

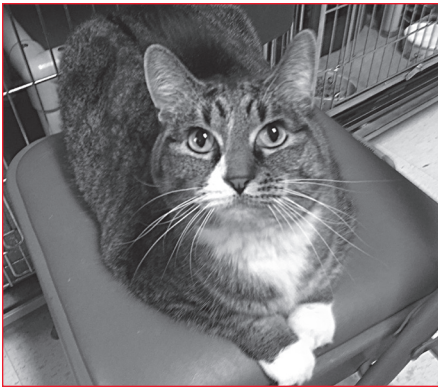


West Suburban Humane Society

# STRAY THOUGHTS

Happy  
Valentines Day!  
From The Animals  
at WSHS

## Cannoli — A Special Girl



Hi, I'm Cannoli! Have you ever heard of a Munchkin cat? Well, that's me, at least part anyway. I have the short legs of a Munchkin even if the rest of me isn't so small. I have sort of a long, sad story. If you have a few minutes, I will be happy to tell it to you.

It all started in late February of last year, when I heard my owners say they were getting a divorce. I'm not really sure what that means but all I know is that a few days later I and the two other cats that I was living with were brought to the shelter. I guess neither one of my owners were able to keep us. I really didn't like it here at first but after about a week, I realized that it is actually a pretty nice place. I got 2 square meals a day, a warm comfy bed and lots and lots of attention from the staff and volunteers. My two Persian siblings were adopted pretty quickly. I'm guessing it was because of their stunning good looks. Unfortunately, day after day, I continued to get passed by.

Finally, after three long months, a West Suburban Humane Society volunteer fell in love with me and decided to take me home. She traveled a lot for business and wanted an older cat that wouldn't mind spending time alone. This time, I really thought that I had found my forever home. Unfortunately, not long after she adopted me, her work schedule



changed and she was gone a lot more than she thought she would be. Then she found out she was being transferred and had to move out of state. I really didn't like spending so much time alone, so after a lot of soul searching, my owner felt it was the best thing for me to go back to the shelter. So here I am, once again, waiting for my forever home.

The other sad part of my story is that I have a condition called hyperthyroidism. Hyperthyroidism is the most common glandular disorder in cats. It is most frequently

caused by an excessive concentration of circulating thyroxine—a thyroid hormone better known as T4—in the bloodstream. I am currently on a special diet called y/d to help with the condition. I will have to be on this food for the rest of my life and cannot have any other type of food or treats. I also need blood work every 6 months to make sure my thyroid level is where it should be.



I know it is going to be hard for me to find a family to call my own but I do have a lot of positive qualities. I'm a friendly girl who can carry on a conversation with the best of them. The staff says I have a "Demi Moore"

voice, whatever that is. But it makes them smile, so I go along with it. I would prefer to be the queen of my castle. No other cats or dogs, please. I am also front-paw declawed.

If you want to meet a real life Munchkin (not from Oz), come on over and see me! I'll be waiting! Please don't let my story end here, I have a lot of life and love to give; all I need is a chance.



## Upcoming Events

630-960-9600, ext. 25

### FEBRUARY

14<sup>th</sup>, Saturday

Happy Valentine's Day – from the homeless animals at the shelter!

24<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday

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

### APRIL

5<sup>th</sup>, Sunday

Easter – WSHS will be closed today.

### MAY

9<sup>th</sup>, Saturday

Petals for Pets Plant Sale

10<sup>th</sup>, Sunday

Look for more information on page 7 of this edition of Stray Thoughts.

## WSHS Wish List

- Paper Towels
- Laundry Detergent
- Bleach
- Anti-bacterial Hand Soap
- Dish Washing Liquid
- 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. 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
- Stamps (to be used for postage)
- Garbage bags (13 & 30 gallon sizes)
- Batteries – AA, 9 Volt and C
- 6" paper plates
- Lint Traps
- Volunteers!
- *Monetary donations are always appreciated!*

## 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



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

1051 N Kirk Rd, Batavia, IL 60510  
800.774.6840 | [www.bfcprint.com](http://www.bfcprint.com)

## 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:

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### THE WSHS STAFF:

Executive Director: Carolyn Mossberger (Ext. 25)  
Animal Care Manager: Sarah Stromberg (Ext. 23)  
Night and Weekend Managers: Catherine Schmitt,  
Roberta Diehl, Deb Waggoner, Carol Thygesen  
Animal Care Assts: Brigitte Black, Janet Hunt  
Adoption Desk Manager: Mary Edwards (Ext. 10)  
Volunteer Coordinator: Patti Miller (Ext. 45)

