

Critter Chronicles

Spring 2021 | Vol 38 Issue 1



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Unbearable Cuteness Alert! Puppy Enrichment Sessions



Since we began "Puppy Enrichment Drop-off" sessions at the Milwaukee Campus in late December, we've had 60 puppy visitors come through our doors. Puppies enrolled in the program have the opportunity to develop their social skills with other puppies in a safe environment, with constant supervision and support. During play time, puppies begin to practice life skills such as name recognition and coming when called, as well as beginning to learn basic skills like sit and gently taking treats. Puppies have the opportunity to explore and navigate novel objects to build confidence and body awareness.

During these personalized training sessions, puppies work individually with their trainer to build the foundation for relaxation in crates, comfort with handling for grooming and veterinary care, recall, loose-leash walking, and more.

It's been incredible watching these puppies blossom from uncertain and shy to bold, social, brave individuals ready to make new friends and work on training skills. We'll continue to add on sessions as the program expands, and are so excited to continue supporting our community's puppies and their families in every way possible!

Spring Impact Hour

Grab your furry friend and a cup of coffee for a virtual gathering where WHS President & CEO Anne Reed and our expert staff will share the many ways companion and wild animals come through our doors—from being transported across the country to being surrendered to our care. Plus, you will have a chance to ask Anne and our experts your questions and meet a wonderful network of individuals like yourself.

Location: Zoom (RSVP to receive the link)

Date: Tuesday, May 4, 2021

Time: 8:30–10:00 a.m.

RSVP: Maria Betts

mbetts@wihumane.org or 414-534-1113

We hope you can join us!

While we won't be able to share breakfast, coffee, and furry friends with you in-person, please know they're always welcome! Bring along yours to this virtual gathering, and we can't wait to see you there.



Pets for Life: Meet Diamond



The community presence and trust that our Pets for Life outreach team has built in the communities we serve drives calls from community members whose family, friends, or neighbors have connected with our program. We're grateful for each of these referrals, which connect us with families and animals we may not otherwise meet through our door-to-door outreach.

Allison and her son Kevin reached out because their dog, Diamond, had an urgent medical concern, and they'd heard about our program from a family member. When they got Diamond the immediate care she needed at a private veterinary clinic, they learned that spaying Diamond was the best way to prevent her condition from recurring. The Pets for Life program was able to provide a spay surgery for Diamond and even gave Diamond a ride to the clinic for her surgery. Allison and Kevin are grateful to have Diamond back home and happy and are relieved to know her medical condition is resolved and won't return.

Transportation is a barrier for many of the families we serve through our Pets for Life program, and our team addresses that concern by providing transportation to 70% of the animals who are spayed or neutered at our clinic in West Allis through the PFL program. Our team developed a contactless transportation protocol to support animals during the COVID-19 pandemic while keeping families and staff healthy and safe. We have provided transportation for nearly 300 animals like Diamond this fiscal year alone. Thank you for your support, which makes it possible for us to serve so many animals and families in a safe and impactful way!

Youth Programs Team Looks Forward to Summer New Scholarship Program for Camps!



There are exciting things happening for young people at the Wisconsin Humane Society! This fall we added our first-ever Youth Programs staff member at our Racine Campus, and we are thrilled to be offering summer camps for the first time in the Racine community.

Summer camps will be held at the Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine, and Green Bay Campuses. Because the health of our campers, staff, and community is our top priority, we have COVID-19 safety protocols in place for camps, including limited enrollment, masks, enhanced cleaning and handwashing protocols, spending more time outdoors, and more.

Campers who have completed grades 1–9 are grouped by grade level to ensure they get the most out of every activity and experience at our shelter. Each week-long camp provides an opportunity for young people to learn about careers in animal welfare and how their actions make a difference for animals in our community. Campers

get an exclusive glimpse into the journey animals take at WHS, and enjoy crafts, animal-themed games, and everyone's favorite: a chance to meet animals! Our Junior Vet Camp immerses middle and high school students into the world of veterinary science through hands-on learning.

This summer we will be launching a new camp scholarship program. The program will provide 50 full-tuition camp scholarships for young people with financial need. Our goal is to connect young people who would otherwise not be able to attend camp a fun way to connect with the Wisconsin Humane Society.

For more information about Wisconsin Humane Society kids' camps, visit www.wihumane.org/for-kids/camps/camp-scholarship-program.

Your help is needed! If you're able to help fund scholarships for young people with financial need, please contact Maren McFarlane at mmcfarlane@wihumane.org or 414-431-6146. Thank you for your consideration!

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO OUR RACINE CAMPUS!

