

West Suburban Humane Society

STRAY THOUGHTS

HAPPY
HOLIDAYS!

FROM:
WEST SUBURBAN
HUMANE SOCIETY

A Love Story



Hazel and Runner

The best kind of love is the one you don't see coming. It isn't forced, comes completely naturally, and is born from a twist of fate.

Destiny was at work when Runner and Hazel met. They came from different worlds. He was a rogue who got his name from his wild ways. She was a single mother whose kittens had just weaned. Both homeless, skinny and neglected, they came separately to WSHS searching for a better life. If it weren't for a dreaded disease, these soul mates would never have met. They would each be adopted by now, living with a family, oblivious to one another's existence.

But fate stepped in and both Runner and Hazel tested positive for FIV, (feline immunodeficiency virus). This diagnosis set events in motion and caused an unlikely union. You see, even though people and dogs can't get FIV, other cats are at risk, so a cat with FIV either leads a life void of feline companionship or unites with other FIV cats. FIV

makes it more difficult for a cat to get over other illnesses, like a cold or parasites. In a shelter, the safest place for FIV positive cats is away from other cats who might have colds or infections. When Runner and Hazel needed to be moved, an apartment was made for them in the Executive Director's office. Little did Carolyn know that her office would be destiny's playground.

Runner moved in first, because as his name suggests, he was difficult to contain and had learned how to release himself from his cage. Hazel soon followed, and her charming, irresistible nature rendered Runner utterly unable to resist. It didn't take long for Hazel to turn Runner from bad boy to teddy



Runner

bear. Over time, the bond deepened, but no adopters came. It seems most folks don't want to take on a cat with a known illness. FIV cats can live long, healthy lives with quality, basic care, but public perception is that they will be sick all the time, cost a lot of money in vet bills and die young. Uneducated fear keeps people from adopting FIV positive cats. Because of this, it has been a year and a half since these two

arrived at WSHS. Now they are looking for a home together.

They will not be separated. If you could see them wrapped together and cleaning each other, your heart would just

melt. It will take longer to find two FIV positive cats a home, but after all they have been through, Runner and Hazel complete each other.



Hazel

Now when visitors come to their office, they might experience Runner to be the strong, silent type and Hazel as social director and flirt. They love each other and people, too. Runner is the type of cat who is independent but loves to get cozy with you and Hazel is a busy bee, wanting to be involved in household activities. They will make a family very happy. This love story needs its happy ending. What better Christmas gift could there be for Runner & Hazel, for the staff & volunteers who love them, and for a very special adopter? What does destiny hold in store for our soul mates? Will fate bring them together with their forever family this winter? Hopefully, we will soon be writing "happily ever after" on this love story.

West Suburban Humane Society

shelter services include:

- Pet Adoptions
- Free Pet I.D. Tags
- Community Education
- Humane Investigations
- Pet Behavior Counseling
- Spay/Neuter Referrals
- Lost & Found Hotline



Our Shelter Hours Are:

Weekdays:
11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Weekends:
11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Closed Wednesdays



WSHS Wish List

- Paper Towels
- Food (our animals are on a specific diet: so that we don't upset their digestive system, we must be specific) Purina or IAMS (Dry) cat and dog, kitten and puppy formulas, light formula – cat and dog and senior formula – cat and dog. Any canned cat, dog, kitten and puppy food is fine.
- KMR (kitten milk replacement), small baby bottles and nipples
- Dog and cat toys (washable and indestructible!)
- Cat litter (no scoopable)
- Stamps (to be used for postage)
- Garbage bags (13 & 30 gallon sizes)
- 6" paper plates
- Lint Traps
- Volunteers!
- Monetary donations are always appreciated!



INTEGRATED PRINT MANAGEMENT

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The design and printing of the newsletter were provided below cost.

