



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](http://www.firstgiving.com/wshs).

From this site you can register for Barkapalooza and create your own fundraising web page.

*Getting started is easy . . .*

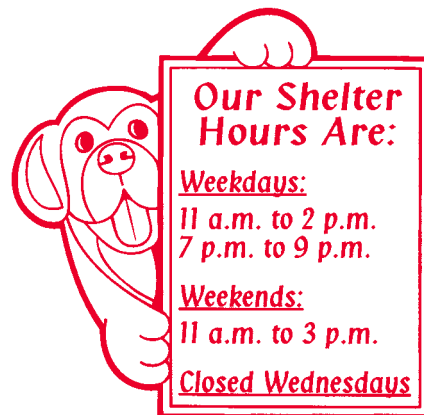
- It only takes a few minutes to create your online fundraising page.
- Click on the Get Started button.
- Personalize the text and the photo of your online fundraising page to express your passions and your purpose.
- Send the link out to your friends, family, colleagues — anyone you think will help 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 28th at the 2 pm end of our event.

Last year, we raised \$35,000 online. Our goals 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

1<sup>st</sup>, Monday

Labor Day – WSHS will be closed.

28<sup>th</sup>, 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](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:

Kurt Mohr, President  
Lorie Bonham, Vice President  
Pam Kevil, Recording Secretary  
Cathy Pesavento, Controller/  
Treasurer

Cindy Brasic, Director  
Ken Eisenberg, Director  
Linda Carlisle, Director  
Christina Morrison, Director  
Diana Tsai, Director

### THE WSHS STAFF:

Executive Director: Carolyn Mossberger (Ext. 25)  
Animal Care Manager: Sarah Stromberg (Ext. 23)  
Night and Weekend Managers:  
Catherine Schmitt, Jen Laurinaitis and Roberta Diehl  
Animal Care Assistants: Brigitte Black  
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

# Ready For a Home

## Cole

**3 ½ years old, Male, Coonhound Mix**

Hi, I'm Cole. I'm an energetic, friendly, fella that is looking for his forever home. I am good with other calm dogs and I don't mind cats. Unfortunately, I cannot live with them in my new home because I can be possessive over food and other high value items. Because of my energy level, I would do best in a home with kids 16 years and older. Like most hounds, I love to hear the sound of my own voice, so if you are interested in me, you cannot live in an apartment, condo or townhome. A house with a large fenced in backyard would be just the thing for me! It would also be great if you have owned a dog before. Another real plus is that I know all of my basic obedience commands and even come with a free session with my own personal trainer. If I sound like a good fit for you and your family, stop by and pay me a visit. You won't be disappointed!



## John Boy

**3 years old, Male, Terrier Mix**

I am a handsome, playful little guy! If you know and appreciate the terrier personality, then I am the perfect dog for you. I am fun-loving, playful, smart, tenacious and a tease. I love to fetch and chew on soft toys and tennis balls. I may play keep away with toys or household items and I'm quick to grab on to things, so my new owner will have to teach me how to "trade" for items. For this reason, I would do best in a home with kids 12 years and older. I also have a terrier's attitude toward other dogs so I cannot live with them in my new home. I am also not a big fan of cats. They kind of look like giant squeak toys! With a little time and patience, I will make a great dog for the right family. Stop by and visit me soon!

## Mocha

**3 years old, Female, Tortie**

Hi, I'm Mocha. Please don't let my curled up ear make you rush right past me. I am so much more than my looks. I am gentle and friendly to people and cats. In fact, I am about the biggest lap cat there is here. You might call me a lap hog, actually. If you want a cat that likes to curl up on you while you watch tv, I am the perfect choice! Come in for a demonstration today!



