

Membership Drive during the month of June, 2008.

Your donation or membership can give food, shelter, tender care and a second chance to homeless dogs and cats at...

The Will County Humane Society

Will County's Oldest No-Kill Animal Shelter

24109 W. Seil Road • Shorewood, IL 60404

www.willcountyhumane.com

Please send your membership / tax-deductable gift today.

In the spirit of caring... Thank you.

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

One-Year Membership: \$30 _____, or

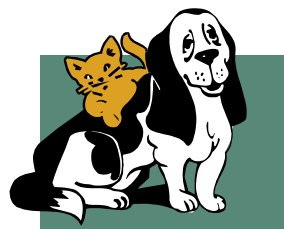
Tax deductible gift: \$10 _____ \$25 _____ \$50 _____ Other \$ _____

Upon receipt of dues, membership card will be sent.

Thank You!

Will County Humane Society
24109 West Seil Road
Shorewood, IL 60404

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**Will County
Humane Society
A No-Kill Shelter**



The Quarterly Newsletter of the Will County Humane Society

HAPPY TAILS

Summer 2008



State of the Shelter

It has been a while since the Will County Humane Society has mailed a newsletter. Our emphasis has been on the well being of the animals and the improvement and maintenance of the shelter facility. We have neglected to perform our other necessary duty of keeping you, the members of the Will County Humane Society, informed. It is my pledge as President to rectify this situation. We will begin anew to deliver consistent quarterly newsletters to our fellow members. Please don't let any disappointment over the lack of the newsletter affect your support for the animals.

Since the last newsletter a lot of activity has taken place at the shelter. The sun room enclosure for the cats on the north side of the building has been completed and is well enjoyed by our feline friends. The exterior dog runs attached to the south side of the building have had a concrete floor poured which keeps our canine friends cleaner and healthier. A new garage/storage building has

been built replacing the old barn located next to the shelter. These are some of the positive structural changes made to the shelter facility. Unfortunately other changes beyond our control are also afoot. Seil Road has been reconfigured and will be improved by the Illinois Department of Transportation. This work will require us to relocate our entrance to the furthest western edge of our property. Don't be surprised if the next time you're out visiting the shelter the entrance is moved. Our facility will soon be an island surrounded by roadways due to the area construction. Fortunately a Boy Scout troop has donated fencing to protect our animals from wandering off our property. Once the new driveway is reconfigured this perimeter fencing will be installed. One major change with the animals has also taken place. Our adoptees are now being micro-chipped for the security of the animals if they are lost.

The shelter has other plans on the horizon. The grounds need landscaping to address drainage issues and our building interior needs painting and minor renovation to update its usefulness and extend its lifespan.

I also want to thank and praise the work done by our staff, our volunteers, our veterinarians, our public service workers and our board members to keep our animals healthy and happy until the time the animals are adopted into a loving family and a life away from the shelter.

I want to close by thanking you, the members of the humane society, for the financial support you provide. Without your funding, none of the work of the shelter, the care and feeding or the adoptions of the animals could take place. The humane society is only as strong as its members. Thank You.

Phil Mock, President

Yard Sale Donations Needed

We will be having our annual Yard Sale to benefit the animals on June 28th and 29th. Donations of saleable items are needed. **NO CLOTHES** please.

Donations can be dropped off at the shelter during business hours. For more information, call Larry at (815) 741-0695.

This is always a great success thanks to the support of caring people.



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Birth of a No Kill Shelter

By Avril (Babe) Baker

I've always had a great love for animals so, when a neighbor was moving and couldn't take their dog with them, I was concerned. The dog was a very sweet medium terrier-mix, that was pregnant, and would go to Animal Control and be killed.

I knew the owner of the house this neighbor was renting from and called to ask if I could take care of the dog on the premise until I could find a safe place to take her. He was very nice and agreed to allow the dog to stay there.

In my attempt to find a solution, I was referred to Marge Meyers who had a reputation for rescuing animals in distress. This was 45 years ago. We met and found we both had a passion to help animals. We decided to advertise for foster home help. We had a good response which took us to the next level.

The mind set at that time with stray animal problems was for Animal Control to pick them up and if they were not adopted in a few days, they would be euthanized - end of problem. We felt there were better options than killing. We could help animals on death row and started going once a week to rescue animals that were out of time. Animal Control was located on Washington Street and the dog Warden was very accommodating.

