



Stray Thoughts

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

Going Above and Beyond for Rescue Animals

When we adopt an animal from West Suburban Humane Society, we hope it has found its forever home. However, sometimes a family's situation changes, and the animal needs to return to the adoption center.

That was the case with Cash, a Jack Russell Terrier mix adopted in 2016 when he was a year old. Unfortunately, his owner recently passed away, and no one in the family was able to keep Cash. Since adopting Cash seven years ago, the owner also adopted two other Jack Russell Terriers, 10-year-old Kylo and 7-year-old Leah. The family asked if we would be willing to take all three dogs. Of course, we agreed.

Once an animal comes to West Suburban Humane Society, we commit to caring for that animal for the rest of its life. Our commitment can be as simple as offering support to adopters for medical or behavioral questions to ultimately taking the animal back if needed. In the case of returns, we provide the animals with whatever they need to ease their return to the shelter, ensure their well-being, and get them ready to find a new home.

Luckily, we found foster homes for all three dogs, so Cash, Kylo and Leah didn't have to stay in the kennel. All of the dogs required senior bloodwork and updated vaccines, as well as teeth cleaning and extractions. As you can imagine, all these procedures are costly, but we want to ensure the dogs are healthy before making them available for adoption.



At West Suburban Humane Society, we go above and beyond for the animals in our care which we wouldn't be able to do without the help of our staff, volunteers, foster homes, and generous supporters. You all play a vital role in helping these animals stay healthy and find families.

Thank you for making an above and beyond difference in the life of a shelter animal!

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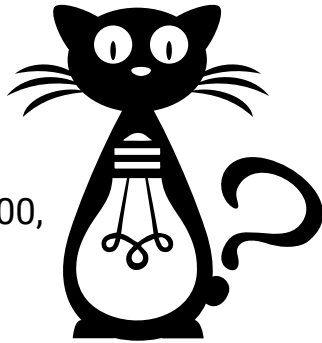
Save the Date for These Fun Upcoming Events!

April

20th, Saturday

Trivia Night at the American Legion, Saratoga Avenue 4000, Downers Grove.

Come out and test your knowledge!



May

**10th, Friday,
11th, 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:

Mark Motuelle, President

David Welch, Vice President

Sarah Marshall,
Recording Secretary

Kerry Kopera,
Controller/Treasurer

Dr. Lyn Edmonson, Director

Bob Koch, Director

Marci Levites, 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, Eric Van Clevon, Roberta Diehl, Nanette Delaney, Cassidy Santen, Sarah Coolidge

Animal Care Team: Brittany Askeland, Jennifer Miller

Intake/Foster Coordinator: Lexi Vitale

Volunteer Coordinator: Heidi Janss

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

Conan Male | 2 years old | White with Orange Tabby

Hi, I'm Conan! I'm a great big orange and white tabby who is looking for my forever home. I'm a quiet guy who tends to hang back and watch a bit, but when I'm approached, I absolutely love attention! I'm affectionate, sweet, and curious about everything. I do well with other cats, but I'm a little shy at first while I get to know a feline friend. I love people of all ages, especially if they want to play with me! I'm energetic and playful and will provide a lot of entertainment for my new household. Apply to meet me today!



Cannoli Female | 3 years old | Grey Tabby with White

Hi, I'm Cannoli and I'm a sweetheart! I'm going to be shy when we first meet, but I warm up quickly when you give me pets and attention. I'm an old soul, so at 3 years old, I'm a low energy gal who doesn't mind when you watch Netflix all night. When I'm settled in, I'm affectionate and a cuddle buddy. The only thing you need to know about me is I have an issue where my optic nerve is too short so I have a blind spot in the middle of my vision. It's probably why I'm shy around new people and places. I just need a little extra consideration while I'm settling into my new home. Once I know my new space, I relax and get comfortable.

If you've been looking for a quiet lady to hang around the house with, you've found her!



Rennie Male | 4.5 years old | Pitbull Terrier

SPECIAL NEED: MUST BE THE ONLY PET

Hi, I'm Rennie. I absolutely love people of all ages. Some people even call me their "smooshy-faced dreamboat loverboy!" My energy level is medium, so I'm happy with a walk around the block or some playtime every day. My manners are also quite good. I'm treat-motivated and have the potential to learn a whole lot more!

My perfect home will love forehead wrinkles and cherish me as their only pet. I could also be available as a foster-to-adopt dog within the Chicagoland area, so apply today!



