



Animal Chatter

Washington Area Humane Society **SPRING 2005**

1527 Route 136 | Eighty Four, PA 15330 | 724-222-PETS | www.washingtonpashelter.org

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

★ Wish List ★

- IAMs Dog and Cat Food
- Frontline Plus for Cats
- Clay Cat Litter
- Paper Towels
- Copy Paper
- Large Towels
- Laundry Detergent
- Dish and Hand Soap
- Baby Food (meat only)
- Bleach
- AA Batteries
- Business Envelopes
- Postage Stamps
- Scotch Tape Rolls
- Used Copy Machine
- Large Trash Bags
- Load of Gravel for Lot

2nd Annual Gala Event Benefits Shelter

CATS and dogs leave pawprints on our hearts, and thanks to your generosity and love of animals, you can make the hearts of the cats and dogs of the Washington Area Humane Society very happy.

The financial support we received last year at our First Annual Tuxes for Tails Benefit helped us raise over \$8,000. Through the caring nature of individuals such as yourself, WAHS was afforded the ability to feed, nurture, provide healthcare and placement services for over 1,600 animals.

As WAHS is totally dependent on caring people like yourself, your attendance and support of the 2nd Annual Tuxes for Tails Gala Event at the Hilton Garden Inn on Sunday, April 24th is most appreciated.



There are many participation levels of support for this event ranging from individual sponsorship to Gala Corporate sponsorship.

This year's event promises to be even more spectacular than last year and will feature Paul Martino of KDKA as MC, a welcome reception, silent auction, a delicious dinner and live entertainment throughout the evening.

Your support of our shelter is vital to our future success. Please join us for this elegant and heartwarming event. For more details and tickets, call Carie Smith at 412.296.4409.

The Stray Dog That Cut Right to the Very Heart of Us All

A CONCERNED RESIDENT was horrified by the sight of a starving, decrepit, injured collie mix wandering around her neighborhood. Humane officer, Susanne Lewis rescued the intact male dog and brought him to the shelter for treatment, undoubtedly saving his life.

The local news reported the unfortunate dog's story that resulted in an outpouring of donations and support.

The bald and badly limping collie, now dubbed "Trevor" was examined and is being treated by Dr. Beebe who determined that an advanced infection made it inevitable that his broken, useless leg would be amputated. His skin



condition was diagnosed as a treatable form of mange and he is receiving the appropriate medicine.

During his short stay, Trevor greeted visitors at the shelter and was showered with atten-

tion. He is now in a foster home recuperating from surgery, where he will receive physical therapy and essential emotional support throughout his recovery. Trevor is progressing well and will be visiting us soon.

On behalf of everyone at The Washington Area Humane Society and all of the homeless animals at the shelter, we thank you for the kind and generous donations sent to us for the care and medical treatment of Trevor (formerly Trey). A fund has been set up for all of the contributions given to us for him. Any excess funds that remain after Trevor's treatment and recovery will be used directly for the treatment of our other deserving animals. We commend you for your compassion.

VOLUNTEER PROFILE

ABOUT two years ago, I decided I needed to add some purpose to my life. My girls were away at college, and during winter months, I found myself fighting depression. My sister, who was very active with the Humane Society in Texas, suggested I enlist with my local Humane Society. I found lots of excuses not to: too little time, lack of knowledge, and fear of emotional upset. However, in the end, my deep love for animals drove me to join.



Theresa cuddles Whynne, the dog she found starving along a highway who still needs a home.

Theresa McCall Sets and Reaches Goals

Susan Rhoads at that time was "Head of Volunteer Walkers". When she had to relocate, she appointed me her successor.

It turned out to be one of the best things that ever happened to me. At first, it was very difficult. There were only a handful of walkers and over forty dogs to walk each day. As time went on, more walkers joined, were trained, and today the dogs almost always get walked on weekends. But due to lack of walkers during the weekdays, it is not unusual for the dogs to be stuck in their cages for days at a time.

I found the walkers to be caring, open, loving people. I made more close friends than ever before in my life. I got great exercise and knew I was adding some joy to each dog's life that I touched.

At a board meeting, the need for kennel gates was discussed. There were no outside exits on many of the kennels. If the

building caught on fire, the dogs would have to be led out through the burning building. There was no other way out. The estimated cost to install the gates was quoted at \$1,800.

Unlike many other Humane Societies, ours receives no tax or public money. The budget is always critically tight. It is unbelievable to me that in an area as affluent as ours, that so few people donate to animal welfare. Dogs and cats are so instrumental in adding joy to our lives, how can we fail to give back to them?

