



Don't Miss the  
Event of the Year!  
See Pages 11 & 12  
for Details.

## West Suburban Humane Society

# STRAY THOUGHTS

## Delilah

It was a Monday when we got the call from an animal control that we work with in the city. They had gotten in a stray dog that really needed our help. She was extremely emaciated and very weak. They didn't have the funds to treat her but they couldn't bear to euthanize her. Could we help? We took one look at her picture and knew we couldn't say no. She needed us and we couldn't turn our back on her.



is a very sick girl. The blood work shows that she is anemic and has an elevated white blood cell count. Her albumin, calcium and magnesium levels are all very low which is due to her not eating. She also tested positive for ehrlichia and anaplasma which are two tick-borne diseases. She also has whipworm. The x-ray and ultrasound showed that she has pneumonia, a collapsed lung, an enlarged kidney and pneumoperitoneum. Pneumoperitoneum is air or gas in the abdomen which can be caused from a perforation, tumor or some kind of trauma. The only way to tell for sure would be to do exploratory surgery which is out of the question until Delilah gains weight and is no longer anemic.

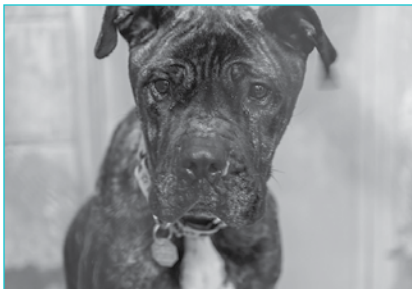


Aside from adoptions, we feel this is our most important work. With the support of so many caring individuals, we can help the most needy dogs and cats. Cases like Delilah's are not rare and medical care for the sick and injured orphans can easily climb into the thousands. That's why we tell their stories. Delilah would not have a chance at a happy, forever home if we didn't make a commitment to helping her and we could not do it without our generous donors.

We hope that Delilah will soon be on the road to recovery and will one day be ready to find a home of her own. After everything she's been through, she deserves it. The sick and injured dogs and cats will keep coming. We are committed to them. Their lives ARE worth saving. With your help, we can change the world for more homeless animals.



This poor girl is in a fight for her life and we are hoping beyond hope that she pulls through. Through her entire ordeal, Delilah has been amazing. She is so sweet and loving. She greets everyone she meets with enthusiasm and her tail never stops wagging! She is truly an amazing girl.



Delilah arrived at the shelter the following morning. We took one look at her and immediately rushed her to our vet. The vet did blood work, x-rays and an ultrasound. Unfortunately, Delilah



## Upcoming Events

630-960-9600, ext. 25

### MAY

9th, Saturday –  
10th, Sunday

#### Petals for Pets Plant Sale

Look for more information on page 3 in this edition of Stray Thoughts.

25th, May

Memorial Day – WSHS will be closed today.

### JUNE – ADOPT A SHELTER CAT MONTH

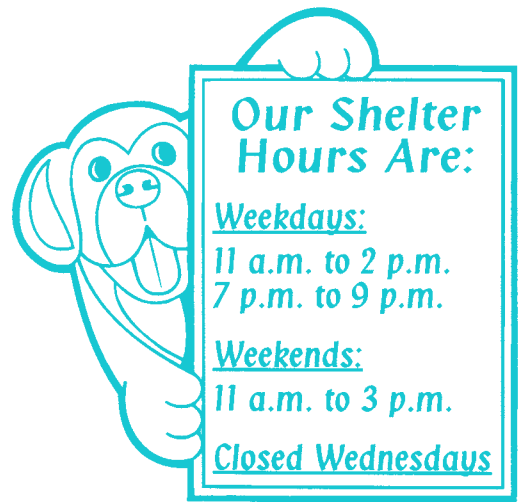
10th, June

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 from the Puppy Mill Project.

### JULY

4th, Saturday

4th of July – WSHS will be closed today.



## 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!*

## 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.

1051 N Kirk Rd, Batavia, IL 60510  
800.774.6840 | [www.bfcprint.com](http://www.bfcprint.com)

## 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:

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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 vanGemmeren, Roberta Diehl, Deb Waggoner, Carol Thygesen  
Animal Care Assts: Brigitte Black, Janet Hunt  
Adoption Desk Manager: Mary Edwards (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](mailto: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 the West Suburban Humane Society.

