

Critter Chronicles

Fall 2019 | Vol 36 Issue 3

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WISCONSIN
humane society



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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Raccoon Rescued

In July, an employee from MillerCoors in Milwaukee found a young raccoon with a mayonnaise jar stuck on his head. Of course, in this predicament, the raccoon couldn't eat or drink anything, and even breathing was difficult. The caring worker was able to scoop the raccoon into a trash basket and bring him to the WHS Wildlife Rehabilitation Center for help.

Here at the wildlife hospital, we anesthetized the raccoon and freed him by carefully cutting the plastic jar off of his head. We administered fluids and electrolytes and other supportive care as he recovered from anesthesia in our ICU.

Once fully recovered from anesthesia and rehydrated, we offered him small meals of fruit, wet dog food, and fish. In a couple of days, he was looking spunky and acting like he was ready to go. That evening, we released him close to where he was found and he ambled off along the river bank to begin his second chance at life.

Each of us can help protect wild animals from this threat of fetal dehydration by rinsing food containers completely, screwing their lids on tight, and placing them in a covered receptacle for recycling.



Door Co. Rummage Sale Success!



The Annual Rummage and Bake Sale for our Door County Campus was a blast! Thank you to everyone who donated, shopped, baked, and volunteered. We were able to raise around \$2,400 for the animals at the WHS Door County Campus! We need to especially thank Sharon Peterson, our fearless leader and the one who started it all back in 2012, the Knights of Columbus for donating the space to us at no cost, and everyone who donated items including the Door County Historical Society. You can't hold a rummage sale without fun treasures to sell. **Mark your calendars for next year's sale happening on May 1-2, 2020!**

Thank you to all our volunteers: Arlene and Don Peterson, Sue Anderson (thanks for also donating the food to feed all our volunteers, Sue!), Elaine Van Carmichael, Arlene Woelfel, Tracey Willems, Sonja Lund, Tod and Julia DeMain, James Bachmann, Jan Serrahn, Ann Marie Clark, Mary Kay Kavanaugh, Kathleen O'Connell, Misty Michaud, Sharon Thill and John and Nancy Sawdo. And, thank you to these folks who donated baked goods: Jan Niec, Mary Ellen Dreutzer, Toni Zimmerman, Dori Meyer, and Ellen Michaud.

It's BARK to School Season!

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 in their communities. It's never too early to learn about the impact one person can have for animals! If you have a young person asking how they can help animals in their lives, here are some creative ideas:

- **School service project?** Get creative! Students can organize penny wars, bake sales, donation drives, a pancake breakfast, and more!
- **Something for Scouts?** Scouts of all types can give back in big ways through their service projects and donations, and our shelters are always in need of support! Our Wildlife Center could especially use your help, so let us know when it's time to start and we can help think of projects!
- **Time to celebrate?** Collecting monetary donations and items from our wish list instead of gifts can be a fun new tradition for a birthday, mitzvah, 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!



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 & Door County: Lori Nachtwey | lnachtwey@wihumane.org | (920) 469-3110 x 2119

Twenty-three cats rescued from Brown County home

In July, Wisconsin Humane Society staff responded to a request from the Brown County Health Department to remove cats from squalid conditions at a residence in the county. Our staff found nearly two dozen cats roaming the house, including two nursing mothers struggling to care for their kittens, living in filth with no running water. The smell inside the home was also becoming unbearable due to the steadily rising temperatures. Human or feline, it's heartbreaking to know anyone had been living in these conditions.

We worked swiftly in the heat and successfully removed all the cats from the property. In total, WHS cared for 17 adult cats and 6 kittens from the home. Every cat needed medical attention and most were suffering from upper respiratory, skin, and eye infections. Many of the cats were shy and fearful of people, having lacked proper socialization for so long.

Thanks to your support, it is possible for us to respond quickly whenever – and wherever – animals are in need. You helped save these cats and we are incredibly grateful for your trust and support.

If you believe someone is struggling with animal hoarding, it's important to reach out for help. It's a serious mental health problem that can quickly spiral out of control, affecting not only the animals, but the owners, their families, and the community. Please call your local law enforcement, animal welfare organization, health department, or mental health agency for supportive resources.



Adoption Updates



"My wife and I adopted Buckley in September of 2016 when he was a year and a half old and kind of a psychological mess.

