

# STRAY THOUGHTS

## Senior Treasures

While there is nothing quite as cute as a puppy, there is nothing quite as overwhelming or heart-wrenching to see a wise old face staring back from a cage. Sometimes it is hard to understand how someone could own an animal for so long and then give it up or return it to a shelter. It could be that the owners work too many hours, a new baby is on the way or it is just too hard for them to watch their beloved pet grow old. Occasionally the reasons are more understandable – their owner passed away or had to go into a nursing home – but the end result is no less tragic. The animal ends up spending its last days at a shelter.

Please consider the following benefits of adopting an older animal:

- The advances in veterinary care for our animals are so great, that animals are living longer healthier lives and we are able to offer them a quality of life that wasn't possible in the past.
- Older pets tend to appreciate the love and care of their owner and the fact that have been given a second chance at happiness. Older pets in a shelter may suffer from depression. This is your chance to give them joy and to get that joy back tenfold.
- The days of dealing with the "terrible two's" of a puppy are over. An older animal will still want to romp and play but they will also be content to snuggle up on the couch with you for a nap or a good scratch.

- Many times when adopting an older dog, they have already been housetrained, crate trained and obedience trained.
- Once you adopt an animal, it is the quality of time you spend together not the quantity. Each day you have together is precious and should be savored.

Currently, we have several "senior" dogs available for adoption at the shelter. Could your home be the right home for one of these special seniors?

Boo Boo is a 9 year old, female, Jack Russell Terrier mix. If you want all of



**Boo Boo**

the fun and energy of a puppy, but without the training then she is your girl! She does prefer adults over children and is not a big fan of other animals but that's ok because with her around you won't need anyone else!

Rexi is a 9 year old, male, Lab mix. He is calm, loving and well trained. He loves kids

and doesn't mind cats. He would like to be your one and only dog though. He

would love to go on walks, get a good pet or just hang out. Whatever you'd like to do, he'd love to do it with you.



**Rexi**

Fargo is an 8 year old, male, Beagle. He is an active fella that likes to play



**Fargo**

but likes to hang out and relax too. Fargo is housebroken and knows his basic obedience

commands. He is good with kids 10 years and older and likes other dogs. He will chase cats so a home without them would be preferred. A typical Beagle, Fargo will follow his nose and he does bay so he cannot live in an apartment, condo or townhouse. A large, fenced in backyard is just the thing he needs.

Jessie is a 7 year old, female, Lab mix. A sweet, gentle girl, Jessie just loves everyone she meets. She is housebroken and knows her basic obedience commands.



**Jessie**

Jessie wants to be the queen of her castle and must be the only animal in the home. She wants all of your love to herself and she deserves it!

We are so grateful for the people who chose to adopt a pet from West Suburban Humane Society. We are especially thankful for those who adopt an older or special needs pet. Won't you consider opening your heart and allowing one of these animals to spend their golden years in a loving home of their own?

## Upcoming Events

630-960-9600, ext. 25

### MAY

12th, Saturday - 13th, Sunday

Petals for Pets Plant Sale

Look for more information on our Sixth Annual Plant Sale on page 3 of this edition of Stray Thoughts.

28th, Monday

Memorial Day - WSHS will be closed today.

### JUNE - ADOPT A SHELTER CAT MONTH

13th, Wednesday

WSHS General Meeting held at 7:00 pm at the Downers Grove Park District. Hear what's new at the shelter, partake of refreshments and enjoy a great guest speaker.

### JULY

4th, Wednesday

4th of July - WSHS will be closed today.

