



Pet Tails

winonahumanesociety.org

Summer 2009

Introducing the 2009 Board of Directors



Front row: April Herndon (holding Taco), Karen Kryzsko (Treasurer), Deborah Stowe (Vice President), DeDe Olson, Stacie Blair-Nelson (Secretary). Back row: Darrell Ehrlick (President), Brian Moran, Doc Kahl.

Camp Companion

The Camp Companion large-scale feline spay/neuter days held in March and April at WAHS were a huge success. A total of ninety-two farm and feral cats were fixed, preventing 100's of unwanted litters being born into a life of uncertainty. Many thanks to Camp Companion for organizing the event, Dr. Hofer and Dr. Maloney for giving their time and expertise, and to all the volunteers from both Camp Companion and WAHS. Three cheers to all who provided both treats and a lunch! We are grateful to everyone. Working together we have made positive difference.

Camp Companion charges \$20 for a spay or neuter and vaccinations (rabies and distemper). All cats must be in a live-trap – Camp Companion will provide live traps.

To sign up for future clinics and more details, check Camp Companion's web site www.campcompanion.org

Office Changes



We are so excited about the new and improved office area. By moving into the space that had been occupied by the storage room, we now have a much less congested and more efficient office space.

Rummage Sale

Our hats go off to the rummage sale volunteers. They did an amazing job getting donations, setting up the sale and working during the event. We raised over \$2,400.00. Everyone who helped deserves a big hug for all they did to make the day a success. Thank you to those who donated, baked and worked so hard for the animals.

New Dog Care Policies



Did you know that dogs don't generally like to be patted on the head? Or that making eye contact with a dog can be rewarding to them? These are just a few tips you'll learn if you attend a Dog Walking Training session or a Dog Training Clinic. New volunteers for walking dogs are asked to attend one of the Dog Walking Training sessions before being put on to the schedule. At the Dog Walking Training, people learn the appropriate way

to enter and exit a dog kennel. A how to read basic dog body language and how to efficiently handle a dog. For those individuals interested in getting more involved with the dogs, they can attend a Dog Training Clinic. During the clinic, volunteers learn how to teach dogs manners using non-force, positive training methods. Studies have shown dogs that receive basic manners training while waiting to be adopted not only get

adopted more quickly due to their nice behavior but have reduced chance of being returned to the shelter by their new adoptive families. For those for you that are interested in Dog Walking or Dog Training, please contact the humane society to find out when the next training session or clinic is being held. A volunteer application will need to be filled out as well and can be picked up at the Humane Society office or downloaded and printed from the website.

"A happy, healthy dog is more likely to get adopted."

Enrichment Programs

Imagine being stuck in a hotel room all day without a television. You only have a bed and one picture book to look through. Twice a day someone knocks on your door and delivers a plain bowl of Cheerios with some milk. Now imagine this was your life for days on end. This is what life is like for many dogs while living at shelters. They sit in a kennel with a dog bed, a bowl of water and possibly one or two simple toys. Several times a day they get to go on a short walk and they get fed a meal in a bowl. It's no wonder the dogs start barking just to hear their own voice. At the Humane Society we're

working on implementing a new enrichment program for our canines while they wait for their forever homes. Food puzzles, one-on-one training sessions and play groups are just a few of the new plans we have in store for the dogs. Playing certain styles of music for dogs has been proven to help calm dogs. Peeling an orange in the kennel room can become a scent enrichment for the dogs as well. Enrichment doesn't have to be expensive or long lasting, but a few simple things done through out the day can go a long way for improving a dog's overall well being. Dogs that are kept active mentally and

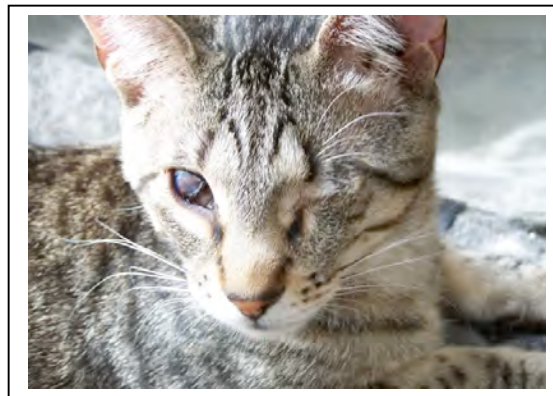
physically are much happier. A happier dog is also a healthier dog. And a happy, healthy dog is more likely to get adopted. So it's a win win for every one involved. An easy way volunteers and the community can help is by providing the humane society with wish list items. Some of those items include a multi-disc CD player, high value training treats, Gentle Leader Easy Walk Harnesses, Dog Appeasing Pheromone (DAP) collars or spray (no plug-ins please) and food puzzle toys. The CD player will be used in kennel area to play music for the dogs.

