

# WATERTOWN TAILS

The Watertown Humane Society newsletter.

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## LOVING THE KENNEL OUT OF THE DOG

If you have ever visited an animal shelter before and have walked the rows of dog kennels, you were probably greeted by loud barking, jumping, growling, or perhaps even spinning dogs. You probably thought to yourself, “that dog is crazy, and I would never be able to handle a dog like that in my home.” If only we could you show you what we see after getting to know them for a few weeks. How they respond to us is much different than those few minutes that you’ve seen them in the kennel environment they’ve come to know.

Our biggest struggle as adoption counselors is to help people see through these behaviors and understand that the best way to get the “kennel out of the dog” is to get the DOG OUT OF THE KENNEL. Despite both daily canine enrichment activities and regular walks our staff and volunteers provide, kennel stress is still very real and greatly affects the “adoptability” of many of our dogs. Behaviors that appear problematic are very rarely, if ever, a true indication of a dog’s actual personality and demeanor. Try to imagine it from the dog’s perspective. When a dog has made its way to our shelter, WHS is often a third or fourth stop for them. They are confused, scared, and their survival skills are taking over. No matter their special adoption needs, we try to help people see that they are simply misunderstood, overlooked, and waiting for their people to give them a chance. And while their behavior appears problematic, the fact is they are trying to adapt to their new surroundings and are communicating their fear and stress in the only way they know how. It is our job as dog lovers to see past these behaviors and offer them solutions to this stress. These are loving dogs that deserve our patience and understanding.

**The mission of the Watertown Humane Society is to provide for the lost, homeless, neglected and abused animals of the City of Watertown and surrounding areas**

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When given the proper time, care, and attention in the right setting, these dogs will decompress and show their true personalities, but most times this will not happen in the shelter environment. After a couple weeks or less in a home or foster home where they feel safe and secure, you will witness a drastic change in their behaviors. Our adoption team will advocate and do our best to place our dogs into the appropriate homes, but the best thing we can do for them is help people to understand what they are seeing when they come to visit.

Our advice to you when rescuing a dog is to please enter into the experience with an open mind. Listen and trust your adoption counselors. We are the people who spend the most time with these dogs and who recognize their true potential. Be patient and remember that what they need most is to get out of the kennel environment. Once they experience your patience and love and are settled into your home, the reward will be invaluable.

Take Rokko's story for example. Before arriving at WHS, he was in a Texas shelter for two months. Transported to Wisconsin, Rokko was full of confusion. He fence climbed, lunged and barked at those who walked by and while he was never a fan of other dogs, he loved people. He was overlooked time and time again because of his undesirable behavior in his kennel. After being featured in our newsletter, countless social media posts, and several failed meet and greets, Rokko continued to wait and wait all while his anxiety continued to build. It was clear shelter life was taking its toll on Rokko's mental state.



Rokko, top left, with his new friend

Enter Robert and Pam. They saw the potential that Rokko had and that life outside of the shelter would drastically prove to show Rokko's true personality. He truly has become the loving, social dog that we knew he could be. Someone just had to give him a chance outside the kennel walls. Read Rokko's success story on page 5.

**SHELTER RAISES FUNDS FOR EXTERNAL SIGNAGE**

Back in 2020, The Drafty Cellar hosted an outstanding fundraiser to help us raise funds for much needed external signage. With the support of Pidder Padder Paws, Kona Ice Lake Country, and other generous donors, we were able to secure the funds to purchase multiple signs to assist guests and volunteers when they arrive at our shelter. Our signs were installed in November and we couldn't be more pleased. We would like to extend a sincere thank you to everyone who made this possible!





# COMMUNITY PET FOOD PANTRY SERVES THOSE IN NEED



*Pet food donations thanks to Feeding America and the Watertown Food Pantry*

The Watertown Humane Society, in conjunction with Feeding America and the Watertown Food Pantry, are pleased to offer free cat and dog food to Watertown community members who might be facing financial hardship. This collaboration will allow those in need the ability to feed their pets without worry. Those interested may stop by the shelter lobby during office hours (Tuesday-Friday 10am-4:30pm and Saturday 10am-2:30pm) and take what they need. Please note: we are by appointment only for approved adopters and are not able to offer animal viewing on a walk-in basis.

