



# Animal Chatter

Washington Area Humane Society **SPRING 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
- Clay Cat Litter
- Nature's Earth Pine Litter
- Laundry Detergent
- Dish and Hand Soap
- Baby Food (meat only)
- Unscented Baby Wipes
- Bleach
- Paper Towels
- Copy Paper
- Business Envelopes
- Postage Stamps
- Scotch Tape Rolls
- Load of Gravel for Lots
- Working Pick-up Truck
- Mulch for Outside Areas
- Metal Storage Sheds

## Meet Brinkley, WAHS's New Mascot

We got a call about 3 dogs running around in Amity in early March. Two had left by the time the Humane Officer arrived but the third one was lying down in a valley by a creek. He was cold and wet when we got there and the people who called in about the dogs went down to the field with us to see him. He could not cross the creek so we went back for more help. The field was too wet and muddy for a vehicle, so with help from volunteers, in a make shift stretcher, we carried him up the hill in the rain.

Brinkley is an 8-10 year-old neutered chocolate labrador



retriever who suffers from hip dysplasia. He is also missing all the toes on his front left paw due, perhaps, to his foot having been caught in a trap. Despite all his hardships, Brinkley is a love! Even though he's in pain, he is always happy to see people and he lets you know with his wagging tail and happy

expression. Just call his name and watch his eyes light up.

Brinkley will be on pain medication at a cost of about \$3 a day for the rest of his life. He also needs to have both hips replaced at an estimated cost of \$5,000, but due to his advanced age, surgery may not be a realistic option. We are not asking for money for his surgery, but if you would like to help with his medication for a day or two, mail a check with a note that it is for Brinkley or stop out at the shelter and place a few dollars in the jar at the desk designated for the "Brinkley Fund". And while you're there be sure to say hello to "Our Brinkley." He'd love to meet you!

## Moving On After Burglary

THANKS to the generosity of local animal lovers Frank and Athena Sarris of Sarris Candies, the shelter will soon have a



new Guardian security/fire alarm system. The shelter recently suffered a serious financial setback when someone burglarized and trashed the newly renovated

shelter offices and adoption room. Without the means to purchase this system and the remote location of the shelter, it was easy to break into the facility after hours. This has happened on more than one occasion and fortunately, to date, none of the animals were harmed. Now, thanks to the Sarris', we can all breathe a little easier when we turn off the lights and close up the shelter at the end of the day!

## Hear us on "X"

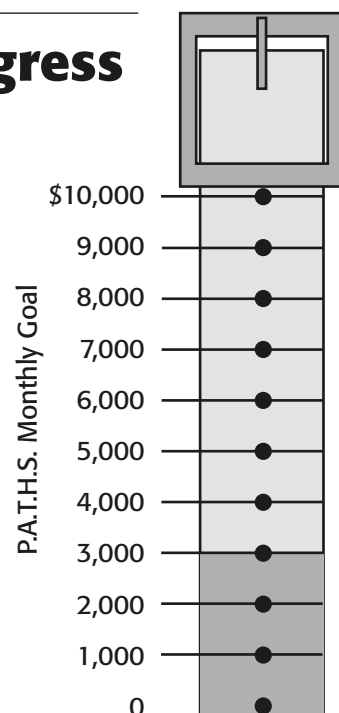
Each Thursday around 10:40 am, a WAHS adoptable dog is featured on-air thanks to sponsor, Extreme Cycles of Washington and host WXDX FM.

## P.A.T.H.S. Progress

Monthly pledges to our PATHS (Partners, Angels, Trustees, Helpers, Saviors) program help provide a steady stream of income on a monthly basis. We send out stamped envelopes each month for your donation.

Annual expenses are roughly \$500,000. Currently PATHS is receiving \$3,000 a month in pledges. Our goal is to increase that amount to \$10,000 per month.

For more information about PATHS or to join the program, call Barb at 724-229-0404.





*BamBam, a young rottie-mix has improved dramatically due to Adaira's personal attention to him.*

This is the kind of animal lover I am, in a nutshell... I want every animal I see. If I have a choice between having a stimulating conversation with an adult or a furry friend to play with and pet, I choose the animal every time.

I remember thinking how much I might enjoy volunteering at the shelter, but I would always

## **I Couldn't Do That!** *by Adaira Rufer*

deny the urge with one sentence, "I couldn't do that". I thought that I would pull my car up to the door, open the cages, and direct them one by one into the vehicle that would drive them away to sweet freedom.

When my father retired from the steel mill, he applied for a job at the humane society. After a few weeks of constant questions from me along the lines of what does that dog look like, how old is that dog, is that cat nice, etc., my dad had me help him on a Saturday in the Falconi Building. Okay, I'd help dad out! I still wasn't sure if I would run out of there crying at the end of the day, but I was curious and excited to help. I met dad at the building and walked in. Wait, these dogs aren't sad. These dogs aren't dirty and mistreated. They look happy. I might be able to do this.

