



Stray Thoughts

Fall 2024 News, Events & Adoption Information www.WSHS-DG.org

With the Support of Our Generous Donors, Dogs Like Axel Get a Second Chance

When we take in animals at West Suburban Humane Society, we commit to caring for them for the rest of their lives. Such is the case with Axel. Axel was adopted from West Suburban as a three-month-old puppy. For nine years, he lived a happy life with his owner. Unfortunately, his owner passed away recently, so Axel was returned to the adoption center.

As you can imagine, the first few weeks were tough for Axel. He didn't understand where his owner was or why he was in a strange place. In looking at his medical records, we noticed that he had lost a significant amount of weight over the past year and was having a lot of gastrointestinal (GI) issues. We made a vet appointment for Axel to have a senior wellness check-up. The bloodwork showed that Axel was losing protein. More tests were done, but unfortunately, they were inconclusive. Axel either has Irritable Bowel Disease or GI Lymphoma. The vet recommended a special diet, medication, and a probiotic.

The good news is that Axel's GI issues are improving, and he is beginning to gain weight. With love and attention from the staff and volunteers, Axel is starting to relax and feel comfortable at the adoption center. He even got to attend Barkapalooza where he had a great time getting lots of attention and pets!

At West Suburban, we make a lifelong commitment to the animals in our care. We provide whatever they need medically to ensure a good quality of life and ready



them to find their family. We couldn't do that without the support and generosity of our amazing donors.

Now that Axel's health is improving, he will be made available for adoption. He will make a loving and loyal companion for some lucky family.

Thank you for allowing us to further our mission of helping animals in need!

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A BIG THANKS to Our Barkapalooza Sponsors!



Artistic Dog and
Cat Grooming
Companion Animal Rehab
Enjoy Your Dog

Fetch
Happy Dog Barkery
Leaf Guard
Lisle Savings Bank

Midwest Waste
Consultants
Pet Butler
Pet Suites Naperville

Regal Mutt
Thrivent
Veterinary
Emergency Group

WSHS Wish List

- Paper Towels
 - Anti-bacterial hand soap
 - Dog Leashes (no retractable leashes)
 - 6 foot and 30 foot
 - Food!
 - Any **canned** cat, dog, kitten, and puppy food
 - For dry food, we use only Purina One dog and puppy formula and Purina One cat and kitten formula
 - Kitten milk replacement
 - Pet safe ice melt/salt
 - Dog and cat toys (we especially like Kong and Nylabone brands!)
 - Cat litter – unscented, clumping and/or clay
 - Postage stamps
 - Hand sanitizer
 - Six inch paper plates
 - Disinfecting wipes
 - Ziplock bags – gallon and quart sizes
 - Laundry detergent
- Monetary donations are always appreciated!**

West Suburban Humane Society

Board Members:

Mark Motuelle, President

David Welch, Vice President

Sarah Marshall,
Recording Secretary

Kerry Kopera,
Controller/Treasurer

Bob Koch, Director

Marci Levites, Director

Susan Liddi, Director

Scott McMillin, Director

Brian Wasielewski, Director

Maria Wrobel, Director

WSHS Staff:

Executive Director: Carolyn Mossberger

Director of Development: Heather Kash

Adoption Counselors: Carol Thygesen, Roberta Diehl,
Sarah Coolidge, Alyssa Bilak, Shea Casey

Animal Care Team: Brittany Askeland,
Jennifer Nathan Miller

Intake/Foster Coordinator: Lexi Vitale

Volunteer Coordinator: Heidi Janss

Events Coordinator: Hailey Nicewanner

Humane Education Manager: Deanne Tomanovich

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 630-960-9601 to submit articles or receive donation information.

Our adoption center is open for visitors but adoptions are being handled by appointment only. Check our website wshs-dg.org for up-to-date information.

