

Critter Chronicles

Winter 2021-22 | Vol 38 Issue 4

- WHS welcomes 93 puppy mill survivors
- Two Peregrine Falcons return to the sky
- Cat found with fishing hook in paw

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RAMBLER'S ROAD TO RECOVERY



Initially found as stray in Green Bay, Rambler was emaciated and suffering from a variety of ailments, including severe eye and nasal discharge, hair loss, an upper respiratory infection, and ringworm. The kind person who found this struggling baby was determined to get him the help he desperately needed.

After nearly six months of intensive treatment and lots of love from staff, Rambler was free from ringworm and ready for a home of his own! The rambunctious kitty didn't have to wait long. The person who originally found him waited patiently for months and jumped at the chance to adopt this brave little feline. Congratulations to Rambler and his new family!

TWO PEREGRINE FALCONS RETURN TO THE SKY

Our Wildlife Rehabilitation Center recently released two state-endangered Peregrine Falcons! Both recovered from being admitted with fractured wings. As endangered species, these birds are banded and avidly followed by researchers. Originally hatched at the We Energies Valley Power Plant in early 2021, one bird was named after Dr. Kizzmekia S. Corbett (scientific lead of a crucial Coronavirus team) by We Energies customers in a contest to honor the heroes and helpers of the pandemic. "Kizzmekia" the falcon required extensive medical care to fully heal.

The other Peregrine Falcon, who hatched at UW-Milwaukee and was dubbed "Wallace" by researchers, was admitted with three fractured metacarpal bones in his wing, and was given a more guarded prognosis by our consulting veterinarians. We were cautiously optimistic and didn't give up hope.

After the fractures healed, both birds required additional endurance conditioning to ensure they could meet the rigorous fitness requirements needed to survive in the wild. After much time, effort, and energy, we were incredibly pleased with their recovery and were able to successfully release both



of these amazing patients back into the skies where they belong. We are so grateful for the support of our community which makes this lifesaving work possible 365 days a year.

You can learn more about the Peregrine Falcon monitoring happening in the greater Milwaukee area here:
www.wecenergysgroup.com/environment/falcons/



THE WISCONSIN HUMANE SOCIETY WELCOMES PUPPY MILL SURVIVORS

Just before midnight on Monday, November 1, we unloaded 93 dogs saved from a large-scale commercial breeder, and safely settled them into kennels with a warm bed, clean water and food, and probably their first-ever toys.

The Wisconsin Humane Society was proud to offer our support to partners dealing with a horrific situation out of Iowa. At the request of the U.S. Department of Justice, the Animal Rescue League of Iowa, in coordination with the ASPCA®, assisted with the removal, transport, and sheltering of more than 500 dogs and puppies in the care of a USDA licensed breeder in Seymour, Iowa.

The owner agreed to surrender all of the animals in his care after the USDA documented more than 190 violations of the Animal Welfare Act. The complaint detailed egregious conditions, including deceased dogs, untreated injuries and illnesses, painful fur matting, cages that were too small, and moldy food. WHS – along with other partner organizations – was contacted to help.

WHS sent a team of staff and volunteers to Iowa and returned with 93 dogs and puppies, alleviating the urgent space issues facing the Iowa shelter.

We knew we could help because we knew you would, too. And the outpouring of support absolutely floored us. From the people who came in droves to adopt to those who donated online to help with their medical expenses, and those who stepped up to join our foster program, THANK YOU. Your support makes it possible for us to help in emergency situations like this.

Most of the dogs and puppies have been adopted. Some are still in foster care, recovering from their traumatic experience or healing from medical ailments. One dog was discovered to have a pelvic fracture, others were missing limbs. But not a single dog or puppy will spend another day in that miserable place, and that is all thanks to your generosity and compassion.

We've already gotten many updates from adopters, which we can't get enough of! Gracie spent her first day at home being soothed in a rocking chair, Balloons follows his big brother around the house with unfettered adoration, and Penny was absolutely entranced by the magical qualities of her first tennis ball. They are finally getting the opportunity to live as beloved companions, and the lives of their families — and the community — will become richer because of it. Thank you, thank you, thank you.



