



Don't Miss the
Event of the Year!
See Pages 7 & 8
for Details.

West Suburban Humane Society

STRAY THOUGHTS

WSHS Lowers Cat Adoption Fees!



Nima – I'm Available!

Effective February 1st, WSHS has lowered our fees for all cat adoptions. Our new fees are:

- Kittens up to 6 months of age - \$150
- Cats 6 months up to 5 years - \$125
- Mature cats 5 years and older - \$75

Our adoption fee includes spay or neuter surgery, microchip, 2F test, collar with ID tag, FVRCP vaccine, deworming, flea preventative, ear-mite check and treatment (if necessary), and a temporary cat carrier.

We are also offering two exciting programs, the 5-5-5

Program and the Adopt a Buddy Program.

5-5-5 Program

In this program, anyone 50 years and older, that adopts a cat 5 years and older, can do so for the adoption fee of \$50.



Cheeto – Adopt Me!


Adopt A Buddy Program

In this program, adopt any cat/kitten for the regular adoption fee and get a second cat/kitten for half off the regular fee. This program is available for up to 6 months from the date of the first cat's adoption.

If you are thinking of adding a new member to your family, stop by and take advantage of one of these great programs!



Bix – I'm Ready For A Home!



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

Upcoming Events 630-960-9600, ext. 25

MAY

1st, Saturday

Mutts Need Moola
Look for WSHS at Local Jewel Stores.

8th, Saturday - 9th, Sunday

Petals for Pets Plant Sale
Look for more information on our Fifth Annual Plant Sale on page 3 of this edition of Stray Thoughts.

31st, Monday

Memorial Day - WSHS will be closed today.

JUNE - ADOPT A SHELTER CAT MONTH

9th, Wednesday

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.

12th, Saturday

Barkaritaville - See insert in this newsletter for more information about this exciting new event!

JULY

4th, Sunday

4th of July - WSHS will be closed today.

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

WSHS Wish List

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

BFC donated services to the production of "Stray Thoughts."

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



INTEGRATEDPRINTMANAGEMENT

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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.

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Animal Care Manager: Sarah Stromberg (Ext. 23)
Night and Weekend Managers:
Catherine Schmitt and Jen Laurinaitis
Animal Care Assts: Brigitte Black and Kelly Bailey
Adoption Desk Manager: Kristy Moran (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



www.WSHS-DG.org

Petals for Pets



**Second
Location Added!**
May 8th Only
9am - 3pm
at Emmett's Ale
House Parking Lot
5200 Main St.

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 fifth annual plant sale on May 8th and 9th from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

The event will be held at the shelter
1901 Ogden Avenue Downers Grove

630-960-9600 x 25
www.WSHS-DG.org

Ready For a Home

Lucie

7-year-old, Female, Lab/Shepherd mix



Hi, I'm Lucie. I was just returned to WSHS after living in a home for several years. I was very frightened when I arrived and the staff here felt that I could use some training so they sent me to Bark Avenue Daycamp. I am back from training and ready to find my forever home. I am nervous with strangers but once I am comfortable, I bond quickly. Once you win me over, however, I am loyal for life. I am housebroken and crate trained. I am leash trained and know all of my obedience commands. I am frightened around children so I need to live in an adult only home. I get along with other dogs but would prefer to be your one and only. I even come with a free session with my own personal trainer. How can you pass me up!

Pretender

1-1/2-year-old, Male, Hound mix

Hi, I'm Pretender. In my previous home, they called me Bandit. I am housebroken and crate trained. I am good with cats and other dogs. I walk well on leash and know all of my obedience commands. I may feel the need to challenge women living in my new home so I need owners who are willing to provide strong leadership. I must live in an adult only home with owners who have had previous dog experience. I come with a free session with my own personal trainer. Stop by and visit me today!