## Sara Lee

**3 years old, Female, Calico**

Hi, I'm Sara Lee! I was a very helpful mama to the shelter after I finished nursing my own babies. They had an orphan kitten that I took on as my own and raised until she was ready for adoption. All of my youngsters have been adopted and it's my turn now. I am a lover of people. Little children make me a bit nervous, but older kids and adults are my favorite. No dogs for me, please. The dog in my foster home tried and tried to befriend me. I never gave in. I just don't trust those hairy, smelly beings. I am living with other cats here, but between you and me, I'd rather not. I find it necessary to play referee all the time, so whenever there's a dust up, I have to go get involved. It's exhausting! My ideal home would be a couple of post-adolescent humans and me. That would be heaven and I'd be the happiest cat ever!

# From Wags To Riches Raffle



**W**est 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 28<sup>th</sup> at the 2:00pm end of our 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Barkapalooza Dog Walk and Pet Expo. The winner will be notified by phone no later than Sunday, September 28<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm.

Suggested donation for each ticket is \$5.00

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

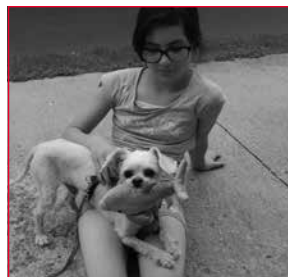
Or 15 tickets for \$50.00, giving you 6 free tickets!

















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

Hello! Loki (formerly Franklin) here! I just wanted to write to tell you all how I'm doing! I'm so, so happy that I've found my forever home, my tail won't stop wagging! They gave me toys! Lots of cool toys, stuffed toys, squeaky toys, chew toys! My stuffed ones are like family. Speaking of family, I have two sisters! I'm not quite sure what they are. They look like squirrels, minus the tail. My family calls them 'Guinea pigs'. Whatever they are, they're fun to watch, and I love licking them and watching them run around the house. I guard the house too, when the humans are gone sometimes. We also went on a trip to a place called the Morton Arboretum. There were so many dogs, and I made a lot of new friends! I also saw a few of you guys there too =). I'm really happy and thanks for helping me find a great place to call home!



# From Wags To Riches Raffle

<p>Name _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>Phone _____</p> <p> <b>West Suburban Humane Society</b> 1901 W. Ogden Avenue Downers Grove, IL 60515 630-960-9600</p>	<p>Name _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>Phone _____</p> <p> <b>West Suburban Humane Society</b> 1901 W. Ogden Avenue Downers Grove, IL 60515 630-960-9600</p>	<p>Name _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>Phone _____</p> <p> <b>West Suburban Humane Society</b> 1901 W. Ogden Avenue Downers Grove, IL 60515 630-960-9600</p>
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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!



# Pet Health Watch by Dr. Main, DVM

Epilepsy is a common disease in dogs and potentially life threatening. A seizure is defined as a transient occurrence of signs or symptoms due to abnormal, excessive, or synchronous neuronal activity in the brain.

When a dog has an episode of odd behavior or movement the following questions come to mind. Is this truly a seizure? Is there an underlying cause? Should an anti-seizure drug be started? and if so which drug should be used?

There are many behaviors and conditions that can mimic a true seizure. This might include muscle spasms, agitation, collapse, tremors and the like. The best way to confirm a seizure is with EEG (electroencephalogram) or comparing the event to a typical seizure.

Looking for underlying causes leads to better seizure control and more accurate prognosis. Seizures can be classified into three groups: genetic, structural/metabolic, and unknown. The proper diagnosis often

involves MRI of the brain and CSF tap for analysis. These are relatively expensive tests.

The question then becomes should an anti seizure drug be started in a patient that may not be having seizures. If the patient has a structural cause for seizure, or if the first seizure is severe, or if it is the preference to prevent chances for a seizure then drug therapy should be started. Some studies show that seizures beget more seizures, therefore drug intervention is best.

There is no perfect anti-convulsant medication, although some of the newer meds being used have less toxicity. In general it is best to use one drug at a time. Two drugs that are being used more commonly by veterinary neurologists are Levetiracetam and Zonisamide. On the other hand Phenobarbital is being used less often by neurologists.