West Suburban will host their annual plant sale on May 9th and 10th from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

**New This Year!** Native Plants (limited selection)

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)

[www.WSHS-DG.org](http://www.WSHS-DG.org)



# Ready For a Home

## Sable

**3 years old, Female, Lab/Terrier Mix**

My name is Sable and I'm a high energy dog that is looking for a family that can keep up with me! My idea of a perfect day is going for a few long walks (or runs), playing, running, and hanging out with my favorite people (preferably in my very own fenced in yard)! I might be able to live in a home with cats, but I can be picky about my dog friends. I still need some help polishing up on my manners, but with your help, I know I'll be the smartest, most well mannered dog on the block. Now that you know all about me, come in and get to know me even better!



## Sunflower

**4 years old, Female, Hound Mix**

Hi, I'm Sunflower and I'm so glad to meet you! I am a sweet, gentle girl looking for a quieter home. I'm a little bit timid. Loud or unfamiliar noises, toys and new situations scare me, so I will need time to settle in. I really like being outside and exploring all the scents around me. I come out of my shell around other friendly dogs. I'm very playful with them! I'm ok with cats but I have to say, I am a little afraid of them. Because of my shy nature, I would do best in a home with kids 8 years or older. Because of my breed, I cannot live in an apartment or condo. Training may help me gain some confidence and it's a great way for me and my new family to bond!

## Blake

**8 months old, Male, Grey Tabby**

Hi, I'm Blake! If you take the time to get to know me, you won't be disappointed. I am shy at first, but once I get to know you, I am very sweet and affectionate. I may never like strangers, but will be loving and loyal to my family. I really like other cats, and would love to live with another cat. I lived with dogs and children in my foster home and was okay with them, as long as they were calm and quiet. Though I startle easily, I usually recover quickly and sometimes my curiosity is stronger than my fear. I enjoy sweet talk and will come to "Here Kitty" and "scratchy fingers" (making a scratching motion with your hand). I also know the sound of a food can opening (I love canned food!). It may take a while to win my trust, but once you do, it will be worth it!



## Matteo

**1 year old, Male, Brown Tabby**

Hi, I'm Matteo! I'm one of those cats who was with some feral cats, but was found to be friendly. Once I got inside, I decided I liked this indoor life. I spent some time in a foster home getting used to family life. Now I am here among the other cats at WSHS, ready for my forever home. I'm a quiet guy who appreciates petting and sweet talking. I'd make a great companion for people who live a quiet life and just want a feline friend to share their home with.



# Ask the Trainer

Getting a new puppy is always an exciting moment for a family. Once you get the new bundle of joy home, you might be wondering, "What did I just get myself into?" Don't worry, this is a common sentiment and there are a few simple things you can do from day one to make sure you get off on the right foot.

Our training style at Suburban K9 is similar to the way that many people raise their children. We reward dogs for good behavior by utilizing both verbal (good boy) and physical praise (petting the head, rubbing the ears, etc.). When a dog makes a mistake we want to let them know that they have done something wrong. When correcting bad behaviors you should not be mean or use a very harsh tone. We simply use a stern voice to tell them "no" and then stop the behavior.

By utilizing this strategy the dog quickly learns what is right and what isn't, but how do you decide what is right and what is wrong? When we start with a very young puppy, we encourage people to worry about the dog behaviors instead of obedience commands such as sit, down, and stay. It doesn't matter how great a dog is at sitting if he still has undesirable behaviors such as howling in his crate or relieving himself all over the house.

## 1. Determine House Rules

Sit down as a family (you can even do this prior to getting the dog) and determine what your household rules are. It is important that every family member agrees on the rules and knows how to enforce them. There are certain rules that I would always enforce. The puppy should never be allowed to nip or have his teeth on human skin, never be allowed to jump on guests, and never be allowed to bark at children. Some other common things to consider, will the dog be allowed on furniture, in beds, to jump on family members, to eat food that has fallen on the ground, or to bark at strangers? Once you have your list of house rules, you must make sure that you actually enforce them. When the dog does something that is against the rules, simply tell them "no" and then stop them. You do not need a different word for each rule. By only utilizing a single word the dog will quickly learn it's meaning. If the dog is too worked up and refuses to stop you can utilize the heel command to calm them down.

## 2. Socialize Your Dog

Socializing your dog is of the utmost importance. We want a young dog to experience as many situations as we can. This way the situations will not be foreign to the dog later in life.

