



Stray Thoughts

Summer 2025

News, Events & Adoption Information

www.WSHS-DG.org

Join Us for Barkapalooza 5K Rescue Run, 1K Waggin' Tails Walk and Rescue Fest!

Join us on Sunday, September 28th from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Lisle Community Park for a run, a walk, and a fun rescue fest! Now more than ever, we need the help of our generous supporters to raise the much-needed funds for the animals in our care.

Ways you can help us reach our \$100,000 goal!

Collect pledges online. Create your own Barkapalooza fundraising page by visiting raceroster.com/events/2025/102318/barkapalooza. When you set up your page, you will automatically be entered into our raffle drawing. For every \$100 in donations you raise, you'll receive an additional entry.

Setting up your fundraising page is easy!

- Visit raceroster.com/events/2025/102318/barkapalooza.
- Go to the bottom of the page and register as a Volunteer Fundraiser
- After registering, you can personalize your page with text and a photo to express your animal passions and purpose.
- Send the link to your friend, family and colleagues, anyone you think will help you reach your goal! Ask them to forward it to their contacts as well! Your fundraising page can also be shared on social media!
- For every \$100 you raise through your fundraising page, you'll be entered into our raffle drawing.
- The winner will receive a \$1,000 prize!



- The winning ticket will be drawn on Sunday, September 28th at the 1:00 pm end of our event.

REGISTER NOW!

Sign up for the 5K Rescue Run, 1K Waggin' Tails Walk, Rescue Fest, and Volunteer Fundraising.



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Join Us for Barkapalooza, Continued

Attend our 5K Rescue Run, 1K Waggin' Tails Walk and Rescue Fest!

The 5K Rescue Run entry fees are as follows:

- **\$39.44 – June 5th through August 4th**
- **\$44.79 – August 5th through August 31st**
- **\$55.49 – September 1st through September 27th**

The 1K Waggin' Tails Walk entry is \$20 for an individual and \$30 for a family. The Rescue Fest entry is \$20 per car. Each family that attends will receive a Barkapalooza goody bag (while supplies last).

This past year we have been called to help animals with a variety of medical needs. Aldo, Delilah, Kenny, Spenny and Norm all had to receive heartworm treatment. Zed experienced pain that required an MRI as well as other testing that cost over \$10,000. We are at the height of kitten season and have over 100 kittens in foster care. The kittens will need vaccines, spay/neuter surgery and microchipping before being adopted.

These are just some of the animals we've helped with the generous support of our donors. Our goal is to raise \$1,000,000 at Barkapalooza, all to benefit the animals in our care!

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
- 13 gallon garbage bags
- Ziplock bags – gallon and quart sizes
- Laundry detergent

• Monetary donations are always appreciated!

West Suburban Humane Society

Board Members:

Mark Motuelle , President	Bob Koch , Director
David Welch , Vice President	Marci Levites , Director
Sarah Marshall , Recording Secretary	Susan Liddi , Director
Kerry Kopera , Controller/Treasurer	Scott McMillin , Director
	Kimberly Sennerikuppum , Director
	Maria Wrobel , Director

WSHS Staff:

Executive Director: Carolyn Mossberger
Director of Development: Zoe McGrath
Adoption Counselors: Carol Thygesen, Roberta Diehl, Eric Van Cleven, Evin Hook, Shea Casey
Animal Care Team: Brittany Askeland, Jennifer Miller
Intake/Foster Coordinator: Lexi Vitale
Dog Trainer: Victoria Buhler
Volunteer Coordinator: Heidi Janss
Events Coordinator: Hailey Nicewanner
Humane Education Manager: Deanne Tomanovich
Humane Education Coordinator: Amy Ward

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

Gordy Male | 5.5 years old | Pitbull Terrier Mix

Meet Gordy! This sweet 5-year-old pittie is ready to find his forever home, and he's sure to steal your heart with his bright, happy personality. Gordy is a loving, loyal companion who thrives on human attention and affection. He's got a medium energy level, so he's up for playtime, but also enjoys relaxing with his people after a fun day. Gordy is currently in foster care, and his foster has tons of good stuff to say about him! If you think Gordy would make the perfect addition to your household, apply to meet him today!

My Requirements: Must be only pet. Kids 8 years and older.



Muriel Female | 3 years old | Beagle/Lab Mix

Hi, I'm Muriel and I'm so happy to meet you! This social butterfly is ready to show you all the love. I spent some time in a foster home, and they have great things to say about me. I always know many commands, love attention, and I know how to be at home and relax. I'll even let you know when I have to potty! My behavior in a home is respectful, and I won't go on furniture or into another room unless I'm told I can. They also said I'm a snuggle bug who loves to lay right next to you and get scratches. I've got a strong personality, so I'm looking for someone who knows about dogs. My new home should have lots of places for us to cuddle, but it can't have any other pets- I need to be your one and only. Any kids in the home should be 12 years or older. If you've been looking for a fun new friend, you've found her! Send in an application today!

My Requirements: Must be only pet. Kids 12 years and older.



