



Don't Miss the
Event of the Year!
See Insert
for Details.

West Suburban Humane Society

STRAY THOUGHTS

Help Us Raise Funds for Our Biggest Event of the Year!

In this edition of Stray Thoughts:

- **Get your Barkapalooza brochure and start collecting pledges!**
- **Ready for a Home - Check out our adoptable animals on page 3.**
- **50/50 Split the Pot Raffle tickets on page 5.**

West Suburban Humane Society has now made it easier than ever to collect donations for our biggest fundraiser of the year, Barkapalooza Dog Walk and Pet Expo. If you are planning on participating in this year's event, logon to our web site at www.firstgiving.com/wshs. From this site you can register for

Barkapalooza and create your own fundraising web page.

Getting started is easy

- It only takes a few minutes to create your online fundraising page.
- Click on the Get Started button.
- Personalize the text and the photo of your online fundraising page to express your passions and your purpose.
- Send the link out to your friends, family, colleagues – anyone you think will help you reach your goal. Ask them to forward it on to their contacts as well!
- When you set up your web page through Firstgiving, you will be entered into our Split the Pot Raffle drawing.
- For every \$100 of donations received, another entry for you will

be placed in the drawing.

- The winner will receive a \$1,000 prize! The winning ticket will be drawn on Sunday, September 27th at the 2 pm end of our event.

Last year, we raised \$35,000 online. Our goal this year is to raise \$35,000 again, all to benefit the homeless animals in our care.

Don't delay, set up your fundraising web page today!



Upcoming Events

630-960-9600, ext. 25

SEPTEMBER

7th, Monday

Labor Day – WSHS will be closed.

27th, Sunday

Barkapalooza Dog Walk and Pet Expo –
Look for your brochure in this edition of
Stray Thoughts!

OCTOBER – ADOPT A SHELTER DOG MONTH

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

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:

Christina Morrison, President
Suzanne Kavic, Vice President
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Cathy Pesavento, Controller/

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Cindy Brasic, Director
Ken Eisenberg, Director
Linda Carlisle, Director
Diana Tsai, Director
Brian McLachlan, Director

THE WSHS STAFF:

Executive Director: Carolyn Mossberger (Ext. 25)
Animal Care Manager: Sarah Stromberg (Ext. 23)
Night and Weekend Managers: Catherine Schmitt, 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
Phone: 630-960-9600 Fax: 630-960-9604

Ready For a Home

Pepper

1 year old, Male, American Pit Bull Terrier Mix

I'm Pepper and I am a happy puppy that loves everybody! I was never given any training, but I know that I'd be good at it. It would keep me busy and active. I'd also be thrilled to accompany my people friends on their athletic pursuits and outdoor activities. Exercise keeps my happy and content, without it I can get a little rowdy. Sometimes I don't know my own strength and can be a little rough and tumble during play, but I am a softy at heart. I would do best in a home where I get continued mental and physical enrichment as well as a close relationship with me family. If you are interested in me, you should have previous dog experience and no cats. I like to play rough, so not every dog likes me. Children in my new home should be at least 12 years, sturdy and they can't mind doggie kisses! Stop by and visit me soon!



Lucas

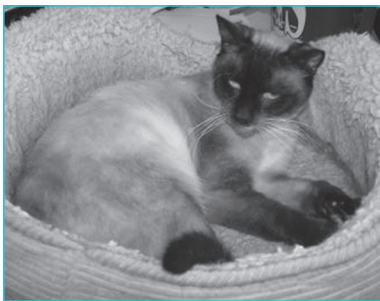
1 year old, Male, Lab Mix

Hi I'm Lucas, so happy to meet you! I am a very high energy and busy dog that is looking for a family that can keep up with me! I will make you smile every day with my zest for life. I enjoy running, jumping for joy, playing and hanging out with my favorite people. I would love to go to obedience training; it's a great way to bond with my new family and learn my manners and boundaries. I am too much for cats but I like to play with other dogs. Because of my energy level, I would do best in a home with kids 10 years and older. With your help and guidance, I'll be the best behaved dog on the block!