## 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.

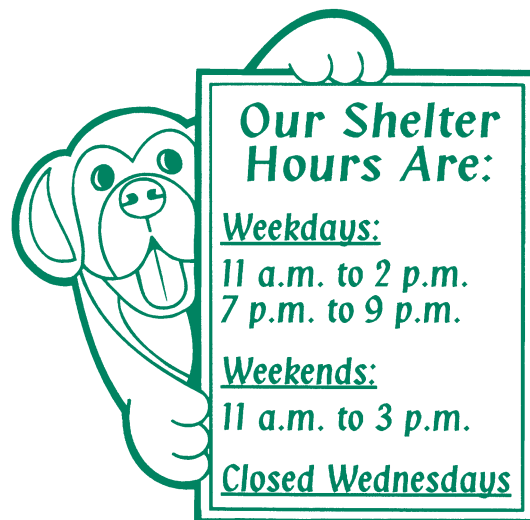


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1051 N Kirk Rd  
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630.879.9240  
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## WSHS Wish List

- 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!



## 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  
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Lorie Bonham, Director  
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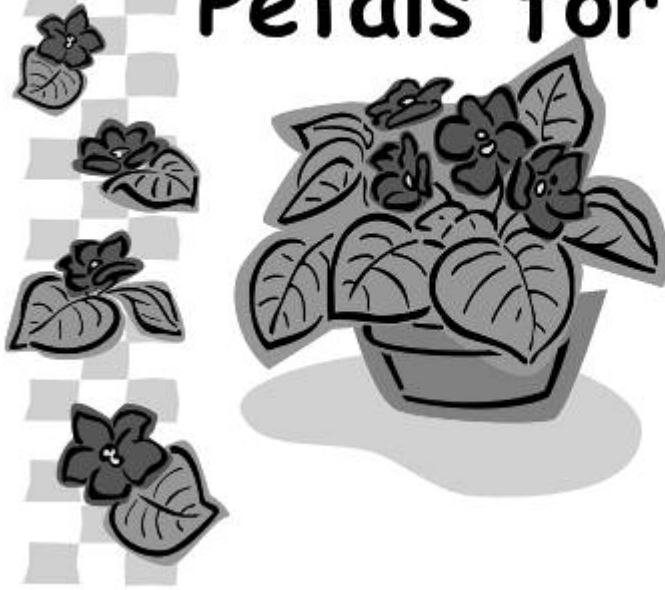
### THE WSHS STAFF:

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 Stefanie 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

# 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 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm and May 13th from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.

The event will be held at the shelter  
1901 Ogden Avenue Downers Grove

630-960-9600 x 25 ~ [www.WSHS-DG.org](http://www.WSHS-DG.org)

## Volunteer Spotlight – Corinne Beutel

Corinne Beutel has been a volunteer at West Suburban Humane Society for almost 18 years. She started as a kennel volunteer, though at that time there were sometimes not enough volunteers, so she would help wherever it was needed.



For the past 7 years, Corinne has been helping in the front office and handling the Canine Intake Line. She finds handling the Intake Line to be rewarding when she can help someone find a way to keep their dog, but often times it's "sad and depressing" because "people give up their dogs for very selfish reasons and do not want to put any effort into working with their best friend". Corinne says after all these years she feels she still has so much to learn about dogs and especially cats.

At home, Corinne has 2 dogs, both WSHS alumni. Midnight, whose almost 12, is a "Border Collie/Cocker mix with a lame left front leg due to falling out of a truck prior to coming to WSHS". His best buddy, Cassie is a 4 ½ year old female spaniel mix. The two of them are on constant squirrel patrol. Besides being an animal lover, Corinne also enjoys reading, travel, and anything to do with nature. Corinne and her husband own a second home in Galena, an area they both love.

# Ready For a Home



## Rose

**8 month old, Female, Hound Mix**

I'm all about the wiggle. I am such a happy girl. My whole body just wags along with my tail all day long. I love people of all ages, toys, food - just about everything! I am crate trained and well on my way to being housebroken. I walk great on leash and know my basic obedience commands. I am good with kids 10 years and older, cats and other dogs. Because I am a hound mix, I cannot live in an apartment, condo or townhouse. 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!

