



# Animal Chatter

Washington Area Humane Society **SUMMER 2008**

1527 Rt. 136 | Eighty Four, PA 15330 | 724-222-PETS | 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
- Dry Kitten Food
- Kitten Milk Replacer
- Clay Cat Litter
- Bleach (*we use a lot*)
- Laundry Detergent
- Paper Towels
- Baby Food (*meat only*)
- 38 Gallon Trash Bags
- Postage Stamps

## HOGs Fur Dogs & Cats Poker Run

The 6th annual run benefitting WAHS will be Saturday, August 9th starting from Steel City Harley-Davidson/Honda and ending at Jay's Sports Bar at Southpointe.

Donations, gift certificates and other items suitable for their Chinese Auction will be greatly appreciated.

Contact H.O.G. member, and animal lover, Rick George at 412.997.0898 or Michael Inks at 412.576.3371 or Lisa Bakaysza at 724.225.7020 for more information.



## About ... A Million (Not) Our Way

In just 24 hours, we went from giddy to glum as our magical ride on the zootoo train came to a screeching halt in of all places, Disneyland. It happened on May 15th on a stage in Orlando when the top three shelters in the six-month long contest for a million dollar shelter makeover were finally announced by zootoo founder, Richard Thompson. The Washington Area Humane Society was not among them. Holding a two-foot long mock check next to 19 other anxious, trembling finalists, WAHS board president, Kelley Keane stood in front of a huge crowd. After announcing the finalists, Thompson called Kelley to the front of the stage. Along with the \$5,000 WAHS received as a top 20 finalist, Thompson handed her another \$5,000 check for the shelter's status as the top point earner in the contest.

We were all convinced that it was a lock for us. We had done everything asked of us. We earned more points; recruited the most registrants; and garnered unprecedented

community support. And we are so very thankful and grateful to everyone who helped propel us to that number one spot.

We met many of the finalists and heard their stories. They congratulated us and wished us good luck. In fact, the top 20 was a very homogenous group, all with dilapidated facilities, inadequate space, concrete block and chain link fence. You would be hard-pressed to pick our shelter out of the mix. We all had deep need. We all wanted to win the big prize. We all wanted it for the animals.

Thompson urged all the "winners" to continue to ride the wave of public support — to put their feet to the fire those who pledged a contribution IF the makeover was won — to turn promises into cash.

Yes, we were stunned and a lot of people were extremely disappointed. It was an American Idol moment of loss. Yet in the 102 years that WAHS has

existed, we had never seen this level of public support, nor media attention. And that was due solely to the catalyst of the zootoo competition. Now we must make a million our way.

Imagine if those 16,000+ supporters who were hoping, wishing, praying that we would win,

# zootoo Boo Hoo

would donate just \$5.00 a month—16 cents a day—that would be a million dollars.

We want to improve, enhance, and grow our shelter for the community it serves and most importantly for our dogs and cats. We're a little sore, but we are by no means losers. We don't need your pity. We need your dollars. And if a whole lot of people support us with as little as \$5.00 a month, we can make a million our way and build our real dream shelter.



# Nothing Beats the Rewards

by René D Beck

In February 2007, a classmate and I attended our first volunteer meeting in support of the Washington Area Humane Society. Considering my love of dogs and their constant need for volunteers, I knew this was the right choice for me.



## Radio Broadcast (WXDX)

The WXDX-FM (the X on 105.9) radio broadcast is sponsored by Extreme Cycles of Washington County. Our spot is every Thursday at 10:40 a.m. where we have two full minutes to discuss the featured dog of the week. This is a great way to reach a large audience. The two-minute conversation includes a detailed description of the dog, energy level, age, temperament, and how they get along with other dogs and/or children. We mention how the dog

Among the dogs I've taken to the station were Nytro, Paige, Elvis, and a puppy without a name who was later named Ivan, by a listener. I'm happy to say they were all adopted. Including travel time it takes about three hours from beginning to end. I work full time, but am able to take advantage of our company's flexible work schedule and personal time plan to help the short-staffed radio station volunteers. Currently there are four individuals who support the radio station volunteer program. We all work together to never miss a week which could be a missed opportunity for another adoption.

