



# Stray Thoughts

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

## For Needy Animals Like Stick, Your Donation Makes a Difference

**S**tick, a 3-month-old brown tabby, came to us in August after he was found on the side of the road. Once in our care, he had a seizure which we discovered was caused by a liver shunt. A liver shunt cuts off blood to vital organs and is eventually fatal if not corrected with surgery.

Even though his surgery alone cost more than \$5,000, we knew there was no other option to give Stick the best chance of living a long and healthy life. In addition to surgery, Stick also required ongoing costly medication. At West Suburban Humane Society, we never turn our back on an animal in need, but we cannot help them without the contributions of our generous supporters.

Stick has recovered from his surgery; his staples were removed in November. In January, the vet assessed his liver values, and we were able to start weaning him off his medication. We also put him on a special diet to maintain his liver values.

Stick is just one example of the “above and beyond” care we provide to our animals, thanks to donors like you. Please consider a donation to support our continued care of animals like Stick.

Stick is on the road to recovery and one step closer to finding his forever home. From Stick and the staff and volunteers of West Suburban Humane Society, thank you for making a difference in the lives of needy cats and dogs.



### Inside

**Page 2:**

- Upcoming Events
- WSHS Staff

**Page 3:**

- Ready for a Home

**Page 4:**

- Emails and Letters

**Page 5:**

- Volunteer Spotlight

**Page 6:**

- Hearty Thanks

**Page 7:**

- Corporate Sponsors

**Page 8:**

- Girls Night Out

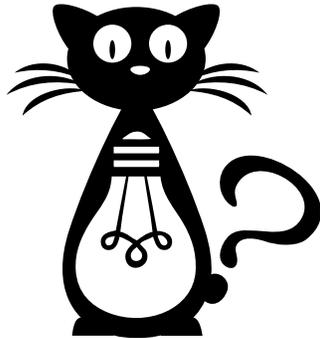
# Save the Date for These Fun Upcoming Events!

## April

**22nd, Saturday**

Trivia Night at the American Legion.

Come out and test your knowledge!



## May

**12th, Monday,  
13th, Saturday**

Petals for Pets  
Plant Sale



## 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 Moutelle 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  
Mark Motuelle, 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) 960-9600 to submit articles or receive donation 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

## Kino Male | 4 years old | Shepherd Mix

Hi, I'm Kino! My owner got sick and had to let me go, and now I'm looking for my forever home. I'm a gentle giant who loves people. My sweet personality and soft coat is sure to win anyone over! I already knew some basic obedience when I came here, and I work more on my skills every day. I already walk nicely on a leash! I'm very respectful of cats so would do fine in a home with one. I need a home where I'm your only dog. Any kids in my new home should be over the age of 6. If you think you have the right home for me, apply to meet me today!



## Prince Zuko Male | 1 year old | Shepherd Mix

Hi, I'm Prince Zuko and I'm here to find my soul mate! I've got a lot of personality in this little body and good manners, too. I can be goofy and fun, or focused and ready for what comes next. I've been through lots of training and I know all my commands. At 1 year old and 35 pounds, this low rider is fully grown. My new home should have lots of places for us to cuddle, but it can't have other pets. I'm enough to fill the whole house! Any kids in the house should be 10 years or older. If you've been looking for a short new friend, you've found him!



## Miss Kitty Female | 5.8 years old | Muted Tortie

Hello everyone, my name is Miss Kitty. I came to West Suburban from Southern Illinois with 2 of my older daughters and 14 kittens between the 3 of us. We were allowed to roam around a trailer park and accidentally all got pregnant! Oops! We were brought to West Suburban and put into foster homes to raise our babies. Now that all the younger kittens are grown I'm in search of my forever home! I'm a busy girl who really enjoys talking a lot. I like being around people, and obviously love watching wildlife through the window. I would do well in a home with a lot going on because I'm a busy body who needs lots on engagement to keep happy. I'm a sweet girl who loves attention and affection too. Really I'm just a great cat overall. So what are you waiting for? Apply today to come in and meet me.



## Pinto Male | 4 months old | Buff Tabby

Hiya, I'm Pinto, a first-class feline looking for folks who appreciate the finer qualities of a cat! I like human attention very much, but I will make you work for my love. And I will dismiss you like a typical cat when I'm tired of being adored. After all, I'm not a dog. But I don't mind living with dogs, they amuse me. Cats are fine too, no problem. I'd actually be quite comfortable living almost anywhere, but an active home would be quite entertaining. What are you waiting for? Apply today to come and meet me!



# Emails from Adopters

Hello,

Thanks for checking in. Blitzen is doing well! He sleeps through the night which is amazing! Leyna and him enjoy each other's company. Neither are too fond of the cold but it shall pass!



Hi there,

Stallone is doing great! Of course everything is new to him and it will take time for him to adjust. After we arrived home yesterday he was so curious of everything, he kept going under my bed.



Today, seems as if he has lived with us before, sleeping on my bed like a king and walking through the house. He has been eating, he has used his litter box, he has been doing zoomies...man, he is FAST!

He is getting along with everyone and being approachable. But there is still some adjustment to be accomplish as to getting along with Luna.

Hi,

Doogie is doing great. He is an amazing dog and we love him so much!

If you are still in contact with his foster family, please thank them for us. The training that they did with him has helped us tremendously. We even hosted Christmas and he was a perfect, well-behaved puppy!

Thanks so much!



Hello WSHS,

We are having a wonderful time with Vixen! She has a sister Babs (another alumni of WSHS, formerly Kittie B., white and grey) and a brother Doug!

She loves sitting on you, but not being picked up! She's a hungry lady, but somehow stays skinny!

