



**West Suburban
Humane Society**



Stray Thoughts

Spring 2026

News, Events & Adoption Information

www.WSHS-DG.org

Ten Little Pups Now Have a Big Bright Future

They arrived in a single, wiggling bundle – ten tiny puppies, just eight weeks old, their whole lives ahead of them. A few weeks ago, we received a call from a downstate animal control about an unexpected litter. Their owner, overwhelmed by a surprise situation, made the difficult decision to surrender them so they could have the opportunity to find loving homes.

When the puppies arrived, it was clear they needed medical attention. All ten were suffering from kennel cough and had significant parasite burdens. Our animal care team quickly began treatment, providing medication, supportive care, and a safe place to rest and recover. Before long, we started to see improvement—more energy, healthy appetites, and the beginnings of the playful personalities you expect from puppies their age.

Just as they were close to being ready for adoption, the situation changed again. The puppies tested positive for parvovirus, a serious and highly contagious illness that can be life-threatening, especially in young dogs.

Two of the puppies required hospitalization and are currently receiving intensive veterinary care. The remaining eight are being closely monitored here at the shelter, where our team is providing supportive treatment and making sure they stay as comfortable as possible.

We are hopeful that, with continued care, all ten puppies will recover and go on to live healthy lives with families of their own.

Unexpected cases like this place a significant strain on our resources. The care these puppies need—and deserve—is only possible because of the compassion and generosity of supporters like you.

Your donation means lifesaving treatment. It means second chances. It means that when the next call comes—no matter how difficult—we can still say “yes.”

Because of you, hope is never out of reach. And because of you, ten little puppies still have a future worth fighting for.



Boa



Chopper



Gold Roger



Kaya



Luffy



Mikita



Nami



Robin



Vivi



Zoro

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Upcoming Events

Trivia Night

Saturday, May 9th, 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.
American Legion in Downers Grove

PURRide Kitten Adoption Event

Saturday, June 27th, 12:00 – 3:00 p.m.
West Suburban Humane Society

Barkapalooza

Sunday, September 27th, Lisle Community Park

- 5K Run: 8:00 a.m.
- RescueFest: 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
- 1 Mile Walk: 9:30 a.m.

Pawction

Saturday, December 5th, 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.
West Suburban Humane Society

Questions for any event: Contact: Events@wshs-dg.org

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
- 13 gallon garbage bags
- 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

Tyler Born, Director
Mandy Kass, Director
Bob Koch, Director
Marci Levites, Director
Susan Liddi, Director
Kimberly Sennerikuppum,
Director
Maria Wrobel, Director

WSHS Staff:

Executive Director: Carolyn Mossberger
Director of Development: Zoe McGrath
Development Coordinator Evin Hook
Adoption Counselors: Carol Thygesen, Roberta Diehl, Shea Casey, Paula Rodriguez Paredes, Nyah Eady
Animal Care Team: Brittany Askeland, Jennifer Miller
Intake/Foster Coordinator: Lexi Vitale
Volunteer Coordinator: Heidi Janss
Events Coordinator: Hailey Nicewanner
Humane Education Manager: Deanne Tomanovich
Humane Education Coordinator: Amy Ward

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

Bindi Female | 10.5 months old | Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever Mix

Hi, I'm Bindi and it's great to meet you! I'm a professional tail wagger, full-time best friend, and part-time zoomie enthusiast. I'm about 11 months old, which means I've got a mix of puppy sweetness and "let's go do something fun!" energy. I love people and if you've got hands for petting, I'm already your biggest fan. I love other dogs too. Playtime? Yes please. Let's make friends with everyone. If you have a dog savvy cat, I can make that work- I'm curious and friendly, just figuring out feline etiquette. If you've been looking for a joyful, wiggly greeting everyday, you've found the perfect companion! Send in an application today!



Scott Male | 11 months old | Lab Mix

Hi, I'm Scott and I'm so happy to meet you! I'm a lively, outgoing guy who loves meeting new people and making friends. My energy level is medium, but when it's time to play, I can really bring it. I love romping around with other dogs and showing off my best zoomies. My new home can have people of all ages and other dogs, but it can't have cats. They don't appreciate my enthusiasm about life. If you've been looking for a happy, playful dude who will keep life interesting, you've found him! Send an application today!

Special Requirements: No cats.



Horchata Female | 2 years old | Tabico

Hi, I'm Horchata! I'm a beautiful Tabico who is ready to find my forever home. I'm a friendly, affectionate girl who loves people of all ages. I do well with other cats and enjoy respectful feline friends. I don't put up with any nonsense and am not afraid to stand up for myself if another cat tries to boss me around! My quiet maturity and gentle nature make me an excellent addition to most homes. If you think I sound like the one for you, apply to meet me today!