PETS FOR LIFE: SAVING LIVES, KEEPING FAMILIES TOGETHER

The Wisconsin Humane Society's Pets for Life (PFL) program has provided outreach and access to lifesaving pet care in Milwaukee's focus neighborhoods since 2012. PFL provides access to veterinary medical care, information, and supplies to families affected by poverty, and helps to remove barriers and overcome inequity.

The program has served more than 14,500 pets from more than 8,500 families, and has provided more than 7,600 free spay/

neuter surgeries since its inception! At least two-thirds of pets also receive free transport to and from the WHS Spay/Neuter Clinic, removing this common barrier to care. Thanks to our supporters, last fiscal year alone, the PFL team was able to support more than 3,700 families, provide 960 free spay/neuter surgeries, share over 1,600 supplies, and offer additional services like vaccines and microchips.

PFL assists families like David, Rodger, and their dog, Prynce. When Prynce sustained a traumatic leg injury that would require treatment they couldn't afford, the family was deeply concerned for his well-being. Prynce also contracted heartworm disease, which is deadly if left untreated. With the support of the PFL team and our partners at the University of Wisconsin's Shelter Medicine Program, Prynce got the care he needed, his leg healed, and he has fully recovered from his illness. His family is thrilled to have him happy, healthy, and back home with them. Without the support of PFL, David and Rodger would have lost their best friend.

WHS is deeply grateful to those who continue to support the Pets for Life program, including the Humane Society of the United States, the Kenneth A. Scott Charitable Trust, the Greater Milwaukee Foundation, the Laura J. Niles Foundation, the Anon Charitable Trust, and many individual donors. The critical work our Pets for Life team does to support people and animals would not be possible without your support.



GAMING FOR GOOD

Screen time isn't just for entertainment anymore – you can play video games and support animals at the same time! Using platforms like Twitch, your friends, family, and folks from all over the globe can enjoy watching you play your favorite game while you encourage them to donate with a giveback stream. You can set goals and even give out donation challenges that are time-based or related to whatever game you're playing! We can provide plenty of information on WHS to share on your stream, and can even set you up with an individual donation link to share in your chat.

Looking for something to do with a larger group of friends? Set up a gaming tournament! Pick a game with quick matches, and have friends and fellow gamers enter the tournament with an entry fee which supports the animals! It's an easy and super fun way to turn a night of gaming into care for our furry friends.

If you're interested in setting up a gaming fundraiser, reach out to us! Contact Ruadhan Ward at 414-431-6122 or rward@wihumane.org for questions and support.



TROUT'S LAST FISHING EXPEDITION

This sweet 2-year-old was found near a canoe launch on the Milwaukee River with a fishing hook stuck in his front paw! Despite his painful injury, "Trout" was purring nonstop and making muffins throughout his entire intake exam. He was given pain medication, antibiotics, and gently sedated for the hook removal procedure – which required wire cutters! Fortunately, the hook had only pierced the webbing between his toes and not his actual paw pad. Once Trout's wound healed, he was quickly adopted and now spends his days in a loving home!



AMAZING CAMPS AT WHS

Have you heard the buzz? WHS is inspiring animal enthusiasts through our awesome camps! In October, we hosted an exclusive Felling for Furry Friends camp in partnership with Milwaukee Public Schools. Participants joined an exciting day of animal interactions and had an opportunity to learn about animal behavior and how to help the animals in their community. One camper said that they learned, "If you see a lost animal somewhere you have to nice to it, be gentle. It might be scared because it lost its home."

Young animal lovers have the chance to join the fun at our Bow Wow Blizzard Camp on Wednesday, December 29 at our Milwaukee, Racine and Ozaukee Campuses.

Learn more and register on our website at
<https://www.wihumane.org/for-kids/camps>



Wisconsin Humane Society
YOUTH PROGRAMS
Milwaukee | Ozaukee | Racine

Birthday parties
Ages 6-12
Fun in-person or virtual celebrations that everyone will rave about!

Girl Scouts
Grades K5-12
Girl Scouts can participate in programs with level-specific animal badge activities.

Camps
Grades 1-9
Dive into the antics of animals and meet a few animals in our care. Camps are held during winter, spring, and summer breaks.

Field Trips
Grades K4-12
Engaging and educational animal-based curriculum offered virtually or in-shelter!

BSA Dog Care Merit Badge Clinic
Grades 5-12
Boy Scouts can complete eight of 10 steps toward the Dog Care Merit Badge in one fun-filled afternoon.