## REMEMBERING ALEX WUESTENBERG

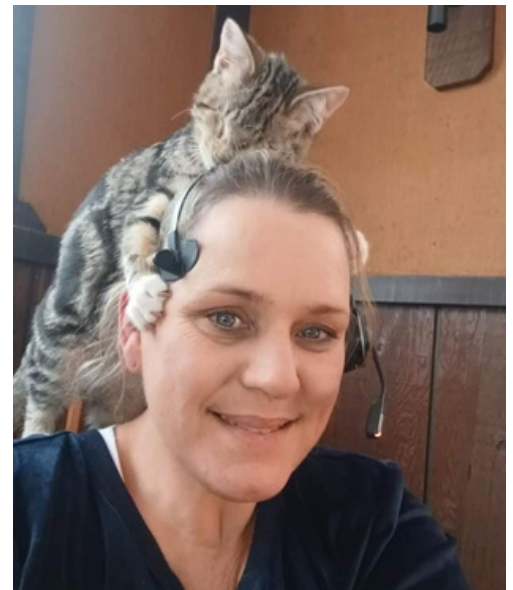
Alex was a gentle soul with a kind heart and special love of animals. When Alex passed away unexpectedly in August 2021, his family requested donations to the Watertown Humane Society in Alex's honor. Donations came flooding in showing just how much Alex was loved. We cannot thank Alex's family and friends enough for the generosity they showed while mourning the loss of a loved one. A plaque hangs in our shelter in honor of Alex so all can be reminded of the love Alex had for all animals, specifically his beloved dog Cheddar. Special thanks to Alex's parents, Don and Mary, and his sister Abby, for thinking of us in a time of sorrow.



*A plaque in honor of Alex proudly hangs in the shelter*

## KITTEN SEASON ENDS WITH RECORD-BREAKING INTAKE

This kitten season was one like we've never seen. Just when we thought, "where are all the kittens?!" we were inundated with kittens much later in the season than usual. With seasoned and new foster homes coming to our rescue, we were able to bring in over 170 kittens (and a few pregnant mama cats!) over the past several months. Another uncommon aspect of this year's kitten season was the number of kittens who arrived with severe eye infections and/or injuries. Some of these kittens required single or even double eye enucleation (complete eye removal). Although these surgeries are invasive and expensive, they are necessary for these kittens to live pain-free lives. Because of the generosity of our donors and foster homes, we were able to provide the necessary care to each kitten that came to us. Thank you to those who continue to help!



*Mordy is living a pain-free, "normal" kitten life with his adoptive mom Shannon after his double eye enucleation*

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Refer to the Watertown Humane Society's Facebook page or website for the most current information.

## PINTS 4 PAWS

February 19th, 2022

We are excited to be bringing this event back in person this year! Join us at The Drafty Cellar for a matinee of music bingo. Stay for and LIVE MUSIC performed by The Ripple Effect. Raffle baskets donated by local business will be available at each event! Tickets can be purchased online or at the door. [www.whsadopt.org/pints](http://www.whsadopt.org/pints)

## THE FURRY FEUD

September 24, 2022

After much anticipation, The Furry Feud is finally happening! We are in the early stages of planning this event but hope you will save the date for a day of game show excitement! Check our Facebook page and website for more information in the coming months.

## WISHLIST

Walmart, Farm and Fleet Gift Cards  
Purina One Kitten Chow  
Purina One Cat Chow  
Durable/Tough Chewer Dog Toys/Chews  
Dog Training Treats  
Paper Towel  
Hand Soap  
Laundry Detergent  
Dishwasher Pods

Purina One Dog Chow  
Purina One Puppy Chow  
Cat Toys  
Martingale(non-slip) collars  
White Copy Paper  
Blue Pocket Folders  
Postage Stamps  
Volunteers  
Foster Homes

