

Critter Chronicles

Fall 2018 | Vol 35 Issue 3

- **Where are they now? Remembering the 2008 Puppy Haven puppy mill rescue**
- **Green Bay softball game raises \$13K+ for animals!**
- **Baby Green Heron reunited with parents**





The mission of the Wisconsin Humane Society is to build a community where people value animals and treat them with respect and kindness.

www.wihumane.org 414.264.6257

milwaukee | ozaukee | racine | green bay | door county | spay/neuter clinic

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WHS Spay/Neuter Clinic serves 25,000th patient

Meet 3-month old Willow!
This sweet kitten was the 25,000th pet to be spayed or neutered at the Wisconsin Humane Society Spay/Neuter Clinic in West Allis, which has been open since June 2015.



Willow's human mom, Jessica, jumped at the opportunity to give this little guy a home after learning about kittens who were born on a friend's farm. She took a road trip to the farm and immediately claimed little Willow as her own. He's got a great personality – both affectionate and playful. He loves giving kisses and chasing anything that dangles, including his favorite wand toys and the chain of the laser pointer (instead of the actual laser).

Jessica's apartment requires that all pets are spayed or neutered and we are grateful to be able to provide a low-cost option that will ensure Willow & Jessica can stay together for years to come! In fact, the Wisconsin Humane Society Spay/Neuter Clinic is open year-round to the public. Our goal is to reduce animal homelessness by reducing financial barriers to accessing spay/neuter services in Southeastern Wisconsin. **For more information on our services and to schedule an appointment, please head to www.wihumane.org/clinic.**

Our furry friends could use your four wheels

Donate your car, truck, RV or boat to the Wisconsin Humane Society to help us save thousands of animals in our community.

 For more information call or visit **855-500-RIDE** | wihumane.org



DONATE A CAR
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FRONT COVER :: Lollie Pup, 2008 Puppy Haven alumnus: "She loves going to the lake, helping me garden, and cuddling with her sister Abby. She goes to agility classes to exercise and mingle. She has blossomed into a social butterfly on our street." – Kathy B.

Where are the Puppy Haven dogs ten years later?

On July 18, 2008, the Wisconsin Humane Society shut down the state's largest puppy mill and rescued 1,630 dogs, most of whom had never felt grass under their feet or known the love of a family. Ten years later, we're celebrating those survivors and the families who've unconditionally loved them.

Earlier this summer we contacted all of the Puppy Haven adopters we had contact info for and requested photo updates of how their beloved companion was doing, or a memorial message remembering those who have passed. Our hope was that Puppy Haven adopters would share, interact, and support each other within the online Facebook album, while also demonstrating the transformative power of love, patience, and compassion.

We received over one hundred stories and photos, and all have been posted to our Facebook page in a special album. It's a powerful album – make sure you grab a Kleenex box before you start to read them! Below are just a couple of the touching stories.

To those who supported us in 2008 or were inspired by Puppy Haven to start helping animals, we can't thank you enough. Community support made it possible then, and it's what makes it possible for us to save more lives today.

Leona



"This is Leona! We love her so much! My son, who is also adopted, chose her that Sunday morning at the Humane Society. He often says that they saved each other and will always have a special bond. The second set of pictures of my son and Leona were taken on Leona's adoption day and on her 9th birthday. She is smart, loving, funny and loves to bark her opinion at everybody! She's getting a little grey these days but she's still very spunky!"

– Allan

Jeffy



"Still my darling Jeffy! And still tearing up the backyard with zoomies on those surgically corrected rear legs (three major orthopedic procedures), which barely functioned when he was rescued by WHS. Jeffy has an out-sized personality, probably due to all the extra attention he received during his six months of recovery. I am eternally grateful to WHS for their bravery and courage in rescuing Jeffy and nearly 1,700 dogs from Puppy Haven. I can't even comprehend the lives — human AND canine — that were enriched by the endeavor."

– Joyce



Softball Tournament in Green Bay Raises \$13,500 for animals!

To say Jennifer Karnitz loves animals would be an understatement. Jennifer has adopted two of her three dogs through the humane society, but wanted to make an even bigger impact. She thought about volunteering, but was afraid she'd bring all the dogs home!

Instead, she decided to coordinate a co-ed softball tournament to raise funds and awareness for the shelter, and it has grown tremendously over the years. This year marked the 10th time Jennifer coordinated the softball tournament to raise funds, an incredible accomplishment. The event is organized with the help of a few close friends who also share a love of animals and a commitment to give back to the community. When Jennifer started the event in 2009, she raised \$670. Due to her commitment, word of mouth growth, and huge community support, in 2018 she raised \$13,500!

Jennifer and other supporters like her are the reason we can continue to do our work and mission to help better the lives of animals in our community. Thank you, Jennifer!

[The Facebook page for this event can be found at "FundRaising for a Cause-BAHS."](#)

All About Heartworm

Most everyone knows that you need to get your dog on heartworm preventative, but what exactly is heartworm? Unfortunately, heartworm disease is a potentially fatal condition caused by parasitic worms living in the arteries of the lungs and the right side of the heart. It is spread by mosquitos that are infected with heartworm larvae. As the mosquito is feeding, the heartworm larvae leave the mosquito and enter the blood stream of the animal. The larvae then develop into adult worms, taking up residence in the arteries of the lungs and the right side of the heart.