## And Then Came Aerial

I already had two dogs when I started walking dogs at the shelter. Aerial was the third dog I walked and she was an angel. She was brought in by the Humane Officer as a stray, half starved and frozen, and shot in the back of her leg. My heart just went out to her. We spent a good bit of time together that day. Three weeks later Aerial was still at the shelter. I took her home to see how she would do with my other dogs. I took a good hard look at my lifestyle, and whether it was possible for Aerial to join the family. It took some work and time to get her

socialized with the other dogs, but we worked through it and she is now part of the family.

## Why I Chose WAHS

I grew up on a small farm with ponies, dogs, cats, and a pig. If my mom couldn't find me I was either on my pony or in a dog box! I focused a lot of my younger years taking care of sick and abused animals. I learned that an animal has a heart just as a human does; that they feel love, pain, fear, joy, jealousy and companionship.

My past has helped me better understand and relate to the dogs at the shelter. Every dog has a story and I enjoy giving extra attention to these lovable companions. Every time I leave the shelter I feel empowered and complete. It's just a few hours a week, but it is by far the most rewarding few hours I experience each week. Some people say they can not visit because it breaks their heart. But if they knew how much better off these animals are than in an abusive home or abandoned, they would see how much love is at the shelter. Sometimes you need to look outside of yourself and into the heart of others to do what's right for the betterment of others and remember that the more volunteers, the merrier!

***René was drawn to a malnourished pointer who had been shot in the leg, and though she already had two dogs, she made room in her life for Aerial.***

Listening to the opening dialog between the energetic volunteers helped prompt new ideas while encouraging everyone to join efforts. On average about twenty volunteers attend these meetings. Faces change and new volunteers are always welcome. As this was my first meeting, I didn't really know what to expect, and within minutes I felt like part of the family. Although there were numerous volunteer opportunities, I decided to volunteer for the local radio broadcast show, and to be a dog walker.

came to the shelter; as strays, or abandoned, or seized by a Humane Officer. We also provide recommendations on what type of person would be best suited for the dog. The radio station has a huge success rate for adoptions.

My first radio stint went pretty well. The DJ, "The Whipping Boy" guided me through the taping. Everyone at the radio station is an avid dog lover. Every Thursday all the employees are eager to hug and pet the latest arrival. And it's good for the dogs to get away from the everyday stress at the shelter.



## Comcast and Nutro Days of Caring at WAHS

On Saturday, May 3, 2008, almost 90 volunteers from Comcast and the Washington Area Humane Society joined forces to do much-needed work at our facility. Despite inclement weather, we successfully cut down trees, cleared and burned brush, mulched, planted flowers and cut grass – work that would have taken our volunteers alone, months to complete. It was especially satisfying to see so many young



people giving up their free day to lend a hand.

The event was part of *Comcast Cares Day*, Comcast's national, company-wide day of service in which tens of thousands of Comcast employees, along with their families, friends, and community partners work together to make a difference in hundreds of local communities across the country. It is a reminder



that WAHS and Comcast share a common goal – an ongoing commitment to Washington County.

We'd like to thank Comcast and all of our volunteers who turned out on *Comcast Cares Day* for all of their hard work, and also Galati's Nursery for donating



mulch. Together, we will continue to make a difference in this wonderful community.

### A Nod to Nutro

Organized by Lilia Garza, a small band of hard-working employees from Nutro dedicated a day to spiffing up at WAHS. On Wednesday, May 28th, armed with cans of polyurethane and brushes, the group weather-proofed eight wooden benches and the picnic table outside after which they continued to beautify the grounds by mowing, raking and cleaning up outside.

It is efforts like Comcast, Nutro, student and scout groups and many others who make the time and ask us what tasks we have that they can take on that enhance the shelter for everyone.



## And Then There Were 3!

No sooner was the land cleared than WAHS volunteer, Jet Miskis was onto the next of many projects for the shelter.

Seems that Jet is not only popular, but she has a way of getting people and businesses to say "yes" to helping the shelter where others have tried and failed.