Penny Female | 5 years old | Tortie

Hi, I'm Penny! I'm a sweet and petite tortie who is looking for my forever home. My personality is sweet, affectionate, and a little bit shy! I came from a home with too many cats, so being in the cattery can be a little overwhelming for me at times. For this reason, I like to spend a lot of time in a comfy bed where the bossier cats won't bother me. I do well with people of all ages as well as other cats, as long as nobody is too intimidating or noisy! I'd do best in a quiet home where I can feel safe and come out of my shell a bit. In the right home, my confidence will grow and I will make an amazing addition to the family. If you are looking for a gentle kitty who will really appreciate all the love you have to give, apply to meet me today!



Emails from Adopters

Hi WSHS,

Taki, now known as Dewey, is doing so well at home! He is the sweetest boy and after some days of transitioning/adjusting, he and our dog are getting along very well. We are so grateful to have found him at WSHS!



Hi there!

Greg is doing really well. He has such a unique personality and is so different from any other cat I've had. I've never had a cat who loves to eat this much and is so vocal about letting you know when he's hungry.



Greg also LOVES attention while also not being shy at all. He's been my shadow and sleeps next to me every night. He purrs constantly, especially when I'm holding him, so I know he's really happy in his new home.

We're really glad to have welcomed him into our home!

Hello,

Santos (now Joni). is doing fantastic. She's quickly become a beloved member of our family. Joni and Otis (WSHS Elf) have become best friends. She underwent spay surgery yesterday and is recovering well. Otis is being incredibly respectful of her, but I know they both can't wait to resume their playful antics.



Hello WSHS,

Houston (now Taka) is doing amazing and is sleeping right next to me as I write this! We truly feel like God picked this doggie for our family. He is such a love bug and we are so so in love.



Our home is filled with happy paws again and it's so beautiful! I quite literally cried with excitement when I picked him up from the vet, and a couple of days ago I cried with gratitude! He is an amazing addition to our family and we feel very lucky!

Above & Beyond: Charlie Tarjan and Andrea Radigan

Charlie always puts the animals at WSHS first; his motto is “No such thing as too much.”

As a kennel volunteer, Charlie has given extra time to the dogs by covering absences on other shifts on a regular basis; by volunteering on the holidays, often for more than one shift; and by helping other volunteers with dogs that can be challenging, like Midas.

Charlie also opens his home to animals in need, like shy pup Coltrane and Blaze, the cat that no one else could take. Charlie raised his hand immediately to the request to foster Blaze, saying “I have room in my heart and home!” Blaze, who was not adoptable from the shelter, now had a path to a happily ever after.

Charlie also steps up behind the scenes, recently taking over the bookkeeping duties for WSHS. Charlie makes it look easy to go above and beyond for animals in need. He does it every day he can, and he makes it fun with his unassuming sense of humor.

Andrea volunteers on the Wednesday afternoon cat shift, but you can often find her popping in at other times to buddy with the cats that need extra care and socialization.

Andrea makes sure these are the cats she spends most of her time with, so they are getting human interaction on a regular basis. The new cats in enclosures in the intake room benefit the most from Andrea’s presence and compassion. She will spend hours in Intake, taking time with each cat to let them come out and roam if allowed or giving attention and love to the isolated cats while they stay in their own space.

Andrea is always looking for ways to make life better for the cats that are caged until they can be in the cattery. She will even take cats that are struggling by being enclosed for a walk outside, safely secured in a kitty backpack, where they can enjoy the fresh air. Andrea’s willingness to think “outside the cage” makes her an above and beyond volunteer.



Volunteer Spotlight

Most of our volunteers work on-site to take care of our dogs and cats, but there are several whose work shares our animals with the wider public. We'd like to introduce you to the WSHS Social Media Team: Giovanna Scarabaggio, Cathy Pesavento, Jill Scott, Francesca Scarabaggio, Evin Hook, and Shea Casey. This team uses their talents to showcase our animals to the largest community possible in hopes of adoption. They turn videos and photos into messages that pull on heartstrings and result in amazing benefits for WSHS dogs and cats.

