



Don't miss the
Event of the year.

STRAY THOUGHTS

Volunteer - You Can Make a Difference

Now that summer is here, maybe you are finding yourself with a little more time on your hands. Would you like to have fun and make a difference in the community? Consider volunteering. Volunteering is a fun, rewarding experience! We have a variety of volunteer opportunities available.

- Work for three hours on a weekday or weekend morning, helping to clean, feed and medicate the animals. It may not seem like a very glamorous job but it is a necessity and you can bet the animals sure do appreciate it!



- Volunteer during our open hours and act as an adoption counselor. Adoption counselors' work with the public to assist them in finding an animal that best suits their lifestyle and family situation. There is nothing quite as rewarding as when a great match is made and an animal finds a permanent loving home.
- Work at a fundraising event. While this does not involve working directly with the animals it is still very important. Without the appropriate funds we would not be able to properly care for the animals.
- Come in for a few hours and spend one on one quality time with an animal. Walk them, play with them, brush them and give them the TLC that they desperately need and deserve.

- Sign up to be a temporary care home for a needy dog or cat. It can be a lot of work but the positives definitely outweigh the negatives. Some of the animals that come into the shelter have been neglected, abused or have not had any training. They need to be socialized and learn basic obedience commands. Sometimes the animals are pregnant and need to be in a temporary care home until they have their babies and the babies are old enough to be adopted. Image the satisfaction of helping these animals get ready to be adopted and find a home of their own. There is nothing quite like it.

If you are interested in volunteering, you can start by attending one of our New Volunteer Orientations. Saturday orientations start at 9:00 am and Wednesday orientations start at 6:30 pm. All orientations will last approximately 1 hour. Registration is not required for your attendance. The dates for the rest of the year are:

August 12th and 26th
September 9th and 23rd
October 7th and 21st
November 4th and 18th
December 2nd, 16th and 30th

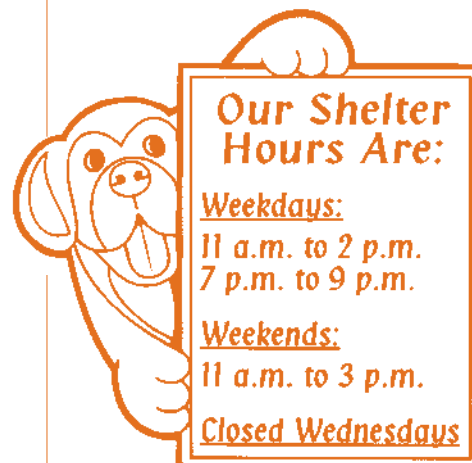
If you have any additional questions, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Rebecca Koehler by e-mailing Volunteer@wshs-dg.org or calling ext. 45. Whether you have one hour or ten hours a week to give, you can and will make a difference in the lives of animals!



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



Upcoming Events 630-960-9600, ext. 24

AUGUST

24th, Thursday Eat for Pete at Max & Erma's.
For details see page 3

SEPTEMBER

4th, Monday Labor Day-WSHS will be closed today.

24th, Sunday 13th Annual Barkapalooza Walkathon and Pet Expo
Look for your flyer in this addition of Stray Thoughts!

25th – 27th, Monday - Wednesday Dominick's Benefit Days. Shop at Dominick's and help the animals at the shelter. See page 3 for coupon. More are available at the shelter.

OCTOBER -

ADOPT A SHELTER DOG MONTH

For more info on our special adoption promotion, see page 3.

28th, Saturday Mutts Need Moola! Look for WSHS at local Jewel stores in the Downers Grove area collecting money for the homeless animals at the shelter.

WSHS Wish List

- Paper Towels
- 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, light formula – cat and dog and senior formula – cat and dog. 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 (no scoopable)
- Stamps (to be used for postage)
- Garbage bags (13 & 30 gallon sizes)
- 6" paper plates
- Bleach
- Laundry Detergent
- **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.



INTEGRATED PRINT MANAGEMENT

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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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Anne Marie Craighead, Controller/Treasurer
Carol Glombicki, Director
Guy Pinta, Director
Renee Cantalupo, Director
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Pam Gambill, Director

THE WSHS STAFF:

Executive Director: Carolyn Mossberger (Ext. 25)
Animal Care Manager: Sarah Stromberg (Ext. 23)
Night and Weekend Manager: Catherine Schmitt
Publicity / Events: Eva Smith (Ext. 24)
Animal Care Ass'ts: Vicky Samiec and
Bonnie Benton
Adoption Desk: Lynn
Volunteer Coordinator: Rebecca Koehler (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**

Shelter Dogs Looking For A Home!

