



Animal Chatter

Washington Area Humane Society **SPRING 2006**

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 ★

- Dry Cat & Dog Food
- Frontline Plus for Cats
- Clay Cat Litter
- Copy Paper
- Laundry Detergent
- Dish and Hand Soap
- Baby Food (meat only)
- Unscented Baby Wipes
- Bleach
- Paper Towels
- AA Batteries
- Business Envelopes
- Postage Stamps
- Scotch Tape Rolls
- Load of Gravel for Lots
- Working Pick-up Truck
- Natural Balance Duck and Potato Dog Food

The McIntyres – Truly Angels Among Us

by Patty Gregg

THIS past summer, humane officer, Suzanne Lewis, received a call regarding a cat with his leg caught in a leg-hold trap (used to capture wild animals). The trap crushes the paw, cutting off the cat's circulation. After a week, the cat was physically exhausted and Suzanne was finally able to catch him in a net. Damage to his paw was so severe that the leg had to be amputated. After surgery, WAHS employee, Janet Eichler fostered him while he recuperated. She called him "Sampson." An ad was placed in the paper showing his leg in the trap, requesting financial help with



Sammy-3-Paws and Sir-vivor

Sampson's vet bill. Arch and Susan McIntyre saw the ad and their hearts went out to him. Not only did they offer to pay his vet bill, they also wanted to adopt him. It was a lucky day for Sampson and a few other cats when the McIntyres came to the Cat Castle to meet him. They immediately fell in love with

Sampson, now named Sammy 3-Paws. They also fell in love with "Sir-Vivor," the victim of a hit-and-run driver, who had been waiting over a year for a home. Sir-Vivor suffered a broken jaw and a fractured leg. He had been a feral cat, but was socialized during his stay at the shelter.

And as the saying goes, "Third one is a charm." A cat named Tanner reached out of a cage and touched Susan's hand. And so there was a threesome. But the story doesn't end there. The McIntyres adopted two other needy cats ... Goober and Cuddles. Cuddles came from an abusive home and Goober had an enlarged heart and kidney problems, but is doing quite well since he had medical attention and some TLC. Goober loves to follow Arch around the house.

More recently, a great dane/pitt mix named Rocky, who had several failed adoptions and spent more than a year at the shelter was another special animal that the McIntyres felt they could provide for. They built him a spacious kennel with plenty of exercise room and even adopted his playmate, Nakita for him to romp with. Because of Arch and Susan McIntyres' loving hearts and generosity, six needy animals now have a loving home.

Arch and Susan, truly "Angels among us."

Moving On After Burglary and Vandalism

THE Washington Area Humane Society was burglarized and vandalized sometime after midnight on February 1st. The whole front desk was ripped



out, the computers and printers smashed. Although the perpetrators were unable to rip out the safe that was bolted to

the floor, their effort to do so broke the safe, preventing shelter staff from recovering the contents. The burglars made off with a little petty cash, credit cards and a variety of drugs used to treat the animals. Although video surveillance was trained on shelter parking lot, the tape was also stolen. A lone, elderly dog named Jenny was

the only witness to the terrible violation. She spends her nights in a small kennel just off the main office. Fourteen-

year-old Jenny, usually joyous at the arrival of shelter workers in the morning was found cowering in the corner of the room. Fortunately no other animals were harmed.

It had been less than a month that the entire front office, volunteer room and intake room were professionally cleaned and freshly painted. This burglary follows on the heels of another break-in at WAHS's Animal Crackers Resale Shop in Washington.

Many thanks go to the generous contributors who heard of this terrible event and helped to get the Humane Society back up and running.

Volunteers Raise Community Awareness



Bethel Park Girl Scout Troop #1457, with WAHS volunteer tour leader, Connie Thorn (center)

CONNIE THORN is part of a dedicated group of WAHS volunteers who reached out to surrounding communities during this past year. Along with Pat Sphar, Jeannie Sexauer and Linda Campbell, they scheduled over 27 informative and fun tours for Girl Scout troops, schools, civic organizations and companies that chose WAHS as their charitable projects. These generous groups from Gastonville, Burgettstown, Canonsburg, Bethel Park, Upper St. Clair, South Park,

Peters Township, Avella, Muse, Macey's Department Store, Old Navy and the Washington County Health Center donated significant items from our shelter's wish list.

