

Critter Chronicles

Winter 22 | Vol 39 Issue 4

- PETS FOR LIFE CELEBRATES 10 YEARS
- VOLUNTEER SURPASSES 10,000 HOURS
- RACCOONS REHABILITATED AND RELEASED



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

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ACHING FOR HELP: CURA'S STORY

An otherwise typical day for Racine's Habitat for Humanity team took a surprising turn when they heard meows coming from the basement on one of their job sites. A cat soon came into view, jumped into their arms, and quickly earned the nickname "Screwdriver." It was clear that she needed help and was soon on her way to our Racine Campus.

When she arrived, she was significantly underweight with irritated skin, an ear infection, and both a broken toe and femur. None of this seemed to matter to our little patient, who was so excited to receive all of this attention that her playful nature made for a lengthy exam. X-rays revealed the severity of the fracture and left our veterinary team with no choice but to amputate the leg. After her surgery, she moved in with a foster family who saw that she followed the veterinarian's orders, and before long, she was fully healed.

Less than 24 hours after being approved for adoption, she used that undeniable charm on a couple visiting our shelter looking to add a bit of feline magic to their lives. They knew instantly that she was the right cat for them, and she has proven them right every day since. With each friend and family she meets, her reputation as the friendliest cat they have ever met only grows. Now named Cura, she is navigating the world like a champ on three legs and will never turn down an opportunity to cuddle. We are so proud of how far you have come, Cura, and we love to see that sweet heart of yours find a home to call your own!



STICKY TRAP IMPEDES MIGRATORY COMMON YELLOWTHROAT



Fall is migration season for many bird species— a season wrought with hazards. While window collisions are sadly the most notorious culprit, we were quite surprised to admit this Common Yellowthroat missing so many feathers. This guy had flown into a hanging sticky trap meant to ensnare flies, and while the finder was able to remove him, he did lose a significant number of feathers in the process. Luckily, he can regrow them – and he did! But it takes time and energy to do so. He ate like a champ while in care, and rapidly regrew what he had lost. Once pristine and grown in, those stunning new feathers carried him away as he was released to continue on his migration route!

CONNECTING WITH KIDS: AUER AVENUE SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP

The Wisconsin Humane Society is building on our partnership with Auer Avenue School, located in one of the most underserved Milwaukee neighborhoods. Auer Avenue School is in the heart of the community served by our Pets for Life program, which provides door-to-door outreach and pet care services to families face systemic challenges to accessing them. Partnering with Auer Avenue allows us to reach as many kids and families as possible and create meaningful connections and access to pet care services across generations in the community.

Through the partnership, students ranging from kindergarten to grade 5 learn about important topics such as animal safety, caring for pets, and careers in animal welfare. The partnership consists of both in-class programs and field trips to our Milwaukee Campus. Students get the opportunity to meet some furry friends and see firsthand how animals are cared for in a shelter environment. The Auer Avenue School Youth Council (a leadership group for young people in Grade 5) has the opportunity to meet with a panel of our staff and learn about career opportunities in animal welfare. We are excited to expand this partnership to increase our presence for families in the community.



WHS attended Auer Avenue School's Halloween "Trunk or Treat" this fall, offering goodies to the kids!



LOOKING FOR WAYS YOUR BUSINESS CAN GIVE BACK?

Join our Giveback Days! We are seeking restaurants and businesses to partner with for a one-day promotion where your business commits to donating a percentage of proceeds that day back to the animals at WHS, and in turn, we encourage our dedicated supporters to visit your business!. For more information on how to participate in our 2023 WHS Giveback Days, please contact Meredith at mkopca@wihumane.org or (414) 431-6113.

CHILI CHEESE RECOVERS FROM HEARTWORM DISEASE



When Chili Cheese was found on a farm in Sturtevant, she was hungry and all on her own. She had no tags, not even a collar, but she didn't hesitate to befriend the kind soul who found her. After giving the 1-year-old pup food, water, and a warm place to sleep in their barn, it seemed only natural that someone in the area would come forward looking for this sweet girl. When attempts to locate an owner failed, they knew she needed more help than they could give her and brought her to our Racine Campus where we soon discovered the poor girl had heartworm. Wasting no time, our veterinary team started her on the long course of treatment to eradicate the worms and restore her health.

