



# Stray Thoughts

Summer 2023 News, Events & Adoption Information [www.WSHS-DG.org](http://www.WSHS-DG.org)

## Join Us for Barkapalooza 5K Rescue Run, 2K Waggin' Tails Walk, and Rescue Fest!

Join us on Sunday, September 24th from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Lisle Community Park for a run, a walk, and a fun rescue fest! Now more than ever, we need the help of our generous supporters to raise the much-needed funds for the animals in our care.

### Ways you can help us reach our \$100,000 goal!

- Join our 5K Rescue Run! Registration for this chip-timed, USATF-certified event is only \$40 if you pre-register online (race day registration is \$50).\*
- Not a runner? Join our Waggin' Tails 2K Family Walk! Just \$20 for an individual and \$30 for a family.\*
- Become a Volunteer Fundraiser! No cost to you, and you will be automatically entered into our raffle drawing.\*
- Join us at Rescue Fest. Just \$20 for your entire family, and includes a Barkapalooza goody bag (while supplies last).

\* Rescue Runner, Waggin' Tails Walkers, and Volunteer Fundraisers receive free entry into Rescue Fest.



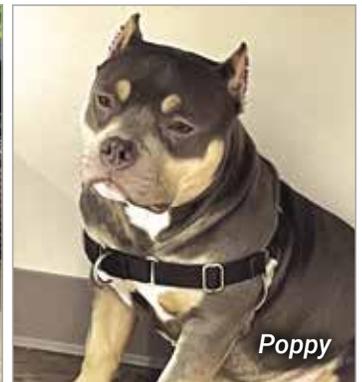
Annie



Kittens



Lolita



Poppy

### Registering and setting up your fundraising page is easy!

- Follow the link to register for your selected event: [bit.ly.Barkapalooza2023](http://bit.ly.Barkapalooza2023)
- Personalize your page with text and a photo to express your passion and purpose.
- Share the link with your friends, family, and colleagues – anyone you think will help you reach your goal

### REGISTER NOW!

Sign up for the 5K Rescue Run, 2K Waggin' Tails Walk, Rescue Fest, and Volunteer Fundraising.



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# Join Us for Barkapalooza, Continued

This past year we have been called to help animals with a variety of medical needs. Annie, Levi, Lolita, Venus and Jackie all had to receive heartworm treatment. Sweetie Belle had a broken leg that needed to be repaired by a specialist. We are at the height of kitten season and have over 100 kittens in foster care. The kittens will need vaccines, spay/neuter surgery and microchipping before being adopted.

These are just some of the animals we've helped with the generous support of our donors. Our goal is to raise \$100,000 at Barkapalooza, all to benefit the animals in our care!

Thank you to our sponsors:



Artistic Dog Grooming, Happy Dog Barkery,  
Midwest Waste Consultants,  
Beata and Sara Kolpek – Platinum Partners Realtors,  
Suburban K9, Veterinary Emergency Group

Interested in how you can be a sponsor and promote your business at Barkapalooza? Contact our Director of Development at [development@wshs-dg.org](mailto:development@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
  - Disinfecting wipes
  - Ziplock bags – gallon and quart sizes
  - Laundry detergent
- **Monetary donations are always appreciated!**

## West Suburban Humane Society

### Board Members:

**Scott McMillin**, President

**Mark Motuelle**  
Vice President

**Sarah Marshall**,  
Recording Secretary

**Kerry Kopera**,  
Controller/Treasurer

**Christian Ambler**, Director

**Colleen Attwell**, Director

**Dr. Lyn Edmonson**, Director

**Bob Koch**, Director

**Marci Levites**, Director

**Brian Wasielewski**, Director

**David Welch**, Director

### WSHS Staff:

**Executive Director:** Carolyn Mossberger

**Director of Development:** Heather Kash

**Adoption Counselors:** Carol Thygesen, Eric Van Clevon, Roberta Diehl, Nanette Delaney, Cassidy Santen

**Animal Care Team:** Brittany Askeland, Jennifer Nathan Miller

**Intake/Foster Coordinator:** Lexi Vitale

**Adoption Desk Manager:** Catherine VanGemmeren

**Volunteer Coordinator:** Heidi Janss

**Events Coordinator:** Chas Kennedy

**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](http://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](mailto:Director@WSHS-DG.org)

Phone: (630) 960-9600 • Fax: (630) 960-9604

# Ready for a Home

## Hot Rod Male | 2 years old | Pitbull Terrier Mix

Hi, I'm Hot Rod and I'm enthusiastic about life! My engine is always primed and ready for playing with dog friends or my people. I'm goofy and my personality is sweet, but rough and tumble. My energy level is high, so let's go for a walk, run or some chase in the back yard. When I play with my dog friends, it's high speed chase or wrestling, so any dogs in the home should be O.K. with a big guy who likes to throw his weight around. If my new home has kids, they should be 6 years or older because I may knock little ones over. I can live with cats too! If you've been looking for a fun new friend, you've found him!