My sister mentioned a new trend in Texas – car magnets – that were becoming such a hot fad. She said they easily sell for \$4 - \$5 there. I ordered several hundred of them to sell for the specific purpose of paying for the "Fire Gates".

There were several people who were instrumental in selling large quantities of the magnets. Without them, the

fire gates would not have been purchased. Bill Cox, Denise Bennett and her husband, Linda Caputo and Mary Beth Verholtz kept selling out of the magnets we had available. And Ron Swidorsky obtained numerous monetary and gift donations that we used to raffle off at our fundraiser Bingo.

We raised the money we needed for the gates and in April, we are planning another Bingo. The extra funds will be used to clear the back two acres of land to open up more walking paths for the dogs. Where we go from there, I don't know yet. We are kicking around the idea of an obstacle course for obedience training and exercise. We will continue to raise money because we love the animals.

To paraphrase the Nobel Peace Prize winner, Mother Teresa, "I cannot do great things, but I can do small things with great love." We can all do that.

P.A.T.H.S. is the Easiest Way to Help Our Budget when donations are down and expenses are up

We Need Your Help Now More than Ever

The P.A.T.H.S. program was developed as a way to maintain funding throughout the year. We ask animal lovers to assure that the basic needs of the shelter are able to be funded monthly, especially during slow periods when donations are scarce. Steady

monthly income for routine expenses allows us to make necessary changes and badly needed repairs with our other fundraisers. You can help just by putting your monthly pledge check in the pre-paid envelope we provide to you every month, and mailing it back to us.

I, _____, pledge to send \$ _____ per month to the WAHS P.A.T.H.S. Program.

My first envelope will arrive the last week of the month in which I enroll. I will mail it back as soon as possible. If at any time, I would like to stop my tax deductible donation, I will contact WAHS at 724-229-0404.

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Signature _____ Date _____

____ Yes, I will put a stamp on my return "Pledge" envelope to save the mailing cost.

I am not ready to join PATHS at this time, but would like to contribute \$ _____. My check is enclosed.

____ Charge my credit card. Credit Card Type _____ Number _____

Verification Code _____ Expiration Date _____ / _____ Signature _____

A Case of Abuse and the Fate of Many Will Finally be Heard

AN ANONYMOUS TIP led me to a property on Crossroads Road, Washington, PA on Thursday, December 2, 2004. Arriving at approximately 3:30 pm I observed 63 animals living in deplorable conditions including dogs, rabbits, peacocks, ducks, white roosters, a guinea hen, cats, chickens and roosters.

Chartiers Township Police Officers Popeck and Hagerman arrived and were so horrified that they videotaped the scene and also called Chartiers Township Zoning Officer Cottrill to the scene.

None of the animals had any food or water. Shelter for most was exceedingly inadequate. The stench was overwhelming. The chickens, rabbits and ducks were crammed in cages too small and packed with several inches of fecal matter and urine.

When I first arrived there on December 2, I cried. There was absolutely no way that I would leave those animals in those conditions for one more day. On Thursday, December 2, and again on Friday, December 3,

there was not one drop of water for any of these animals.

I was granted a search warrant and removed 59 of the 63 animals. Unfortunately, we could only catch one of the five cats. I filed 16 citations against this couple.

Each dog had some garbage remnant on the ground as a stand-in for shelter – a truck

cap (photo); an overturned wheel-barrow; an old broken-down wooden cabinet; two pieces of rotting plywood on a pallet, and a white plastic drum. All of the dogs had whipworms.

One dog who the defendants called "Psyche" (now renamed "Louie") was found to be blind due to untreated glaucoma. He also had hookworms. He

drinks abnormally large quantities of water, then urinates excessively, flushing out all of his electrolytes. A local veterinarian studied Louie and feels that this condition is due to long-term water deprivation.

There were 5 ducks in a cage too small for a cat. There was a decomposed cat carcass in a travel carrier. The chicken coop was so loaded with excrement that our boots repeatedly sank ankle-deep in it. The chicken coop contained a perch which appeared to be a piece of wood trim with nails through it. When the fowl would jump onto the perch, their feet would be pierced by the nails.

After being postponed twice, the case was heard on March 10th by The Honorable David W. Mark, Magistrate, District No. 27-2-01 who proposed an outline for a settlement with a guilty plea to the summary offense of Cruelty to Animals. If a Settlement Agreement cannot be reached, a new hearing date was set 30 days thereafter and Magistrate Marks will decide the outcome at that time.

The animals have been in the care of WAHS and are receiving necessary medical treatment while their fate is determined. It is imperative that they not be returned to these horrific conditions. These animals deserve to be placed in good and loving homes.



