

A photograph of a person's hand holding a small insect, with a bird flying nearby and a paper bag in the foreground. The background is a dense green bush.

# Critter Chronicles

Winter 2020-21 | Vol 37 Issue 4

- Paws & Claws Week a Stunning Success!
- Leaving a Legacy of Love
- Migratory Birds Return to the Sky



Photo by Kym George



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## Migratory Birds Released Back into Wild



Photos by Kym George

This fall's migration season was incredibly busy at the Wildlife Rehabilitation Center, as we admitted hundreds of migratory songbirds due to window collisions. We can sometimes feel overwhelmed and filled with heartache witnessing the struggle so many wild animals face. But we also feel immense joy and triumph with each patient that we can successfully rehabilitate and release back into the wild.

We love these images of a few of our patients getting released in September! We are often in such a flurry of activity that we don't always manage to get photos, and songbirds releases are also notoriously difficult to photograph since they fly so fast. Thank you to Patti Vollmer for helping to release these birds, and to Kym George for your excellent photography skills!

## Winter Impact Hour

Grab your coffee—and your furry friend—and curl up on the sofa for the WHS Winter Impact Hour, hosted by our President & CEO, Anne Reed. During this free event, you will have the chance to bond with fellow WHS supporters, meet WHS staff and their companion animals, hear life-changing stories, and learn how you helped local animals and their families when they needed us most.

**Location:** Zoom (RSVP to receive the link) | **Date:** January 19, 2021

**Time:** 8:30-9:30 a.m. | **RSVP:** Maria Betts mbetts@wihumane.org or 414-534-1113

**We look forward to seeing you there!**

**Can't make it?** We know staying connected to our work is important to you. This event will be recorded and available for viewing. To receive a link to the recorded event, contact Maria using the information above.

# PAWS & CLAWS WEEK

## A STUNNING SUCCESS!

RAISED NEARLY  
**\$300,000**



**THANK YOU**  
PRESENTING SPONSORS:



We are beyond excited to share that you helped raise nearly \$300,000 for the animals at the Wisconsin Humane Society, making Paws & Claws Week 2020 our second most successful "gala" ever.

A lot has changed this year and we cannot thank you enough for your dedication and support for animals in need. Whether you chose to become a sponsor, donate an auction item, spread the word leading up to the event, made a gift to support foster animals, bid on auction items, took part in the wine pull, or tuned in virtually for each activity throughout the week, we owe this year's success to you!

There are so many wonderful organizations to support in our community, and we are so deeply honored that you chose the Wisconsin Humane Society. **Special thanks to our amazing friends Bridget & Mark Kirkish, Northwestern Mutual, and the Robertson family, for matching donations for our foster program, and to this year's co-chairs, Mark and Kaye Kass, and Theresa and Tony Enea.** You floored us with your hard work, and we're so grateful.

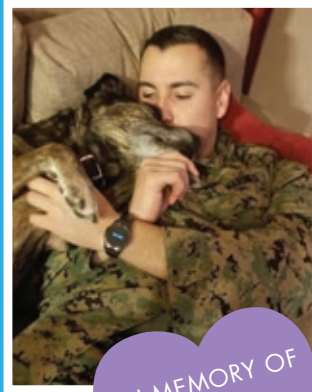
### **THANK YOU to the following sponsors who helped make this year's event so successful:**

Petco Foundation  
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# Adopter Updates



Blue

"One week ago we took a chance on a dog. I would like to publicly welcome Blue into our family!

We went to the Wisconsin Humane Society to meet another dog, but ended up meeting this guy based on the suggestion of our Adoption Counselor. He was very obviously struggling in the shelter environment, and I will admit that made me skeptical. Stereotypes suggest he would be a bad fit, or even a risk to a family with two young children and cats. I am so grateful we stepped outside our comfort zone and took a meeting with this sweet boy.

He came out of his shell for us, and we bonded almost immediately! After bringing him home we have concluded that someone had put a lot of work into this dog. He is so incredibly respectful of our children, and never invades their space. He is perfect on a leash, and even stops and sits at street corners all on his own. He drops the ball in your hand to play, and gently and takes treats. After a few days of waiting for him to come to us, we have also found out that he gives the best snuggles!

I cannot say enough how happy I am to welcome him into our home. Never would I have expected him to be our best fit, but he has joined into our lives so naturally. Welcome home Blue."

- Kelly B.