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WEST SUBURBAN HUMANE SOCIETY

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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**
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Ready For a Home



Flash

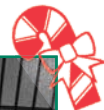
**1-1/2 year old, Male,
Orange Tabby w/White**

Funny name, right? You should have seen me when I arrived at this shelter. A good Samaritan found me outside with a large gash across my neck and took me to a vet. I was all fixed up there, good as new and now it is time for me to find a home. I didn't have a lot of people skills when I was found, so my adopter needs to have the patience to help me to trust. I am so worth it and I want to have a family. Will you be my teacher?

Pandora

9 years old, Female, Calico

Nothing phases me. Really! I love to be around people, cats don't bother me and neither do dogs. All I want out of life is a family who will pet me and let me sit by them and follow them around the house (I'm kind of like a dog that way). I am easy to have around, really low maintenance. Don't let my age deter you. You will never regret adopting me because I will adore you forever.



Kisses

2 year old, Female, Lab Mix

There are some people that whisper about my weight "problem". But I think I am perfect! So what if I like to eat? I should be easier to train with (diet) treats. And I do get exercise. Nothing and I mean nothing slows me down! I am good with other dogs and kids 12 years and older. I'm not a big fan of cats however. I need lots of exercise and mental stimulations so I would do best living in a house with a large

fenced in backyard. No apartments, condos or townhouses for me. I also need to live with any owner who has previous dog experience. If you are like me and live life to the fullest, we will be perfect together!

Scout

3 year old, Male, American Bulldog

I may be big but I'm just a teddy bear! I am sweet and shy, funny and loyal. I am housebroken, walk great on leash and know all of my obedience commands. I would like to be a country squire, living a quiet life of ease! A dog or cat pal would be great, just no drama please! I would do best in a home with kids 10 years and older. If you are interested in adopting me, you should have previous dog experience and knowledge of my breed. I will make a great companion. Stop by and visit me today!



Ask The Trainer

Dear Matt,

How do I get my dog to stop barking?

— A *frustrated owner*

This is a question that I receive a call or email about almost daily. The great thing about breaking this habit is that it has an identifiable cause and is easy to correct. We start by figuring out why the dog is barking and then pick an appropriate correction. When correcting dogs you should not need a harsh aggressive correction, a calm soft correction is more than adequate when given consistently and appropriately.

Most barking will fall into one of these three main categories. Before we implement a plan to stop the barking it is important to know why the dog is barking so that you can be fair with your corrections.

Excitement
Guarding the house
Frustration

Excitement

When a dog is barking out of excitement we always want to correct the behavior right away. We aren't truly training the dog not to bark, we are conditioning him to feel calm enough that he doesn't want to bark. Excited barking could be directed towards you when you pick up the leash to go for a walk, at the squirrels in your yard, or when the doorbell rings (I differentiate barking at the doorbell from guarding the house since most barking when the doorbell is rung is due to excitement). Different dogs and different situations require different corrections, so we will start with a simple correction and proceed from there.

When a dog is barking out of excitement I will first tell him "NO" in a stern voice and calmly go to him to give a correction. It is important to always go to the dog and give a correction. Dogs submit to a more dominant dog by staying still or lowering themselves slightly when he approaches in a serious manner. When you approach the dog in this way it is a great indicator

of whether or not they feel submissive to you. If your dog runs away as you go to him he is telling you that he doesn't respect you (excluding fear). When you get to the dog giving a simple correction such as grabbing the collar and calmly telling him "NO" reminds him that you are the boss in this situation. If the barking has stopped from the verbal and physical correction act like nothing happened and go about your business until the next time he barks. If your dog runs from you and you are unable to catch him, it may be necessary to have him drag a leash around the house until he no longer runs from you.

