

Critter Chronicles

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DR. RANDAL ZEMAN RETIRING AFTER DECADES OF SERVICE

After 35 years as a veterinarian at the Wisconsin Humane Society, Dr. Randal Zeman is retiring this spring. The impact of his work is immeasurable, but we know that he's performed more than 65,000 spay and neuter surgeries, an endless array of lifesaving operations, and has implemented progressively innovative solutions to new problems. We would not be where we are today without his expertise, leadership in the field, and dedication to animals and the people who love them. We caught up with Dr. Z to ask him a bit more about his time at WHS and find out what the future holds for him.



Could you tell us a bit about your family, including pets?

I met my wife in vet school at University of Minnesota. We were both graduates of the 1985 class. We have been married for 36 years and have a son, Joe, and daughter, Kelsey. Joe is married with a 2-year-old son, so I am a grandfather! At this time, we have one dog, Pippa, who is a 20-lb mix and one calico cat, Lacey. Both are alumni of WHS.

What initially drew you to WHS? What has kept you here?

I spent the first five years of my life on a dairy and turkey farm which also included dogs, cats, and a horse. I think early on I realized that I had a real affinity for animals and their care. My first job out of vet school was in a mixed animal practice in Lake Geneva. I really enjoyed it, but I didn't want to continue all the middle-of-the-night calls to farms for emergencies. When I found out about the WHS position, I really liked the idea of focusing on stray and unwanted animals. Seeing the difference that could be made in the lives of the animals coming to us has kept me here. I see it individually and in the sheer numbers helped over time.

What are the biggest changes you have seen to the way we approach sheltering and animal welfare?

Sheltering has changed dramatically since I started in 1986. Shelters had a bigger influx of strays and surrenders with few fostering programs to help alleviate the overcrowding. The change has been amazing. We have become so advanced in the medical care and behavior support that we provide, and euthanasia rates have dropped dramatically.

I think the public has become more aware and appreciates the care and services that shelters provide. We have branched out in a big way to offer programs for the public to help them with needs for their own pets, too. We are not just a place to come and adopt animals anymore. We continue to improve and expand public services at a rapid pace. With shelters being such an important resource for the community now, I think this will only continue.

What are you most looking forward to doing in your retirement?

I am really looking forward to being able to travel more with my wife, and we have many places yet to see! I also enjoy home and yard projects and have much on my plate to accomplish in that area.

Any words of wisdom for those hoping to have significant impacts in the world?

Keep the big picture in mind. Some days may be difficult, but you are still making a big difference. Always be open to new ideas. Any organization can always continue to improve their work. I have witnessed huge advancements over the years at WHS because people were willing to try something new!

THANK YOU FOR 35 YEARS OF COMPASSIONATE SERVICE, DR. Z!

DONATIONS FOR WHS RACINE CAMPUS MATCHED UP TO \$75,000!

We are excited to announce that the Ruud Family Foundation and Ted Sokoly & Nancy Toll are matching all donations made to our Racine Campus this year up to \$75,000!

In early 2020, the Ruud Family Foundation and Ted and Nancy came together to match donations made to our Racine Campus. Inspired by their love for animals and the construction of the new shelter in Mount Pleasant, they committed to match any contributions made to either the building project or general operations at the Racine shelter, up to \$100,000. We were excited and humbled to share at the end of 2020 that we surpassed this important goal for animals in Racine.

In 2021 the Ruud Family Foundation and Ted and Nancy joined together again and committed to generously match donations, up to \$75,000. Thanks to the generosity of

these incredible donors and the amazing support of the community, we surpassed our fundraising goal once again. In 2022, the Ruud Family Foundation and Ted and Nancy are once again generously matching donations dollar-for-dollar, up to \$75,000 for our Racine Campus.


"We are so very grateful for the generosity of the Ruud Family Foundation, as well as Ted and Nancy, who have championed our work in the Racine community," said Alison Kleibor, executive vice president of WHS. "These incredible donors are not only directly helping animals and families in need in Racine County, but also helping to inspire additional gifts to support this lifesaving work."

Many thanks go out to the Ruud Family Foundation, to Ted Sokoly and Nancy Toll, and to all who come together to make a difference for animals in the Racine community.