Watching a Cat
by Bill Stowe

He reaches out and places his paw on the head of a reluctant adversary. He wants to wrestle but can find no takers. He’s worn all of them out. So he turns and darts at light speed to a carpet covered tower whereupon he scrambles to the top. But a kitchen sound interrupts his plan of rest. Down the tower, through the door and around the food bowls like a ballet dancer he zeros in on the human about to open the refrigerator. Careful not to extend an unwanted claw, he carefully taps the human’s leg to signify that he was there first and, by rights, should get first choice of any distributed morsel. A dab of yogurt – mmm good. A patch of sun-warmed carpet is his next target. Stretch out, relax, grab the leg or tail of any unwary passerby – life is good.

I watch him and realize that he’s the perfect Zen master. He lives in the moment, focuses intently on the task at hand, while meditating he’s aware of everything in his world and does not let his past color his present. And he plays. No challenge is refused. No size can intimidate him. And there’s no place one can hide to get away from him. His territory is memorized like an implanted circuit board.

If you live with a cat (or cats) the scenes I described are familiar to you. That’s the behavior of any normal, well-adjusted and contented feline. However, in this instance there’s a difference. You see, Bump, that’s his name, is completely blind. He was born and raised under someone’s porch and while a tiny kitten he probably suffered from an infection that cost him his sight. He wound up at the Winona Area Humane Society where he received



the best of care from staff and Dr. Jan Hofer. He now happily resides with us and terrorizes all our other adult cats (in a nice way). His adjustment period was minimal. It took him all of two weeks to internally map out his new surroundings and become comfortable in them. He now blindly charges (sorry, couldn’t resist it) around corners and furniture as he traverses from points A to B on whatever mission has his attention.

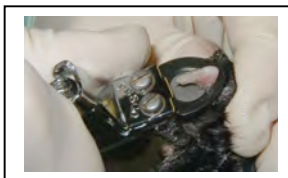
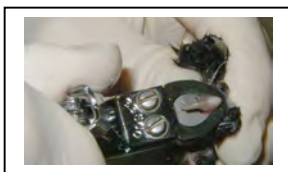
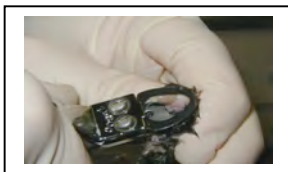
When guests come over we have to tell them he is blind and they still don’t believe it. So they wave a hand in front of his face and are amazed when he gives no reaction. Until, that is, they turn to walk away – then they’re fair game.

The point I want to make here is that our animal friends don’t have to be physically perfect to be emotionally perfect companions. They can adapt to you and your lifestyle; will still love and accept you with all your imperfections – physical and/or emotional. And that’s a lesson they have been trying to teach us for ages.

January through April - 2009

	Cats	Kittens	Dogs	Puppies	Total
Adopted	46	31	22	14	113
Camp Companion					0
Deceased					0
Euthanized	5		1		6
Reclaimed	2		19		21
Released	1				1
Remain	10	4	4	0	18
Rescue Group	3		6		9
	67	35	52	14	168

To Claw or Declaw...There is No Question!!



Contrary to popular opinion, cats do not claw or scratch to misbehave; rather, these are natural behaviors for a cat. Scratching is how a cat exercises its muscles, as well as to climb and hunt effectively. They also use their claws to groom themselves, mark their territory, and as the primary defense mechanism. Instead of providing modifications and solutions to any undesirable scratching, many people opt for the surgical procedure of onychectomy or declawing. Dr. Neil Wolff, D.V.M. strongly cautions that declawing is “interfering with a species’ nature because of our own whims, misconceptions, misinformation, and sometimes laziness.” The term “declaw” is very misleading because it sounds as though a pet is just having its nails removed. However, it is not just the nail that is

removed – the procedure involves an amputation of the last portion of a cat’s bone (the distal phalanx) in its toe, as well as removing the nerves, ligaments, and tendons in each of the ten separate toes. In a human, it is comparable to cutting off each finger down to the first knuckle. This surgery is lengthy, extremely painful to the animal, provides no medical benefit, and could involve postoperative complications such as infection, hemorrhage, nail re-growth, disability, or even death. There are so many negative side-effects to declawing, including physical, emotional, and behavioral complications. For example, the procedure affects a cat’s natural movement and forces the animal to learn how to balance again. Since sensory and motor nerves are cut, damaged, and destroyed, declawing can hamper the sensations

and enjoyment in walking, running, stretching, climbing, and jumping. Furthermore, the nails are a cat’s first line of defense, and declawing takes away that primary defense mechanism. Therefore, a declawed cat should never be allowed outside because it is defenseless against predators. Without claws to defend it, a cat’s personality could change after the surgery by becoming more aggressive and resorting to biting. In addition, after the surgery a cat may find it painful to use the litterbox, and therefore may have inappropriate urination behaviors throughout its life. Due to these reasons, this procedure is actually outlawed in many countries, such as Australia, New Zealand, Scotland, England, Japan, and Ireland, because it is termed “inhumane” and “unnecessary mutilation.”