Cliff

1 year old, Male, Orange Tabby

Hi, I'm Cliff. Short for BriarCliff . . . The street I forgot to look both ways before I crossed. Oh, I was a little dizzy, but I got picked up by my foster mom that happened to be a few cars back. During my stay, I had a great time playing with my foster brother . . . A dog about my size!! Take a look at our video! He taught me fetch and to come when I'm called. Now I'm at the shelter and doing just fine, but looking for my forever home. Stop in and call for Cliff!! I'll be the one that comes running.



Kai

13 year old, Male, Siamese

How would you like to meet the silliest Siamese ever? No one would ever think I am a senior the way I chase after toys and roll around when you pet me. My whiskers are comical - they go in all different directions. I live in an office with other cats and an occasional dog. I just go with the flow. What really gets me going is when my human office mates eat their lunch. I practically stand on my head to get a taste! I rub all over the people and oh, if only I had thumbs! I could take that food right out of their hands... hehehe. Come on over and meet me...you won't be disappointed :)

From Wags To Riches Raffle



West Suburban Humane Society is sponsoring a raffle. The winner of the raffle will receive \$1,000.

The winning ticket will be drawn on Sunday, September 27th at the 2:00pm end of our 22nd Annual Barkapalooza Dog Walk and Pet Expo. The winner will be notified by phone no later than Sunday, September 27th at 5:00pm.

Suggested donation for each ticket is \$5.00

Or 6 tickets for \$25.00, giving you 1 free ticket!

Or 15 tickets for \$50.00, giving you 6 free tickets!



Need more tickets? Stop by our adoption center at 1901 W. Ogden Avenue in Downers Grove or call 630-960-9600, ext. 25. Remember to include your name and mailing address when you call and tickets will be mailed immediately. Tickets will also be sold throughout the day at Barkapalooza.

Email and Letters from Adopters

Dear West Suburban Family,

I just wanted to take a moment to give you an update on Nigel (aka Sir Nigel Barker; Shoe Slayer, Vanquisher of Couch Cushions, and Defender of the Blankets).

He is doing great! I think it is safe to say he has fully adapted to his new home and neighborhood. Everyone loves him and he loves everyone. Wherever we go people



want to say hello to him. My neighbors give him treats, my parents buy him toys, and he even has his own fan club with some of our local baristas. :)

We go on walks everyday, play fetch every night (tennis balls are his favorite), hangout on the back deck in the evenings, and cuddle before bedtime. We even went on a road trip to Door County where he made even more friends.

– **Stephanie**

P.S. I've attached some pictures but trying to get him to sit still and take a picture can be difficult at times. :)



From Wags To Riches Raffle

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____



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Downers Grove, IL 60515
630-960-9600

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Ask the Trainer

Helping a Dog Overcome Their Fear of Fireworks

Many dog owners dread the Fourth of July because they know what it does to their poor little pooch. The fireworks that bring so many people joy cause little Fido to run, hide, drool, shake, and suffer a level of stress that no dog should have to endure. Many people are surprised to find out that this issue is fixable, and it doesn't involve drugging your dog to the point that he doesn't even notice the noises outside!

Anxiety and fear are not issues that can simply be corrected away, and as any owner of a dog with this issue can tell you, dogs don't grow out of a fear of fireworks. While some dogs can feel comforted by wearing tight shirts or being kept in a dark room, our trainers address anxiety and fear of fireworks by teaching the dogs owner a simple calming mechanism that can be used each time the dog exhibits stress. This method has been shown to work for any dog regardless of their level of fear.

"Heel" is a command which is generally understood to mean that a dog should not pull on leash. However, the heel command means much more than simply "don't pull". When a dog is heeling, they should be focused on the owner or the road ahead and walking with their ears at the owner's heel. This requires a high level of concentration on the dog's part and naturally takes much of their attention off of all the other things that are going on around them.

Long before the Fourth of July and long before the fireworks start, our trainers teach a dog how to heel perfectly past any distraction they can think of. We practice heeling past dogs, kids, treats on the ground, bicycles, squirrels, and anything else we can find that might excite the dog or make them nervous. It is important that the heel command is mastered so that it truly becomes a calming mechanism rather than a constant struggle. At this point, heel becomes a tool that can be used to condition a dog to feel calm in a variety of situations.