Other strategies include adding a dose of the medication one hour prior to the seizure event or just after the event to prevent a

second seizure. Some of these medications are available as a subcutaneous injection or a suppository.

Many dogs that have a seizure like event never receive an EEG, MRI, or CSF tap and hence it is possible that some of these patients end up on an inappropriate anti convulsant medication. Studies also show that only seventy percent of dogs are well controlled on seizure medication. Again seizures can be life threatening and in general should be treated if they are recurring. The use of newer medications has lowered the risk of toxicity when treating seizure patients.

**Please address questions and suggestions for future animal health articles to:**

Dr. Main  
West Suburban Humane Society  
1901 W. Ogden Avenue  
Downers Grove, IL 60515  
director@wshs-dg.org



## Ask the Trainer

In home dog training provides both owner and dog with many benefits that are commonly overlooked. At first blush the prospect of having a dog trainer come to your home for a personalized training session may seem like an expensive option reserved only for the wealthy. The truth is that in home dog training can be both the most cost effective and productive training that you can provide for either a young puppy or an older dog with behavioral issues.

Dogs much like humans act differently inside their home as compared to being out in social settings. It is common that an issue which manifests itself inside the home might never occur in an obedience class or in a kennel environment. Inside the home, dogs feel comfortable since they are in their own environment. This allows them to be themselves without the added pressure or distraction of being in a foreign place. The comfort of both the dog and the owner makes the home the ideal place to train.

Having a trainer come to your home allows the trainer to see issues with their own eyes, not just based on the owners descriptions. Many times dog's issues can start off as small, difficult to detect behaviors that grow over time when they are not addressed. An experienced trainer can pick up on these small details by assessing the dog and environment as a whole. Taking all the dogs behaviors into account the trainer can then provide the most detailed description of what they would do to move forward and begin addressing the situation before it turns into something more serious.

When done correctly, in home dog training gives the owner a chance to form a bond with their pet through the training. The goal of a house call is not for the trainer to immediately fix every issue during an hour and a half session. Instead, the trainer explains why a training technique will work with detailed instruction and physical examples. The owner can then utilize this technique as a tool going forward because they truly understand it. This can be more effective than a trainer taking a dog, correcting the issues and then training the owner on how to maintain the progress. The owner is a part of the process from the start and feels a sense of accomplishment as progress is made. In home training allows the owner and the dog to build their relationship in a positive and structured manner. This also helps save on the cost of training, the owner is spending their time on the physical act of training (instead of the trainer) which keeps the total cost of training down.

House calls are completely tailored to the needs of your dog and your environment and can be structured to provide you best impact for your dollar. Obedience classes tend to focus on a set curriculum and may cover things that your dog already knows, or doesn't have an issue with. This wastes some of the time that you are paying for with the trainer. In a house call a trainer will focus directly on things that the owner wants to see addressed with their dog. Both basic obedience and behavioral issues can be addressed during a house call.

It is common that for basic obedience training, a trainer may offer a package of

lessons (usually around 3) in which they will cover the various aspects of an obedience class. This should include; Heel, Sit, Stay, Down, and Come. Each dog is different and the trainer will teach the owner the techniques in an order that makes sense for the particular dog. Each lesson will build off the last and the owner will continue to build their training skills as they move forward. Behavioral issues vary, some can be handled in a single house call with great results and others may require multiple lessons. The trainer should explain what they feel is necessary and not pressure an owner into paying for lessons that they do not feel like they need. This is why Suburban K-9 does not sell packages of lessons. We discuss the progress after each session to determine how many lessons make sense for a particular situation. It is important that the trainer and the owner are on the same page and come up with a detailed training plan.

While all training methods have their advantage and disadvantages, in home training has proven to be one of the most effective methods for training a dog both in terms of cost and productivity.