Time sure flies, and WHS is thrilled to celebrate the first anniversary of our newly built Racine Campus in Mount Pleasant. Words simply cannot express the overwhelming gratitude the entire organization feels for each person, group, and business that helped make this life-changing space a reality.

Last March, when the world learned of COVID-19 and began to shut down, the decision was made to get Racine animals and staff into the safest and most well-equipped space possible to prepare for the uncertain future ahead. Thanks to the incredible supporters and community leaders of the capital campaign who made the new facility possible, it was ready to welcome everyone just in time.

While the move was fast, the decision was not made lightly. Minor cosmetic updates, such as signage and landscaping, were still unfinished, but the building was clean, spacious, abundant in animal lodging, and ready to have its many doors opened to the animals needing support.

Immediately, it was evident what a significant difference this campus would make on animals and the community overall. The shelter was specifically designed with open and flexible spaces that could accommodate the current and future needs of animals, but seeing it finally in-action shined a hopeful light on all that would now be possible for animals in Racine County.

From the ability to quarantine animals in lodging rooms to utilizing a cat suite to house a 12-foot, 80-pound python, the shelter quickly showed its strength of possibilities in more ways than one.

The new services entrance proved essential from the beginning as it was used for safe animal intake and interactions with foster families when other services were paused. The increased amount and size of animal lodging in the new shelter instantly allowed for flexible housing for any incoming sick animals, as well as giving staff the opportunity to socially distance while supporting animal care needs. The state-of-the-art air filtration system in the building provided each space with fresh, clean air every six minutes helping to keep animals and staff safe.

Once volunteers were happily welcomed back to the Racine Campus, they quickly voiced their excitement about the additional space, ease of access to equipment, abundance of storage, new workspaces to prepare animal care needs, expanded animal suites, lack of odor, and the warm and happy environment. A long-time volunteer and WHS supporter immediately pointed out the key building design



elements that were chosen to decrease animal stress worked, as well as animals behavior at this new facility seemed much more positive.

The Racine Campus celebrated milestones along the way and as services began with new COVID-19 precautions, including the first adoption of senior cat Burrito in early July. At 13-years-old and 24 pounds, Burrito captured the hearts of the Medina family who drove up from Illinois to adopt.

Within no time, the shelter also welcomed the first litter of kittens when a stray pregnant cat was brought to us by a community member. Tucker, a scared dog found running around UW-Parkside was brought to us as our first stray and also became our first lost dog reunited with his family. In November, the much-anticipated launch of youth programs took place virtually and has now connected with more than 850 young people in the local community. In the middle of it all, the former Racine Campus on Chicory Road was sold and helped us reach the final fundraising goal of our capital campaign.

Without the incredible and devoted support of the Racine community, WHS supporters and volunteers, this all wouldn't have been possible. It was an unexpected first year in the new Racine Campus in countless ways, but WHS friends in and beyond the community made it an unforgettable and amazing start to a very bright future for the animals and families we serve.

**Since the move,
more than:**

893
surgeries were
completed in our new
surgical wing

731
animals were cared
for in foster homes

649
animals were reunited
with their owners

316
animals were adopted

303
animals were helped
through vaccine clinics

MAKING A DIFFERENCE FOR HOMELESS ANIMALS IN THE RACINE COMMUNITY

The Ruud Family Foundation and Ted Sokoly & Nancy Toll


In early 2020, the Ruud Family Foundation and Ted Sokoly & Nancy Toll came together to make a difference for something near and dear to their hearts: animals, and the Racine community. Inspired by their love for animals and the construction of the new shelter in Mount Pleasant, the Ruud Family Foundation and Ted & Nancy committed to match dollar-for-dollar any contributions made to either the building project or general operations at the Racine Campus, up to \$100,000.

By the end of December 2020, we were excited, and humbled, to share that we surpassed this important goal for animals in Racine. \$100,000 was raised for the WHS Racine Campus between June and December! The Ruud Family Foundation and Ted & Nancy matched public donations, doubling the funds for a total of \$200,000.

Our heartfelt thanks goes out to the Ruud Family Foundation, Ted & Nancy, and to all of those whose generous donations made this incredible fundraising effort possible.

This story of generosity does not end here. They have come together once again in 2021 to make a difference for Racine's animals by committing to generously match donations to the Racine Campus, dollar-for-dollar, up to \$75,000. Their desire to make a positive impact on the animals in Racine and for the people who love them will make a lasting impact on our work for homeless animals in the community.

