

Critter Chronicles

Spring 23 | Vol 40 Issue 1

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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 critters in our care. Here are some examples of projects your scout or student can take on to support WHS!

- **FOR CATS:** Make fleece blankets or rice socks for neonatal kittens
- **FOR DOGS:** Make snuffle mats or squeaky 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!

To get started or for more ideas, check out our website <https://www.wihumane.org/donate/start-a-fundraiser> or scan the QR Code on the right.



SCAN ME!

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 Meredith Kopca (Milwaukee, Ozaukee or Racine) at 414.431.6113 | mkopca@wihumane.org or Lori Nachtwey (for Green Bay or Door County) at 920.469.3110 ext. 2119 | lnachtwey@wihumane.org

SUMMER CAMPS

Our youth programs team is preparing for a fun summer at WHS! We are excited to offer five-day summer camps at our Milwaukee, Ozaukee, and Racine Campuses for children completing grades 1-9. Campers can learn all about animals, meet furry friends, and more.



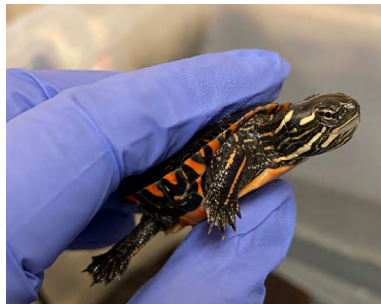
We are also looking forward to welcoming 60 campers this summer through our scholarship program. Camp scholarships cover the full cost of a week of camp for young people in need of financial assistance. Community members, teachers, and youth mentors can nominate students by April 1, and parents and guardians can apply directly by April 14.

This summer will include expanded opportunities for teens ages 13 to 17 to get involved this summer as part of our volunteer youth leadership program, building on the success of last year's inaugural program with more opportunities for new and returning youth leaders. Youth leaders support camps, learn about career opportunities in animal welfare, and work toward developing the skills and experience needed to obtain those jobs. We have identified our youth leaders program as one of many strategies to work toward greater representation and inclusion in our organization and field. Young people interested in participating in the program must apply by April 14.

We're looking forward to a great summer at WHS and hope the animal-loving young people in your life will join us for fun and learning! Learn more at www.wihumane.org/for-kids/camps.

NO HIBERNATING FOR OUR WILDLIFE TEAM!

For the Wildlife Rehabilitation Center, winter is considered our “slow” season because most of our mammal and avian babies who were raised over the summer have been released. However, during the fall and winter months, we receive a larger influx of reptiles and amphibians admitted to our facility.



Baby painted turtle

Winter patients arrive at our doors for a variety of reasons, but one of the most common causes is a critter being found in an inappropriate location. This winter, we received an American toad who had been trying to hop into a pet store, a garter snake found in a household basement, and a turtle out in the open at a local park. When these animals are found awake and far from their safe overwintering shelter (or “hibernaculum”), we suspect something has caused this animal to become stranded. Some of the most common reasons are being evicted by another animal, flooding, or illness.

Once admitted, our team works quickly to warm the animal and check for signs of injury or illness. If an illness is suspected, the individual is closely monitored and given the necessary medical support to help them heal. Once recovered, they must stay with us until the weather is warmer and there are ample food sources.

Why can't we release animals in winter if they appear healthy?

While we always strive to release wildlife shortly after they have passed their medical and physical conditioning evaluations, the cold temperatures and lack of food make winter unsuitable for release for these patients. While at our facility, we maintain summer-like conditions to help keep our patients active and promote healing. Since they are used to these warmer temperatures, it can be challenging to recreate the natural cues to prepare them for

the frigid temperatures during late winter. Furthermore, we often do not know exactly where the hibernaculum is located and if it is still a suitable shelter for them. The best option is to keep them comfortable, offering plenty of food and natural enrichment all winter long.

Why can't wild animals be kept as pets?

Wisconsin's native species are wild animals and have adapted to thrive in their ideal habitat. Any time spent in captivity is extremely stressful for these animals, especially those who view humans as potential predators (which is most species!). Our staff work extremely hard to reduce stress in our wild patients because of the detrimental effect it has on patients.