Kraft

8-year-old, 2 paw declaw, Female, Black and White DSH

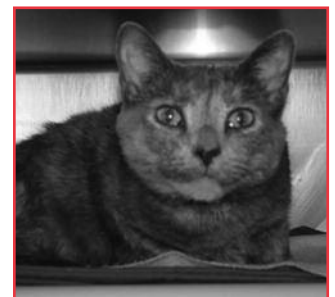


My journey has been very long. You see, this is my third time at this shelter. I was actually born here. Adopted out as a kitten, I thought I was with my forever family. After a few years, my family broke up and they had way more to worry about than me, so I was sent back. I stayed for several months and then I was adopted again in 2006. No one here can figure out what happened, but they got a call from the Michigan Humane Society saying that I had been surrendered to them and they traced my microchip back to this shelter. The person who turned me in there was not the same person I was adopted to, so it seems like I was bounced around. I made the trip back from Michigan like a champ and have adjusted really well to life as it is. I haven't given anyone an ounce of trouble. I am old enough to know that it may take a while to find my next home. I just want the third time to be my charm.

Ricki

7-year-old, 2 paw declaw, Female, Muted Torti

I'm like an onion. I have many layers. First you notice my exquisite colors and markings. I am a muted tortie, all grey and peach colored. Next you might hear my trilling voice. It is very musical. Then I will rub all over you so you get a chance to feel my softness and see how affectionate I am. Underneath all of this, I am a cat who is sensitive to change. I need a quiet home where I get plenty of love. I need an owner who understands that nobody's perfect and we can still love each other despite of our imperfection. Are you willing to be my perfectly imperfect person?



HEARTY THANKS

Stephanie Bentenshaw of Darien donated \$167.75 from her piggy bank.

Kate and Claire Wild of Glen Ellyn donated money, food and supplies for the animals at the shelter.

Mary Ellen Hope of Bishop's Chili donated all of the proceeds from their 2009 golf outing to the shelter in honor of her dog Tally that she adopted from us.

Colleen Kuhn from Waste Management collected donations for the shelter from the office staff. They collected numerous food and supply donations.

The student council members at Pierce Downers School collected numerous food and supply donations for the animals at the shelter.

The student union at Glen Crest Middle School in Glen Ellyn donated \$153.90 to the shelter.

Ryan Vezza of Elmhurst turned 7 and asked for donations for the shelter instead of gifts for him. He received food, supplies, money and 2 gift cards for the animals at the shelter.

The Honor Students at Downers Grove North High School stood outside of local Jewel stores and collected food, supplies and money for the shelter.

El Sierra Student Council had a fundraiser and raised \$250 for the shelter.

Katherine Luchette solicited donations from the community and gave them to the shelter. She did this as part of a community service project for her 8th grade class.

The Wood Dale School District conducted its annual Change for Change drive. The children, families and staff collected change for a two week period. WSHS was one of the charities that the students chose to donate the money too. They donated \$183.68.

Zoe Kupka is in the confirmation program at the First Congregational United Church of Christ in Downers Grove. Their confirmation teacher gave them seed money and asked them to multiply the money via working and/or asking others for donations to a charitable organization of their choice. Zoe Kupka selected WSHS to donate her money too.

The brownie troop at Whittier Elementary School in Downers Grove made catnip sock toys and donated them to the shelter.

Barbara Collins of Downers Grove turned 10 and asked for donations for the shelter instead of gifts for her. She received numerous food and supply donations.

Nicole Campbell of Lombard turned 10 and asked for donations for the shelter instead of gifts for her. She received supply donations and \$140 for the animals at the shelter.

Maren Luckey, a 6 year old from Downers Grove, donated \$37 to the shelter.

Grace Crosson and her friends went caroling during the holidays and collected donations for the animals at the shelter.

The TriZetto Group in Naperville, designated WSHS as one of its charities of the month for September 2009. They collected numerous food, supply and monetary donations.

The Hoefler family adopted a cat Clark from the shelter. In honor of his one year adoption anniversary and 2nd birthday, they donated money to the shelter.

Maeve and Fiona Murphy of Elmhurst and Kate Gargano of Villa Park, turned 8 years old and asked for donations for the shelter instead of gifts for themselves. They collected numerous food and supply donations.



