



# Animal Chatter

Washington Area Humane Society

FALL 2006

1527 Route 136 | Eighty Four, PA 15330 | 724-222-PETS | [www.washingtonpashelter.org](http://www.washingtonpashelter.org)

A No Kill Shelter Giving Pets A New Leash On Life Funded By Your Contributions

## ★ Wish List ★

- Dry Cat & Dog Food
- Frontline Plus for Cats
- Dry Kitten Food
- Cat Litter (*we use a ton/week*)
- Bleach (*we use 20 gal/week*)
- Laundry Detergent
- Paper Towels
- Baby Food (*meat only*)
- Unscented Baby Wipes
- Pet Shampoo
- Copy Paper
- Reply Envelopes
- Postage Stamps
- Scotch Tape Rolls
- Load of Gravel for Lots
- 39 Gal. Garbage Bags
- Digital Camera
- Neosporin and Peroxide
- Heating Pads
- HP15, 17, 78 cartridges

## The Importance of Saving Casper by Joy Ewing

I'm retired and that means I have time to take my Basset Hound, Daphnie, for long walks. One day I noticed a poster on a utility pole about a white cat named Casper who had "escaped" from his home in our neighborhood. About a week later I spotted a white cat in the brush along one of our favorite routes. I called the number on the poster and was told that Casper's family knew where he was hiding but could not coax him out. Casper had been a stray and was still "spooked" a lot.

Daphnie and I would see Casper lying in the sunshine on cool mornings and I would call to him. Eventually he would walk along with us for short distances but always in



the brush. Casper wasn't afraid of Daphnie.

I started filling my jacket pockets with cat food and treats and leaving it where Casper could eat without feeling threatened. Casper's family spent time every day trying to get him to come home. The weather would soon be turning colder and the safety of the brush would disappear when the leaves fell off.

Daphnie and I continued our daily food deliveries. One glorious morning as we were returning home, I looked back and there was Casper scampering along behind us! He stayed in our backyard while I quickly brought out my cat's crate and a dish of Fancy Feast. It took a little while, but either "love or Fancy Feast" tempted Casper into the crate and I closed the door.

Casper was reunited with his grateful family later that day. I felt so good about saving Casper that I wanted to help other cats in need and I became a volunteer the following month. I've been helping in the Cat Castle where many cats have lived for much too long. They crave attention and human contact. The highlight of their day is a clean crate, a good meal, and a snuggle with one of us. I feel I give them so little and they give me so much love in return. Won't you come and share the love?

Daphnie has recently gone to wait for me at the Rainbow Bridge and I know she was proud to have played a part in saving Casper.

## Where True Love Blooms

Society. But her boyfriend of two years (Brian Malecki) had another idea in mind. Unknown to Kelly, Brian had stopped in at the shelter a week before and set up a big surprise with the help of shelter staff.

After returning one of the dogs to her kennel, Kelly was asked if she "had seen the new dog we got in," and was pointed to the closed door of the "puppy room". When she walked in she got the surprise of her life. The room was all cleaned out except for a red carpet, about 50 candles, a table with a vase of roses on it, champagne, and

at the end of the carpet – Brian! He took the leash from her hand and proposed! Through many tears of excitement and shock, Kelly of course, happily accepted.

Brian wanted to propose in a place that Kelly loved and made her happy. Since becoming a volunteer in January, Kelly has enjoyed every moment of her time spent walking and showing love to the many wonderful dogs waiting for homes. Now, she has the memory of her unique and romantic engagement story to think of every time she is at the shelter.



On April 9th, volunteer Kelly Will expected her usual weekend morning of walking and playing with a bunch of cute dogs at the Humane

## Money Blues

Gloomy finances have us scrimping. By not enclosing an envelope to you, we can save money. Please don't let this inconvenience keep you from donating. You can also donate directly through our website.

## VOLUNTEER PROFILE



*Royal Magic Thunder* – Roy for short, was a bad dog. He took off whenever he had the opportunity and headed for greener pastures – other dogs! He was strong-willed, disobedient, and sneaky. But Roy was quite the character, charming people with his big brown eyes

## Do You Need a Better Reason?

and making everyone laugh at his humorous ways. He never left my side when I was sick and was the best of listeners to my troubles, seeming to understand every word I said. When he died last year at age 15, I was heartbroken and nothing could fill the empty place in my heart. Stopping at WAHS to look at the dogs, I still didn't feel ready to commit to another pet. I decided the next best thing would be to spend time with all of the dogs and cats so I became a volunteer. The adorable, loving animals who are always so thrilled to greet me never fail to fill that empty place in my heart.