Last fall, we were contacted about two baby painted turtles who were taken from the wild in the summer to be pets. This family meant well, but these babies quickly started to show signs of illness and the finders realized they had made a mistake. Once they arrived at WHS, a full exam revealed that they were suffering from nutritional deficiencies and underlying infections. The babies started intensive treatment and, after a few weeks in care, they started to improve. They are now doing well and are preparing for release this spring. If you find a reptile or amphibian in the wild, please admire from a distance. The best possible home for that individual is exactly where you found them!



American toad

3,000 ADOPTIONS SURPASSED AT PETSMART EVERYDAY ADOPTION CENTER

WHS is excited to celebrate the PetSmart Everyday Adoption Center (EAC) partnership and our 3,000th adoption! Since 2020, the Green Bay area PetSmart and the Wisconsin Humane Society have partnered to have animals available for adoption in their store to both increase animal adoptions, as well as free up shelter space for more homeless animals in need. The EAC fills a community desire for an additional adoption location and allows for more homeless cats to be transferred from other shelters. This is especially helpful in summer with peak kitten season, when high populations can overwhelm shelters and staff.

The EAC partnership proved effective in adopting 1,421 animals in 2022 alone. To celebrate our 3,000th adoption since the program started, WHS hosted a small celebration in January at the Green Bay PetSmart with volunteers and staff who make these adoptions possible. We are so grateful for their support!



ADOPTION UPDATES

Habibi



"Bee bee is now called Habibi and was adopted by my family almost 2 weeks ago. She is an absolute lovebug towards myself and my daughter. Habibi has almost mastered loose leash walking and knows heel, leave it, and wait (at corners). Her high value treat is cheeseburgers and enjoys going on a car ride to go get them. Three months from now, Habibi will begin training to become a therapy dog, because of her sweetness and her intuition. She's already helped me through a panic attack since joining our family. I am so happy to give this girl her forever home." - Melissa

Armand



"I wanted to give you an update on Scruffy Cat, who has been renamed "Armand," since I brought him home after adopting him. He's really gotten comfortable and started to explore after a day of being in his new home. He can be very playful, but I've found he adores smaller toys -- tiny fabric mice, balls with bells and rattles in them. He has claimed a red Poang chair from IKEA as his, which can be evidenced by all of the cat hair on the chair. He loves his water dish -- I tried using a fountain for him, but he preferred still water -- and really enjoys being brushed. I'm still struggling with getting him to allow me to trim his claws since touching his paws usually results in him scampering away. He is fascinated by the TV and will react quite favorably to some TV shows and movies and show his disgust for others -- he is not a fan of Wednesday on Netflix.

He's not a lap cat or a cat that will curl up with me quite yet, but he has learned how to ask for my attention. He still loves head rubs and really loves belly rubs. His favorite treats are catnip Greenies, which really isn't the worst thing for him. He still shows some signs of being a "fearful cat," but he is definitely getting more comfortable with every day and proving to be a loving playful fluffy gentleman.

Thank you so much for introducing him to me! My apartment immediately felt warmer after I brought him home. Thank you," - Monica

Laila

the first adoption at our Ozaukee Campus in March 2011



"Laila continues to do EXCEPTIONALLY well! I was going to say "for her age" but I'm sure there are puppies who couldn't keep up:) Weather permitting, Laila and I walk up to 4 miles most days. After her walk she STILL wants to play(?!)!

Her hearing is a bit diminished, as is to be expected, but her cat brother is a good "watch dog" and lets her know when it's time to greet mom at the door. Although she does not jump as much or as high, she still runs like the wind!!!

You can see from the first pic what great condition she is in:) The second pic is with her buddy, Micah, my 6yo grandson who's doing a silly pose for the camera:) As always, many thanks for the wonderful work you do and for making it possible for me to share my life with my Laila:) Very best wishes," - Sharon





MANY THANKS TO THE RUUD FAMILY FOUNDATION AND TED SOKOLY & NANCY TOLL

An incredible fundraising effort began in 2020 when donations made to our Racine Campus were matched up to \$100,000 by the Ruud Family Foundation and Ted Sokoly & Nancy Toll. Inspired by their love for animals and the construction of the new Racine Campus 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.

