

# Critter Chronicles

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**The mission of the Wisconsin Humane Society is to make a difference for animals and the people who love them.**

[www.wihumane.org](http://www.wihumane.org) 414.264.6257

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# Wisconsin Humane Society Adopts New Mission

Thanks to the work and support of our board of directors, advisory board, and staff members, this summer we updated our mission for the first time in more than 20 years!

**The mission of the Wisconsin Humane Society is to make a difference for animals and the people who love them.**

A mission statement is central to an organization – it succinctly explains its purpose in a way that resonates throughout the community. Our purpose is clear: because of WHS's unique size and strength, we can aim to not simply help, but to make a true difference, having the deepest and widest impact we can, in all the work we do. We believe this new mission statement concisely captures the real work of modern animal welfare, which aims to serve not only animals, but the people who love them.



## Get Your Throwback Gear!

Travel back in time with this exclusive line of apparel celebrating the logo used by the Wisconsin Humane Society from 1987-1994! **Visit [shop.wihumane.org](http://shop.wihumane.org) to complete your throwback look.**

## Animal Antics Retail Store

— featured design —

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# Puppy Chaos to Positive Family Connection

*Courtesy of Elizabeth Charewicz, Franklin, WI*

Our family owes our sanity and joy to the Wisconsin Humane Society Behavior and Training Specialist, Samantha Steinbring. My husband and I as well as my nine- and seven-year-old sons adopted our first dog, Rey, in February 2021....We knew it would be challenging and extra work but were truly naïve and even clueless about the magnitude of adjustment needed. Samantha's ability to assess each dog's personality and their family's dynamic AND pair attainable strategies and resources is unmatched. After completing her Puppy and Manners sessions, our family has a united front and unconditional bond with our adored puppy Rey.

We had a trainer come to our house for the first three weeks of getting Rey when she was two months old. The trainer was wonderful at teaching us basic commands. While this resource gave us a good foundation, we quickly learned that Rey did not fall into a one-size-fits-all approach. She simply is not motivated by treats. Moreover, having someone come to our house on an ongoing basis was not financially viable.

Training Rey was initially overwhelming with two boisterous kids running around. The energy of my kids and Rey played off each other. Teaching basic commands seemed impossible with my human kids buzzing around. My kids felt discouraged because they perceived all dogs to be like they are in the movies—trained on arrival. Balancing already crazy family schedules with a puppy created a lot of distress and chaos. At times I felt like my kids and Rey were not getting the attention and parenting they deserved. My patience was nonexistent.

Striking gold: Thankfully, I signed up for the Humane Society's Puppy Class. I called Samantha to ask a couple of questions in advance. As soon as I talked with her, I knew I could take a deep breath. She told me that all puppy parents need extra support as they adjust. She went on to say that the Humane Society is here to set all individuals and families up for success. That phone call and initial tips and tricks was critical to my confidence in training Rey and to help me and my family get on the same page.



**"By the end of the six-week session Rey was treat motivated, potty trained, unafraid of loud noises, followed commands--even with my kids running around, and showed confidence."**

Held in a group setting, Samantha was able to accurately assess each puppy's personality and owner's challenges. She used information shared by participants and observed during class to identify individualized strategies and resources. She helped me to train Rey within the context of my busy household and her not being as treat motivated compared to other dogs. By the end of the six-week session Rey was treat motivated, potty trained, unafraid of loud noises, followed commands—even with my kids running around, and showed confidence. More importantly, her instruction gave me the knowledge base to train my family! I was able to use Samantha's lessons from class as well as information and resources shared through follow up emails with my husband and children. By the end of the session my husband and kids were participating in training.

Because of the enormous progress made through Puppy Class I continued training with Samantha through the Manners Class. Samantha implemented her philosophy of setting your dog up for success throughout the six-week session.

