

Critter Chronicles

Spring 2016 | Vol 33 Issue 1

- Blind, deaf dog discovers gas leak
- Meet a Long-eared Owl
- Barn cat adoptions soar
- All about bordetella
- Upcoming events

A smiling woman with glasses is holding a happy, light-colored dog. The dog is looking at the camera with its tongue out. The woman is wearing a grey shirt and has her hair tied back. The dog is wearing a blue collar with a gold tag.

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.

Milwaukee Campus
4500 W. Wisconsin Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53208
414-264-6257

Ozaukee Campus
630 W. Dekora Street
Saukville, WI 53080
262-377-7580

Racine Campus
2706 Chicory Road
Racine, WI 53403
262-554-6699

Spay Neuter Clinic
9400 W. Lincoln Avenue
West Allis, WI 53227
262-323-6163

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Q & A: Bridgette Frommell, Vice President of Development

When did you start at WHS?

December 14th.

Where did you come from?

I came to WHS from the Aurora Health Care Foundation, where I served as a Foundation Development Officer.

What excites you about WHS?

Life-changing work happens here and I'm proud to lead the fundraising efforts that make this work possible.

Do you have a family?

Yes. My husband: Kevin; children: Carter, 5; Colin, 3; Evelyn, 2; and our Chocolate Lab, Hayley, 7

What do you do in your spare time?

See above! And, spending time with friends, working out, getting outdoors, and catching up on sleep.

Frommell manages a team of seven development staff and oversees all fundraising initiatives for the Wisconsin Humane Society, which is the largest animal welfare organization in the state and is nationally recognized for its leadership in the animal welfare field. WHS's annual budget is \$8.6 million, \$5 million of which is raised through private contributions and estate gifts.



Cover model: Volunteer photo assistant Madeline Rittgers, with Merlin.

Blind & deaf shelter dog finds gas leak

In 2012, an astounding little Lhasa Apso mix arrived at the Wisconsin Humane Society. He was blind and deaf, left only with his sense of smell and tactile memory to guide him through the world.

Our staff was blown away by his resilience and how determined he was to enjoy life regardless of its challenges.

We were over the moon when our little wonder, Job, was adopted by the Densmore family four years ago and we've been in touch with them ever since. We last saw the Densmores at our 2015 gala where Job greeted guests and proudly represented the 6,000 special needs animals whom we serve each year.

When we received news of Job's latest achievement, we were speechless.

During his daily walk near their New Berlin home last Saturday morning, neighbors had mentioned smelling gas but didn't think much of it.

Job, on the other hand, became very anxious which gave his family pause. They called in their report to We Energies and received a swift response.

When crews arrived to investigate the source of the smell, it was little Job who led them to a specific area where he began to bark and spin in circles. They pulled out their equipment and, sure enough, an underground gas leak was confirmed in the very spot where Job had alerted!

We Energies worked tirelessly all day to repair the leak and we're so relieved to say it was caught before anyone was hurt. We are immensely proud of our little alumnus and we're so grateful to have a community whose generous support makes miraculous stories like his possible!



(clockwise l-r) Job with his dad and the We Energies repairman; Job's original adoption pic when he was still "Boots," and Job and his family at the 2015 Paws & Claws Gala.

Thank you Bank Mutual!

In the month of November, Bank Mutual invited customers to vote on which charities they would donate to during the holiday season. Thank you Bank Mutual for hosting a fundraising event for the animals at the Wisconsin Humane Society and raising \$1,210 in support of the work that we do! It means so much to us and the animals in our care.

If your company is interested in fundraising to support the animals at WHS, please contact Sharon Rodarmel at srodarmel@wihumane.org or 414-431-6212.



Jack Steinbrecker, Bank Mutual; Sharon Rodarmel, WHS; Katrin Sticha, Bank Mutual

Preventing Heartworm Disease

Heartworm disease is a preventable, but serious and potentially fatal disease that primarily affects dogs, cats and ferrets. Heartworms are passed from animal to animal by mosquitoes. When an animal is bitten by an infected mosquito, young heartworms are transmitted to that animal's blood. The heartworms mature as they move through the animal's body, and eventually enter the heart, blood vessels, and lungs.

