

Critter Chronicles



Fall 23 | Vol 40 Issue 3

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KENOSHA CAMPUS UPDATE

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Crystal Faledas

On June 1, the Safe Harbor Humane Society officially became the Wisconsin Humane Society Kenosha Campus! After several weeks of intensive training, deep cleaning, and a massive reorganization of the animal holding and other spaces, we reopened for adoptions.

Last year between June 26 – July 25, there were 81 adoptions completed by SHHS. This year in the same timespan, the incredible WHS Kenosha Campus team performed an impressive 133 adoptions! So many animals found loving homes, and we look forward to making even more matches in the months to come.

We're also thrilled to share that we are welcoming Dr. Noelle Schariest as our full-time vet for the Kenosha Campus! Dr. Schariest has been a veterinarian at the WHS Milwaukee Campus and Spay/Neuter Clinic in West Allis since 2020, and we know her knowledge and compassion will make a huge impact on Kenosha's animals and the people who love them.

The team has been working tirelessly to accomplish so much already this summer, and we have even more in store for the future. We're grateful for your patience and support as we continue to fine-tune our processes and assess our services. WHS is so grateful to be a part of the Kenosha community and we hope to see you soon!



First adoption at WHS Kenosha Campus

THE BOUNCE IS BACK IN BAILEY'S STEP

Bailey arrived at our Racine Campus, refusing to put weight on his back leg. Our vets discovered a serious wound that was infected and causing him a great deal of pain. It soon became apparent that he would need to have the leg amputated.

The morning after surgery, Bailey's appetite was as strong as his spirit, and he was no longer tensing up as our vets approached to ensure he was healing properly. His relief was immediately evident.



He completed his recovery with the help of an experienced foster family who monitored the incision, kept the greens coming, and ensured his post-surgery collar stayed in place. By the time Bailey was ready for adoption, he had won his foster parents' hearts and soon became an official family member alongside fellow rescue bunny Yoshi.

When Bailey isn't dashing across the living room or impressing his new brother with an athletic leap, he finds the nearest lap to cuddle in for a nap. We could not be happier to see him thriving on three legs in such a fantastic home. Congratulations to you, Bailey!

FOUNTAIN AND BENCH UNVEILED IN HONOR OF MARILYN JENSEN

This summer, the WHS Door County Campus held a special ceremony to unveil a beautiful bench and fountain in memory of Marilyn Jensen. An incredible woman inside and out, Marilyn was an active member of our community, and her passion for animals led her to serve on the former Door County Humane Society Board for 15 years, 12 as President. During her tenure, land was procured and our current shelter was built.

Marilyn's legacy of making a difference for animals carries on as her dear friend, Barb Gilman, pledged to match donations up to \$50,000 in her memory, which inspired an incredible amount of support. Marilyn is dearly missed by all who knew and loved her, and we are forever grateful for the difference she made for animals in our community.



YOUNG PHILANTHROPISTS MAKING A DIFFERENCE



Ellison's first birthday donation haul

Ellison: For her first birthday, Ellison's family decided that her ever-growing love of animals was just one more reason to celebrate. In lieu of the traditional mountain of toddler toys, her family asked for donations to the critters at the Wisconsin Humane Society instead. Can you believe this haul?! We were as overwhelmed by the generosity as we were by the cuteness. Happy Birthday to you, Ellison!

Laeleigh: Laeleigh and her family came in to donate half of her profit from selling handmade bracelets. They made a total of \$200 and donated \$100 of it to the animals at the Kenosha Campus! We made sure she was able to meet one of the very appreciative recipients of her donation, Plum, who gave her lots of grateful kisses. Thank you for your support, Laeleigh!



Laeleigh donates and meets Plum

JOHN'S TRANSFORMATION

John had been wandering alone when he met a concerned neighbor who helped him make his way to our Door County Campus. His fur was thin and patchy, he had scars from old wounds that had since healed, and he was missing part of his ear. Our vets, however, were more concerned with his eyes which were red, watery, and inflamed. John underwent surgery to fix his eyelids which had been painfully scratching his corneas, and after three weeks of recovery and foster support, he was feeling so much better.

John has since been adopted and has become the most affectionate little shadow, following his family all around their home. He's got windows to watch the world from, favorite toys to play with (which he'll eagerly nudge toward the nearest human), and has replaced their snooze button, ensuring that everyone starts their day right away when the alarm goes off. We could not be happier to see you doing so well, John, and we wish you and your family nothing but happy days!