Once he started calming down, it was clear how loving he is. He's a true lap dog, loves hugs, and must attend to every movement someone in the family makes. At first, he was very into rough play and nipping so we worked on that first and he got the message that he'd only get attention when he wasn't doing either of those things. We also enrolled in classes which he enjoys mostly for the opportunity to see his friends. He goes to daycare once a week, also to see his friends—and his best girlfriend, a Great Dane named Rosie.

At this point we have had him for longer than he has been in any other home and he seems to have really settled in. Within the last year, he's started barking like we would expect a Pyrenees to bark, like the neighborhood is truly "his" to protect. He likes to organize his toys and bones, and puts them back "where they belong" if Mom cleans up.

He does have lingering separation anxiety that we haven't addressed directly because we have a good family and trainer network who keep him company. He's gotten better with the passage of time and our instinct is that simply by learning that we do come home, and aren't giving him away, he will calm down given a bit more time. Our very flexible and unusual work schedules have fit our situation very well!

On March 17th he passed his therapy dog test with both my wife and myself as certified handlers. Yesterday, we completed the in person interview with the volunteer services department at Children's Hospital of Wisconsin and, if they can see past their 100 lb weight limit, we will hopefully share Buckley with some children in need of some smiles.

In the end, we can honestly say he is an excellent dog, with a sharp intellect, great communication skills, boundless affection, an amazing sense of humor (he makes little jokes by disrupting mundane situations in clever ways, like sticking his head down the leg of my pants while I'm trying to put them on, then wagging like a goof), great character, soothing energy, and great adaptability to diverse situations. It may have been a challenged start, but we are so very grateful to have gotten him and to have the opportunity to live with him.

Here's a picture of Buckley from today, with him wearing his bandanna for Pet Walk. We added his "graduating class" year to it. He was selected as the dog of the day at the Wauwatosa stage of a bicycle race in 2017. He won the Halloween costume contest at our vet's office in 2018."

Thank you,
John & Debra



"Chip has been doing great! He's gained almost 5 lbs and has been doing great with all his commands and leash walks. He absolutely adores his kids and is a great mellow dog almost all of the time! He enjoys trotting right behind the kids through the yard with occasional zoomies with other dogs. He does really well with cats too! Here is a picture of Chip at his first fire station visit."

Amanda & Elijah

Is your dog bored? Enrich the mind with treat-dispensing toys.

We enrich our own lives every day. We take ourselves out to movies, restaurants, museums, and gyms. We play board games with friends, ride our bikes, and ski in the winter. Sometimes we make our lives so busy that our minds barely have time to rest!

While we're out, however, our companions often get left home. They crave intellectual and physical challenges too, and they depend on us to provide new experiences and activities. One of the best solutions to a bored dog is a treat-dispensing toy. These toys allow your dog to exercise their brain as well as their brawn.

Remember, dogs are scavengers by nature and puzzle toys are a great way to give them mental exercise. A few of our favorites are listed below.

Kongs

Kongs are one of the favorite toys of dogs at the Wisconsin Humane Society. Made of a soft, yet durable rubber, and available in several varieties, Kong toys are designed to hold food or treats that your dog must 'dig' out over time.

These versatile toys can hold anything you can imagine, including hot dogs and yogurt, but the most common combination is the dog's regular kibble mixed with a bit of peanut butter. Kongs can also be stuffed in layers, for example: putting kibble on the bottom inch, then a little canned tuna, then shredded cheese, then dry treats and finally peanut butter. Freezing foods inside a Kong extends play time and can also soothe a teething puppy.

Kong Wobbler

Also made by Kong, the Wobbler is a unique, food-dispensing toy that you can potentially utilize every mealtime. Screw off the bottom of the toy, fill it with your dog's food, and watch as they have to bat it around and knock it over to get the food out. This is also a great solution for slowing down those dogs who tend to 'gulp' their food.

Tug-a-Jug

The Tug-a-Jug is another interactive toy that provides multi-sensory stimulation. Made of a super-strong clear plastic, dogs can see the treats or food inside, smell them through scent holes on the bottom of the toy, chew on the massaging rubber ball and durable rope, hear the contents as they shake or roll the toy around, and finally taste the yummy rewards! This is one of the more mentally stimulating toys around, so it may not be suitable for beginners.