DONATIONS MATCHED FOR RACINE'S ANIMALS

Gifts generously doubled
up to \$75,000 by:



**Ted Sokoly
& Nancy Toll**



IMPACTING YOUTH, MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Our youth programs offer a premier experience with a personal touch. Whether it's our birthday parties, Kids Night Out, field trips, Girl Scouts Nights, or our camps, we engage young people in our mission with intentionality and purpose. Our work is even engaging the next generation of animal welfare professionals; nearly 70% of campers last summer reported being more likely to pursue a career in animal welfare as a result of their experience at camp!

Check out what our community is saying about our programs:

"Our kindergarten students participated in an Animal Talk with the Wisconsin Humane Society for their virtual field trip! They were able to see the animals and learn about what services the Wisconsin Humane Society provides. We thank the Wisconsin Humane Society for providing our students with an interactive experience!"

"You all made Alice's birthday so fantastic. Each of the girls who attended raved about the party later in the day. It was such a treat to interact with all of the animals. Thank you for all you do!"



Join the fun! For an opportunity to experience the great programs for young people in your community, check out our website at www.wihumane.org/for-kids!

PETS FOR LIFE: IRENE & BENJI

Our Pets for Life outreach team met Irene and her dog Benji in 2016 while knocking on doors in the community. Irene chose to have Benji neutered, vaccinated, and microchipped through our Pets for Life program, which provides this important service at no charge for animals from families in our focus community. Irene kept in touch, letting us know how she and Benji were doing. In 2020, Benji went missing, and Irene was absolutely heartbroken thinking that she'd never see her buddy again. Nearly two years later in January 2022, we learned that Benji was brought in as a stray and identified by the microchip he'd gotten through our program years earlier! Our team was thrilled to connect with Irene to let her know that Benji was found safe and ready to come home. Their reunion was the sweetest -- all smiles and wagging tails! The relationship built through our Pets for Life program and access to veterinary care, including a microchip, brought this adorable pair back where they belong: together.



STANDARD PROCESS PET FORMULAS NOW AVAILABLE AT WHS!

We are excited to announce that, in partnership with Standard Process, we will now be carrying their Pet Formulas at our WHS retail store online and at our Milwaukee Campus! Standard Process® creates high-quality, whole-food-based supplements to fill nutritional gaps for the pets we love. If you are interested in purchasing your supplements from WHS or want to learn more about the products available, please go to shop.wihumane.org or visit us in person at our Animal Antics store at our Milwaukee Campus. Online orders over \$59 will receive free ground shipping. As always, every purchase directly benefits the animals and families we serve!

GREEN BAY CAMPUS RECEIVES HEARTFELT GIFT

Our lifesaving opportunities have just been expanded thanks to this small yet powerful device gifted to us by WHS friend Rachel Charles. This new stethoscope called the Eko Duo links to a smart phone app, allowing our veterinarians to record audio waveforms of cardiopulmonary sounds AND record electrical activity in the form of a single-lead ECG (electrocardiogram).

With Eko Duo, we can hear the heart more clearly, we can see the electrical activity and rhythm, and we can record both for later review and sharing with colleagues. In getting to know the hearts of our patients better, we have a more complete picture of the animal's health and, therefore, more lifesaving opportunity! Thank you so much for your generous gift, Rachel!





WILDLIFE'S DYNAMIC DUO: MARY YUNK & JOYCE KONKOL

In the hustle and bustle of urban landscapes, courtyards, front entrances, rooftop gardens, and large planters all make for inviting locations for a mother duck to nest, as they are often filled with a variety of plants and open to the skies above. Her ducklings will be on their feet and ready to waddle down to the nearest body of water within a day of hatching, closely following their mother for warmth and protection. The biggest challenge they face is navigating the urban landscape - they may run into curbs or sewers, get trapped in a courtyard, or become stuck on a rooftop. However, there are some lucky ducks in Milwaukee, because Joyce Konkol and Mary Yunk are already looking out for them!

Joyce and Mary have volunteered for the Wildlife Rehabilitation Center at WHS for more than 35 years and cared for animals both wild and domestic their entire lives. In that time, they have become officially licensed rehabilitators and educators. The duo spends nearly every day in the wild places around Milwaukee, responding to calls about animals in distress. This includes all sorts of species including Great Blue Herons, Canada Geese, Mallards, Raccoons, Virginia Opossums, and the many other species who find themselves trapped and tangled in precarious situations.