At this time, Dr. Atrill and Stuart Kroesch, a local attorney, along with a small group of people had obtained a Charter for the Will County Humane Society and they asked us to join them. They met once a month, but were not active in animal care and didn't feel we should be at that time, as there were no funds available. However, Marge and I had a couple of wonderful veterinarians that helped us with generous discounts and our foster homes had adoption donations, so we continued our rescues.

We advertised in the local Joliet Herald for help with foster care and for cages and play pens and, within one

year, we had fourteen foster homes. We put ads in the Free columns for our orphans, and trained four or five people to screen calls for good homes. We updated our Pets for Adoption weekly and a volunteer typed the new list and delivered the list to our phone people.

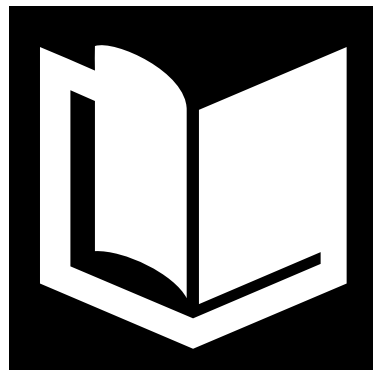
Money was tight, and many times we had to contribute our personal funds to pay veterinary medical bills, but we were working with some exceptional veterinarians, namely Dr. McNary and Dr. Kubitz, that are no longer in the area.

The community responded to our efforts and we were able to hire a cruelty investigator that was licensed by the Department of Agriculture, which was a great help in rescuing abused and neglected animals. Mr. Olson kept many scrapbooks of the horrible situations and, although heartbreaking, many had happy endings.

Our foster program was successful, as we always had an abundance of animals and a good adoption rate, but certainly a shelter would be the ideal, since the people could see and experience the Humane Society. About thirty years ago, a shelter became available when Athena Kennels was closing in Shorewood. With many hours of discussion, if we could financially support and maintain a shelter, we decided to proceed with an offer and it was accepted. Ruth Kennedy, a board member, put up \$1,000.00 earnest money to confirm it. Someone donated a small trailer to us which we used as an office and housed some small animals.

Our first manager was Janice Gruetzmacher, who was very qualified, as she had been with us for many years. She received a small salary and was able to live with her family in the house on the property.

Please see our next newsletter for the next installment...



Olivia's Book Club

"Saying Goodbye to a Friend"

As pet owners, we must all face the time when we have to say goodbye to our pets. When that time comes, there is no decision harder to make.

There is a wonderful new book called "Rescuing Sprite: A Dog Lover's Story of Joy and Anguish," by syndicated radio host, Mark R. Levin. This book, available at Wal-Mart, should be read if you are going through the sorrow of losing a pet. It is a very uplifting book that shows that no matter how long you have with your pet, it's the quality of time that matters.

Here in this house...
 I will never know the loneliness I hear in the barks of the other dogs 'out there'.
 I can sleep soundly, assured that when I wake my world will not have changed.
 I will never know hunger, or fear of not knowing when I will eat next.
 I will not shiver in the cold, or grow weary from the heat.
 I will feel the sun's heat, and the rain's coolness,
 and be allowed to smell all that can reach my nose.
 My fur will shine, and never be dirty or matted.

Here in this house...
 There will be an effort to communicate with me on my level.
 I will be talked to and, even if I don't understand,
 I can enjoy the warmth of the words.
 I will be given a name so that I may be known who I am among many.
 My name will be used in joy, and I will love the sound of it!

Here in this house...
 I will never be a substitute for anything I am not.
 I will never be used to improve peoples' images of themselves.
 I will be loved because I am who I am, not someone's idea of who I should be.
 I will never suffer for someone's anger, impatience, or stupidity.
 I will be taught all the things I need to know to be loved by all.
 If I do not learn my lessons well, they will look to my teacher for blame.

Here in this house...
 I can trust arms that hold, hands that touch...
 knowing that, no matter what they do, they do it for the good of me.
 If I am ill, I will be doctored.
 If scared, I will be calmed.
 If sad, I will be cheered.
 No matter what I look like, I will be considered beautiful and known to be of value.
 I will never be cast out because I am too old, too ill, too unruly, or not cute enough.

My life is a responsibility, and not an afterthought.
 I will learn that humans can almost, sometimes, be as kind and as fair as dogs.