### ADOPTION CENTER:

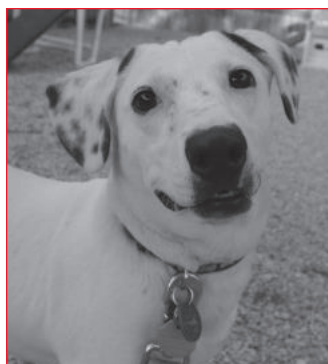
1901 W. Ogden Avenue, Downers Grove, IL 60515  
E-mail Address: [Director@WSHS-DG.org](mailto:Director@WSHS-DG.org)  
Phone: 630-960-9600 Fax: 630-960-9604

# Ready For a Home

## Wayne

**5 year old, Male, Hound Mix**

Hi I'm Wayne. I was recently returned to the shelter because my family was unable to handle me when I became overanxious. Now I've been to training to overcome my fears and I'm much easier to work with. I am calm and gentle; a true companion. I'm good with other dogs and don't mind cats. My ideal home needs to have the following; no kids; due to the fact that I can become anxious an adult only home would be best; no electric fence; I ran right through it in my previous home!; no apartments or condos because of my breed. I will make a great dog for the right family. Stop by and visit me soon!



## Jacky

**1½ year old, Male, Dachshund Mix**

Hi, I'm Jacky. I'm a handsome, playful, little guy! If you know and appreciate the dachshund and terrier personalities, then I am the perfect dog for you. I'm fun loving, playful, smart, tenacious and a tease. I love to "fetch" and chew on soft toys and tennis balls. I may play keep away with toys or household items and I'm quick to grab on to things so you'll have to teach me how to trade for items. For this reason, I cannot live with kids and need an experienced owner. I am also deaf, but it doesn't slow me down! I have been to training and know hand signals now, so I'm all ready for home life. I'm ok with cats and dogs. Because of my deafness, I take a little time to warm up and trust people but once I do, I will be a loyal and loving friend. Stop by and visit me soon!

## Juanita

**2½ year old, Female, Brown Tabby**

Hi, I'm Juanita! I'm a beautiful tri-colored tabby, with spots of gold throughout. Not much is known about my history. I came here with some kittens who might be mine or might not. Anyway, I'm that girl who has to size you up for a few minutes before I ask for attention. I don't think I have had much love in my life up until now, so I am learning from all the other cats here that people are good for playing and cuddling. I'm sure it won't be long before I'm the first in line to sit on a warm lap.



## Leo

**1½ year old, Male, Brown Tabby**

Hi, I'm Leo! I am a quieter guy who needs lots of love and kindness. I was in a house with some other cats and we had a flood that forced us all to move out (people and cats). We couldn't all go with our family because they could only keep one. We are at the shelter now, waiting for our forever home. I love to be with people and appreciate a good chin scratch. They say I am handsome with the big classic tabby swirls in my coat. I am great with other cats and would love a nice sunny spot to lay in at my forever home.



# Ask the Trainer

As the proud owner of a new puppy you are probably dealing with two very common "issues" that are typical of young dogs. The first issue that I hear questions on the most would be potty training, and the second would be nipping or "biting". Housebreaking a puppy takes work, but with a little knowledge and some specific rules it can be much easier than anticipated.

When bringing a new puppy into the home it is important to know two facts. An eight week old dog cannot hold his bladder for a long period of time and he doesn't know that he is expected to. When the puppy lived with mom, he was allowed to walk two feet from his bed and pee and then walk back and lay down. Now he is in a new environment where people get mad when he follows the rules that mom set up for him. We need to teach the dog a new set of rules, don't go to the bathroom in the house and go to the bathroom outside in a timely manner. Keep in mind that to a dog the house is just a place, carpet and rugs are meaningless to him, your bedroom is not special, anywhere is free game to do his business. I take a young dog out about every thirty minutes to go outside when I first bring them home. Teach a word for going such as "go outside." When he does go, immediately praise him, give him a treat, and repeat his command for going. Once that is in place I start expecting the dog to go every time I take him out. If the dog refuses to go after a reasonable amount of time because he wants to walk around and sniff I will take him inside and put him in a cage for fifteen minutes. This prevents the dog from coming inside and peeing on the floor immediately. After fifteen minutes I will take him outside and tell him "go outside" as we wander around until he goes and I will then praise him for going.