Joyce found her way to WHS in 1987 when her daughter heard a speaker from the Wildlife Rehab Center and insisted that her mother get involved. Having grown up on the Rock River surrounded by the family's goats, chicken, turkey, and Guinea fowl, Joyce never came across a struggling animal she couldn't find a way to help. Inspired by her daughter, Joyce once again began helping wildlife in adulthood, all while earning her state Wildlife Rehabilitation License.

As a licensed wildlife rehabilitator, Joyce can care for some wild animals out of her home. "I have very supportive neighbors," explained Joyce. "When my owl was hootin', they thought that was the greatest thing on earth."

Decades ago, newspaper coverage of our wildlife rehab program's inception caught Mary's eye and set her journey to WHS in motion. Her childhood home was on the edge of the woods where she spent her days exploring the natural world and caring for birds from the moment a small yellow canary came into her life when she was three. She had experience to build on, was up for the challenge, and wanted to make a difference.

It was inevitable that they would combine their talents to save wild animals in need. Joyce and Mary often work together and are never without their custom-designed response kits. Complete with snares, cages, and handmade nets crafted to safely capture and move creatures to safety, they are ready to go when the call for help comes.

"Joyce and Mary are a dynamic duo who help safely contain and transport sick, injured, or wild animals to our wildlife hospital," says Crystal Sharlow-Schaefer, wildlife director. "They literally rescue hundreds of animals each year. Their length of time with the organization has made it so that our staff doesn't know a time before they were volunteering, and therefore have learned a great deal from them! We are always in awe of their energy, enthusiasm, and vibrant passion for this type of work - they are living examples of dedication and compassion in action."

While many of their adventures are unpredictable, some are as expected as the sunrise. The spring parade of ducklings following their mother through the hazardous urban landscape down to the water is just that, and you can bet that Joyce and Mary will be relentless in their efforts to help. We can't thank them enough for their unprecedented dedication to helping wild animals in need!

A PARTNERSHIP TO SAVE AN OWL

This Northern Saw-whet Owl was originally admitted to our wildlife hospital in mid-October after she was found on the ground, completely exhausted. Upon admission, X-rays revealed she had a fractured coracoid and scapula. Despite our best efforts, her wing injury was unable to be repaired in a way that would allow her to fly sufficiently for release. However, our medical team determined that she could still have a high quality of life in captivity, and luckily, her temperament was conducive to that as well.

Captivity can be very stressful and scary for a wild animal, so we work diligently to ensure any decision to place an animal is ethical, humane, and in alignment with standards set by the National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association and the International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council. This particular patient was an ideal candidate for placement, though, and we are so grateful to Schlitz Audubon Nature Center for providing a home and superb care for this precious owl, whom they have dubbed "Willow." She is thriving in their care today and will help educate visitors about her species for years to come.

Thank you to the caring person who brought her into the wildlife hospital for care and thank you to everyone who supports this lifesaving work!



IN MEMORY OF CUBBY

Dear Wisconsin Humane Society,

My sweet, sweet little Cubby bear is gone... We found each other on my 7th trip to the Humane Society in Milwaukee looking for an Emotional Support Animal.

Cubby was a part of me. She gave my husband and me nothing but smiles and giggles for a decade, then it was our turn to give back to her. In the 11 years we had Cubby, she was away from us only one night (with friends) due to a wedding. Cubby was simply the fuzzy (and bossy) member of the family, so she went everywhere with us.

I never left Cubby's side for a moment this past year unless my husband could watch her. As she aged, she wanted to spend more and more time in the bedroom (she always slept in our bed or on the floor), as it became the room where she felt most relaxed. Cubby had dementia, a late-onset seizure disorder, CKD, cataracts and other age-related conditions. Up until her last day and a half, Cubby enjoyed multiple (very slow)



walks a day and greeting her fuzzy friends and humans. When she suddenly developed pain & distress behaviors which no combination of medications could alleviate, we took her in the middle of the night to receive forever peace.

You can see what an adorable bundle of sweetness she was, and hopefully how well she was cared for (she never missed a vaccination or monthly flea & heartworm preventatives). You'll see our little Cubby in a lot of outfits, but we only started dressing her last Christmas when she was sick and trembled for about a week, from then on, cold weather meant "Cute Outfit Time!" She was a Pomeranian and had the most adorable bear cub face (I think it's called "Fox Face") that would stop traffic - which happened regularly. My sincere thanks for helping us find our little Cubby 11 years ago.

- Paula





Pet Walk



PET WALK IS BACK!