Overall, Samantha helped me to understand what it truly means to be a responsible pet owner. Her information helped me to train my children and husband. I feel calmer and clearer on how to take Rey to parks, around the neighborhood, and manage her experience when we have visitors at our house. Her impact on me and my family is invaluable. Samantha helped me go from being at my wits end to being a proud mom of two wild boys and a puppy. Most of all, we have a priceless and positive connection to our beloved Rey!

**Need help with your own dog?** WHS offers a variety of puppy, adult, and specialty training classes, in addition to private training. Please go to [wihumane.org/behavior](http://wihumane.org/behavior) to learn more.



Our 2021 Paws & Claws Gala will be held on Saturday, October 16 at The Pfister Hotel in downtown Milwaukee. Individual tickets and sponsorships are available until October 1.

**Can't attend? You can still support this year's auction!** Our largest auction of the year will be available in-person at this year's event AND online to everyone. To learn more and view this year's auction, visit [gala.wihumane.org](https://gala.wihumane.org).

**For questions or to support this year's gala, visit [gala.wihumane.org](https://gala.wihumane.org) or email us at [events@wihumane.org](mailto:events@wihumane.org).**



## Blanding's Turtle Recovers from Broken Shell



We admitted a terribly injured Blanding's Turtle into the Wildlife Rehabilitation Center early this spring. Blanding's Turtles are a relatively rare patient for us, as they are not common in this region of southeastern Wisconsin. Blanding's Turtles are aquatic, but they do traverse across land for a variety of reasons, most commonly in search of mates or to find an appropriate location to lay their eggs.

This poor turtle had been hit by a vehicle while crossing a road, and the back half of his shell was fractured in many places. He was safely sedated to allow our consulting veterinarian to carefully put this humpty-dumpty back together again. We spent hours fixing his shell, working late into the night. Once the shell was stabilized and pieced back together (our team needed a variety of materials including screws, wire, and more), we offered supportive care to allow this turtle the time to recover.

Turtle shells are bone and can heal, but like many things with turtles, it can be a slow process and takes time. After months in care, and consultations with numerous veterinarians, including the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Veterinary Medicine, this turtle has made a full recovery and has been released back into the wild!

We work diligently to help the patients in our care, even if it takes months for them to heal. **Thank you so much for the support that makes this lifesaving care possible!**



# Pets for Life

Our Pets for Life team met Robert in 2014 when we were on his block, and we've been honored to partner with him to support his dogs over the years. Robert's dogs are at the center of his family, and he goes to great lengths for them.

The neighborhood where Robert lives is an animal care desert with little geographic or financial access to critical animal services. There are no veterinary clinics, pet stores, or big box retailers. As a result, community members face barriers to accessing services for the pets they love.

Our Pets for Life program partners with the community to remove these barriers and provide spay/neuter surgery and other pet care services. Since learning about our Pets for Life program, every time Robert has brought a new dog into his family (like adorable Cash), we're one of his first calls to set up a spay or neuter appointment for his new friend.



## A Birthday Celebration to Help Stray Animals

More than a dozen homeless and stray animals found new and loving homes thanks to a generous Wisconsin Humane Society (WHS) supporter. Care Bear is one of many lucky animals who came to WHS from the Milwaukee Area Domestic Animal Control Commission (MADACC) after being found as strays.



Helping stray animals being cared for by WHS has become an annual birthday tradition for a generous man who wants to make a difference in the lives of animals in the Milwaukee community. His generosity paid for food, shelter, medical care, and behavior assessments. His birthday wish to help animals came true – as did the wish of these lucky animals who found new, loving homes.

All of us at WHS extend our heartfelt thanks to this supporter who has made a difference in the lives of so many homeless animals.

If you would like to celebrate your own birthday, or another milestone, by helping animals in our care, **please contact Beth Maresh at [bmaresh@wihumane.org](mailto:bmaresh@wihumane.org)** to find out how you can make that possible.