My name is Taylor and I am 14 years of age. I love animals and helping them, so when my Grandmother invited me to volunteer with her at the

Humane Society I was thrilled! Each dog I walk and spend time with is very special to me and getting to know their personality is so much fun. It is not only helping at WAHS that makes me feel great but it is the great feeling all of the cats and dogs give to me.

We would encourage anyone who would like to give back to the community in a BIG way to give just a LITTLE of your heart to these adorable friends at the shelter AND BECOME A VOLUNTEER!

See you there,  
*Patty Harper and Taylor Duffy*

## Abuse, Neglect and Abandonment Continue

**Stella and Shala, Sadie and Samantha** were tossed over the fence of an animal control facility. Shala was thin but in the best shape of the four. Samantha only weighed 19 lbs. Sadie was so terrified that she would not come out. She had to be carried to the transport van, where it was found that her leg was broken. It was touch-and-go for Sadie due to an infection after her leg was casted, but she has improved and looks great. She may have a limp the rest of her life but the family that adopted her thinks she is the best. All of the sweet, shy hound dogs have since been adopted and are growing and adjusting well to love.

## Missing Pet? Found a Pet?

Visit: [www.missingpets.com](http://www.missingpets.com), a nonprofit, nationwide alert system to report your missing pet, and report found pets. This site also helps you create fliers and contact shelters regarding missing pets.

## Great Turnout for Dedication

Friends and family of Jim and Peggy Moriarty trudged out on September 24th, a dreary, rainy Sunday, for the dedication of a dog play enclosure donated by Peggy in memory of her late husband. Guests nibbled on cookies and sipped coffee while waiting for the weather to clear up. At 11 am – as if on cue – the rain moved off and the sun peeked out allowing the dedication to be held sans umbrellas. Board members, Kelley Keane and Pat Sphar spoke to the large crowd.

Keane spoke of Jim Moriarty, pet lover, highlighting aspects of his life shared with many cats and dogs. Sphar talked about how significant this particular donation had been to staff, volunteers and most of all, the dogs at WAHS. The 60 x 60 x 6' enclosure has dramatically improved the ability to exercise and socialize dogs at the shelter. In addition, it provides an environment where potential adopters can interact with dogs in a secure place with ease.



**Geno** was living in a moldy dog house. He had bald patches all over his body and was diagnosed with both a thyroid deficiency requiring medication for the rest of his life and food allergies. He improved dramatically once he had veterinary attention and he has since been happily adopted. His owner was found guilty of animal cruelty.



**Pokey and Sassy** were seized on July 17th. Pokey had an embedded collar that required



surgery to remove. Sassy was pregnant. The dogs had no food or water. Humane officers had been to the house in Roscoe three times. Pokey (pictured) is about seven years old and recovering well.

## Don't Miss Our Halloween Pet Costume Contest

Saturday, Oct. 21, Washington Crown Center, Sign-in Starts at 6pm



# WAHS Gets a Face Lift That Was More Than Skin Deep

During the month of June, board member, Diane Bandy and friend Ken Jakub (pictured), gave the Humane Society a refreshing facelift. The overall

work included repairing the siding on the front facade, replacing the front door with a new one, equipped with a panic bar, a fresh paint job,

trash cans and new signs. Another significant project that Diane and Ken completed is the new brick memorial located at ground level directly to the right of the front door. A tired swath of grass sporting a few needy shrubs were torn out to make room for this long awaited installation. Engraved

bricks in honor of beloved companions are on full display to visitors. And many more spaces are available for the placement of future bricks named for honored loved ones. See the fundraising page on our website if you are interested in becoming part of this new tradition.



## Exceeding All Expectations

Our goal was to get 100 companion animals adopted in 100 days during this, our centennial year. An 8' painted sign,

built and erected by volunteers on the shelter grounds tracked adoptions with giant paw prints that march up the sign. To everyone's astonishment, it didn't take a hundred days. It didn't even take 30 days. In just 22 days, we had reached our goal of 100 adoptions and so we went for 200! Then 300!