## 3. Make the Dog Part of Your Family

Try to involve your dog in as many of your family activities as you can. This will not just help with socializing them, it will also help them build a bond with your family. Keep the dog around you while you do chores around the house, take the dog to your kids soccer games, and try to include them in as many activities as you can. Many dogs become bored with their day to day life and start to act out.

## 4. Utilize a Crate

Crate training your dog will help keep your puppy safe while you are home and while you are away. A young puppy is inclined to get themselves into trouble until you have established your house rules. During the younger months it is important that you are always watching over your puppy. This will ensure that they aren't chewing on things that might be dangerous to them. If you cannot keep an eye on your puppy, place them in the crate while you are busy, and then let them out when you are done. This will help prevent your puppy from getting hurt or learning bad behaviors. Additionally, the crate will help with your potty training.

For help with your new puppy, a house call is generally the best training option that we have available. For any help with your puppy, please contact us.

**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



# HEARTY THANKS

**Lisle Animal Hospital** donated canned and dry food to the shelter for every like they received on Facebook.

**Max Schooley** turned 11 and asked for gifts for the animals instead of gifts for him. He donated food and supplies. *(Pictured on right)*

**Chicago West Suburban Alums of AOTT** donated food, supplies gift cards and \$55 to the animals at the shelter.



**Brynn Dvoracek** of Downers Grove turned 12 and asked for gifts for the shelter instead of gifts for her. She donated cat litter, food and toys.

**The Student Council members of Hawthorn School in Elmhurst** donated the proceeds from their Healthy Snack Sale to the shelter. They donated food, supplies and \$200.25.

**Mrs. Hurcke's second grade class** at Henry Puffer School in Downers Grove, collected and donated food, supplies and toys to the animals at the shelter.



**Cecilia Quiroz and Gabrielle Ibanva** stood outside of Walmart and collected donations for the shelter. They collected food, toys and supplies. *(Pictured on left)*

**Jackson Wyrick**, part of the 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Ambassadors at Ben Franklin School collected and donated food, toys, supplies and \$20.00.

**PetCo Unleashed** in Glen Ellyn had a pounds 4 pounds challenge and donated a gift card in the amount of \$500 to the shelter.

**Sammie and Allie** had a raffle to raise money for the shelter. They used the money to purchase food, toys and litter and donated the items to the shelter. *(Pictured on right)*



**The Children's Ministry at the First Presbyterian Church of LaGrange** collected donations for the shelter on Homeless Mission Day. They donated food, toys and supplies.

**Jack and Jake** from Bolingbrook donated food, toys and cleaning supplies in honor of their dog, Jersey's Gotcha Day! *(Pictured on right)*



**Joey Szelina of Willowbrook** did an Eagle Scout project for the shelter. He replaced the pea gravel in our two play areas. He also donated \$572.12 to the shelter.



**American Family Insurance** awarded the shelter \$1,000 as part of their Dream Maker's program.

**Girl Scout Troops 50190** collected donations for the shelter. They collected and donated food, supplies, toys and treats. *(Pictured on left)*

**St. James Catholic School** students did a service project and collected donations for the shelter. They donated tons of food and supplies.

**Out-U-Go** in Downers Grove had a food drive and donated food and supplies to the animals at the shelter.

**Shea Casey** of Downers Grove donated food, supplies and toys to the shelter for Christmas.

**Danny Sherman** of Bolingbrook turned 8 and asked for donations for the shelter instead of gifts for him. He collected and donated food, supplies and \$45. *(Pictured on right)*



**Troop 39 of St. Scholastica School** in Woodridge donated food and supplies for the shelter.

**Ellie Bigalow, Maggie Bebar, Kennedy Brant, Shae Trebias and Lorie Carwato** saved up and donated \$62.56 toward the \$75 adoption fee of the cat Lamar.

**The Daisy's at Brook Park School** collected donations of food and supplies for the shelter.

**Girl Scout Troop 50813** hosted a Daddy Daughter Dance and collected donations for the shelter. They collected food, supplies, toys and treats.

# HEARTY THANKS (Cont'd)

**Susan Ulanosky** of Lombard made and donated petghans for the dogs and cats to use here at the shelter.

**Claire Foster** had a birthday and asked for donations for the shelter instead of gifts for her. She collected and donated food, supplies, toys and \$60.