In 2021 and 2022, The Ruud Family Foundation and Ted & Nancy joined together again and generously matched donations made to our Racine Campus, up to \$75,000. We are excited and humbled to share that thanks to the generosity of our community, we met our fundraising goal all three years. Once again, the community came together, and we surpassed this important fundraising goal for the animals and families we serve in Racine County!

"We are so very grateful for the generosity of the Ruud Family Foundation, as well as Ted and Nancy, who have both inspired the community and championed our work in the Racine community," said Alison Fotsch Kleibor, President and CEO of WHS. "These incredible donors not only directly supported animals and people in need, but also inspired thousands of gifts to support this lifesaving work."

Our heartfelt thanks go out to the Ruud Family Foundation, to Ted Sokoly & Nancy Toll, and to all who came together to make a difference for animals and people in the Racine community.

Since we opened the doors to our new Racine Campus in Mount Pleasant in March of 2020, more than:

- 3,800 animals and their people were served through our vaccine clinics and our low-cost spay/neuter services
- 2,400 children have been reached through our youth programs
- 2,000 animals have been adopted into new homes

Thank you to our community for supporting these important lifesaving efforts!



DONATIONS WILL BE MATCHED FOR RACINE'S ANIMALS IN 2023!

We are excited to announce that the Ruud Family Foundation is matching donations made to our Racine Campus in 2023!

Individual donations increased from the prior year and all new gifts made to our Racine Campus will be matched dollar for dollar up to \$50,000!

We are so thankful for their continued support of our animals, and for the difference they are making in the Racine community!

PETS FOR LIFE: MEET MICHAEL & MAMAS

Our Pets for Life outreach program has been serving people and pets in underserved Milwaukee neighborhoods for the past 10 years. In that time, we have partnered with over 9,000 families to remove barriers and provide services and resources to nearly 19,000 pets through door-to-door outreach and community outreach events.

We met Michael and his family at our first community outreach event in 2013. Over the years, we have partnered with them to provide services for their dog Mamas, including vaccines, spay, and medical support for ear and skin issues.

Michael recently reached out after Mamas needed an unexpected surgery for her ears, and he shared the exciting news that they have a new puppy named Space. Through our partnership with the UW-Madison Shelter Medicine program, we were able to provide Space with his final round of puppy vaccines and make sure Mamas was healing well after her surgery. Michael is a great community partner, and we always love connecting with him, Mamas, and now little Space, too!



THANK YOU PICK 'N SAVE & METRO MARKETS!



We were blown away when we received the news that Pick 'n Save and Metro Markets were planning to donate three pallets of wet cat food for our Furry Friends Food Pantry in Milwaukee. That's almost 13,000 cans, worth about \$16,500. It was incredible to see the pallets of food being brought into the shelter as we know how much the community needs it.

If you are also moved to donate items, we are continually in need of dog food (wet or dry), cat food (wet or dry), dog treats, cat treats, and kitty litter. A heartfelt thank you to our friends at Pick 'n Save and Metro Markets for helping the animals in the community and those who love them!

FOSTER UPDATE!

While we of course enjoy getting to spend time with them inside the shelter, we absolutely love seeing photos of WHS animals thriving in foster homes -- and this one is especially sweet! This was recently shared by one of our foster parents, Sarah:

"My son has been home sick all week and finally felt good enough today to play with his buddy [Macaron]. Nothing like a good story"

If you are interested in becoming a foster parent, we need you! It's an incredible opportunity to connect with pets in need and we are always looking for new volunteers. Most animals are in foster homes due to ongoing medical treatment, shyness or stress in the shelter, or simply because they are too young for adoption. Other times, animals go to foster homes simply to free up more space for other animals at the shelter. WHS provides the food, supplies, and all the info you need to keep them happy and comfortable until they're ready for adoption. To become a part of the Rachael Ray™ Nutrish® Foster Program at the Wisconsin Humane Society, just visit our website at wihumane.org/foster. There's a short orientation video and application, and then we set you up to start fostering. And yes – foster parents get first dibs on adoption if they end up falling in love!



