



STRAY THOUGHTS

HAPPY
HOLIDAYS!
FROM:
WEST SUBURBAN
HUMANE SOCIETY

Saving The Sick & Injured

Once upon a time, a one year old, petite, Beagle named Penny, arrived at the shelter from a high kill animal control facility in central Illinois. She was so cute and sweet; we knew that she would be adopted quickly. Three days later, we adopted Penny into what we thought would be her forever home. Unfortunately, it turned out to be one of four homes that kept Penny for a short time before returning her to the shelter. The first time, she was returned because she had too much energy. The second time she was returned because the resident dog in the home did not like her.



Penny

The third time she was returned, we discovered that Penny loved women but was fearful of men. Before we adopted her out again, we sent her to two weeks of behavior training to work on building her confidence and help her overcome her fear of men. When she came back from training, she was adopted into her fourth home. Surely, this time,



Penny had found her forever home. Unfortunately, fate had other ideas and Penny was returned yet again. This time, her new family had children after adopting her and Penny was nervous around them. Poor Penny, we just couldn't seem to find the perfect home for her. Lucky for Penny, WSHS does not give up on our animals. We keep them until we are able to place them in the best home possible.

After being back at the shelter for about month, Penny became really sick. She was vomiting, had diarrhea and was lethargic. We immediately took her to the vet where she was admitted and kept for three days. While she was there, the vet did blood work and as a result, Penny was diagnosed with Addison's disease.

Addison's disease occurs when the adrenal glands do not produce enough cortisol. This causes an electrolyte imbalance which can lead to dehydration, vomiting and diarrhea. This disease cannot be cured but it is also not a death sentence. With proper medication, a dog can live a long and normal life.

Penny will need to be on oral steroids for the rest of her life and will need monthly injections to keep her electrolytes in balance. The cost of the medication and

injections is \$50.00 per month. Penny should also avoid stressful situations. Unfortunately, living in a kennel at the shelter is very stressful for her. We would love nothing more than to find Penny her forever home but with her medical condition and return history, we know this will be a difficult task.



WSHS makes a commitment to every animal we take in to do whatever is necessary to make them happy, healthy and to find them a permanent loving home. Cases like Penny's are not rare. Medical care can easily climb in the thousands. That's why we tell their stories. We could not do what we do for these animals without the support of our generous donors.

Penny is here waiting patiently for her fairy tale happy ending. Can you help make it come true?



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
- Laundry Detergent
- Bleach
- Anti-bacterial Hand Soap
- Dish Washing Liquid
- 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. 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
- Stamps (to be used for postage)
- Garbage bags (13 & 30 gallon sizes)
- Batteries – AA, 9 Volt and C
- 6" paper plates
- Lint Traps
- Volunteers!
- *Monetary donations are always appreciated!*



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WEST SUBURBAN HUMANE SOCIETY

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1901 W. Ogden Avenue, Downers Grove, IL 60515
E-mail Address: Director@WSHS-DG.org
Phone: 630-960-9600 Fax: 630-960-9604

Ready For a Home

Fizz

7 years old, Male, Pit Bull Mix

Hi, I'm Fizz. I'm a big teddy bear that finds the shelter a stressful place. I was recently returned and it has been really hard on me. I am hoping that in a home, my anxiety will go away but it will take some time and patience. I am housebroken and don't need to be crated. Here are a few things that are a must in my new home: no other pets — I want to be the king of my castle!; kids 14 and years and older; a large, fenced in backyard and my new owners should have breed experience as an adult. Did I mention that I know all of my obedience commands, too! I know I look intimidating, but I promise, I really am a sweetheart. Stop by and visit me soon!



Wrigley

2 years old, Male, Boxer Mix

Hi, I'm Wrigley. I was adopted from the shelter when I was a puppy and was recently returned because I was not getting along with other dogs. Since then, I've been through training and have learned better control. I don't like when other dogs are in my face, but I can be around them with no problem on walks or at the vet. It would be best for me to be the only pet in my new home. I am housebroken, crate trained and know all of my obedience commands. I am a mellow dog that will make a great addition to most any family situation. Stop by and visit me soon!



Addie

1½ years old, Female, Tri Color Tabby

I'm Addie and some say I look like an exotic breed of cat. I don't know about all that. All I know is that I was rescued from living outside where I had been fending for myself. As a youngster, that was very scary. I am a loving girl, quiet and friendly. I do great with other cats and will make a fantastic addition to any family. Come meet me today!



