enzyme the aggressiveness of the cancer can be determined. The higher the TK enzyme level the more aggressive the cancer.

TK enzyme measurement is now being used both as a cancer screen and a prognostic indicator. It can be helpful in determining whether a cancer process is worth treating or not. The enzyme is also helpful in monitoring response to cancer treatments.

Secondly we will look at a new cancer treatment. In studying cell biology it was discovered that many factors influence cell behavior including both proliferation and differentiation of cells. One such factor is a receptor site on the surface of some cells called c-kit. This receptor receives a message from a compound called "stem cell factor" when it binds to the c-kit receptor. When the receptor receives the message from "stem cell factor", the cell is stimulated to divide. In normal cells this process is regulated and turns on and off as needed. However, in some cells the c-kit receptor is mutated and malfunctions. Therefore when it receives the message from "stem cell factor" it becomes permanently turned on. This causes continuous cell growth and replication, in other words cancer.

When cells get turned on by the binding of this receptor an enzyme inside the cell begins to stimulate cell growth and proliferation. If the receptor is mutated then this enzyme is locked in the on position. Again this means a cancer process. There

are now tests to determine if a c-kit mutation is present. But even better, there are now medications that target the receptor and turn it off. These new medications can be a potent weapon against certain types of cancer. These medications are not specific to cancer cells; rather they affect all cells that have c-kit receptors. Therefore healthy cells coming from the bone marrow and the intestine can be affected adversely. This is to say that there are potential side effects with these medications just as there are with most chemotherapeutic drugs.

In certain cases these new medications have completely changed outcomes for patients for the better. As you can see the wheels of science and medicine continue to turn for the benefit of the cancer patient. It is interesting that many of the keys to finding treatments for cancer lay in the intricate details of cellular biology. Both humans and our pet companions are extraordinarily complicated beings. As researchers continue to dig deeper there will be many more discoveries for the benefit of patient care in the near future.

Reference:

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

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



E-Mails and Letters From Adopters

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

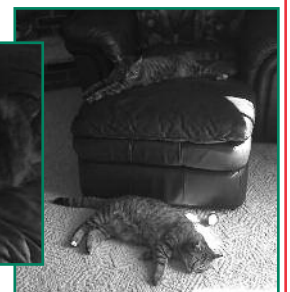
We adopted our beautiful little girl Basil Faye (formerly known as Yuma) from West Suburban Humane Society in 2008. She is my little angel; and occasional little devil. But look at that face, how can you ever get mad at her. She got along wonderfully from the start with her big brother Mugsy who we rescued as a feral kitten from our yard. The two of them are inseparable. Basil is very friendly and helped to socialize Mugsy who is now a much more outgoing cat. Basil's favorite things are running through the house with Mugsy like ninja kitties, playing fetch, sitting in her window perch to watch birdies, and going out on the deck on her harness to smell the flowers and visit the humming birds.

I have attached some fun pictures.

Nola & Bill



Basil



Basil and Mugsy