Carlito Male | 1 year old | Pitbull Terrier/Cattle Dog Mix

SPECIAL NEED: KIDS 12+

Hi, I'm Carlito and I'm a social butterfly! I'm very playful with other dogs, I love adult people and cats too. My personality is sweet, affectionate and smart. I'm definitely part pittie, so you know I'm a total goofball. With other dogs, I like to play chase and wrestle. With people I can chill and hang out. I've got medium/high energy, so playing with other dogs or going for a hike would be a great way for me to get my ya-yas out. If I'm to live with kids, they should be 12 years or older. I'm a great listener – I take corrections well and learn fast. It helps that I have these big ears!

If you've been looking for a fun new friend, you've found him



Emails from Adopters

Hi there!

Just wanted to send a note of thank you for bringing Patch (formally Franz) into our lives! He is fitting into our family perfectly with his sister Punkin (also from WSHS). The best presents we have ever received!



Hello,

Otto has been a joy since he was adopted. It's now been 6 months and he is settling in nicely, happy and very affectionate. He has been a bit of a loose cannon here and there, but every week he gets better. My 80 pound puppy is growing up knowing love and warmth.

Thank you again for all your assistance and be sure to share with your team how well he is doing in his forever home. Yes, 80 pound large black dogs can find a forever home!



Hello WSHS,

Buckets has been great! We are learning a lot about him every day. We are getting a lot better at reading when he is in need of play time, nap time, and love. He cracks us up almost every day with something new!

We are YouTube and video gamers and we learned this weekend that he is SO into watching what's happening on screens. We pull up a fish or lizard video for him and he just loves it. We limit his screen time like a small child!

He also did so amazing with food change. We were really nervous since he'd had tummy issues at the shelter, but he is on his new food (the purina one recommended by you all) now without issues. We bought him a cat tree but he favors the fridge.

We will definitely pop on and leave a review soon. We had such a great experience from the start!



Hello,

Hatcher (Da Vinci) is settling in very nicely! He's such a kind and goofy boy and eager to please. He's been great with people of all ages and always enjoys playing with his dog friends whenever he gets a chance. He was also loved by everyone at the vet last Thursday for his regular check up.

My brother's dog Camp (Deke) from WSHS and Hatcher are very good buds now. He's been enjoying his walks and long naps rotating between the couch and floor when he wants his own space.

Thank you for checking in!



Above & Beyond

The Board of Directors recently rolled out a new recognition program for all WSHS volunteers, foster families, staff and support personnel. This program coincides with the roll out of our new slogan and motto, *Above and Beyond Rescue Care*.

We believe the essence of what makes WSHS different from other rescue facilities is that we truly go above and beyond in our support of the dogs and cats we bring into our care.

The program was launched in mid-August and received more than a dozen nominations! Meet two of the latest recipients:

Suzie Gonnerman and Maria Meacham of Gerald Subaru truly embody the spirit of Above and Beyond Rescue Care, and bring the phrase “Subaru Loves Pets” to life! In addition to supporting our signature events, such as Barkapalooza and Pawction, they make sure to sponsor our volunteer appreciation event each year and our PURRide kitten adoption event in June.

They are currently sponsoring this October’s Adopt a Shelter Dog month specials as well as our Make a Dog’s Day adoption event at their dealership. Since 2015, they have provided more than \$74,000 in financial support for our cats and dogs, and facilitated additional grants through their partnership with the ASPCA.

We can’t even begin to list all of the ways **Shannon** goes above and beyond for our animals. In addition to her regular Tuesday Cattery shift, she organizes all our incoming donations, tracks them for internal audit purposes, and coordinates with other local rescue groups to share excess resources with others in need.

Shannon is an extraordinary event volunteer, often bringing her teenage daughter to continue her spirit of giving. She is a WSHS adopter, and also a foster for our animals. And if that isn’t enough, she was a top fundraiser at our recent Barkapalooza event, raising more than \$1,100 to help our dogs and cats!



Volunteer Spotlight

Saturday afternoons at the adoption center are busy with visitors in for adoption appointments and special events such as birthday parties. Look past the hubbub and you'll find the Saturday afternoon cattery shift quietly taking care of up to 50 cats. Kaitlyn Curtis, Colleen Reum, Ashley Swaiss, Julie Rimbault, and Julien Rios work easily with each other, making sure every single one of the WSHS cats gets the attention they deserve.