We had only two play kennels where dog

walkers could play fetch with a retriever and visitors could try a "meet and greet" with their dog to see if they found the right playmate. With more than 40 adult dogs, two kennels can never be enough. With her charm and tenacity, Jet sought out a mutual animal lover in Jeff Zwergel of Metro Fence who generously erected a third 30'sq. pen for some very happy dogs.

## Planting More Bricks; Growing Our Memorial

A lot of people have purchased bricks in memory of loved ones including their pets. They had been piling up and gathering dust. Several people were understandably "squeaky wheels"; urging us to add to the current memorial walk in front of the shelter. But we had no one who would do the job. We were looking for someone to take on the project and limit the need for out-of-pocket funds. That person appeared in Stevie Rizer who, along with a friend and her

husband, did a beautiful job mixing and matching sizes and spacing bricks till all the new, inscribed bricks found a place in the walkway extension.

Stevie has been a volunteer for several years now since her retirement from the Bon Ton shop. Her skills have been put to good use in every possible way from selling fundraising items to writing thank you notes. Volunteers like Stevie are few and far between and we are so lucky to have her.





## Zeke and Tinsel Update

Zeke and Tinsel were both in need and *you* all helped ensure their uninterrupted medical treatment. Zeke was so handsome and buff, it was astonishing to hear that he had a ticking time bomb inside — heartworm — which can be fatal if left untreated. His final in a series of treatments has been successful and the only residual effect may be a slight cough.

It was good news for Zeke, but not so for little Tinsel. Just a wisp of a kitten, Tinsel was surrendered to WAHS last

November with an upper respiratory infection. She was weak and slow to grow. An ultrasound showed she had Tetralogy of Fallot — three birth defects in her heart. Medicine helped her heart pump more efficiently, but Tinsel's tiny heart could no longer do its job and she was humanely euthanized. Tinsel remained in a loving foster home where she enjoyed the best possible, albeit short life. Thank you for helping both Zeke and Tinsel with your donations.

## WAHS Was the Off Ramp For "Freeway" and Olie

On Tuesday, May 13th, local Animal Control was called to North Franklin about a dog that was hit by a car. The pretty brindle pup, only about six months old had a broken right hip, a mangled paw and a broken left femur.

The hip and paw injuries were too severe and required an amputation. The broken femur has been surgically repaired with plates and pins.

shelter. It looked like Olie might lose a leg, too, but the surgery, plates and pins are holding the leg together and it looks like Olie will make a full recovery. He is resting comfortably at the shelter



These two emergencies have cost \$4,063.00. If you would like to help "Share the Load" ... a collective team effort to contribute on a case by case basis, please fill out the form on the next page and return it to us. Or

## Can't Adopt but Want to Help a Special Dog or Cat?

If the timing is not right, or circumstances make it impossible to adopt a dog or cat who captures your heart, consider sponsoring a pet's adoption by purchasing a **GET OUT OF JAIL FREE** Card. Choose an adult dog or cat, and pay their adoption fee (Dogs: \$75.00 / Cats: \$40.00). We will keep the card on file until someone chooses that dog or cat to adopt, fills out the application and is approved. Only then will they be told that their new best friend has a **GET OUT OF JAIL FREE** card, and when they ride into the sunset together we will mail the card to you so you can share in the joyful news.



*Jimmy*, nicknamed *Freeway*, "a pleasant and sweet-natured dog", according to veterinarians who were the first to see him, is now recovering in a foster home. It is expected that with a few months of recovery Jimmy will have a good outcome and be made available for adoption.

Then there's Olie — a lovely black cat with happy eyes — happy because he was rescued after being hit by a car and brought to the

send an email ([wahs@fyi.net](mailto:wahs@fyi.net)) requesting to be added to the list. Put "Share the Load" in the subject line. We will let you know when we need your help for those dogs and cats who need special medical attention.

Make your tax-deductible donation check payable to WAHS and write "Freeway and Olie" in the memo line. Or visit our website to contribute using your credit card.



# SPECIAL FUN-RAISING



JOIN THE

**1,500  
CLUB**  
\$ 1.00 x 365 DAYS

It costs \$1,500.00 per day to run the Washington Area Humane Society. That includes the utilities, building upkeep, medicine, food, cat litter, veterinarian services, insurance, postage, payroll, gas, vehicle maintenance and everything else required to run a normal business. We spend no money frivolously. We re-use, recycle and we do not spend a penny on advertising. A few generous supporters pay for the ads you see and the mailers you get. Volunteers print their own flyers and promotional material.