Chance

"With a heavy heart, I had to say goodbye to my good boy/first son September 5th. I adopted him from the Wisconsin Humane Society in Milwaukee, March of 2011. I gave him the best life I could in his short 10 years and he helped me through many of my personal challenges brought on through civilian and military life. Due to unforeseen medical issues, it was his time. I would just like to give a heartfelt thank you to anyone and everyone who helps any animal coming through your front door. If not for individuals like each and every one of you, I would have never had a chance to meet my Dobby-eared puppy. Thank you all so much.

Respectfully,  
Ken M."

Roomba

"Roomba is absolutely perfect, and the boyfriend and I love her dearly; she is the perfect cat for us! She loves head scratches, belly rubs, hiding under rugs, sleeping on her cat bed, playing with fly toys, and looking out the window. She has become very familiar with her surroundings and enjoys exploring new spaces... She is such a sweetheart and a needy girl. When we get home, she plops onto her side then rolls on her back for belly rubs. When we first got her, we'd hold her like a baby, and now that is her preference as to how she is held. She likes to hang out near us, even if she is just sleeping. If I could include video in this email, you'd be able to hear her cutest purr and yell. She is amazing, and everyone who has met her thinks so too. Thank you for taking care over her the 2 months she was there before I adopted her. She is the best thing to ever happen to us.

Best,  
Emma H."

Callie

"...My family adopted Callie, a border collie, from WHS in 2006. After almost 15 great years, she recently passed away. To help cope with her loss, and to honor her memory, I used my homegrown tomatoes and peppers to make salsa in order to raise money. I sold 19 jars of salsa to people in the Milwaukee community, and raised \$540 for the Wisconsin Humane Society by doing so... I just wanted to include this story, and some pictures to go along with it, with the donation. Donors included: Charlie Shanaver, Sean La Fleur, Patrick Mutsune, Andrew Steeves, Danny Mesick, Bridget Palm, Bonnie Thomson, Jon Weshausen, William Berens, Jon Weimer, Matt Lynch, Erin Donovan, Anonymous.

Thank you,  
Collin L."

# Leaving a Legacy of Love

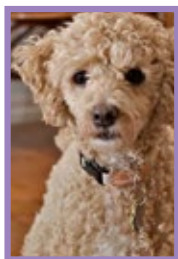
Thank you for your dedication to changing the lives of animals and their families. We know that animals hold a special place in your heart. Compassionate animal advocates like yourself have been making a difference at the Wisconsin Humane Society throughout their lifetime, but it doesn't have to stop there.

Recently, our President & CEO Anne Reed had the chance to talk with one of our friends and Buster's Legacy Member, Joyce Madsen. Buster's Legacy Members are ordinary individuals who have decided to include the Wisconsin Humane Society in their estate plans. Like you and me, Joyce has a passion for helping animals, and it's that passion that moved her to include WHS in her estate plans.

**ANNE:** Joyce, what inspired you to include WHS in your will?

**JOYCE:** I first got involved with the Wisconsin Humane Society in the 80s, and over the years I adopted a total of 22 dogs. When my husband died unexpectedly, we had seven dogs, all adopted. They saved my life. I had never lived by myself, so I would have come home to an empty home, but I didn't. I came home to seven dogs all thrilled to see me; all needing my attention. That is what I needed. They are my life.

I now have three dogs at home. I most recently adopted my dog Jeffy in 2008. Jeffy is my boy. When I met him, he couldn't use his back legs, but he had such spirit and I felt that I could help him. It took 3 operations and one of his legs is shorter than the other, but he can run like crazy!



To me there was no question – dogs have given me so much, and not only my dogs, but the support I've received from the Wisconsin Humane Society. WHS is always there to answer my questions and help me when I need it. I can't say enough about the staff. They are so loving to the animals and understanding of what I need.

I feel a sense of peace that when I die, my planned gift to WHS is going to be used the way I want it to be used. I am entrusting WHS to carry out my wishes, and as I see it, there is no other option.

**ANNE:** I am so honored that you feel that way and honored that you made this decision. It is an incredible duty to treat estate gifts with the upmost responsibly, so the fact that we have earned that trust from you means so much to us. I know staff at

WHS really appreciate the Buster's Legacy Society because it's our chance to share our gratitude with members face to face. What has your experience been as a Buster's Legacy Member?

**JOYCE:** Two things that really draw me to the Buster's Legacy Society are the annual events and the sense of community you feel with the other members right away. You can get to the event not knowing anyone else there, but it doesn't matter because everyone has an immediate bond of loving animals.