It seems like every year the fireworks start getting shot off earlier and earlier. It doesn't matter if you have a dog that has had fear issues for years or a brand new puppy that has never heard a firework before. It is good practice to setup situations similar to fireworks weeks or even months prior to the holiday and practice keeping your dog calm. Good examples of things to setup include loud noises and bright flashing lights. By setting up the situations beforehand you will have a much better idea of how the dog might behave on the fourth. When practicing, it is important not to setup situations that are too difficult which may cause undue stress for the dog. We start by producing the noise from a very long distance to assess its effect on the dog. Only after the dog is feeling calm do we consider moving the noise slightly closer.

It is easy to say that we practice keeping the dog calm, but how exactly do we do that? We use the heel command to calm the dog down while the noises are occurring. We practice our left turns and right turns while training around the house. The idea is to provide the dog with a simple exercise they understand and are familiar with. This helps them understand how they should be acting during an event that they are unsure of. Once the dog is calm, we simply unhook their leash and let them go.

Once the fourth arrives and the fireworks start, we clip on a leash and start heeling with the dog. This is a process that they have participated in countless of times before and will immediately have a calming effect on them. That being said, it can take anywhere from five to thirty minutes of calm relaxing training inside the home before you notice the dog looking completely at ease. Once the dog is truly calm, we unhook their leash and go about our business like nothing scary or out of the ordinary happened.

If more fireworks go off five minutes later, it would not be surprising to see the dog once again exhibit signs of stress. At this point we put their leash back on and start training again. Each time the fireworks go off, it will take less and less time to calm down the dog. Every dog is different and has a different level of anxiety. There is no magic number of training sessions that are needed to completely alleviate the anxiety. We have had clients report 90% success in as little as two training sessions and we have had clients practice for months before their dog could be at ease off leash with fireworks going off.

This process is by no means easy, but when your best buddy lives with anxiety and stress, it is well worth the time since it will improve their life so much. Living with stress and anxiety is not fun and we owe it to our dogs to help them live as stress free as possible.

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



Pet Health Watch by Dr. Main, DVM

Does your dog have a crusty nose?

Dogs presenting to veterinarians with some variation of a crusty nose are fairly common. Usually the changes to the nose are on the bridge and toward the tip of the nose. Some years ago veterinarians believed a crusty nose might be caused by a contact allergy to the patient's food bowl.

Now it is known there are multiple causes for crusty noses. These include bacterial infections, mites, fungal infections, immune mediated diseases, solar dermatitis, and depigmentation among others.

The possible causes of nasal disease can be differentiated by laboratory testing. These tests would include bacterial and fungal cultures, scraping for mites, and often a surgical biopsy. The tissue biopsies are usually submitted to a pathologist that specializes in looking at conditions of the skin.

Once the sample is in the hands of the specialist, there are specific criteria that are looked for to determine the diagnosis. One of the more common immune mediated conditions is called

discoid lupus erythematosus. This disease can only be determined with a tissue biopsy.

Unlike various infections or mites that can be cured with medication, discoid lupus has to be treated for the life of the animal. Discoid lupus is often what is left once antibiotics or other simple therapies have failed. Yet rarely are these patients surgically biopsied. Hence most of these patients live their lives with a chronically undiagnosed crusty nose.

Because discoid lupus is usually limited to the dorsum of the nose and occasionally the lips and ears: topical therapy can be successful in it's treatment. Discoid lupus is an immune mediated disease. Most immune mediated conditions are treated with systemic high dose corticosteroid therapy.

Such high dose therapy would likely be successful in treating discoid lupus but would also be associated with side effects. Hence topical therapy is a very good place to start.

Newer topical medications that have immuno-suppressive effects, such as tacrolimus can be used with some success. If not successful as a

single agent, the topical medication may lessen the dose of the corticosteroid. As implied here, some cases will require multi-drug therapy to manage the condition. With all of these drug protocols, the doses start out higher and then taper to a maintenance dose over a 1-2 month time period.