Kids Night Out
Grades 1-6
Join furry friends and human ones too every second Friday evening.

IN-PERSON PROGRAMS ARE BACK!

WWW.WIHUMANE.ORG/FOR-KIDS

THANK YOU, GREENDALE VILLAGE VET!

We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to Greendale Village Vet, formerly Veterinary Medical Associates, for their unwavering support for over the past 20 years. We all know that saying goodbye to a pet who is part of the family is one of the hardest things one will ever have to do. When Greendale Village Vet has a client who has to say goodbye, they make a donation to WHS in memory of the pet who has passed away. We continue to be touched by this ongoing program and the incredible difference it has made for the many animals we care for. If you know a business that would like to support our mission, please contact Billy at 414-431-6133 or bzkrzewski@wihumane.org to discuss opportunities for support.



MEET ANIMAL SUPPORTERS COREY & AMY

Corey Kmichik and Amy Vanselow are like you – animal lovers and caring supporters of the Wisconsin Humane Society. While they're dedicated to helping animals today, Amy and Corey have also made the choice to make a difference beyond their lifetimes. Here's their story:

Although we are "only" 42 and 38 years old, we decided that including the Wisconsin Humane Society in our estate plans now was incredibly important to us. While many people our age feel that estate planning is an endeavor to be completed in their later years, we realize that life may not always go as planned. We wanted to ensure our wishes are carried out if something unfortunate happens to us, and part of that planning was deciding in what manner our assets will carry on our passions after we are no longer here. As we don't plan to have any children, it is vitally important to us that we have something to pass down to generations here in the greater Milwaukee area, and WHS was the organization that immediately came to mind as to where we wanted to commit our legacy. WHS is the sole charitable organization that best exemplifies our goal of giving care and comfort to animals, people, and the community at large while being diligent stewards of the resources entrusted to them.

As a child, I remember my parents taking me and my siblings to the old WHS campus to view the cats and dogs many times, but no matter how many times we promised to walk that cute little dog every day and never forget to feed him, we never seemed to leave with a new family member. Years later, I came to the realization that they may have been using WHS as a budget-friendly alternative to Chuck E. Cheese, but it did succeed in

exposing me at a young age to the vital work performed by WHS. No matter their initial reluctance, a few years later and after endless begging and pleading, we finally wore my parents down and we brought home a year-old golden retriever we named Ginger. She was a wonderful addition to our family and I spent my elementary and high school years enjoying her unfailing loyalty and love towards us all.

When my father passed away a number of years later, our family ensured his love of animals was memorialized by a gift to WHS in his honor. Although the gift was not by any means anything substantial, [WHS President & CEO] Anne Reed followed up with a wonderful, caring message that still stands out to me today. This was my first experience in giving back to WHS and ever since, I have always made sure to include WHS as the recipient of any charitable gift we have been able to give. When Amy and I got married and she joined my two-dog family a few years ago, she brought her own passion towards animals and WHS. Ever since then, we have carried on supporting WHS in any manner we can. Although we hope we have many decades of life together before our estate plans need to be executed on, we are incredibly proud to have WHS be the focus of our future legacy.

Our family has since grown to three dogs: a 10-year-old American Bulldog named Layla, her best friend, a 9-year-old Chihuahua named Winston, and our latest addition, a foster dog from the Racine Campus during the 2019 Christmas holidays that we simply couldn't part with, Roo. We believe he is mostly Shih Tzu, but he may very well have some seal, sea otter, or other marine mammal DNA in him, as evidenced by his odd body shape and love of water!

- Corey Kmichik, Amy Vanselow, Layla, Winston & Roo



Like Corey and Amy, you are impacting animals' journeys each day at WHS. We hope you will consider joining them in helping animals and their families with a planned gift. To find out more about estate and planned giving, please contact a member of our philanthropic team or attend our upcoming planned giving information event on Tuesday, April 12, 2022 from noon to 12:30 pm. To register, please RSVP to Beth Maresh at bmaresh@wihumane.org or 262-988-5945.

