



# Stray Thoughts

Winter 2025 News, Events & Adoption Information [www.WSHS-DG.org](http://www.WSHS-DG.org)

## Desperately in Need of Care, Bell Gets the Second Chance She Deserves

On the Monday before Christmas, one of our rescue partners emailed asking for help with a dog named Bell. The pictures of her were heartbreaking. Bell had clearly been neglected and was in desperate need of medical attention. At West Suburban, we recently spent more than \$18,000 on a litter of panleukopenia kittens and hesitated to take on another medical case. But one look into Bell's beautiful, sad eyes, and we knew we couldn't say no.

Bell was transported to our shelter on December 30. This poor girl arrived with little hair left on her body. Her skin was hard and saggy, her body was swollen, even in her ears, and she had a large growth on her paw. Bell has also had numerous litters of puppies and will need to be spayed, in addition to requiring a dental procedure. Despite everything she's been through, Bell remains gentle and loving.

Our first step was to schedule an immediate vet appointment. Amazingly, Bell's bloodwork results showed she is heartworm-negative and free of internal parasites. Her road to recovery will still be long and costly. We need to address her severe skin condition before removing the growth on her paw, getting her spayed, and performing a dental cleaning – all to give her a chance at the healthy, happy life she deserves in a home of her own.

Bell is currently in a loving foster home where she can recover away from the stress of the shelter. With the



right care and time, she will heal and be ready to be adopted by a loving family.

At West Suburban, we go above and beyond for all the animals in our care, but we can't do it without the help of our generous supporters. Please consider donating today to support Bell's recovery and the lives of many other animals in our care. Every dollar makes a difference and brings Bell one step closer to her happy ending.

Thank you for believing in second chances and for being a hero to homeless animals.

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# Save the Date for These Fun Upcoming Events!

## February

20th, Thursday

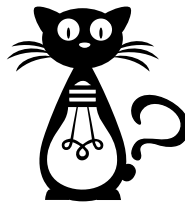
Girls Night Out at Clara's in Woodridge  
5:30 to 8:30 p.m.



## April

12th, Saturday

Trivia Night at the American Legion in Downers Grove  
6:00 to 10:00 p.m.



## May

9th, Friday

Petals for Pets Plant Sale at West Suburban Humane Society  
Noon to 7:00 p.m.



## 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

**David Welch**, Vice President

**Sarah Marshall**,  
Recording Secretary

**Kerry Kopera**,  
Controller/Treasurer

**Bob Koch**, Director

**Marci Levites**, Director

**Susan Liddi**, Director

**Scott McMillin**, Director

**Maria Wrobel**, Director

### WSHS Staff:

**Executive Director:** Carolyn Mossberger

**Director of Development:** Zoe McGrath

**Adoption Counselors:** Carol Thygesen, Roberta Diehl, Eric Van Clevon, Alyssa Bilak, Shea Casey

**Animal Care Team:** Brittany Askeland, Jennifer Miller

**Intake/Foster Coordinator:** Lexi Vitale

**Volunteer Coordinator:** Heidi Janss

**Events Coordinator:** Hailey Nicewanner

**Humane Education Manager:** Deanne Tomanovich

**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](http://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](mailto:Director@WSHS-DG.org)  
Phone: (630) 960-9600 • Fax: (630) 960-9604



# Ready for a Home

## Kirby Male | 10 months old | Hound Mix

Hi, I'm Kirby and I'm the whole package! I'm an older puppy who has stunning good looks, big brains and a heart of gold. I've been formally trained, so I know sit, down, stay, place, and drop it. I still have puppy energy and I'm wiggly and playful. When playtime is over, I'm more than happy to curl up next to you for some quality snuggles. My new home can have people of all ages and dog savvy cats, but I need to be the only dog in the home. I can have dog friends, but I can't live with them. I don't think I could share my person with another dog – I need to be your one and only. If you've been looking for a pup with a playful spirit and a loving heart, I'm ready to be your best boy!



