



Will County Humane

Society Newsletter



Yes, It's a Mess and We Know It!!

The grounds of the shelter look awful!! We know that they do. They have suffered greatly this spring with too much rain and not enough drainage. The grounds have been chewed up with the heavy construction equipment and projects slowed down, again due to too much rain. We have had problems getting the lawn mower out of the shed and a truck getting stuck in the second driveway. We had to close off the second driveway and could only cut part of the grass for the adoptathon by hand. The board is aware and concerned about all of this and the safety factors as well.

THE FUTURE PLANS are to have the site totally re-engineered!!! This is extremely exciting for all of us. A new driveway, new signs, fencing and can you imagine maybe a new building? "Stepping into the future" means stepping out and trying to put together plans for a new facility. No, we are not throwing out everything we have and start completely over but after all we are going to celebrate 50 years and some of us can dream. The shelter is a farmlet and the ambience suits us to a "T".

However, plans cannot even begin until we are sure where every current blade of grass and every pebble will end up – no sense doing the job twice. We are trying to keep everyone (especially those four legged ones) safe and happy. Adoptions and events need to continue in a way that is safe for all concerned. We ask volunteers and visitors to practice caution when moving about the grounds and let staff know when/if they find a safety hazard.

We plan to survive the economy and the construction!!!

Kim Lake to Chair Fundraising

After five years as serving as team leader for the fundraising team Pat Mitchell will step down. Kim Lake will take over the role as acting fundraising chair on June 1, 2009. Kim brings a great deal of experience to the position and looks forward to her role.

Upcoming Fundraising Events:

July	Bakeless Bake Sale
August 1 & 2	Shelter Yard Sale
September 22	Car Show
October 4	Dog Walk
October 25	Open House

The fundraising team is always looking for individuals who would like to participate on the team. Additionally they are in need of volunteers to work at events. Please contact the team at wchsfundraising@gmail.com to volunteer. Please check the website at www.willcountyhumane.org to find updates on all upcoming events.

Many Thanks to the Adoptathon Contributors

We would like to thank everyone for making the Adoptathon, Plant Sale & More a great success on May 9th. A total of 9 adoptions were made that day. 6 puppies, 2 dogs, and 1 cat found forever homes. Special thanks to all our volunteers, staff, and the public. Cheers to you if you baked something yummy for the bake sale, brought us your extra plants from your garden for the plant sale, donated something for our garden resale, or spent some time to help us out in some way. Without your support, this event would not be possible.

We would like to thank the following businesses for their generous donations:

Contrary Mary's Plants and Designs – Minooka, IL
Countryside Landscape Supply, Inc. – Minooka, IL
Lizzie's Garden – Naperville, IL
Allied Nursery – Joliet, IL
Good Earth Greenhouses – Joliet, IL
Walmart
Menards

by Sally Planic

Thank You Empress Volunteers,
In April Empress volunteers came out to the shelter and painted the walls – a much needed job – thank you Empress employees!!

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Cocoa Mulch is manufactured by Hershey's, and they claim that 'It is true that studies have shown that 50% of

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Volunteers Needed!

We are always in need of volunteers to help with all the work that a facility such as ours generates. People willing to walk dogs, clean cages, work with the socialization of dogs and cats, cleaning litter boxes and yard work are needed. However, volunteers between 12 and 16 years old must be accompanied by and adult 18 years old at all times.

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Coordinator for Off-site Events needed!

This person needs to be able to respond to and schedule people to attend outside events. The shelter is often asked to participate in events such as "Bark in the Park, the opening of a dog park, rally to rescue and other such public events. We are looking for someone who can organize and schedule volunteers to work these events. If interested contact volunteer coordinator, Gail Gundlach-Rohrer at 815 730-0438.

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Pet Poison Helpline, 1-800-213-6680, a charge applies per incident.

Heat Stroke, Hyperthermia

Pets cannot tolerate high temperatures as well as people can and they rely on rapid breathing to exchange hot air for cool air. Pets' temperatures are higher than ours -- a dog and cat have an average temperature of 101.5 degrees Fahrenheit.

Common situations and features that can predispose a pet to overheating:

1. Being left in a car in warm weather, even if the windows are left slightly open.
2. Having a muzzle on while a pet is being groomed, and/or leaving the muzzle on while a pet is put in a drying cage.
3. Short-nosed breeds such as pugs, bulldogs, boxers and Persian cats.
4. Any pet with an airway disease.
5. Being confined outside without shade or an adequate supply of fresh water.

Suggested treatment when this condition occurs:

1. Mild Hyperthermia can sometimes be treated by simply removing a pet from the situation and/or environment where overheating has occurred, and placing it in a cool place in the shade or in an air-conditioned room.
2. If a pet is unsteady on its feet and you have moved it to a cooler location, you can start cooling it by placing cool water on the feet. Rubbing alcohol on the skin of your pet's stomach (with a fan blowing on the pet) can also aid in cooling.
3. While these steps are in progress, have someone call your veterinarian so that they can determine if you should bring your pet in for treatment.

Note: it is very dangerous to cool an overheated pet too quickly. Never put a pet in an ice bath, or use ice cold water, unless under the direct supervision of your veterinarian. Cool water is best.