**Claire Gorey** of Downers Grove hosted a lemonade stand and donated the proceeds of \$12 to the shelter.

**Cub Scout Pack 444**, Den 8 donated \$30 to the shelter.

**John Gutterman** of Elmhurst donated toys and \$50 to the animals in honor of Valentine's Day.

**Jackie Etheridge** of Downers Grove had a birthday and asked for gifts for the shelter instead of gifts for her. She collected and donated toys, food, treats and \$15.00.

**Downers Grove North High School Student Council** stood outside of Jewel and collected donations for the shelter. They donated over 200 lbs of food, blankets, treats and toys. (Pictured on right)

**Ella Leathers** of Downers Grove had a birthday and asked for gifts for the shelter instead of gifts for her. She collected and donated food and toys.

The employees of **Neucol Incorporated Warehouse** in Downers Grove donated \$600 to the shelter.

**Olcott Plastics** in St. Charles held a holiday giving drive and collected and donated food, toys, treats and supplies to the shelter.



## Pet Health Watch by Dr. Main, DVM

### Are short nosed (brachycephalic) breed dogs predisposed to any particular eye problems?

Many people are drawn to the endearing features of the short-faced, big eyed brachycephalic dog. However, those big eyes can be problematic for those breeds.

The majority of small dogs, but especially the brachycephalic breeds have eye openings that are too long or big to provide adequate coverage for the eye globe itself. One of the main functions of the eyelid is to provide lubrication, coverage, and hence protection to the eye ball. Often in short faced dogs with large eye openings the blink of the eyelids is incomplete. This means that the eyelids do not come together upon blinking, leaving the central part of the cornea unprotected.

This ineffective blink predisposes the eye to chronic exposure which can lead to many problems. These problems include corneal ulceration, corneal fibrosis, and vascular and pigmentary inflammation of the cornea. This is why in many dogs like Pugs, Shi Tzus, Boston Terriers and others the eyes look dark and the pet may not see very well. Specifically the corneas of these dogs are not clear.

To further complicate things for these pets, many do not produce enough tears to keep the eye lubricated. This is known as dry eye. Dry eye leads to further changes in the cornea and reduced vision. To add to the problems there are two other aspects to the "brachycephalic eye syndrome". The first is what is called a medial canthal entropion. This means that the lower lid on the nasal side is rolled inward in such a way that the opening for the tear duct is covered up. The covering up of the tear duct opening leads to tears over flowing the eyelid and draining down onto the skin of the nose. This can lead to a moist dermatitis.

The second other aspect is "trichiasis". This refers to hairs that deviate toward the cornea from the medial or nasal corner of the eye. These hairs chronically irritate the cornea causing further reaction and pigment to form on the corneal surface.

It is no wonder that the brachycephalic breeds struggle with eye issues. A large eye opening, poor blink, poor tear production, medial entropion, and trichiasis often lead to corneal discomfort and loss of function.

There are both medical and surgical options to manage the "brachycephalic eye syndrome". First, early detection of corneal changes is very important to prevent severe chronic changes to the cornea. Lubricants and other medications to increase tear production can be very helpful in keeping the eye healthy.

If the case of eye abnormalities that are severe, surgery can be considered. The surgery involves making the eye opening smaller and removing the irritating hairs. The procedure is called a medial canthoplasty, and would likely be performed by a veterinary ophthalmologist.

Despite the endearing qualities of the short faced breeds it is important to be aware of these eye problems and to intervene as early as possible.

**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





# LEGACY SOCIETY



*Those who honor the West Suburban Humane Society with a bequest create a legacy of unconditional love that will live forever.*



On Feb. 26, Two Bostons Pet Boutique in Burr Ridge hosted our first Legacy Society recognition event. The generous donors who named the Humane Society in their wills were acknowledged with food, drink and a “pawprint” on the shelter’s new Legacy Society Wall (as well as some shopping for furry companions)!

## Email and Letters from Adopters

Hi WSHS,

I can't believe it's been 4 months already. Rally is doing wonderful. He was potty trained when we got him, but we did crate train him. He actually loves his crate and sometimes goes in it when he is sleepy without us telling him to go. He is a very spoiled pup, still a little leary of new things like the groomer and baths. But he loves playing with his “cousins”. We took him ice fishing a few weeks ago and he loved playing in the snow and on the ice. When we first got him, he didn't know what toys were or what to do with them; now he is playing and pulling stuffing and squeakers out of everything.