Junie

4 years old, Female, Grey Tabby

Hi, I'm Junie! Through no fault of my own, I had to come back to this shelter where I was adopted from and now I have to begin my search all over again. My family loved me and said all kinds of nice things about me, but they couldn't keep me. I am a good girl, clean and low-maintenance. The only time you hear my voice is when you are late with my food — then I will let you know. Keep to my schedule and we'll do just fine :)



Ask the Trainer

I frequently receive calls about all types of issues that people are having with their dogs, and I have to make sure that I take each call with an open mind. Many times people will tell me that they have a very dominant dog that simply will not listen and is openly defiant. Sometimes that is true, and other times they are misreading the situation. I am a big believer that there is a different approach for different types of dogs. A dominant dog that doesn't respect his owner needs firm consistent training to teach him his place in the "pack". A stressed-out anxious dog needs an outlet, not a correction. This article is about dogs needing an outlet. I have another article addressing dogs that need to learn to respect humans that is elsewhere on this site.

Try to picture the average day of many American dogs. They wake up and are let outside, and maybe go for a brief walk. They come inside and eat breakfast and probably lie down and wait while their owner showers, gets dressed, eats, and walks out the door. They then wait patiently all day while the owner goes through a typical busy day that leaves them drained and fulfilled by the time they come home. The dog is probably then fed and hopefully walked before the owner starts the process of cooking dinner and dealing with other household chores. The human has used a lot of mental and physical energy during the day and probably has the feeling of a job well done. Pretty soon it is time for bed and in the morning we start the whole process over. The obvious problem with this scenario is that the dog has no job, outlet, or purpose. Many dogs

handle this fairly well and don't show outward signs of boredom, but some dogs develop many types of issues from this lifestyle. The boredom can manifest itself as barking, stress whining, digging, separation anxiety, uncontrollable pulling on the leash, spinning in circles, chewing on their tail or paws, and countless other undesirable behaviors. Now of course many of these behaviors could have other causes, the chewing on their paws could be allergies and the barking could be guarding the house, but I cannot cover every possibility in this article. When I speak to someone over the phone and don't receive enough information to figure out the cause of the issue I will typically set up a consultation so that I can see the dog and then figure out a plan based on what I see.

When we have determined that the root cause of the issues is boredom it is now time to find the dog an appropriate job. The great thing is that there are many choices for the average household dog that can also be fun for the owner. The point of this is to make sure that we are challenging both the dog's brain and body on a daily basis so we will typically use a combination of the following activities. Long leash walks, obedience training, agility, teaching challenging tricks, treadmill training, and mental games just to name a few. Two of my favorite indoor mental games for a dog are hide and seek (I place him in a sit-stay while I hide and then release him to allow him to search for me), and find the toy (I slowly teach him to search out a specific toy on command and then steadily increase the difficulty of the

hiding spot). Teaching tricks is another great option for mental stimulation that can be fun for both owner and dog. I will soon be posting a video online that shows how to teach some of my favorite tricks.

Agility can also be very fun and does not always require going to a class or spending much money. There is no reason that you can't create your own agility course using anything you like. Two wooden stakes with a string between them can be a jump or an obstacle to crawl under. A 2x6 on the ground can serve as a balance beam. I think competition agility can be great for a dog, but there is nothing wrong with homemade obstacles of your own invention (the dog won't care).

Every dog is different of course, so some dogs might need huge amounts of physical exercise and moderate amounts of mental stimulation while others will need the opposite. Hopefully this article gave you some ideas in how to give both you and your dog a better life, and I really hope it shows that corrections are not always the answer. Sometimes dogs are not "acting up", they are "crying out" for help.

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



Email and Letters from Adopters

Hello all,

I thought you might enjoy an update about the boxer Mercutio (formerly Julian) whom I adopted from you in December. My big guy turned one at the end of July and has grown into a tall, rather gangly fellow.



We've been back and forth to the vet quite a bit, working with the wonderful Dr. Berg at the West Suburban Vet on a variety of health issues. After months of care, we think it is primarily a combination of food and environmental allergies causing hair loss and itching. However, it doesn't seem to slow him down any!

Mercutio loves going for walks and meeting new people and dogs, though he remains a little nervous of very new experiences and large groups. He absolutely loves to play and is rarely found without a toy in his mouth. In fact, he becomes rather upset when he wants to play and mom and dad are busy, and lets us know with

his expansive vocabulary of yips, barks, howls, whines, and cries. He is also a big cuddle bug, and is beginning to settle down a bit as he gets a little older. I've attached a few recent pictures to show off. Hope all is well and that many new animals are finding homes daily!



