



Animal Chatter

Washington Area Humane Society **SUMMER 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
- Microscope
- Autoclave
- Centrifuge

It's What's Underneath That Counts

IT IS ALMOST indescribable how this sweet, loving dog looked when he was first brought in by the humane officer. Unable to tell whether he was poodle, Airedale or sheepdog, this unrecognizable dog was brought to the shelter with 13 pounds of utterly solid masses of matted fur that dragged on the ground. The sheer weight of it pulled painfully at his skin and obscured his vision as well as a growth near one of his eyes. Bear was clearly left tied up outside for a long, long time. A tip from a neighbor saved him from continuing a bleak and lonely life lived at the end of a



chain you could tow a car with. After a visit to a groomer who clipped and shaved him to chinchilla softness, and then a veterinarian, Bear was given a clean bill of health. Most surprising of all, despite his isolation, he showed himself to be an absolute gentleman who

is calm, affectionate and companionable to both dogs and people alike. Although conditions understandably resulted in Bear having not been housebroken, Bear has recently been adopted and will hopefully spend the rest of his life in a caring, loving, comfortable home.

NOW OPEN
Animal Crackers
RESALE SHOP
869 Henderson Avenue
Washington, PA 15301
Wed - Sun: 10 am - 6pm
Phone: 724-228-2840
Proceeds benefit WAHS

Fueling Fundraising by Making it Fun

MANY of you have come up with ingenious ways to help us in the past. We need your input more than ever. Some ideas:

Birthday Wishes

Many wonderful kids have said no to birthday gifts on their special day, asking instead that their guests bring a monetary donation for the shelter. And you don't have to be a kid!

Office Supplies

If your office has extra paper, pens, envelopes, batteries, brooms, mops, light bulbs, tape, staples, CDs, floppy discs or the like, talk to your employer and co-workers about creating a donation package for WAHS.

We also need copiers, printers, computers, and used chairs if you upgrade. And save those \$10 off cards from Staples and Office Max. We can always use them, too.

Play Games

Host a bridge game and collect entry fees to donate to WAHS. You get to see all your friends and have fun too. Or, make it poker or bingo and donate half the pot!

Meet the Neighbors

A neighborhood walk can yield a truckload of blankets, towels, leashes, and the occasional 5-spot when you tell them it's for WAHS.

Match the Funds

If you work for a company with a compassionate owner, see if they are willing to match any funds you collect at work.

Learning to Give

Any school-age child can reach a lot of their friends and peers with tales (tails) of homeless shelter animals. Book reports, presentations and organized events like bake sales that end with a collection of dog or cat food and spare change is a great way to get kids involved.

Try Clubbing

Girl scouts, boy scouts, and every manner of young peoples' clubs can help the dogs and cats at WAHS. We can provide many items that

can be sold such as coupon cards, lottery calendars; cook-books, magnets and gift wrap paper for your organization. You can even start your own club ... about dogs!

Spring Cleaning

Take a look in the attic, basement and garage and you will probably find loads of stuff that is just collecting dust. Organize a neighborhood yard sale to raise money for the shelter or donate the items to our new resale shop.

Get Creative

Have a fundraising idea that you're dying to share with us? Write or send an email to: washahs@fyi.net and let us know what you're thinking.

VOLUNTEER PROFILE

Remembering Dr. Al Sorensen

DR. AL SORENSON, a retired physician, found his way to the shelter serendipitously and soon after claimed it as his second home. The sad eyes, anxious pacing, and intensely loud barking never put him off for a second. The tall, thin doctor Al, leashed up dog after dog for some critical one-on-one time out on the walking trail every minute he could spare. When a large pit-bull mix surprised him with a sudden yank that flattened him and shattered his kneecap, he spent his recovery focusing attention on the puppies. His new regimen was to let all the puppies out for a romp while he cleaned their cages in the evenings after the shelter was closed.



For the past six months, Al devoted himself to the cleaning, care and exercise of the many dogs temporarily housed in the new Falconi building, who have been at the center of a contentious court case that has yet to come to a final conclusion. These poor dogs have been kept in limbo and the only consistent face they have seen night after night has been that of doctor Al. With a wife and multiple dogs of his own (more than one from the Washington Area Humane Society including a blind, deaf cocker spaniel named Moe) he never missed a day. Other volunteers were asked to help lighten the load, but nobody gave as much as Al did.

The physical demands of Al's devotion was exhausting for even the heartiest, let alone a fragile septuagenarian. When volunteers arrived the evening of Thursday, June 23rd to help Al with the dogs, Al was not there. Doctor Al died earlier that day at home in the company of his dogs.

Al Sorensen was the quintessential benefactor to our shelter. When we couldn't afford an air conditioner for the puppy room, he purchased it and had it installed. When ringworm threatened the cats in the cat castle, Doctor Sorensen researched the management and course of medication that could save the lives of many cats. When a broken-down, seriously ill, infirm or ancient dog arrived at the shelter, Al would devote himself to making that animal

feel safe, comfortable and loved. He paid many an animal's medical bills and had them groomed even if they were not going to live much longer. If he could help solve a problem with money, he did. If he could help by applying his thinking cap, he did. But all that kind of help paled in comparison to the biggest gift he continuously showered upon us ... his time. No other volunteer put in the hours that Dr. Al did with the dogs. Every aspect of his help and support of the shelter will be missed by staff and volunteers alike. His contributions have and will continue to help the animals at the WAHS. But the only thing that the "dogs that loved him" will notice and badly miss will be the conspicuous absence of doctor Al, leash in hand.