Philanthropic Advisors

Jenny Nimitz Mueller, WHS	414-431-6128, jmueller@wihumane.org
Kellie Delveaux, WHS Green Bay and Door County Campus	920-469-3110 x2114, kdelveaux@wihumane.org
Beth Maresh, WHS Ozaukee Campus	262-988-5945, bmaresh@wihumane.org
Maria Betts, WHS Milwaukee Campus	414-431-6147, mbetts@wihumane.org
Maren McFarlane, WHS Milwaukee Campus	414-431-6146, mmcfarlane@wihumane.org
Stephanie Nespoli, WHS Racine Campus	262-554-6699 x5009, snespoli@wihumane.org

BLOOMING WITH GENEROSITY

This past summer, a charming flower and vegetable stand in Ephraim raised just over \$3,300 for the animals at the WHS Door County Campus thanks to the hard work and generosity of Paul Heim and Julie Watkins! Since 2016, the couple has grown and given away their produce while collecting donations to benefit the animals in our care. In total, their efforts have raised over \$12,200! We are endlessly grateful for their kindness and support. We also owe a thank you to Don Koepsel, who contributed some of his own produce to the stand this summer, as well. Our Door County community is truly amazing!



ADOPTER UPDATE

BABY BELUGA

Baby Beluga came to WHS with severe head swelling and injuries consistent with trauma. He required surgery to repair a fractured leg and spent weeks in foster care recovering. Now that he has an incredible home of his own, we were thrilled to receive this heartwarming update from his family:

Baby Beluga is now known as Spudz. I would love for an update to be shared with the community and to everyone that helped him get to where he is today.

It is hard to believe that he was found in the condition that he was in. I feel like it is apparent that some humans did something very cruel to him but you would never know based on his demeanor. He has been the perfect addition to our family and was the missing puzzle piece that we were looking for. We have two other dogs, two cats, and two children. He is adjusting well to having two fur sisters that aren't always keen on his rambunctious outbursts. They are starting to snuggle and that is very sweet to see. He has made fast friends with my parent's dogs (especially their pitbull). He is great with our children. He is always by them and looks for them when they are not home. If one of them gets upset, he is always there to lick away their tears.



If they sit on the floor to play, he is fast to climb in their lap for cuddles. He is convinced that he is a 5-pound lap dog!

I work for a veterinary clinic in the Madison area and he has made a visit there. He checked out with a healthy exam and made so many people smile. He was spoiled by all my coworkers with lots of love and treats.

I have bonded so much with him. We snuggle all the time. He goes everywhere with me and is my shadow throughout the house. His goofy personality makes all of us laugh every day. We love him so much and feel so lucky that we were the family that was able to offer him a safe place to call home.

I do want to thank everyone that was involved with his care. The team at the Wisconsin Humane Society and other partners that were able to fix him all up are absolutely amazing. He had a wonderful foster family, as well. Angela (foster mom) was so great with helping us through the whole adoption process and was open to answering questions about his routine once we brought him home. Thanks again for following up and for everything that the team has done! - Ashley

www.wihumane.org

SAVE THE DATE

EVENTS 2022

visit www.wihumane.org/events

FOX6 & WHS Pet Telethon - March 2022

Racine Campus Open House - March 2022
WHS Racine Campus - Mount Pleasant, WI

Barkin' Beer Fest - Sunday, April 24, 2022
Badger State Brewing - Green Bay, WI

Door County Rummage Sale - Thursday - Saturday, May 5-7, 2022
Arle Memorial Hall - Sturgeon Bay, WI

Pet Walk Green Bay - Sunday, June 5, 2022
Pamperin Park - Green Bay, WI

Pet Walk Milwaukee - Saturday, June 18, 2022
Veterans Park - Milwaukee, WI

NEW Pet Walk Ozaukee - August 2022
Location: TBA

NEW Pet Walk Racine - August 2022
Location: TBA

Pet Walk Door County - Saturday, September 10, 2022
Sunset Park - Sturgeon Bay, WI

Gala 2021 Recap & Thank you!

Thank you to everyone who helped make the 2021 Paws & Claws Gala our most successful event in WHS history! Held at the Pfister Hotel in downtown Milwaukee on October 16, guests participated in raffles and games, perused nearly 200 auction items, and of course, mingled with adorable pups and our favorite felines (and even a guinea pig!). All proceeds from the event will help us continue to care for animals in need.

A HUGE Thank you to our event committee members, local businesses, foundations, and individuals in the community for their incredible support! A lot has changed since our last in-person Gala in 2019, and we cannot thank you enough for your dedication and support of animals in need!

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