## Blacktop

**1 year old, Male, Lab Mix**

Hi, I'm Blacktop. I am a super friendly, high energy boy! I would be a great choice if you are looking for a running partner! I walk great on leash and know all of my obedience commands. I am crate trained and working on housebreaking. I like other dogs but can play rough so not every dog will want to play with me. I am not a big fan of cats. I need to live in an adult only home that has had previous dog experience. I even come with a free session with my own personal trainer. How can you pass me up? Stop by and visit me today!



## Cricket

**5 years old, Female, Black DSH**

When you wind up abandoned in a box, there is nowhere to go but up, right? That was my introduction to the shelter, and that's when things began to look up. They have lots of food here and so many people who want to love me and are invested in making sure the next home I go to will be forever. It's been a trip so far, letting them try to figure me out. I'm a little gal with a big voice. I talk when I'm happy and really talk when I'm not. They tell me I am "all thunder and no lightening", which I think is a compliment....isn't it? Come meet me...I'll hop in your lap and tell you how it is.



## Kora

**9 years old, Female, Grey DSH**

The third time is a charm, right? I am sure hoping so, because I have been to this shelter three times now and I'd like my next home to be forever. It wasn't my fault I got brought back here. My family knew I didn't like dogs and they got one anyway. When things didn't work out, it wasn't the dog that got returned. I am just fine with other cats and kids. You will find me chatty, affectionate and playful. My litter box habits are excellent and I don't scratch the furniture. I have lots of love to give so if you are a "cat person" and have no plans to get a stinky, slobbery dog in the future, I am your girl.





# Pet Health Watch by Dr. Main, DVM

Dear Dr. Main:

## What is new in feline health care?

New information has led to changes in vaccine protocols and the need for annual exams for cats. Often cats are not being diagnosed with existing health problems because they never make it in to see the veterinarian. In general cats are seen less by veterinarians than are dogs. This may be due to the increased difficulty of bringing cats to the vet as compared to dogs. Or it may be related to cat owners believing that cats do not need regular veterinary care. This article will provide an overview of the recommended veterinary care for our feline friends.

Cats are susceptible to all kinds of health problems including dental disease, diabetes, chronic kidney disease, heart disease, thyroid disorders, arthritis and many other conditions. Unfortunately cats can be very deceptive about showing us their signs of illness. In other words they may look OK but actually have a health problem. The best way to discover illness in cats is to have regular veterinary check-ups.

A veterinary appointment should include a thorough physical exam and might include blood tests, urinalysis, radiographs, blood pressure, and ultra-sound exam. As cats age to 9 years and older annual blood work up is recommended. Often early detection of a problem can make all the difference in the outcome.

What about preventative medicine and vaccines? New information has changed the landscape for feline vaccine protocols. I will provide an overview of the changes.

Since the early 1980's it was discovered that some cats (1 in 100,000) would develop a vaccine associated sarcoma, essentially a tumor at the vaccine site. It now is understood that additives to vaccines are the likely cause of this occurring. In accordance with this information, there are now vaccines that are cleaner, without additives, known as adjuvantis.

In general we are now recommending vaccines that are cleaner and are spaced out differently. Let's look at rabies vaccine first. Rabies vaccine is required by law for all cats, essentially to protect us, the humans, from any potential rabies exposure. The latest and best rabies vaccine is called "pure-vax". This vaccine has no additives and is extraordinarily safe. The vaccine is given to kittens at 4 months of age then annually thereafter. It is only available as a one year vaccine.

Next let's look at feline leukemia vaccine. This vaccine became available in the 1980's and most cats received the vaccine. Then as we understood the disease better, the vaccine was recommended for outdoor cats only. Now the experts recommend the (FELV) vaccine for all kittens, but not thereafter. The risk for FELV is much higher in kittens.

Finally we will cover the recommendation for the 3-way feline distemper vaccine. This vaccine protects against panleukopenia, rhinotracheitis, and calici virus. The first disease is a life threatening intestinal disease. The second two viruses cause severe and often chronic upper respiratory infections. The new recommendation for this vaccine is to vaccinate kittens at 8, 12 and 16 weeks of age;

then in one year, and then every 3 years thereafter.