"We are blown away by the generosity of the Ruud Foundation, as well as Ted and Nancy, who have championed our work in the Racine community," said Anne Reed, President & CEO. "Animals in the community depend on our lifesaving programs and services, and these incredible donors are helping to inspire additional gifts to support animals and families in Racine County."




**DONATIONS MATCHED
FOR RACINE'S ANIMALS**

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

RUUD
Family Foundation

**Ted Sokoly &
Nancy Toll**



The Ruud Family Foundation and Ted Sokoly & Nancy Toll have created a new Match Challenge for 2021. From now until the end of the year, all gifts made to the Racine Campus will be matched dollar-for-dollar up to \$75,000!

**To double your impact and for more information, please contact:
Stephanie Nespoli – (262) 554-6699 ext. 5009 or snespoli@wihumane.org.**

A Life-changing Experience Ends in Adoption



As an on-the-go real estate professional who hadn't grown up with animals, Andy Stefanich had never envisioned having a pet of his own. However, that all changed one day when he found a severely ill dog left abandoned at a vacant property.

Andy immediately jumped into action, transporting the pup to a facility that could provide some much-needed medical care. He hoped to adopt the dog once healthy, but – despite tremendous effort – the dog did not make it.

Between this heartbreaking experience and the solitude of a global pandemic, Andy was driven to help other animals in need. He signed up to be a foster parent through the Wisconsin Humane Society, and just a few days later, found himself sharing a home with a pup named Boujee. The sweet 7-year-old needed a place to stay while looking for a new home and Andy had graciously stepped up to foster him until Boujee found his match.

The more time the two spent together, the harder it became for Andy to imagine life without his new friend. Boujee had worked his way into Andy's heart, and Andy discovered the magical companionship that an animal can provide.

After a month went by with no adoption inquiries, Andy decided to officially make Boujee a permanent member of the family! Fast forward two months, and the pair have completely changed each other's lives in the best way possible. **Congratulations, Andy, and thank you for adopting a pet in 2020!**

School and Scout Projects to Help the Animals

With the end of the school year approaching, your student or scout may have a community project coming due! At a loss for ideas? Don't worry! Their passion for animals can turn into an amazing project to help the animals in our care. Here are some examples of projects your scout or student can take on to support WHS!

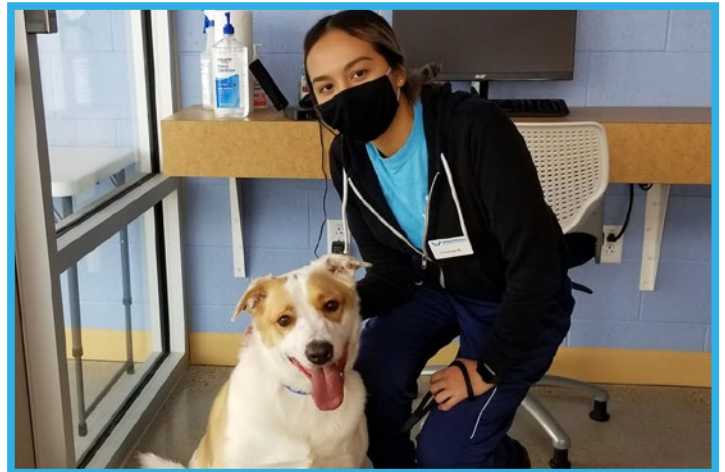
For cats: Scent enrichment toys for cats in the shelter, rice socks for neonatal kittens, and outdoor cat enclosures for our working cats.

For dogs: Snuffle mats and fabric dog toys to keep our energetic shelter pups happy and playful.

For everyone: Donation drives, for funds or items. Our highest needs are always changing, so donation drives help address those needs directly!

Want to get started? Our team is a great resource for project planning – we can help answer questions, and have examples and plans we can share as well! **Reach out to Ruadhan Ward at rward@wihumane.org and by phone at (414) 431-6122.**

We're Hiring!



Are you passionate about animals and looking for a rewarding career with a growing organization? The Wisconsin Humane Society has opportunities for professional, compassionate, and flexible individuals to join our team at our locations in Milwaukee, Saukville, Racine, Green Bay, and Sturgeon Bay, as well as our Spay/Neuter Clinic in West Allis. A variety of positions are available, so be sure to share with anyone who might be looking! View the full descriptions and apply here: <http://bit.ly/WorkAtWHS>

Injured Cat Climbs Through Basement Window



Cold, hungry, and unable to see out of one eye, this terrified stray climbed through an open basement window, seeking shelter in a Sturgeon Bay home. Zuma's fate took a fortunate turn when the family who lived there brought her to the Wisconsin Humane Society Door County Campus.

