



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 mammarys 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 mammarys. 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.

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



Sunshine



Our Shelter Hours Are:

Weekdays:
11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Weekends:
11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Closed Wednesdays

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 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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www.bfcprint.com

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.

BOARD MEMBERS:

Ed Cryer, President
Cindy Johnson, Recording Secretary
Dawn Drella, Controller/Treasurer
Jennifer Bahlmann, Director
Carol Glombicki, Director
Guy Pinta, Director
Renee Cantalupo, Director
Ken Eisenberg, Director
Pam Gambill, Director

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
Phone: 630-960-9600
Fax: 630-960-9604



www.WSHS-DG.org

Ready For a Home

Cosmo

4.5-year old, Male, Orange and White



My name is Cosmo, but some people call me MoMo. I have been here at WSHS for almost a year now. I came from DuPage County Animal Control where I was an owner give-up due to hardship. I don't have any claws in the front, but even if I did, I'd be very polite with them. That's just the kind of guy I am. I like being around kids and I think I like dogs okay, but only if they like me too. I am calm and I like to be held. I must be a favorite around here because sometimes I get let out of my cage to wander around with a couple of the other cats. This is my favorite time of day, and I like to entertain people by carrying my sparkle ball around in my mouth. You and I can play soccer with it if you come visit me!

Betula

3-year old, Female, White w/tabby markings

Wow, it has been a long journey for me to become available for adoption. I came to WSHS with my 7 babies when we all had ringworm infestations. One of my litter had 60% of his little body covered with the fungus. We were extremely lucky to wind up here because they were willing to treat us instead of looking at us like a lost cause. It took two months before we were pronounced well. If I do say so myself, my darling babies are very cute. I am no slouch myself. I love to play with you and don't mind being held. I am just not a fan of dogs. I could probably get along with another cat if I had to, but dogs are a deal breaker. In fact, I want to chase every dog I see. I have tons of fun to offer you (I can be quite acrobatic!). Please come visit me; it will surely brighten my day!



Tymothy

2-year old, Male, Beagle/Hound Mix



Wow, I am back at WSHS again. I left here when I was just a puppy and I thought I'd never be back. I loved my family so much and they loved me too, but my owners' hours changed and they had to leave me home by myself all day. I really missed them and I get scared when I have to be alone for very long. That's why I had to come back here where I can hopefully find a family who has someone home most of the time. I sure hope my forever family finds me soon because being in the kennel is a lot like being home alone. Sure, there's lots of other dogs in there, but I need people around to make me feel secure. I like kids, other dogs & cats. I like to play fetch and chase. I have had some obedience training, walk well on a leash and I'm housebroken. Car rides are great, too! Won't you come see how well I can fit into your family?

Breck

2-year old, Male, Jack Russell Terrier

If you want to see what a perfect specimen of a Jack Russell Terrier looks like, come see me, come see me! We think we are big dogs, even though we have small bodies. I have jaws of steel, let me tell you. I can chew through some of the toughest toys and cloth leashes. I love to jump and run and play, play, play. I am a super-energized boy whose family brought me to the shelter because they had a premature baby who needed Mom & Dad to stay at the hospital around the clock. They said it wasn't fair to me to be left home alone all the time. My new family should do their homework. We JRT's are a special breed and not for everyone. Because I like my toys so much, and may not want to share, it would be best if I lived in a family with kids at least 12 years old.



Holiday for the Animals Thank You's

2006 Gift Tree and Silent Auction Results and Acknowledgements

The 2006 Gift Tree and Silent Auction fundraiser, held at the Holiday for the Animals celebration on December 10, 2006 was a big success, thanks to the efforts of many shelter Board Members, staff and volunteers, and the generous donations of volunteers, friends and businesses. This year, the event raised over \$15,000 for the shelter, in addition to being a lot of fun for everyone involved.

The Gift Tree and Silent Auction depend on the efforts of volunteers who collect all of the wonderful gifts. The top three solicitors this year were, Pauline Semenchuk (\$3,655), Joyce Byan (\$2,436) and Debbie Grandt (\$641). We also want to thank the following additional volunteers and friends, who supported the shelter and solicitors and/or donators: Corinne Beutel, Ellen D'anza, Fred and Linda Schuster, Jane Mikis, Jeannette Peterson, Jenny Sullivan, Joyce Byan, Julie Hrejsa, Karen Berger, Ken Eisenberg, Lucy Matune, Mary Edwards, Mary Hasselberger, Pam Gambill, Pauline Semenchuk, Rebecca Buchholz, Sandra White, Sue Stanley, Tammy Wells, Guy Pinta, Janet Lucero, Cindy Johnson, Ed Cryer, Dawn Drella, Jean Hoffman, Renee Cantalupo, Eva Smith, Bonnie Benton, Carol Glombicki, Pam Dobbins, Diane Harke, Kelvin Klindworth, Jennifer Bahlmann and Linda Johnson.