**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

**Josh Simon's** had a bake sale and donated the \$50 proceeds to the humane society.

From January through March, **Soceer 2000 in Downers Grove** had replica jersey Fridays. The employees made a donation to wear a replica jersey and the proceeds were donated to the shelter.

**Girl Scout Troops 42201 and 42164 at Pleasant Lane Elementary in Lombard** made pet toys and donated them to the shelter.

**The Cassier family** donated a giant Easter basket full of toys and food to the animals at the shelter.

**Gretchen Hadelhorst** (pictured below) had a birthday and asked for donations for the shelter instead of gifts for her. She collected and donated numerous food and supply donations.



**Brownie Troop 51739** donated \$50 from their cookie sales to the shelter.

**Jessica Storch**, owner of Knockout Women's Boxing Club in Westmont, chose WSHS as the recipient of their April fundraiser. They offered three boxing fitness classes with a \$20 registration fee per participant and donated the proceeds of \$800 to the shelter.

**Matthew Van Horn or Yorkville** donated toys, supplies and \$10 to the shelter.

**Tyler, Abby and Carly Bleau** donated \$22 of their Easter money to the shelter.

**Oliver Cowsert** (pictured below) of Villa Park chose WSHS as the recipient of his First Holy Communion Project. He raised \$500 from 18 families and donated it to the shelter.



**Merrick Sullivan of Lisle** turned 7 and asked for donations for the shelter. Supplies and a gift card were donated.

**Ruth Remkus and Stacey Repp**, teachers from Maercker School District 60 collected food and supplies from the Girls on the Run club and donated them to the shelter.

**The residents at International Village Apartments in Lombard** donated food, supplies and litter to the shelter.

**Sharon Scheuller of Lisle** turned 40 and asked for donations for the shelter instead of gifts for her. She donated a gift card, stamps and \$230.

**Danny and Grace Cernich of Glen Ellyn** turned 7 and asked for donations for the shelter instead of gifts for them. They donated food and toys to the humane society.

**Lester School Student Council** collected donations from our wish list and donated them to the shelter.

**Bower Elementary in Warrenville** collected donations from the Girls on the Run Club. The donated food and supplies to the shelter.

**Ava Allington** turned 9 and asked for donations for the shelter instead of gifts for her. She donated a lot of supplies to the humane society.

**The Miami Indian Princess Tribe** raised \$293 by selling cookies and bracelets. They donated the money to the animals at the shelter.

**The Student Council Members at Henry Puffer School in Downers Grove** had an art fair and donated the \$500 proceeds to the shelter.

**Molly Friedman** did a service project for her Bat Mitzvah and donated the food, supplies and money she collected to the shelter.

**Julia Keilman** turned 8 and asked for donations for the shelter instead of gifts for her. She donated food and supplies to the shelter.

**Two members of our Humane Education Committee** did a talk at the **2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Book Club at the Westfield Elementary School in Glen Ellyn**. The kids thanked them by making a card and dropping it off at the shelter. (pictured below)



Every month the employees at **Uncle Bub's BBQ in Westmont** donate a portion of their tips to a local charity. In the month of June, WSHS was the receipt of those tips. The employees donated \$207.55 to the shelter.

# Volunteer Spotlight

If you visit the shelter on the *right* Saturday, you will meet Nancy Ranieri, Candace Fisher, and John Moll, the three volunteers who work with the “house cats” on alternating Saturdays. Their tasks include feeding all the cats and kittens, including those in isolation and front offices, medicating those that need it, cleaning all the areas, and spend some time socializing their precious charges.



Nancy has been with WSHS for 8 or 9 years, but her dedication does not end there. A dedicated volunteer, she also fosters cats and kittens. She currently is hosting numbers 49-53! Despite the numbers of fosters she's had, she's only been a foster failure one time. She is the cat mom of Ally and Lucy, two adult cats. Of fostering, Nancy says,

*They're (Ally and Lucy) both rescues but Lucy is a foster failure (my only one!!). I fostered her and her mom (Ming) and when Ming went into the shelter, Lucy was to remain with me a couple weeks. I couldn't*

*leave her in her room alone all day, so I'd let her out into the house while I worked from home. I tried to leave her at the shelter but failed. I asked Sarah to NEVER give me a litter of one again, so I wouldn't fail repeatedly. She has graciously complied.*

What keeps her coming back? According to Nancy, “It’s a given that I’ve met wonderful animals, and I’ve met some incredibly dedicated, compassionate, and kind people.”