Overall the prognosis is good but lifelong therapy is usually needed. The key to this disease is getting a tissue biopsy so the proper diagnosis can be made.

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



HEARTY THANKS

The student council members at Lace School in Darien sold scented markers and donated the proceeds of \$682.30 to the shelter.

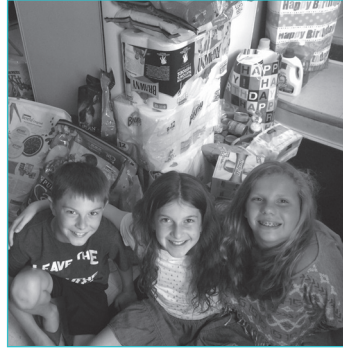
The Petco Foundation donated \$407.02 from their Spring A Pet in-store fundraising campaign to the humane society.

Emily Rymers of Woodridge collected \$350 for the shelter during her Girl Scout cookie drive.

Weichent Workforce Mobility donated food and supplies to the shelter.

Hinsdale South High School in Darien held at Badminton Tournament and collected food and supplies and donated them to the shelter.

Julia Albert of Downers Grove turned 11 and asked for donations for the shelter instead of gifts for her. She collected food, toys and supplies. *(Pictured on right)*



Anna Tokash had a lemonade stand and donated the \$20 proceeds to the shelter. On her birthday, she also asked for donations for the shelter instead of gifts for her. She donated \$37 and supplies. *(Pictured on left)*



The students at Benjamin Franklin School in Glen Ellyn participated in a 3 week reading challenge. They donated the proceeds of \$1,646.85 from the challenge to the shelter.

TJ and Braxton had birthdays and asked for donations for the shelter instead of gifts for themselves. They donated food and toys.

Mary Schmid of Downers Grove turned 10 and asked for donations for the shelter instead of gifts for her. She donated all of the money she received to the humane society.

Gretchen of Downers Grove donated dog toys to the shelter.

Maddy of Glen Ellyn turned 5 and asked for donations for the shelter instead of gifts for her. She donated kitten food, toys and supplies.

Girl Scout Troop 5006 made cat beds and donated them to the shelter.

Dominic Pell turned 11 and asked for donations for the shelter instead of gifts for him. He donated food, supplies and \$45.

The School Association for Special Education Multi-Needs Program made dog bones and sold them. They donated the proceeds of \$364 to the humane society.

Genevieve Hart of LaGrange turned 9 and asked for donations for the shelter instead of gifts for her. She donated food, toys and \$95.

Anny Picton of Brookfield had a birthday and asked for donations for the shelter instead of gifts for her. She donated food, toys and \$70. *(Pictured on right)*



Eve and Mae donated dog treats, newspapers and toys to the shelter.

Every month the **Woodridge Junior Woman's Club** collect donations for a local charity. One month they collected towels, dog bowls, toys, collars and canned food and donated it to the humane society.

Vance Lorenzana of Oswego donated bowls, umbrellas and tie outs to the shelter.

Faith Godfred of Carol Stream donated \$43 and supplies to the shelter.

Emily, Izzy, Bridget, Edie, Alaina and Allee from the St. Mary Girl Scouts collected and donated food to the shelter. *(Pictured below)*



The green team at Hawthorne Elementary School in Elmhurst collected and donated supplies to the humane society.

Eric and Ella Hardman collected donations for the shelter as part of the Lenten Promise Project. 20 families contributed 2 carloads of food and supplies to the humane society.

John McDonald had a birthday and asked for donations for the shelter instead of gifts for him. He donated \$25, food and supplies.

As part of her Girl Scout community project, **Micaela of Bolingbrook** collected and donated cat litter, cat food and dog treats to the shelter.

Jaden Lydon had a birthday and asked for donations for the shelter instead of gifts for him. He donated \$125 in cash and gift cards.

Ellie Hart and Avery Krudup had birthday parties and asked for donations for the shelter instead of gifts for themselves. They donated \$140 and supplies. *(Pictured on right)*



The Early Act Club at Gurrie Middle School collected donations for the shelter.