If you try the simple approach and are not able to stop the barking it is time to use a more effective method. The next step is to use a calming approach with the dog rather than just correcting. We will use the "heel" command in order to get the dog back to a calm state of mind after the stimulus causes him to bark. If the doorbell is the trigger I will place a leash and collar on the dog and have someone ring the doorbell when I am ready. When the dog runs to the door barking I will calmly follow him, pick up the leash when I get there, and have the dog "heel". The goal here is to condition the dog to feel calm when the stimulus occurs rather than overly excited. I will heel the dog back and forth in the entry way until the barking and interest in the door has subsided. When you like the dogs behavior simply drop the leash and open the door. This same approach would also be used when your dog is racing up and down your fence line barking at the neighbor dog. After working on this consistently your dog will soon start to feel much calmer in the situation and the barking will be lessened or gone completely.

Guarding the House

If the dog is barking to guard the house you cannot correct him sometimes and allow him to bark other times. This is confusing and unfair to the dog. If you like your dog to guard the house you must

have set ground rules that he understands. The rule that I have in my home is that the dogs are allowed to bark at strange adults and dogs on OUR property. They are not allowed to bark when people and dogs are on the sidewalk and they are never allowed to bark at children.

When the dogs bark for an allowable reason I do not correct them, I check to see who is outside and then tell them to quiet down. If they bark for an unallowable reason I would correct immediately in one of the ways discussed in this article. For more information please see the article on guarding the house.

Frustration

When dogs bark out of frustration it is very important to evaluate their daily routine and determine if they are frustrated due to inadequate exercise and stimulation or if they are just frustrated that you won't pay attention to them. If lack of exercise and stimulation seems to be the cause, please see the article on frustration and anxiety. If they are just frustrated that the world doesn't revolve around them (such as when you talk on the phone or otherwise ignore them for a few minutes) then you apply the two approaches outlined earlier in this article.

I hope that this gives you some ideas on how to stop your dogs barking and lets you know that it is possible. When following these methods consistently you should see noticeable results in a matter of days. One big key to success is to set up the situation that causes the barking when you feel like addressing it rather than having it come up when you aren't ready.

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



E-Mails and Letters From Adopters

Wanted to send a quick update and a few pictures! Snarls Barkley (now Beauregard- Bo for short).... He's such a smart and happy pup. So full of energy! He makes sure that he meets EVERY person and animal around when we go on our walks. He's even managed to win over the cat! We are so happy he came home with us! Thank you so much!

Christine and Mike





HEARTY THANKS



The 8th Grade Cadettes from St. Philip the Apostle School in Addison built agility equipment and donated it to the shelter to earn their Silver Award. The girls that participated are Gianna, Giulia, Alyssa, Danielle and Ariana.

Nathan and Stephen Carlson had a lemonade stand and donated the \$40.88 they raised to the shelter. They also donated dog toys, a dog bed and paper towels.

The 9-10 and 11-13 year old kids at Benedictine University Summer Fun Day Camp made over 128 braided dog toys for the dogs at the shelter.

Olivia Papavopoulos had a garage sale and used the money she earned to purchase items from our wish list. She also donated \$61.00.

Charlotte and Veronica Ridsen had a lemonade stand and donated the \$9.04 they raised to the shelter.

Annelise Richardson turned 10. Instead of gifts for her, she asked for donations for the shelter. She donated money, paper towels and Milk Bone dog treats.

Frisky Dog Day Care in Brookfield held an adoption fair. As part of the fair, they had a raffle and silent auction. They donated \$140 of the proceeds to the shelter.

Nate Lauer's had a 5th birthday and asked for donations for the shelter instead of gifts for him. He received and donated food, kitty litter, treats, toys, collars and leashes.

Kayla Kinney (pictured) sold duct tape wallets and bracelets and donated the proceeds to the shelter.



Volunteer Spotlight – Saturday Mid-day Cattery Shift (Rotation 1)



Every other Saturday from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm, three women work together to help get cats and kittens adopted, as well as spending time with the cats and kittens, teaching visitors about cats (cat care, medical issues, breeds, etc), and keeping the cattery clean and spotless for visitors. **Pam Dobbins** has been a volunteer in the cattery for over 7 years plus she helps at special events. **Nancy Ranieri** started at WSHS in April of 2005, working in the cattery and as a foster home for cats and kittens. **Sasha Sadeghizadeh** started at the shelter about two and a half years ago, as part of a work-study program for Midwestern University, and she volunteers every Saturday (with Pam and Nancy, and on the opposite week).

