

HAPPY TAILS

SPRING 2011

WILL COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY

Farewell To Our Dear Friend And Founder

By: Cindy Jenkins

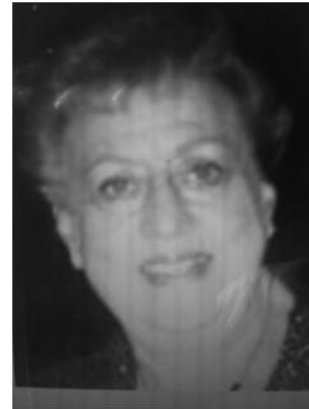
On Friday, February 4, 2011, we lost a dear friend, fellow board member and the last remaining co-founder of the Will County Humane Society.

Avril (Babe) Baker established the Will County Humane Society over 40 years ago. She was met with many who questioned her mission of a "no kill shelter". Despite those questions, she remained passionate and grounded that such a safe-haven could be built and was a pioneer in "no kill" sheltering. She began by visiting the local animal control and rescuing dogs that were about to be euthanized. These pets were then cared for in foster homes that Babe had established – including her own. This was no easy task considering she, along with her husband Dick, were also raising four young sons.

Babe's mission reached so much

further than just pets on death row. She had many stories to share about trips made to rescue abused or suffering animals. Those animals were given the appropriate care and ultimately found great families who adopted them. Unfortunately, Babe also had the heartbreak of numerous animals too sick to be saved. In many ways, these cases just gave her more resolve to carry on.

While many people may not have personally known Babe, through the establishment of the Will County Humane Society and the rescue of pets, her actions have had a positive impact on the lives of thousands – from the person having to give up a pet, but knowing it will be cared for until a good home can be found – to the families who have a loving feline or canine companion they adopted through WCHS.



For animal lovers, many of us hear of the "Rainbow Bridge" where your pet will meet up with you in the next life. One can only believe that Babe's heart was overjoyed to be met by St. Francis, the patron saint of animals, and reunited with the thousands of pets that she touched in her lifetime.

Miles



Miles is a young black and white Terrier mix who loves attention, play and snuggle time. He is very well behaved boy.

Be prepared to make him the king of your castle because he is very hard to resist! He is a great choice for a family dog, but is not too fond of cats.

Twix



Twix is a very special girl with a special need. She is a DSH Tortoise-Shell mix feline and is about 5-6 years old. She was brought to us as a stray with her front paws declawed.

Twix was tested and we determined she is FIV positive. This means she is completely adoptable provided she is in a home with other FIV felines or is an

Goofy



If there is any dog who lives up to his name, it's Goofy. He's fun, exciting and always ready for action.!

Goofy is a young male terrier mix who is not fit for a boring home with inactive people. He craves attention and challenges to keep him busy.

Thank You To Our Local Businesses By: Carl McCann

Several local business owners have allowed the Will County Humane Society to place donation cans on their counters. These coins and dollars add up to a significant amount over the course of a year. The total amount collected in a year pays for **ALL** the fuel costs for our van!

We would like to give a **SPECIAL THANK-YOU** to Dan, LEEANNE and Amber at **Mickey's One Stop, J.D. Brown** and **The Feed Loft** as well as all the businesses listed below. We appreciate their support!

Joliet	Shorewood
AJ's Hot Dogs , Black Rd & Infantry Dr. Grant's Appliances , 321 N. Republic Av. The Hot Skillet Restaurant , 2314 W Jefferson St. J.D. Brown , 837 Plainfield Rd. Karen's Pet Grooming , 2419 W. Jefferson St. Mickey's One Stop , 1415 Plainfield Rd. Rentalmax , 606 N. Chicago St. Timberline Animal Hospital , 950 NE Frontage Rd.	Brandolino's Encore Music , 700 W. Jefferson St. K's Liquor Store , 714 Cottage Av. 7-11 , 101 Cottage Av.
Plainfield	Channahon
Crossroads Animal Hospital , 7154 W. Caton Farm Rd.	The Feed Loft , 23930 S. Northern Illinois Dr.
Crest Hill	Wilmington
AJ's Hot Dogs , 710 Theodore St.	AJ's Hot Dogs , 250 W. Baltimore

Penny



Look at these eyes!

Penny is a beautiful and very sweet young DSH female. She was brought in as a stray along with her litter of kittens.

All of her kittens were placed with loving homes and she has been waiting a few years to find one of her very own!

Shelter Wish List

Purina Dog Food
(canned & dry)

Purina Cat Food
(canned & dry but
no red dye please)

KMR Kitten Formula

Esbilac Puppy Formula

Cat Litter (generic is fine)

Save A Stray Raffle Winners

Congratulations to our 2011 "Save A Stray" raffle winners and thank you to our many raffle participants.