ADOPTION UPDATES

VEGAS

At just 1 year old, Vegas had endless energy and enthusiasm for life, but didn't yet have an outlet for all that excitement. His unabashed liveliness led to some challenging behaviors which brought him to WHS. We saw how stressed he became in the shelter, so he went off with a foster parent who could really focus on helping him channel his exuberance into learning new tricks and mastering his manners. He made great progress, but was still in search of a home with a fenced yard, an active family who could tire him out each day, and a household where he could be the only pet. Though many admired him, his potential adopter pool was limited.

After patiently waiting for months and months, he finally got his big break. The incredible Clark family drove all the way from Green Bay to Milwaukee for a meet-and-greet, and they knew right away it was a match. Vegas now has several human siblings who adore him and constantly keep him busy, and his behavior has truly transformed. We're so grateful to the Clarks for taking a chance on this amazing boy, to his foster parent Julianna for opening her home and heart when he needed it most, and to everyone who helped spread the word about Vegas to find such an excellent match!



FUN AT SUMMER CAMP



Summer camp was a blast at our Milwaukee, Ozaukee, and Racine Campuses. We engaged more than 350 young people, including 60 scholarship recipients and 25 youth leaders in our summer camp experience. Campers visited with domestic animals, gained insight on how to safely interact with pets, and learned more about careers at WHS. Our Junior Veterinary Camp attendees performed mock surgeries and watched our veterinarians perform real procedures.

Here's what our campers had to say about their experiences:

"I wish camp was next week, too!"

"I think I learned that I could do way more to help animals and learned that I can help them when needed. I have to be brave to help them."

"The thought of working with animals as a career makes me excited for my future!"



Did the young animal-lover in your life miss summer camp? We have so many more programs to explore, including camp dates in winter and spring. Our youth programs nurture young people's interest in animals, engage them in our mission, and allow them to explore the career opportunities available at WHS and across the animal welfare field.

Visit www.wihumane.org/for-kids to learn more about birthday parties, Kids Night Out, Scout programs, field trips, and more!

BABY AMERICAN KESTREL REUNITED WITH FAMILY

Tremendous thank you to our community partner, Skedaddle Humane Wildlife Control, for re-nesting this American Kestrel patient for us!

We received a call from a concerned resident about a small, fluffy bird on the ground; it had reportedly been there all day and was looking tired. We admitted him to our wildlife hospital and got to work assessing this young American Kestrel's condition. He was actually okay and healthy, but a little dehydrated from his ordeal. We were able to quickly correct that with a good meal, then once he had re-energized, his appropriately fierce spirit soon returned, just as we had hoped. We want to get raptors this young back to their parents ASAP; we do great work at the hospital but keeping wild families together is always our priority. This also allows our rehabilitation services to be reserved for those who are truly injured or orphaned. Keeping wild families together gives these birds the greatest chance of success in the wild, as they need to learn vital lessons and hunting skills alongside their parents.

While we love re-nesting, it is not without its challenges. It requires scouting the area to find the nest, then all the logistics of getting them back up where they belong. We sometimes rely on the experts at Skedaddle Humane Wildlife Control to assist with these situations, and we are grateful to them for their efforts. They went out to locate the nesting cavity this baby had fallen from and were initially stumped. While kestrels normally nest in trees, we know wild animals have adapted to urban environments in unique ways, so we also gave a keen eye to surrounding commercial buildings. It took some detective work and we all almost gave up, but we were overjoyed to find the nest location... in a vent! This bird's other siblings were still in there and they had clearly been thriving in the safety of their hidden oasis, so Skedaddle was able to put him right back in with his family where he belongs.

Reunions like this are only possible with the support of our community - together we are saving lives! Thank you!



HEALING HAPPY

Happy was found running loose with his signature smile on his face before being brought to our Racine Campus. During his intake exam, we discovered a concerning mass on his left thigh. Our veterinary team wasted no time removing it and sending it off for testing. We spent the next few weeks trying to distract him from those itchy stitches and convince him to keep wearing his post-surgery collar. We were thrilled to learn that the mass was benign, but not nearly as excited as Happy when his stitches finally came out. He was free from the cone, ready to find a family of his own, and it wasn't long before he did just that.

Happy has been living up to his name in his new life. He goes for a mile walk each morning and again in the evening, shows rope toys who is boss, and loves proving he can find the treat in any puzzle toy. At the end of the day, he's quick to cuddle up with dad on the recliner before bed. Congratulations on your fantastic family and all the smiles to come!



