

Critter Chronicles

Summer 23 | Vol 40 Issue 2

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Photo courtesy of Cathy Drexler



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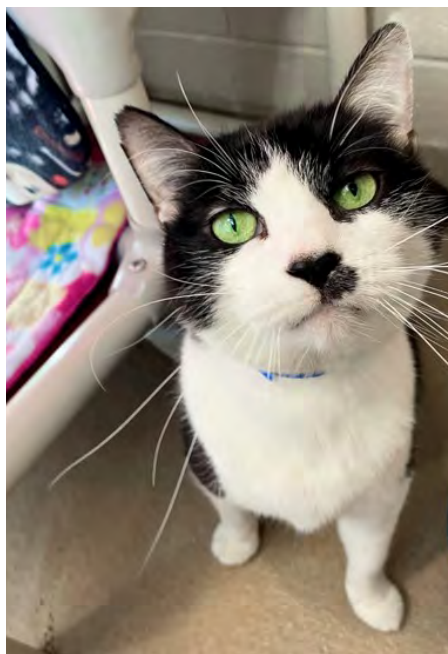
WHS SPAY/NEUTER CLINIC MANAGER

Crystal Faledas

SAVING STILTON

When Stilton first arrived at the WHS Green Bay Campus, this stray kitty had a deep, horrific wound on his front leg. We don't know what caused the injury, but we knew we'd do everything we could to help alleviate his pain.

Due to the nature of the wound, it was not something we could simply stitch closed, so our veterinarians began an unconventional but highly effective treatment plan to save this affectionate boy. Our amazing vet team was able to attach IV tubing to the perimeter of the wound and slowly ease it shut with a combination of sutures and bandages over time.



Two months later, Stilton's leg had almost entirely healed and fresh fur had grown in, leaving a small scar as the only evidence of his traumatic past. It was such an incredible triumph for both this brave patient and the medical team who worked so diligently to heal him.

Since then, Stilton has found a loving home and his adopters tell us he quickly became part of the family. Happily back on four legs, he loves chasing after toys with the kids, stretching out across their laps as they watch TV, and impressing everyone with an exceptionally polite, singular meow when it is time to eat. Congratulations on your new family, Stilton! We are so impressed with your recovery and sweet nature through those difficult days. Nothing could make us happier than seeing you go from a hopelessly injured stray to the cherished family member you are today!

WHS RECEIVES \$300,000 FROM THE RACHAEL RAY FOUNDATION™ TO SUPPORT FOSTER PROGRAM

The Wisconsin Humane Society is so grateful to our friends at The Rachael Ray Foundation™ for their newest grant! With their support over the years, WHS has been able to maintain and grow the Rachael Ray™ Nutrish® Foster Program to serve almost 4,000 animals annually in more than 1,000 volunteer foster homes.



Generous foster families provide temporary care to animals due to illness, injury, or because they are simply too young for adoption. Some foster parents even facilitate adoptions out of their homes, helping to alleviate space issues at the shelter. The goal of foster care is to better support the physical and behavioral health of animals in a home environment by reducing stress and minimizing how long animals must spend in the shelter. In 2022, 3,901 animals were cared for by 1,038 volunteer foster parents for WHS!

We always need new foster parents for dogs, cats, and small animals, especially as our population grows in the spring. To become a foster parent for the Rachael Ray™ Nutrish® Foster Program at the Wisconsin Humane Society, simply visit wihumane.org/foster to get started!

WE'RE GROWING! WHS ACQUIRES KENOSHA'S SAFE HARBOR HUMANE SOCIETY



Safe Harbor Humane Society (also known as the Kenosha County Humane Society) was facing economic challenges that immediately threatened the future of their work and approached WHS for support. After a great deal of discussion, research, and planning, it was determined that an acquisition by WHS was the only way to reliably sustain their operations into the future.

The consolidation of our organizations' experience and resources will help provide reliable care to animals for decades to come, strengthen all the work we do, and further increase the effectiveness of donations given by generous supporters. We are incredibly grateful for the vital work Safe Harbor has been doing for 3,000 animals annually in their area, and we are excited to welcome their staff, volunteers, and friends into the WHS family!

"Nonprofit animal shelters operate with limited resources, and it is even more difficult because every organization is separate and has to individually fund their overhead costs," said Alison Fotsch Kleibor, president and CEO of WHS. "By consolidating both organizations' experience and resources, we can not only strengthen our efforts, but also provide a better return on investment

for the communities that support this critical work for animals."