Here in this house...
 I will belong.
 I will be home.
 -Author Unknown

The Luvabull(y) Corner

By Kathy Simon, *WCHS Volunteer*



Nearly five years ago, I started volunteering here at the Will County Humane Society, working with the dogs. I've learned a lot about so many of the breeds of dogs we have had, but the ones that have touched my heart in a special way are the "pitbulls". A little over two years ago, I learned about a group of volunteers called Chicagoland Bullybreed Rescue (CBBR). They work primarily to foster and place dogs that fall into the bullybreed, like American pitbull Terriers, American Staffordshire Terriers and, of course, pit-mix breeds. When the 2007 new year rang in, my resolution was to work harder to get our pitbulls out of the shelter and into forever homes. Often judged by the way the media portrays them, most people don't realize what a wonderful family pet they are. Well, let me tell you about a few good men!

Rocky, an Amstaff, was brought to the shelter as a puppy and was adopted out but returned several months later when his owners decided to divorce and neither could take him. He spent a good year back with us and his frustration became apparent as on Wednesday evenings we would often find chunks of plastic he had chewed off his bed. The look of sadness in his beautiful eyes was in part what made me determined to find a home for these pitties. I received an e-mail from CBBR that a young man by the name of Nate from Chicago had expressed interest in a few of the pitbulls on their web site and Rocky was one of them. They asked if I could bring him to an event at the PetSmart in Matteson, IL where they would be and Nate would come there to meet the dogs. Of course I would!! With the permission of Larry, the shelter manager, Rocky and I were on a road trip to Matteson. I talked to Rocky the entire ride up encouraging him to turn on the charm for Nate. Well, a charmer he was and now he's living in Wrigleyville with his new "Dad" and doing wonderfully! Mmmm, a Cub fan or a Sox fan?? We'll keep a check on that. In July, Rocky was off on a vacation with Nate to meet his "grandparents". How happy we are that this wonderful dog has found an equally wonderful owner!!

See our next issue for Mr. Big's story...

Animals on the Move

Many of you probably have heard of the huge network of animal rescue groups throughout the country. These are groups of dedicated volunteers who transport deserving animals from areas where they would be euthanized to waiting shelters where they will be adopted and given new lives. We have been fortunate enough to work with several of these groups.

Hundreds of animals have been saved and placed into new homes. That is why it's so important to spread the word to friends and family that, if they are looking for a new addition to their family, check their local animal shelter. Don't support pet stores who sell puppy-mill puppies. There are thousands of wonderful animals looking for homes.

Good Luck for Buck

Buck came to us after being surrendered by his owners. A bouncing 130 lb. black lab who was kept in a outdoor dog run all his life, with 1½ years of pent up energy just waiting to "GO!" Just barely 2 years old he had no idea how it felt to run and play. As many of our dog walkers can attest, with sore arms and torn coat sleeves, he was quite a handful.

Then, one day, he lucked out. A wonderful family came in and fell in love with him. After visiting with him several times, they decided to give him a try.

Now, Buck is living with his new family with two kids to play with and several other animal friends. Thanks to this wonderful family, Buck will no longer feel the isolation of living in a pen.

Calling All Volunteers

It's time for a little spring clean-up!

Please help us prepare for the annual Adoptathon and Plant Sale to be held on May 10

Clean Up dates are Sundays, April 20 & 27 and May 4 from 8:00 to 11:30 AM

Bring your yard tools, brooms, cleaning supplies, family members and a friend or two!

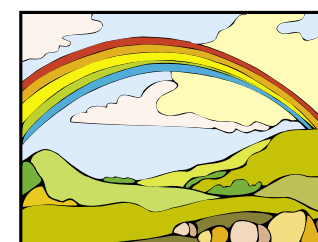


Wish List

8 foot Fiberglass Step Ladder
Gasoline Powered Weed Eater
Wooden Picnic Table
4-foot Fluorescent Light Bulbs
Gasoline Powered Push Lawn Mower
Wringer Buckets and Heavy Duty String Mops
Portable Veterinary Scale, Model #49-114
(Revival Animal Health (800) 786-4751)
High-capacity Stand-on Scale, Model #49-115
(Revival Animal Health (800) 786-4751)

And, of course, we can always use:

KMR (Kitten Feeding Formula)
Esbilac (Puppy Feeding Formula)
First-Class Postage
2100 D HP Laser Printer Cartridges
2200 D HP Laser Printer Cartridges
HP Toner Cartridges, 78 & 45
Leashes and Collars (Any Size)
Blow Dryer
Heating Pads
Guillotine-type Nail Trimmers
Copier Paper (White)
Post-It Note pads (All Sizes)
Clipboards - Both Sizes