There are some qualities that make this shift stand out. First is their dedication to cats, both at home and at WSHS. All three women have cats at home – Pam has two cats (and a dog), Nancy has three cats (one is a foster failure), and Sasha has one (that she adopted from WSHS). Their personal experience and combined 15+ years of experience at WSHS have taught them a lot about cats and they truly enjoy, as Nancy says, “helping our adopters learn more about cats, their behaviors, and how to care for them”. And of course, they enjoy playing with, cuddling, and spending time with the cats in our open cattery. A second trait all three women have in common is their dedication to the shelter, all having great attendance records. Finally, they work well as a team and truly enjoy working together. Sasha says “We work great together. We always have fun and enjoy each other’s (and the cat’s) company. “, and Pam agrees saying “I have formed a strong friendship with my shift-mates”.

Outside of the shelter, they all have other interests. Pam volunteers with dogs at another shelter, enjoys motorcycling and boating, and watches TV (she loves Animal Planet’s Animal Cops shows). Nancy enjoys cooking, reading, and knitting. As a fourth year pharmacy student, Sasha stays busy with school, but also enjoys reading anything in the sci-fi or fantasy genre, when she has time.



WSHS Relies on the Generosity of our Donors

Supporters, adopters, and volunteers of West Suburban Humane Society know how committed WSHS is to its mission of caring for and placing pets into their forever home, while also educating the public on the humane treatment of animals. But what many people don't know is how heavily WSHS relies on the financial contributions of its donors. We would not be able to provide the housing, medical care, or adoption services if it were not for the generosity of our donors.

There are many ways one can contribute to the West Suburban Humane Society. We have recently established the WSHS Annual Fund which allows donors to give one time annual gifts, or monthly gifts through their checking accounts or credit cards. WSHS is also spearheading a new giving program called the Legacy Society. The Legacy Society allows for donors to remember WSHS with a gift from their estate. This is an excellent way to give a gift of lasting significance, while also continuing your commitment to the care of animals for years to come. However, some donors like to see how their gift will impact the lives of animals today. Below you will find one such gift from a longtime supporter of WSHS.

September 7, 2012

Carolyn Mossberger, Executive Director
West Suburban Humane Society
1901 W. Ogden Avenue
Downers Grove, IL 60515

Dear Carolyn,

I have recently decided to remove the directive in my Living Trust for a donation to West Suburban Humane Society when I die, and instead to give you that money now, while I am still alive and well, and still able to see how successful you are in your mission of helping homeless animals which we both love.

This is a one-time larger gift than usual from me, however I will continue to also donate yearly at the same general rate as in past years. Enclosed is a check for \$30,000.

Many, many thanks to you for all the wonderful work you do on behalf of animals--


Jane C. McLagan

Although we acknowledge that not all of our supporters will be able to give at this level, we encourage everyone to find a way to support WSHS in a way that is feasible and meaningful to them. To donate online, please go to <http://www.wshs-dg.org/get-involved/donate>. Thank you for your continued commitment to WSHS. You are helping to save lives.



A BIG THANK YOU

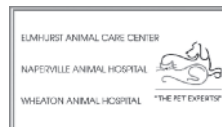
To all of our Barkapalooza Sponsors

Volunteer T-Shirt - \$3,000 Sponsor



Blue Ribbon Winners - \$2,500 Sponsors

Downers Grove Reporter



Water Sponsor - \$2,000



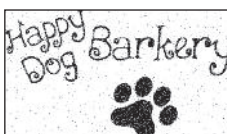
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Renee Cantalupo



Contributing Sponsors - \$500



Cat's Meow - \$500 Sponsors

Community Bank of Downers Grove
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Republic Bank
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Paws in Paradise
Brian Krajewski, DuPage County Board
WFH Enterprises, Inc.