We have no steady stream of income upon which we can rely. We rely on you.

When money dribbles in, it is always spoken for — already spent. How wonderful it would be to have money in the bank earning interest that we could draw on for the whole year. That's what the 1500 Club is meant

to be. It's a reliable way to assure our \$500,000 annual budget all in one fell swoop so we won't have to sweat the whole year deciding day to day between whether to purchase flea and tick medicine or pay the water bill.

Become a member of an exceptional group of supporters who pledge a dollar a day annually to our Humane Society.

Place a checkmark to pledge and become a 1500 Club annual member and mail it back; or email us, or call us with your pledge.

All 1500 Club members will be contacted during the last week of November, 2008. WAHS would like to collect all tax-deductible pledge donations via check or credit card during that week. Just a dollar a day from 1,500 animal-loving, caring people will do it — keep our shelter in business for another year.

Volunteer Bernie Anthony of McMurray died suddenly on June 14th, 2008. Bernie and daughter Anastasia had been active fundraisers for WAHS. We extend our sympathy to the Anthony family. We will miss Bernie.

## Thank You For Making A Difference

*Tear off and mail back with your tax-deductible contribution.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

### Enclosed is my donation:

\_\_\_\_\_ \$25 \_\_\_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_\_\_ \$75 \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_\_\_ \$Other

\_\_\_\_\_ Apply my donation to a WAHS membership\*

*\*\$25 Minimum. All members may vote at the annual meeting.*

\_\_\_\_\_ Save a stamp. I don't need a thank you note.

\_\_\_\_\_ I want to be a Member of the 1500 Club.

\_\_\_\_\_ Contact me about fostering animals.

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to help with offsite events.

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to help with fundraisers.

\_\_\_\_\_ Contact me about in-store Collection Banks.

\_\_\_\_\_ I will help with the cats at PetSmart.

\_\_\_\_\_ Contact me about including WAHS in my estate.

\_\_\_\_\_ I will "Share the Load" for injured animals.

Add me to your mail or email list. My email is:

\_\_\_\_\_

### I would like to Join P.A.T.H.S. as indicated:

I pledge to send \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per month to the Washington Area Humane Society's **P.A.T.H.S.** Program. My first envelope will be mailed to me the last week of the month in which I enroll. I will mail it back as soon as possible. If at any time I wish to stop my tax-deductible donation, I will contact WAHS at 724-229-0404.

Please make checks payable to: WAHS

Or pay by credit card: \_\_\_\_\_ MC \_\_\_\_\_ VISA

Card No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. date: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ 3-digit code: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name as it appears on credit card:

\_\_\_\_\_

Make all donations payable to WAHS



# Warning! Dangerous Legislation Targets Breed by Peter Glasser

Proposed Pennsylvania House Bill 2553 will remove the state's prohibition on breed specific local (BSL) ordinances, thereby allowing any town, borough, city or other local government to adopt any type of dangerous dog ordinance it chooses. Up to now, PA



*BSL targets many breeds including German shepherds*

*From the website: [www.hellobully.com](http://www.hellobully.com)*

**If House Bill 2553 happens we will no longer have state level protection from Breed Specific Legislation (BSL). Municipalities will be able to pass their own laws about what breed of dog you are allowed to own. BSL is not (just) about Pit Bulls, it's about all dogs — and your right to own the breed you choose.**

**Breed Specific Legislation doesn't work. Unlike non-breed specific "Dangerous Dog" laws, BSL targets dogs based on appearance, not actions or temperament. It offers a false sense of security by claiming to target irresponsible owners and criminals. But who do they go after first? Licensed dogs owned by responsible people just like you. Criminals don't license their dogs. Like a stray bullet, BSL hits all the wrong targets, while criminals fly under the radar, or just move on to the next breed.**

**BSL isn't just about Pit Bulls. Many large breed dogs are often targeted. Akitas, Chow Chows, Dobermans, German Shepherds, Mastiffs, and Rottweilers are right along side Pit Bulls when it comes to BSL.**

municipalities could only seize and destroy your pet based upon the individual dog's misbehavior. This new legislation would allow them to do so based upon its breed or mixture of breeds.