The dog should now know that we like when he goes outside, so we need to teach him that we don't like when he goes inside. The key to this is NEVER letting him out of your sight until you trust him. Use gates, playpens, etc. or just follow him when he wanders off. If he goes and you don't catch him, it is too late to correct and your potty training will be set back. Every "accident" should be a learning experience for you and the dog. If I see him going I will say NO in a firm voice, rush him outside, and praise him if he finishes out in the yard. Keep in mind that every dog is different, you can change the loudness and harshness of your voice based on the dogs temperament. The goal is to get across the point that you aren't happy, not to terrify the pup. This is a system that works very well, but a lack of consistency will undermine your efforts. The first month will not be fun, following you dog constantly and always watching, but it is very attainable to have a fully potty trained dog by four or five months of age.

Nipping is the second issue that I hear questions about frequently. Young dogs nip each other constantly throughout the day as the play, and they learn certain rules. They learn not to nip too hard, or the other dogs get mad and not to nip "mom" when she isn't in the mood. We now want to teach the pup not to ever nip humans. A nip is one of two things, a dominant type of play or a correction, neither of which should be used on humans whether child or adult. When the dog is eight weeks old I gently correct the nips by pushing the dog away and saying "no" in a firm voice. Don't yell the word, but it is equally important not to use baby talk as you tell him no. If the puppy is in a rambunctious mood I will find a toy and start playing with him. It is important that the dog doesn't learn to nip so that we

play with him, so I always correct and then take my time finding a toy to play with. If the dog gets worse the more you correct there are many different ways to address the issue. If a dog is extremely persistent, a leash and collar can be left on him so that he can be given a leash correction each time he crosses the line and the hand corrections don't work. If neither of these two approaches works, chances are you have a dominant puppy and may need some professional advice on how to proceed.

As you progress in training your dog and teaching him manners it is very to keep in mind that dogs are pack animals and do not learn like humans. You cannot rationalize or negotiate with a dog and still maintain your position as the leader. When finding a trainer be leery of anyone who goes to either extreme in methods of training. Some trainers want to give dogs treats for everything and never correct and others are extremely harsh and can break the spirit of the dog. Look for someone who understands dog behavior and maintains his leadership without resorting to food bribes or anger and aggression. If you have any questions or need assistance with your dog I would love to provide you with the knowledge to build the relationship that you want with your dog.

**Please address questions and suggestions for future Ask the Trainer articles to:**

**Matt Covey**  
**West Suburban**  
**Humane Society**  
**1901 Ogden Avenue**  
**Downers Grove, IL**  
**60515**  
**director@wshs-dg.org**



## Email and Letters from Adopters



Hello West Suburban Humane Society,

Just wanted to send an email wishing all of you a wonderful Thanksgiving. We are so lucky to count Sydney as one of our blessings this year. Thank you to all at West Suburban Humane Society for loving these animals while finding their forever homes. Sydney was adopted from WSHS on April 19th, 2014. Sydney was our first adoption and we definitely had a lot to learn. She was scared, very sick and would not eat! A volunteer had to literally pick her up and place her in my car when we came to pick her up. When we arrived home, it took almost 30 minutes to get her to come in the house. You could not talk loudly or raise a hand without her cowering down.

A few vet visits and lots of love and I am proud to say she is doing amazing!! In May, when her respiratory and intestinal infections cleared, she started training with us 5 days a week for the Chicago Marathon. No days off when she's at your bedside ready to go! She is crazy and silly and melts our hearts everyday. The crate training (which is all I had known) did not go well as Sydney shook the entire time in the crate.... so she now sleeps with us!! Potty training went very well, only

one "accident" in the seven months since she has been home. We are still working on socialization with other dogs and humans....but she loves squirrels!!!

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you to everyone at WSHS for helping our Sydney find home!!!

**The Byrnes Family**

(Tim, Jennifer, Laura, Peter, Alexia & Austin)

# HEARTY THANKS

**Inland American Real Estate Trust, Inc.** in Oak Brook selected West Suburban Humane Society as one of their charities in the month of November. They donated \$501, a \$25 Staples Gift Card, food, supplies and toys.

**The Lace School PAWS Club** made cat and dog toys for the homeless animals at the shelter.

**The Burrus Family of Glen Ellyn** donated food to the humane society.

**The children, parents and staff at Kindercare in Woodridge** donated dog food to the shelter.

**Lily and Brooklyn Hanks of Westmont** bought dog treats for the dogs for Christmas.

**Erich Hene of Downers Grove** shared an Advent gift by donating dog food, treats and toys to the animals at the shelter.

**Cheryl Holz of Holz Fine Art** held a raffle and donated the proceeds of \$344 to the shelter.

**Carolyn Dering of Downers Grove** turned 12 and asked for donations for the shelter instead of gifts for her. She donated cat food and \$190.

**Leann Ringsrud of Lisle** turned 10 and asked for donations for the shelter instead of gifts for her. She donated toys, food and cleaning supplies.