They collected money. They baked treats. They even returned to walk dogs, cuddle cats and be "helping hands" around the

kennel. These volunteer leaders delivered educational programs on pet care and safety to school assemblies and to a summer gym camp. Our pets were also featured on KDKA-TV's adoption segment. Afternoons for the elder care homes were brightened by visits from our socialized cats and obedience-trained "demo dogs". These outreach activities helped the communities to better appreciate WAHS and to meet very adoptable pets.

Requests for these programs are increasing and to meet the demand, we need more people with the interest and basic skills to join our volunteer team. Training will be provided. Call the shelter (724-222-7387) for more information. Volunteer applications are online at washingtonpashelter.org. It is a rewarding opportunity to interact with good people and wonderful, deserving pets in need.

by Linda Campbell



PETsMART Photos With Santa

DURING the Christmas Holiday, 85 dogs and cats visited the Strabane Square PETsMART to sit on Santa's lap and have their photo taken. Half of the proceeds benefitted WAHS. Thank you to PETsMART Charities for donating \$425.00 to the Humane Society, and to Bill Cox and John Summers for filling in for Santa. A Thank you also goes to Santa's helpers: Harriet Gould, Sandy Costello, Theresa McCall, Rita Zimmerman, Karen Dean, and Marcia Rothaar, for taking the photos and placing them in the gift frames donated by the PETsMART store.

100 Years of Wags & Whiskers Celebration, Saturday, September 9th, 2006

Joining PATHS Helps Maintain Steady Stream of Income

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 _____

Saving Little Lives is a Huge Job by Gary Malaskovitz

IT was bitterly cold on Sunday, February 19. Temperatures started at 3 degrees and topped out at 21. This was the day I accompanied Humane Society Police Officer, Tina Ealy to observe her as she protects the animals of Washington County. Ealy drives the shelter's van 100-200 miles each work day as she covers all areas of the county enforcing Pennsylvania's Cruelty to Animal statutes.

While Officer Ealy's day started at 8am taking her first to Monongahela to follow up on an abandoned dog and then to Houston to check on a neglected cat, our first field visit together was to a home in Washington to check on a neglected dog that a neighbor had reported was left behind when the owner moved. Officer Ealy posted a warning at the property a day earlier. State law requires notices to be posted to animal owners at the property to improve the conditions of the animals. If no improvements are made after 24 hours, animals are subject to seizure as abandoned.

Never without her cell phone, Ealy takes a call en route informing her by a neighbor that the situation with the neglected dog has been corrected. The owner returned to provide food, water and most importantly on this extremely cold day, a box with hay. After the call, Ealy reflects that her job "isn't about getting people in trouble, it's about the welfare of the animals." As she jots down notes of the call in her log book she continues, "the animals come first, that's how I view it." She is satisfied that the posted Notice to Correct appears to have worked for now, although she will follow up in a few days.

The only exception to posting such a notice is when animals are in dire conditions as was the situation a week prior when Ealy seized two dogs in need of immediate medical attention. Relegated to the backyard when a new baby arrived, the owners ignored the dogs. They did not provide food and water, essentially starving them until a neighbor reported them for animal

cruelty. When Ealy arrived to investigate, additional horrors were discovered. A cord around each of their necks was so tight it had become embedded in their flesh; one so severely it caused an 8-inch laceration about an inch deep. Ealy transported the two dogs, affectionately named Thelma and Louise, to the shelter for treatment. The case against the owner is still pending.

With a never-ending inventory of cases to investigate, our next stop was to a location visited several times over the past month. A report was received that five pit bulls were tied outside with no food or water. Their owner moved, leaving the care of the dogs to someone else. Upon arrival Ealy found that three of the dogs were severely malnourished and she arranged for their surrender. The two remaining dogs, in fairly good shape and each



with a doghouse, remained with the owner on his promise to regularly check on the dogs. We not only found their water dishes frozen solid but one dog was tangled by its chain around a tree leaving it almost immobilized. The dog could not reach the food, water or get inside the doghouse for shelter from the cold. Ealy, always aware of the possibility of aggressive dogs, moved cautiously to attempt to untangle the dog from the tree. With little success, and the dog agitated, she arranged to have another Humane Officer return later that day to help free the dog. She left fresh water and food within reach of the dog along with the promise to return and complete the job, which would include a phone call demanding an explanation from the absentee owner.