This raffle is a major fundraiser for our shelter and gives us the much-needed operating funds for day to day operations and care of our pets. Our heartfelt thanks goes out to every person who contributed towards our shelter.

1st prize— \$1,000 won by **Nancy Smith** of Joliet. Nancy **generously donated her winnings** back

to the shelter. Thank you Nancy! We will certainly put that donation to good use.

2nd prize— \$500 won by **Lisa Hughes**.

3rd prize— \$100 won by **Judy Sohr** of Joliet.

4th prize— \$100 won by **Jean Lucas** of Plainfield.

5th prize— \$100 won by **Florine Clements** of Joliet.

All winners have been notified and prizes have been awarded.

Fundraisers

Thank you to our Fundraiser supporters and volunteers!

2010 presented many fundraiser challenges due to the construction occurring near the shelter.

As the shelter grounds are improving, we are hopeful to have more events scheduled onsite this year.

In addition to the onsite events, we are also planning larger off-site events. With the larger off-site events we are looking to draw the much-needed community support.

With these additional plans, additional fundraising volunteers are in huge demand. If you are interested in assisting with the planning and execution of our fundraising events, please contact me at WCHSfundraising@gmail.com or by contacting the shelter at 815 741-0695.

The LARGER our fundraising team, the LARGER revenue opportunities to benefit the shelter!

If you or a family member has community service hours to complete, please keep us in mind!

Happy Endings And New Beginnings.....

I was a volunteer at the shelter for 1-1/2 years when I found the canine love of my life. I was busy walking dogs when I passed this beautiful big black lab/rott mix.

I went up to his outside pen and he came running towards the gate, tail wagging. One walk was all it took and we both knew he was coming up with me. It took 4 days to convince my parents and when they finally agreed I was panicked as I drove into the shelter and saw 2 other people walking "MY" dog.

One very long week later and Dozer was sitting on my lap on his way home.

Soon I was creating an agility course and to my dismay, Dozer took to sitting and walking around the newly created jumps. A few months and one more try later and he went over them with ease. This became the first of many training sessions, including agility school.

A few more months and we were competing in our first agility trial. I was nervous, Dozer was not! He placed 1st two times that day. Next we're going to try dock-diving!

Special Projects Report

By: Cindy McKeand

Several years ago, after seeing a special need, Special Projects was developed as a need to supply our shelter animals with some of the things that would make their stay a little nicer and improve their chances of finding their forever home.

Funds in the shelter budget are often tight and

do not allow for these little "extras". From this, Special Projects was born.

Funds for Special Projects come from many sources such as bake sales, garage sales and appeals to the public. With the success of these initiatives, we have been able to have dog runs erected to allow

dogs to have quality outdoor time and supply the cat room with new roomier cages. We were also able to assist with the building fund for the cat sunroom.

Last year, we were able to put new cages in the dog and cat isolations rooms thanks to generous donations and several special grooming needs

were met.

Just like our own lives, there is always something the animals need. To that end, we still have a few old cages in the dog room that need to be replaced and there is regular grooming needed for several of our residents.

In addition to funds, I have recently become a committee of one. If you are interested in joining me on this quest, please let me know. And as always, a BIG thanks to all of you for your continued support.

By: Kim Lake

2011 Events

TBD Pancake Breakfast, Lockport VFW
 TBD Dinner, Moran AC, Joliet
 Apr 30 Adopt-a-thon, Shelter Grounds
 May 1 Adopt-a-thon, Shelter Grounds
 May 7 Plant Sale/Bake Sale, Shelter Grounds
 May 15 Struttin' For Strays 5k Walk/Run
 TBD Car Show
 Oct 29 Bake Sale @ Petco, Weber Rd, Romeoville
 TBD Fall Festival
 Dec 10 Bake Sale @ Petco, Weber Rd, Romeoville

Please watch our website for additional events and

About Our Website.....

Our website is currently undergoing a redesign to make it easier to use for both you and us.

Some updates have been on hold during this process. We're sorry if this has been an inconvenience.

WILL COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY

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FEATURED PET- "Little Bob the Maltese"

By: Larry Ringbauer

Little Bob came to our shelter over a year ago. Nearly frozen, the only protection from the January cold was his own coat which had formed a shell over his body. Matted and filthy, it was all the protection he had against the sub-zero weather.

Lucky for him, a caring person saw him on the street, scooped him up and brought him to us.

Because of his age and the daily medications he requires, he is overlooked by potential adopters. If you see him, you could understand why but being here at feeding time would change your perspective. To see the way Little Bob jumps around and dances, it shows how happy and grateful he is to have a good meal, warm shelter and somewhere where he is safe and loved.

If you are the kind of person who could give this little guy a loving home for the rest of his life, please stop by and ask to see him.

We need a special person who could show this little guy that there are loving and caring people out there that are willing to supply him with everything he would need to live out his life in comfort and safety.