**Glory Dei Church** held a pet blessing and asked for donations for the humane society. They donated 6 rolls of paper towels, 3 bottles of dish washing detergent, 2 bottles of hand soap, 5 bottles of laundry detergent, 1 bottle of bleach, 2 packages of paper plates, 2 boxes of trash bags, 8 AA batteries, 20 postage stamps and 60 lbs. of cat litter.

In the month of December, **Doggie Depot in Downers Grove** collected donations for the shelter. They collected stamps, food and supplies. They also generously donated \$500 to help the homeless animals at the shelter.

**Hand-N-Paw of Lisle** donated 30 dog and cat toys for the animals for Christmas.

The students of **Miss Ivey and Mrs. Vrchotas's homerooms at Jefferson's Middle School** donated food, supplies and toys to the animals at the shelter.

**Jennifer Jasek** was the winner of Village IV Organization's Christmas Party Ugly Sweater Contest. She asked that the amount of \$16.50 be donated to the West Suburban Humane Society.

**Ila Tyler of Downers Grove** used part of her Christmas money to buy food, toys and treats for the animals at the shelter.

**Maddy** (pictured below) turned 10 and asked for donations for the shelter instead of gifts for her. She collected food and supplies.



**Kelly DeMarco's Fifth Grade Students at Pierce Downer School** held an auction and donated the proceeds of \$61.85 to the shelter.

**Brennan Cole of Downers Grove** donated \$10 of his Christmas money to the shelter.

The staff and clients at **ASCE Institute for Training and Technology** donated food, supplies and \$20 to the shelter.

On behalf of the September students of the month at **Old Quarry Middle School in Lemont**, Mr. Brad Grcevic donated \$100 to the charity of the student's choice. They kindly chose the West Suburban Humane Society!

**Two Boston's of Burr Ridge** chose the West Suburban Humane Society to be the recipients of the Pictures with Santa fundraiser. They donated \$345.

**George Sbarboro of Bolingbrook** cashed in the money in his piggy bank and donated the \$21 to the shelter.

The staff and patrons at **Edward Health and Fitness Center** donated food, supplies and \$500 to the shelter.

**Sarah Woods of Downers Grove** had a lemonade stand and donated the proceeds of \$12 to the shelter.

**Sullivan and Rooney Shea** had birthdays and asked for donations for the shelter instead of gifts for themselves. They donated a box of supplies and \$12.

**The Lombard Junior Woman's Club** donated \$50 to the shelter.

**Russ and Lynn Neher** donated \$170 in memory of Sandy Babcock, a huge dog lover. They raised the money from a garage sale to recycle some of Sandy's things.

**Tanner and Quinn Rivera of Brookfield and Cub Scout Pack 90** made fleece chew toys for the animals at the shelter.

**Montini Catholic High School** in Lombard collected and donated food and supplies to the humane society.

  
*Celestine*  
SALON AND SPA

{give beautifully}

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**\$10** off your next service plus we'll  
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You may also choose to have us donate the entire \$20 to the Humane Society.  
Mention this ad when you book your appointment and please bring it with you.

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# Petals for Pets

Come for a blooming good time and purchase your spring flowers all while helping the animals at the West Suburban Humane Society.

West Suburban will host their annual plant sale on May 9th and 10th from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

**New This Year!** Native Plants (limited selection)

The event will be held at the shelter  
1901 Ogden Avenue Downers Grove

630-960-9600 x 25

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



**"I'll help keep a 'woof' over his head if you let me find a roof to put over your head"**



I have worked with West Suburban Humane Society for over 20 years raising funds to care for homeless animals. If you buy or sell your home through me I will donation a portion of my commission to the shelter.



If you're thinking of buying or selling call  
**Renee Cantalupo (630) 205-1130**  
[racmac4@aol.com](mailto:racmac4@aol.com)



*If your property is currently listed for sale with a broker this is not intended as a solicitation of that listing.*

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

# Volunteer Spotlight

## Tuesday Midday Cattery



Three volunteers enter The Cattery and greet its residents, 20-some cats waiting for new homes. The women quickly settle into their routine: socializing, grooming, and preparing their charges for the fur-ever families that await them.

The volunteers are Beverly Tracus, Brenda Grazis, and Francine Magnusson, collectively the Tuesday midday showing shift.

Beverly has been with WSHS since 1999 and has shown her dedication to homeless and abused animals in a variety of ways, in addition to this shift: Cat Enrichment Committee, Barkapalooza, Kitten Shower, Dog and Car Wash, garage sale, and holiday fill in. She's also a 3-time Foster Failure.

