



Animal Chatter

Washington Area Humane Society **WINTER 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 ★

- Dry Cat & Dog Food
- Frontline Plus for Cats
- Clay Cat Litter
- Paper Towels
- Copy Paper
- Laundry Detergent
- Dish and Hand Soap
- Baby Food (meat only)
- Unscented Baby Wipes
- Bleach
- Pooper Scoopers
- AA Batteries
- Business Envelopes
- Postage Stamps
- Scotch Tape Rolls
- Microscope
- Autoclave

"God Puts People in the Right Places at Times"

by Jean Sexauer

WHILE at the Animal Control Kennel in N. Strabane, I met Corey, an adorable collie mix who I fell in love with. But I found out that Corey was to be euthanized because there was no room at any local shelter and he was deaf which limited the chances of finding a home for him. Less than a year old, and sweet as can be, I asked if I could try to place him in a home until there was a spot for him at a shelter. They agreed – happy not to have to put this sweet dog down. I had him groomed and started making calls to find a temporary home for him.



Through a chain of friends, someone agreed to take Corey for the weekend. Thankfully WAHS had two dogs adopted that weekend and Corey got one of the available kennels. He quickly became a favorite of everyone, but after weeks,

still no "forever home." At the shelter Corey learned simple commands with hand signs including "sit" and "lay down". He was learning to give paw and control his jumping on people – a very smart guy.

A couple of weeks later, Corey was adopted. I was happy, but concerned ... *who were these people who adopted my special guy?* Then I received a great email from the volunteer who was there when Corey was adopted. **Excerpts:**

"It is a very good ending for an extremely special dog. It is amazing, how God will put us in places at the right times. In this case, Cory sold himself. It just happened to be my privilege to meet the dad, mom, daughter and their wonderful dog Rocco. ... I was happy to tell [them] that Corey was a great dog; all good, inside and out. ... It took them about 1-1/2 seconds to decide that Corey was the one. ... Corey acted like he was greeting a family that he already knew. He wiggled and bounced over to Rocco and gave him a quick kiss on the lips. He sidled over to the dad, looked up and smiled. He greeted each family member with child-like enthusiasm. ... It was a blessing to be there."

Corey's new "mom" has since told me how much they love him and how he fits perfectly into their family. I, and many others will really miss Corey but I couldn't be happier.

Give a Hand to a Handy Man

by Gary Malaskovitz

THOSE of you who walked dogs or visited the shelter last winter, I'm sure you cannot forget the puddles of water outside the back door that froze to form thick sheets of ice. The ice never seemed to melt, making it very treacherous as we took the dogs out for their constitutions. On some days, the ice was so thick that we were forced to find an alternate route in and out of the shelter.

Well, this icy situation has literally dried up thanks to volunteer, Steve Defrancesco, who installed over 75 feet of gutters on three separate sections of the roof covering the kennels. Along with the gutters, Steve expertly installed the downspouts so that we will not have to walk the soggy and icy path we did last year. Steve is not only a volunteer handyman, he also recently adopted a dog from the shelter. When asked,

Steve said that Kaylee, a female Weimaraner, is adjusting well to her new home and is "simply a great dog". He is glad that he is able to provide a good home for her and was happy to help make the "temporary home" of the other animals at the shelter a little better by installing the much-needed gutters. Thank you Steve for your continued volunteer work. It is much appreciated.



How I Became a Volunteer by Christine Porter

EVERY time I would drive past the Washington Humane Society, I would think "I should really look into volunteering there" and then I would promptly forget about it until



rather suddenly. I needed something to focus on besides the state of my life, so I finally made the time to contact the Humane Society in order to volunteer. It has proved to be truly one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. While I am now in a much better place personally, volunteering at the shelter remains an important part of my life. I have two little parrots at home that I adore, but no dogs of my own. I love dogs, so having the opportunity to

spend time with so many wonderful dogs is invaluable to me.

I was afraid at first that it would just be too depressing. While it is sad to see so many deserving animals in need of a loving home, I can always feel better to think that I have helped even just one of these animals to have a bit of kindness and joy in their life. Unfortunately, volunteering at the shelter exposes one to some of the worst behavior humans can exhibit; people can be so cruel to the animals

that love and depend upon them! But this behavior is more than offset by that of the wonderful, devoted staff and fellow volunteers at the shelter. Any animal that comes into the shelter is truly in a good place and in great hands until they can find the permanent home that they all deserve.

I strongly encourage anyone who has a soft spot for animals to volunteer some of their time at the shelter. You will meet MANY wonderful animals and people alike!

the next time that I drove past. I have had a life-long love of animals and helping them in some capacity was always on my list to do, but I just never got around to it.