Empanada Male | 1 year old | White and Black

Hi, I'm Empanada! I'm a young white and black cat who is looking for my forever home. I'm a quiet guy who is a little intimidated by some of the bigger personalities in the cattery, so I mostly keep to myself! I love the company of other cats though, and I do well with people of all ages. I'd love to find a forever home where I could take my time and build some confidence. If you are looking to make a new best friend out of a cat who is a little on the shy side, apply to meet me today!



Precious Female | 1.8 years old | White w/Brown Tabby

Hi, I'm Precious! I'm a sweet young cat whose owners could no longer keep me. My personality is playful, quiet, and curious. I do very well with other cats in addition to people of all ages. I'm a little reserved in the cattery, but my curiosity often gets the better of me and I've to come out to inspect new toys and meet new people! I'm affectionate and gentle and should be an amazing addition to most homes. Apply to meet me today!



Emails from Adopters

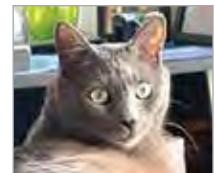
Hi WSHS,

I want to share an update of our girl, Duck. We're absolutely obsessed with her. We want to thank you for saving our sweet girl! We've had her for a long time yet we still feel so lucky that she is ours!



Hello,

We are absolutely smitten with Hoagie! He has adjusted nicely and is even playing with our little Mango calico. It's fun to watch them run around. He is as comfortable as he could possibly be!



Hi there!

I wanted to give you guys an update on Alex. We adopted him about a month ago and he's doing great. My girls renamed him Henry and he is living his best life! Henry feels like he has been here forever. All he wants is to snuggle and be with us. I had to send you some pictures just so you could all see Henry all relaxed at his home and his grandparents being the lifeguard. Thank you all for everything you do!



Hello WSHS,

Things could not be going better. We renamed Ellie Birdie and she is still just as sweet and even more silly than we expected! After a couple days of hiding around the home and begging for pets and food, she has already become very comfortable around us. Even the first couple days she was willing to explore a little, she just wanted to be around us. She is a perfect fit and we love her very much already!



Make a Will, Make an Impact on Animals in Need

Plan today. Empower tomorrow.



August is National Make-A-Will Month!

With our trusted partner, **FreeWill**, you can join thousands who are making a will this month to:

- ✓ Protect your loved ones
- ✓ Document your wishes
- ✓ Make a generational impact on rescue animals



Visit freewill.com/WSHS to get started on your will today!

If you have already included a gift to West Suburban Humane Society in your plans, please fill out the brief form at FreeWill.com/Record/WSHS so we can thank you for your generosity.

Questions? Reach out to development@wshs-dg.org



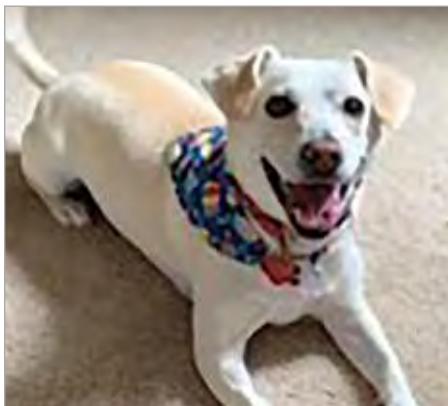
West Suburban
Humane Society

FREEWILL

Meet our Dog Therapy Team

West Suburban Humane Society is proud to introduce our first ever therapy dog team!

Wonder was adopted from West Suburban Humane Society. She is half corgi and half mystery but she looks like a shrunken yellow lab. She is almost 10 years old but you would never guess it. She loves to be outside and take walks, play fetch with her toys inside, and will do any of her many tricks for the reward of a carrot. While Wonder loves some play time, she is a very calm little 20 pound dog who just loves nothing more than laying next to you and getting pats.



Wonder



Franky



Piper

Franky is originally from Oklahoma and was adopted from WSHS in 2019. Three words that best describe him are smart, friendly, and social.

Piper is a 1.5 year old "miniature golden retriever," but we just call her "fun size." She is 80% golden retriever and 20% cocker spaniel. Piper loves long walks, playing outside (even when it is freezing), belly rubs, and snuggling next to me when I am reading. Probably Piper's best trait is that once she knows you, she loves you!

Project for Awesome 2025

The West Suburban Humane Society is thrilled to announce that it has been named as one of the winners of Project For Awesome 2025!

After a highly competitive process, WSHS was voted as one of 30 organizations chosen from hundreds of nonprofit entrants around the world, marking a monumental achievement for the organization.

Thanks to a video submission and the enthusiastic support of community members, WSHS has been recognized internationally alongside much larger nonprofits that operate on national and international levels. This honor shines a spotlight on our commitment to animal welfare, and we are incredibly



proud to stand among some of the most impactful organizations worldwide.

As part of this prestigious recognition, WSHS will receive a grant of \$38,841 from the Project For Awesome 2025, through the Foundation to Decrease World Suck. This generous funding will be instrumental in helping us continue our mission to provide above and beyond rescue care to animals in need.

