



Pet Tails

winonahumanesociety.org

Summer 2008

Fireworks and Your Pet

For all of us, food, family, fun and fireworks come to mind during the July 4th weekend. It's a time to celebrate and enjoy, but it's also the weekend when record numbers of lost and displaced animals come to the WAHS.

Dogs and cats often panic when the fireworks start, and although they aren't sure where they're going, may run out of fear and dart out the door.

Please remember to put your pet in a calm, quiet place during the festivities. For their safety, please keep them in the house.

Safe Fun in the Sun

It's important to make sure that your pet has protection from heat and sun, and plenty of fresh water. Heat stroke can be fatal for pets as well as people.

Never leave your pet unattended in a parked car! The temperature in your car can rise to 120° in minutes, even with the windows slightly open. Also, an animal left alone is an open invitation to pet thieves.

Dogs should never ride in the back of pick-up trucks, and some states have laws against it. If you are forced to make a sudden or evasive driving maneuver, your dog could be thrown from the truck and seriously – or fatally – injured.

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WAHS's Biggest Loser

By Darrell Ehrlick
 President, Winona Area Humane Society

We've probably all seen the national television show "The Biggest Loser" where contestants are challenged to drop as much off their waistlines as possible. Winona has its own version. And we at the Humane Society are not ones to let a fashion trend slip by (we do, after all, have our own line of apparel which can be purchased at very reasonable prices). We have our own version of the biggest losers, which we have affectionately named, "The Chub Club."

The Chub Club is a special regulated bay for our feed-full felines. You know, the ones who have enjoyed the benefits of copious chow just a little too much. The idea of this bay is to put some of our overweight cats in a spot where there is more exercise and less food. To be honest, we weren't sure if this would solve the problem, so the med team decided to weigh early and weigh often. The results are astounding (more on that in a moment!)

Cats, for the most part, are self regulating. Like any animal, they have a metabolism and they can grow accustomed to a lean diet or one that's rich. To a point. Many of the animals we get are not used to the quantity nor the quality of food that's suddenly available. They overeat. And fat cats may have a certain photogenic quality, but they're inevitably set on a course that can lead to diabetes, fatty liver disease and urinary tract disorders. More than that, they sometimes have trouble with routine hygiene, making

them difficult, if not impossible, to adopt out.



Frosty

This new exercise plan has made blue-ribbon winners out of most of the cats.

But there's also a very important lesson here for both felines and volunteers: We can do more with less. Many of our animals come to us in rough condition, in need of both food and medical care. Many of them make a great recovery. But we can overlove them by overfeeding, too. We should keep the residents of the Chub Club in mind as we tend to the other bays. Remember, food dishes don't need to be



Winston

overflowing and an empty bowl is not always a bad thing. Like humans, cats can also be opportunistic feeders, grazing even when they are not necessarily hungry. Also, cats, like humans, eat when they are stressed or even bored. This puts on extra pounds, especially in the cozy confines of our bays. Being more judicious about food also means helping us with our budget.

– *Biggest Loser continued on page 2*


Pet of the Week on HBC

Thursdays at noon, 4:00 p.m.,
 5:30 p.m., 6:30 p.m., 8:30 p.m.,
 9:30 p.m. and 10:30 p.m.




Not a Gaggle of Geese

Typically, when the police call the Winona Area Humane Society's intake team late at night, they need assistance with an animal that has whiskers and paws. However, one cold night in March the call surprised us all.

On the highway near St. Mary's University, the police found 107 chirping chicks huddled together in a ditch. Since chicks are dependent on warmth for survival, they needed help quickly. The intake team met the police at the WAHS office armed with heat lamps, sugar water, and grits. Fortunately, one of our cat rooms was empty, so that became their temporary coop. Thanks to the police and WAHS volunteers, all but one of the chicks survived. Since we are a humane society, there would be no chicken fry for these little guys. After a week in our care, they all found homes thanks to Chicken Run Rescue in Minneapolis. Yes, chickens do make great pets! 

– WAHS's Biggest Loser continued from page 1

No one wants to pinch pennies to underfeed cats, but our results show that these cats - and likely others - are getting more than enough food.

Now - drum roll, please - comes the best news of all, the big losers. While six ounces may not seem like a lot to you and me, a half-can of soda's worth, it's a much bigger deal to a cat weighing 13.5 pounds. It would be like one of us losing eight pounds. Doing some rough calculations, it means most of our Chub Club residents have lost around 10 percent of their weight in less than a month. This is awesome news. Our goal is to get these residents back into more adoptable shape as soon as possible. Our biggest winners (er, losers) are Winston and Frosty, both of whom lost one pound, seven ounces respectively. Our largest resident, Leroy (19 pounds), dropped 12 ounces. 