## MEET YOUR NEW BEST FRIEND

Looking for a new pet to join your family? Our shelter has many adoptable pets looking for their forever home. Check out all our adoptable pets on our website: [www.whsadopt.org/adopt](http://www.whsadopt.org/adopt)



Bingo



Paula



Loki



Newton

**RETURN  
TO OWNER**

**62**

*It was a great year! Thank you to everyone who  
made this year as successful as it was!*

**2021...**

**we helped 619  
animals**

**NO. OF  
KITTENS  
FOSTERED**

**175**

**DOGS  
ADOPTED**



**CATS  
ADOPTED**



**DOGS  
TRANSFERRED  
FROM THE  
SOUTH**

**128**



**NO. OF  
SHELTER  
VOLUNTEERS**





# A YEAR OF GIVING

This past year we have been fortunate to have the support of our community in several fundraising and volunteering efforts. Together, we continue to serve animals that need us the most.

Thank you to everyone who has supported our shelter!

## RUN-WALK-WAG



Alumni Halo relaxes in her Run-Walk-Wag shirt after her walk

This summer we hosted our Run-Walk-Wag virtually again. This gave participants the opportunity to get out and walk at their leisure. Together we raised over **\$1600**

# THANK YOU

## GIVING TUESDAY

GivingTuesday was created in 2012 as a simple idea: a day that encourages people to do good. Our supports came together on November 30th and helped us raise over **\$1,500!**



Over 20 volunteers dedicated their time the Saturday after Thanksgiving at The German Christmas Market of Oconomowoc. From selling beer to selling tickets, these volunteers helped us raise over **\$5,000!** We would like to give special thanks to not only these volunteers, but the Board of Directors of the market for inviting us to such a wonderful event.

## LEMONADE FOR SHELTER AIDE

Each year, this local family thinks of a new charity that might benefit from their annual lemonade stand and we couldn't have been more excited when they chose us this year! They were proud to present us with over \$500 from their one-day stand!



Pictured: Madisen, Taylor, Mason present their donation

## 2021 Presidential Award Recipients

We are honored once again to recognize volunteers with the Presidential Volunteer Service Award based on the number of hours they volunteered. Adult volunteers earned this award in 2021 by volunteering 100+ hours, Maddie served 75+ hours in the youth category, and Ella served 175+ hours in the young adult category. A HUGE thank you to all of our volunteers!

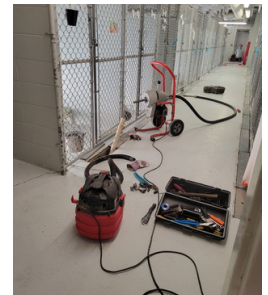


Front L-R—Kathy L., Maddie W. Back L-R—Anne J., Robin W., Barbara L. Award recipients (not pictured): Ella W., Jean C., Rhonda T., Donna H., Gillian M., and Nancy S.

Earlier in 2021, a Nylabone became lodged in our dog kennel drain making cleaning kennels extremely difficult. Water would back up creating even more of a mess for our staff. We were put in touch with Phil's Electric Drain Service and over the course of several months, they came out to our shelter more than six times to try and resolve the problem. On the seventh try, they successfully cleared the drain! Not only did they not give up hope in helping us, they donated ALL of their time, not charging our shelter for any work performed. We are so grateful for their amazing staff!

# PHIL'S

ELECTRIC DRAIN SERVICE



Thank you to the crew at Phil's for never giving up on the job!

When Betty White passed away just a few mere weeks before her 100th birthday, the internet was flooded with pleas calling for those who adored Betty to donate to animal shelters around the world in her honor. We were so lucky to be apart of the generosity of those wanting to celebrate such a wonderful woman and were thrilled to announce that we raised over \$2,000 in just one day! We also were gifted 19 new Kuranda beds for our dog kennels by generous donors, many mentioning Betty in their donation. While we mourn the loss of such an iconic woman, we can't help be comforted in the generosity of those wishing to honor her.