## Jeffro Male | 3 years old | Pitbull Mix

Have you ever wanted a Chicago Bears O-liner as a pet? Then Jeffro is the perfect dog for you! This big boy is a lover and couldn't hurt a fly. Jeffro is a volunteer favorite as he is a proper gentleman who does not pull on the leash or rip up toys. Jeffro has been a staple member of our front desk staff as a greeter for families who visit the shelter. All the kids in our Cat Tales camp love him! Unfortunately, Jeffro has been struggling being in the kennel due to separation anxiety. Because of his anxiety, Jeffro is looking for a family that is willing to work with him to gain more confidence in being alone. Right now, the WSHS staff is working on crate training Jeffro in hopes that will help him in his new home! If you're interested in meeting this lovable goofball, put in an application in today!



## Pearl Female | 2.6 years old | Grey Tabby DSH

Hi, my name is Pearl and I'm looking for my forever home! I love being around people and snuggling on the couch with my human. I'm a little shy with new people but warm up after a few meetings. I like playing and running with other cats and don't mind sharing my toys. I was brought in from outside and have been lucky enough to live in a foster home. My foster mom has cats and a dog at home. I do well with the cats, but DO NOT get along with the dog, so whoever brings me home will have to be a dog free home. If you're looking for a sweet girl who will brighten up your home, then look no further! Apply to meet me and take me home today!



## Mrs. Landingham Female | 2 year olds | White and Black DLH

Hello, I'm Mrs. Landingham, a serene young lady looking for a home that will cherish my gentle spirit. I'd be very happy in a home with other easygoing cats and respectful children, though dogs are a bit too energetic for me. While I may be shy at first, I'm quite affectionate and absolutely love being brushed once I get to know you. I'd also make a truly wonderful foster companion, so we can get to know each other better. Please apply to meet me today and experience the joy and soft beauty I can bring into your life!



## Emails from Adopters

Hi WSHS,

Vegas (now Buddy) is doing great! She's adjusting really well and is so much fun to have around!



Hello,

All is going well. Daisy (WSHS Keiko) is adjusting really well. She is a good dog and makes our family happy. Daisy is full of energy and ready to play from the time she opens her eyes in the morning!



Hello,

We love having Caesar as the newest member of our family! Our other two cats adjusted very well to him. I applaud your team for writing great bios about the cats and knowing them well when we were looking to adopt. Caesar loves to explore, play, and run around. He enjoys snuggles and naps on our comfy couch. Our other cat Queenie loves to chase and play with Caesar. Thank you again!



Hi there,

Ben is doing great! He's adjusting well and I think getting comfortable here. He's so cuddly, playful and such a fun addition that we definitely needed. We had such a great experience adopting and I'm happy to complete the survey! Here's a recent picture of Ben.



# Above & Beyond: Cathy Butler, Kennel

## Four people nominated Cathy as an above and beyond volunteer. This is what they said about her:

How to choose one hero in a pool of heroes is very difficult, but there is one volunteer that moves my heart on a regular basis. Cathy's dedication to helping those dogs who have challenges preventing adoption is simply amazing. Watching the transformation and ultimate adoption of these special dogs to me is everything WSHS is about. It's why this rescue is different. Cathy represents WSHS's heart and soul, in my very humble opinion.

Cathy goes above and beyond to work with a "buddy" dog who might need some extra attention and TLC. She takes her buddies on outings, for home visits, to training classes, and just quality time hanging out. Her lucky buddies adore her, and she provides invaluable insight to prospective adopters.

Cathy has been a buddy to numerous dogs since I've known her. She always picks the needy dogs that have been here longest or are starting to have behavioral issues. She hangs in there until they get adopted and always gives feedback to Animal Care. She is a true advocate for the dog...she is the reason that Zuko has had the opportunity to attend Enjoy your Dog classes. She is also the reason that I adopted my dog Annie. When I was a buddy to Annie in 2017, she encouraged me to take Annie home for an overnight. My husband met Annie and the rest is happily ever after!

## Thank you Cathy for your commitment and believing the best outcome can be achieved for any dog!

Cathy is a true buddy to the dogs. She frequently comes in to take dogs on outings, giving them an enjoyable break from the shelter. Another real treat for the dogs is going offsite with Cathy to do nose work. Of course, the dogs are happy to see her on her regular shift or when subbing too. She has been a good friend to many dogs who had been at the shelter for longer periods of time, helping them find loving



foster and forever homes. Cathy is a wonderful pal to the new arrivals too. She is very patient, and helps them settle in and relax. Her genuine love, care, and concern for the dogs is clear to see.