The most common sign of hyperthermia is restlessness and agitation, with vigorous panting. A pet's saliva may be thick, and the gums and tongue may be bright red. Depending on the severity of the hyperthermia, the gums can also be very pale and a pet may be lying down with its head, neck, and limbs extended and thick saliva coming from the mouth and nose.

Always call your veterinarian, even if the pet appears to have recovered from hyperthermia, after you have administered any of the treatments above. Your veterinarian may not want to see your pet if it has recovered, but it is always best for them to determine whether or not your pet needs to be examined.

The Birth of Our Shelter

Volunteer Picnic to be held in
August 9th in Hammel Woods
from 1 – 4 pm.

The Luvabully Breed!!!

The Michael Vick case brought to light the seriousness of the horrible world of dog fighting & the terrible abuse that the pitbull breed endures at the hands of the "human breed". If anything good came from this terrible crime, it has been that people are finally starting to see that the pitbull breed is truly a wonderful dog that is dedicated & loving. I'd like to share with you the story of Mr. Big, now re-named Rocky by his new owner. Mr. Big a pit-mix came to the shelter with his sister Cobra. Cobra was adopted & Mr. Big eventually found a home too but was returned when his owners moved and could not take him with. We were all saddened to see him return, as his life had started out in an abusive situation and we'd hoped he had found his forever home.

Renamed Rocky, a return to shelter life was quite stressful for him but he was always happy to see us and offered kisses to all. Once again with an invitation by Chicagoland Bully Breed Rescue, Rocky was taken to an event in Chicago called Angels with Tails where hundreds of dogs & cats from numerous organizations were available for adoption. Well, that day was meant to be Rocky's special day as a young lady from Chicago named Jennie became smitten with this extremely handsome fella! She filled out an application & a home check was done that week. Needless to say Rocky now is a "dog about Chicago" and resides on Michigan Ave. Rumor has it that he even has his own dog walker while mom& her fiance are away at work! A happy ending for one very special pit mix!! Please help us spread the good word about this GREAT breed & remember, being homeless is the "pits", adopt one today!

by Kathy Simon

PETSMART ADOPTION DAYS

Do you want to spend the afternoon with one of your favorite dogs and help them find a home?

Do you like to have "dog talk" with people and get the word out about the wonderful animals Will County Humane Society has for adoption?

If the answer is YES, then please contact Angie about volunteering at one of these events.

We are there once a month, generally on the 3rd Saturday from 11-2. It is the PETSMART across from Louis Joliet Mall on Rt. 30.

I would love to get enough volunteers to eventually be able to hold 2 of these events per month.

If you want to help, please call Angie at 815 370-6397. THANK YOU!!

Wintertime has always been a hardship expense-wise as cruelty investigations were many. Due to freezing temperatures we would have to impound animals in severe conditions, i.e. mother dog with new babies, dogs left outside with no shelter, many times there was no space and we would have to board them until space at the shelter was available. It always amazed me that people could complain about the bitter cold and walk right past their pet with frostbitten feet.

I remember a beautiful collie that was left abandoned when it's owner moved. We were notified after someone noticed it and our investigator had to carry it to the car as it was so weak. The vet did all that he could with fluids, etc., but he could not be saved.

We have a picture that our investigator took of the imprint of his body on the ground where he laid, dying slowly. I must add that, beyond the heartbreak, there were many miracles, and we tried to focus on the happy endings. Since we were the only 'no-kill' shelter in our area the demand for our services were great and our space was certainly limited.

Our volunteer base grew and the community was generous in donating the supplies that were needed. We concentrated on fundraising in the hope of paying our property loan and being able to build a shelter that could house more animals. Our medical expenses were high, as we always took any injured or sick animal that did not have an owner. Dr. Hitt has been with us from the beginning and was very generous in his discounts and pro bono services.

Today we still have several veterinarians that we work with and I don't know if we could be where we are without them and the community of caring, generous people.

I am so grateful for all responsible rescue groups that have evolved from animal rights groups and many more no-kill shelters across the United States. There were only 19 when we started.

by Babe Baker

(To be continued in the next newsletter).



Andy says Thank you,

The little Shiz-Tzu, Andy visited the eye doctor and it was found that he had only partial optic nerves. There was nothing that could be done to correct this but no worries, this lovable little guy has a safe and loving forever home. Thanks to all of you wonderful concerned contributors to Andy's collection. It was deeply appreciated.

CURRENT SHELTER HOURS:

Tuesday 12:00 to 7:00pm
Thursday 12:00 to 5:00pm
Saturday 12:00 to 5:00pm
Sunday 12:00 to 5:00pm

Phone: (815) 741-0695

Web Site: www.willcountyhumane.org

On our web site, when you scroll down a bit, on the left hand side you will find "Area Shelters". You can click on this for a list of Will County area shelters and the phone numbers. This may be helpful when you need to find a lost pet.

Will County Humane Society
24109 W. Seil Rd
Shorewood, IL
(815) 741-0695

Name: _____

Address: _____
City, State and Zip

Phone: _____

Please send your membership/tax deductible gift today!!!

_____ \$10 _____ \$25 _____ \$50

_____ \$100 (or more) _____ \$30 (membership)

(please mail this form in with your check)

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Cindy Jenkins Vice-President
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Babe Baker
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Monthly meetings of the board are held on the 2nd Thursday of the month at the shelter and are open to the public

