



West Suburban Humane Society

STRAY THOUGHTS

Happy
Valentines Day!
From The Animals
at WSHS

WSHS CATS GET A NEW HOME!



If you were to stop by the shelter a few short months ago to adopt a cat, you would have seen a few cats playing in a confined space known as the cat play area. The rest of the cats would have been



waiting in their individual cages for their chance to stretch their legs and get a little

exercise. Fortunately, that is not the case anymore!

In 2011, the shelter was able to recognize one of our biggest dreams. We were able to remodel our cattery so that we could go from cats living in individual cages to a spacious open cattery. For quite some time, we have been trying to find a way to improve the lives of the cats while they are in our care. In



mid July, our dream became a reality with two very generous donations.

The Alyssa Pagano Foundation made a \$10,000 donation and asked



that the money be used for a project benefiting the cats. Another cattery volunteer, hearing about the donation, generously matched it. What better way to use these donations than giving our shelter cats a new home!

The project took about a month to complete and



volunteers temporarily took cats home with them during the renovation. The new space can

hold up to 30 cats.

On Monday, November 28th, we officially opened our new cattery. No longer confined to cages, the cats can play, stretch and nap anywhere they choose. The cattery is a more relaxed, stress free environment that gives a higher quality of life to the cats in our care. The cats are so happy!



If you are in the area, feel free to stop by and visit our new cattery. You may even find the new friend you have been looking for!



Upcoming Events

630-960-9600, ext. 25

FEBRUARY

- 4th, Saturday Wine and Cheese Tasting.
Look for more information on page 3 of this edition of Stray Thoughts.
- 14th, Tuesday Happy Valentines Day from the homeless animals at the shelter!
- 28th, 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

- 8th, Sunday Easter – WSHS will be closed today.

MAY

- 12th, Saturday – Petals for Pets Plant Sale
13th, Sunday Look for more information on our Sixth Annual Plant Sale on page 3 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

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

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!



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

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
Kurt Mohr, Vice President
Michele Whitney, Recording Secretary
Lana Powers, Controller/Treasurer

Brian Krajewski, Director
Lorie Bonham, Director
Brian Ledebuhr, Director
Christina Morrison, 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 Assistants: Brigitte Black and Stephanie 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



West Suburban Humane Society Wine and Cheese Tasting



Saturday February 4 from 7 pm to 9 pm

Wine Styles in Glen Ellyn ~ 715 Roosevelt Rd.

630-469-9463

Tickets are \$30 per person. Each ticket includes wine, cheese and other hors d'oeuvres. Call 630-960-9600 x25 to reserve your tickets now... Space is limited to 100 people.

♥ Raffle ♥ Wine ♥ Cheese ♥ Chocolates ♥ Hors D'oeuvres

Participate in our chocolate raffle!

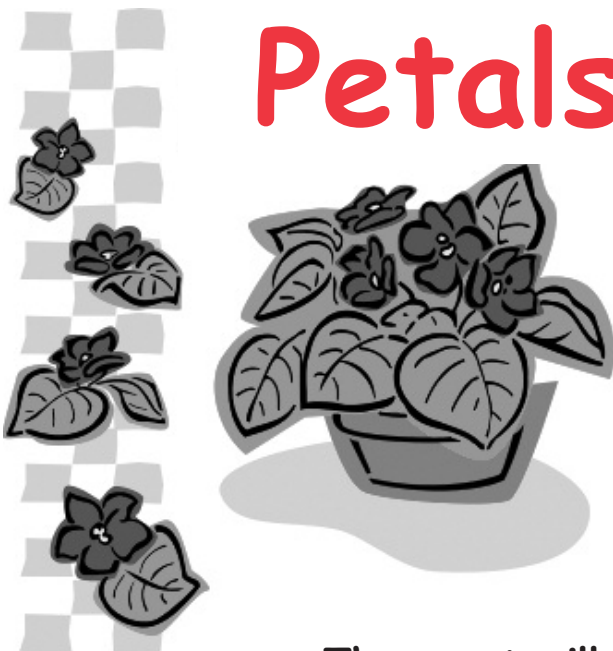
Buy some chocolate for your valentine and get the chance
to win a great raffle prize!

Send a valentine to your favorite shelter animal!

All proceeds benefit the homeless animals.



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 sixth annual
plant sale on May 12th and 13th
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

www.WSHS-DG.org

www.WSHS-DG.org

Ready For a Home



Simba

8 month old, Male, American Staffordshire Terrier Mix

Hi, I'm Simba. I am a typical puppy that is lots of fun and full of love. I walk great on leash and know all of my basic obedience commands. I am crate trained but still need a little work on housebreaking. I am good with kids 10 years and older and other dogs that are bigger than me. I am not a big fan of cats however. If you are interested in adopting me, you should have knowledge of my breed and previous dog experience as an adult. I even come with a free session with my own personal trainer. How can you pass me up!