WHERE ARE THEY NOW? FORMER WILDLIFE REHABILITATION INTERN SALLY FAHR

This year has been exceptionally busy for our Wildlife Rehabilitation Center at the Wisconsin Humane Society, and while our team of licensed wildlife rehabilitators works incredibly hard, they also rely on a team of summer interns to assist with patient care during our busiest times. Most of these interns are college students interested in biology, animal welfare, or veterinary fields, and join our internship program to gain valuable experience and hands-on training with wildlife.

We love to keep in touch with these interns and see where their educational pursuits and careers lead. Working with wildlife is such a privilege and gives us great joy, but much like proud parents, we also get great joy out of seeing our past interns be successful. We have interns who have gone on to everything from getting PhDs studying Siberian Cranes in China, to becoming board-certified veterinarians, to running wildlife centers in and outside of Wisconsin!

It's a joy when interns stop by to visit or volunteer with us. One recent visitor was Sally Fahr! Sally was an intern with us for two summers, and we have seen her gain technical skills and confidence in her work. She is currently a third-year vet student at the UW-Madison School of Veterinary Medicine, and when she's not studying wildlife diseases and treatments, she also enjoys working in the emergency department of the Wisconsin Veterinary Referral Center. We were grateful to Sally for recently catching us up on her internship experience with WHS.



Sally Fahr during a recent visit helping care for an orphaned Cottontail Rabbit at the wildlife hospital.

Tell us about your internship with us and do you have any particularly memorable moments?

I spent two summers as an intern with the wildlife hospital during my undergraduate education. One of the most memorable things for me was working as a team and bonding with my co-interns. Some of the best (and funniest) moments happened as a result of conversations, inside jokes, and general silliness between the team. Spending quality time with the other interns during and outside of work made for a great experience.

What was the most fun part of the internship?

My favorite part of the internship was raising infant cottontail rabbits! I absolutely love bunnies, and it was wonderful to care for these babies and eventually release them back to the wild.

What skills or knowledge did you learn from your internship that you have found most useful?

During my internships, I learned so much about the handling, nutrition, disease control, and general husbandry of wild animals. This has been very helpful as I learn how to medically approach domestic and exotic species in school. I enjoy finding the similarities and differences in the treatment of wildlife compared to our common domestic animals.

Any words of advice for those who are perspective future interns?

Future interns: get ready to get your hands dirty! Animals are great, but they are messy and require a lot of physical husbandry. This is a great hands-on experience that requires hard workers who don't shy away from dirty work. If this sounds like you, please apply! :)

Learn more about our summer internship program at wihumane.org/wildlife/how-can-i-help/internship-opportunities

THANK YOU GREEN BAY PACKERS STAFF!

A huge thank you to the Green Bay Packers staff who recently volunteered their time at the Wisconsin Humane Society Green Bay Campus during their Give Back Day! After donating the mulch, rakes, and shovels, they got to work laying woodchips on our dog walking trails, putting together goodie bags ahead of Pet Walk, and even making snuffle mats to keep our furry guests mentally engaged as they search for the treats within. As if all of this wasn't enough, they even presented WHS with a check for \$4,000!

We could not be more honored to be included in their efforts to give back to the community, and we hope they enjoy the dedication of the four-legged fans they earned in the process!



CATCHING UP WITH GEORGE AND SUNNY



Our Pets for Life (PFL) team develops relationships with community members and their pets by building a community presence. Our clients know they'll see us in the neighborhood again and that they can reach out to us any time. We always love re-connecting with clients and their pets and seeing the impact of our ongoing partnership with clients.

Jada, our PFL Outreach Program Manager, recently visited George and his dog, Sunny. We first met George a year ago when he flagged down our van. George was desperately seeking grooming services for Sunny, but he didn't have financial access nor transportation to get her to a groomer. When we told George that we could not only spay Sunny, but also help clean up her coat, he was thrilled! Our vet staff provided a full shave down, performed her spay surgery, and treated her medical conditions. By the end of the day, Sunny looked like a new dog and George was so excited to see how happy she was.

When Jada recently visited, George shared that Sunny's fur continues to be difficult to manage. Jada provided George with some clippers so he can groom Sunny and keep her comfortable at home, and some guidance on how to navigate choosing a groomer. We're so grateful to George and the community members we serve through our Pets for Life program for their ongoing partnership and the trust they put in us to care for their pets. We can't wait to see George and Sunny again soon and hear how this sweet pair is doing.

