



West Suburban
Humane Society

2020 ANNUAL REPORT



Love is a Pet Away

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Letter from the Executive Director



On behalf of the Board of Directors, staff and volunteers, we would like to thank you for your support of West Suburban Humane Society in 2020, a big year for us. Our lifelong dream became reality with the completion of our new adoption center. We also spent the year continually adjusting to an unpredictable pandemic.

After many years of planning, fundraising and construction, we moved into our new 8,600 square foot adoption center in March 2020. The adoption center has more room for the animals, staff, and volunteers. The layout and natural light of all the areas reduce stress for our dogs and cats waiting to be adopted. We also have the space for enrichment in the kennel and cattery. Our new Humane Education Room allows us to offer more teenage and youth summer camps and classes as well as humane education programs to benefit the local community.

Our move came with challenges since we transitioned to the new adoption center just as the governor shut down the state because of COVID-19. On the one hand, it was a blessing to be in our new facility where we had more space to socially distance. Our HVAC system uses 100% clean air, which helped curb the spread of the virus. On the other hand, we had to work around having a limited number of people in the building. We closed our doors to the public and reduced the number of animals, volunteers, and staff. All the while, we were determined to uphold our rescue mission. We continued to adjust our operations and the number of animals and people at the center throughout the year in response to the pandemic. It was a challenging time, but despite the pandemic's disruptions, we continued furthering our mission of helping homeless animals.

In 2020, we had 481 volunteers providing 25,368 hours of service by cleaning animal areas; transporting, socializing and fostering cats and dogs; and working special events. We would be lost without our dedicated volunteers!

We adopted out 544 cats and dogs during the year. Some of these animals needed life-saving medical treatment, which we were able to provide through the generosity of our supporters.

I am thankful for the leadership of our Board of Directors, who guided us through this challenging period and continue to lay the foundation for our future. I am grateful for our excellent staff who live and breathe the mission of our great organization. I'm in awe of our incredible volunteers who continually give their time and energy to the animals. Finally, I'm grateful to our donors who continue to support us even during uncertain times.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Mossberger

Carolyn Mossberger

2022 Fundraising Events

Trivia Night – April 23, 2022

Petals for Pets Plant Sale – May 6-7, 2022

BarkaPALooza – September 25, 2022

Pawction – November 30 to December 4, 2022



West Suburban Humane Society (WSHS) is a volunteer-based, animal welfare organization that was founded in 1972 as a lost and found referral service.

We provide housing for up to 25 dogs and 60 cats at a time. We operate at full capacity at all times with animal care and adoptions being provided by 3 full-time and 9 part-time employees and nearly 500 volunteers. Our facility is open to the public 6 days a week.

Mission

WSHS is dedicated to operating a premier animal shelter for the purpose of finding safe, permanent and compatible homes to adopt domestic dogs and cats. We are committed to educating and encouraging the public to humanely care for dogs and cats.

Vision

WSHS will achieve and sustain its reputation for being the premier humane organization in Illinois. To achieve such recognition, WSHS will focus on the following critical components:

Advocacy: WSHS will promote the humane care of dogs and cats by working with government agencies and other agencies to promote the humane care of animals.

Care: WSHS will be the preeminent provider of animal care, working with high quality veterinarians to provide the most appropriate medical treatment for non-terminal conditions of cats and dogs in our care. Further, WSHS will develop innovative practices, such as working with reputable trainers in the area, to ensure that every animal in our care receives the best total care before being adopted by the most compatible owner.

Education: WSHS will educate our staff, volunteers and members of the community on proper pet health care and safety. We will provide ample information and constant support to our adoptive families and act as an invaluable resource for educating the public at large.

Fundraising: WSHS will remain financially solvent and transparent so that we can continue to focus on finding new sources of revenue and maintaining our relationship with those who have provided financial contributions.

Values: We believe in the following core values:

- Serving as a resource to educate the community and animal owners about responsible dog and cat care.
- Providing high quality medical treatment for animals in our care.
- Controlling the pet population through spay and neuter.
- To always act ethically and in the best interests of both animals and potential adopters.
- Appreciating our dedicated volunteers and staff.
- Working as a team to develop creative solutions for potential adopters and achieve the best results.
- Having fun and enjoying our work.