No surprise that Cathy is great with people too. She's a regular sub and is always helpful and considerate. Cathy asks if any of the volunteers on our shift are especially close to particular dog so they can spend extra time together. We are always happy to see her and appreciate all that she does.

## Welcome New Staff

**T**here are some new faces at West Suburban Humane Society! Hailey Nicewanner is our new Development and Events Coordinator and Zoe McGrath is our new Director of Development. We are excited to have these creative and energetic professionals join our rescue team!

With her experience in nonprofit fundraising, Zoe has always gravitated around community and the meaning of home: building homes with Habitat for Humanity, working with mobile food pantries to bring food to the communities that need it most, securing emergency housing for a child welfare agency and survivors of human trafficking, and now finding homes for homeless cats and dogs. At WSHS, Zoe is responsible for fundraising initiatives, stewardship, grants, corporate and community partnerships, marketing, events, communication, and more.

Zoe is an alumna of Illinois State University, where she met her husband, Zachary. Zoe and Zachary were married a year ago in February, and as big Lord of The Rings fans, they traveled to New Zealand for their honeymoon. Outside of WSHS, you'll find Zoe

spending time with family and friends, cooking new recipes, and playing music on the piano, sometimes ukulele or guitar too!

Hailey is an experienced fundraising professional with a background in both nonprofit organizations and political offices, including roles at the congressional level. She brings a fun and engaging energy to events, ensuring memorable and successful experiences. Hailey is responsible for all WSHS events, from Barkapalooza to bingo and everything in between.

Hailey resides in Glen Ellyn with her husband, Roger, and their two Cavalier King Charles Spaniels, Charles Barkley and Elroy. She enjoys stand-up comedy, embroidery, and refinishing furniture. Hailey and Roger are excited to welcome their first child, a daughter, at the end of January, marking the beginning of an exciting new chapter in their lives.

Both Zoe and Hailey have jumped into the WSHS community with our most recent event, Pawction, and are proud to be contributing to the above and beyond care of WSHS cats and dogs. Welcome, Zoe and Hailey!



**Zoe McGrath**



**Hailey Nicewanner**

# Hearty Thanks

**Mila and Lydia** organized a lemonade stand and donated \$20 of the proceeds to the adoption center.

**The Gower Middle School's** student council raised \$241 during an open gym. The money was donated to the animals at the adoption center.

**Noah turned 26**, and his birthday wish was to go shopping with his brother and buy donations for the animals at the adoption center. He also did an online fundraiser and raised \$578 for the cats and dogs!

**Bark Avenue Daycamp** of Bartlett did a food and toy drive for the animals at the adoption center.

**Downers Grove Animal Hospital** held a food and toy drive for the shelter's animals and collected \$1,421 in monetary donations!

**Piper, a WSHS alum**, delivered a big box of treats, toys and other goodies to her doggie friends at the West Suburban Humane Society. She hopes they all find their forever homes soon!

**Daisy Troop 56708** donated the \$73 they collected from wrapping Christmas gifts to the animals at the adoption center.

**Thank you so much to Enjoy Your Dog** for hosting a Dog Angel Tree donation drive for the dogs at our Adoption Center! Our puppies had so much fun with the gifts. We really appreciate their support.



*Noah and his brother*



*Piper and Martin*



*Enjoy Your Dog*





**West Suburban**  
Humane Society

1901 W. Ogden Avenue  
Downers Grove, IL 60515

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**INSIDE:**  
**Stray Thoughts**  
Winter 2025 Newsletter

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*Girl's Night Out!*

**February 27, 2025 5:30 – 8:30 PM**  
Clara's, 6550 S State Route 53, Woodridge, IL

Hosted by:  
*Clara's*

Join us for:  
Complimentary appetizers  
Entry to 3 door prize raffles  
Wine Pull  
Gift Bag  
Cash Bar  
Shopping with 3-4 vendors

*Tiaras, pearls and diamonds not required!*

Grab your girlfriends and help WSHS care for our dogs and cats while they wait for their forever homes!

[WSHS-DG.ORG/NEWS-EVENTS](https://www.wshs-dg.org/news-events)

**West Suburban**  
Humane Society