Ask The Trainer

Leash aggression is very prevalent in dogs today, and is one reason that many owners are afraid to socialize their dogs. It is however quite common to have a leash aggressive dog that is very friendly off leash. This article is meant to explain how I work with leash aggression in the Chicago Suburbs and how I train clients to do it on their own.

The vast majority of dogs that growl, bark, and lunge on leash are not aggressive dogs. Their leash issues are usually caused by walking in an excited dominant state. When the dog's excited dominant brain feels frustration from being restrained by the leash and collar, aggression can start to occur. This is why I have coined the term Leash Frustration as opposed to leash aggression. Many owners who have dogs with this issue make the problem worse when they pass another dog by tightening up on the leash and further frustrating the dog.

To overcome this issue I start by teaching the dog to walk in a calm submissive state without other dogs around. This entails training the dog to walk at my side (never ahead) with their attention on the road ahead. It is very important that the dog's brain is not in prey mode (constantly looking side to side for something to focus on). As you teach the dog to walk at your side make sure that you use sharp tugs instead of pulls. Each correction should last no longer than the time it takes to snap your fingers. With the dog on your left side practice making left about turns until the

dog slows down for you to turn each time.

Once the dog walks at your side in a calm submissive state without dogs around it is time to start practicing passing dogs. The key to success here is to never ever fail. If your dog barks or lunges it is not a failure, it is only a failure if you leave the situation without calming your dog down. This is one reason that many owners never conquer this issue. They pass a dog and their dog lunges so they keep walking. This process will be repeated day after day until the pattern is changed. The biggest change that you need to make for now on is to never leave a situation until your dog is completely calm and submissive. I achieve this by having a helper with a dog so that we can work for as long as we need to.

Start your training by walking your dog for as long as you need to until they are in an appropriate state of mind. When ready, walk past the other dog while keeping your dog moving and looking forward. Never stop walking or yell at your dog, it only makes the issue worse. As you pass the dog keep walking until your dog is calm and focused forward. If he keeps looking back at the other dog give short tugs forward until you break his attention. When your dog is calm, turn and walk back past the other dog and keep walking until yours is calm. Your dog should never be ahead of you, so give as many tugs as necessary to keep him in position. It is much easier to keep a dog at your side than to try to get him back

after he gets too far forward. Every time your dog turns to look at the other dog you should be correcting. Successfully performing this technique is more of a dance than it is training. The purpose of each tug is to break your dogs focus and redirect it the way that you want. As you do this you will be tugging back as you walk towards the dog, tugging away from the other dog as you pass, and tugging forward after you have passed. Each tug has a purpose, and you keep working until you don't need the corrections anymore.

I have never had a dog that I couldn't achieve this with in a relatively short period of time. The hardest part as a trainer is teaching a human to be consistent with these methods. If you allow yourself plenty of time and don't get frustrated you will always have success. If this article piques your interest and you would like help, I can usually train a human to perform this on their own after one training session.

Please address questions and suggestions for future training articles to:

Matt Covey
West Suburban
Humane Society
1901 Ogden Avenue
Downers Grove, IL 60515
director@wsha-dg.org



Pet Health Watch by Dr. Main, DVM

Dear Dr. Main:

Can dogs develop glaucoma?

Glaucoma in dogs and cats can occur. It is rare in our feline patients and affects about one percent of all dogs. You may be wondering what glaucoma actually is. Glaucoma is defined as increased pressure within the eye. It is a painful condition and can lead to blindness.

When pressure builds within the eye it not only causes pain for the patient, but it also begins to damage structures within the eye. For example the blood supply to the optic nerve is damaged, and nerve cells within the retina die. It is these changes that lead to blindness.

Normal pressure inside the eye ranges between 8 and 20 mm of Mercury (Hg) as measured by an instrument called a Tono-Pen. The pressure inside the eye is referred to as intraocular pressure, or (IOP). Younger dogs tend to have higher normal IOP than older ones. IOP can vary with breed, age, time of day, or even the type of restraint. In general if the pressure is above 50 mm Hg for more than 3 days the eye will be blind.