Board of Directors

Officers

President – Scott McMillin
Vice President – Brian Wasielewski
Recording Secretary – Sarah Marshall
Controller/Treasurer – Kerry Kopera

Directors

Christian Ambler
Colleen Attwell
Jessica Audette
Dr. Lyn Edmonson
Bob Koch
Mark Moutelle

Success Story: Clam

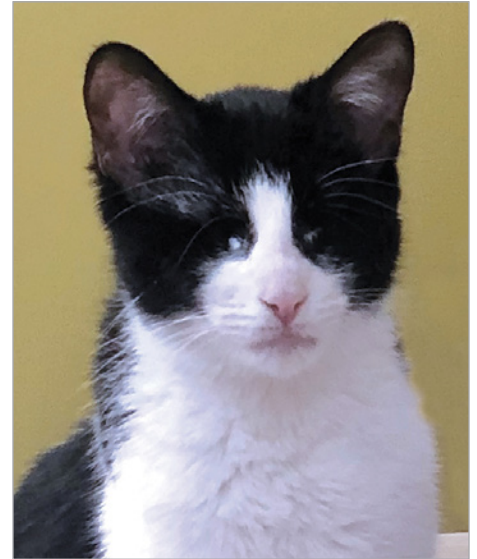


Clam was brought to West Suburban Humane Society on the coldest day in February. She was a one-week-old kitten who came to us with a sister but no mom. West Suburban Humane Society placed both kittens in a neo-natal foster home where Clam was bottle-fed around the clock for several weeks.

Clam's sister grew larger and found a family to call her own, but Clam wasn't thriving. She stopped eating and grew lethargic. Our vets found that Clam was suffering from severe pain in her eyes due to an issue with her lenses, and removal was the only treatment. After her eyes were removed, Clam quickly bounced back and began to put on weight. Unfortunately, at a post-op appointment, our vets also detected a heart murmur. Clam had a cardiologist appointment to take a closer look and determine her long-term plan. The good news is that her heart issue is not a concern at the moment. She will need bi-annual vet visits and yearly cardiologist appointments to monitor her condition for the rest of her life.

Clam doesn't know she's blind and is a curious, playful kitten who keeps her foster sisters on their toes! We love that Clam is getting the help she needs for a hopefully long and happy life.

Not all rescues can afford to pay for extraordinary vet care at the level Clam is receiving. In cases like Clam's, we are extra grateful to our supporters for helping needy animals in our care on their journey to health. For the past 49 years, West Suburban Humane Society has vowed to make a difference in animal welfare and our community at large.



Clam doesn't know she's blind and is a curious, playful kitten who keeps her foster sisters on their toes!

Success Story: Woofrow Wilson



Animal control facilities vary vastly from one to another depending on county funding, residential support and the level of compassion the workers have for animals. Picture a small concrete shed down a dusty path in rural south-western Illinois.

There is no air conditioning nor fans. In the summer, the dogs are lucky when a tiny breeze gives them the smallest relief from the heat. This is the exact setting Woofrow Wilson was living in when WSHS was contacted about rescuing him and another dog. It was 97degrees there. One look at his handsome face and mischievous brown eyes, and we knew we had to rescue him and the other dog.

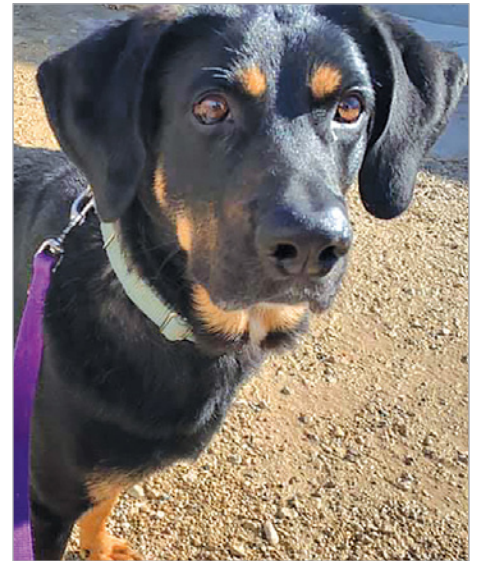
When Woofrow Wilson arrived at the shelter, he was a ball of energy. He had little socialization with people and didn't understand how to be a well-mannered gentleman. It was go, go, go all the time but we noticed that after a long play session, his back legs seemed to tire out and become weak. He had an unusual gait and looked painful in his back end. We took him to the vet where x-rays showed he was suffering from hip dysplasia. The vet recommended we take him to see an orthopedic specialist.

The orthopedic specialist confirmed the diagnosis and also diagnosed him with DJD or degenerative joint disease. She recommended he have a procedure called an FHO or femoral head osteotomy which is like a hip replacement for a human. A surgery like this is expensive, costing at least \$4,000, but once an animal is with us, we will do whatever it takes to make them comfortable and give them the best chance of finding their forever home.

Woofrow had the surgery and went to a foster home to recover. He has recovered nicely but still needs to work on strengthening his leg which can be done with regular walks, walking clockwise and counterclockwise, doing figure eights, controlled walking up stairs and sits to stands. He has also done therapeutic swimming which he really does well at.