Pet Health Watch by Dr. Main, DVM

Is environmental enrichment important for indoor cats?

Most indoor cats live in under enriched environments. Cats living in such conditions are prone to physiologic stress and behavior disorders. This can include aggression between cats, urine marking, house soiling, aggression toward owners, over grooming, and other displaced behaviors. Further cats may reduce their eating, playing, and exploring.

Proper enrichment includes giving cats the opportunity for species-typical behavior and can be based on the behavior of free roaming cats. It could include visual, auditory, olfactory, tactile, and structural stimuli.

Resting cats observe their environment primarily through sight, and can become frustrated if observing prey through a window with no outlet for their predatory drive. This may lead to stress-related displacement behavior.

Hiding is a normal feline coping behavior. Cats should have vertical and horizontal spaces in their living areas such that they

can separate themselves from a stressful situation.

What about smell for cats? Scent signals are an important part of intercat communication. Cats can enjoy and be stimulated by novel odors but conversely novel odors can lead to urine marking.

Cats can be safely outdoors with cat harnesses and most will adjust to the harness in time. This provides many visual and olfactory stimuli.

Scratching is a normal cat behavior and it leaves a visual and scent signal as well as improving the health of the nails. It is best to provide a desirable surface for the cat to scratch on that is located in a socially prominent place.

The litterbox environment is crucial to the well being of an indoor cat. In general cats prefer clumping litter with sand texture, a large open box located in an accessible quiet area, and one more litter box than cats.

Predatory behavior is not solely dependent on hunger. That is satiated cats maintain the predatory drive. Hunting behavior can be encouraged by dividing the cat's daily ration

and feeding in multiple places in the home; sometimes hiding the food.

Owners should keep a wide variety of toys on hand and rotate them to renew the cat's interest. Small, mobile toys with complex surfaces tend to increase play. Daily play periods with the feline are beneficial.

In the event the cat becomes too aggressive with the laser light, end the session by focusing the light on a toy that the cat can "kill"

With proper attention to the environment, indoor cats can lead enriched lives. This will in turn reduce multiple health and behavioral problems. In other words cats that are stressed and have no outlets tend to erupt with health problems.

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

"Having fun while getting the job done" – this is the motto of the women on the Monday mid-day kennel showing shift. As you will see, they sure have a lot of fun working together and with the animals.

Five women make up the shift: Anni Fadze, Shift Coordinator; Kristina Magda; Linda Marrandino; and Rose DiCianni. Together they represent nearly 40 years of WSHS volunteerism!

Anni Fadze, enjoys volunteering at WSHS because she likes the people and the dogs. She also enjoys learning about the advances in caring for homeless animals and helping WSHS grow and move into the next phase.

Anni has recently become a "foster mom" to Frosti, our hospice kitty with kidney disease. Anni says, "It's the first time I've brought a mature pet home. I'm enjoying it and I believe Frosti is, too."

Linda Marrandino volunteers because she "likes to make the day a little happier while (the dogs) wait for their forever home." She has "learned a lot about training. I've also learned there is somebody for even the most seemingly unadoptable animal."

About teamwork, Linda says, "We work together wonderfully. Everyone gets along and helps each other. Everyone has things they excel at and they take the lead when

necessary. For example we let Anni talk to the adopters because she is really good with people. And I let Rose and Jeannine deal with scared/small dogs because they are calm and make the dogs feel very comfortable and I don't like to pick up the little dogs because I'm always nervous they will bite me."



Kristina Magda enjoys the fact that everything At WSHS is "for the animals." Here she has learned to "love the bully breeds." After working with Sapphire and Maizy at WSHS Kristina has become an outspoken supporter. She is taking the knowledge she's gained from volunteering at WSHS and is working toward becoming a certified dog trainer.

Of her team, Kristina says, "we are sure to have fun together and communicate well." In fact, team members celebrate each other's

birthdays and bring cookies, cupcakes, or snacks frequently, "just to make the energy in the shelter better and more relaxed."

Jeannine Haffner's love of dogs is not the only reason she volunteers at WSHS. She's also impressed with "the good work WSHS does." And, of course, like the others, she "loves the girls" on her shift. She keeps busy with Bandito, her rat terrier-Chihuahua mix (a WSHS alumni) and playing the guitar in her band, "Plant Harmony." She laughs when she says, "I think everyone knows us as the shift that is always eating (Hmmm, we wonder why?)

