



Stray Thoughts

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

Join Us for Barkapalooza 5K Rescue Run, 1K Waggin' Tails Walk and Rescue Fest!

Join us on Sunday, September 29th 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!

Collect pledges online. Create your own Barkapalooza fundraising page by visiting raceroster.com/events/2024/87464/barkapalooza. When you set up your page, you will automatically be entered into our raffle drawing. For every \$100 in donations you raise, you'll receive an additional entry.

Setting up your fundraising page is easy!

- Visit raceroster.com/events/2024/87464/barkapalooza.
- Go to the bottom of the page and register as a Volunteer Fundraiser
- After registering, you can personalize your page with text and a photo to express your animal passions and purpose.
- Send the link to your friend, family and colleagues, anyone you think will help you reach your goal! Ask them to forward it to their contacts as well! Your fundraising page can also be shared on social media!
- For every \$100 you raise through your fundraising page, you'll be entered into our raffle drawing.
- The winner will receive a \$1,000 prize!



- The winning ticket will be drawn on Sunday, September 29th at the 1:00 pm end of our event.

REGISTER NOW!

Sign up for the 5K Rescue Run, 1K Waggin' Tails Walk, Rescue Fest, and Volunteer Fundraising.



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Join Us for Barkapalooza, Continued

Attend our 5K Rescue Run, 1K Waggin' Tails Walk and Rescue Fest!

The 5K Rescue Run entry fees are as follows:

- **\$35 – June 6th through August 5th**
- **\$40 – August 6th through September 1st**
- **\$50 – September 2nd through September 28th**

The 1K Waggin' Tails Walk entry is \$20 for an individual and \$30 for a family. The Rescue Fest entry is \$20 per car. Each family that attends will receive a Barkapalooza goody bag (while supplies last).

This past year we have been called to help animals with a variety of medical needs. Twyla, Muriel, Jellybean and June all had to receive heartworm treatment. Cow 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 \$1,000,000 at Barkapalooza, all to benefit the animals in our care!

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, Cassidy Santen, Sarah Coolidge, Alyssa Bilak, Shea Casey

Animal Care Team: Brittany Askeland, Shea Casey, 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

Maple Female | 1 year old | Pitbull Mix

Hi, I'm Maple! I'm an affectionate, one-year-old pup eagerly looking for someone to love me. I enjoy playing with other dogs, though I can be a bit selective about my friends. My playful energy might not be for everyone, but that's okay – I absolutely adore spending time with people! Whether it's going on walks, playing with toys in the yard, or simply enjoying your company, I'm up for anything. Think I'm adorable but not sure? I'm also available as a foster-to-adopt dog in the Chicagoland area, so apply to meet me today!



Ripley Female | 2 years old | Shepherd Mix

Hi, I'm Ripley, an affectionate lady who loves people despite a rough start. I arrived here when somebody tied me to a signpost outside the shelter during a snowstorm. Thankfully, the staff quickly found me, brought me inside, and it's been warm spaces, nice humans and good meals ever since. I'd love to be part of a family again; they just need to be gentle and patient with me. Like most shepherds, I'm smart and always ready to learn. Whether you choose to foster or adopt me, I'll work hard to be the best dog you've ever had. Please apply to meet me today!



Garcia Male | 15 years old | Turkish Van Mix

Hi, I'm Garcia! I'm a Turkish Van mix who is 15 years young, but you won't believe that when you meet me. I look very good for my age, and I have quite a bit of youthful energy that emerges when the toys come out. I love nothing more than batting at feathers or slapping at crinkly stuffies that come my way. Other than that, I'm a snuggly guy who brings a lot of purrs. When I'm tired of playing, I'm happy just relaxing in a comfy bed or in a sunny spot by the window. I would make an amazing family member for a household looking for a loyal, affectionate companion. Apply to meet me today!



Pavlova Female | 2.5 years old | Grey Tabby with White

Hi, I'm Pavlova! I'm a beautiful lady who is ready to find my forever home. If you are looking for a particularly spirited cat, that's me! I have a lot of personality, and I am not shy about letting everyone know what I think. I'm a playful, curious girl, and I do what I want! It takes me a little time to warm up to someone, but once I do, we are friends for life. If you think you are my perfect match, apply to meet me today!