A lifetime of love for animals.
A legacy of love was left to the Winona Area Humane Society by

Sandra Schultz
and
Shirley Sobeck

to provide care for homeless and abandoned animals.

We say goodbye to two Winona Area Humane Society friends, volunteers and animal advocates. Shirley Sobeck and Sandy Schultz both helped to make the world a better place for animals. Shirley and Sandy touched our lives with their kindness. Our thoughts and prayers go out to their families during this difficult time. We will miss them both. Thank you to all that sent memorial donations in their honor. Their love for animals continues on.



Shirley Sobeck

Rescue Groups

At the Winona Area Humane Society, we are very fortunate to have established a good working relationship with many Midwest rescue groups. These groups have lists of approved adoption applicants waiting for a specific breed of cat or dog. We would like to give thanks to the following groups who have helped us save and place animals:

- Minnkota Persian Rescue
- MUSHR (MN Unwanted Siberian Husky Rescue)
- Midwest Pit Stop
- Purebred Cat Rescue
- Central WI German Shepard Rescue
- ESRA (English Springer Spaniel Rescue Association)
- MN Pek and Chin Rescue
- MN Aussie Rescue
- Heart Bandits (American Eskimo Rescue)
- Sharpei Rescue

We are also grateful to all the dedicated WAHS volunteers who have transported animals to these rescues, some as far away as Madison, WI.

If your heart is set on a purebred when thinking of a new pet, we encourage you to research and adopt from a rescue group instead of buying an animal. Save a life and give an animal a second chance at love. Working together, we can make a difference.

Fundraisers and Donations

Dog Wash

July 19
11:30 - 3 p.m.
Pet Medical Center,
57 E. 3rd



- Hot Dogs & Rootbeer Floats start at 11:30
- Dog Bubble Baths
- Garden Stone Paw Prints
- Dog Photos
- Contests
- Door Prizes
- Raffle Drawing for "Who's Your Daddy?" dog genetic test

Mark your calendars. Dog Wash 2008 will be held July 19 on Third Street in front of Pet Medical Center. The Dog Wash is a fun volunteer opportunity if you are looking for something that doesn't require a huge time commitment.

A sign up sheet is now in the office, or email DeDe at Cat@yahoo.com to let her know that you can help.

A current rabies tag is required for all events.

All proceeds benefit the WAHS. Last year 71 dogs were washed and an amazing day was had by all.

Volunteer Open House

Lots of visitors came for a tour and to learn about the many volunteer opportunities at the WAHS on April 19th.

We thank all who visited and especially those who signed up to volunteer. For those who missed it, we invite you to visit during our office hours and see what a difference your contributions have made.

• WAYS TO HELP HOMELESS ANIMALS •

Put your talents and skills to good use—share your knowledge and ideas! Artistry, journalism, photography, computers, crafts, fundraising... use these gifts to benefit homeless animals!

Bake Sale

Sept. 6
7:30 a.m. - Noon
Winona Farmer's Market

Gather your favorite recipes and get ready for the WAHS annual bake sale on Sept. 6! The bake sale will be held at the Winona Farmer's Market, starting at 7:30 a.m. All proceeds go to shelter and care for homeless animals in Winona County. Please bring your baked items to the Farmer's Market between 7 a.m. and 9 a.m. Hope to see everyone there. It is your delicious donations that make this yearly fundraiser a success.

Help Prepare Now for the Wine Tasting & Silent Auction

Nov. 7
6 - 9 p.m.
Vision's Banquet Room at
Bridges Golf Course, Winona

As you are out and about during this rummage sale season, please keep the WAHS in mind. We need good sturdy baskets to use for our Nov. 7 Wine Tasting. Last year we filled more than 80 baskets for the silent auction. It's an easy way for you to help! Bring baskets to the office and we will store them until they are needed.

Feeling creative? We have a project for you! We have some wooden chairs that need painting for our silent auction. Last year, Kathie Mayo painted one for the Wine Tasting and it raised \$65 at the silent auction. Perhaps you too, are inspired to paint one! Think cats, dogs, bugs, flowers, bunnies, gardens, children, or just use your imagination and be creative. Have fun and help the animals at the same time. Stop by the WAHS and pick one up.

Take a shelter dog
for a walk...