As a seasoned veterinarian, I share with you countless times where undiagnosed medical problems were detected on routine annual physical exams. This annual exam will keep your feline companion healthy and allow for the administration of the required "pure-vax" one year rabies vaccine. As the feline patient reaches the age of nine, the annual exam should be coupled with blood work for the early detection of especially chronic kidney disease and hyperthyroidism. In fact about 30% percent of older feline patients will develop chronic kidney disease.

With these new guidelines our feline friends should stay healthier, be better protected against disease, have less risk for vaccine associated sarcomas, and hopefully have earlier detection of disease. Regular physical exams are essential to providing great health care for our feline patients.

## 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



## Ask The Trainer

If your dog climbs or jumps fences you know how frustrating and scary this can be. A fence is there to contain a dog and now he is loose on the other side. This is an easy way for your dog to get lost, get into a fight, or even get hit by a car. I frequently receive calls about stopping fence jumping and I explain to clients that there are two main parts. First we have to teach the dog that we don't like him jumping the fence and then we need to set up the situation and stop it.

Very often the dog doesn't know that it is wrong to jump the fence. He is in the yard and sees something interesting so he jumps the fence and chases it. Thirty minutes later you find him and act angry and now the dog is trying to figure out why. We must start by teaching the dog that jumping the fence is wrong. I will put a long rope on the dog attached to his collar and let him drag it around the yard. I will always stay fairly close so that I can either grab the dog or rope if needed. As soon as the dog puts his paws on the fence or tightens his body to jump, I will tell him "NO" in a stern voice. If he stops the behavior we resume what we



were doing, if not I will give a leash correction with the rope. We continue this process until the dog understands that he shouldn't jump or climb the fence.

The next step is to set up distracting situations. I will never encourage the dog to jump the fence, but I want to make sure he is capable of staying in the yard with a very exciting distraction outside. Think about it, when do you want your dog to try and jump the fence? When you are outside with the rope during the middle of the day, or at six a.m. while you are cooking breakfast? I will set up whatever I think will be the hardest situation for this particular dog. It could be walking the neighbor dog past the fence, kids riding by on bikes, fireworks going off, whatever will spark your dog to want to jump the fence. As we work the goal is to catch the dog in the act and stop him with either a "NO" command or leash correction. If the dog does manage to clear the fence while you are outside simply hold the rope while you go to the dog and walk him back in through the gate. If he



doesn't get the fun of playing with whatever he wanted to chase then it was still a successful session.

This process takes a different amount of time for every dog and every yard. If there are a lot of predictable distractions it actually goes much quicker than in a quiet yard where distractions come out of the blue with no predictability. With any type of training I am a huge believer in setting up tough situations because it is much easier when we are ready for it. If your dog has already learned to respect the "NO" command through obedience training this will definitely speed up the process.

## Please address questions and suggestions for future training articles to:

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





# HEARTY THANKS



The **Hillcrest School 6th Grade Girl Scout Troop 1671** made dog blankets and donated them to the shelter.

**Glen Crest Middle School in Glen Ellyn** held a loose change drive and donated the proceeds of \$188.55 to the shelter.

**Jennifer Carver of LaGrange Highlands** turned 13 and asked for donations for the shelter instead of gifts for her. She donated dog food, treats and a leash.

The **8th Graders at O'Neill Middle School in Downers Grove** collected money and donated it to the shelter. They raised \$91.79.

**Miles King of Elmhurst** set up a lemonade stand and donated the proceeds to the shelter.

The **Pet Helpers Club at Hadley Junior High School in Glen Ellyn** collected change and donated it to the shelter. They raised \$1,575.