A special thanks to the following volunteers who helped us set up, tear down and staff the event throughout day: Linda Sherman, Dot Zaybal, Kristy Moran, Debbie Grandt, Eva Smith, Renee Cantalupo, Jennifer Bahlmann, Guy Pinta, Carol Glombicki, Steve Wren, Barb Wren, Jill Runnion-Gillono, Mary Hasselberger, Corinne Beutel, Carolyn Mossberger, Elaine Hillson, Pam Gambill, Jenny Sullivan, Mary Brancher, Elizabeth Colello, LuAnn McCullough, Janet Bar and Birgit Farchmin.

A huge thank you to Renee Cantalupo for coordinating this entire event as well as putting together gift baskets, designer trees, boutique items, bake sale items, and the list goes on and on! Renee's family and friends, Mary Brancher, Elizabeth Colello, LuAnn McCullough, Janet Bar and Birgit Farchmin for helping set-up, working all day and tearing everything down. Eva Smith and Debbie Grandt for creating all of the wonderful gift baskets and designer trees for the Silent Auction. Debbie Grandt for all of her work on getting the Gift Tree and Silent Auction organized. Dot Zaybal and Carol Glombicki for wrapping all of the Gift Tree items. This event would not have been successful without all of your efforts and hard work.

Thank you to the vendors who helped to make this a great event: The Happy Dog Barkery, Millie and Louisa's Chocolates and Beadniks and More.

We apologize if we have neglected to recognize anyone.

Of course, the event would not be a success without the contributions

from those businesses that support us with their donations. This year, we would like to express our gratitude to the following businesses.

Abby J
Ace Hardware
All Creatures Great and Small
Anyways Restaurant
Baird & Warner
Ballydoyle
Bead Heaven
Binny's Beverage Depot
Carnival of Crafts
Casey's Restaurant
Cheryl's Total Look
Chew on this Bakery
Chili's
Claim Jumpers Restaurants
D'anza Designs
Dariusz Jewelers
Fender & Donisch Photography
Finley's Grill Room
Fuller Car Wash
Herbalife
Hobson Valley Animal Clinic
Hollywood Boulevard Theaters
Las Palmas
Man Financial
McGrath Acura
McGrath Lexus
Mon Ami Gabi
Nancy's Tea Room
None of Your
North Beach
Oakridge Toys Hobbies & Gifts
Physical Health and Wellness Center
Pugs in Leather
Sal Carvao
Sally Beauty Supply
Sybaris
Tivoli Bowl
Two Toots Steam Whistle Grill
Unilever
Walgreens
Women's Workout World
ZaZa's

Meet the President

After serving as President of the West Suburban Humane Society Executive Board for over 6 years, Jennifer Bahlmann has stepped down and will remain on the Board as a Director. Jennifer has done an excellent job in setting our direction for the future, which will continue to be the path followed by the Board.

I have stepped into the President's position at the request of the Board and would like to take this space to introduce myself. My name is Ed Cryer and my wife Diane and I have lived South of Downers Grove in an unincorporated area call Brookeridge where we designed and built our home in 1968. We have 3 children and presently have 4 Grandchildren all of which live in the Western suburbs. I retired from Electro-Motive, Division of General Motors, in 2001 after working for 37 years in the Engineering department where I was Manager of the Design group for the last 22 years. Diane is also retired after working 25 plus years in the medical field. I am involved with Brookfield Zoo and Hinsdale Hospital as a volunteer. We have been "campers" (25' travel trailer) since 1974 and if anyone has an interest in HO trains, see me; it's been my hobby for many decades. We have 2 dogs, which love to go camping also and 1 cat that doesn't care to leave the 4 walls of our house and wants to stay home when we leave.

We have been supporters of WSHS for over 25 years and have become more involved since retirement. My wife and I work with the dogs on Wednesday mornings. I intend to continue the strategy set by Jennifer in hope that we can succeed in building a new world class facility for the animals in our tempoary care. I'm looking forward to working with all of our members in reaching our common goal.

Please feel free to contact me with your questions, suggestions and comments,

Ed Cryer

President@WSHS-DG.org

Need for Help

The West Suburban Humane Society has grown over the many years of its existence to the point where we need to move our membership program into the 21st century and build a strong support base for our future goals. We are looking for someone who is willing to take the time to review our program, suggest and implement a new value added program that benefits both WSHS as well as our membership base and attract new members. If you feel this is something you would like to do, please call **Carolyn Mossberger at 630-960-9600 x25 or contact me** and we will be happy to discuss your ideas.