Team member Number Two is Candace Fisher, a WSHS volunteer for over 6 years. Candace volunteers on the Saturday morning shift as well as a shift in the cattery. She says her dedication arises from the knowledge that she can help more animals through working at the Shelter than she could with just a few at home.

Candace says that she’s learned a lot working at WSHS, and she shares that knowledge with potential adopters as often as she can. She says,

*Unfortunately, not everyone understands cats or pets in general, or the responsibility that goes along with having them. We now educate people whenever the opportunity presents itself.*

At home, Candace has “all cats, including a rescue or two,” and enjoys sharing her love of music with them.

What keeps her coming back? According to Candace, “Every time we’re here, one —

or several — of the animals make us smile or even laugh out loud. Since laughter is good medicine, the animals help keep us healthy!”



John Moll is the third member of this trio. He began subbing at WSHS when his son, Garrick, wanted to volunteer but was not old enough to do so without a parent. John enjoyed working with his son so much that he never left! John also works the Friday morning cleaning shift in the Cattery.

Interestingly, John always considered himself a “dog person,” and while he still loves his dog, Casey Jones, he has made a space in his heart for cats, too, including Kitty, Fog, Martha (also known as Zazzles), and Little Buddy.

Of his work at WSHS, John says,

*One of the things I like most about working on the Saturday morning House Cat shift is that I've had the chance to interact with cats of all ages, sizes, colors, breeds and personalities, from highly energetic kittens to veteran lap cats, from the very shy cats to the extremely outgoing cats.*

And what keeps him coming back? John says, “One of the reasons that I like working on this shift is that everyone is willing to take on any task in order to give the cats the best possible care that we can.”

So, if you come to the Shelter on just the right Saturday, say Hello to the team.

## Planned Giving

### MORE PEOPLE CREATE THEIR LEGACIES AT WSHS

Over the past twelve months, WSHS has been fortunate to learn that eighteen households have decided to leave their legacies to support WSHS's work to shelter, provide medical care for, and find forever homes for homeless dogs and cats. We are so grateful for their generosity and concern.

Occasionally we will provide you with different ideas as to how you can do the same, using a technique that is especially easy for you and fits your circumstances. One method that was enthusiastically supported by one of our Legacy Society donors, who prefers to be known as “Barbara F.” is the donor advised fund.

### Donor Advised Funds

As Barbara F. states, “Having always been a saver, and been both careful and lucky in my investments, I find that I have some funds that I can spare now. Why should my executor have all the fun? Thus, I have been enjoying the satisfaction of making donations now to several favorite charities, most pet related. I have set up a charitable trust through my mutual fund company. Under this system, one can make a generous contribution to the trust, which is a charity in itself, and take the tax deduction at that time. The funds are then invested in selected mutual funds, which can continue to grow until such time as I choose to make grants, which can be to any IRS 501(c)(3) charity. This also simplifies record keeping when tax time rolls around.”

Barbara F. has designated WSHS as a beneficiary of the funds remaining in her donor advised fund at the time of her passing. In this way, Barbara is able to have the benefit of tax deductions now for gifts that she makes to WSHS during her lifetime and for those that will be received by WSHS after her lifetime. Many financial institutions offer this option. You may wish to contact your brokerage firm, bank, or financial adviser about donor advised funds.

If you have decided to include WSHS in your estate plans, please contact our Development Director, Brad Carlson, at (708) 488-9775. He will be glad to make you our newest Legacy Society member and share with you the benefits of Society membership.