Her brother and sister have accepted her into the family! She's a counter surfer...we're telling ourselves she just wants us to keep the kitchen counters clean!



We Want to Hear from You! Email us at: [Director@WSHS-DG.org](mailto:Director@WSHS-DG.org)

# Meet Our New Staff Members

There are some new faces at West Suburban Humane Society! Chas Kennedy is our new Events Coordinator, Heather Kash is our new Director of Development, and Deanne Tomanovich is our new Humane Education Manager.

Chas has been planning events and spreading WSHS fun around town for the better part of the year. She coordinates larger events such as Barkapalooza, Pawction, the plant sale, and the golf outing, as well as the WSHS presence at events at Morton Arboretum, Cantigny, and local pet and dining establishments.

Chas and her husband Brian have three daughters, Olivia, Jill, and Ivy. They share their home with Pickles, their skittish pup, and Shirley, their antisocial tabby cat. Chas has always had a passion for animals. She and her husband welcomed a stray cat (fondly known as Walter) in their honeymoon cabana in Thailand. They currently foster kittens for WSHS, including a batch of six recovering from ringworm! Chas says that one of the best parts of her job is finding a dog from the kennel hanging out in the office when she arrives at work. And she really enjoys the people at WSHS too!



Outside of WSHS, you will find Chas enjoying time with her family, reading historical fiction about WWII, painting with watercolors, or baking homemade dog treats.

Heather brings many years of corporate and non-profit experience to our team as our new Director of Development. She is responsible for planning and organizing all fundraising for WSHS, including annual appeals, corporate partnerships, major stewardship events, and grant proposals. Heather also works closely with the WSHS Board of Directors, cultivates relationships with donors, and communicates with our supporters in the community.

Heather adopted her first dog, a black chow named Bram, from WSHS many years ago and has been rescuing chow-chows ever since! Her current rescue Leo enjoys his "come with mama to work" days and watches the happenings of the adoption center from the side of Heather's chair.



Heather and her husband Jay have three children and will welcome their fifth grandchild in January.

Deanne's position as the WSHS Humane Education Manager is a perfect fit, combining her love of animals and children's education. She loves seeing the excitement when the children are interacting with the animals at the adoption center.

Prior to coming to WSHS, Deanne was a special education teacher for more than 30 years. In her role at WSHS, Deanne organizes birthday parties and scout and school tours at the adoption center as well as planning special classes and events for the kids throughout the year.

Deanne and her husband Alex have three sons and one brand new grandson whom she adores. Their youngest son Noah often helps Deanne with parties and events at WSHS. Deanne just adopted WSHS kitten Chloe, bringing her cat count at home up to two.



When she's not working, Deanne loves to read and take long walks. She is also passionate about helping people with disabilities and has organized several fundraising events for adults and children with autism.

# Hearty Thanks!

The employees at **Chesterbrook Academy** in Westmont collected donations on our behalf.

**Alum, Piper Atwell** donated food, toys and treats for the animals at the adoption center.

**Devin Denanva**, a senior at Downers Grove South High School held a haunted house Halloween fundraiser for the adoption center. He donated the proceeds of \$300.

**Kalyn Konrath**, a Special Education teacher at Reskin Elementary School in Glendale Height and her classroom of kindergartners and second graders, completed a learning service project. The service-learning project was to bag up dog treats for the animals and to collect donations. They donated tons of food and supplies.

**Eight-year-old Josie**, and six-year-old Harrison of Downers Grove collected donations for the cats and dogs at WSHS.

Each year, the departments in **Indian Prairie Public Library** collect money during the holiday season to donate to a worthy cause in lieu of gift giving within the departments. This year, WSHS was chosen as the recipient of the \$550 donation.

**Eight-year-old Graham** of St. Mary's Gostyn School collected donations for the adoption center. He donated \$100.

Each year, the **fifth-grade classes at Pierce Downer School** hold auctions as part of their holiday celebrations. Each class decides on a charity that will benefit from this auction. This year Ms. Minardi's class chose WSHS to donate the \$100 proceeds from their auction.

In the month of December, **Doggie Depot in Downers Grove** collected donations for the animals at the adoption center. They donated food, supplies, treats and toys, stamps, and \$150.

**Dogtopia in Downers Grove** collected and donated food and supplies for the animals at the adoption center.



*Pipper Atwell*



*Kalyn Konrath*



*Josie and Harrison*



*Dogtopia*

# A BIG THANKS Our Corporate Sponsors!



All Creatures Great and Small

Artistic Dog & Cat Grooming

Beata and Sara Kolpek

Platinum Partners Realtors

Dogtopia – Downers Grove  
and LaGrange Locations

Enjoy Your Dog

Happy Dog Barkery

Itasca Bank & Trust

Midwest Waste Consultants

Peace, Love & Happy Pets

Robert Bair – Plumbing,  
Heating and Air

Shaw Media/Suburban Life Media

Suburban K9

Two Bostons





West Suburban  
Humane Society

# Girl's Night Out!!

February 23, 2023 5:30 – 8:30 PM

*Clara's* 6550 S State Route 53, Woodridge, IL

**Tickets: \$30 each (\$25 if purchased before February 9)**

Join us for:

Complimentary appetizers  
Entry to 3 door prize raffles

- Wine Pull
- Gift Bag
- Cash Bar

Shopping with 3-4 vendors

*Tiaras, pearls and diamonds not required!*

**Grab your girlfriends and help WSHS care for our dogs and cats while they wait for their forever homes!**

Purchase Tickets at:

<https://WSHSGirlsNight.givesmart.com>



*Thank You to Our Sponsors:*