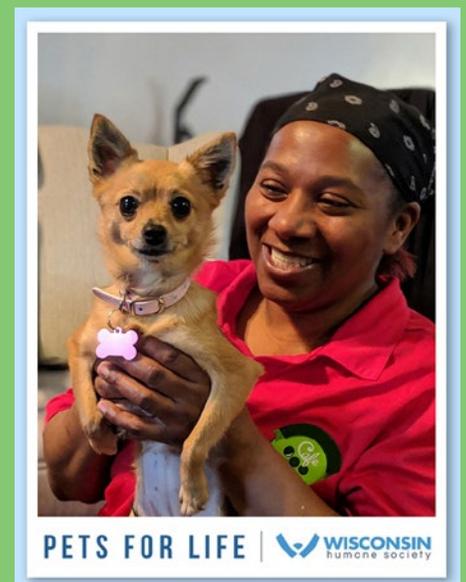


You can find them at shop.wihumane.org or any of our three retail locations in Milwaukee, Saukville, or Racine.

Pets for Life: Meet Regina and Kennedy Marie

Within moments of meeting Regina, our Pets for Life outreach team knew one thing for sure: she loved her pup, Kennedy Marie, with all her heart. A few months later, we received a frantic call from Regina: Kennedy Marie had fallen and hurt her leg. She was quoted more than \$1,000 for diagnostics and care, and she had been turned down for the credit she'd need to pay the veterinary bill. Thankfully, the Pets for Life team partners with the UW Shelter Medicine Program and we were able to provide an examination, medical advice, and pain medication, all free of charge. When we followed up with Regina (who introduces herself as "Kennedy Marie's mom" every time she calls us), she was thrilled to report that her pup was back on four paws.

There is not a single veterinary clinic in our PFL service area, and the majority of families we serve report not being able to access the veterinary care they need for the animals they love. With your support, the Pets for Life program can bridge this gap by providing information and resources, plus free spay/neuter, vaccines, and select medical care to ensure animals stay happy and healthy in the homes where they're loved.



Mark Your Calendar: Upcoming Classes & Seminars!

Pet Loss Discussion Group | Milwaukee Campus

Wednesday, October 2, 2019 | 7 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Wednesday, November 6, 2019 | 7 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Wednesday, December 4, 2019 | 7 p.m. - 8 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. We also discuss commonly-experienced stages of grief, gaining support from others, getting through the first, worst days, and when to consult a professional therapist as well as special situations. A \$10 fee for this seminar includes a \$5.00 gift certificate to our Animal Antics retail store to purchase one of the pet loss booklets available.

Puppy ABC's Class | Ozaukee Campus

Monday, October 6, 2019 | 5:45 p.m.

Did your puppy come with an instruction manual? Do you have questions? Find the answers in the Puppy ABC's class at the Wisconsin Humane Society. Learn positive techniques and activities to motivate your puppy and build his or her confidence... and yours! Our classes use reward based training techniques - teaching you how to use a clicker for training and reinforcement. Puppies are taught in a positive learning environment where they have fun and are successful! This class is for puppies under 5 months old. \$135 per dog.

Dog Manners Class | Ozaukee Campus

Monday, October 6, 2019 | 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! \$135 per dog.

Hoppy Hour | Milwaukee Campus

Sunday, October 13, 2019 | 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 15, 2019 | 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 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!

DOGA – Yoga with your Dog | Milwaukee Campus

Sunday, October 20, 2019 | 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Sunday, November 17, 2019 | 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Led by Suzy Weyenberg, Registered and Certified Yoga Teacher. Doga stretches and relaxes humans and dogs. It is a wonderful way to bond with your best friend while having lots of fun! This class is for any yoga experience or fitness level. When you come to this class you will do simple poses and meditations with your dog. We will include some relaxing massage for your four-legged best friend. \$20 per human/dog team.

Pooch Playtime | Milwaukee Campus

Sunday, October 20, 2019 | 1:30 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.

Sunday, November 17, 2019 | 1:30 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.

Sunday, December 15, 2019 | 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!

Canine Massage Workshop | Milwaukee Campus

Wednesday, October 23, 2019 | 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Wednesday, December 4, 2019 | 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Relax, de-stress, and relieve 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 per dog.

Halloween Howl | Milwaukee & Ozaukee Campus

MKE: Thurs, October 24, 2019 | 6:30 p.m. - 7:45 p.m.

OZK: Mon, October 28, 2019 | 7:15 p.m.

Bring your canine ghouls and goblins in for a party at the Wisconsin Humane Society. Win prizes and enjoy treats for dogs and people, too! For companion dogs and their humans. This howling night will include a canine costume contest, tricks for treats, bobbing for hot dogs, a bone dig and more. \$20 per dog.