A dog training DVD or 3 sheets of kitty giftwrap were given to each of the first 100 adopters. In our 100 days, which ended on Friday, September 8th, a total of 430 animals had successfully been adopted!

## Setting Goals and Completing Projects

The Washington Park Elementary School has been doing fundraisers for our shelter for several years now. Mrs. Johnson and her 3rd grade class chose our shelter as their yearly community service project. Each year Mrs. Johnson holds an assembly that includes the 4th and 5th grade classes. For the last two years, volunteer Jeannie Sexauer has taken Kacie, who was an abandoned dog that she adopted from the Washington Area Humane Society. Kacie and Jeannie teach the children about the Humane Society, safety with animals and animal care. The children give a small donation and they also see a movie provided by the school.

This year Mrs. Johnson and Jeannie decided to do something bigger to complete a much-needed project. The whole Elementary School – K through 5th grade got involved. Kacie and Jeannie went twice

to give their presentation. The school collected donations in the amount of \$710.00 for lumber to build the shade/rain pavilion that now spans the two large dog play kennels on the shelter grounds. Jeannie's husband Gus, volunteered to build the structure and it is used daily by the dogs and the volunteers. They would still like to install a floor for the

pavilion, but that will take a lot more money ... probably the goal for next year.

The faculty and students of Washington Park Elementary School set an example of what can be done with just a little from a lot of people. They did a fantastic job and all of the dogs, staff and volunteers at the Washington Area Humane Society thank them for it.



## You Said it!

Our 2007 calendars are here! Caption contest winners can see their words in action and the glossy, colorful calendar will put a smile on every animal lover's face.

Lottery numbered calendars are for sale for \$30 each. Un-numbered calendars are available for a \$10 donation. Stop in to purchase your lucky number.

*The following is an excerpt  
(printed with permission) from an  
article in Animal Care Society's  
Spring 2006 Newsletter*

## Why You Should Spay or Neuter Your Pets

One female dog and her offspring can be the source of 67,000 puppies over the course of 6 years. One female cat and her offspring can produce 420,000 kittens in seven years. In the United States alone, over 70,000 puppies and kittens are born every day. There will never be enough homes for these pets which leads to 8,000,000 – yes, that's eight million – unwanted dogs and cats being euthanized each year. Having your pet spayed or neutered can help reduce these numbers. In addition to controlling pet over-population, there are numerous other advantages to having your pet spayed or neutered. Altered pets live longer and healthier lives. A number of health risks such as uterine, ovarian, and testicular cancer, as well as prostate disease are reduced or eliminated in pets that are spayed or neutered by six months of age. Further, altered cats and dogs are less likely to bite, stray, or get into fights. They are also less likely to spray and mark territory. Dogs and cats that have been altered make better, more affectionate companions and exhibit less behavior and temperament problems than unaltered pets. WAHS offers a spay and neuter clinic at reasonable rates. Please contact the shelter for information.

We use 1,000 pounds of cat litter per week and 20 gallons of bleach per week! Please donate cat litter, bleach, kitten chow and laundry detergent and help reduce these out-of-pocket expenses.



**Midnight** is a sweet, gentle guy with an excellent disposition. His curly fur makes him look heavier than he is; a slight limp makes people wary of vet bills, and his marking behavior conjures images of a home challenge. *All false impressions.* After a recent examination, the vet reports that Midnight is only about 4 years old and only 61 pounds. A bladder infection treated with antibiotics should result in his being housebroken once again. His limp is from an old, but healed injury, causing no discomfort. He has full range of motion and requires no further medical attention.

## After a Year of Waiting ...



**Eli** sat in a kennel cage for over a year. When someone seemed interested in him and it was explained that he had no teeth, they passed him by. He would continually reach out of the cage for someone to love him. He was moved to PETSMART and that's where he was finally adopted to James and Josee Jeffries. Eli now has the company of three other resident cats. He is loved, fed, protected, spoiled, and most importantly, safe.



**Skyler** was in the Cat Castle and was not always friendly with customers or other cats. She was passed up for adoption and moved to the business office where she spent a year sitting on our administrative assistant's desk telling her what to do! She was taken to PETSMART for a "Catathon," and it was her lucky day, because her "mom" Melissa fell in love with her and gave her a chance to be happy.

There are many cats with stories like Eli and Skyler ... overlooked and lonely, who spend hour after hour in small cages. These adult cats just need a chance to win you over.