Animals who have been recently infected with heartworm disease may exhibit no signs of the disease, while heavily infected animals may eventually show clinical signs such as a mild, but persistent cough, reluctance to move or exercise, fatigue after only moderate exercise, reduced appetite and weight loss. If heartworm disease is left untreated, it will most likely be fatal.

All dogs should have a heartworm blood test performed as a part of their yearly preventative appointment with their private practice veterinarian. A year-round preventative product, used according to its label, is still the best way to protect your animal from heartworm disease. Your private practice veterinarian can write a prescription for these products.

– Dr. Rebecca Jackson, WHS



Pets for Life

Pooda and her family



Our Pets for Life outreach team met Barbi when they were out in the community knocking on doors one day. Barbi is incredibly warm and inviting and was excited to learn about our program. She has two dogs: Teddy, a Chihuahua mix, and Pooda, a 15-year-old Boston Terrier. Barbi signed Teddy up to be neutered through our program immediately, and he was neutered within a week of our meeting.

A couple of weeks later, Barbi called us concerned that Pooda's eyes were runny and he seemed more tired than usual. Through our partnership, veterinarians at the University of Wisconsin-Madison's Shelter Medicine program were able to examine Pooda and provide eye drops to help her eyes heal. The UW veterinarians not only help the animals, they engage the whole family. The veterinarians showed Barbi's children how to listen to their dog's heart with a stethoscope, and how to give their dog the eye drops themselves.

Pooda's eyes have since healed and Barbi has expressed how grateful she is for the support she's received for her dogs. She calls the Pets for Life team "puppy dog angels."

The Wisconsin Humane Society's Pets for Life program serves animals and families in underserved Milwaukee neighborhoods with little to no access to pet care resources. We meet families where they are, spending time in the neighborhoods we serve, and remove barriers like transportation and cost so families can provide important care to the animals they love.

To learn more about our Pets for Life program and how you can support pets and people like Pooda and Barbi, call Sarah at 414-431-6270.

FUNdraising is a Family Affair!

With summer coming to a close and school back in session, now is a great time to start talking to your family about giving back! Whether it's through school projects, Scout groups, or birthdays and holidays, kids are thinking about how they can make a difference to their communities. You're never too young to learn about the impact you can have, so if you have a young person asking how they can help animals in their lives, here are some creative ideas:

- **Time to celebrate?** Collecting monetary donations and items from our wish list instead of gifts can be a fun new tradition for a birthday or holiday! They'll have fun, feel proud about using their day for good, and you can even take their photo at the shelter when they drop off all those donations!
- **School service project?** Get creative! Students can organize animal-themed book fairs, penny wars, bake sales, donation drives, a haunted yard for Halloween, and more!
- **Something for Scouts?** Scouts of all types can give back in big ways through their service projects, and the shelter is always in need of support, so let us know when it's time to start and we can help think of projects!



If you have questions on how to get your community fundraiser started, contact our events team today!

Milwaukee, Ozaukee, or Racine County:
Ruadhan Ward | rward@wihumane.org | 414-431-6122

Green Bay or Door County:
Amber Landre | alandre@wihumane.org | 920-469-3110 x125

Baby Green Heron returned to nest



In July, our Wildlife Rehabilitation Center had the pleasure of returning a fallen baby Green Heron to its nest tree and the care of its parents. A caring person had found the baby heron on the ground in an urban park and brought it to us for care. Our exam of the little one revealed that she was not injured, so we warmed her, treated her for dehydration, and hand-fed her several good meals.

A day or two later, we went to the location she was found to search for the original nest site. We found the old nest without too much difficulty and saw that it was empty and in poor condition. We used a wicker basket to fashion a new nest near the original nest. During this process, Gabriella, one of our awesome summer interns who was assisting, spotted an adult Green Heron foraging at the water's edge not far away, so we knew at least one of the parents was nearby.

After we put the little heron in the new nest, she decided that she was no longer a mere nestling and was instead a fledgling; since she was now "a big girl," she decided to take a walk out on a branch to wait for her mom and dad.

It was a joy to help reunite the little one with her parents, and we thank you for the support that makes it possible.



Two-Legged Wonder Pup Adopted!

Blind and missing both front legs, Roo Roo was one of dozens of dogs rescued from a hoarding situation in Brown County earlier this summer. In the foster home where he recuperated, his parents were surprised to see that the two-legged wonder could climb onto their bed without issue (although Roo Roo ultimately wanted to be rocked to sleep like a baby)!

The sweetheart stole the hearts of many, including one of our Green Bay Campus staff members who welcomed little Roo Roo into her loving home this summer. We're all thrilled for her and excited to learn that Roo Roo will soon be racing around in a specially-fitted cart, thanks to the support of his foster family!

Milwaukee Brewers Visit PAL Program!