October is Adopt a Shelter Dog Month

We want to start you and your new companion off on the right paw (and foot)!

Any dog adopted in the month of October will receive a coupon for a free vet exam and rabies vaccine at All Creatures Great and Small

Veterinary Practice in Downers Grove and a \$50 gift certificate toward a basic dog obedience training class at Dog Gone Good Dog Training.

A very special thank you to Dr. Ken Eisenberg and his staff at All Creatures and Michele Meyer and her staff at Dog Gone Good Dog Training for offering this wonderful incentive to our adopters.

If you are looking at adding a new member to your household, now is the time to do it. Take advantage of this great offer and give one of our dogs a second chance.

Eat For Pete

On Thursday, August 24th, West Suburban Humane Society invites you to Eat for Pete. If you eat lunch or dinner at Max & Erma's located at 2020 West 75th Street in Woodridge on the 24th, 20% of your sales will be donated to the shelter. You have to have a flyer to participate. Flyers are available on our web site at www.WSHS-DG.org or at the shelter.

Stop by and pick up yours today!

Dominick's Benefit Days

Dominick's		Benefit Days Slip	
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday		08/21/08	08/27/08
Are Dominick's Benefit Days for:		Date	
West Suburban Humane Society		Item 000673	
Vet 98000		Enter Subtotal	
		Amount of Purchase	
Operator Number	Store Number	Dollars	Cents
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Thank you for Shopping At Dominick's			
** Food Purchases Only **		Customer's Signature	

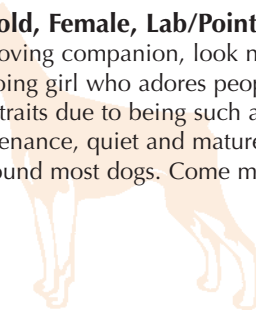
Ready For a Home



Panda

7 year old, Female, Lab/Pointer Mix

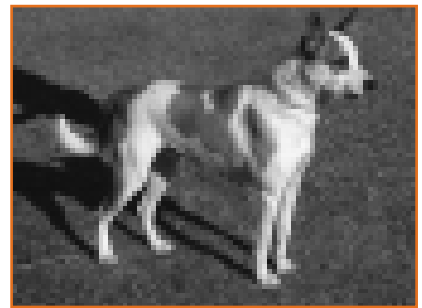
If you're looking for an instant, loving companion, look no further! Panda is a pretty, friendly, approachable and outgoing girl who adores people and going for walks. She possesses a rare combination of traits due to being such a perfect age - she is energetic, lively and playful, yet low-maintenance, quiet and mature. She would do best in an adult only home and is good around most dogs. Come meet this sweet girl and let her capture your heart!



Rebound

3 year old, Male, Terrier Mix

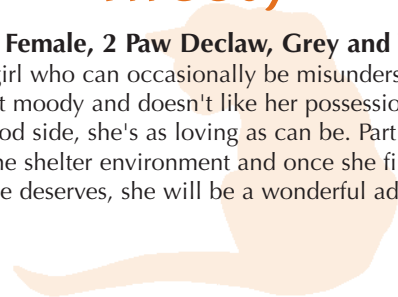
Rebound is such a handsome boy! A little shy with new people, once he warms up to you, he'll be your friend for life. Rebound is a bit more shy around men, so please be patient with him. Rebound is very smart. He walks well on leash and knows commands sit, off, down and stay. Rebound does well with most large dogs but cannot live with small dogs, cats or other small animals. Rebound loves to play ball and would make an excellent running partner!



Tweety

9½ year old, Female, 2 Paw Declaw, Grey and White dmh

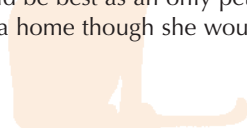
Tweety is a very sweet girl who can occasionally be misunderstood. She sometimes can come across as a bit moody and doesn't like her possessions moved around. Once you get on her good side, she's as loving as can be. Part of her moodiness may be due to the stress of the shelter environment and once she finds a family who can give her the attention she deserves, she will be a wonderful addition.