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

Elf Male | 11 months old | Pitbull Mix

Hi everyone, I'm Elf and I'm so happy to meet you! Are you ready for an endless ray of sunshine in your life? I'm a happy-go-lucky kind of pittie who is wiggly, affectionate and goofy. My energy level is medium to high, but I'm a short hitter, so I'm gonna need a nap after we play. I get along with other dogs and love to play and wrestle with them. Any cats in the home should be dog savvy. I'm respectful, but I really want to play with them. My new home should have lots of places for us to cuddle, and lots of room for me to play. If you've been looking for a fun new friend, you've found him!



Keiko Female | 3 years old | Husky Mix

Hi, I'm Keiko and aren't I a beauty?! If you're looking for a dog with a heart full of love and a personality to match, I'm the lady for you! I'm sweet with sparkling eyes that shine with mischief and charm. My energy is medium, but I'm always eager for play or a walk. My ideal home is one where there are lots of places for us to cuddle, but there aren't any cats. I can't live with cats. I do well with other dogs, especially if they don't mind a little bit of my bossy charm. I can live with people of all ages. If you've been looking for a fun new friend, you've found her!



Churchill Male | 1 year old | White with Brown Tabby

Hi, I'm Churchill, and I'm the epitome of feline charisma! With a cheerful, playful spirit that knows no bounds, I'm on a mission to steal your heart and fill your home with endless love and laughter. I'm currently in a foster home, and my foster mom has tons of good stuff to say about me!

"Churchill is a very sweet young boy with a big heart. His foster home has two active young boys, who play with him and carry him around the house. He has never bitten or scratched anyone! He loves to purr and is warming up to cuddles. He is very attentive to his family. When the family is all home, he walks around checking on all family members to make sure we are OK. He is very good about using the scratching post and has not tried to scratch any furniture. He is gentle and friendly and is ready for his forever family."

If you are looking for an affectionate, playful cat to make your family complete, apply to meet me today!



Goodyear Male | 1 year old | Grey Tabby

Hi, I'm Goodyear! I'm a grey tabby with fluff who is ready to find my forever home! I'm a social guy who loves people of all ages. I'm affectionate, sweet, curious, and always interested in whatever you are doing! I'm happy being friends with other cats, as long as they respect my boundaries. I'm a brave boy who isn't afraid to go exploring or greet a stranger to welcome them in. If you think I'm the guy you've been looking for, apply to meet me today!



Emails from Adopters

Hi WSHS,

Beau is doing great! He settled in quickly and is very comfortable and content. We couldn't ask for a better cat!



Hello,

Zed is doing great! Potty training's going well and he's adjusting nicely. We're so very happy to have him in our home!



Hello,

We have been loving having Reuben home with us! He is the sweetest little guy and full of crazy puppy energy! He has already learned to sit, paw, and lay. He'll do just about anything for a treat! We appreciate your teams help with our adoption process and it couldn't have gone better!



Hi there,

Thank you for checking up on Frisky. We're so happy to have her in our home and we renamed her Luna. She had to wear her a cone for 10 days to recover from her spay surgery but she is now fully recovered and active. She is funny, sweet, and very curious, We are having fun with her and she is loved and happy.



Above & Beyond



Tim Campbell, Cattery, Events, Grant Writing

Tim has been volunteering for a little over a year, and has been going above and beyond from the start. He frequently volunteers for the shelter at events, has been helping with grant writing, and subs on holidays. During our regular Wednesday evening shifts he is reliable and upbeat, always willing to go the extra mile.

He isn't phased by aggressive or shy cats. I've seen him get bit by a cat, put a Band-Aid on, and go back to the same cat to try and make up. He spends extra time with the especially shy cats to help get them out of their shells, and worked hard with Chester to get him used to accepting pets.

In the short time he's been here Tim has made a big impact on our shift and the shelter, and he is incredibly deserving of recognition.



Marie Wasielewski, Kennel

Marie has always been one of the first volunteers to fill in when needed in the kennel. Due to a new work schedule, Marie had to step down from her regular shift

several years ago. What could have been a loss was actually a huge gain.

Marie continually subs on any and all shifts, several times a week, and is always checking in to make sure the shifts are covered when she has availability. Several volunteers have Marie "on speed dial" when they need back up. Marie's concern for the WSHS animals is unparalleled.