Service to new communities is not foreign to WHS. This acquisition marks the fifth organization that has approached us to explore a merger. In 2004, WHS acquired the Ozaukee Humane Society, and in 2013, we acquired the Countryside Humane Society in Racine. Both the Bay Area Humane Society in Green Bay and the Door County Humane Society became part of WHS in 2018.

WHS and SHHS were both already committed to finding a home for every treatable and safe animal, no matter how long it takes, and this approach will continue under the new partnership. In addition, this acquisition will bring more resources for medical and behavioral care to animals in Kenosha County.

Amanda Cutler now serves as the Director of Animal and Client Services of the Wisconsin Humane Society Kenosha Campus; she was the former Executive Director of SHHS and has been with the organization for 11 years. "We have so much to look forward to – a partner that can offer everything from best practices in shelter medicine, to health insurance



Amanda Cutler
Director of Animal & Client
Services, Kenosha Campus

Alison Fotsch Kleibor
President and CEO,
Wisconsin Humane Society

and benefits for our staff, to innovative approaches to adoption," said Cutler.

WHS is also hiring new positions to support the expanded work, including a full-time veterinarian, which will drastically reduce the length of time animals will spend in the Kenosha shelter so they can find loving homes faster. As was the case with all WHS's prior acquisitions, there are no plans to lay off staff or reduce pay.

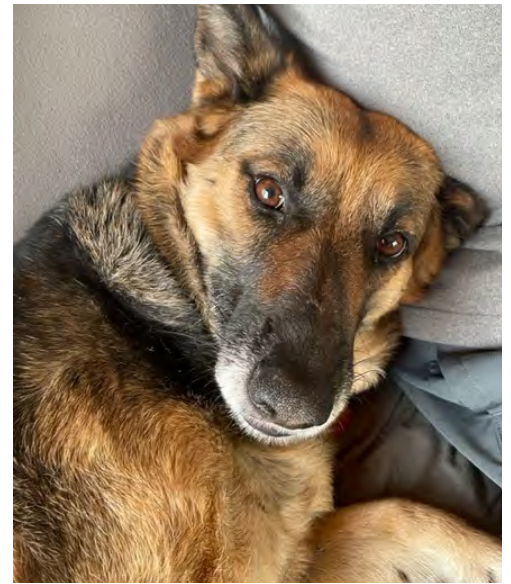
To all of our supporters, both old and new: thank you for your support, patience, and questions as we navigate this new adventure together!

AN INCREDIBLE RECOVERY FROM HEARTWORM DISEASE

When Mrs. Incredible arrived at our Ozaukee Campus, she refused to eat despite being underweight and happily interacting with staff. Tests soon confirmed that she had hookworms, roundworms, tapeworms, and heartworm. We started her on anti-parasitic meds that would fix much of the problem and began the long treatment required to eliminate the heartworms. During treatment, it's vital to keep the heart rate low and activity limited -- not an easy task with a naturally playful dog. Thankfully, Mrs. Incredible was lucky to find a fantastic foster family to help her through it all.

It was four months before she was healthy and the heartworm treatment was complete. Having already established herself as a member of her foster family, the only question was where she would be the happiest. Knowing that she preferred to be the only pet in the home, the best choice for her was a move up north with the in-laws.

Today, Mrs. Incredible is making up for all those games of fetch she missed out on, happily going for car rides, and getting all the snuggles she could hope for. She fits into her new life so well that they describe her as "the perfect puzzle piece," and we could not be happier to see this family thriving together. Congratulations to you, Mrs. Incredible, on all the progress you have made and all the love you have found!



RACCOONS IN THE CHIMNEY AND SQUIRRELS NESTING IN THE ATTIC?

This time of year, we see a drastic increase in calls about wildlife in sheds, basements, garages, boats, attics, under decks or porches... and we know just how stressful that can be! While we don't condone lethal traps, glue traps, or poisons for both ethical and safety reasons, it's also important to know that simply removing the animal is not a sure-fire fix. Even live-trapping and relocating an animal can have lethal consequences and still leaves your home vulnerable to even more unwanted guests.

In a recent case, one family had good intentions when they live-trapped a raccoon in their chimney and relocated her away from their home. What they didn't realize was that she had several babies stowed away -- now separated from their mother at a critical age. They quickly brought the little ones to us for care, and so far, they've been doing well, but will need support for several more months before they're ready to be on their own.