Memorial Page Now Available

The Will County Humane Society now has a memorial page on our web site. This page is to commemorate the pets in our lives who have done so much to make our lives happier and sometimes healthier. You may provide us with a picture either online or as a hard copy (sorry, we will be unable to return) and a brief statement about your pet. You may want to include dates, a brief description of the life you shared, and why the pet was so special. The fee for a one-year submission will be \$25.00. The submission form is online at willcountyhumane.com or can be picked up at the shelter. Questions may be addressed to the fundraising team on the web site.

Jackie's Corner

Our shelter continues to improve with many generous donors. We are very proud of our frugal ways. You can be assured that all of your donations go directly to helping the homeless animals.

We run the shelter with four paid employees. Carol and Larry are full-time and there are two paid part-timers. Everyone else volunteers their time with no monetary compensation.

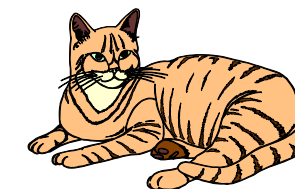
Due to our new garage, with loft, we have most of our food and litter donated by the PetSmart Warehouse. Previously we did not have the storage to avail ourselves of their generosity.

We appreciate your present gifts, but please also remember us in your will. Some of our greatest improvements have come from estates that were written to include care of the animals.

We would love to have you visit the shelter so we could show you what has been done. We are very proud of the work we do and the care we provide.

Farewell To Abby

On a hot July day, fifteen years ago, a kind employee trapped and transported a three-year old DSH brown tabby to our shelter who had taken up residence in a warehouse where he was employed.



Carol Hathaway, our Cat Room Facilitator, promptly named her Abigail - or Abby for short. In the beginning, Abby was confused in her new surroundings, trying to make sense of her clean and safe environment with an unlimited food and water supply. She adapted quickly and became friendly with our other cats in residence.

Abby learned to trust Carol but would allow nobody but Carol to handle her. Because of Abby's disposition, Carol pegged her 'Crabby Abby'...

During her many years in residence with us, Abby developed a liver tumor and succumbed in January, 2008.

We are sad to lose our Abby, but we are also grateful for the support of our members. Without that support animals such as Abby could not have been given a second chance at life, to love and be loved and hopefully adopted into their forever homes.

Fundraising's Schedule

May 10: Annual Adoptathon, Plant Sale and Garden Re-Sale Shop

There will be animals looking to spend a lifetime with you. We will hold our annual plant sale with hanging baskets and bedding plants, including vegetables as well as flowers. Last year's garden resale went so well we have decided to do it again. Please feel free to donate your gently used garden supplies, plants, etc. to the benefit of the shelter. There will be more about when and where on the web site or you can call the shelter for additional information as the date gets closer.

July: Bakeless Bake Sale Event - Watch for our mailing.

September: Shaking It for the Shelter

October 5: Annual Dog Walk

October 26: Halloween Open House

November and December

The fundraising team participates in a number of craft shows. We sell items with the shelter logo and hold raffles. We would like to begin to sell some craft items related to pets. If you are interested, please let the fundraising team know what you would like to sell. Contact the fundraising team via the web site or call the shelter at (815) 741-0695 and leave your name and phone number. Someone will contact you.

Fundraising is a never-ending job with our shelter but it is also one of the most rewarding. The events listed above are held with expressed intent of benefitting the shelter and the animals we care for.

Fundraising team members organize and run the events to the best of their ability. We are looking for people who like to talk with others, set up displays, sell merchandise or food, run games and price items for sales in addition to a once-a-month meeting where we try to develop and run events that will make money for the shelter. The team is always looking for additional team members. If you are interested, please contact Pat Mitchell, fundraising chairperson, at (815) 744-7521.



A Dog's Purpose from a Six Year Old



Being a veterinarian, I had been called to examine a ten-year-old Irish Wolfhound named Belker. The dog's owners, Ron, his wife, Lisa, and their little boy, Shane, were all very attached to Belker, and they were hoping for a miracle.

I examined Belker and found he was dying of cancer. I told the family we couldn't do anything for Belker, and offered to perform the euthanasia procedure for the old dog in their home.