Emails from Adopters

Hi WSHS,

Things are going so great! We've renamed him Mash, aka The Mash man, aka Mashed potatoes, aka the Monster Mash! LOL! He's blended right in with us. I'm so in love with him. He just melts my heart. Here are some pics. He loves playing with his toys until he finally poops out on his bed and looks out our front window. We're still slowly crate training him but he's doing pretty good with that too. I'll be sure to complete the survey and post online about our wonderful experience. Thank you so much for your help in making us whole!



Hello,

I'm sorry it's taken so long for me to send you some photos of Hubba and Bubba, but I wanted to send you a few of our favorites and let you know they've settled in splendidly. They're curious, playful, and lovey, and it's been a joy having them join our family. We did rename them, so Hubba is now Godzilla and Bubba is now Ghidorah, named after Godzilla's rival, King Ghidorah.

Hopefully you enjoy the photos! Feel free to post them at the shelter, on your social media, or use them however you want. Thank you again for everything!



Hi there,

Mick (now called Oscar) is adjusting so well in our home! He is such a good boy with just the right blend of playfulness and patience for our family. Oscar and our cats have already learned to coexist peacefully, which was a worry we had before bringing him home. We've been getting in a lot of play in the back yard and he's been exploring our neighborhood on long walks. We have been working on reassuring him to lessen his separation anxiety and he's making progress every day. We're so happy Oscar is a part of our family and we're grateful to the WSHS staff for connecting us with him!



Hello,

Just wanted to give a quick update on the boys. We've changed their names. This took us all weekend as we wanted the right fit with the personalities we were seeing emerge. Mr. Mister is now Mr. Bingley (this is a Pride and Prejudice reference), but he is so gentlemanly and has such a sweet countenance). We've settled on Dash for Junior Jr. He is a bit jumpy at every new sound, movement, etc. and he quickly dashes from one place to the next.



We have been enjoying them so much! They are serious morning snugglers (Dash is an "aggressive snuggler"), and Mr. Bingley loves his soft food; he patiently waits for me to fill his bowl. They are finding favorite places to hang out. Bingley loves the open windows and doors. So much to see. Dash has found a home on a favorite blanket that is always on the couch.

Above & Beyond

Jim Vinopal, Kennel Volunteer

Jim is ALWAYS the first to jump in and help wherever he might be needed. There's nothing he won't assist with. Additionally, Jim is the first one to step up to fill a sub position, often working on Thursday mornings, as well as his regular Monday shift. Finally, Jim is always smiling, joking, and asking how everyone else is feeling. He's truly a pleasure to work with!

Giovanna Scarabaggio, Social Media Volunteer

Giovanna created 90%+ of the content for our TikTok channel, which has grown to more than 5,400 followers. The content she creates is creative, engaging, and most importantly 'on-brand' and always with a focus on our mission. Her success has caused us to have a significantly larger following and engagement than our peers, who are all larger than us (often by significant multiples). This success has carried over to our other social media channels, as we share her videos there

as often as possible. One video generated more than 1m views, and another more than 100k views (and still counting). With that number of views, there are always some negative responses, and Giovanna has handled them all with calm and grace, never overreacting, and keeping our page positive at all times.



August is National Make-A-Will Month!

Create a will and begin your legacy with West Suburban Humane Society today!

West Suburban Humane Society has partnered with FreeWill to make it easier to write your will and protect the people and causes you care about.

Creating a legacy

In addition to writing your will, you can create a lasting legacy with West Suburban Humane Society, protecting our work to make a lasting impact on the hundreds of homeless animals we care for every year for generations to come.

How do I get started?

Visit https://bit.ly/WSHS_MAWM24 or scan this link today!



If you have already included a gift to West Suburban Humane Society in your plans, please follow the links above to let us know!