Volunteer Spotlight

West Suburban Humane Society has developed a relationship with two corporations, Next Phase Advisory Group and the South East Association for Special Parks And Recreation (SEASPAR) over the past few years through our group volunteer program. Next Phase Advisory Group provides financial planning for high-net-worth professionals and business owners. SEASPAR is a special recreation association providing programs and services to residents with disabilities in nearby communities.

Next Phase Advisory Group wanted to volunteer with WSHS because their team is packed full of individuals passionate about animal welfare. Volunteering provides them an opportunity to learn more about animal care and advocacy and allows them to give back to the community and support an organization that plays a vital role in promoting humane treatment and responsible pet ownership.

The team has volunteered for several years in the spring. This year, they helped plant a sensory garden, fed the dogs and cats, deep-cleaned the kitten room, filled Kongs for dog enrichment, and had an amazing time socializing a litter of lab/husky mixes.

Participants in SEASPAR's Adult Day Program, the EAGLES, volunteer at WSHS on a weekly basis, working directly and indirectly with the animals. The office staff at SEASPAR is full of animal lovers and, knowing how much the EAGLES love volunteering at WSHS, the office staff wanted to contribute on-site too. During their group volunteer day, they helped decorate for an

upcoming event, restocked litter for the cats, and socialized with the kittens, cats and puppies.

Both groups had a lot of fun and were impressed by the dedication and compassion WSHS shows towards every animal in their care. They also learned a few new things, such as the importance of reducing the animals' stress through enrichment activities like stuffed Kongs and the sensory garden for dogs and cleaning protocols that leave a cat's scent behind for when they reenter their space. The groups also learned some behind-the-scenes facts like how the dogs and cats are named and how dogs are grouped for playtime.

Next Phase Advisory Group and SEASPAR have a good mixture of dog and cat lovers, so much so, both groups display their pets' photos at the office! Next Phase Advisory Group employees have 8 dogs, 6 cats and a rabbit as part of their families. The dog people have even met up after hours at the dog park. The SEASPAR group volunteers are home to at least 9 dogs, 5 cats and a bearded dragon.

WSHS benefits so much from the generosity of our corporate group volunteers, especially those that come back time after time. Next Phase Advisory Group summarizes the corporate volunteer experience the best: "Helping animals in need is incredibly rewarding, and we believe that our time and effort can be a modest drop in the bucket that will make a meaningful difference in their lives. Overall, our visit left us feeling inspired and grateful for the important work they do in our community."



Next Phase Advisory Group is a marketing name for certain individuals doing business as representatives of Northwestern Mutual. Northwestern Mutual is the marketing name for The Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company in Milwaukee, WI. Visit nextphaseadvisorygroup.com for more information.

Hearty Thanks

The 2nd grade Faith Formation students at Mary Queen of Hearts in Elmhurst collected food and supplies for the animals at the adoption center.

Lizzie planted seeds then sold the plants and donated the money to the West Suburban Humane Society.

The 2024-25 Kindergarten class at Congregation Etz Chaim, made a Tzedakah donation of \$122.59 to the animals at the adoption center.

The 2024-25 2nd grade class at Congregation Etz Chaim, made a Tzedakah donation of \$51.99 to the adoption center.

The 2024-25 4th grade class at Congregation Etz Chaim, made a Tzedakah donation of \$156.26 to the adoption center.

The 2024-25 6th grade class at Congregation Etz Chaim, made a Tzedakah donation of \$394.37 to the adoption center.

The student council at William F. Murphy Elementary School in Woodridge did a food, toy and supply drive for the adoption center.

Menards in Bolingbrook did a pet food drive to support the animals at the adoption center.



Mary Queen of Hearts



Lizzie



William F. Murphy Elementary

From Wags to Riches Raffle

West Suburban Humane Society is sponsoring a raffle. The winner will receive \$1,000!

The winning ticket will be drawn on Sunday, September 28th at the conclusion of our 32nd Annual Barkapalooza 5K Rescue Run, 1K Waggin' Tails Walk, and Rescue Fest. The winner will be notified no later than Monday, September 29th.

- **The suggested donation for each ticket is \$5.00**
- **Or 6 tickets for \$25.00 giving you 1 FREE ticket!**
- **Or 15 tickets for \$50.00 giving you 5 FREE tickets!**

Need more tickets? Call our adoption center at (630) 960-9601. Remember to include your name and mailing address when you call and the tickets will be mailed to you immediately.





West Suburban
Humane Society

1901 W. Ogden Avenue
Downers Grove, IL 60515

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Stray Thoughts
Summer 2025 Newsletter



West Suburban
Humane Society

Barkapalooza

Sunday, September 28 | Lisle Community Park



wsrhs-dg.org/news-events

Food Truck Fest | Pet Contests | Rescue Groups | Pet Art
Wags-2-Riches Raffle | Paw-ticures | Artisan Market AND MORE!!!



**RESCUE
RUN**
5k

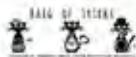


5K Rescue Run | 8am

1 Mile Wagging Tails Walk | 9:30am

RescueFest & Food Truck Fest | 9am to 1pm

Thank you to our Sponsors:



GERALD
SUBARU
OF NAPERVILLE