Our veterinary team discovered that the 8-month-old kitten was suffering from a painful corneal ulcer and sent her to the Milwaukee Campus where she could receive specialized treatment. We attempted to salvage the eye, but unfortunately it was beyond repair and needed to be removed entirely. Within just a few short days of the procedure, it was clear that she was feeling so much better!

After spending time in foster care, Zuma is no longer the terrified kitten she once was. Her foster mom reported that she loved to snuggle and became quite the confident little girl with love and patience.

WHS receives no general government funding and is not part of any national groups like HSUS, ASPCA, or PETA – Zuma's story is made possible solely by donors like you. Due to your support, sweet Zuma's life was saved and she is now safe and loved in her new home – thank you!

Red-breasted Merganser Gets Help During Deep Freeze

This Red-breasted Merganser was recently released after a short stay in care at our Wildlife Rehabilitation Center during our deep freeze. He was found compromised and stranded on the ground.

These birds can walk on land, but it can be difficult for them as their legs are positioned very far back on their bodies. While that makes them vulnerable if they find themselves far from water (like this guy did on a road), it also makes them excellent swimmers, divers, and fish hunters.

We are so happy this bird recovered so well and is now back in the wild and on the water! Thank you for the support that makes it possible for us to care for wild animals in need of help.



The Plane that Took a Train

A Podcast Musical Production by Bob Druker and Steve Dawson

Why go to the theatre when you can have it right in your home? Leaving the visuals to the imagination *The Plane that Took a Train* is an entertaining and heartwarming tale for children, their families, and anyone who has a deep love for animals.

With insightful lyrics and tuneful music, Kaytaiya the cat, Freckles the dog, and the Little Plane and the locomotive Joe take you on a heroic journey to save their homeland from the king's evil spell.

When you stream this musical, a portion of the sales will help WHS provide life-changing care to animals in need! Now available on iTunes and everywhere podcasts are found, more information at theplanethattookatrain.com.

Get ready for Pet Walk

GREEN BAY
SUN, JUNE 6

MILWAUKEE
SAT, JUNE 19

DOOR COUNTY
SAT, SEPT 11



2021

WHY SHOULD YOU JOIN PET WALK 2021?

IT'S EASY!

Everyone is welcome and anyone can register for the run or walk—regardless of whether or not you have a dog? You can sign up online today for free!

IT'S MAKING A DIFFERENCE!

In the last five years, our Pet Walk events have raised nearly \$2 million for the animals at the Wisconsin Humane Society. Every registration, donation, sponsorship, company match, Facebook post, and email asking for support made that happen, and we have YOUR SUPPORT to thank for the countless animals who received lifesaving care as a result of your generosity.

YOU CAN EARN AWESOME SWAG!

Collect donations from friends, family and co-workers – or donate yourself – and you'll earn sweet prizes for reaching different fundraising levels! Prizes include apparel, toys for your furry family members, and more.

LEARN MORE TODAY!

GREEN BAY: www.petwalkgb.com | MKE: www.petwalkmke.com | DOOR COUNTY: www.petwalkdoorcounty.com

Giving Back!

Create your own event to engage friends and family to help raise needed funds for the animals at WHS! Check out some ways you can support the animals this spring:

Host a Rummage Sale

Cleaning out or reorganizing never felt so good! Consider giving back to the animals with your spring or summer rummage sale this year with a percentage of the proceeds going back to benefit animals at WHS!

Host a Car/Bike Wash

Cars need to be cleaned in summer too! Find a location with a reliable water source, ask family and friends to volunteer, spread the word on social media or put up posters around town, and most importantly - have fun!

Don't feel like creating your own event?

Consider helping one that is already established, such as Terry's Wall St. Pub in Green Bay. Their 6th annual Bike Wash raised nearly \$1,400 for the animals in 2020!

Find out more information on this event and other community events by visiting:

wihumane.org/news-events/community-events

FOX6 & WISCONSIN
humane society

Pet
TELETHON

The Wisconsin Humane Society is so grateful to our friends at FOX6 for hosting our annual Pet Telethon! Broadcast live on FOX6 News (WITI-TV) in Milwaukee on March 26, the telethon reached about 80,000 viewers and was a huge success!

If you made a donation, shared the news, or simply enjoyed the segments, thank you for the support! Special thanks to our incredibly generous sponsors, including: FOX6, Petco Foundation, Kaytee, First Midwest Bank, West Bend Mutual Insurance, Felss Rotaform, Stein's Garden & Home, Standard Process, Fringe Home Furnishings, Fromm Family Foods, and Camp Bow Wow. Your support makes a huge impact and we're deeply grateful.