HB 2553 has been sponsored by 16 of PA's 203 members in the House — an indication that it has meaningful support. Two of those

sponsors are from southwestern PA; Timothy Mahoney from Fayette County and Sean Ramaley from Ambridge. It makes an impact on elected officials when they hear from people in their districts. Just one hundred calls to your local representative's district office on an issue like this will make a significant impression.

Two or three hundred would be very substantial.

We can stop this if we all do the following: First, find the phone number of your state rep's district (local office). Call and express your opinion, politely but firmly, to the staff person who answers, referring to House Bill 2553. Second, write the phone number and bill number down and make a copy for everyone else that you know who loves dogs and who lives in your legislative district and urge them to call also. Many people have never contacted an elected official. If you make it easy for them by supplying the phone and bill numbers, they will be more likely to make the call. Verbal information

gets forgotten easily in the rush of our busy lives; a written note will be kept and is more likely to be acted on. I suggest writing "DANGER" in capital letters at the top of the note. Third, write the bill number alone for other dog lovers who live outside your political district, and urge them to call their state rep. If you help to identify their rep and write that number down for them as well, that's even better. You can find a listing of reps by zip code here: [http://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/home/member\\_information/representatives\\_alpha.cfm](http://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/home/member_information/representatives_alpha.cfm)

Don't allow others to decide that your dog is not fit to live based on breed alone.

## Best Non-Profit to Work For According to Trib Poll

To celebrate Pittsburgh's 250th anniversary, The Pittsburgh Tribune-Review TRIB TOTAL MEDIA gave customers, friends and employees the opportunity to vote on their favorite businesses and their opinions on the best places to work in Pittsburgh. The ballots ran the months of March and April in the Pittsburgh

Tribune Review and the TRIB PM. Readers could mail in ballots or vote online.

Terry Caldwell from the Trib called to congratulate the Washington Area Humane Society for having been voted one of the Best Places to Work in Pittsburgh!! (Category - One of the Best Non-profit Businesses)

The Washington Area Humane Society is seeking applications from dedicated, qualified individuals for their Board of Directors. Interested parties should contact Kelley Keane (724.348.6663). Applications must be received by July 22nd for the 2008 election.





## Golf Anyone?

*Sunday, September 7, 2008  
at Lindenwood Golf Course  
... Save that Date!*

# First WAHS Annual Charity Golf Outing

We're thrilled to announce the first Washington Area Humane Society annual charity golf outing on Sunday, September 7, 2008 at Lindenwood Golf Course located in McMurray, PA.

The cost of the event will be \$125.00 per golfer which will include golf and cart fees, a light lunch, a deluxe buffet dinner, beer, pop, skill and door prizes, raffles and many other surprises. All golfers are welcome —

singles, doubles, triples, foursomes or more. For those who don't golf but want to join in the fun, dinner will be available at the minimal cost of \$25.00 per person.

The event will begin with a shotgun start at 1 pm.

Sponsorship packages are available at several levels, as well as 19th Hole boosters for individuals and small businesses. We are in need of door prizes and appreciate any assistance in that area.

Check the website for registration and sponsorship forms and other details which will be posted soon.

This will be a fun and exciting event that can raise a significant amount of money for the shelter. We hope to see many of our members, supporters, friends and neighbors on September 7th!

Contact chairpersons: John Sikaras (724.344.4929) or Dennis Ewedosh (724.518.5887)

## Yikes! Could it be That Time of Year Again, Already?

The third annual "You Said It!" Lottery Calendar Caption Contest has begun. This year's photos can be viewed online at [washingtonpashelter.org/contest/calendar.htm](http://washingtonpashelter.org/contest/calendar.htm)