## Shadows Female | 6 years old | Hound Mix

Hi, I'm Shadows! I'm a 6 year old shepherd mix whose owner died, so now I'm looking for a new place to land. I've got low-to-medium energy, I get along with other dogs, and I'm a little scared around cats, but I will leave them alone so I can live with them too. I would prefer a quieter household where I can just relax. I love my people and like to stay close to them. I've got some anxiety about my current situation, but a home would be the best way to help me come out of my shell. My new home should have lots of comfy places for us to cuddle, and if there are any kids in the home, they should be 12 years or older. If you've been looking for a new fluffy friend, you've found her!



## Heathcliff Male | 2.6 years old | Brown Tabby with White DSH

Hi, I'm Heathcliff and I'm all about comfort. I was living outside until a Good Samaritan brought me inside during the extreme cold weather before Christmas. Now, I'm inside and ready to leave the great outdoors behind. I'm friendly and if you love to hang out on the couch with a fleece blanket, I'm your guy. I like to suck on the blanket for comfort so you might want to get me my own, but we can discuss that later. It's very endearing – I make lots of satisfied noises too, but you'll just have to see for yourself. My new home can have other cats, kids of all ages, but I can't live with dogs. Come and meet me today!



## Moonrock Male | 4 years old | Black & White DSH

Hi, I'm Moonrock and I've got a ton of personality! I know what I like and I know what I don't, so as long as you follow my lead we'll be friends in no time. I enjoy getting affection from people, but you have to leave me wanting more. My wild spirit will entertain you to no end. My new home should have lots of sunlight and places for us to cuddle and become friends, but it can't have any other animals. It's got to be just me and my people so we can conquer the world together. If you've been looking for a fun new friend, you've found him!



## Emails from Adopters

Hi,

Watson is doing great! He came through his heartworm treatment without any complications. He was neutered last week and is almost ready to mingle. He also recently received his first grooming.



We can't believe how lucky we've been. Watson is a sweet, smart, perfect gentleman. He adapted to our household right away. He had a couple of accidents in the house the first week and none thereafter. He loves being outside and going on long walks. We are looking forward to putting him in doggy day care twice a week, because we believe he is eager to make canine friends.

Out of our extreme curiosity, we submitted a DNA sample from Watson to determine his breed heritage. The results were nothing like we expected. We were sure he was a wire-haired terrier mix, with some larger dog(s) accounting for his size. In fact he has no wire-haired terrier in him at all. He is 45% "super-mutt," which means there are too many breeds in him to identify a single one. The most prominent identifiable breed is a shih-tzu, which he looks nothing like. Just goes to show how if you put enough different dogs into the mix, you can get one who does not look like any of them!

Hello WSHS,

My name is Katherine, and my partner and I wanted to give a quick update on Kaia, the Shiba Inu puppy he adopted in March of this year. She is a very wonderful dog who has brought us great joy. She is a funny girl with lots of personality. Her favorite activities include playing fetch, watching for squirrels from the window, and visiting her friends at the dog park. We are so grateful for the humane society and we thank you for bringing Kaia into our lives!



Hello,

Hi! So far this cat is everything we were looking for! He is so nice and friendly and cuddly. He absolutely LOVES Isaac (our baby) and has become his personal guard cat, he naps next to or under the crib while Isaac naps and sits with him while he eats, and hops on the playpen. He's purrfect! We're still trying to get him used to our other cat (or get her used to him) but they are in separate rooms so that's okay for now.



Hello,

Lando, now Louie, is doing very well! He fits in perfectly with our family. He has very much bonded with our older dog Bailey. We are working on potty training and we are going to puppy classes. He knows sit, come, touch, down, leave it, and paw off the top of my head. Thank you all so much!