Kelvin

9 year old, Male, Beagle

Are you looking for a sedate, older gentleman? Then keep looking! I am a very spunky, young at heart dude! I love to play, get belly rubs and eat. I am also great with kids of all ages. I like other dogs and cats but cannot live with them as I tend to be possessive of my food around them. I am housebroken, crate trained and walk great on leash. Because of my breed, I cannot live in an apartment, condo or townhouse. I'm the perfect dog! Stop by and visit me today!



Zinfandel aka Roger

5 years old, Male, 2 paw declaw, Grey Tabby w/white

I am like a fine wine: I just get better with age. In my home I was known to be good with all people and other cats. I am confident and friendly. We had a toddler, too; he and I were buddies. Sadly, I had to come back where I began because of allergies. I hope my new family doesn't have any of those! Oh, and I hope they do have another kitty. I have been so lonely since I lost my sister. Another cat friend would help me feel whole again. How about it? Do you and your cat have room in your life for a fella like me?



Aqua Fresh

9 years old, Female, Black and White DLH

Don't make fun of my name! When I was a baby, my siblings and I were named for toothpaste brands. It was cute at the time! Now I am back at the shelter I never hoped to see again, but this time, I'm no kitten. I do have tons of character and I am really affectionate. Talk to me and I flip onto my back for a belly rub. I am also a polydactyl, which means I have extra toes. Why don't you come up and see me sometime?



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

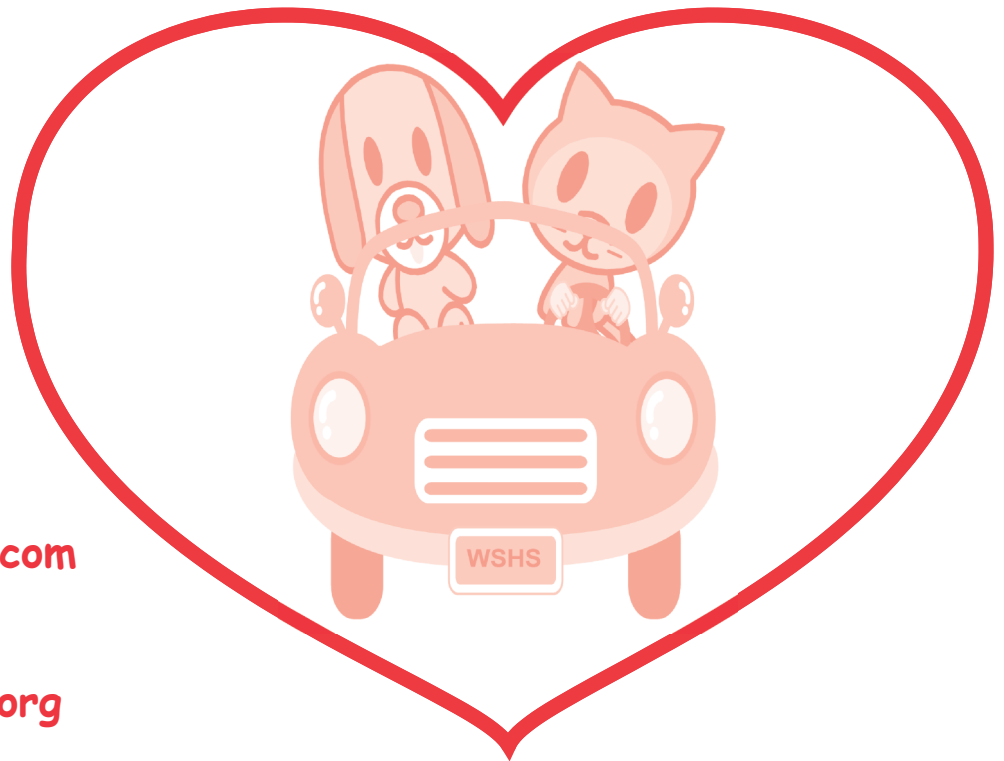
1-877-CARS-4-US

(227-7487)

www.donationline.com

Or

www.WSHS-DG.org



West Suburban Humane Society Launches Fundinco!

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.

HEARTY THANKS



Diane Harke, a WSHS volunteer, hosted a birthday party for her two cats Scarlett and Miles. 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.

Amanda Rosland of Westmont turned 10 and asked for donations for the shelter instead of gifts for her. She collected numerous food and supply donations.

Mary Pavlicek donated money to the cats and dogs at the shelter for Christmas.