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

1st Place – Larry Sacks of Villa Park raised \$4,450 in pledges. Larry is generously donating the \$500 he won as top pledge contributor back to the shelter.

2nd Place – Ruth Cloonan of Lisle raised \$3,250 in pledges.

3rd Place – Brian Krajewski of Downers Grove raised \$3,045 in pledges.

4th Place – Daisy Garriga of Bolingbrook raised \$2,610 in pledges.

Congratulations to our 2012 Wags to Riches Raffle Winner!

Dee Parenti of Carol Stream, IL was the winner of our \$1,000 raffle.

Pet Health Watch by Dr. Main, DVM

What is Lyme disease?

Lyme disease is the number one tick born disease in the United States and Europe. The disease is caused by the bacteria *Borrelia burgdorferi* that is carried exclusively by the Deer Tick. The Deer Tick is one of 4 ticks seen in the Chicago area on our pet dogs, and can be distinguished by its' small size. The migration and expansion of the tick into other areas of the U.S. and Europe has lead to the increase incidence of the disease.

In general Lyme disease is difficult to diagnose and the clinical signs can be vague. The disease is harbored in deer and mice and other animals that do not become ill, rather they are carriers for the disease. When Deer Ticks feed on these carriers they pick up the Lyme bacteria and then pass it to the dog. The Deer tick carrying the Lyme bacteria attaches to the dog and then ultimately passes the infection to the dog. It takes the tick at least 48 hours to pass the disease.

Through testing dogs for Lyme disease we know that many dogs get exposed to the disease and relatively few become clinically ill. This means that in most cases the exposed pet has an appropriate immune response and clears the infection from the body; or the number of bacteria transmitted from the tick is low. What does the clinical disease look like in the dog?

In people the earliest sign of infection

is a skin rash often accompanied by feeling ill and a fever. In dogs the rash is not seen due to the dog's thicker skin and hair coat. Dogs become ill 2-3 months after the tick bite. The bacteria migrate and settle mostly in the joints and will initially cause lameness in a single leg with lymph node enlargement. Eventually other joints and legs will be affected. In a small percentage of Lyme cases the kidneys will become involved. Patients that have kidney involvement can become critically ill and die. Hence any pet with a positive Lyme test and joint pain should have a urine sample checked looking for protein in the urine. This will determine if there is kidney involvement. These patients should be treated with appropriate antibiotics.

Although antibiotic therapy usually results in clinical improvement some patients will have chronic joint pain and illness. Once the *Borrelia* bacteria are in the joint they can be difficult to eliminate completely, hence chronic joint inflammation may occur. These bacteria can hide from the immune system when in the joint.

The diagnosis of Lyme disease is based on a combination of historical tick exposure, clinical symptoms, and blood and urine testing. Although there are several blood tests for the detection of Lyme disease; it is difficult to distinguish between past or low grade exposures from clinically

significant current infection. Hence, the interpretation of Lyme tests and deciding whether to treat with antibiotics can be a medical dilemma.

In general if a patient has symptoms consistent with Lyme and a positive test then it is best to treat with antibiotics for four weeks. Patients that are asymptomatic but Lyme positive on the test are more difficult to determine the correct course of action. Further testing called a quantitative C6 test can be run; which should help determine the best course of action for that asymptomatic patient.

In the end Lyme is a potentially serious disease that is becoming more prevalent in the Chicago area as ticks migrate south from the upper Midwest. Prevention involves regular tick removal on dogs that have exposure, using tick prevention products, and Lyme vaccination. Check with your veterinarian to help with risk assessment for your dog, and whether Lyme vaccine would be indicated.

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



Help WSHS

Emilie Berg, a WSHS volunteer and a Pella Windows & Doors Sales Consultant runs in-home consultations for homeowners looking to replace their windows. She will donate 75% of her commission of each resulting sale to the shelter. To schedule your in-home consultation, please contact Emilie at 331-422-9980 or eberg@pella.com.