**Industrial Kinetics in Downers Grove** held its first annual chili cook-off. Eight employees cooked their own chili recipe. The remaining employees made a contribution to partake in the chili and pick a winner. The winner was allowed to have the proceeds donated to the

charity of his/her choice. The winner was Enrique Avila, a 16 year employee of Industrial Kinetics and a volunteer of the shelter. Enrique chose the shelter to receive the \$150 donation.

**Keira Ohanian of Lombard** donated \$100 of the money she received for her birthday to the animals at the shelter.

The **SASED group of Westmont** sold dog treats and donated the \$323 they raised to the shelter.

**Judith Carnegie of Downers Grove** made dog treats and sold them at West Suburban Veterinary Associates. She donated the proceeds of \$400 to the shelter.

Lisle Library has a program "Spin A Yarn" for **Lisle Junior High School students**. They made and donated blankets for the dogs and cats at the shelter.

**Concord Elementary School Girl Scout Troop #51673** collected and donated dog and cat food, paper towels and newspapers.

**Kristina Brady-Borman, owner of Doggy Doughnuts**, donated homemade dog treats for the shelter to sell and allowed us to keep the proceeds.

The **Downers Grove North National Honor Society students** collected food, supplies and money for the shelter at local Dominick stores. They collected numerous food and supply donations as well as \$998.

**Cole Campbell** turned 8 and asked for donations for the shelter instead of gifts for him. He donated food, supplies and \$205.

**Maggie Clink of Elmhurst** turned 10 and asked for donations for the shelter instead of gifts for her. She donated food, supplies and 2 Visa gift cards totaling \$115.

**Rachel Padgett of Westmont** had a birthday and asked for donations for the shelter instead of gifts for her. She donated food and supplies to the shelter.

**Amanda Kania of Out-U-Go in Downers Grove** donated food, supplies and \$20 to the shelter.

**Girl Scout Troop 114** donated \$100 to the animals at the shelter.



## E-Mails and Letters From Adopters

Hi WSHS Staff,

We received the CD of Arthur growing up..... he became big so fast.

He is awesome, however we did change his name to Ruxon. My husband chose it so I guess I could let him name one animal in the house.

**Ruxon Rudiger Blair.**

We picked him up from the Hospital on Saturday and he hasn't been here yet a week and he runs the place. He is so smart, learned his name, only a couple of accidents in the house, doesn't disturb the girls when it's time to eat, only eats his food then sits and waits for them to be done... Scott and I want to commend the foster family, they did a great job with him and we are lucky to have him as part of our family.

Rosie and Rux are great together, LOVE to run in the yard. And Rux has such a nice

demeanor with Bodi, plays easier with her when she wants to play but seems to know that she is older and doesn't do so



**Rosie and Rux**

has been teaching him to fetch the ball and the frisbee outside with the great weather. And he is such a goofball. He doesn't trip over his feet too much any more, but boy can you hear him coming with those big paws.

We can't wait to take him to the lakehouse and see what he thinks of going on the boat and Bodi will show him the beach and she likes to walk right into the water. Bodi can also show him how to

much rough housing like Rosie.

He sleeps in our bed with Bodi and is a really good boy. Scott

go swimming in the pool once it's open as well. I can't wait to show him everything. Rux and Rosie can help me plant the garden and I am sure run all over my flowers....

Rosie is or was a bit jealous which seemed to be good for her, she goes to Scott a lot more now and has mellowed out a little too. Doesn't jump at every noise as much. Still hasn't figured out when the doorbell on the TV rings it's not ours.... Bodi finds that humorous as Rosie and Rux run to the front door and Bodi just looks at them like "Duh, it was on that big thing over there". Rux also likes to watch the TV.

Anyway, quite long winded. Here are some pics of them please would you pass these on to the foster family and give them our thanks. Can't wait to share more pics.