As a bonus, the dogs love when Marie comes in because they know they will be getting exceptional care on their long walks.



Christy Dan, Kennel

Christy goes above and beyond every time she is in the kennel. She volunteers on two morning kennel shifts every week and subs often, especially when the STAR dogs are in need.

She not only gives of her time but her heart. Christy takes her role in the care of the dogs seriously and makes sure that each dog gets the attention they need to help them cope with being in the shelter. Christy is always communicating with the animal care team to find out what can be done to provide the dogs with enrichment and to provide feedback as she works with the dogs.

Christy can often be found staying later in the morning to clean the inside and outside drains and the scooper stations in each yard. None of these are pleasant tasks but they need to be done and Christy attends to them regularly. Christy will also provide additional training and support to volunteers outside of her shift, all for the benefit of the dogs.

Volunteer Spotlight

In addition to our regular volunteer base of 400+ individuals who take care of the animals on three shifts a day, seven days a week, West Suburban Humane Society also benefits from the generosity of corporations looking to help. One of these corporate groups was Perdoceo Education Corporation (PEC) who volunteered in September. PEC is an education company that provides postsecondary educational opportunities. They also offer paid volunteer time as a benefit to their full-time employees.

PEC staff members from the Records and Financial Aid departments expressed interest in supporting the animal population at WSHS. Usually, our corporate groups provide secondary support to our animals by completing activities that are not able to be done during the regular shift time. The groups deep-clean animal living areas and play yards, organize and restock supplies, and provide additional socialization time with the cats and dogs. The PEC group was very interested in hands-on work with our animals, so we arranged for five of our kennel dogs to go to the park with the volunteers after they cleaned and organized.

WSHS dogs get out of their runs three times a day with our shift volunteers, but they easily become bored in between in the kennel environment. We are always looking for activities that will enrich our animals' time while they wait to be adopted. The PEC staff, along with a couple of our kennel volunteers, took Waffles, Benny, Elf, Ada and Silas on a pack walk. The dogs spent the afternoon walking, sniffing and enjoying the great weather. They got to see each other and meet new people. These activities reduced boredom and relieved stress for the dogs. As a bonus, the walk was also beneficial to our corporate volunteers who work remotely from home and enjoyed the time out together.

The volunteers said they had a great time with the animals on "such memorable afternoon." The group also appreciated that the volunteer experience was "energetic and informative and...that we all got to participate at a level that was comfortable for...each individual." WSHS is grateful to everyone who gives of their time and heart for the benefit of our animals.



Hearty Thanks

Marisol R., an East Leyden Student

collected food and supplies for the animals at the adoption center.

Meadowlark Quilters made and donated 7 dog beds and 14 dog pads for the dogs at the adoption center.

Eloise and Lola made cozy blankets and homemade dog toys for the dogs at the adoption center.

Annie and Ruby, both in sixth grade, donated \$40 that they raised from selling bracelets.

Girl Scout Troop #55883 donated food, supplies and \$365 to the animals at the adoption center.



Congratulations to Our Barkapalooza 2024 Pledge and Raffle Winners!

Top Pledge Contributors:

1st Place Heidi Janss of Wheaton raised \$5,635.98

2nd Place Carolyn Mossberger of Romeoville raised \$2,742.55

3rd Place Heather Kash of Darien raised \$2,571.26

4th Place Cindy Johnson of Downers Grove raised \$2,541.73

Wags to Riches Raffle Winner:

Valerie Wilder of Bolingbrook was the \$1,000 winner of our Wags to Riches Raffle! Valerie generously donated \$200 of her winnings back to the adoption center.





West Suburban
Humane Society

1901 W. Ogden Avenue
Downers Grove, IL 60515

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Winner, Winner Taco Dinner!
Pawction 2024

Join us to help the homeless cats
and dogs of West Suburban
Humane Society!

1901 W. Ogden Ave, Downers Grove, IL
Saturday, December 7, 2024; 6-9 pm

Learn more at:
<https://2024Pawction.givesmart.com>



Thank You to Our Sponsors!

