

Love is a Pet Away



West Suburban Humane Society

# STRAY THOUGHTS

Happy Valentines  
Day from  
the animals  
at WSHS!

## Save A Life - Spay and Neuter

February 27th is Spay Day USA. On this day, shelters across America are offering low cost spay/neuter certificates to encourage people to have their dog or cat spayed or neutered. West Suburban Humane Society will be offering these certificates not only on that day but throughout the year as well.

Each year thousands and thousands of cats and kittens, dogs and puppies are euthanized due to overpopulation. Statistics from the Humane Society of the United States show that 10-12 million pets are euthanized annually in the United States. Using the lower figure of 10 million, that's 192,308 per week or 27,473 pets euthanized every 24 hours, 365 days per year.

Seventy thousand kittens and puppies are born every day just in the U.S. Twenty-five percent (25%) of the cats – one out of every four – are destroyed daily. The majority of these cats and kittens are bright-eyed and healthy, with no physical or mental deformities.

Why are they being euthanized? Because their owners are not spaying and neutering them. Not only does spay/neuter prevent unwanted litters and homelessness, but also it ensures longer, healthier lives.

In 2006, two older female dogs came to WSHS. Both of these dogs were sweet and well behaved but had underlying medical conditions.

Gretchen a beautiful 8-year-old lab mix was found at a construction site in Joliet. She came to the shelter in August and during a routine vet check, it was discovered that two of her mammary glands were hard and enlarged. We immediately had her spayed and during

the surgery they found and removed two large masses on her mammaries and many discolored cysts on her ovaries. All were sent out for biopsy and lucky came back benign.



Gretchen

Sunshine, a six-year-old shepherd/sheltie mix came to the shelter through Fulton County Humane Society in July. During a routine vet visit, nodules were discovered on her mammary glands. We immediately had her spayed and two masses were removed from her mammaries. Both masses were found to be cancer. Luckily for Sunshine, the cancer was caught at an early stage and her prognosis is good.

In both cases, no further treatment was needed. The dogs will need 6 month vet visits to make sure that no new tumors have developed. Since their surgeries, both dogs have been adopted and are doing wonderfully in their new homes.

Unfortunately, these situations could have been prevented had the dogs been spayed at an early age.

The bottom line, when owning an animal, is you assume responsibility for that animal's well being. Spaying and neutering is as vital to your pet's health and happiness as routine physical examinations, good nutrition, grooming,

playtime, and love. Before you adopt an animal, you need to seriously consider whether or not you are ready to take on the financial responsibility of properly caring for one. If you have already adopted an unaltered animal, it is your responsibility to have that animal spayed or neutered regardless of cost.

For more information on obtaining a low cost spay/neuter certificate, please contact the shelter at 630-960-9600, ext. 25 or visit our web site at [www.WSHS-DG.org](http://www.WSHS-DG.org).

**Save a life – please have your pet spayed or neutered!**



Sunshine



[www.WSHS-DG.org](http://www.WSHS-DG.org)

## Upcoming Events 630-960-9600, ext. 24

### FEBRUARY

14th, Wednesday

Happy Valentines Day from the homeless animals at the shelter!

27th, Tuesday

Spay Day USA. Stop by the shelter or check our web site at [www.WSHS-DG.org](http://www.WSHS-DG.org) for your Spay/Neuter Discount Coupon.

### APRIL -

8th, Sunday

Easter – WSHS will be closed today.

BFC donated services to the production of "Stray Thoughts." The design and printing of the newsletter were provided below cost.



INTEGRATEDPRINTMANAGEMENT

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## West Suburban Humane Society

shelter services include:

- Pet Adoptions
- Free Pet I.D. Tags
- Community Education
- Humane Investigations
- Pet Behavior Counseling
- Spay/Neuter Referrals
- Lost & Found Hotline

## WSHS Wish List

- Paper Towels
- Food (our animals are on a specific diet: so that we don't upset their digestive system, we must be specific) Purina or IAMS (Dry) cat and dog, kitten and puppy formulas, light formula – cat and dog and senior formula – cat and dog. Any canned cat, dog, kitten and puppy food is fine.
- KMR (kitten milk replacement), small baby bottles and nipples
- Dog and cat toys (washable and indestructible!)
- Cat litter (no scoopable)
- Stamps (to be used for postage)
- Garbage bags (13 & 30 gallon sizes)
- 6" paper plates
- Bleach
- Laundry Detergent
- Volunteers!
- **Monetary donations are always appreciated!**

## WEST SUBURBAN HUMANE SOCIETY

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, ext. 25 to submit articles or receive donation information.

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### THE WSHS STAFF:

Executive Director: Carolyn Mossberger (Ext. 25)  
Animal Care Manager: Sarah Stromberg (Ext. 23)  
Night and Weekend Manager: Catherine Schmitt  
Animal Care Ass'ts: Vicky Samiec and Bonnie Benton  
Adoption Desk: Kristy Moran  
Volunteer Coordinator: Rebecca Koehler (Ext. 45)

### 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**