So, if tolerance isn't an option, you don't want to kill them, and aren't supposed to trap them, what options are you left with? Our wildlife experts will always recommend an approach called "humane exclusion." In the simplest terms, we advise you on how to make your home/shed/garage much less desirable

to your current wild guest and show you how to prevent future animals from moving in. Imagine noisy neighbors moving into the apartment next door and playing loud music all night, or a business going up across the street with an incredibly bright sign that illuminates your home at all hours -- you'd quickly start wishing you could find somewhere else to get peace and quiet for your family, right? The same applies to wild parents: all they want is somewhere that feels safe for their babies, so if the previously-cozy, quiet, warm spot they found has become less hospitable, most moms will pack up the kids and hit the road.

Of course, if they aren't directly posing a health or safety risk to you -- say, baby squirrels in your shed, for example -- and you're comfortable with it, they'd be delighted if you waited it out and let the little ones leave the nest on their own!

No matter how the shared-living situation concludes, once the critters have moved on it's important to find out how they got in and make sturdy repairs to ensure no other animals follow suit. We have many resources on our website for solutions to wildlife conflicts and hope you'll check them out at wihumane.org/wildlife. Thanks for caring about wildlife!



THANK YOU FOR HELPING WILD BABIES!

Thank you so much to everyone who helped support and spread the word about our virtual Wildlife Baby Registry! We are so grateful to those who donated items from our wish list. It included important supplies like specialized formula for orphaned mammals, diet-specific items like nuts and timothy hay, caging and enrichment items, pools for our orphaned ducklings, and even less-exciting but incredibly useful items like post-its, mini whisks, sticker labels, and other tools we use to keep all of our many, many feedings organized. These gifts are already helping the orphaned patients in our care and will comfort the many patients we anticipate arriving this summer. We are so thankful to our community!



**GORDON BROTHERS
DONATES \$25K
THANKS TO JUNE MILLER**



We were absolutely floored when we heard the Gordon Brothers Foundation chose WHS as the recipient of an incredibly generous gift of \$25,000! The foundation has pledged to donate five million dollars over five years to charities near and dear to the hearts of their employees. We were even more deeply moved when we discovered the employee who nominated us was a long-time adopter, foster parent, donor, and friend of WHS, June Miller.

June adopted her first cat, Tigger, from us back in 1990 when she used to regularly help the community cats in her neighborhood through our Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) services. Over the years, her family has adopted a total of 12 cats and four dogs, all while still managing to foster a total of 70+ cats and two pups. Her compassion for animals even led her to the door of our wildlife hospital after rescuing a distressed field mouse while on a walk last summer.

June shares the same spirit as so many of our dedicated supporters, telling us that her experiences with the animals at WHS have been more rewarding than she could have ever imagined. Knowing she's been connected to our mission for more than 30 years, hearing her say, "it is so great to see the organization growing and continuing to help the community," certainly bears some weight. But none of that growth would have been possible without the gracious hearts of people like June and the compassion and philanthropy they inspire from generous entities like Gordon Brothers!

**HOPPY SPRING
ADOPT-A-THON!**



Did you know that WHS is a temporary home for hundreds of small animals every year? Thanks to special adoption events designed just for our little friends, these petite pals are finding loving families. In April, one adoption event saw 14 small animals get adopted in a matter of hours: 1 hamster, 8 mice, and 5 rabbits, including a required couple, Otis & Jenji, adopted by the wonderful family pictured here. If you've been considering a petite pet to add to your family, check out all the rabbits, small animals, and even the occasional turtle or rooster on our website!

**DENMARK VIKING
ACADEMY KIDS GIVE BACK**



A massive thank you to the incredible student volunteers from Denmark Viking Academy who spent over 200 hours at our Green Bay Campus during the academic year. They walked dogs, cleaned cages, provided enrichment opportunities, and even helped with our never-ending supply of laundry. Without dedicated volunteers like these amazing students, our mission would only be a dream!

**PETS FOR LIFE:
MEET JANET & DIVA**



Our team has worked with Janet and her adorable dog, Diva, for the past seven years. Like many families in our Pets for Life focus community, Janet has experienced barriers to obtaining housing. Because Diva is a larger dog, it makes finding rental housing even more difficult. Recently, Janet reached out to our team to find ways for her and Diva to stay together. The team partnered with Janet and connected her with resources to support Diva so that Janet could secure stable housing. We are humbled by the trust the community has placed in us, especially when navigating such difficult situations. We're so excited to report that Janet and Diva are now settled in their new home together!