We're so excited to come together for Pet Walk, the Wisconsin Humane Society's annual dog-friendly run/walk and festival, featuring entertainment, vendors and exhibitors, family-friendly activities, and of course, games and plenty of treats for our furry participants.

PET WALK GREEN BAY | Sunday, June 5 | *Pamperin Park, Green Bay*

PET WALK MKE | Saturday, June 18 | *Veterans Park, Milwaukee*



PET WALK RACINE | Saturday, August 13 | *Cliffside Park, Racine*



PET WALK OZAUKEE | Saturday, August 27 | *Upper Lake Park, Port Washington*

PET WALK DOOR COUNTY | Saturday, September 10 | *Sunset Park, Sturgeon Bay*

And remember, Pet Walk is dog-friendly, but you don't have to have a dog to participate. Everyone is welcome!

WHY SHOULD YOU JOIN US FOR PET WALK 2022?

1.

It's fun! Did we mention there's a doggie costume contest? Or a prize wheel, dog games, and more? You won't want to miss everything we're bringing in 2022!

2.

Everyone is welcome! Whether you have a pet or not, you're encouraged to join us for our family-friendly Pet Walk!

3.

Your registration includes your T-shirt, and you'll earn awesome prizes for collecting donations on top of that!

4.

You'll make a difference! All proceeds from Pet Walk support animals in your community with nowhere else to turn.

BONUS: Register for Pet Walk today and save with early bird registration before prices go up - and find out why we're making 2022 our best year yet! Learn more at www.wihumane.org/petwalk or email petwalk@wihumane.org

RACINE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GENEROUSLY SUPPORTS VETERINARY SERVICES IN RACINE

The Spay/Neuter Assistance Program (SNAP) and vaccine clinics at the WHS Racine Campus provide low-cost pet care options in the Racine community. The SNAP program is designed to support residents of Racine County who need sterilization for their animals and demonstrate a financial need. This program provides low-cost spay/neuter services while reducing pet overpopulation. In 2021, 507 animals were served through SNAP in Racine, and WHS aims to serve over 500 animals and community members again in 2022.

Vaccine clinics are also an important offering to the community, providing reduced-cost vaccines for pets and follow-up support at five of our six locations. WHS hosts vaccine clinics with a new online booking system, and has served 935 pet owners and animals in 2021. WHS is so thankful to the Racine Community Foundation and their support of the SNAP program and vaccine clinics. Their generous grant of \$20,000 will support people and animals in Racine County!



DON'T MISS OUR OTHER UPCOMING 2022 FUNDRAISERS:

Barkin' Beer Fest | Sunday, April 24, 2022 | Badger State Brewing, Green Bay
Door County Rummage Sale | May 5-7, 2022 | Arle Memorial Hall, Sturgeon Bay
Paws & Claws Gala | October 15, 2022 | The Pfister Hotel, Milwaukee
Holiday Bingo Extravaganza! | Thursday, November 10, 2022 | Stadium View, Green Bay

Learn more at www.wihumane.org/events

RESTAURANTS GIVE BACK

We are floored every year by the number of incredible businesses that launch fundraisers to support our work. Giving back to the animals doesn't have to be complicated.

Restaurants, coffee shops, bars, stores, and food trucks can support our furry friends with a one-time or recurring Giveback Day!

Whether you choose to give back for a day, once a week, or for a full month, it's a great way to drive traffic to your business and a win-win for animals! Have a fun new item on the menu or an animal-related product? Consider committing to giving back a portion of each sale back to the animals.

Not sure when to start? Join our WHS Giveback Day on July 21, 2022 - when restaurants and stores from around

Wisconsin will donate a percentage of sales to give back to animals for the day!

Interested in starting an ongoing fundraiser or registering your business or restaurant for our WHS Giveback Day? Contact Meredith Kopca at 414-431-6113 or mkopca@wihumane.org for questions and support.



A FOSTER FAIL FOR THE WIN!

"If you asked me what kind of dog I wanted when I started fostering, I would've said a medium sized young adult. I definitely wouldn't have said 11-year-old, overweight chihuahua with arthritis and hip dysplasia. After having a hard time letting go of my last foster, a beautiful blue-eyed husky, I specifically picked Katie to foster as I thought there was no danger of wanting to keep this potato with eyes. Turns out I was wrong and after 12 dogs and 5 kittens, I finally foster failed. Welcome to your retirement home little girl."

- Ashley