Cathy has been volunteering in the kennel for 16 years and has served as Board Treasurer. After getting to know the animals as individuals, it was important for her to share their personalities with others. Giovanna started out as a kennel volunteer five years ago and now brings her digital marketing skills to the social media team and serves on the Associates Board. Jill began volunteering for WSHS as a foster family for kittens and joined a cattery shift when her first litter came to the adoption center three years ago. Her passion for enrichment through photography and interactive activities was a natural fit for this team. Shea might be one of the youngest of the group, but she has volunteered on the same kennel shift for 12 years and has always looked for a way to expand WSHS' outreach and impact on the community. Francesca and Evin joined the team a year ago; Francesca after assisting Giovanna with filming and Evin after looking for a way to use her creativity to further help animals.

Storytelling through social media is a powerful way to showcase animals, to raise awareness, and to connect homeless pets to adopters. The team meets once a month to plan upcoming campaigns. Then, they work individually in different roles, from taking footage to editing to writing captions, or they work together to film complex videos like "Thanksgiving dinner for the animals" which reached about 1.4 million views and

resulted in more than \$2,000 in donations. Their content allows the public, near and far, to rally around our animals. Long-term kennel residents, Maple and Gordy, found loving homes after their targeted campaigns. Another long-term resident Rennie received birthday gifts from all over the country after his birthday party video was shared. The volunteers are also exposed to the entire rescue process from intake to adoption. While filming animal intake, Evin learned about the work that goes into transitioning new arrivals to the shelter, including a mama cat who had given birth in transit.



Everyone on the team appreciates the breadth of strengths and skills they employ, working together towards the goal of getting as many animals as possible adopted into good homes. They also agree that patience is key to capturing authentic moments where people can connect. Jill's motto is "You can't force a cat to pose;" you must work on their timetable. Francesca gets the best results when using other volunteers, especially ones who have a relationship with the animal and can bring out their natural personality and behaviors.

Giovanna sums up the team's outlook: "It's incredibly rewarding to see an animal get adopted after being featured. Seeing that success and how excited families are with their new pet creates such warmth and pride in the work we do."

Hearty Thanks

Oak Brook Kennel Club donated the proceeds of \$160 from the raffle baskets they had at their 5th Anniversary party.

Jackson Elementary School read the book Dogtown about a dog shelter. Students were encouraged to donate money to support a local shelter. The students donated \$117.00. The first and second graders also made rope toys for the dogs to enjoy while they are waiting to be adopted.

Valdez Architecture and Engineering did a donation drive for the adoption center. They donated food and supplies.

The Kindergarten Girl Scout Troop and Pierce Downers donated the tips they received for wrapping holiday presents. They donated \$130.

The Naperville Library hosted a Community Cares event. At the event, people made approximately 125 dog toys and 125 cat toys. The staff donated a few additional dog toys as well. All of these toys were donated to the animals at the adoption center.

Noah turned 27 and his birthday wish was to go shopping with his brother and buy donations for the animals at the adoption center.



Valdez Architecture



Girl Scout Troop



Naperville Library



Noah

Let's talk pet guardianship

Honor your furry friend's "Gotcha Day" by ensuring they always have the love and care they need.

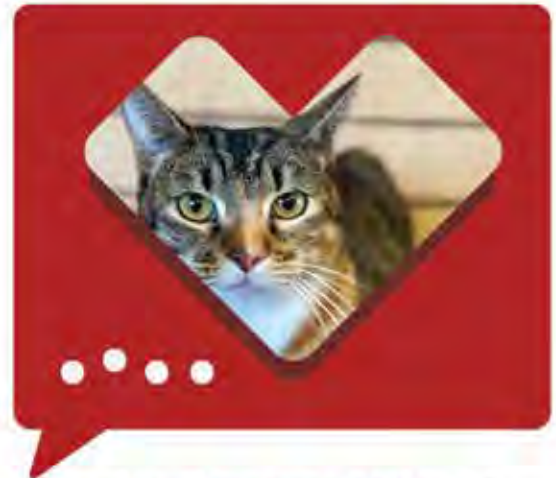


FREEWILL



With our partner, FreeWill, you can create your will to:

- ✓ Designate a trusted guardian for your pet(s) so the animals in your life are always in good hands
- ✓ Describe how to best care for your furry friend(s), expressing any medical, dietary, or other specific needs
- ✓ Support the people and causes close to your heart for years to come



Visit frwill.link/wshs_0426 to get started on your will today!

If you have made your will and included a gift to West Suburban Humane Society in your will, please fill out the brief form at FreeWill.com/Record/WSHS so we can thank you for your lasting commitment to help homeless cats and dogs.

Questions? Reach out at Development@wshs-dg.org





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Downers Grove, IL 60515

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5TH ANNUAL

West Suburban Humane Society

Golf Outing

West Suburban Humane Society

Since 1972

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JULY 27, 2026

Prairie Landing Golf Club

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