## We're Hiring!



If you know someone looking for the opportunity to make a meaningful difference while working alongside a committed, fun, and supportive team, please share this and help us get the word out!

WHS currently has openings for several positions, including in animal care and adoption counseling, wildlife, and administration. While there are certainly perks like our comprehensive benefits package and our commitment to career growth, the best part about this work is how fulfilling and rewarding it is. And of course, getting to work with animals! If you are interested in applying, or know someone who is, please view the full descriptions and apply here: [wihumane.org/employment](https://wihumane.org/employment)

# Welcome, Domonique!

We're so excited to welcome Domonique Barley as our new Director of Youth Programs! Domonique has spent her career serving young people and is a champion for youth. She started working with kids through a year of Americorps at City Year and has held a variety of leadership roles at community centers and youth-serving organizations.

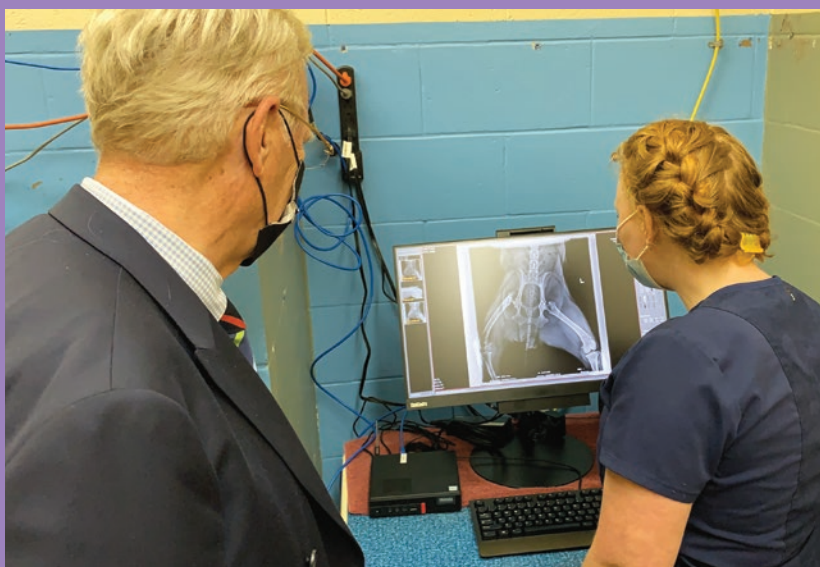
For the past six years, Domonique was at the Girl Scouts where she worked as Leadership Development Manager and Day Camp Director. Domonique brings a passion for creating inclusive experiences for young people and has completed training through the American Camp Association about diversity, equity, and inclusion in programs.

Domonique has a strong commitment to serving young people, creating innovative programs, and leading teams. She shares her home with a 2-year-old cat, Beau (a WHS alumnus), and she's thrilled to join the team.



We're excited to offer fun program opportunities for kids this fall. Check out youth programs on our webpage: [www.wihumane.org/for-kids](http://www.wihumane.org/for-kids)

## A Lifesaving Donation Thanks to John Bergstrom



Our veterinary staff in Green Bay were over the moon to receive an incredibly generous gift from animal lover John Bergstrom. We are fortunate to have partnered with Bergstrom Automotive in the past, and when John learned of our need for a modern X-ray machine, he leapt to help.

We recently hosted John for a ribbon-cutting celebration to welcome this lifesaving addition to our veterinary department. Dr. Hillary Feldmann-Tempini demonstrated how the machine works, and shared the incredible impact that X-ray can have in diagnosing various conditions. It has already made an impact on a number of animals in our care, and we couldn't be more grateful. Thank you, John!



# Looking for a Short-term Commitment?



## ***FOSTER!***

We are currently in high need of foster families who can temporarily care for animals in need. Some of them are recovering from an illness, some are working on behavior challenges, and others are simply too young for adoption. As nice as our shelters are, animals always recover faster, and are less stressed, in a home environment.