Peggy Sue

5 year old, Female, 2 Paw Declaw, Grey Tabby

Peggy Sue is a very friendly and affectionate lady. She loves attention and appears to be extremely content when any is given to her. Once you stop, she'll do almost anything to get some more! She does, however, prefer to stay in her cage at the moment. Peggy Sue would be best as an only pet and can sometimes play a bit rough. Once she has the run of a home though she would most likely calm down. Could that home be yours?



From Wags To Riches Raffle

Attention all couch potatoes! Feeling lucky?



West Suburban Humane Society is raffling off your choice of a Toshiba HD Plasma Television or a \$2,000 gift certificate from Fry's Electronics.

The winning ticket will be drawn on Sunday, September 24th at 2:00 pm at the end of our 13th Annual Barkapalooza Walkathon and Pet Expo. The winner will be notified by phone no later than Monday, September 25th at 5:00 pm

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 5 free tickets!



Need more tickets? Get up off that couch and stop by our adoption center at 1901 W. Ogden Avenue in Downers Grove. You may also call us at (630) 960-9600, ext. 24 or 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.

Every ticket you buy increases your chance of winning. There's no limit to the number of tickets bought or sold and EVERY from Wags to Riches raffle ticket donation helps WSHS rescue and provide care for homeless cats and dogs.

Disclaimer – WSHS reserves the right to substitute another comparable brand of HD Plasma Television if the Toshiba is no longer available or in stock.

WalMart and the Very Best Pet Network partner with WSHS to help animals!

WalMart and Purina award West Suburban Humane Society for their participation in the Very Best Pet Network. You can visit the WalMart partner stores at Rt. 53 in Glen Ellyn and 75th Street in Darien and see available West Suburban pet photos posted in the pet centers at the stores. WalMart generously acts as corporate sponsor at our biggest event of the year Barkapalooza Walk and Pet Expo, Sunday, September 24, 2006.



From Wags To Riches Raffle

<p>Name _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>Phone _____</p> <p> West Suburban Humane Society 1901 W. Ogden Avenue, Downers Grove, IL 60515 630-960-9600</p>	<p>Name _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>Phone _____</p> <p> West Suburban Humane Society 1901 W. Ogden Avenue, Downers Grove, IL 60515 630-960-9600</p>	<p>Name _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>Phone _____</p> <p> West Suburban Humane Society 1901 W. Ogden Avenue, Downers Grove, IL 60515 630-960-9600</p>
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Pet Watch by Dr. Ken Eisenberg, DVM

Dear Dr. Eisenberg:

I recently adopted a dog that has had all his vaccinations except the rabies vaccine. I was told he would need this vaccine and that it had to be given by my vet. What is rabies? Does my dog really need this vaccination because I always worry about over vaccinating my pet?

*Sincerely,
A Rabid Fan*

Dear Rabid Fan:

Rabies is a disease caused by a rhabdovirus and it has been one of the most feared infections throughout history. According to the Illinois Department of Public Health statistics reported for 2005 there were 51 positive cases of rabies documented in animals in Illinois. DuPage County reported 2 cases of rabies in bats. Although there were no reported case of rabies in dogs, cats, or humans, it was found in bats, cows, foxes, and skunks in Illinois. It is evident the virus is still present in the wildlife of Illinois and needs to be controlled.

The virus is present in an infected animal's saliva and is most often transmitted via a bite wound. Once inside the wound the virus attaches to muscle cells. It then penetrates the nervous tissue and slowly progresses to the brain tissue. Once the virus is inside the nervous system it cannot be attacked by the host's immune system. This slow progression can take as long as one year but usually takes 20 to 30 days. Once inside the brain it proceeds to become segregated throughout the body, including the victim's saliva. It is at this point the virus can again be transmitted to another victim and the symptoms of the virus become evident. These symptoms are called stages and they consist of the Prodromal, Excitative, and Paralytic or Dumb stage. This final stage is when the respiratory muscles become paralyzed and the animal soon dies. Most human exposure occurs during this final stage.

It is a state law in Illinois that all dogs be vaccinated against the rabies virus with an approved killed vaccine that

must be given by a licensed veterinarian. The duration of the immunity may vary from one to three years depending on the vaccine used. Local laws govern other pets and their rabies requirements. In DuPage County, for example, all cats are required to be vaccinated with the rabies vaccine. For any dog or cat that is receiving the vaccine for the first time, a booster is required in one year. This booster can then be a one-year or three-year vaccine. The vaccines are safe and effective. Your veterinarian can further explain the benefits of the vaccine and alleviate any other concerns you may have.