JOIN US FOR DOG OR PUPPY TRAINING!

The Wisconsin Humane Society Milwaukee Campus is thrilled to offer a variety of training options for dogs of all breeds, ages, and learning levels. Options include group Puppy Classes, Manners Classes, and our Puppy Enrichment Drop-Off service. WHS is proud to use exemplary, reward-based training and a focus on building the bond between dogs and their owners, cultivating relaxation in new spaces, and basic manners that translate to real-life scenarios.

UPCOMING TRAINING CLASSES

below are the start dates of each 6-week session:

Puppy Class

Wednesday, September 20 at 5pm
Saturday, September 23 at 11:15am

Dog Manners Class

Wednesday, September 20 at 6:15pm
Saturday, September 23 at 10am

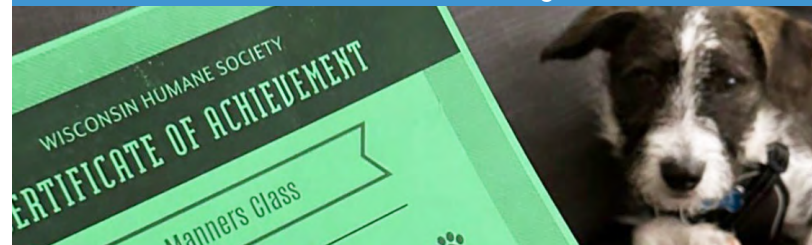
Intermediate Dog Manners Class

Wednesday, September 20 at 7:30pm

Puppy Enrichment Drop Off Sessions

(single day, 1-hour, owners do not attend)
Thursday, September 21 at 1:45pm
Thursday, September 28 at 1:45pm

ENROLL TODAY AT wihumane.org/behavior



PAW-SOME PARTY IDEAS

- **Company Give Back:** Is your restaurant or business interested in giving back to the animals? Choose a day and donate a portion of the proceeds to help the animals at WHS. We can even help promote it on our Community Events & Fundraisers page!
- **Game Night Give Back:** Host a tailgate party or cookout and ask everyone to bring their favorite dish. Attendees will then pay to vote for their favorite entree or appetizer, with proceeds going back to the animals!
- **Party with a Purpose:** Host a get-together with friends where you provide the food, and ask others to bring an item off our wish list or a monetary donation to support WHS.
- **Time to Celebrate:** Collecting monetary donations and items from our wish list instead of gifts can be a fun new tradition for a birthday, mitzvah, or holiday! Guests will have fun and feel proud about using their day for good.



If you have questions on how to get your community fundraiser started, contact our events team today!

Milwaukee | Ozaukee | Kenosha | Racine

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Green Bay | Door County

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UPCOMING EVENTS



OCTOBER 2023

SAT
14



PAWS & CLAWS GALA

The Pfister Hotel - Milwaukee | Saturday, October 14, 2023 | 5:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Tickets are on sale now for the 2023 Paws & Claws Gala, Wonderful Wizard of Paws. Join us for our biggest fundraiser of the year! Enjoy cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, silent and live auctions, raffles, a wine pull, and delectable dinner all to support animals in need! Did we mention that it's the only gala in town where you can mingle with pups and our favorite felines? Learn more and purchase tickets now at www.wihumane.org/gala

NOVEMBER 2023

THU
9



HOLIDAY BINGO EXTRAVAGANZA

Stadium View Bar & Grill, Green Bay | Thursday, November 9 | 5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Kick off the holiday season with a fun-filled night that starts off with a buffet dinner followed by a variety of raffles, silent auction, and Bingo, of course! Purchase tickets today at www.wihumane.org/events

DECEMBER 2023

SAT
2



HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE AND PHOTOS WITH SANTA

WHS Door County Campus | Saturday, December 2 | 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Bring your kids and social companion animals and join the festive atmosphere at our Door County Campus for a special holiday photoshoot, plus great raffle prizes! Learn more at www.wihumane.org/events

DECEMBER 2023

7-13



WINTER ONLINE AUCTION FOR ANIMALS

Online | Thursday, December 7 – Wednesday, December 13

Join us for our Winter Online Auction. Bid on fabulous packages from the comfort of your own home while helping the animals at the Wisconsin Humane Society. Learn more at www.wihumane.org/events