If you are interested in becoming a dog or cat foster parent, please visit [www.wihumane.org/foster](http://www.wihumane.org/foster) to learn how to become part of the Rachael Ray™ Nutrish® Foster Program at WHS! Simply watch our 11-minute orientation and complete the online application; our team will follow up with you as soon as we're able!

The time you'll spend caring for animals in need is truly invaluable and expands our lifesaving capacity. Though you'll be volunteering independently at home, you'll quickly realize you're part of a tight knit and wise community of foster parents eager to support you!

## Online Fundraising Makes It Easy to Give Back

*Thinking of planning an event or fundraiser to give back to the animals?* Whether you're asking for donations from friends and family, or colleagues, our online fundraising platform called JustGiving makes it easy to support WHS!

Just how easy? Recently, our friend Luke reached out to support the animals as a part of his Eagle Scout project. He set up his own JustGiving online fundraiser to share his love for the animals in his life and raised an incredible \$940!

It works just as well for businesses, too! Our friends at Baker Tilly hosted a fundraising challenge week for WHS, and found that an online fundraiser was an easy way to share their efforts throughout the company for employees on-site and remote. Together, they raised \$4,300 to support the shelter!

If you're looking to set up an online fundraiser for your birthday, school project, or company giveback week and want to reach supporters near and far, this is the perfect platform.

**Ready to get started or have questions?** Contact Ruadhan Ward at 414-431-6122 or [rward@wihumane.org](mailto:rward@wihumane.org) for questions and support.

## Golf Outing Goes to the Dogs



Resource One Realty LLC recently presented a donation to the Wisconsin Humane Society Green Bay Campus, thanks to realtor and sponsor support of their annual golf outing. We were blown away that they raised \$3,806 for the animals! Pictured here (left to right): Diane Campshure Walczyk, Resource One Broker/Owner; Lori Nachtwey, WHS; Bobbie Hendricks-Pelmar, Broker/Realtor; Adam Turriff, Broker/Owner; Nadine Meacham, Owner/Realtor. Thank you so much for your generosity!

# Adopter Updates

**Caesar!**



## Caesar

"The WHS Racine Campus is the organization that saw hope in saving my rescue Caesar. He ended being listed as a benchwarmer. I saw his picture on their adoptions list, I searched a year and a half for that one special dog that caught my eye, he was the one!! I immediately wanted him, I raced down to Racine, they brought him out to meet and greet; he wanted no part of meeting me, no treats no nothing! He was terrifying and terrified! I remember my husband saying, "you sure you wanna do this?" YES!

The staff had to put him in my truck, as we couldn't go near him. I sat in the back seat next to him, and I gotta admit I was scared! All of a sudden, he laid his head on my shoulder! When we got him home, he refused to go in the house - he was so scared. We sat on the porch with him for hours... out of the blue he walked up to my husband and laid his head on my husband's lap, then he allowed us to pet him.

It has honestly been one of the most rewarding feelings I've ever had in 30 years of owning dogs. He is now a little over 2 years old and is my right-hand man, my bosom buddy, my nighttime snuggler, my protector and my precious little miracle dog!! I am forever grateful to the humane society for being patient with him and seeing potential thru his fearful behavior, thanks for all you do!!!"

– Paula

**Coal!**



## Coal

"Coal was just the easiest addition to our household. A dog happy to be in the comforts of home. Playful, a cuddler, goes outside and yawns during storms. We are in heaven."

– Glenn & Barb

**Bella!**



## Bella

"I just wanted to let you know that Bella the benchwarmer is doing phenomenal! She has almost all her hair back and is still working on getting her tail fuzzy, lol!

Bella has become part of our family and has brought such joy to us! She became fast friends with Blaze, our oldest pup. And the neighbors have not once heard her upset while we aren't home. I think having canine comfort has been amazing medicine for her. All in all, everyone is very content and happy! Thank you all for caring for her for us until we found her."

– Bella's mommy Helena