Hello, WSHS

Pike is flourishing here. He's working on making friends with our dogs, but has warmed up to our resident cat, Reggie. I hope to see their relationship evolve as time passes. Today they woke me up running around playing...he truly was exactly what we all needed here – forever ours!



Hi there,

I absolutely love this cat. Ezri is so sweet, sassy, and funny! She made herself at home the first night and is my new bestie! She's been great with all visitors and likes to be in the same room when people come over. She's also quite the biscuit maker! She sees the vet for the first time this week.



# Volunteer Spotlight

The Saturday 1 evening kennel shift is a blend of two shifts formed during the pandemic. During “shelter in place,” Phil Stromberg and Carolyn Mossberger were the only ones taking care of eight dogs, instead of a full kennel. Phil would play his ukulele for the dogs before bedtime. Gradually, the rest of the shift returned to a full kennel. This seasoned team includes Phil (8 years), Carolyn (10 years), Katy & Shea Casey (9 years), Scott Schneider (7 years), Jon Richards (6 years), and Emily Curry (5 years). They enjoy quality time with the dogs every other weekend. Jon says the only thing better than their camaraderie is the fun they have in puppy playgroups!

Phil marks his WSHS beginning by the return of long-time resident and kennel legend Daffodil. Daffy wasn’t the easiest dog, but he fondly remembers being given only one instruction, “Don’t let the leash get tangled in her legs.” Phil believes that growing with the dogs as they gain confidence is the best thing about volunteering. As the shift coordinator, he likes watching his fellow volunteers grow, especially the teens. Katy agrees, she came to WSHS when her daughter Shea wanted to volunteer for her 13th birthday. After spending years together, Katy still enjoys coming on her own with Shea in college. She loves building trust with the scared ones, watching them blossom once they feel safe. Scott started his volunteer experience on a morning cleaning shift where the goal was “to provide the dog guests with the most comfortable accommodations possible.” Scott will never forget when a flu outbreak left him in the kennel alone. Scott doesn’t think he has ever worked a more physically demanding day, but adds smiling, “as always we do it for the dogs!”

You will also find these folks at Barkapalooza every September. Scott has hosted the event, and Emily, Phil and Jon have greeted vendors and guests. Many of the team also spend extra time with WSHS dogs as a buddy or a foster. Carolyn has been a buddy and a foster mom; Phil and his family have fostered dozens of cats and kittens and litters of puppies; Scott



knows the reward of bonding with a buddy dog; and Shea now fosters for WSHS at college. You will also find Carolyn at most WSHS events, Katy represents WSHS at Morton Arboretum and Cantigny events, and Phil has coordinated many visits from WSHS dogs to downtown businesses.

It’s no surprise that these compassionate folks share their homes with animals. Katy’s family can’t have dogs or cats due to severe allergies but fosters for a small animal sanctuary. Emily shares her space with dogs and bunnies, and Jon found his canine companion after volunteering at WSHS. Carolyn has Utley (a Redbone Coonhound), WSHS alum Schmittie (a Dachshund), WSHS alum Poppy (an American Bully), and three WSHS alum kitties (Aurora, Kenna, and Gris Gris). Phil has four WSHS alums: Wheeler, the three-legged wonder who is a spokesdog for WSHS on his walks, goofy pup Bear, and cats Rocky and Ramos.

Finding the time on a Saturday evening to make sure 20 dogs are clean, fed, exercised, and tucked in for the night isn’t always easy, but this shift makes it a priority. Their fellowship and their love of the dogs keeps them coming back!

# Ask the Trainer

## Socialize Your Puppy Early

Puppies have a critical socialization window. This window closes around 16 weeks and if you have not socialized your dog properly by that time you are far more likely to encounter behavioral issues later in life.

### Should I wait until vaccination before socializing with other dogs?

Socializing a puppy before their vaccinations does involve some risk, however we feel the risk of future behavioral problems is much higher. There are many great ways to limit risk while still accomplishing puppy socialization. Our favorite is going for a walk in your neighborhood. This will allow you to meet people and other dogs, but on a limited and controlled basis.

Going to a dog park is not an activity we recommend as you encounter far more risk. As a pet owner you don't have a ton of control over what happens at the dog park. Interactions between dogs, the total number of dogs, and the cleanliness of the park are all things that have a major impact on the amount of risk your puppy encounters.