The neighborhoods our Pets for Life outreach program serves face many systemic barriers to accessing resources for the pets they love, including limited geographic and financial access to critical animal services, and lack of affordable, pet-inclusive housing. Due in part to discrimination and red-lining, more than 60% of families in our focus community don't own their home. We've spent the last 10 years building relationships with people and their pets, and we've had the privilege of being a resource for families when animal-related barriers and challenges arise.



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: Q & A WITH GARY SILVERMAN— YOUTH PROGRAMS VOLUNTEER

Q: What made you decide to volunteer at WHS?

I have always respected WHS. My last 3 dogs were rescued, including one from the Milwaukee Campus. I retired in August 2021 and was deciding what to do afterward. My dog passed a week after I retired. I decided that I really wanted to be around animals and applied shortly afterward. When I saw there was an opening in the youth programs team, I was hooked. My previous work experience included teaching, a business sponsor for Junior Achievement, and 10 years being involved with Odyssey of the Mind and Destination Imagination.

Q: What family members (including pets) do you have at home?

It is just my wife and me now. I have 2 married daughters and a granddaughter. My wife and I travel extensively both before and

since my retirement. We have been to all 7 continents (yes, that includes Antarctica) and have traveled to over 50 countries. We are currently working on going to all 50 states. Given this fact, we didn't think it would be fair to adopt another animal.

Q: What is your favorite part about volunteering?

My favorite part of volunteering is working with both the children and the animals. Unless I am traveling, I volunteer for virtually every activity including Kids Night Out, Scout Night, camps, field trips, and other special activities (ex. Big Brothers Big Sisters) in Milwaukee. I also have volunteered a couple of times for the small animal adoption events. I also go up to the Ozaukee Campus almost every Saturday for birthday parties.

From everyone at WHS, we are so grateful for your time spent giving back to the community, Gary! We are so lucky to have you in the WHS family!

WHS AND URBAN ECOLOGY CENTER TEAM UP TO SAVE MIGRATORY SONGBIRDS

We are excited to share that the Wisconsin Humane Society has partnered with the Urban Ecology Center on our Wisconsin Night Guardians for Songbirds program (WIngs)!

The program was created many years ago to help save migratory birds, raise awareness of the hazards of window collisions, and help prevent future collisions from occurring. Volunteers go to high-risk zones in Milwaukee and search the ground for birds who were injured after hitting a reflective surface. They're then brought to the WHS Wildlife Rehabilitation Center where we provide care and treatment to any birds who can be saved; we also closely track collision data to help mitigate and prevent future occurrences.

The WIngs program has been coordinated and run by WHS for nearly two decades, but the data management, research, and outreach has evolved over the years and we needed help. With this new partnership, WHS will still function as the treatment location for these fallen birds, but now our friends at the Urban Ecology Center will be coordinating and deploying volunteers, collecting the data, and facilitating the community outreach. This partnership allows each organization to focus on their own areas of expertise (WHS as a wildlife hospital and UEC as a community science coordinator) and we're eager to see the additional impact we can make as a team!



ADOPTION UPDATE: ELSA



After the passing of their beloved cats, Lori and Lawrence were missing the days of soft headbutts and soothing purrs, so they came to our Milwaukee Campus. They met with long-time adoption counselor Chuck, and it wasn't long before Sophie, a 3-year-old black cat, stole the show and they eagerly took her home. A month later, it seemed clear Sophie could use a sidekick, so they stopped back in to see us. As luck would have it, they ended up once again assigned to work with Chuck! Once they got caught up on life with Sophie, Chuck introduced them to a 1-year-old grey beauty named Elsa and they knew they had found their match.

With both cats settled in, Sophie and Elsa have become an official duo. When they aren't playing together, they have split up the duties of monitoring the humans. If Lawrence is in the room, Elsa is sure to be nearby, and wherever Lori goes, Sophie is guaranteed to be just a few steps behind. Congratulations to the whole happy family, and kudos to Chuck for not one but two great matches!

THANK YOU SENDIK'S AND CUSTOMERS!

We were floored to recently receive more than \$25,000 in six weeks during Sendik's first animal welfare "Cause for Paws" campaign. The funds were raised from customers rounding up their totals at the registers, buying animal-themed curly straws, and purchasing their favorite pet supplies. As part of the campaign, WHS volunteers visited Sendik's stores in southeastern Wisconsin to talk with customers about the pet adoption process, volunteer opportunities, and other services we provide to the community. In the end, Sendik's raised a grand total of \$42,718 for regional humane societies!