The entire course of treatment can take months, requiring a combination of antibiotics and medications, all administered while the animal is kept quiet with their activity limited to ensure their heart and lungs aren't working any harder than necessary. She soon moved in with a foster family that had recently bid a sad farewell to their two dogs, Charlie and Macy, and were happy to have a dog in the home again. After all she had been through, Chili was even more pleased with the new arrangements, walking in with her tail wagging like she owned the place. Over the next few weeks, Chili won their hearts, and they made her an official part of the family following her last injection to treat the heartworm!

Since that day, she has earned the name ChiChe, quickly claiming as much of the bed as possible and soaking up endless rays in the yard.

We are so happy for ChiChe and her new family, and love to think of all the walks, games of fetch, and sun-drenched naps to come. Without the caring hearts that got her safely to our door or our loving network of donors, volunteers, and staff who helped her on her journey, this wonderful story could have a much different ending, and we thank you all for making it happen!

SEE WHS ON TELEMUNDO FOR "MARTES DE MASCOTAS"

We're excited to share that Telemundo Wisconsin is hosting us every Tuesday during the 11:00 a.m. news broadcast for a featured pet segment. Special thanks to our bilingual media presenters for representing WHS, and to host Montse Ricossa for her warm welcome every Tuesday! You can also catch WHS pet segments on FOX6, WISN12, CBS58, and TMJ4's Morning Blend. We're so grateful to all our media partners for sharing information about available animals, services, and programs that we offer to the community!



HOOK SURGICALLY REMOVED FROM SPINY SOFTSHELL TURTLE

This Spiny Softshell Turtle was admitted with a large hook embedded in his throat that needed to be removed. That is not an easy task; this is a turtle species that isn't particularly easy to put under anesthesia, and deeply ingested fishhook removal in turtles ranges from difficult to impossible. Thanks to an amazing partnership with the University of Wisconsin School of Veterinary Medicine, our teams were able to collaborate and save this turtle's life.

Under sedation, efforts were first made to remove the hook in the least invasive way possible – using an endoscope and other tools. Unfortunately, that effort proved not to be possible due to the positioning and how embedded the hook was. However, this hook was high enough that we were able to successfully extend this turtle's neck and surgically remove it. This made this a more invasive and complex procedure, but proved to be the only way to successfully remove the hook.



We are so grateful to have this hook out, and we are sure this turtle is as well. The turtle recovered well and was released in the late fall. It truly takes a village to pull off the complicated work of wildlife rehabilitation and we are grateful for all the support in this effort to save this special patient. Thank you!



VOLUNTEER SURPASSES 10,000 HOURS!

Please join us in congratulating Mary Longsine on donating her 10,000th hour to WHS! Mary has been volunteering at the WHS Milwaukee Campus since 2000 and is a true expert at capturing our small animals' unique personalities, taking memorable photographs to help them get noticed on our website. Mary has a gift for making our littlest animals feel safe and loved; she has also assisted with tours, worked with special needs groups, and assisted in youth programs. Her love of all animals is infectious, and she is more than happy to share her wealth of knowledge with all visitors to the shelter. We are incredibly grateful for all her support and proud to have her as part of our volunteer team.

Mary, we thank you for the countless lives you have changed, the kind spirit you bring to all you do, and your passion for compassion!



OLIVIA SCHUELE'S 10TH BIRTHDAY PARTY

For Olivia, her 10th birthday seemed like an excellent opportunity to rally friends and family to help animals in need. Olivia set a date for the party, shared a link to our wish list, and asked for donations in lieu of gifts. When the big day arrived, she found herself surrounded by an ever-growing array of food, treats, training pads, litter, leashes, and just about anything else you can find on our list. In addition to the impressive haul of products, Olivia also raised \$600, which was instantly doubled, as they donated during our summer match! A huge thank you to Olivia and her family from all of us at WHS. Your compassion and generosity have touched our hearts and we hope that 10 is your best year yet!