How does one recognize the signs of glaucoma? Patients with glaucoma may be lethargic and irritable related to the eye pain. In addition the eye will look red with enlarged blood vessels over the white

portion of the eye or the sclera. The pupil will be dilated and the cornea may look foggy. The patient may also be blind. If these signs are observed by the pet owner, they should seek immediate veterinary care. Glaucoma is a true emergency situation.

The only way to determine if a patient has glaucoma is to measure the IOP with an instrument. Most veterinarians will be able to measure eye pressure with a Tono-Pen. The procedure is simple, quick, and only requires a topical anesthetic on the eye. Certain breeds can get primary glaucoma which is caused by an anatomical problem with the angle between the iris and the cornea inside the eye. Some of the breeds include terriers, basset hounds, beagles, and Arctic circle breeds. For these breeds it is best to perform routine screening annually for early detection of pressure changes within the eye.

The eye is a dynamic organ with a continual production of fluid in the eye, flow of this fluid through the eye, and drainage of this fluid from the eye. The drainage of fluid occurs at the angle between the iris and cornea within the eye. Anything that alters the production, flow, or drainage of this intra-ocular fluid can lead to glaucoma.

Hence changes within the eye like long standing cataracts, a tumor, or inflammation could cause glaucoma. Or as previously

mentioned inherited anatomical problems in the eye could cause glaucoma.

Glaucoma is a treatable condition. Your local veterinarian and sometimes with the help of a specialist (veterinary ophthalmologist), can offer proper management of this condition. Although often manageable, glaucoma can be difficult to treat, and can lead to the loss of an eye.

In conclusion all red eyes especially if the pupil is dilated should have a pressure measurement taken. Glaucoma is an emergency, because if the pressure remains high not only is it painful it also can cause permanent blindness. Routine testing is advised for susceptible breeds. Through working closely with your veterinarian many cases of glaucoma can be managed successfully.

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



E-Mails and Letters From Adopters

Hello there!

My boyfriend and I adopted Nestle from the humane society a few weeks ago and I wanted to let you all know how things are going. Nestle seemed to be a favorite at the humane society, and I can see why, so I wanted to let everyone know how well he is doing. I have attached a few pictures – I apologize for the size of some of them, they were taken on my phone and are kind of tiny. He and our other dog, Jackie Brown, get along so well. They are inseparable and are a match made in heaven. If you notice the two pictures of them together are of them sleeping because they are always playing and I have lot of blurry pictures of them together.

Nestle is an awesome addition to our house, he is so gentle and a total cuddle bug, and can be a little bit of a couch potato, but that's ok. He has become a shoe eater, so we are trying to break that habit and we have found that he can break out of his cage if he really wants to. But if those are the only two problems we have, that is just fine. Usually when he breaks out of his cage he just ends up on the couch anyways. He loves to go running with my boyfriend and surprisingly my boyfriend seems to get tired before Nestle! We've been doing lots of walking, jogging, car rides and visits to the doggie bakery and pet stores. He is a regular visitor at my brother's house where he plays with my two little nephews...they love Nestle! We couldn't ask for a better dog. The first time I walked both of the dogs by myself I was a little nervous, but he walks so calmly that he has made our other dog much easier to walk (and she was a terror to walk!).

We let him meet as many dogs as we can when we go out and he seems to be partial to tiny little Yorkies for some reason. A lot of people are skittish at first with him, which is understandable-he's pretty intimidating looking at first, but they all are very surprised at how gentle and calm he is. He is doing great with housebreaking and hasn't had an accident since the first few days we had him. He loves running around in the back yard, loves playing in the snow and eats as much of it as he can while he is out there. Cuts down on our shoveling time. Beggin Strips seem to be his favorite treat along with potato chips. We try to keep the potato chips to a minimum, but he counter surfs sometimes and helps himself.

I will make sure to keep in contact with the shelter and keep sending pictures. Thank you for saving Nestle and for everything you do for rescued dogs. Keep saving those pit bulls!!

EJ and Tracy





West Suburban Humane Society

Presents:



17th Annual

BARKA PALOOZA

WALKATHON & PET EXPO

Sunday, September 26, 2010

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 9:00am**
- 🐾 **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; 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.