Heartworms can reach up to 14 inches in length and hundreds can live in a single dog's heart. In time, the worms cause injury to the lungs' vessels and heart. This can lead to severe lung disease, heart disease and damage to other organs such as the liver and kidneys. Heartworms may survive for 5 to 7 years in dogs. In advanced stages of the disease, heartworms can kill an animal.

All dogs, regardless of age, sex, size, breed, or living environment, are at risk for heartworm infection. Even if your animals only go outside briefly to go the bathroom, they are at risk.

Heartworm disease is almost 100% preventable. There are several easy monthly heartworm preventives available that can save your dog's life. They come in chewable beef flavored treats, in non-flavored pills, or a topical liquid applied once a month to your pet's skin. Your veterinarian can recommend the best method of prevention based upon your pet's individual needs, risk factors, and lifestyle.

Because a life-threatening reaction can occur if this medication is administered to an infected pet, a simple blood test is recommended before beginning a prevention program to confirm that your pet



Taffy was brought to WHS with heartworms; fortunately, she was successfully treated by WHS veterinary staff.

is not already infected with heartworm disease. In addition, annual re-testing is recommended to check your pet's status and ensure that the appropriate medication is being prescribed.

Question: What is Bordetella?

Bordetella bronchiseptica is a bacterium that is associated with respiratory disease in dogs. It is one of the components of the canine infectious respiratory complex, sometimes referred to as kennel cough, upper respiratory infection, or infectious tracheobronchitis.

Dogs who will be in areas where they may come into contact with other dogs (e.g. doggy day care, the groomers, the dog park, boarding facilities) are more likely to come into contact with this bacterium and develop signs of an upper respiratory infection.

Clinical signs of an upper respiratory infection include sneezing, nasal discharge, congestion, coughing, etc. If you suspect that your dog has kennel cough, isolate your dog from other dogs and contact your veterinarian right away.

There are bordetella vaccines available for dogs which can lessen the severity of disease and can even prevent infection altogether. This vaccine is an optional vaccine, not a core vaccine. Your veterinarian can help you determine whether this vaccine is appropriate for your dog.



The bordetella vaccine is just \$20 at our vaccine clinics, held regularly at our Milwaukee and Racine Campuses.



WHS Wildlife Rehabilitation Center staff rescued this Long-eared Owl, "Sparky," when he became trapped inside a warehouse. He spent a few weeks with us in rehabilitation for an eye injury, and was recently released in his native habitat.

Barn cat adoptions soar

In February, we launched a special push for barn cat adoptions, and we're proud to share that within a few weeks, we were able to place more than 25 barn cats where they can fulfill their destinies as expert mousers and non-toxic rodent control!

Any time a cat comes to us who is social, regardless of whether they had previously lived indoors or outdoors, they go right into our adoption program to find a home. Furthermore, there are some cats who are simply fearful of new situations, and they too go into our adoption program as "Hidden Treasures."

Then there are the cats who have lived outdoors and truly want nothing to

do with people, plus they get stressed when confined; those are our barn cats. These felines cannot be house-cats, but thrive in a "working" environment where they can patrol a barn, stable, out-building, shed, or even business facilities. With one of these kitties on the job, any rodents on your property are sure to head for the hills!

They come in pairs of two so they have a buddy to bond with, and they're all spayed/neutered, ear-tipped, tested for FeLV, microchipped, and vaccinated.

We also provide adopters with plenty of information on how to successfully acclimate them to their new home. The adoption fee for barn cats is entirely waived; all they need is shelter, food,



water, and some patience as they adjust to their new life. If you're interested in hiring a couple of these working cats on your farm or property, please email barncats@wihumane.org!

Mark your calendars. Events, classes & more!

1. Canine Massage | Tuesday, April 5 | 6:00 p.m - 8:00 p.m. | Ozaukee Campus

During the two-hour hands-on session with your dog, you will learn generalized muscle anatomy and basic techniques to relax your dog, and therapeutic work that can assist in healing or with common geriatric conditions. You will also learn some fun, active stretches to teach to your dog!

2. Puppy ABC's Class | Thursday, April 7 | 6:15 p.m. - 7:05 p.m. | Milwaukee Campus

Did your puppy come with an instruction manual? Do you have questions? Find the answers in the Puppy ABC's class. Learn positive techniques and activities to motivate your puppy and build his or her confidence... and yours! During this six-week session, we cover everything from potty training to basic obedience skills.