ASHWAUBENON FOOD TRUCK RALLIES GIVE BACK



This past summer, WHS was chosen as the charity to receive donations from the Village of Ashwaubenon Food Truck Rallies. There were four rallies held between May and September where WHS received all tips that were given at the beer tent during the night. All of these events were dog-friendly, of course! In the end, over \$1,700 was collected to help the animals at our Green Bay Campus. We are truly grateful to the Village for their continued support in helping the animals who need us here in our community.



PETS FOR LIFE PROGRAM CELEBRATES 10 YEARS!

In November, we celebrated the 10th anniversary of our Pets for Life (PFL) program in Milwaukee. With the guidance and framework provided by The Humane Society of the United States, we launched our PFL program in November 2012, going door to door building relationships and offering free pet care support in a community with limited financial and geographical access to resources. Over the past decade, our team has gotten to know more than 9,000 families and served 18,000 pets. Through the program, we've provided more than 20,000 vaccines and 8,000 spay/neuter surgeries, as well as other services like pet food, supplies, and veterinary care through a partnership with the UW Shelter Medicine Program, helping to keep pets happy, healthy, and home with the people who love them.

So many partners, funders, donors, community members, and volunteers have made these success stories possible over the years, and we simply can't thank you

all enough. With your support, we're able to knock down barriers and create access to resources for thousands of doting pet owners like Shamanuel. Earlier this summer, Shamanuel rescued five rambunctious kittens found underneath a vehicle, cleaned up their dirty ears and fur, kept them fed and warm, and provided a safe place for them to grow and play. Soon after, she brought them to our recent PFL outreach event where they received their initial vaccines in the park that day, and once they were old enough, the next round of vaccines and spay/neuter surgery.

Shamanuel and her girlfriend planned to keep one or two of the kittens, and she worked to find loving homes for the others. We are so grateful to have had the opportunity to partner with community members like Shamanuel over the last ten years – here's to the next ten years of working with this amazing community and to the pets we'll serve together!



Photos above: We kicked off our new fiscal year on October 1 by hosting a community outreach event in our Pets for Life focus community, providing 179 dogs and cats with free vaccines!

Shamanuel and the five rambunctious kittens she rescued.

ADOPTION UPDATE

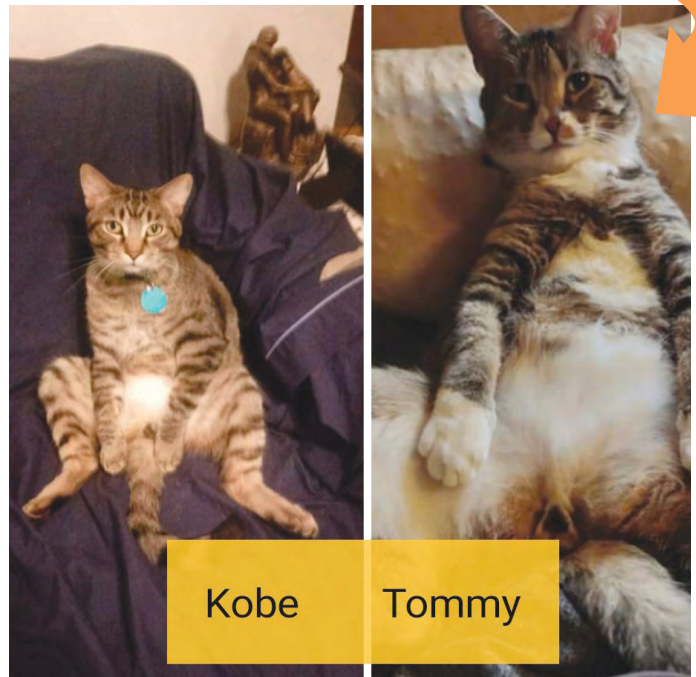
"A year ago, October 31, was one of the worst days. I had to say goodbye to my baby boy Kobe. He was only 8 years old and I was blessed to have him for 3 of those years. Cancer ravaged his little body. He was the purest form of love you could find. I miss him to this day. But I knew I needed another cat. I owed that to him. I needed to save another kitty, and make room for one more in the shelter.