Kaitlyn is the shift coordinator and senior member with six years of volunteer service at WSHS. Kaitlyn has helped many cats find their adoptive families. She enjoys her time with the kitties and loves interacting with other WSHS volunteers, staff, and visitors to the adoption center. Surprisingly, with all her cat experience and knowledge gained at WSHS, Kaitlyn doesn't have a cat of her own. If she were to bring a cat home, it would need to have a sense of adventure; Kaitlyn loves the cats that climb on her shoulders or find their way to air ducts near the ceiling.

Colleen Reum has been volunteering at WSHS for three years. She loves getting to know the cats and watching them become more comfortable as they settle in at the adoption center. She says once they feel safe, you can see their personalities emerge. Maybe it's because Colleen has a shy dilute Tortie at home. Colleen loves how Misty lets her big personality shine just for her family. Colleen also knows firsthand about socializing cats since she has opened her home to dozens of foster kittens. Her most interesting volunteer experiences have come from her kitty fosters who she can only describe as kooky!

Ashley has been volunteering since the beginning of 2022, alternating her weekends between the cattery and the kennel. Ashley started volunteering to bring peace and joy into her life. Mission accomplished. Ashley says, "Every cat and dog at the shelter is so special and I love how much I can know about all of them! It's so fun and rewarding getting these animals to trust you and to give them all the happiest lives they



can have!" Ashley shares her home with four pets, three of which are WSHS alums: Doug is her oldest and shyest cat; Babs (alum Kitty B) is the queen of the household; Fanny (alum Vixen) started sitting on Ashley's lap in the condo room and hasn't stopped since; and Marnie (alum Hope) is the wild child pup who is tolerated by her older feline siblings.

Twelve-year old Julien Rios jumped at the chance to join our youth volunteer program with his mom Julie Rimbault a year ago. They look for opportunities to spend extra time with the cats whenever they can. When the Saturday afternoon birthday party guests spend time in the cattery, Julien gets a lot out of sharing his knowledge with the younger kids. He also enjoys building cardboard houses for his two kitties at home. Julien is hoping to volunteer with the humane education program this upcoming year.

All the Saturday afternoon volunteers love being a part of the lives of the cats that journey through WSHS. Julie says it's rewarding to see "how a cat's behavior can be improved through love, proper care and patience." The love, care, and patience these volunteers give result in adoptions for the WSHS cats. Colleen is certain: "There is a forever home out there for every cat!"

Hearty Thanks

Manor Hill Elementary School Student Council collected donations for our cats and dogs and dropped them off last week. Our hearts are full seeing the compassion and caring in these young children!

In lieu of buying Christmas gifts for each other, **the Buczkiewicz Family** bought two carloads of donations for the dogs and cats at the adoption center.

The Clarendon Hills Daisy Dash is an annual run that supports local charities. This year WSHS was selected as a recipient for our work saving homeless animals.

Noah turned 25, and his birthday wish was to go shopping with his brother and buy donations for the animals at the adoption center. He also did an online fundraiser and raised \$1,587 for the dogs and cats!

Every year the **Ladies of Chicago Golf** have a drawing in which one of the ladies wins her charity of choice for donations to be collected on behalf of The Ladies of Chicago Golf Club. This year's winner requested for the total donations in the amount of \$4,250 be distributed to WSHS.

Thank you to **Oscar and Gretchen**, who collected \$150 from selling dog treats, and donations to the "grumpy Xmas bottle."



Manor Hill Elementary



The Buczkiewicz Family



Clarendon Hills Daisy Dash



Noah



Oscar & Gretchen





West Suburban
Humane Society

1901 W. Ogden Avenue
Downers Grove, IL 60515

INSIDE:
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Winter 2024 Newsletter



West Suburban
Humane Society

Girl's Night Out!!

Hosted by

Clara's

February 29, 2024 5:30 – 8:30 PM

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

Tickets: \$35 each (\$30 if purchased before January 31)

Join us for:

- Complimentary appetizers
- Entry to 3 door prize raffles
- Wine Pull | Gift Bag
- Cash Bar
- Shopping with 3-4 vendors

*Tiaras, pearls &
diamonds not
required!!*

Get tickets at
[WSHSGN02024.givesmart.com](https://www.wshsgn02024.givesmart.com)
or follow this link:



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