Katherine Tokesh had a birthday party and asked for donations for the shelter instead of gifts for her. She collected lots of dog food.

Environmental Systems Design, Inc. in Chicago held a company-wide Charity Jean Friday and donated the proceeds of \$240 to the shelter.

Girl Scout Troop 50811 raised \$316.12 and donated it to the shelter.

In the month of December, **Doggie Depot** in Downers Grove collected donations for the shelter. They collected 26 batteries, 733 pounds of dog food, 10 bottles of hand soap, 192 stamps, 12 leashes/collars, 13 bowls, 18 toys, 91 cans of dog food, 160 cans of cat food, 37 pounds of pet safe salt, 75 pounds of kitty litter, 2 containers of kitten milk replacement, 97 rolls of paper towels, 66 rolls of toilet paper, 2,233 paper plates, 10 bottles of laundry detergent and 25 bottles of dog shampoo.

Junior Girl Scout Troop 1221 donated handmade blankets, toys and supplies to the shelter.

The Downers Grove Police Records and Administrative Assistant staff members donate \$1.00 each week to wear jeans on Fridays. The money collected throughout the year is then donated to a charity. WSHS was selected as one of this year's recipients.

Ms. Rankin's 2nd Grade class at Whittier Elementary collected food and supplies for the shelter.

Nancy, Emma and Kelly Ottersen collected food and supplies for the shelter.

David and Patrick Crossland donated \$23 from their piggybanks along with food and toys in honor of their aunt and her dog.

The We Can Club at Manning Elementary in Westmont collected food and supplies for the shelter.

Acxiom Corporation in Downers Grove held a chili cook-off and donated the proceeds of \$350 to the shelter.

Margaret Kukuc Photography in Willow Springs held a Dog Day Fundraiser. They collected donations for the shelter and donated the proceeds for the dog portraits they took that day.

Junior Girl Scout Troop #459 collected supplies and \$203.81 and donated it to the shelter.

Patrycja Suliba and Michelle Ochedzan held a lemonade stand and donated the \$22 they raised to the shelter.

Katarina Neumann turned 10 and asked for donations for the shelter instead of gifts for her. She collected \$205.

Danielle Swenson turned 10 and asked for donations for the shelter instead of gifts for her. She donated \$90 plus food and supplies.

As part of the **2011 Summer Programs at Woodridge Public Library**, children would read books and earn tokens to donate to the humane society. At the end of the program, the library donated \$70, food and treats.

The 6th, 7th and 8th graders in the Edison Bright Lights Service Club at Edison Middle School in Wheaton made homemade dog toys and donated them to the dogs at the shelter.

On Christmas, **Kat Malkowski** asked for donations for the shelter instead of gifts for her. She collected and donated food and supplies.

Mr. Blazek's third grade class at Forest Glen Elementary School in Glen Ellyn donated food and supplies to the shelter.

Tim Rosland of Westmont turned 7 and asked for donations for the shelter instead of gifts for him. He donated food and supplies.

The Happy Dog Barkery in Downers Grove raffled off a Gingerbread House and donated the proceeds of \$452 to the shelter.



Pet Health Watch by Dr. Main, DVM

My cat has a thyroid problem, what can be done?

Hyperthyroidism is a common problem in older cats. Hyperthyroidism is defined as an excess production of thyroid hormone from the thyroid gland. This is usually caused by a benign tumor of the thyroid gland that over produces thyroid hormone, and is not sensitive to any negative feedback mechanisms. Therefore thyroid hormone is constantly being produced and released into the body whether it is needed or not.

Clearly extra thyroid hormone in the body is not a healthy situation for these elderly cats. Most of these pets are losing weight rapidly, and are in a poor body condition with rough coats. In addition they have rapid heart rates often with heart murmurs and unhealthy changes in their liver enzymes. Typically these patients have increased appetites, and are active but continue to lose weight. These clinical signs should not be confused with sugar diabetes. In fact the two conditions can look similar.

Differentiating these conditions leads us to the proper way to diagnose a thyroid problem. The primary method of detecting a thyroid problem is through blood testing. Specifically, testing for thyroid levels will provide the answer. Usually a complete blood panel including thyroid levels is the best. Often there are other issues that have

to be factored in when treating a thyroid problem that can only be determined on the complete blood work-up. Once the diagnosis is made, then it is time to look at treatment options.

When hyperthyroidism was first recognized the condition was often treated by surgical removal of the thyroid gland. Then oral medications became available to bind the extra thyroid hormone and keep thyroid levels physiological. Another option for treatment is the use of radioactive iodine to selectively destroy the thyroid gland. This is the treatment often used in human medicine. Now there is something new to treat this condition.