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

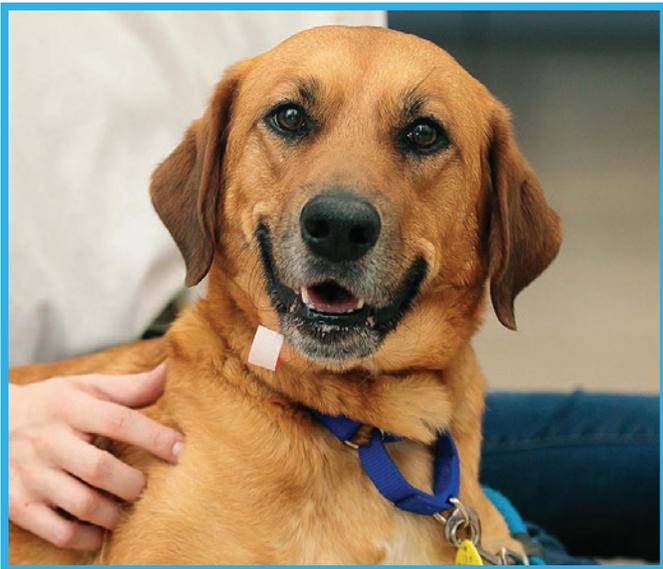
Mark Your Calendar: Upcoming Events!

Legacy of Love | Milwaukee Campus

Monday, September 30, 2019 | 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Since 1879, the Wisconsin Humane Society has been providing a warm bed, nourishing food, essential veterinary services, and compassionate care for animals in need. You have made this life-changing work possible. Join us on September 30 to explore the many ways you can continue to support our mission by establishing a planned gift. Guests will hear from Anne Reed and planned giving professionals on how including the Wisconsin Humane Society in your charitable plans is a simple process and will leave a legacy of love for generations to come.

To register and learn more about this free event, contact Maren McFarlane at 414-431-6146 or mmcfarlane@wihumane.org.



Holiday Bingo Extravaganza | Riverside Ballroom Green Bay

Thursday, Nov. 14, 2019 | 5:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Grab your dauber and your good luck charms, because the best bingo tournament to benefit homeless animals is here! Join us in Green Bay at Riverside Ballroom for our 3rd annual Holiday Bingo Extravaganza, presented this year by UnitedHealthcare. Each ticket includes a buffet dinner, bingo booklet for 10 games (three sheets for each game), bingo dauber, and entry for a door prize. Also, enjoy a cash bar, basket & 50/50 raffles, our highly-anticipated booze raffle, and more! Please note, this event is for individuals 18 and older.

To learn more & purchase tickets: wihumane.org/events

Calling all superheroes!

Paws & Claws Gala | Pfister Hotel - Milwaukee

Saturday, October 19, 2019 | 5:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Tickets are on sale now for the 2019 Paws & Claws Gala: To the Rescue! Join us for our biggest fundraiser of the year. Enjoy cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, silent and live auctions, raffles, a wine & spirits pull, and delectable dinner all to support animals in need! Did we mention that it's the only gala in town where you can mingle with pups, our favorite felines, and some of our very best wildlife ambassadors?

Learn more and purchase tickets now at gala.wihumane.org or call Jesse at (414) 431-6121.





Barn cat program

Got mice?

If you have a barn or stable, you can save a cat and control your rodent population at the same time! Sometimes cats cannot live as household companions, yet make excellent barn cats and thrive in that environment. These cats may be shy or fearful of people and prefer the company of other cats and animals. By adopting barn cats, you can also control your rodent problem without toxic chemicals.

Barn cat types

Generally speaking, barn cats placed through the Wisconsin Humane Society's barn cat program are independent cats who prefer to limit their interactions with humans. However, the degree to which they keep their distance varies from cat to cat and may change over time. Even those who prefer to keep their distance may develop bonds with their caregiver after positive encounters with people. Barn cats often develop strong bonds with other cats, which is why the Wisconsin Humane Society recommends that at least two cats be placed together.

What we provide

All barn cats available for adoption are spayed/neutered, ear-tipped, tested for FeLV, microchipped and vaccinated. When you adopt barn cats, we also provide consultation on how to successfully acclimate them to their new home.

What you need

- Shelter in a barn, outbuilding, or stable
- Daily food and water - cats cannot live on mice alone
- Ability to provide veterinary care, as needed
- A secure place to keep them for the first 4-6 weeks while they acclimate to your barn (this can be a tack room, large crate or any secure indoor enclosure)

Contact us

If you are looking for a barn cat and would like to be notified when one is available, please fill out our Adopter Profile online at www.wihumane.org and we will contact you. If you have questions about the program, please email us at barncats@wihumane.org.