Woofrow is extremely lucky to have landed at WSHS. Not all shelters are able or willing to put in the money and effort on a single animal. But to WSHS, there is no other alternative. If we don't help him, he is not adoptable. Now he can go on to find the perfect home and have the chance to show his full potential as a valued member of the family. Donations received by our supporters allows us to help Woofrow Wilson and other animals in need so they can go on to become cherished pets. It also helps us step forward confidently when animals are in desperate situations. By taking some of the financial burden off of West Suburban Humane Society now, you will be putting the shelter in a better position to support the next homeless pet with medical issues.

Woofrow Wilson was adopted by one of our employees and is living the life in Montana with his fur sibling Bluebelle.



Woofrow is extremely lucky to have landed at WSHS. Not all shelters are able or willing to put in the money and effort on a single animal.

WSHS Partners



WSHS is dedicated to operating a premier animal shelter that provides the best treatment for dogs and cats in its care. However, like most everything, quality services come at a price. Due to the shelter’s tight budget, many animals would not be able to receive adequate care without significant withdrawal from the organization’s operating budget and/or large increases in adoption fees. Luckily, WSHS is fortunate enough to have many partners that provide essential services for a fraction of their retail cost. This generosity allows WSHS to continue to care for and place animals into their forever homes at a reasonable fee for adopters and manageable budget for the shelter.

 Afina Insurance	 All Creatures Great and Small	 Arboretum View Animal Hospital	 Artistic Grooming	 Baig of Tricks	 Bark Avenue Daycamp
 Beata & Sara Kolpek Platinum Partners Realtors	 Dibble Moving and Storage	 Dicke Tool Company	 Dogtopia of Downers Grove/ LaGrange	 Enjoy Your Dog	 Friendly Vet Animal Hospital
 Gerald Subaru of Naperville	 Happy Cat Grooming	 Happy Dog Barkery	 Itasca Bank and Trust	 Midwest Waste Consultants, LLC	 Next Door and Window
 Partners and Paws Veterinary Services	 Robert Bair Plumbing, Heating and Air	 Shaw Media/ Suburban Life Media	 Suburban K9	 Two Bostons	 VCA Aurora
 VCA West Suburban Veterinary Hospital	 Veterinary Vision	WSHS attributes a large portion of our success to the generosity of our partners who provide an array of essential services. We thank them for their dedication towards animal welfare, and continued commitment to WSHS!			



Revenue

Contributions	\$437,616
Bequests	\$149,167
Capital Campaign	\$45,635
Fundraising Events	\$126,490
Adoption Fees	\$78,644
In-Kind Contributions	\$66,307
Grant Income	–
Investment Income	\$34,073
Total Revenue	\$937,932

Program & Supporting Service Expenses

Program Services

– Animal Care and Education	\$268,328
– Vet Care and Medical Supplies	\$174,004
– Food and Supplies	\$101,085
– Spay/Neuter	\$20,988
– Other Program Related Costs	\$186,981
Total Program Service Expenses	\$751,386

Supporting Services

– General and Administrative	\$59,790
– Fundraising	\$180,746
Total Expenses	\$991,922

Change in Net Assets	\$53,990
Net Assets at 12/31/2019	\$5,283,495
Net Assets at 12/31/2020	\$5,229,505

Why Give to WSHS?



At the West Suburban Humane Society, we never turn our backs on an animal in need.

Since our founding in 1972, the shelter has relied completely on the generosity of its donors to provide animal care and shelter for thousands of cats and dogs. The contributions of caring and generous individuals -- volunteers, adopters, community members -- have empowered us to take in a cat with a broken leg, a dog with a heart condition, and make sure those animals live their lives as a family's loving companion.

Where another shelter would euthanize a cat with hyperthyroidism, we make sure she gets the medication she needs. Where another shelter would turn away a litter of puppies with Parvo, we take them in and treat them until they are well. Where another shelter would euthanize a dog or cat that stayed for months, just to make room for another animal, we remain committed to getting that animal a home.

Our needs are as varied as our success stories and as big as the job we do. We're seeking funds to save lives, first and foremost. Veterinary care costs our shelter more than \$120,000 each year, and that's with the generous discounts our partner vets are able to provide. Pet food and animal care, all add up to more than \$200,000 annually.

Our first responsibility is to our animals, and as we look to the future we must maintain the present. Your gift to the WSHS -- whether an annual gift, a monthly donation, a corporate sponsorship or a legacy gift -- will save lives right now, and ensures that our mission of caring for homeless dogs and cats continues.

Because of you, we've been able to provide quality animal care for more than 48 years. With your help, we will continue to provide it for at least 40 more.

All donations to WSHS are 100% tax deductible. For any questions regarding donations to WSHS, please contact Carolyn Mossberger, Executive Director, at 630-960-9601 or director@wshs-dg.org. WSHS extends our sincerest gratitude to our entire community for their continued commitment and support of the shelter.