Thank you so much for checking in with us. I've attached some pictures of him.

– **Sara Pischak**





# Volunteer Spotlight

Meet the Wednesday 5:30 - 7:00 pm cleaning and socializing Kennel Shift. Compared to some shifts, they are all fairly new, and have come together to give stability to a shift that had suffered from a lot of turnover. The members are Melody Dybas, shift coordinator and STAR volunteer; Lance Stec; Emily Preikschat; Klare Mueller; and Nicole Patchin.

Melody started with WSHS in May of 2013. Melody says,

*"The thing I love most about being at WSHS is when we get to see dogs find homes... Sometimes we come in and see an "adoption pending" note or even see that there is a dog that has been adopted and is already gone!"*

But that's not the only thing that keeps Melody coming back. She has undergone special training to become a STAR volunteer and finds

*"It's easy to get attached to some of the dogs who are longer term, which is why I find working with STAR dogs so rewarding. I know that when one of the long term dogs, Bieber, Redmond, Fizz, has been overlooked by adopters day after day, that we are still giving them the love that they deserve and preparing them for their future."*

Melody's rescue dog, Rudy, has also helped Melody prepare for the role of STAR volunteer. As a "crazy energetic" dog, Rudy provided Melody with plenty of opportunities to train, direct, and focus on him.

*"I think the patience I have had for him; taking him to LOTS of training, spending large amounts of time, and staying positive to work through his issues, has helped me greatly to understand the dogs at WSHS, especially the STAR dogs, which sometimes have some of the same characteristics as Rudy did."*

In addition to Rudy, Melody has 2 5-year old lionhead rabbits, Dandy and Dexter.



Lance Stec joined WSHS in 2013, and came to this shift in February, 2014. Lance comes from a family of long-term WSHS volunteers who often serve as a foster family for dogs and puppies. As the second STAR volunteer on this shift, Lance often joins Melody on "pack walks" to allow for plenty of distractions while they work on obedience training. He volunteers at WSHS because he likes to "take care of the animals until they are adopted into a permanent home." He recently adopted Wrigley, a former STAR dog, from WSHS.

Next up is Klare Mueller, a volunteer since last August. One of her favorite things about volunteering at WSHS is "watching some of the shyer dogs come out of their shell; that even if I've had an otherwise stressful day the dogs are always happy to have someone there to play with them."

When not volunteering, Klare enjoys cooking, camping and hiking, and cheering on her favorite Wisconsin sports teams: Badgers, Packers, and Brewers.

At home, Klare has a 4.5 year old cat named Ceili, a gray DSH she adopted from the Dane County Humane Society.

Emily Preikschat came to WSHS last August. She does most of the cleaning on the shift: cages, dishes, and laundry. Emily is a seasoned volunteer, having been at a number of shelters.

Not surprisingly, Emily says WSHS is the best she's seen. She likes that "each dog is treated individually; they receive special meals, medications, training and individual attention."

But the dogs are not the only thing that keeps Emily coming back. It's the people, too. "I love my shift team; we are all similar in age, we have a lot in common and they make each Wednesday fun!"

She summarizes the shift's volunteers when she says, "everyone who works and volunteers at WSHS truly has a passion and love for animals."

Finally, there is Nicole Patchin, the newest member of the shift and Melody's sister. Nicole joined the shift in October, 2014, to help her sister because they were having trouble keeping volunteers on the shift—and she's stayed!

Volunteering is always rewarding work, and Emily says it best:

*"Although WSHS is a smaller shelter I learned that they really care about the livelihood of each animal that enters through their doors. I have seen more success in adoptions and longevity of the animals at WSHS than anywhere else."*



**West Suburban Humane Society**

# 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 & cats.

Call or Visit  
Call 1- 877-CARS-4-  
US (227-7487)

[www.donationline.com](http://www.donationline.com)

Or

[www.WSHS-DG.org](http://www.WSHS-DG.org)





# West Suburban Humane Society

Presents:

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



21st Annual

## **BARCAPALOOZA**

WALKATHON & PET EXPO

**Sunday, September 27, 2015**

**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 9:00 am**
- **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.

**[www.WSHS-DG.org](http://www.WSHS-DG.org)**