I don't have a big legacy to leave, but I think maybe that's the point of the Buster's Legacy Society. Anybody can do with this. You can give what you're able to give. No matter how much or how little you have, you're recognized as somebody who cares about animals.

We know animals hold a special place in your heart and we are grateful for how you value WHS. Now is a great time to consider including the Wisconsin Humane Society in your estate plans and ensuring our doors are open for future generations of animals and their families.

The world of estate giving, commonly called planned giving, can feel complicated when you first step into it. We have a team of experts at campuses in Door County, Green Bay, Ozaukee, Milwaukee, and Racine available to confidentially help you and answer your questions so that you can best meet your philanthropic goals. To take your first planned giving steps, contact one of our philanthropic advisors on the right.



## OUR PHILANTHROPIC ADVISORS

### Door County and Green Bay Campuses

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kdelveaux@wihumane.org

### Milwaukee Campus

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Maren McFarlane  
414-431-6146  
mmcfarlane@wihumane.org

Jenny Nimtze Mueller  
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### Ozaukee Campus

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262-988-5945  
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### Racine Campus

Stephanie Nespoli  
262-554-6699 x5009  
snespoli@wihumane.org

For more information, please visit:  
[www.wihumane.plannedgiving.org](http://www.wihumane.plannedgiving.org)



# Red-tailed Hawk Recovering from Burns



A stunning Red-tailed Hawk was admitted to the WHS Wildlife Rehabilitation Center this fall. He had catastrophic feather damage caused by methane burns he received at a landfill leading to the emaciation caused by his inability to fly and hunt.

Many landfills have methane burners which are essentially metal pipes with an igniter that sticks out of the landfill. These burners automatically ignite and burn off the accumulating methane gas produced by decaying landfill contents. In the stark landfill landscape, these vents can make very attractive perches for unsuspecting birds – especially birds of prey. Because these vents aren't always actively burning, a bird may have perched on a methane vent many times before something like this happens.

A protective "crown" can be retrofitted to methane vents to keep birds from landing on them. We are in communication with the management of this landfill to encourage them to retrofit their methane burners. In the meantime, this bird will need to be in our care for several months until he naturally molts out the burned feathers and grows new ones.

We are only able to provide this life-saving work through the support of community members like you. Thank you for helping to give this hawk a second chance!

## New Year's Resolution: Giving Back!

**Giveback Days are great ways to engage your followers, friends, and family, while supporting WHS! Check out some ways you can support the animals this holiday season:**

### Businesses and Corporations

- Not having a holiday party this year? Celebrate by donating to animals who need help in your community instead!
- Get people excited for a big one-day promotion or keep people supporting with a week-long promotion. Collect cash donations or much-needed items on the WHS wish-list.

### Pass on the Presents

- Celebrate the joy of giving with all of your friends and family by asking for monetary donations to WHS in your honor instead of gifts this year.

### Families, Students, Scouts, Etc.

- You can easily help the animals by starting an online fundraising page to benefit pets in need.
- You and your friends, family members, classmates, or neighbors can start your own wish-list drive to collect much-needed supplies for WHS. Consider porch drop-off at your house or a universal location to keep social distancing in mind.



**For help with your community fundraiser, contact:**

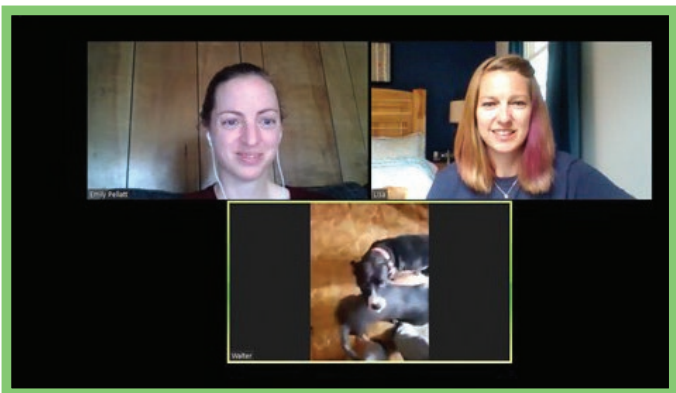
**Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine:**  
Ruadhan Ward  
rward@wihumane.org | 414-431-6122

**Green Bay, Door County:**  
Lori Nachtwey  
lnachtwey@wihumane.org | 920-469-3110 x2119

## Pets for Life Update

Our Pets for Life program has continued to provide care to people and animals in our community, though our services look a little different due to COVID-19. We continue to partner with the UW Shelter Medicine Program to provide minor medical care, but we have shifted those visits away from homes to telemedicine rather than meeting in our clients' homes.