Balancing the Scales

By Deborah Stowe

Once again, Fred and Kathie Mayo have provided an item high on our major needs list. This time it was a dog scale, which is so critical for determining medication doses. It also strengthens our ability to win cruelty or neglect cases where withholding food may have occurred. The WAHS is sincerely grateful for their continuing generous financial and moral support.

• WAYS TO HELP HOMELESS ANIMALS •

Donate grooming supplies, offer help with bathing or the cost of professional grooming services to help homeless pets 'put their best paw forward.'



The Trap-Neuter-Return Program at WAHS means a better future for all animals.

Too many orphans result from accidental breeding by free-roaming, unaltered feral cats. Spaying or neutering, then releasing these strays back into their territory means fewer cats that will have to go uncared for.

WAHS is a no-kill shelter, and we are so thankful for your generosity every time we receive an envelope back from our newsletter mailing. Thank you for your support and kindness in giving. All donations are tax deductible.

Yes! I would like to donate to help WAHS neuter or spay, vaccinate and shelter a cat.

Enclosed is my check for:

\$10 \$25 \$50

Other \$ _____

New Life for Guinea Pigs

By Carly Austin

"Wheek! Wheek!" That's guinea pig for "we love room to run." Did you know there is a change in the world of guinea pigs? Gone are the tiny pet store cages and single guinea pigs living lonely lives in the strange world of humans.

Welcome to pig heaven! The new trend is roomy luxury cages that cost less than the cramped pet store variety. These cages are known as Cubes and Coroplast. They are built and designed by you with as many lofts and ramps as your pigs desire. The cubes section are wire storage cubes that you purchase from big box stores, about \$12 a box. And the coroplast is corrugated plastic, similar to what political signs are printed on (and it's a perfect time to recycle them). Look online for design ideas and they're cat-proof too.

Guinea pigs are social animals and should be housed in pairs at least. But be responsible and keep the genders separate. There are too many guinea pigs out there now that need a home. Have a lonely adult now? Find a baby. An adult is more likely to accept a baby.

As for bedding, avoid woodchips, paper, and corn cobs. Fleece is cheap, reusable, soft and fluffy. Fleece is your top layer; it acts as a wick to draw away urine. Use old mattress pads under the fleece to soak up wetness. The fleece and pads are washable and reusable. Just don't use a fabric softener because it prevents the fleece from wicking.



Brownie and Ash Photo Courtesy of Kevin, About.com

Carly Austin Kukowski is the proud mom of the Fab Five Guinea Pigs: Emma, Aeva, Dhama, Froders, and Naaga, and two rescue cats, Kiya and Zoe. 🐾



Stacie Blair-Nelson and her daughter, Lucy

Volunteer Spotlight: Stacie Blair-Nelson

Stacie Blair-Nelson has two jobs, two children, a loving husband and a menagerie of cats, dogs and chickens. This would be more than the average person could handle, yet Stacie still finds time to volunteer in a variety of ways at the Humane Society.

Take a look at the pink and blue cards on the outside of the bays or on the web site and you'll see the great pictures she takes of all the cats. She doesn't just take a picture--she captures the spirit of the cats to show them at their best. We know most cats do not pose for photographers! Stacie takes the extra time and does not give up until she gets the right shot.

Stacie volunteers for Cat Care every Sunday morning with her daughter Lucy. She's teaching Lucy at a young age how time can be as valuable as money. Stacie has been a frequent foster mom for our dogs and cats. Currently, she has a nursing mom and her three kittens. She's even succumbed to adopting a foster animal or two!

WAHS is grateful for her help organizing the Volunteer Orientation in April. Thanks to her creative ideas, it was a great success and we gained many new volunteers.

Stacie is always ready to help in any way she can and she is never without her smile. Stacie, we appreciate all you do for the WAHS! 🐾

Adopt a Buddy 2 for 1 During July

Enrich your life by adopting from the Winona Area Humane Society. **Now through July 31st**, all adult cats are on the 2 for 1 Buddy Plan.

With an approved application, you pay one adoption fee and take home two feline friends.

The adoption fee includes vet check, spay/neuter, FLV test and all vaccinations.

• WAYS TO HELP HOMELESS ANIMALS •

Donate the cost of vet services at your favorite vet; sonate heartworm preventative or flea control products (Frontline or Advantage)... a healthy pet is a happy pet.

Available for Adoption



Minnie would love to meet you!