The next weekend, dad was done with his work and ready to leave. I took my own car in case I wanted to leave early. On the contrary, he couldn't convince me to leave. When we were done with the Falconi dogs, I went to see if there was anything else I could do in the main shelter. I didn't think my heart could hold anymore affection than it did for Zeus, Lance, Lady, Barney, and the beagles, but low and behold my heart expanded and I fell in love with each and every dog in the shelter. "I can do this". I may not be able to give them a home, as I already have an old dog and three very spoiled cats, but I can love these dogs while I'm here.

I started walking the dogs regularly and learned about their personalities, their likes, their dislikes. I learned that although they are in cages

most of the day, they are loved. They are treated very well, and the staff and other volunteers love every one of them. So, even if I couldn't bring them all home, I would come to their temporary home and share my day with them. Every weekend when I go to see who is still at the shelter, it makes me smile when one is gone. I say to myself "I will miss you, but I'm glad you're gone". Nothing makes me happier than to know that a dog or cat is sitting on a couch or doggy pillow sleeping soundly or running in the yard with a child. I picture couples walking with their new dog in the park or an older gentleman reading the paper with his furry companion by his side. The sweet sorrow of watching an animal leave is why I became a volunteer and ***I could do that.***

## **Fostering Cats & Kittens: Necessary and Rewarding**

*by Susanne Lewis*

It's kitten season again and our shelter will take in hundreds of abandoned cats and orphaned kittens. Many of those orphans need to be bottle or syringe fed, and are sick with an upper respiratory infection (URI) that will require medical intervention. In addition, many will be loaded with fleas. A flea infestation can actually kill an animal, especially the very young and weak. When tiny kittens are crawling with fleas, they are weak, anemic, dehydrated and frightened. It is a race against time to save their lives. We immediately bathe them to rid them of most of the fleas, then we scramble to give them subcutaneous fluids, feed and medicate them, and try to keep them warm, all at the same time.



We are making an appeal for donations of Frontline for our animals this summer. It can be purchased at our front desk at our cost, or send a donation specifying that it be designated for Frontline for our animals.

How else can you help? Consider making your home a foster home for our needy animals.

Year after year we count on the same few people to foster sick and/or underdeveloped animals. When nurtured in a home environment, these animals recover more quickly and completely. You cannot catch URI from sick animals, nor do we ask anyone to take home animals with fleas. We eradicate the fleas and stabilize the animals before we ask you to foster them.

In addition, some of our sick kittens are old enough to eat on their own, but too young to be spayed or neutered. We sometimes get mother cats with a litter, or pregnant cats about to give birth. A shelter environment is stressful on sick animals, new mothers and their newborns. They too, need

to be in a non-shelter environment to thrive and become socialized, making them more adoptable.

All it takes is a little time, and a lot of love! We realize that a litter of 10 kittens may be too much for a person to manage, but even if you take just two of the smallest or weakest of a litter, it is a tremendous help! And when you foster animals for us, you can adopt one of them at no charge!

Please feel free to call me at 724-344-5312 with any questions you may have about fostering, or call the Shelter at 724-222-7387 during business hours and speak with one of our staff members. The rewards far outweigh the commitment.

## Brighter is Better: Electricians Lend Their Expertise by Gary Malaskovitz

At the shelter, there is a never-ending list of projects that need to be completed. When new lights needed to be installed in the large kennel, a request for help was directed to Brett Lutz, an electrician, who is also a volunteer. He visited the shelter to assess the project and more importantly, he found a willing helper in his friend, Steve Kashmer, an electrician with Valley Electric located in Imperial, PA.

Brett and Steve not only donated their time to install the lights, they were able to coordinate the donation of the ten fluorescent fixtures and bulbs by City Lighting Products, of Sewickley, PA. The additional

supplies were donated by Steve himself. The shelter relies on the generosity of others and it is difficult to find individuals with technical expertise. Brett and Steve, and the companies they worked



*Bret Lutz's dogs, Griffin and Haley*

with, have generously answered our request for help. The results of these brighter kennel runs are clearly visible

in the eyes of both the dogs and the visiting public.

While working on this project, Brett explained how he became a volunteer for the shelter. He said his first exposure to the shelter was when he adopted a yellow lab name Griffin in October, 2003. Brett stated "he turned out to be a great dog and I wanted to give a little back to the shelter to help some of the other dogs find good homes as well." With that in mind, Brett saw a note in the shelter's newsletter seeking a volunteer electrician. Since then, Brett has donated his valuable time to complete several electrical projects for us. His continued help, and the

help from people like Steve, are vital to the ongoing improvement efforts at the shelter and indeed help other dogs find good homes.