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

Your Help As a P.A.T.H. Member Keeps Us Going

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 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 _____

Volunteers With Experience Handling Farm Animals Needed

WE ARE asking for volunteers who may be able to help us with our farm animal cases. We occasionally need to remove farm animals from neglectful situations. We are in need of volunteers who are experienced in handling farm animals, people who have access to horse and livestock trailers, trucks to pull those trailers, and perhaps empty stalls in a barn and/or unused pastures. Some of these animals need immediate vet care, blacksmith/farrier care and/or grooming care as well.

In some cases we must apply for a Search & Seizure Warrant, and we only have 48 hours in which to execute that Warrant. That means that from the time the District Attorney's Office grants the Warrant, we have 48 hours to line up the volunteers and transportation, then quickly and safely round up the animals and load them into the trailers and get them to their destination(s) so they may receive the care they need.

If any of you are interested in volunteering in any way, please call us at 724-222-7387, ext. 5 and leave a message on our voicemail. Please understand that these cases are rare, and we will try to give you as much advance notice as possible. If we have a list of contacts who are willing to volunteer their time, equipment and expertise, it will help these animals tremendously.

Thank you, and we look forward to speaking with you soon!

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".



A Belated Holiday Thank You

Lost in the shuffle of last year's holiday excitement and chaos was a letter from Santa Paws. It read:

Yes! Washington Area Humane Society – there is a Santa Paws. With two young helpers, named Lauren Holmes and Amanda Holmes. A holiday food drive was put together to donate food for the homeless animals for the Washington Area Humane Society.

The food drive was very successful. Many donations included bags of dog and cat food, treats, dog shampoo, and flea shampoo. The girls came up with this idea because of their great love for all of the homeless animals. The food was collected through the girl's school (South Fayette School District).

Many kind hearts responded for donations. Our hope is that all the animals get the loving homes that they truly deserve. This project was done with much hope and love from two young girls who have a lot of hope for the Washington Area Humane Society.

Love,
Santa Paws

Keep Four on the Floor For a Harmonious Home

IT CAN BE a very controversial topic. There are many dog owners who enjoy the comfort of a sleeping dog at night who will never be convinced that it can be a recipe for disaster.

On the surface it's understandable that loving owners like their dogs in bed with them. After all, isn't all that snuggling reassuring to the dog that it is loved and considered an equal member of the family? The short and easy answer is that it is both of those things. But is it best for the family? Most experts agree that it isn't.

Many experts (including Patricia B. McConnell, author of *How to become Leader of the Pack* and Temple Grandin, author of *Animals in Translation*), behavioral specialists and veterinarians do not endorse the inclusion of dogs on the furniture. The reason is simple, but not obvious. Dogs view vertical height as a direct sign of status. Since most adults tower over even the largest dog, they command a level of respect by default of their stature. A dog

permitted on a couch or bed, is conferred a sense of status that can escalate into feelings of dominance that can lead to big problems. The first sign of trouble is the inability to scoot the dog off the furniture when necessary. Dogs who have established their dominance may snarl, growl or snap to the shock of their owner when told to get down. In other cases, a dog's sense of equality to humans can result in the lunging at and biting of children who have lower status

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We Thank You

EACH YEAR, as a part of the Vacation Bible School at the Trinity United Methodist Church in McMurray, the children are given an opportunity to reach out and help others by bringing in donations. In years past, it has usually been items for a local food bank, but this year, WAHS received donations of paper towels, bleach, cat and dog food, kitty litter, and toys for the animals.

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because of their short height and general non-participation in training and discipline.

It sounds a little unbelievable that allowing your pet to enjoy your company on the furniture could lead to such chaos. But time and time again a dog who is returned for snapping, biting and aggressive behavior (most often to children), we find had been given free reign to lounge like royalty on sofas, beds and chairs. And this occurs with highly trained pedigree dogs as well as rowdy mutts. It does not *always* happen in the short run and it may *never* happen, but it is not unusual to witness a sudden eruption as much as a year down the road when it is least expected. Disturbing a dog around his sleeping quarters and near his food – both areas of valuable resources – can touch off unexpected behavior in dogs which is undesirable particularly when it is *your* sleeping quarters where the tiff occurs.

A dog is most reliable, and feels more comfortable when he **knows** his place in the pack, which is as “low man on the totem pole”. Dominant, status-seeking dogs may

always exert subtle pressure to be top dog. But it is going to be much easier and more harmonious in the home if you make sure that he keeps all four on the floor.

It's not too late. You can retrain your dog. Find information online by typing “keeping dogs off furniture” in Google.



SPARKY plays with many other dogs in the new play area. This muscled lab-mix loves the baby pool and plays to the level of whoever is with him. In his cage, he circles continuously and barks when anyone walks by. But once outside, Sparky is a calm, sweet boy who rolls in the grass or lies at your side. He has been in a cage a long time and is one of the nicest dogs you will meet.

Old Navy Visits WAHS



JEFF SELVOS KI and Bambino stretched their legs at WAHS after a shelter tour held on July 20th when a group of employees from Old Navy came to lend a helping hand. Organized by volunteer, Donna Maceiko, five of her Old Navy associates brought a collection of donation items and walked a lot of dogs on that hot, humid day with big smiles and encouraging words to their happy charges.

Stressed Out From Long Kennel Stays



CINDER S is a beautiful gray cat who has been with us for almost two years. On the surface she is shy and afraid, but she is one of our most lovable cats. Having a history of abuse, it takes a while for her to feel comfortable around new people and surroundings. Cinders needs a quiet, loving home with an adult who possesses patience, love and compassion.



NAKITA is a little boxer mix – a bright, engaging, energetic girl who would thrive with an owner who is willing to take the time to translate her “smarts” into good manners. She spends much of her time jumping up and down in her kennel waiting for a chance to go outside and play. Nakita knows “sit” and “down”, is housebroken, and extremely affectionate.