Thanks again, The Blair Family



# West Suburban Humane Society

Presents:

**GREAT NEW  
LOCATION!**

**LISLE COMMUNITY PARK  
1825 SHORT ST.  
LISLE, IL**



19th Annual

## **BARKAPALOOZA**

WALKATHON & PET EXPO

**Sunday, September 30, 2012**

**10:00 am - 2:00 pm**

**Rain or Shine**

**Kids Walk Free!**

- 🐾 **Great prizes based on collected pledges - the more you collect the more you win!**
- 🐾 **Registration at 9:00am**
- 🐾 **Micro-chipping will be available for a small fee and "Vet Advice" for free.**
- 🐾 **A blessing for the animals will be given at 10:00 am**
- 🐾 **Don't want to walk - just come & shop with our many vendors.**
- 🐾 **Clowns, Face Painting, Balloon Sculptures**
- 🐾 **Breed Specific Rescue Groups**
- 🐾 **Kids and Kindness Zone**
- 🐾 **Give-aways—Crafts—Food—Special items for Children**
- 🐾 **For more information call: West Suburban Humane Society at (630) 960-9600, ext. 25; [www.WSHS-DG.org](http://www.WSHS-DG.org); Come with or without a dog, bring the family, **but no other pets please.****

Waiver: In consideration of my signing this agreement, I hereby for myself, my heirs and administrators assume any and all risks which might be associated with the walk. I waive and release any and all rights and claims for damages which I may have against the organizers and any others connected with this event, their representatives, successors, and assigns for any and all injuries or damages of any kind whatsoever suffered by me as a result of taking part in the walk and any related activities. I also give full permission for use of my name and photograph in connection with this event.



**630-960-9600 • [www.WSHS-DG.org](http://www.WSHS-DG.org)**



Walkathon and Pet Expo  
with a blessing for the animals



## PLEDGE

|  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|
| Our Goal is for each participant to raise                          |  |  |  |
| \$100.00 in collected pledges                                      |  |  |  |
| and receive a free T-shirt.  |  |  |  |
| Win prizes with each \$100.00 collected.                           |  |  |  |
| \$500.00 in CASH goes to the person                                |  |  |  |
| bringing in the most pledges, along with                           |  |  |  |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> - 3 <sup>rd</sup> - 4 <sup>th</sup> place winners. |  |  |  |
| Checks preferred.  |  |  |  |

TOTAL

- Early registration fee before September 21st is \$10.00 per adult - children 12 and under free. Registration fee after September 21st is \$15.00 per adult - children 12 and under free.
  - **Walkers with \$100 or more in collected pledges WALK FREE & receive an event shirt.**
  - All pledges are due on or before event date.
  - Bring this sheet and your collected pledges the morning of the walk. Your pledge dollars will help the animals in our shelter. Money collected before the event can be mailed to, or dropped off at, West Suburban Humane Society's Development Office. (630) 960-9600, ext. 25.
  - Water, snacks, first-aid and dog curbing materials will be provided along the route for you and your leashed canine companion.
  - Dogs under 4 months of age, vicious dogs, or female dogs in any stage of heat will not be allowed to participate. **Dogs only please.**
  - Each canine participant will receive a Walkathon bandanna.
  - ALL GUESTS WILL RECEIVE A **"BARKAPALOOZA"** registration gift.
  - **I CANNOT WALK BUT WILL HELP SHELTER ANIMALS WITH A DONATION OF \$**

**Credit Card Number**\_\_\_\_\_ **Exp. date** \_\_\_\_\_

WALKER'S SIGNATURE

WALKER'S NAME-PLEASE PRINT

---

PHONE

DOG NAME

---

ALUMNI

ADDRESS (STREET, CITY, ZIP)

PARENT OR GUARDIAN'S SIGNATURE (IF UNDER 18)

AGE (IF UNDER 18)

—(See Waiver On Other Side)

**FOR OFFICE USE**

### MONEY COLLECTED

Reg. Fee (\$10): \_\_\_\_\_

**Pledges:** \_\_\_\_\_

Total Collected:

**How did you hear of this event?**

Please keep a duplicate set of receipts for your records — no copies available at event.