This past spring, I went through some major life changes, including my marriage of 13 years ending



Unmasking Our Enthusiasm

OUR Halloween contest at Washington Crowne Center was very successful with some of the best dressed canines, feline and bunny. WAHS Board Member, Diane Bandy entered her dogs, Caya and Coco, but spent more time taking photos of the other contestants. You can view all the photos on her website, www.DogLicense.org under the Dog Bytes category for the date of 11-08-2005. It is a comprehensive collection of nearly every dog in attendance for the event. The direct URL

for the article and photos is: <http://doglicense.org/viewArticle.php?ID=1699&Type=DB>

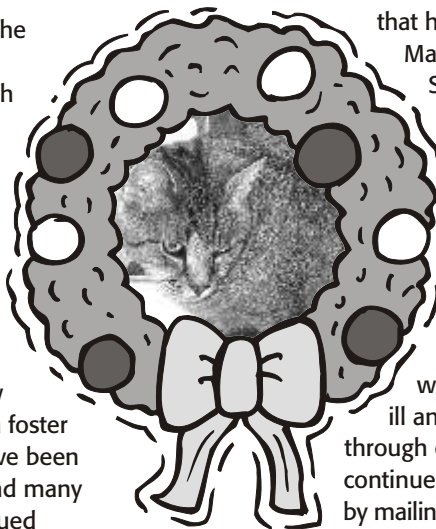
Remembering Those With No Family to Share the Holidays

A Note from the Washington Area Humane Society Board Of Directors, Employees and Volunteers

"BEAR" and "Sammy 3-Paws" are just two of the hundreds of dogs and cats cared for by the Humane Society this year. Bear came to us with 13 pounds of matted fur. Bear lived at the end of a chain that you could tow a car with. After a trip to the vet and the groomer, Bear was ready to be adopted. Sammy 3-Paws caught his paw in a leg-hold trap and was dragging this heavy trap around Canonsburg for a week until our humane agent was able to capture him.

Sammy 3-Paws had severe damage to his paw and it had to be amputated, then he went to a foster home to recuperate. Both of these animals have been adopted to loving families. These adoptions and many others are only possible because of the continued support of our contributors, our caring volunteers and staff.

Christmas is a special time to remember pets who have touched our hearts and a time to remember the orphaned dogs and cats



that have come to us for a second chance, in life.

Many pets will spend Christmas at the Humane Society, where our employees will fill their bowls with nutritious food and treats, place a warm blanket in their beds, along with toys and a gentle touch.

The winter months are a financial drain on the Humane Society. Utilities sky-rocket and repairs to our aging building are needed. We employ a full-time humane officer and an investigative officer who rescue dogs and cats who have been left to fend for themselves. Many ill and injured animals will receive medical attention through our "Animal Rescue Fund." Please help us to continue to offer quality care for our orphaned animals by mailing a generous donation in the enclosed envelope.

Our Christmas wish is that all our pets find loving homes and that you and your pets have a Merry Christmas and a happy healthy New Year.

S.O.S. Program Matches Seniors with Seniors

THERE can be no question that the presence of a puppy will change the dynamic of any room no matter what event is taking place. With their irresistable proportions and babydoll eyes, they rivet the attention of onlookers by doing no more than snoozing on a poopy blanket. When there are puppies or kittens in the house, the adult cats and dogs, many still just big puppies themselves receive much less attention.

Yet older dogs and cats make fine companions for people of

all ages, and can be much better suited for older people.

November was "Adopt-a-Senior-Pet-Month. To encourage people to consider the merits of an older animal, WAHS posted a special symbol on the cages and kennels of these special animals. These designated dogs and cats were made available for adoption at a reduced fee throughout the month of November. After November, to continue this trend, "senior" people (people age 60 or older) can adopt S.O.S. pets at a further reduced adoption fee.

The love that an older pet can give will rival the affections of any puppy. And the other benefits of an older animal – most are housebroken, settled down, know basic obedience and need less exercise – are a huge bonus to seniors who cannot keep up with the demanding task of raising a puppy.

Meet your match. You might just fall in love.



Did We Thank You?

We try hard to send every-one who has donated money or materials to WAHS a thank you note. If we missed you we apologize. We appreciate every donation, large and small.

REPORT PROGRESS

The Puppy Room Gets an Extreme Makeover

SHE had to wait for about 6 months to complete a project that she planned way back in February. Mary Grace Bloom, first volunteer, now WAHS employee wanted to improve the bleak atmosphere in what was supposed to be the adoption room, but had been the hijacked space for a still undetermined time for the puppies. Probably the most crowded room in the whole shelter, this former supply room that serves as temporary



Mary Grace Bloom took her idea of "making over" the puppy room from concept through completion with a little help from some friends.

home to caged puppies is buzzing with activity. Cages need to be cleaned constantly and no visitor to the shelter can resist those adorable, wriggling babies as they pack into the room for a nuzzle with the current residents.