As we made arrangement, Ron and Lisa told me they thought it would be good for six-year-old Shane to observe the procedure. They felt as though Shane might learn something from the experience. The next day, I felt the familiar catch in my throat as Belker's family surrounded

him. Shane seemed so calm, petting the old dog for the last time, that I wondered if he understood what was going on.

Within a few minutes, Belker slipped peacefully away.

The little boy seemed to accept Belker's transition without any difficulty or confusion. We sat together for a while after Belker's death, wondering aloud about the sad fact that animal lives are shorter than human lives. Shane, who had been listening quietly, piped up, "I know why."

Startled, we all turned to him. What came out of his mouth next stunned me. I'd never heard a more comforting explanation. He said, "People are born so they can learn how to live a good life — like loving everybody all the time and being nice, right?" The six-year-old continued, "Well, dogs already know how to do that, so they don't have to stay as long."

FYI: Annual meeting is June 12, 2008

Volunteer Corner

By Gail M. Gundlach Rohrer, *Volunteer Coordinator*

A simple thank you hardly seems enough, given all the help we have received from our shelter volunteers this past year. They have done such a great job, from making blankets for our shelter residents, to making cakes for our bake sales. These jobs, as well as the many others performed by our volunteers are very important to keeping our shelter in operation and running smoothly.

A special thanks goes to our volunteers that care for feeding our pets, walking dogs and cleaning cages on Monday, Wednesday and Fridays, nights and especially on those Holidays when we can always use the help and know that you have other things that could be demanding your attention. While we know you love being with our four-legged friends, we know they love the time you devote to them and their care - so a huge "woof" and "meow" to all of you.

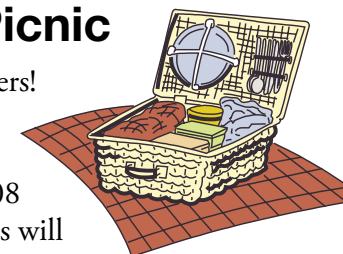
We also have numerous volunteers that, without their efforts, we would never be able to claim the success of our annual dog walk, shelter open house or our efforts at Petco and PetSmart. We also wouldn't have pictures available on our web site or through Petfinders.com if it weren't for our volunteers that see the information is available. Thank you - we can credit several of our adoptions to all of you!

And while we know them as our paid staff, a huge thank you to Larry, Carol, Branden and Mary for their support over the past year. Many people have no idea the number of "volunteer hours" these individuals put in - all for the love and care of our residents.

Please know that all of your efforts in 2007 for any volunteer efforts you gave - no matter how big or how small - are sincerely appreciated. Our needs are just as great in 2008 and we welcome any assistance you can give. If you are interested in assisting in the various volunteer activities we have available, please e-mail me at RedVW88@aol.com.

5th Annual Volunteer Appreciation Picnic

Attention all active volunteers! Our 5th annual Volunteers Appreciation Picnic will be held on June 22, 2008 from 1 to 5 PM. Invitations will be mailed in May.



Foster Homes Needed

On occasion we find it necessary to place special needs (pregnant, nursing or convalescing) animals in a non-shelter environment until they are able to return to our shelter to be adopted into their forever homes.

If there is room in your home and in your heart and you would like to foster, please contact our shelter manager, Larry, at (815) 741-0695.

Save-A-Stray Sweepstakes Winners:

\$1,000.00 Grand Prize:	Irene Bergschneider
\$500.00 First Prize:	Norma Peters
\$100.00 Second Prize:	Don Reilly
\$100.00 Third Prize:	Julia Muranyi
\$100.00 Fourth Prize:	Bev Vanderboegh

Many thanks to all those who participated in the Save-A-Stray Sweepstakes. Because of your generosity and participation, we were able to continue to provide quality care for the animals.

Current Shelter Hours

Tuesday:	12:00 PM to 5:00 PM
Thursday:	12:00 PM to 5:00 PM
Saturday:	12:00 PM to 5:00 PM
Sunday:	12:00 PM to 5:00 PM

Phone: (815) 741-0695

Online: www.willcountyhumane.com

Adoption Fees

Adult Dogs:	\$150.00
Puppies:	\$100.00
Cats:	\$100.00*
Kittens	\$50.00

*Due to the generous donation of spays and neuters for our feline residents by Dr. Roger Hitt, of Timberline Animal Hospital, we have been able to periodically reduce the cat adoption fees to \$50.00