This summer, the Wisconsin Humane Society graduated 48 young people and 24 dogs from our People and Animals Learning (PAL) program. The goal of the program is to support participants' self-esteem and pro-social skills like empathy and conflict resolution through their interactions with animals.

Youth (ages 10 to 13) are nominated by a teacher, social worker, or adult mentor and spend two weeks of their summer at the Wisconsin Humane Society. Through PAL, young people work in pairs to train shelter dogs basic cues using positive reinforcement training methods; socialize shelter cats; and, at our Milwaukee Campus, feed and care for orphaned wild ducks at our Wildlife Rehabilitation Center. The program's benefits are reciprocal; the kids practice pro-social skills like respect, kindness, and empathy, and animals in our care also benefit.

Here's what some of the young people served by the program this summer had to say about their experience:

- "I learned that animals have just as much value as humans in the world."
- "I learned how to make more friends. I learned that I can be gentle and patient with animals."
- "After participating in the PAL program, I will encourage people and will do anything to help animals."

Since its inception in 1993, more than 850 children and 400 dogs have graduated from the PAL program. Graduates gain information about the Wisconsin Humane Society and our mission, and many of these amazing young people become ambassadors for animals and our mission.

Each session ends with a graduation ceremony during which PAL participants share what they've learned about animals and themselves during the program. We were thrilled to have Brewers wives and even two players, Brent Suter and Zach Davies, join us for our July graduation. They helped to hand out PAL completion certificates and stayed to sign T-shirts and talk to the kids about their PAL experience. The kids were so excited to meet the players and their families! Brewers Chief Operating Officer Rick Schlesinger and other Brewers staff also joined the kids in our August session to learn about PAL and encourage the kids and the important work they do while in the program. We're so grateful to the Milwaukee Brewers, Brewers Community Foundation, the players, and staff for their support.

To learn more about the PAL program and how you can support its impact for young people and animals, call Sarah at 414-431-6270.

Mark Your Calendars: Upcoming Classes & Events!

Canine Massage Workshop | Milwaukee Campus Wednesday, October 3, 2018 | 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Relax, de-stress, and calm your dog and yourself by learning basic relaxation and therapeutic massage techniques. Canine massage is more than just "fluff." Massage certainly relaxes and relieves pain, but it can also lower stress and anxiety, build confidence, soothe arthritis, increase flexibility, and prevent potential future injury...just to list a few of the benefits! The fee for this workshop is \$40.00 per dog.

Pet Loss Support | Milwaukee Campus Wednesday, October 3, 2018 | 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

This one-hour program will include a discussion of the grieving process for all age groups, suggestions for coping with loss, and attention to special situations such as euthanasia decisions. Also covered: commonly-experienced stages of grief, gaining support from others, getting through the first, worst days, when to consult a professional therapist as well as special situations. A \$10 fee for this seminar includes a gift certificate to our Animal Antics retail store to purchase one of the pet loss booklets available.

Pooch Playtime | Milwaukee Campus Sunday, October 21, 2018 | 1:30 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.

Is your dog longing to get out for more playtime and socialization? Join us for Pooch Playtime! Your dog can run and play in our indoor, climate-controlled training center. We provide a fun and relaxing environment for playtime that is monitored by two WHS volunteers. Only \$8 per dog for each 45 minute play session, limited to 8 dogs. Pre-registration is required!

Dog Manners Class | Ozaukee Campus Monday, October 22, 2018 | 7:00 p.m.

This class is for dogs 5 months and older. Our experienced staff of instructors makes training your dog a fun and rewarding experience for people AND dogs! This is a "must do" class, designed to teach you how to communicate with your dog. During this six-week session, your dog will be introduced to cues such as sit, down, stay, off, leave it, wait at the door, come, walking on a loose leash, and more! \$130 for dogs adopted from a shelter or rescue. \$150 for non-adopted dogs.

Hoppy Hour | Milwaukee Campus Sunday, November 18, 2018 | 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Join us for this social hour for rabbits and their people! It's a time when all different kinds of rabbits can come together to play, run, frolic, and socialize. The cost is \$10 per bunny and registration is limited. We hope to see you for this hoppin' good time!

TO REGISTER for a class, please visit:
wihumane.org/events-calendar

SAVE THE DATE

Paws & Claws Gala | Pfister Hotel Saturday, October 20, 2018 | 5:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

We hope you'll join us for our very own Catsino Royale, where James Bond isn't the only one on a mission. At the Wisconsin Humane Society, we're on a mission every day to save the lives of animals with nowhere else to turn, and to build a community that values animals and treats them with respect and kindness.

This year's Paws & Claws Gala will feature silent and live auctions, raffles, games, a wine & spirits pull, jewelry pull, dinner, a photo booth and of course, our furry and feathered friends dressed in their favorite Bond-inspired attire!

For tickets, sponsorship opportunities or to donate to our auction, please call Jesse VanCamp at (414) 431-6121 or jvancamp@wihumane.org.

WISCONSIN humane society Paws & Claws Gala

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CATSINO ROYALE

Join us for our mission to save more lives.

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION INC.

October 20, 2018