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

Dr. Eisenberg
West Suburban
Humane Society
1901 West Ogden Ave.
Downers Grove, IL
60515



E-Mails and Letters From Adopters

Dear WSHS,

I have been in my new home now for 7 weeks. I tell you, this is the life. My new family is made up of 4 humans, 1 cat and me. The first couple of weeks I was so exhausted. I have to get my humans to and from school every weekday. That is four trips because one comes home in the middle of the day. We walk "uphill both ways". Speaking of school, I go to school too one night a week. The first class was a little scary with all the dogs and sitting and heeling. I am catching on fast. Everyone is very proud of me. I love my family very much. It is hard when I can't go everywhere with them. I have my own bedroom but it is lonely when they are gone. They say it is getting to hot for the car. Fortunately they always come back soon. You were so right about me finding a good home. This one is just right for me.

Love,

Eli

P.S. The cat loves me. He just pretends he isn't interested. I don't even get made when he tries to eat MY kibble from MY bowl.



Eli

HEARTY THANKS



Steve Wren, a WSHS volunteer, for chairing our Heritage Fest event. Also, thank you to all of the volunteers who came out and worked a shift. We couldn't have done it without your assistance. This year's event raised over \$3,400! Our best year ever!

...

The Kindergarten Class of Elmwood Elementary in Naperville for their generous food and supply donations.

...

The employees of Hinsbrook Bank for making us the recipients of the proceeds from the sale of their employee cookbook.

...

Emma Chaplin held a bike wash and raised \$5.96 for the animals at the shelter.

...

El Sierra School Student Council for their generous donation of \$550.00.

...

The Student Council students of Schafer School in Lombard held a Pennies for Pets event. The students collected change for the homeless animals and raised \$116.53.

...

Bailey Greenaberg of Downers Grove celebrated her 9th birthday and asked guests to bring items from our WSHS Wish List instead of gifts. She collected numerous food and supply donations.

...

Gracie Durham celebrated her 9th birthday and asked guests to bring items from our WSHS Wish List instead of gifts. She collected numerous food and supply donations.

Amelia Lysne celebrated her 9th birthday and asked guests to bring items from our WSHS Wish List instead of gifts. She collected numerous food and supply donations.

...

Melissa Abrams for her generous food, supply and monetary donations of \$420.00 in honor of her Bat Mitzvah.

...

Maine East High School Fine Arts Department participated in the Maine Invitational Speech Tournament. Rather than awarding the team with a trophy, each team was asked to choose a charity to receive the funds that would have spent on a trophy. WSHS was chosen as a \$50 award-winning charity.

...

The Student Council students of Henry Puffer School in Downers Grove held a Pennies for Pets event. The students collected change for the homeless animals over a two-week period and raised \$826.50.



Did you know.....

The shelter receives about 3,500 visitors a year, not counting the dedicated volunteers that come and go throughout the normal business and non-business hours. At any point in time, we have 40-60 animals in our trusted care, at the shelter, before permanent homes are found for them. The job of keeping our kennel and cattery clean and healthy is a 7 day a week - 365 days a year effort. This includes cleaning the inside cages, cleaning the outside dog runs, washing the food and water bowls, feeding our temporary 4-legged guests and, best of all; "playing" with our furry guests. A lot of volunteer and staff work hours go into this effort to maintain the health standards that are set by both our charter and mandated laws.

Did you know there are 3 shifts per day focused on taking care of the cats and another 3 shifts per day taking care of the dogs? If you count each person per shift, there are 150 volunteers staffing this monumental job and that's not counting

the efforts of our staff! Many of the shifts are understaffed and one of the shifts has no volunteer support at all, 3 shifts have only 1 person doing the work and many others have only 2 people helping out the best they can. Another 20-30 volunteers are needed to properly support these overall efforts. None of these numbers allow for sickness or vacation coverage.

Our greatest need is our weekday morning shifts and our weekday midday support shifts. If you find you have some time (1 to 3 hours) and would like to help us out, please contact Rebecca Kohler (630-960-9600x45) for further information. CAUTION: There is no monetary award for your work; however, there is occasional purr, lick and/or wag of a tail. How much is it worth to you knowing that you are able to make an enjoyable difference in an animal's life?

Ed Cryer