Believe it or not there is a prescription diet available to treat cats with thyroid problems. Yes, it is as simple as food. It turns out that by limiting iodine in the food, elevated thyroid levels can be brought down into the normal range. This new food called "y/d" has been available for the past several months and appears to be working very well.

How does the diet work? The thyroid molecule is built around iodine. Iodine is essential in the making of thyroid hormone. By limiting iodine, to an extreme in the diet, the body is unable to manufacture thyroid hormone at excess levels. After years of research the proper level of dietary iodine has been determined to treat hyperthyroidism. As it turns out this level of

iodine is miniscule. Therefore when treating a thyroid condition with the prescription diet, y/d, it can be the only dietary source. Any deviation will prevent the diet from working. Fortunately the diet is palatable and healthy for older cats.

At my veterinary hospital we see several newly diagnosed hyperthyroid cats every month. The condition is common. It is nice to have several treatment options to pick from. All of these patients will require monitoring after treatment is started. This monitoring includes a physical exam and blood work to check thyroid levels as well as other levels that are affected by thyroid hormone.

So far the patients being treated with y/d have been doing very well. It appears this new therapeutic option is sound. With cats ease of administration of the treatment is always important. This new diet has been a great option.

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



Judy Reeder and Sharon Gardner team up every Wednesday morning to feed, clean, and socialize the front office and ISO cats. They have been working together almost 3 years, since Sharon started at the shelter in early 2009. Judy has been around a little longer, starting in 2006 as a cattery volunteer. Both women are early risers, arriving at the shelter around 7:00 am. Since they are here so early, they also feed and medicate the cats. Judy and Sharon work very well as a team, working in separate areas at times and helping each other when needed.

In addition to her Wednesday morning shift, Judy also volunteers Thursday mornings in the cattery, fosters kittens each year, and serves on our cat enrichment committee. She had 4 cats before starting at WSHS, but has adopted 4 more since then. For the most part, her 8 cats "live in peace and harmony". Through volunteering, Judy has learned so much about cats and is much more comfortable handling them now. Judy enjoys working with the other volunteers and staff, "There are a lot of people who give their time caring for the animals at the shelter and also in their homes". She also enjoys socializing with the kittens and cats, each with their own "individual personalities and quirks". What she enjoys most is when they get adopted.

Working in the Isolation area, Sharon works with many of our sick cats. As much as she "hate[s] to see the cats when they are very sick", she "love[s] to see them nursed back to good health by the staff and volunteers". One such cat found her way into Sharon's life. She says Duchess (named Virgine at the shelter) was "the sickest cat I have ever encountered". For over a month, Sharon worked with Duchess, visiting the cat when it wasn't her shift to pamper and play with her. The problem was her husband did not want another cat. All she had to do was get him in to meet Duchess, and she sold herself. Now, Sharon says Duchess "belongs to my husband". Sharon really enjoys her work at the shelter. What she likes most is that WSHS is "a no/low kill facility and that the animals are the number one priority". At home, she has three rescue cats of her own. Sharon also is the "mom of 3 horses" and she enjoys reading, skiing, and traveling.

Ask The Trainer by Matt Covey, Suburban K9

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 dog's 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.

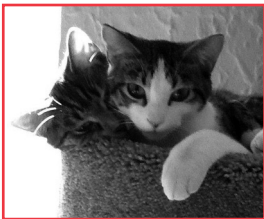
Sometimes people ask me if they should refrain from socializing a dog so that he will be a better guard dog. That is the process of creating a dangerous dog, not a family pet who will also protect when needed. The idea of socializing a dog is teaching him what is normal and what isn't. When a dog has 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.

Please address questions and suggestions for future Ask the Trainer articles to:

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



E-Mails and Letters From Adopters



Hi everyone at WSHS!

Thought we'd send some photos of the two newest members of our family and one older one -- all adopted through WSHS!

Beans (formerly Tai-Pei) and **Mooch** (formerly Wendalynn) are completely at home and live in peace (not necessarily quiet!) with our 11 year old beagle, **Woody**.

Mooch is fearless -- she was the first to go up to Woody and clean his paws! Beans is a little more tentative but she's observant and is picking things up pretty quickly. Woody, as much as he can, loves his sisters -- he lets Mooch groom him and they all get up in each other's space when food is around.

Mooch recently jumped up on the counter, managed to open the cupboard where we keep their treats, knocked them out of the cupboard and then to the floor and carried them off!

As you can see from the photos -- Beans and Mooch are fully bonded. The other photo is Woody's 2011 picture with Santa -- and yes, he's been a good dog!

Take care and thanks for the work you do and helping us add these adorable members to our family!

Chris Atkinson & Andrew Pepoy