Paw Pals

All Paw Pals gifts are automatically recurring unrestricted donations which can be directly applied to the pressing needs of the shelter (medical care, building maintenance, etc.). Paw Pals creates a recognized group of committed WSHS supporters. This giving option allows donors to give monthly installments, withdrawn directly his/her credit card account.

Legacy Society for Planned Gift Donors

The Legacy Society is a recognized group of committed WSHS supporters who have chosen to make planned gifts to WSHS. A gift from an estate helps assure continuity of quality services and the future of WSHS. A planned gift signifies the donor's lifetime commitment to WSHS. It allows him/her to make contributions to WSHS which are not 'out-of-pocket' during the donor's lifetime and can be tailored to meet the donor's priorities. Planned giving can help with effective estate tax planning.

Corporate Giving

Corporate gifts are unrestricted and can be directly applied to the pressing needs of the shelter (medical care, building maintenance, etc.). WSHS mission is not controversial and therefore, the majority of people and corporations can agree that WSHS is a worthy cause for their community. By giving to WSHS, a corporation establishes itself as an asset to the community, thus building goodwill while also benefiting from a tax deduction. Corporate donors are acknowledged through multiple avenues (e.g., WSHS website, Annual Report, newsletters, etc.) which target thousands of residents in the Western Suburbs annually.



Special Event Corporate Sponsorship

A gift supporting a WSHS special event provides businesses with direct and immediate recognition. By giving to a large scale event such as the Anniversary Fundraiser and/or BarkaPALooza, companies can gain recognition as an asset to the community, by being philanthropic toward a cause supported by thousands of people. Special Event Sponsorship also enables donors to provide a combination of cash and in-kind giving that fits donors' circumstances as well as meeting the needs of WSHS.

Thank You to the WSHS Legacy Society Members

Anonymous	Stanley Drohomirecki	Jill Kurth	Judy Reeder
Pauline Annicks	Chuck and Mary Edwards	Shannon Lenz	Dorothy Ryan
Lorie Bonham	Barbara F.	Bernard and Janice Mack	Larry Sacks
Gloria Bornsen	Clyde A. Fazanbaker	Ray McDonald	John A Sacher
Carol Bousek	Dione Gacke	Jane and Charles McLagan	Scott Schneider
Lyndell F. Bowman	Kathleen Gilbert	Kurt Mohr	Patricia Schwartz
Herbert Brown	Jim Grabowski	David and Christina Morrison	Christine Sinn
Patty Christophersen	Irene Halicka	Carolyn Mossberger	Dorothy Smith
Roberta Clark	Paul Hedburn	Helen Nowicki	Eleanor Swiglo
Tom and Ruth Cloonan	Charles and Diane Hlavaty	Reed and Ute O'Malley	Eric Van Clevon
Virginia Croan	Brian J. Hofmann	Neal Oppenheimer	Otto W. Vollenwieder
Sylvester Czopek	Charles Kastner	Ernestine Ostrowski	

Thank You to the 2020 WSHS Volunteers



WSHS is very fortunate to have a dedicated group of volunteers. With their help, WSHS is able to operate smoothly 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. In 2020, more than 481 volunteers contributed more than 25,368 hours cleaning animal areas, maintaining the shelter, assisting potential adopters, transporting animals, and of course, caring for the cats and dogs. Volunteers are also involved in special events and fundraisers, including adoption events, Petals for Pets plant sale, and Barkapalooza. Additionally, WSHS volunteers contribute their time and expertise to the shelter by serving on special advisory groups such as the Finance and Volunteer Action Committee.



WSHS is also fortunate to have more than 35 volunteers who act as temporary care or foster homes, providing constant and individualized care for cats, dogs, puppies, and kittens in their homes. The staff of WSHS believes our volunteers are the best in the business and we're not alone.

Volunteers are the heart of WSHS. The passion and commitment of our volunteers makes it possible for WSHS to achieve our mission of rescuing, providing care, and placing so many animals in their forever homes. On behalf of the entire staff and the Board of Directors, thank you to all of our volunteers!

2020 Impact Report

433

pets adopted including 85 dogs, 68 puppies, 144 cats, and 136 kittens.



187

kids in scouting or other groups took our humane education tour and learned about rescue!



\$240,812

spent on food, veterinary care, and medical supplies for our dogs and cats.



4,526

pounds of food donated to local food pantries to keep pets with their families.



\$50

Pays for one breakfast for all animals in our Adoption Center



\$100

Pays for one spay surgery to keep the kitten population down



\$250

Purchases educational materials for our summer camps



\$500

Keeps our Adoption Center warm for one month this winter



West Suburban Humane Society

Contact Us:

West Suburban Humane Society

1901 Ogden Avenue, Downers Grove, IL 60515

Phone: (630) 960-9600

Fax: (630) 960-9604

www.wshs-dg.org