## Rabies Clinic



Our Spring Rabies Clinic was a great success. Over 150 dogs and cats were vaccinated against rabies or received their annual booster vaccination. A special thank you to Laura Claus, Rita Zimmerman, Jeannie Sexauer, Pat Sphar, and Stacia Wright for completing the rabies vaccination receipts; Jen Bamberger and Michelle Phillips for assisting Dr. John Hansell, and to Dr. Hansell for volunteering his afternoon to help the Humane Society.

Pictured above is Dr. Hansell vaccinating Deborah Delisio's Border Collie, "Lexi."

## Illegal Trap Killed Bentleyville Family Dog

Humane Officer Marcia Rothaar received a call from Animal Control, Saturday, May 27 around 9:15am about a call from a distraught family in Bentleyville, who discovered their dog dead in their front yard with a trap on his head.

When Rothaar arrived, the owners were in tears. They had adopted a brother and sister from our shelter about five years ago. The dogs, Lugar and Mouzar were kept outside tied to dog houses (it isn't clear whether the current WAHS policy that requires dogs to be kept inside was implemented

that long ago). The owner said that Lugar was tied out as usual when he was fed Friday evening.

Another disturbing piece in this tragic puzzle was that Animal Control had received another call the Friday evening before, about a dog running loose with a trap on his head. They investigated but were unable to locate the dog. Game Warden, Officer Richard Joyce had also been called to the Bentleyville home since trapping this time of the year is illegal. Officer Joyce did not feel that Lugar would have

been able to run very far with the trap sprung around his neck, which makes him think that there is a second dog still out there ensnared in a trap.

The family said that they had lost 3 dogs since they have lived in that area. They suspect that two may have been poisoned, but there is no evidence to support the assertion.

The trap that killed Lugar is typically used to trap beaver and muskrat at the water's edge. The wire trap, that sits flat on the ground characterized by an "X" in the center also did not have any owner identification, which is required by law. Officer Joyce mentioned that this is at least the second illegal trap that he has seen in the last few months.

If anyone has information about these illegal traps or about the events surrounding the death of Lugar, please call Officer Joyce at 724-238-9523.



*Lugar's sister, Mouzar (left) and the illegal trap that killed Lugar.*

**Our goal** starting June 1st is to get 100 companion animals adopted in 100 days during this, our centennial year. A dog training DVD or 3 sheets

of kitty giftwrap will be given to each adopter through September 8th. **Then join us on September 9th for a celebration of 100 Years of Wags & Whiskers.**

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

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The Washington Area Humane Society and the Tuxes for Tails committee would like to thank some of their corporate sponsors for their continued support and dedication to our cause:

- EOG Resources, Inc.
- Hilton Garden Inn at Southpointe
- Millcraft Industries
- Southpointe Dentistry

Please save the date of September 15, 2006, for the Third Annual Tuxes For Tails featuring live entertainment by the Boilermaker Jazz Band. In addition, we anticipate our silent auction having even more wonderful items this year. For ticket or sponsorship information you may contact: Carie Smith at 412-296-4409.

## Lost A Pet?

Visit **Telephonepole.org**. This website helps reconnect people and their lost pets in Western Pennsylvania.

## Help Us Look Back

Were you involved with the Washington Area Humane Society prior to 1975 as a staff member, volunteer, foster parent or adopt a pet that you would like to tell us about? We are looking for articles, pictures, or stories to finish our scrap book for our First 100 Years Celebration. Please send any stories or pictures you may have to the Washington Area Humane Society directly. Please mark the envelope 100 Year Celebration.

## You Said it!

BE creative, clever, poignant or just plain funny. Enter your best lines by writing a caption for one or all of the photos that will be featured in our upcoming 2007 calendar.

Selected captions, with author credit will accompany each photo. To enter, visit our web-site to see all the photos: [www.washingtonpashelter.org/caption.htm](http://www.washingtonpashelter.org/caption.htm)

Submit online, or download a form and mail it to us.

## Huggy In Need.



I'm a senior cat and my days now are very lonely, as I spend my time in a cage with many other unwanted cats. The shelter staff said my owner was moving and could not take me with her. I miss her so much. Then a vet tech said that I had too much urine in my litter box. She took some blood and sent it to a lab to see what the problem was. I am in the early stage of kidney failure, but I feel fine, eat good, have energy, and lots of love to give to someone who needs a

friend. I'm on special food to stop further degeneration of my kidneys, and everyone takes good care of me, but I miss having someone to love. I am declawed. I will follow you around the house and be your lap cat and constant companion. I am rather vocal and if you're lonely, I could talk to you and keep you company. Visit me in the "Cat Adoption Area," To hear more about me, call Patty at 724-267-4129. Here I am pictured with a senior friend who I visit occasionally.