HAPPY TAILS

Dobbie

Dobbie spent the better part of last year becoming the most popular dog at our Milwaukee Campus. Staff, volunteers, and visitors alike couldn't help but be charmed by the unpredictable flop of his ears, his endless array of expressions, and his astonishing ability to jump five feet into the air whenever the mood struck. His lengthy stay and ongoing promotional efforts meant Dobbie even became the most viewed dog on our website in all of 2022!



After patiently waiting for months and months (and months), Dobbie was finally adopted just before the new year! When we checked in with his new family to see how he was doing, they were happy to report that he is nothing less than amazing and the best choice they have ever made! I think Dobbie would agree this match was truly worth the wait!

A special thanks to all the staff, volunteers, donors, and fans who gave Dobbie the love and support it took to find the right family for him, and a big congratulations to Dobbie on your happy new life!

Popi

Popi was just 2 weeks old when he was found alone in a drainpipe and brought to our Ozaukee. Too young to thrive on his own, one of our dedicated foster families stepped in, providing the round-the-clock care a fragile kitten his age needs to survive.



The first family ensured he was gaining weight and strength each day before it was time to transition to a new foster home just before Thanksgiving. Once there, his playful antics and endearing cuddles stole the show. Not only did the extended family around the table deem him a keeper, but the same feeling was shared by the acrobatic Loki, a recently adopted kitten only two months older than Popi, and the family dog, Finn, who loves having wild new playmates and napping buddies. With everyone in agreement, they signed the papers and made Popi an official member of the family.

Lucky

After an eye-removal surgery at our Milwaukee Campus, adorable little Lucky was sent off to a foster home to recuperate. It took two weeks before he was fully recovered, but only three hours to find a brand new family who rushed to scoop him up just before a snowstorm hit!

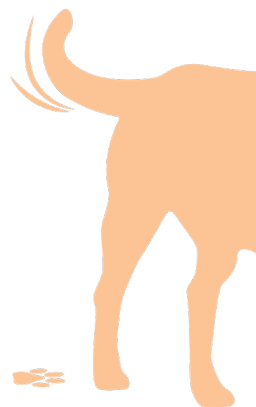


If he isn't following his new mom and dad around the house or napping next to their two young boys, you will likely find Lucky fascinated by King Bob, the family's dwarf hamster, as he explores his mini-empire. Always up for a ride in the car, Lucky has been coming along to work with his new mom during the week, where she works as a social worker. He has made friends with everyone in the office and his gentle spirit has gotten them all talking about adding a therapy dog to the workforce. Congratulations to you, Lucky, on your new family, friends, and a promising career ahead!

Lebron



Lebron, who has been with us over a month and was a staff favorite, found a home just in time for the holidays! His new owner braved the snowy streets to come meet him and fell in love. Lebron had a goodbye parade on his way out. Congratulations on landing an awesome home, Lebron!



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, exhibitors, family-friendly activities, and of course, games and plenty of treats for our furry participants.



Pet Walk Green Bay | Sunday, June 4 | **Pamperin Park, Green Bay**
Pet Walk Milwaukee | Saturday, June 17 | **Veterans Park, Milwaukee**
Pet Walk Racine | Saturday, August 12 | **Cliffside Park, Racine**
Pet Walk Ozaukee | Saturday, August 26 | **Upper Lake Park, Port Washington**
Pet Walk Door County | Saturday, September 9 | **Sunset Park, Sturgeon Bay**

Make a difference: Grab your family, friends, or coworkers and create a team to walk and raise funds. The more team members, the bigger the impact you can make for animals in need!

Why should you join us for Pet Walk 2023?

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 2023!
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 a T-shirt, and you'll earn awesome prizes for collecting any 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 2023 our best year yet! Learn more at www.wihumane.org/petwalk or email petwalk@wihumane.org

Don't miss our other upcoming 2023 fundraisers:

Door County Rummage Sale | May 5-6, 2023 | Arle Memorial Hall, Sturgeon Bay

Community Giveback Day | June 29, 2023

Paws & Claws Gala | October 14, 2023 | The Pfister Hotel, Milwaukee

Holiday Bingo Extravaganza! | Thursday, November 9, 2023 | Stadium View, Green Bay

Learn more at www.wihumane.org/events