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 (Owners attend)

Thursday, July 20 at 5:00pm
Wednesday, July 26 at 6:15pm

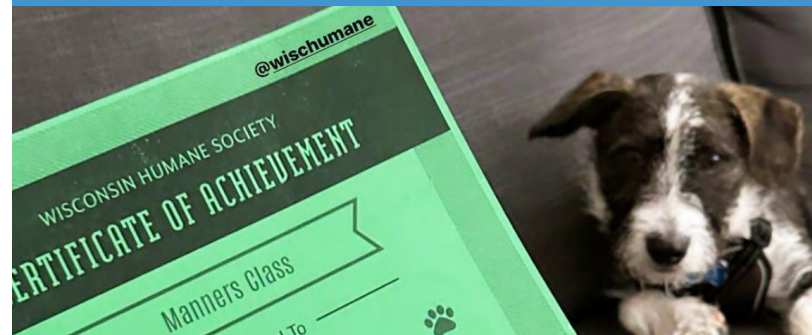
Manners Class (Owners attend)

Thursday, July 20 at 6:15pm
Thursday, July 20 at 7:30pm
Wednesday, July 26 at 5:00pm
Wednesday, July 26 at 7:30pm

Puppy Enrichment Drop-Off Offerings

single day, 1-hour sessions
(Owners do not attend)
Wednesday, July 5 at 3:30pm
Monday, July 17 at 7:30pm
Monday, July 24 at 7:30pm

ENROLL TODAY AT wihumane.org/behavior



TESTIMONIALS



"Buzz and I finished manners classes tonight. First of all, I have been to literally dozens of dog trainers the last 30 years and you are by far the best one I've ever been to so thank you!! ...Thank you again for everything. You changed our lives and I'm sure the lives of many other doggies and their humans."

"Thank you so much for making our puppy class such a wonderful experience. It was equal parts fun and informative. I looked forward to coming with Lizzie and seeing her growth each week. Your vast knowledge of the puppy stages and helpful tips was invaluable."

DON'T MISS OUT ON PET WALK THIS SUMMER!

Pet Walk is the Wisconsin Humane Society's largest pet-friendly, outdoor fundraiser for the whole family! The day of fun includes a walk through the park, as well as music, vendors and exhibitors, food and beverages, dog games, and even a canine costume contest, all to benefit animals in the community who need us most.



Join us at one of the upcoming Pet Walks this summer:

AUGUST 12 | Pet Walk Racine | **Join us at Cliffside Park, Racine** | www.petwalkracine.com

AUGUST 26 | Pet Walk Ozaukee | **Upper Lake Park, Port Washington** | www.petwalkozaukee.com

SEPTEMBER 9 | Pet Walk Door County | **Sunset Park, Sturgeon Bay** | www.petwalkdoorcounty.com

Hey kids! Looking to help animals?

Got an animal-loving kid in your life who is looking to get involved with WHS?

Here's a few ideas on how they can support the animals this summer:

- Make fleece blankets or plush toys
- Start a fundraiser or donation drive
- Collect and donate old cell phones
- Collect items or donations in lieu of birthday or graduation gifts
- Check out the BusyKid App where kids can learn, save, share, spend and invest and become financially smart

For more information and even more ideas, visit our website at www.wihumane.org/for-kids/kids-can-help

If you have questions about starting a fundraiser, contact our team:

- To support our Milwaukee, Ozaukee, or Racine Campuses: Contact Meredith at mkopca@wihumane.org or 414-431-6113
- To support our Green Bay or Door County Campuses: Contact Lori at lnachtwey@wihumane.org or call 920-469-3110 x2119
- To support our Kenosha Campus: Contact Erin at elenegar@wihumane.org or 262-694-4047

GALA SAVE THE DATE



For more information on this year's gala or to purchase tickets, please visit

www.wihumane.org/gala

For sponsorship benefits and information, please email Billy at bzkrzewski@wihumane.org

GALA AUCTION ITEMS NEEDED

Do you have unused gift cards, nice bottles of wine or liquor, new home electronics, or unique, one-of-a-kind items at home? Consider donating them for use in this year's gala auction! All funds raised will directly benefit the animals in our care.

For more information or to make a donation, please visit www.wihumane.org/gala or email mkopca@wihumane.org