Ed Cryer

President@WSHS-DG.org

HEARTY THANKS

To all of the volunteers who gave up time with their families to work at the shelter over the holidays. We couldn't do it without you! You are appreciated more than you know!

Diane Harke, a WSHS volunteer, hosted a birthday party for her two cats, Rhett and Scarlett. Diane asked that people purchase items for the shelter instead of gifts for her cats. From this party, the shelter received many wonderful food, supply, toy and monetary donations.

Larry and Marilyn Jordan for donating their washer and dryer to the shelter. Thank you to Larry Jordan and Bill Johnsen for hauling them to the shelter, installing them in our basement and hauling away our old washer and dryer.

Elizabeth Drennan, 8 years old, asked that guests to her birthday party make donations to the shelter instead of bringing her gifts. She donated \$117.99 to the shelter.

Lindsey Wantuck, Franchesca Enrietti and Elizabeth Murphy of Western Springs, had birthdays and asked that their guests bring donations for the shelter instead of birthday gifts for them.

June Moss and Cindy Gundlach of Sunbeams and Rainbows Preschool in Elmhurst and all of their students for collecting \$430.50 for the homeless animals at the shelter. They do this drive every year and we can't thank them enough for their generosity.

Corrine Beutel, a WSHS volunteer, for donating a video monitor for our temperament testing room.

Kurt Mohr, a WSHS volunteer, for donating a digital scale to the shelter.

The Lisle Area Chamber of Commerce for making us a recipient from their auction of Garden Workbenches of Lisle.

Mike Wiseman from the DuPage County Forest Preserve District for chopping down a dead tree in front of the shelter. Thank you to Edith Makra from the Morton Arboretum for coordinating this endeavor.

Jane Dilworth of Jane Dilworth and Associates for donating and planting a new tree in front of the shelter.

Elise and Erin Radigan, two seven year olds from Downers Grove collected donations for the shelter in lieu of presents for themselves.

Diane Boynton of Villa Park made several small afghans and donated them to the shelter in memory of Emerald, a special kitty that she adopted from the shelter.

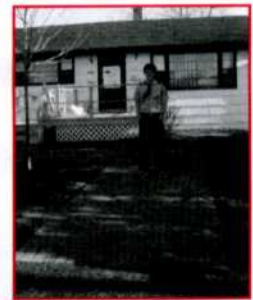
Danny and Tina Smith of Woodridge, hosted Smitty Fest 2006 in September 2006. At this event, they collected food and supply donations for the shelter totaling \$169.30 in value.

In the November Stray Thoughts newsletter, I incorrectly thanked the DuPage Community Foundation for their generous grant of \$6,700 awarded to us for the care of the animals we rescued from Hurricane Katrina. The money was actually awarded from the Companions Fund, A Donor Advised Fund of the DuPage Community Foundation.

Jeff Bures, Carol Fulara and the York Place Social Club in Bensenville had a Christmas party for their neighbors in their apartment building. They supplied the food and asked that everyone that attended bring a food or supply item for the shelter. They collected numerous food and supply donations.

Five-year old Eden Sutker used \$10.00 of her own money to purchase dog treats for the dogs at the shelter.

Andrew Sonnenberger and Boy Scout Troop 57 for expanding our engraved brick Welcome Walkway and installing all of the new bricks. The project took a lot of time and effort. It looks fantastic! Mr. Wannemaker, owner of Wannemaker's Home and Garden Center, provided the sand and edging for the project at cost. David Sonnenberger and Carol Fendrick provided the rest of the funds needed to complete the project.



Maggie McGuire of Downers Grove went Christmas caroling and collected donations for the animals at the shelter in honor of her birthday. She collected \$47.

Pet Watch by Dr. Ken Eisenberg, DVM

Dear Dr. Eisenberg:

We adopted a five-year-old Westie last year from the shelter. He's been a wonderful pet for our family. His only problem is his bad breath. We know he has some plaque on his teeth but we are hesitant to have them cleaned because our last dog experienced complications while under anesthesia. What can we do for our beloved friend?

Sincerely,
Dog Breath

Dear Dog Breath,

Once plaque and tartar builds up on the teeth health problems may arise that can lead to far more health issues than just the annoyance of bad breath. It can lead to oral pain, organ disease, and tooth decay. The organs most likely to be compromised are the heart and kidneys. The heart can develop valvular endocarditis secondary to the invasion of bacteria from the gingival tissue. The kidneys can develop renal tubular damage from this same bacteria. Some studies have shown that an estimated 80 percent of canine patients over five years of age are affected by dental problems. With proper care, however, your pet can have a longer, healthier life.

Pet dental health requires a multifaceted approach. It requires



professional dental cleaning procedures, vigilant home care, and proper dental diets, which include specifically, designed chew toys and treats.