Three weeks went by and I continually looked for cats online at all the shelters, but nobody was really speaking to my soul, so I just decided to head over to the Wisconsin Humane Society to look. I had some very specific things I wanted. I wanted a male cat, a bit older, and one that looked nothing like my Kobe. All the cats I looked at, just didn't connect with me. Then the shelter volunteer offered to show me Socks, an 11-month-old who looked similar to my Kobe. I wasn't sure about that. It would hurt too much, and I would compare too much, but decided to humor her. Well, she opened the door to his room and he came running out crying. She warned me that he was shy and fearful, but I went in anyway. He ran and hid under his bed. But I went in, and out he came and started head-butting me. The decision was made. He was the one. We named him Tommy. He instantly became mine. He talked to me regularly. Then, he started making biscuits. He's actually the best biscuit maker I've ever had.

He came into our home and became everything I needed. Love is all he wants, all the time. He talks nonstop. He chirps, trills, meows, and hollers to let you know he is near. We may have rescued him from the shelter, but he rescued my heart from the despair I was stuck in. Over this last year, I would swear Kobe was whispering in his ear telling him all the things I needed, because I would think of something I missed about my baby boy, and then, my new boy would start doing those same things. Tommy is now adventurous, loving, silly, playful, and all love. Please don't let a label of fearful deter you from adopting a particular animal. You could miss out on the best thing to ever happen. Also, don't go in with expectations of what you are looking for, because life has a way of giving you exactly what you think you don't want, and turning it into what you need. Thank you for helping to fix the cracks in my heart and helping me find the pieces to my shattered heart.

With love,
Kati P. & family"

TOMMY



Kobe

Tommy

RACCOONS REHABILITATED AND RELEASED!

Raccoons are a lot of work to rehabilitate, but we're proud to provide care for as many as we do. We make every effort to reunite raccoon babies with their mother if at all possible to ensure that only truly orphaned raccoons are admitted. Raccoons need several months in care before they are ready for release, and have extensive requirements to ensure they properly develop, both physically and behaviorally. While they're with us, they need exams, treatments, dewormer, vaccines, and frequent feedings, as well as large and heavily decked-out caging for their pre-release enclosures.

Once in care, our experienced and licensed staff conduct thorough medical exams and determine an appropriate plan of care for each. No two raccoons are exactly the same, and each have very different needs that must be addressed. After months of specialized diets, stimulating enrichment, and social interaction with other orphaned raccoons of similar age and development, this group of youngsters was released back into the wild where they belong. We are so grateful to our supporters that make this work possible. We couldn't do what we do without you!



THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING WHS EVENTS IN 2022!

WHS HOSTED FIVE PET WALKS IN 2022, ALL RETURNING IN 2023

Thank you to the following businesses who supported Pet Walk in 2022:

Pet Walk 2022 Presented by Petco Love
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We have to give a huge thank you to everyone who participated and supported Pet Walk in 2022! Your generosity raised an outstanding \$350,000 across our five Pet Walks for the animals and people we serve. It was so great to see you, your families, and your furry friends out at the parks, and we can't wait to see you all again next summer!

SAVE THE DATE

Pet Walk GB: Sunday, June 4, 2023 at Pamperin Park, Green Bay

Pet Walk MKE: Saturday, June 17, 2023 at Veterans Park, Milwaukee

Join us in Summer 2023 for Pet Walk Racine, Pet Walk Ozaukee, and Pet Walk Door County.

To learn more and to register for our favorite run/walk to support animals, visit www.wihumane.org/events

PAWS & CLAWS GALA A HUGE SUCCESS

We are beyond excited to share that your support of our Paws & Claws Gala helped raise more than \$565,000 for the animals and families served by the Wisconsin Humane Society, making the 2022 Gala one of our most successful galas ever! Whether you chose to become a sponsor, donated an auction item, spread the word leading up to the event, made a gift to support our emergency rescue efforts, bid on auction items, took part in the wine pull and night-of games, or supported from home, we owe this year's success to you!



A special thank you to this year's Co-chairs, Rolando and Maria Rodriguez, as well as our top sponsors of this year's Paws & Claws Gala, presented by Petco Love:

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David & Judy Hecker
Northwestern Mutual Foundation
Charlie James, in memory of Carol Baker Tilly
Brewers Community Foundation
Godfrey & Kahn s.c.
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