### Things to socialize your dog to

While there are many important things that your dog needs to experience, there are three major categories that you need to focus on. You need to focus on different environments, different types of people and different types of dogs. We recommend creating a detailed socialization plan. If you don't have a plan, you are likely to forget major socialization areas which can set your dog up for issues when your pup grows older.

**Environments:** Socialize your puppy to different environments as this will help them become adaptable and confident in situations they encounter daily. Expose them to parks, busy cities, and other indoor settings that might be common for them (stores, vet office, groomer, etc.). Doing this will reduce their fear and anxiety. You will want to work up to taking your dog downtown if you notice they're nervous in traffic. Try lower stress situations first.

**People:** Socializing your puppy around people is one of the most crucial for their development. This helps them learn how to interact with humans in an appropriate and positive manner. Expose your puppy to a variety of people, including children, seniors, and individuals of different races and genders. In your socialization plan have a check box for people in each category and check it off when your pup has successfully had a good interaction with a person from the

category. This will lead to a well-adjusted adult dog who is less likely to be fearful or aggressive towards strangers.

Remember to coach your pup to be upbeat and pleasant during the interactions with people. We want the puppy to feel happy but not get them overexcited and teach bad behaviors like jumping.

**Dogs:** Socializing a puppy with other dogs can help prevent the development of behavioral issues such as fear and aggression. Expose them to a variety of dogs of different breeds, sizes, and temperaments. Make sure the interactions are supervised and positive, so that the puppy learns to play and interact with other dogs in a safe and healthy manner. You should be selective of the dogs you choose for these meetings. To limit the risks these dogs should be fully vaccinated and should have a record of pleasant behavior with other dogs.

### Other Things To Consider Socializing For

In addition to environments, dogs, and people, you should think of other objects that your dog might encounter in their life and add them to your socialization plan. While these aren't as important as the top 3 categories, working on these things will help ensure stress free walks and outings for your pup. Objects you should target include bikes, strollers, scooters, shopping carts, wheel chairs, and people on crutches

Just like the other categories, the more things you expose your dog to during the first 16 weeks, the more they will understand that these things are a part of every day life.

### What if I missed the 16-week socialization window?

It is not a forgone conclusion that your puppy will have fear or aggression issues if you missed socializing in the first 16 weeks. It is likely you accomplished some of the socialization tasks simply by having people over or taking your dog out on a walk. That being said, I would recommend starting a plan now and making sure your dog can interact with all the situations, people and objects listed above. The key to socialization is putting your dog into situations they might not be comfortable with and trying to have them experience positive outcomes. This will help them learn they do not need to be afraid and can live a happier life.

# Hearty Thanks

West Suburban Humane Society recently received two generous grants. The first grant was \$50,000 from the Summer Oaks Fund of the DuPage Foundation. The second grant was \$10,000 from the Ronald R. Bork Fund of the DuPage Foundation. Both grants will further our mission of helping homeless animals in need. Our Board of Directors and staff appreciate the generosity of these funders.

**Nolan from Naperville** had a cupcake and lemonade stand and raised over \$400. He used the money to buy items for the adoption center from our wish list.

**The Weaving Club** from Kingsley Elementary School in Downers Grove made and donated toys for the dogs at the adoption center.

**The Arbor View 5th Grade Junior Girl Scout Troop #55713** organized a donation drive for WSHS as part of working toward their Bronze Award. They donated tons of food, supplies, toys and more!



*Nolan from Naperville*



*Arbor View Girl Scouts*





**West Suburban**  
Humane Society

1901 W. Ogden Avenue  
Downers Grove, IL 60515

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**INSIDE:**  
**Stray Thoughts**  
Summer 2023 Newsletter

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## From Wags to Riches Raffle

**West Suburban Humane Society is sponsoring a split- the-pot raffle. The winner will receive \$1,000!**

The winning ticket will be drawn on Sunday, September 24th at the conclusion of our 30th Annual Barkapalooza 5K Rescue Run, 2K Waggin Tails Walk, and Rescue Fest. The winner will be notified no later than Monday, September 25th.

- **The 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? Call our adoption center at (630) 960-9601. Remember to include your name and mailing address when you call and the tickets will be mailed to you immediately.

Visit [wshs-dg.org/barkapalooza](http://wshs-dg.org/barkapalooza) for more details.