Linda probably best summarizes the depth, devotion, and friendship this shift shares,

We celebrate each other's birthdays and usually bring snacks to share. One time Anni came and asked me for the rest of my sandwich (my lunch) and I gave it to her without question. It was for a dog inside who was getting a shot and she was helping to distract it with a little bit of people food. Someone was standing there and said "why did you give her your sandwich" and I told them she must have had a good reason or she wouldn't have asked. It's a great shift with a great bunch of people.

So, if you get a minute stop by the Monday mid-day showing shift and say "Hi.", they'd probably enjoy sharing some goodies with you.



Hinsdale

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

1st Place – An anonymous donor raised \$5,000 in pledges. This person is generously donating the \$500 they won as top pledge contributor back to the shelter.

2nd Place – Kurt Mohr of Downers Grove raised \$3,685 in pledges.

3rd Place – Larry Sacks of Villa Park raised \$3,420 in pledges.

4th Place – Cindy Johnson of Downers Grove raised \$2,596 in pledges.

Congratulations to our 2014 Wags to Riches Raffle Winner!

David Dietschweiler of Downers Grove was the winner of our \$1,000 raffle.

HEARTY THANKS

Jaden Lydon of Westmont had a birthday and asked for donations for the shelter instead of gifts for him. He donated food, money and an Amazon gift card.

Tristan and Tyler Lakis of Lisle had birthdays and asked for donations for the shelter instead of gifts for themselves. They donated food, toys and supplies.

Tari Bahlmann of Woodridge turned 7 and asked for donations for the shelter instead of gifts for him. He donated \$85, toys and supplies.

The employees at **Blue Cross Blue Shield in Downers Grove** held a food drive. They collected and donated large amounts of food, toys, supplies and \$100.

Georgia, June and Waylon Marzo of Downers Grove had birthdays and asked for donations for the shelter instead of gifts for themselves. They donated food, toys, a \$20 PetSmart gift card and \$10.

Mary, Andrea and Abby Davenport and Alyssa, Danielle and Erin Whitman donated blankets and towels to the animals at the shelter.

Girl Scout Troop 4228 in North Aurora donated \$100 to the shelter.

Blake and Rachael donated items from our wish list to the shelter in honor of their birthdays.

Ali Barajaz of Darien turned 7 and asked for donations for the shelter instead of gifts for her. She donated food, toys and supplies.

Nicole and Abbie Linhardt and Casey and Ally Heniff had a cotton candy stand and donated the proceeds of \$10.58 to the shelter.



Marisa and Lea Arvanites donated food and toys to the animals at the shelter.

Nick and Madi Sisson had birthdays and asked for donations for the shelter instead of gifts for themselves. They donated food, toys and supplies.

Richie Dering turned 10 and asked for donations for the shelter instead of gifts for him. He donated food, paper plates and \$135.

Annabelle Beal of Naperville donated \$25 to the shelter in honor of her 10th birthday.

Reagan Rodenbostel donated \$50 to the shelter in honor of her birthday.

Tommy May of Downers Grove turned 10 and asked for donations for the shelter instead of gifts for him. He donated food, toys and supplies.

Hinsdale Township High School held a Badminton Tournament and donated the proceeds of \$1,073.60 to the shelter.

Will Stanicek of Downers Grove turned 11 and asked for donations for the shelter instead of gifts for him. He donated food, toys and supplies.

Nevah Allston of Downers Grove donated \$21.50 to the shelter.

Sam Lehnherr of Downers Grove sold items and donated the proceeds of \$5 to the shelter.

Citadel Information Management in Westmont held a Shred4Rescues shredding event. They charged \$2.00 a bag and split the proceeds between 4 animal welfare organizations. We received a donation of \$749.18.

The 6th grade students at **Whittier Elementary** collected and donated food, toys and supplies to the shelter.

In honor of her 11th birthday, **Grace Gits** of Clarendon Hills donated \$137 to the shelter.

The employees at **Insight Corporate Solutions** did a volunteer project at WSHS. They also collected and donated food, supplies and \$203.

Dykema Gossett PLLC held a Jeans Day fundraiser and donated the proceeds of \$386 to the shelter.

Tease Dance and Fitness Studio in Aurora held a pole-a-thon and donated the proceeds of \$1,000 to the shelter.

Emily Blaszyński turned 3 and asked for donations for the shelter instead of gifts for her. She donated food, toys and supplies.