Alternatives to Declawing

- * Modifying a cat’s environment by providing scratching posts or cat trees, and you can rub catnip on them to make them more attractive to the cat.
- * Using behavior modification and training tools to prevent the cat from inappropriate clawing, such as a water bottle, or by creating noise with a can full of coins.
- * Regularly trimming a cats nails short prevents less damage.
- *Citrus – Cats dislike the smell of it, so you could use non-toxic citrus furniture polish, candles, or simply using an

- orange peel to detract the cat from certain areas.
- * Sticky Paws, which is a clear, adhesive product of sticky paper that is applied to the inappropriate areas. The stickiness deters the cat from those areas.
- * Soft Paws, which are vinyl nail caps that cover a cats nails and keeps them blunt so they can scratch without causing damage. After trimming the nails, Soft Paws are easily applied with glue, and they will fall off naturally from nail growth and general wear about every 4-8 weeks.

Income - Expenses = ?

Our expenses exceeded our income during at least six months of 2008. We have operated at a net loss for the past three years. Surprising? Why does that happen? What does it mean for our future?

There is a common misperception that an organization with "Humane Society" as part of it's name is part of a national organization – Humane Society of the United States, American Humane Society – and receives funding from the national organization, Not true. No contributions to national organizations support the activities on the local level.

Our funding comes primarily from donations – 80% private individuals

and 20% businesses, fundraisers, adoption fees, and money received for services provided for the City of Winona and Winona County.

Our inability to cover all of our expenses can be attributed to several factors that are directly related to the care of animals – more strays coming into the shelter, more requests to take animals when individuals can no longer afford to provide for their care, increases in the cost of essential vaccines and medications, and increases in the cost of food and litter. We no longer are able to operate all areas of the shelter with volunteers. We now have one fulltime and four part-time employees.

And, in the last four years, we have had the added expense of mortgage payments and building upkeep.

Before the economy bombed, we had, with several generous bequests from estates, a substantial amount of money invested. Had those investments generated the kind of income we had anticipated, we would have been able to cover almost all of our employee wages. That would have meant no operating loss.

We have met our expenses in these recent years by dipping into our unrestricted savings. It appears that we could survive another three or four years before our savings are depleted. We

are looking at cost-cutting strategies – some with minor impact, some that could substantially reduce the range of services we provide. So we, like everyone else will have to do the best we can until the economy recovers.

We can help YOU!

We receive many open-bag food donations from individuals and corporations that we don't use in the shelter, and can pass on to you, our members. If you are having a difficult time with a job loss or layoff, visit us during office hours for dry pet food.

Community Support

Wal-Mart

WAHS day at Wal-Mart was a roaring success - \$357.28 was put in the donation jar. The barrels were overflowing with cleaning and animal supplies. We estimate about \$400 worth of items from our wish list was donated. Dottie and Hasani did a great job as PR dogs and had their cute "please help" look perfected at days end. Thanks go out to Danielle Larson from SMU for organizing the event. She

went above and beyond for her class project. Three cheers to Kathie for creating the fabulous donation barrels. Bravo to Tammy, Amie and Bree for giving up part of their Saturday to volunteer.

WSU Phi Theta Chi

Many thanks to the Phi Theta Chi sorority from WSU. They held an information day/fundraiser, Nutts about Mutts, for the WAHS. Close to \$200 was raised. It was a fun

day at WSU. Hasani, Nick and Dickens were great canine ambassadors and enjoyed lots of attention. Thanks also to our own wonderful Julie, Lavonne, Linda, Jayda and Amie for helping with the event.

Incredible Kids!

The Winona Senior High School Service Learning class raised over \$1,500.00 at the rummage sale they held on April 4th. The students worked hard to organize the event

for the WAHS animals. Our heartfelt thanks go out to these amazing students.

In February, seventeen high school students from **Rushford-Peterson** came to the WAHS for a tour and talk. They are part of a Companion Animal class that is offered at their school as an elective. They were a great group to work with and have offered their services for some spring cleaning.

Winona Area Humane Society

1112 East Broadway
Winona, MN 55987

Phone:
507 452-3135

E-Mail:
wahs@hbc.com

Hours:
Tuesday – Thursday
2:00 to 7:00
Friday
12:00 to 5:00
Saturday
10:00 to 3:00
Sunday and Monday
Closed

June 27

HyVee Pet Extravaganza in their Garden Center
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

November 6

Wine Tasting 2009 will be held at Vision's event center. We will only be able to sell 400 tickets this year. Last year we sold 445. So plan ahead. We are grateful to Vision's for donating the room rental to us. Our first planning meeting will be in June. More information to follow!

Current Needs

Cleaning Supplies:

- Clorox Bleach
- Laundry detergent unscented (liquid or powder)
- 13 gallon kitchen trash bags
- Unscented dryer sheets
- Small paper plates
- Industrial plastic spray bottles
- Liquid dish soap
- Hand sanitizer
- Q-Tips
- Jumbo-size real cotton balls
- Brooms
- Paper towels
- Ziploc bags - gallon

Office Needs:

- Fine-point permanent markers
- Canon ink cartridges #40 black
- White copy paper
- White cardstock paper
- Postage stamps

Dog Needs:

- Semi-moist dog treats
- Premiere Martindale collars
- Kong toys
- Busy Buddy toys

Miscellaneous:

- Multi-CD changer

Winona Area Humane Society
1112 East Broadway
Winona, MN 55987

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 43
WINONA, MN 55987