After a few more notes in her log book, we were off to the next location in Marianna. As we drove, Ealy explained that a woman had previously called about two abandoned dogs and a cat at a trailer where it was apparent the owner had moved. Upon the first visit a 24-hour Notice to Correct was posted and the owner responded by retrieving the dogs but claimed that the cat did not belong to her. Days later, the concerned neighbor

Continued on page 4

Resale Shop Created to Support WAHS



869 Henderson Ave. (Rt 18N)
Washington, PA 15301
724-228-2840

Open Tues.- Sat., 10am-6 pm
(closed Sunday and Monday)

Mission: To ease the financial burden of the Washington Area Humane Society, in order to always remain a no kill facility and truly give all the animals a new leash on life.

THE ongoing maintenance of the Washington Area Humane Society costs about a half million dollars per year. Those funds do not come from city, county, state nor federal government. The money comes from private donations and through fundraising efforts.

Board member, Jean Amend researched and found that some Humane Societies had successfully launched resale shops to help support their shelters. With little more than determination, Amend with the help of a handful of others opened Animal Crackers

Resale Shop in July of 2005. Proceeds are used to support the Washington Area Humane Society exclusively.

Animal Crackers carries an eclectic variety of merchandise that includes small appliances, jewelry, furniture, apparel, books, electronics, art, and all sorts of household items priced to move.

Animal Crackers accepts gently used, resalable items. All donations are tax deductible. Please shop at Animal Crackers where there is always something for everyone.

Happy Ending for Sebastian



Claudette and Sebastian relaxing

I JUST wanted to thank you all for the wonderful work you do at the Humane Society, and what you have added to my life. When I adopted Sebastian, I knew that he would be a pleasure, but I had no idea of how good giving him a loving home would make me feel. When he came to us, he wouldn't eat and the sad part was that he kept his head down and wouldn't even look at you. He was thin and meowed loudly and alot. Today, you wouldn't even know that he is the same cat. He is a real "chow-hound cat"; loves a lap to sit on, and looks right into your eyes, plays with you, and yes, he is very vocal and talks to us loudly all the time. He has gained alot of weight and is a big beautiful Tabby. He is loved very much and is a real addition to our lives.

I have always had an animal (dogs and cats) and can truly attest to the fact that they give you much pleasure and unconditional love. They are very special God's creatures and may God bless you all for the wonderful work you do.

Sincerely,
Claudette Bonadio



JAZZ was surrendered due to his owner's divorce. This 3-year-old Lab is housebroken, has been in a home with dogs and cats and knows the basic commands. But Jazz really needs some patience and TLC to learn to trust people again.

Cats vs Dogs

Approximately 35 million American homes have a dog in residence. Cats inhabit fewer households, but since cat owners are more likely than dog owners to keep multiple pets, the total number of cats in the country exceeds dogs by about 5 million.

Saving Little Lives ...continued from page 3

reported that although she was feeding the cat, it looked frail and cold and would always return to the vacant trailer. The cat could now be considered abandoned and seized. With the description of the cat, and the location of the trailer, it was easy to find the cat huddled haplessly on the back porch. With ease and confidence, Ealy scooped up the dirty white cat and walked back to the van reassuring it that everything would be okay.

Once the cat was secured in a carrier in the van, Ealy called the shelter to alert the vet tech that she was en route with an abandoned cat. After making a few more notes in her log book, we returned to the shelter. The cat, who Ealy named Bianca was examined upon arrival. The vet tech completed several blood tests with good results, Bianca



Humane Officer, Tina Ealy brings abandoned cat back to WAHS.

could be up for adoption within two weeks. During this initial examination, Ealy retrieved three new voicemail messages regarding possible neglected animals throughout the county. Although it was two o'clock, she knew that her day was far from over. Ealy, heading toward the door, a slight smile on her face said "I better gas up the van."