Professional cleaning or prophylaxis is performed under general anesthesia. It usually involves scaling plaque and calculus from the tooth surface and from below the gum line to deter gingivitis. This is followed by polishing the teeth and applying a sealant to minimize the redevelopment of the plaque and tartar. The key to a safe dental prophylaxis is the anesthesia. Every patient should have a thorough physical examination and appropriate preanesthetic laboratory testing. As long as your veterinarian treats each dental cleaning as they would other surgical procedures your pet should be as safe as possible. That is why "cleaning" your pet's teeth can cost two to three hundred dollars to perform it properly and safely by your veterinarian.

Proactive home care is designed to slow the accumulation of plaque and tartar from reappearing on the tooth surface. Bacteria can develop on teeth as quickly as 24 to 48 hours after they have been cleaned. Therefore, wiping or brushing your pet's teeth will help promote good oral hygiene. Often, it is easier to start with a pet toothpaste on your finger and apply along the outer

surfaces of the teeth. Once your pet has accepted the flavor of the toothpaste, you may advance to using a toothbrush. Several products are available that contain Chlorhexidine gluconate which can exert an antibacterial effect on the gums. This can help reduce periodontal disease and halitosis or "bad breath". Other products containing zinc ascorbate or chlorine dioxide work well for fighting halitosis by neutralizing odorous sulfur compounds.

Proper dental nutrition is the third component in dental health. There are commercially available diets, such as, IAMS Daily Dental Care, Eukanuba Adult Maintenance, Purina Dental Health, and Science Diet Oral Care. Hills makes a prescription diet available from your veterinarian called T/D diet. There are rawhide chews that contain ingredients to fight bacteria and bad breath.

By following a safe dental care program, your pet will maintain a pleasant breath and a healthy smile.



Please address questions and suggestions for future animal health articles to:

Dr. Eisenberg
West Suburban
Humane Society
1901 West Ogden Ave.
Downers Grove, IL 60515



E-Mails and Letters From Adopters

Dear WSHS-

I wanted to give you an update on Boston (formerly Matrika). She has been such a joy and wonderful companion! She quickly learned the sound of my key in the door and now runs to greet me every time I get home. The rope scratching post and shoe-lace are big hits. We play with that string every day- it's so entertaining! She runs all the way from the bedroom, down the hallway, and into the living room to pounce on the string... then will run back and do it all over again. As you can see in the picture, she also loves to take naps while I'm studying- the couch cushions seem to be her favorite, despite the fact that her big bum usually slides down in between the cushion and the back of the couch!

I wanted to share a cute story. When I took Boston to the vet for her check-up, she immediately walked out of her crate and pressed her body up against me. She then tried to crawl into my zip-up sweatshirt, and the vet did most of the exam with just Boston's hindquarters and tail sticking out of my sweatshirt! It was a touching demonstration of the trust that we have already built together.

Thank you again for such a wonderful cat! Boston says, "thanks for taking such good care of me until I could find a home!"

Best wishes,
Sarah & Boston



Did you know.....

Fundraising (asking for \$'s) is an effort that will make most people crawl into a corner and claim a hearing loss. Our ongoing success stories of placing our 4-legged (sometimes 3) guests into loving homes could not happen without our fundraising activities to support our shelters' infrastructure. We are always looking for support in our existing fundraising activities and if you can help in any way, please contact Carolyn Mossberger. As you may know, Carolyn is our Executive Director and she can be reached at 630-960-9600 x25. Please let Carolyn know of any ideas you may have for raising money for our shelter and/or your willingness to help.

Just as an idea, Did you know each empty aluminum can weights .5oz which means 32 cans weigh 1 pound. That doesn't sound like much until

you realize how many cans your family goes through in a day, or week, or year. The last time I checked, 1 pound of aluminum was worth \$.50. After you think about how many cans your family uses in 1 year and then add to that what your neighborhood and your relatives may use, this \$ number starts to climb. Just think what might happen if we could find a way to collect aluminum cans community wide by soliciting help from local businesses, our own volunteers, boy scouts, girl scouts..... well, you get the picture. If this idea catches your interest and you would like to help out or coordinate, please let us know.

Ed Cryer

President@WSHS-DG.org

Help WSHS

John & Alice Papp of Estero, Florida are selling their condo. For details on the condo and the community in which it is located, please visit www.YouWillLoveItHere.com. If you purchase the condo and mention that you saw the ad in our newsletter, the shelter will receive a sizable donation from the Papps.

Renee Cantalupo, a WSHS volunteer, Board Member and a realtor with Platinum Partners in Downers Grove, will donate a large portion of every commission earned by business generated through humane society referrals. Please call Renee for all of your real estate needs and help the homeless animals at the shelter.



Renee A. Cantalupo
Realtor®

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