As part of earning their silver award, **Girl Scout Troop 50420** held a donation drive for the shelter. They collected the following: 49 packages of canned dog food, 94 packages of canned cat food, 193 lbs of dog food, 86 lbs of cat food, 22 packages of dog treats, 12 packages of cat treats, 160 lbs of cat litter, 10 dog toys, 37 tennis balls, 4 cat toys, 4 dog brushes, 3 cans of puppy formula, 3 cans of kitten formula, 10 feeding bottles, 8 gallons of laundry detergent, 32 packages of paper towels, 400 paper plates, 3 packages of garbage and \$250. They also made dog toys, cat toys and blanket for the animals.

Volunteer Spotlight

Thursday Night Cattery Showing Shift



The Thursday 7:00 – 9:00 pm Cattery Showing shift is one who covers all the bases. They have a few more volunteers than the typical showing shift, but they make good use of all the help to ensure the kitties get plenty of attention, the cat areas are clean, and adopters get individual attention while viewing and hopefully selecting a new furry family member. Shift members include Pauline Semenchuk (shift coordinator), Peggy Reichenberger, Shannon Lenz (and sometimes her children Evan and Avery), Julia Downs, and joining them for the summer, Rachel Young.

The leader of this shift, Pauline, has been volunteering at WSHS for almost 19 years, so she has a good idea of how a shift should run. The volunteers on the shift are split into two groups each Thursday, half covering the Cattery, the other half covering the House Cats (the cats and kittens in the front building), and then they switch halfway through the shift. When visitors come in, there are volunteers ready and waiting to help, and during the quiet times, the volunteers keep busy playing with the cats, scooping litter boxes, and making sure the

shelter looks (and smells) nice. All of the volunteers on the shift seem to enjoy this schedule and the chance to get to know all of the cats and kittens.

Pauline started volunteering four years after adopting her cat, Smokie from WSHS. At the time, she wanted to get more involved with the shelter where she found her cat. Over the years, Pauline has not only adopted more cats, she's also spread the word about WSHS and a few of her neighbors have also adopted from the shelter. She is very passionate about the shelter and works to get more people involved.

In 2009, the shift had a big turnover and we desperately needed another volunteer. Peggy, who was already a kitten foster home, answered the call for help and has been on the shift ever since. Over the years, Peggy has also involved her grandchildren in volunteering and continues to foster kittens every year.

Joining the shift in August of 2012, Shannon loves "seeing the cats and kittens find their new homes", especially the shy cats. She also finds it "very rewarding to learn more about the inner-workings of a humane society and all the work involved to keep the animals happy and healthy on a day to day basis".

Shannon involves her entire family in volunteering, frequently volunteering with her children, as well as fostering kittens in her home:

"I have learned a lot more about pregnant cats and kittens than I

ever thought I would! I have fostered two pregnant cats that gave birth in my home. It has been such an amazing experience, not only for me but also my kids, to foster kittens from birth to adoption age."

Shannon is taking the summer off, but after only two weeks, she was already missing the cats!

One of the newest regular members to the shift starting in October 2014, Julie is the "mom" to 3 dogs and 2 cats, who are her babies. As she says, "my hands are completely full, but so is my heart!" Julia finds volunteering to be "extremely rewarding" and goes on to say:

"I've had some stressful days at work, but immediately after I get to WSHS, my mood and spirits are completely lifted. I feel very blessed to be a part of the team at WSHS and to have an impact on the animal's life, even just for a short time or as long as needed!"

With Shannon taking the summer off, Rachel has joined the Thursday night team. Though she's currently a summer volunteer, we hope she will stick around or come back next summer.



Pet Trusts

A pet trust is a instrument which can provide for your pets' financial needs after you pass away. It establishes a caretaker, which provides the pets with a new home. It also names a trustee who can oversee financial distributions to pay for things like food, boarding fees, and veterinary bills. If you would like to discuss setting up a pet trust or other ways to provide for your pets after you pass, call estate planning attorney Michael Drabant.



MICHAEL J. DRABANT
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