Excerpt from letter by Daniel Paden, Cruelty Caseworker Domestic Animal and Wildlife Rescue & Information Department on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA)

We believe that the accused may be animal hoarders. As you may know, the "hoarder syndrome" is not rare. Experts agree that dementia and other mental-health disorders may be at play in such cases – the hoarders' behavior akin to that of substance abusers in the following ways: preoccupation with the addiction, repetition of the addictive behavior, alibis for their behavior, neglect of personal and environmental conditions, claims of persecution, the presence of enablers who assist financially, denial that the addiction exists, varying degrees of societal isolation, and abuse of animals through neglect. Upon conviction, only carefully considered sentencing and probationary conditions can preclude the otherwise inevitable recurrence of these crimes.

On behalf of our thousands of members in Pennsylvania, we respectfully ask that, if convicted, "the defendants" be required to undergo a psychological evaluation followed by mandatory counseling at personal expense. Because repeat crimes are the rule rather than the exception among animal abusers – and this is especially true of hoarders – we also ask that you ensure that none of the aforementioned animals is returned to Mayer, per Title 18, §5511(m) of Pennsylvania Statutes, and that he is banned for life from all contact with animals.

We Thank You

BETHLEHEM-CENTER Elementary School celebrated Valentine's Day with a fundraiser for WAHS. Students and staff brought food, office supplies, and cleaning items, according to teachers Mike Bozick and Regina Sape, who initiated the drive. Mrs. Connie Tuomi and Miss Marcie Gaster, whose classes donated the greatest number of items, won a classroom pizza party for their efforts.

ANOTHER thank you, long overdue is to Paul Rudy of Pet Bath House for grooming our animals at no charge. Visit Pet Bath House at 545 Mt. Tabor Road in Coal Center.

**Please help us
continue to provide
these and other
animals a second
chance. Please make
your tax-deductible
donation payable to
the Humane Society
and mark it "Animal
Rescue Fund."**

Washington Area Humane Society
P.O. Box 66
Eighty Four, PA 15330

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WAHS Top Dog and Top Cat Photo Contest

WAHS is launching a pet photo contest. We are looking for your fantastic, fabulous, favorite, or funniest foto (sic) of your family dog or cat.

Entry fee per photo is \$5.00. Submit your photo with completed entry form and check made payable to WAHS. All funds will be used for our shelter animals. Deadline for all submissions is April 29th, 2005. Photo prints (35 mm) and high quality JPG files on PC-readable floppy disks, CDs or zip disks are acceptable. We will not accept slides, negatives or any photos sent via email. Photos cannot be returned.

An independent panel of judges will review all qualifying photos and determine the top ten finalists in each category. The top ten photos in each category will be published on May 6, 2005 on our website: www.washingtopashelter.org

For the next week visitors can cast their vote for the best photo in each category. Top Dog and Top Cat winners will be announced on our website on May 13th, 2005. Winners will receive 2 admission tickets to our next **Cash Bash** and a Free Lottery Calendar good for the entire 2005 year (retro-active to January 1st).

Start scouring those photo albums, or start clicking away. Your pet could be the next **WAHS Top Dog or Top Cat**.

*Send each photo with individual entry forms and your check payable to WAHS to: **WAHS Photo Contest, P.O. Box 66, Eighty Four, PA 15330**.*

Deadline: April 29th, 2005

WAHS Photo Contest Entry Form

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____ email _____
_____ Dog _____ Cat Pet's Name _____
Title or Caption (optional) _____
Enclosed is _____ photos at \$5.00 per entry totaling \$ _____

Special Needs Pets Need Special People



STEVEN is a neutered adult male who is a real hug-bug. He loves to sit in your lap and sleep with you. He would do best in a home with no cats or only one other gentle cat. Steven has very sensitive gums and will only eat canned food. He loves to play with his feather toy and will amuse you for hours. He needs an indoor loving home. Please call Patty about Steven at 724-267-4129.



COCOA is a joy. As a senior dog, her age shows. She is stooped and slow, but still quite happy to venture outside on leash. Cocoa, a compact am-staff, who likes other dogs. She is extremely calm, and loves to be handled. Look for her in the shelter office where she is snoozing away from the cold winter air in the kennels. She's ready to greet all visitors in high hopes of being adopted.



MAVERICK has been with us at the shelter since September, 2003. He is a gentle, loving soul who needs an indoor home. He has a kidney problem for which he occasionally requires some fluids to be given under the skin. Maverick is a very well-behaved, lap cat who will follow you around and loves attention. Please call Patty about Maverick at 724-267-4129.