Minnie is a beautiful medium-sized dog that came to us as a stray. She is possibly a Boxer and Beagle mix and she has the most expressive eyes you'll ever see. She is a young dog that still needs to learn some leash manners. She just loves to receive any attention given to her and should do well in most homes as long as she receives the proper exercise and training. She has a low maintenance coat and is clean in her kennel. She would love to find an active family to have fun with.

To my Friends at the Humane Society

Thank you for giving me such good care and attention while I was with you.

Now I have a wonderful home. Imagine my surprise when I discovered that not only did I have a permanent home, but also a kitty companion!

My wish is that all the kitties at the Humane Society could have a home. But I'm comforted in knowing that you will care for each and every one of them until they, like I, find a permanent home. With much love and your friend forever,

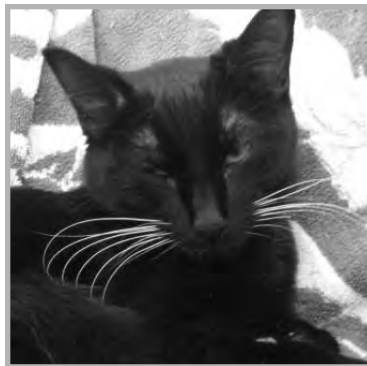
Polly

P.S. I would like all the dogs to have homes, too.



Bahama is a loving cat needing a natural diet.

When Bahama and her kittens came to us, all were in need of medical care. The kittens have completely recovered from upper respiratory infections. Bahama was not as lucky. The stress of caring for her kittens had a lasting effect on her health. She is now on a special diet of ground turkey and potato. This may be required for a few months or forever. She is a sweet, loving cat... could you be her personal chef?



Polly (previously known as Molly), content in her new home.

Every little bit helps.

While shopping in Winona, remember to save your Kwik Trip "Milk Moola" caps and use your SmartTown card to benefit the Winona Area Humane Society.

If you don't have a SmartTown Card, pick one up at the WAHS office. They are both easy ways to help the animals.

Adoption Update

Good Things Come to Those Who Wait

By Deborah Stowe

The old adage "good things come to those who wait," is true. Two of our longest residing feline residents, Disco and Connie, have finally found their forever home.

Disco came to us as a feral and very frightened kitten in July 2004. With much care and attention he improved, but was always very shy. Then in late 2004, Connie arrived. We like to believe it was love at first sight because they have been inseparable ever since. Connie brought out the very best in Disco so we promised them that they would always stay together.



What was once our hope has now become a reality. After an understandable adjustment period, Disco and Connie are feeling completely at home and living the good life they both deserved. We thank their human companions for seeing the inner beauty of these two and letting them blossom on their own terms.

Happy and long life together. 🐾

• WAYS TO HELP HOMELESS ANIMALS •

Give a gift certificate to a pet store, Fleet Farm, etc. Next time you buy for your pet, buy TWO and donate one to a homeless animal shelter.

Calendar of Events

Remember – every day is Adoption Day at WAHS

July 19 – Dog Wash (offices closed so volunteers can participate)

Sept. 6 – Bake Sale at the Farmer's Market

Nov. 7 – Wine Tasting/Silent Auction at Visions Event Center

Volunteers Needed!



We are always in need of reliable volunteers to help with:

- Office duties during open hours
- Cat care
- Dog care
- Dog walking
- Minor facility projects (painting, installing shelves, etc.)
- Fundraising events

Pick up an application at the WAHS, and get some exercise while doing good to help our dogs, cats, and keep the facility running!

Share a Story

If you have a story to share about a pet you have adopted from us, we would love to hear from you! Please email your stories to wahsnews@hbc.com.

Current Needs

Cleaning Supplies:

- Clorox Bleach
- 13 gal. and 30-gal. trash bags
- Toilet paper
- Industrial plastic spray bottles
- Hand sanitizer
- Brooms
- Paper towels
- Laundry detergent
 -(powder, unscented)
- Small paper plates
- Liquid dish soap
- Jumbo cotton balls
- Q-Tips
- Ziploc bags, small and large

Office needs:

- Red and blue pocket folders
- HP DeskJet cartridges
 #48 black, #78 color
- Canon ink cartridges #40 black
- Postage stamps
- Bic pens
- Paper clips
- Fine-point permanent markers
- White copy paper
- Duct tape, clear packing tape

Dog needs:

- Kong toys
- Stainless buckets
- Gentle Leader collars
- Big dog leashes

Miscellaneous:

- Have-A-Hart animal traps

We feed our animals only Science Diet products at the shelter. We accept donations of other brands of cat and dog food for distribution to foster families and pet owners experiencing financial difficulties. **Cat food is especially needed at this time.**