Betty White, animal advocate

## PIZZA FOR PUPS

If you've stopped in at PJ's in the last few weeks, you've probably seen our new flyers PJ's is so generously including with each pizza. This partnership will help us reach more people about our

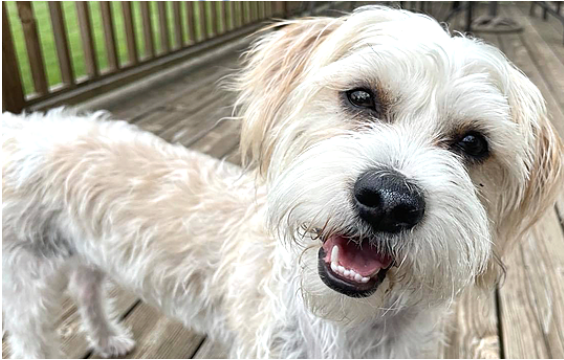


adoptable pets and upcoming events. Thank you, PJ's!

## SHARE YOUR STORY!

Have an adoption story you'd like to share? Email Jenny at [giving@whsadopt.org](mailto:giving@whsadopt.org) to possibly be featured in an upcoming newsletter!

### Jagger



"A year ago, Jagger was a scared little puppy who made the journey from a kill shelter in Texas, to his rescue by the Watertown Humane Society. We were lucky enough to adopt him soon after in February 2021, and the first time we met him there was an instant connection. His back end wiggled and his back leg thumped in excitement. These adorable moves (that have only increased with time), helped us choose his name, inspired by the song "moves like Jagger." It took him a few weeks to find his voice and it's been incredibly rewarding to help him gain confidence. Jagger also completed the MHT Legacy no-force dog training program and we all learned a lot. Jagger makes us laugh countless times a day and we truly had no idea what we were missing in our lives until we adopted him. As an "only child" he enjoys healthy home-cooked meals, hogging the bed, ringing his bell to go outside, lounging on tops of couches, cuddling when sleepy, playing fetch and lots of play dates with his dog friends. Jagger's brother Gus who was also adopted from the WHS by a family in Grafton, even came to his 1st birthday party along with 12 other dog friends this past Fall. Jagger makes our hearts so full and we'll work every day to give him the happiest life possible, as he brings so much joy to ours. We will be forever grateful to the Watertown Humane Society and partners who made this adoption possible. Thank you!"

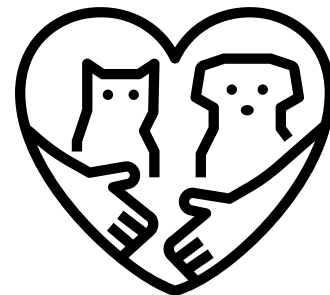
- Katey and Rob

### Rokko



"Rokko came from Texas and he does NOT like Wisconsin cold! If he is not looking out the front window, he is on someone's lap. He loves to be under covers with his people...with a slow introduction to dogs, his aggressiveness is calmed and he plays with submissive playfulness. Rokko, like the three previous dogs I have adopted, showed a trust in me as soon as we met. He came to me without hesitation. He showed a spirit of interest and awareness without fear. I love high spirited dogs. They are smart and trainable. He will challenge me and together we will grow."

-Robert and Pam



### Mason & Mauve



"Mason adjusted very quickly to our household and had no issues with meeting and socializing with our black lab Ace and our two cats Aliza and Poppy. He also had no problem checking out the wide array of cat toys/treats we have at our house, finding the litter box and food/water locations and he quickly realized he was going to be spoiled by us! Mauve was a little unsure of our household at first and took cover behind the sofa and under the beds for the first few days she was here. She knew where the litter boxes and food/water were, but she was very quiet/discreet about when she left her "safety zones". However, she slowly came out of her shell (with the help of her big brother Mason guiding her along the way) and began to explore the house, play with cat toys and soon realized that she was going to be spoiled, spoiled, spoiled and then spoiled some more by us! We are so happy that you told us about Mason and Mauve as they are both wonderful cats and watching them bond with our other pets is so awesome! Thank you so much for all of your support and kindness in adopting Mason and Mauve and for all the care you give all the precious animals that are awaiting adoption - you are all the best!" - Tammy K.





Watertown Humane Society  
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U.S. POSTAGE

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Watertown, WI 53094

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