3. Foster Information Session | Tuesday, April 12 | 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. | Ozaukee Campus

Are you interested in learning more about what it means to become a foster parent? Come learn about the foster process, enjoy refreshments and meet animals. We will have staff available to answer your questions and get you signed up if you decide fostering is right for you. Have questions? Give us a call at 262-988-5952.

4. Tails on the Trail 5K Run/1-Mile Walk | Saturday, June 25

8:00 a.m. registration, 10:00 a.m. race start | Veterans Park, Milwaukee

Join us for the 5K Run & 1-Mile Walk, and stick around for an afternoon of activities for the whole family, including entertainment, vendors and exhibitor booths, food and beverages, kids' activities, dog agility course, lure course, games, prize wheel, doggie fashion show, Ask the Animal Behavior Experts, and so much more! All proceeds support animals in need.

5. Feasting for Fido | Thursday, July 21 | 5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. | WHS Milwaukee Campus

Join our 8th annual Feasting for Fido, a tasting of Milwaukee's best vegetarian food. Enjoy samples from 20 of Milwaukee's finest restaurants, live music, wine, beer, auction items, & more!

6. Feasting for Felix | Thursday, August 25 | 5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. | WHS Ozaukee Campus

Our 5th annual Feasting for Felix will feature restaurant tastings of creative cuisine, beer and wine, festive music and some of our four-legged friends as greeters!

7. Paws & Claws Gala | Saturday, October 22 | 5:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. | The Pfister Hotel

Join us for the 2016 Paws & Claws Gala on Saturday, October 22 at the Pfister Hotel in Milwaukee. We'll be bringing back the timeless elegance of The Great Catsby, and will feature a silent and live auction, raffle, wine pull, delectable five-star dinner, photo booth and of course, pups in ball gowns and cats in tuxedos!



More Ways to Help Animals: IRA Rollover Made Permanent

On December 18, 2015, legislation was passed making the IRA rollover a permanent way to make meaningful charitable contributions to your favorite organizations. The IRA charitable rollover allows individuals age 70 1/2 or older to make tax-free distributions of up to \$100,000 per taxpayer, per taxable year to an eligible charitable organization such as the Wisconsin Humane Society.

Because the distribution goes directly to a qualified charity, the amount will not be counted as income and will not be subject to income tax. Transfers must go directly from your IRA to a qualified charity, like the Wisconsin Humane Society.

For more information on making a gift through your IRA, contact Bridgette Frommell at 414-431-6133.



Did you know that the first full week in May is nationally-celebrated as Be Kind to Animals Week? Each year, WHS celebrates by hosting an art contest for children, as well as honoring individuals who have gone above and beyond to support the work we do for animals. Winning artwork is displayed at the Milwaukee and Ozaukee Campuses throughout the month of May. Be sure to stop in and check out these masterpieces in person!

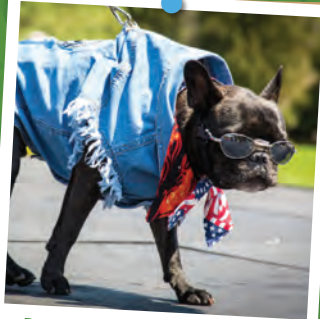


Meet Pets for Life client, Kim, with her cat, Fluffy, who was recently spayed and vaccinated as part of the program. Kim and Fluffy are just one of the many families served through Pets for Life program, which provides pet care information and resources.

In 2015, Pets for Life served 1,792 clients and provided free spay/neuter for 940 animals from the 53206 zip code, thanks to the financial support of donors who recognize the need for veterinary resources in this area. We thank you, too, for your generous support!



Family-friendly fun



Doggie fashion show



Support homeless pets



Go solo or bring your pup!

TAILS ON THE TRAIL

5K RUN & 1-MILE WALK

Presented by the Wisconsin Humane Society

SATURDAY, JUNE 25

10am | Veterans Park at Milwaukee's Lakefront

After-party includes...

- 🐾 Entertainment, food trucks, & festivities
- 🐾 Activities for dogs & their people
- 🐾 Local vendors & exhibitors
- 🐾 Doggie fashion show
- 🐾 And so much more!



Register today by visiting
www.wihumane.org/TailsOnTheTrail