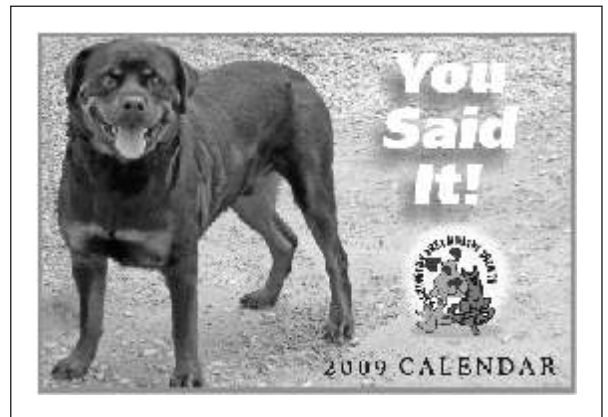
Enter as many times as you like. Be funny, poignant, creative, off-the-wall, serious or clever. The contest will run through Friday, July 19th. After that, our panel of judges will decide the winning captions. Winning captions will be printed on the calendar with a byline for each author.

The calendars have been such a hit that anxious purchasers have started calling in to reserve their lucky numbers.

There will be 1,000 numbered calendars printed (000 to 999) that coincide with the daily

lottery. Numbers are good for the whole year. Pay-outs total \$15,000. And you don't have to worry about checking the number every day. We do that for you. Checks are mailed to winners within ten days automatically.

Think Christmas now. These fun calendars make great gifts.



## Noah's Art Celebrates Animal Lovers

On October 3 (changed from August 1), the Artists' Co-op, 30 E. Beau St. in Washington, will host an evening of doggone good art to draw attention to the needs of area animal shelters and sanctuaries.

The opening, from 6-9pm, kicks off the month-long exhibit.

Artists include Co-op members and a sampling of kids' art created during summer art programs taught by co-op member Colleen Nelson. Copies of the kids art will be available as posters, to hang in shelters and various locations to encourage the public to care for their pets properly and

adopt from shelters.

Staff and volunteers from Greene, Washington and Fayette county Humane Societies are welcome to attend the opening to speak on behalf of their shelters and accept the posters that the young artists will present them.



# Recycling Rewards

If you have hauled your aluminum cans to the shelter recently, you couldn't miss the two giant "Paper Retriever" bins next to the can trailer. Thanks to faithful donors, we always have enough newspaper for the puppies and the extra paper was filling our trash dumpster. Now we can turn that paper into dollars for the shelter and lower our trash pickup bill, too. Bring us your newspapers, mail, circulars and magazines. Please do NOT bring any cardboard, postcards, business or greeting cards, bakery boxes or wine box inserts. We also cannot take telephone books, plastic or trash.

Recycling, re-using and reducing waste is an important issue to WAHS. Thanks to innovative ideas like the ABITIBI Paper Retriever we can do good for the planet and the shelter at the same time.

## Training DVDs For Adopters

PetsIncredible started shipping dog and cat training DVDs and sample packets of Greenies to WAHS this past March as part of a new shelter program. Every three months a shipment of these DVDs and Greenies will be provided for free to our shelter to include in each adoption kit.



## A Harvest Festival

We are planning a Harvest Festival for October. Volunteers will be creating beautiful baskets for the occasion. In preparation, we are seeking Halloween and Christmas decorations including thematic cotton fabric, batting, artificial leaves and flowers, "creative twist", and any other craft materials that fit the theme. If you have some things to donate, please call Jet Miskis at 724-942-0759.

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
EIGHTY FOUR, PA  
PERMIT # 4

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

## Why Are They Still Waiting in Cages?



HONEY

There are few as sweet as Honey. The pretty aussie mix is driven to spinning in her cage — a problem that may be related to her one blind eye. On walks, the spinning fades when she's engaged or well directed. Talk to Honey and she pays close attention. Reach out for her and she returns the affection. This special needs dog needs a special person and some TLC that she truly deserves.



MIDNIGHT

He came in with a severe flea and lice infestation from a home with more than 20 cats. His very thin coat is now as shining and black as his name and he has the most beautiful gold eyes. Midnight will probably not be a very big cat. He likes to play and enjoys other cats. Finally healthy, Midnight wants very much to be part of a family again.



WILBERT

This stray chocolate lab with the frosted muzzle has been with us a year. He will sit for treats which bodes well for training. Volunteers have worked with him and it takes only a minute to get him to focus and walk nicely on leash. When he had his radio interview at the "X" he was a perfect gentleman both in the car and while visiting at the station.