We recently got a call from Walter, who was concerned about skin issues with his two dogs. We were able to coordinate a Zoom call with Walter and his pups, Prince and Princess, so that Dr. Emily from UW could assess the dogs' skin. Much of the video call was of two jubilant dogs buzzing around with youthful joy, but in the brief moments of stillness, Dr. Emily was able to advise Walter about possible reasons for the skin issues and provide some solutions. Walter was so excited to get support for his companions – his smile was priceless. Thank you for your continued support of Pets for Life which continues to help serve families like Walter, Prince, and Princess!



## An Unusual Water Rescue



This gorgeous green beauty has quite the story to tell! Our Wildlife Rehabilitation Center received a call about a large turtle stuck in the water at a local park. She had apparently been in the same spot for several days, just above the surface, but stuck on something under the water. She was quite some distance off-shore the pond, so this would require a boat. We do not have a boat at WHS, nor were boats permitted in the pond.

However, due to the unique circumstances of this situation, we were able to secure permission to safely attempt this rescue from a kayak. We are still not entirely sure what this snapping turtle was stuck on, but we passed our paddle under her and dislodged whatever she was entangled in, then safely hauled this 28-pound beauty to shore.

We brought her back to our wildlife hospital to give her a thorough exam and ensure she didn't have any injuries. The great news is that she has passed all of her medical tests with flying colors, making her releasable with enough time to settle in for the winter.

We are grateful to so many people who helped with this rescue, but also to the greater support of our community. Your support allows us to exist and make this lifesaving work possible. Thank you!

# Meet Our Team: Paige



Paige Fix has accepted the position of our first Youth Impact Specialist in Racine. Paige joined the Wisconsin Humane Society as an Adoption Counselor in 2018 and moved to a role in our youth programs team in 2019. She recently graduated from the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee with a degree in Social Work, a minor in Spanish, and a professional certificate in Nonprofit Management. Paige has an immense love for animals and passion for working with children. She shares her home with two dogs, Jasper and Augie. Paige can't wait to work with young people in Racine and is thrilled to be able to provide engaging programs for the community. Until we are able to safely offer in-person programs, Paige will be building connections with families, teachers, and other organizations who serve young people in the Racine community, as well as hosting virtual programs for young people.

## Online Youth Programs

### VIRTUAL WINTER BREAK CAMP

Grades 1-6 | \$55

Come in from the cold and warm up with furry friends! Spend a day of your winter break with this cool camp for young animal enthusiasts. This camp is offered live online for four hours, split into two sections. Registration fee include a camp kit shipped to your home!

Grades 1-3 | 9-11 a.m. & 1-3 p.m.

Tuesday, December 29

Grades 4-6 | 9-11 a.m. & 1-3 p.m.

Tuesday, December 29

### VIRTUAL BIRTHDAY PARTIES

Ages 5-14 | \$75

Know an animal lover who has a birthday soon? We offer fun, virtual birthday parties for kids turning 5-14 to celebrate with their friends and family. Parties include an exclusive birthday swag box mailed to the birthday child, a chance to virtually meet an animal or two, a digital party favor for guests, and interactive party games.

### VIRTUAL SCOUT PROGRAMS

K5 - Grade 6 | \$8 per Scout

BSA Scouts and Girl Scouts will learn how animals communicate their feelings, take a virtual behind-the-scenes tour, and meet some furry friends! Registration includes access to a digital platform with activities to help your Scout complete their badge, journey goals, or Adventure. Exclusive Wisconsin Humane Society patches are available for purchase at the time of registration.

### VIRTUAL FIELD TRIPS

K4 - Grade 12 | No cost!

Programs highlight topics like animal safety, careers in animal welfare, and more. Each program includes a virtual tour of an adoption area at one of our campuses and an opportunity to virtually meet an animal, and aligns with state and national standards.

### VIRTUAL STORY TIMES

Tune in to the Wisconsin Humane Society Facebook page each Wednesday at 3:30 p.m. CST for a weekly story and animal guest.

Visit [www.wihumane.org/for-kids](http://www.wihumane.org/for-kids) or email [youthprograms@wihumane.org](mailto:youthprograms@wihumane.org) for up-to-date information on the programs we offer for young people!