The swimming-pool-blue ceiling and walls and the cracked vinyl floor was less than inviting and a pervasive plumbing leak left pooling water on the floor most of the time.

With the help of Steve Defrancesco, who scraped off the aged vinyl, then leveled and prepared the floor surface, Mary Grace, her niece, Tracie Zimmerman and various helpers first painted the room a buttery yellow and the ceiling white. Laying tile that she purchased when she first got approval for the improvement, was the final hurdle. The finished room has gone from a cold, dreary space to a warm, inviting place to sit and cuddle a pup in comfort.

Nothing In Life Can Prepare You For Unspeakable Acts

IN COMPREHENSIBLE cruelty leaves an indelible mark on the psyche of people whose job it is to deal with such inhumanity. It was just such a case that new WAHS Humane Officer, Tina Ealy was to witness on Tuesday, October 18th. Called to the scene at 163 Church Street in Washington, PA by Animal Control Officer, Kim Secreet, Officer Ealy was

warned that the scene was horrifying. Local police were already on the scene where a small dog who had been adopted from the Washington Area Humane Society a few years ago, was found dead. His agonizing death from suffocation was caused by the malicious hog-tying of his feet to his head with duct tape.

The perpetrators, apprehended

by police soon afterwards were neighborhood "kids".

It is difficult to label those responsible for such a monstrous act as anything but sub-human. Statistics bear out that violence to animals in childhood is a strong indicator of violence to people later in life.

Officer Ealy and Officer Secreet made arrangements with Beinhauer Funeral Home to

cremate this innocent little victim as the last act of honor that they could bestow.

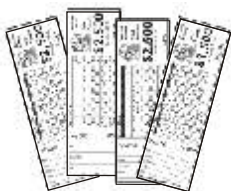
Please help us change the world ... just a little. Spread the word that animals are precious to the heart and soul of people; that they should not be discarded like an old lamp; that they be afforded the love that will make their short lives happy and comfortable.

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

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

Feeling Lucky?

WAHS is selling four individual 2006 monthly lottery calendars ... January (*sold out*), April, July and October for \$5 each. Minimum daily payout is \$75 with total payouts per month of \$2,500. Winning numbers coincide with the PA daily number. Winners receive their checks by mail. These make excellent stocking stuffers and holiday gifts for family, friends, employees and co-workers. Call WAHS at 724-222-7387 to order your lottery tickets or stop by the shelter office.



Have You Seen Poco?



WE WANT you to go on a scavenger hunt when you are shopping to locate all of our POCO Banks. They come in many forms;

the cute little yellow dogs, the clear lucite display boxes and the round canister variety. They can be found in restaurants, hardware stores, pharmacies, retail shops and pet stores.

When you see a POCO Bank that says it benefits the Washington Area Humane Society, please send an email to sah_rhoads@yahoo.com.

We want to know of every sighting so we can see which banks get the most exposure.

The email doesn't have to be anything fancy, just say "I saw POCO at the Kings Restaurant on route 19 in Canonsburg."

Also, send me an email if you would be willing to place and monitor a POCO Bank at your place of business. They are a great way to get people to support the shelter without

having to go to the shelter. Everything can be done by phone and mail.

What do you say? Can you spare some counter space for a POCO Bank to help WAHS? We would really appreciate it!

We Need Dry Cat Food Now!

THOUGH cats vastly outnumber dogs in U.S. households, they often play second-fiddle to dogs at shelters because they don't make as much noise. We as their caretakers need to make noise for them. The cats at WAHS outnumber the dogs by 3-to-1. As such we have expansive needs for kitty litter and dry cat food. Please help us feed our cats. Donate today.

Ready for a New Home and a New Life



LIBERTY vies for attention, ... begging with her big brown eyes and smiling with her wagging tail. Liberty is a muscular, compact American Staffordshire Terrier who is housebroken and has that affectionate demeanor that is typical of the breed ... very loving and attentive to people. Liberty is currently learning basic obedience and would make fine companion.



KATO arrived as a matted, skinny stray who was found to be diabetic and insulin dependent. He accepts his twice-daily insulin injections without difficulty. This life-saving treatment is only about \$15 per month. This 13-year old tabby, has been with us more than a year. Kato is very affectionate and likes other cats. He is still waiting for that special person who will take him home.



MAX is a 7-8 year old English setter mix who still has a lot of puppy in him. He let's the walkers know when he has been overlooked and he is very interested in meeting his new doggie roommates. This sweet guy appears to be housebroken, seems gentle enough for kids and likes many other dogs. Max would make a nice pet for an active senior, too.