Obviously, Beverly enjoys her time with WSHS, saying she has "made some terrific friends," and appreciates "how much WSHS does for the cats and dogs...the super staff..." and the things WSHS does "to grow and develop the shelter."

When not busy at the shelter, Beverly enjoys reading a good mystery, especially if there is a cat or dog involved.

Brenda has been volunteering since about 2006, working initially on the Tuesday morning cleaning shift. She's also a temporary care provider. She, too, is a proud Foster Failure of two cats, and a long-term foster of a third.

Her favorite part of volunteering is "being part of the wonderful work that WSHS is doing to make sure that the cats and dogs that find themselves at WSHS are treated for any illness or injury and then are found the right homes."

Brenda enjoys traveling, and was recently able to check an item off her bucket list: She traveled to her 7<sup>th</sup> continent, Antarctica. But while traveling, she has also noticed the number of stray dogs and cats she has seen in the developing nations, which saddens her. She realizes, however, that "usually the people are struggling to feed themselves."

Francine began volunteering on the Friday night showing shift in September 2008, and added this midday showing shift about 2 years ago. She's also happy to help out on the Sunday morning cleaning shift with her daughter whenever she's needed.

Some of the many things she enjoys about her volunteer work is that "it is wonderful to be around people who are so devoted to animals" adding, "And the

cats. What can I say? I love spending time with them. Helping them get ready for their forever homes is so rewarding." She makes it a point to get to know all the cats in the cattery so that she can "help people find the cat that is right for them."

Francine's love of animals extends beyond cats. In addition to the three female cats she has, ages 6, 11, and 12, Francine also is home to a Guinea pig and 20 hermit crabs.

When not at the shelter Francine enjoys growing African violets and other house plants, doing needlework, and (not surprisingly!) reading cat mystery books. Time with her family, including two dear grandchildren ages 5½ and 8, is also important to her.

Beverly, Brenda, and Francine all agree that they work very well together, couldn't ask for better team mates, and enjoy each other's company in the cattery where, according to Brenda, "Every day is interesting because we usually have new cats to get to know and new potential adopters."

Together, they especially enjoy the cattery success stories, like Francine's favorites "the ones about cats like Flash, Gulliver, and Lily and how they came out of their shells and finally found their forever homes."

We thank Beverly, Brenda, and Francine for their dedication to our cats and their drive to help each one of them find the purr-fect home.

## Pet Health Watch by Dr. Main, DVM

When people bring dogs into their homes often they think of themselves and the dog as a pack. Unfortunately commonly held views of pack behavior and dominance within the pack are unfounded. Most unruly behaviors we see in our pets are not due to a desire of the dog to gain higher rank. The belief that dogs see us through a filter of dominance and subordination is not true; and sets up an adversarial relationship between man and his best friend.

The original studies on pack behavior were based on unrelated captive wolves. These wolves behaved differently from wolves in a natural setting. Alpha wolves in a natural setting were primarily breeding animals, essentially the parents of the pack. In this setting dominance contests were virtually non-existent.

Training based on this old view of pack behavior and dominance became the norm until recently. It had been popularly believed that dog training required physical or emotional force. For example forcibly rolling a dog onto its back for a correction as promoted

in the television show "Dog Whisperer". Clearly stated pack behavior and dominance training is outdated and in fact detrimental to the human animal bond. Dogs are not biologically driven to dominate their human owners.

Common behavioral problems such as aggression, fearfulness, destructiveness, inappropriate elimination, excessive vocalization, and inappropriate attention seeking, are associated with anxiety and frustration rather than social assertiveness. Many undesirable canine behaviors are based on the dogs' anxiety and lack of control over their environment.

A dog showing signals of conflict like yawning, lip licking, or anxious posturing will be made worse with a harsh response. Fear is not voluntary and cannot be changed with operant methods or punishment.

Dominance and punishment do not work long term even though they may temporarily suppress the undesirable behavior. Alternatively one can help the dog control its environment. For example if the dog sits the backyard door

will be opened. In this manner confidence, predictability, and safety are emphasized. This is called "dog centric" training.

On a separate note shock collars especially remote collars, which are used commonly, leads to stress and compromised welfare in dogs. These dogs exhibited tongue flicking, lowered ear posture, and lifted front paws consistent with emotional duress.

In light of this information and better understanding of how the dog psyche works, it is important veterinarians, pet owners, pets and trainers work together for the betterment of the human animal bond. Clearly promoting safety, emotional health, and purpose for our pets will increase contentment of all.

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

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West Suburban Humane Society  
1901 W. Ogden Avenue  
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