Questions? Contact
Development@wshs-dg.org



Volunteer Spotlight



The every-other Sunday morning cattery shift has a “divide and conquer” plan of attack with everyone covering a specific area in the cattery. Working independently doesn’t stop them from checking in with each other to help and to catch up on their lives. This close-knit group has volunteered together for years. Marissa Rog, the newest member, has been on the shift for two years; Yasmin Nasim, Bree Abbas, and Katie Potts have volunteered for 4-5 years, shift coordinator Sue Cipra has 15 years of experience, and Diane Lyons is the veteran of the group with 33 years!

You can tell these volunteers are committed to WSHS because you will find every one of them here outside of this shift. Yasmin, Katie, Sue, and Diane all volunteer on another regular shift in the cattery or kennel. Marissa and Bree volunteer with our humane education program and at events.

For Bree and Katie, volunteering is a family affair. Both started volunteering with sons too young to come on their own. Those sons are now older teenagers with busy schedules, so the volunteering has transferred to younger siblings.

Sue, Diane, and Katie have brought volunteering home by fostering WSHS cats and dogs that cannot be adopted due to behavioral or medical issues. Diane has Brittany, a senior tabby cat, and Sue has Dart, a Malinois mix and queen of Sue’s castle. Katie’s family fostered Pitbull Esme for two years of hospice care, making an incredible difference in her life. Yasmin, Katie, and Bree have their own pets. Yasmin has a 13-year-old cat named Toby who is bigger than

Lulu, her 4-year-old Yorkie. Katie just adopted Lady, a 5-month-old kitten. Bree is mom to three adopted cats: Chi, a 7-year-old gray tabby, Kashi, a 7-year-old Maine Coon mix, and Oliver, a 3-year-old Siamese/Bengal mix and WSHS alum.

These dedicated volunteers are not only passionate about animals; they are also passionate about the WSHS mission. Yasmin takes satisfaction knowing that she is part of a good cause. Marissa likes volunteering in the new facility and says that the building makes a big difference for our animals as well as our volunteers. Bree embraces the WSHS “above and beyond” mindset. She has seen cats come to WSHS needing extra care that some other shelters may not be able to give. It makes her heart happy when these animals recover and find homes of their own. Sue also acknowledges the incredible feeling when an animal that has been passed over for adoption, mostly due to behavior issues, finally goes home because of our volunteers’ dedication.

The volunteers have learned lots about cat behavior and care while volunteering at WSHS. They are pretty much able to handle any situation, including medicating, handling snarly cats, and even bringing kittens down from the ceiling pipes. Just when they thought they had seen it all, they found a cat abandoned at the adoption center door one Sunday this past April. There was no staff onsite, so they secured the cat, set up a cage with food, water and supplies, and welcomed 2-year-old Bo to WSHS. (Bo has since been adopted!)

Hearty Thanks

The Gurrola Family had a lemonade stand and donated the proceeds of \$51.29 to the adoption center.

Lester School held a donation drive for WSHS. They collected 8 boxes of toys and cleaning supplies. They also donated \$50.

Holmes Primary School in Clarendon Hills read a book about a shelter dog. They wanted to celebrate their reading, so they collected “Pennies for Paws” to donate to WSHS. They raised and donated \$356.

Murphy School in Woodridge collected and donated food, toys and supplies for the animals at the adoption center.



From Wags to Riches Raffle

West Suburban Humane Society is sponsoring a raffle. The winner will receive \$1,000!

The winning ticket will be drawn on Sunday, September 29th at the conclusion of our 31st Annual Barkapalooza 5K Rescue Run, 1K Waggin' Tails Walk, and Rescue Fest. The winner will be notified no later than Monday, September 30th.

- **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.





West Suburban
Humane Society

1901 W. Ogden Avenue
Downers Grove, IL 60515

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Barkapalooza

Sunday, September 29 | Lisle Community Park

5K Rescue Run | 8am

1 Mile Wagging Tails Walk | 9:30am

RescueFest 9am to 1pm



<https://bit.ly/Barkapalooza2024>

Food Trucks | Pet Contests | Rescue Groups | Doggie Olympics
Wags-2-Riches Raffle | Nail Trimming | Pooch Smooch AND MORE!



**RESCUE
RUN**
5k



Thank you to our Sponsors:

