

animal TRIBUNE

5th Annual Adoptathon

We will be holding our 5th Annual Adoptathon June 5th – June 7th, joining the National effort that takes place each year. The National Adoptathon dates are May 2nd – 3rd. But because the summer months are our busiest time of the year, we will be holding our Adoptathon in June to better assist the very beings we are all here to help – dogs, cats, rabbits, guinea pigs, birds, and other small animals.

Our past efforts and support of the community have found homes for 15 - 20 animals each year as a result of this event. This year, our goal is to find loving, appropriate homes for 25 animals during this three day event to raise awareness about the importance and benefits of adoption, and we will need the support of **you and your family members and friends** to achieve this goal. How can you help? If you have been considering adding a furry or feathered friend to your family, make sure to place these dates on your calendar. If you know someone who has been thinking of adding a pet to

their life, make sure you share this event with them. And, please share this with everyone you know as someone may be quietly considering the addition of a furry friend to their life. Our normal adoption policies will remain in place.

We will be open each day of the Adoptathon from Noon – 7:00pm. Also, the Adoptathon committee is beginning to work out the details of the fun filled “Wizard of Pawz” theme for this year’s event. Watch our website, www.couleehumane.com for more details or call us in May to learn more. We hope that you also will hear or read details though our local media groups.

This will be a fun and rewarding weekend for all – our community, our animals, employees, and volunteers alike!

The Local Dog Parks Need Us

As shared late last year, our organization adopted the Onalaska Dog Park. In doing so, we will spruce up the park annually in spring and fall. We also have made a commitment to continue to assist in tidying up the Dr. Fred Dog Park in La Crosse.

In the winter 2009 edition of our newsletter we shared the fabulous efforts of several volunteers who helped pick up debris, clear branches, spread wood chips, pull weeds, and other needs that were successfully accomplished in October 2008, the last day dedicated to this effort. We have scheduled another day – May 9th beginning at 9:00am - to prepare the parks for the flurry of summer activity they will encounter over the next several months. If you would like to help us clean up the local dog parks on May 9th, contact Kelly Dvorak, volunteer coordinator, at 781-4014 or kelly.dvorak@couleehumane.com

Bark in the Park – Save the Date

Bark in the Park will be held on August 8, 2009, at **Copeland Park**. Event information will be available as the event draws closer.

Inside:

Calendar.....	3
News	1-6
Executive Director Letter	9
Update.....	9-11
Wish List.....	16

“Love Dogs” Charm to Benefit the Pet Therapy Endowment

If you have ever wondered about the power of pet therapy dogs to provide comfort and reassurance to our community members in times of need, look no further. One just has to see the look of relief in a cancer patient’s eyes as they receive a welcoming lick on the cheek, or witness the joy and companionship these dogs bring to the lives of those with special needs.



Every year, nearly 100 Coulee Region Humane Society (CRHS) volunteer pet therapy teams log countless hours reaching more than 70,000 people in the Coulee Region, giving of themselves and their dogs without hesitation. The teams brighten faces by providing breaks from painful disease treatments or provide a safe environment for children to increase their reading skills; they visit schools, nursing homes, hospitals, and assisted living facilities; they spend time with college students during study breaks, and attend community events like Special Day for Special People, Relay for Life, Thanksgiving Day Dinner, and Buddy Walk.



In order to assure pet therapy teams can continue to make a difference in people’s lives, CRHS is building an endowment for this program.

Kim Pretasky, owner of Touch of Class in La Crosse, was impressed by the wide reaching impact of the teams’ efforts, and found herself wanting to help with the CRHS endowment efforts. She developed an exclusive charm, designed by Elizabeth Buck of Reve Jewelry, especially for dog lovers, and the proceeds will benefit the CRHS pet therapy endowment. A new design will appear every year for the next five years.

The “Love Dogs” charm, the first in the series, was recently released and is available exclusively at Touch of Class. The charm is available in gold, gold and silver, or silver and may even be personalized for an additional fee. To learn more about the charm or to order:

*Visit Touch of Class, located at 312 Main Street in La Crosse, WI

*Visit the Touch of Class website at www.touchofclasslacrosse.com (a direct link to the charms is provided below)

*Call Touch of Class at 608-784-2640 or toll free at 1-877-784-2630

Above: Silver “Love Dogs” Charm - Front and Back Side.

Charms also available in all gold and a combination of gold and silver.

The direct link to the “Love Dogs” charm is <http://touchofclasslacrosse.com/store/index.php?act=viewCat&catId=146>.

To learn more about the pet therapy endowment, contact Heather Schmid at 608-781-4014 or heather.schmid@couleehumane.com

Let's go rummaging!

Your CRHS will be holding a rummage sale to raise funds for S.N.A.P. This life saving program that began earlier this year offers financial assistance to income eligible pet owners. Our 2009 goal is to sterilize 124 cats and dogs. As of March 31, 78 pets have been sterilized as a result of this program and it is likely we will exceed our original goal. The demand is high and as a result, the need to raise dollars to continue this program is also high.

If you would like to donate new or gently used items to the rummage sale, they may be dropped off during our business hours beginning on April 27th through April 30th. **Please** do not drop off items any sooner as we have very limited storage. To obtain spectacular prices on many different items including men's and women's clothing, shoes, complete queen and king size bedding sets, and items to compliment many rooms in your home, visit us on the following dates/times:

Friday, May 1 – 1:00pm – 5:00pm
 Saturday, May 2 – 8:00am – 5:00pm
 Sunday, May 3 – 1:00pm – 5:00pm



Calendar of Events

April

Animal Cruelty Prevention Month
 Membership renewals due
 April 12th – 18th, National Animal Control Appreciation Week
 April 19th – 25th, National Volunteer Week

May

May 1st – 3rd, Rummage Sale at CRHS to benefit S.N.A.P.
 May 1st – 3rd, PetSmart National Adoption Days
 May 3rd – 9th, Be Kind to Animals Week
 May 9th, Clean Up La Crosse and Onalaska Dog Park Day
 May 21st – 24th, Onalaska Sunfish Days
 May 25th, Memorial Day, CRHS will be closed to observe this holiday

June

Adopt A Shelter Cat Month
 June 5th – 7th, 5th Annual Adoptathon
 June 6th, Safety Days and CRHS Bake Sale at Sam's Club
 June 12th, Yappy Hour at Stoney Creek Inn
 June 26th, National Take Your Dog to Work Day

July

July 1st – 5th, Riverfest
 July 4th, Independence Day, CRHS will be closed to observe this holiday

August

August 1st – 2nd, Coulee Region Cat Show
 August 8th, Bark in the Park*
 August 14th – 15th, Sand on the Riverfront
 August 14th – 16th, Holmen Kornfest
***Bark in the Park will be held in Copeland Park, not Riverside Park**

For more information on start dates and times of training classes offered at CRHS for you and your dog, visit our website and click on the "Training and Behavior" link.

Thank you to Ace, Elite Kibble and Raz Ma Taz Grooming, Festival Foods, Pet Me Scratch Me, PetSmart, Rudy's Feed and Seed, Sam's Club, Target, and Wal-mart for donating food and supplies to us! We very much appreciate their support with helping the animals in our care!

My goal in life is to be as good of a person my dog already thinks I am.

~ Author Unknown

Crystal Clear Window Cleaning Service recently offered to donate their services to us. We want to thank them for providing us with clean, crystal clear windows!

A WORLD WITHOUT CATS...I DARE NOT THINK OF IT.

~Anonymous

Bake Sale to Replace Annual Chicken Q

Our organization has been asked by several individuals to reconsider hosting an annual chicken q by either not hosting one at all or ensuring that the chicken we sell is farm raised or free range chicken. This has been asked of our organization due to the conditions that factory raised chickens endure (for more information about these conditions, please visit www.hsus.org/farm/resources/pubs/rrr.html).

Over the past year, our organization has considered this request. As a result, we have looked into purchasing free range chicken, but unfortunately we feel the increased cost to purchase free range chicken will not be supported by the community – not because there is not a desire to do so, but more due to the state of the economy and a lack of fully understanding the issues surrounding this topic. Since we feel the cost of providing free range chicken is not an option and we recognize the importance of not supporting factory raised chicken, our organization has decided not to host a chicken q this year.

Instead we will be hosting an oldie but goodie...a bake sale! Sam's Club has once again offered their location to us to increase our outreach and as a result, support our fundraising efforts. Our bake sale will be held on Saturday, June 6th, from 10am – 3pm near the exit doors at Sam's Club. Sam's Club will also be holding their annual Safety Day with several free demonstrations for people of all ages to enjoy. So, stop out at Sam's Club on June 6th and learn about different ways in which to keep you and your loved ones safe, bring your children to enjoy demonstrations designed specifically for them, and stop by our bake sale to enjoy home made goodies for both you and your pets. You will also be able to visit with pet therapy dogs as pet therapy teams will be joining the festivities.

Calling All Bakers!

Do you enjoy baking? Do you have a favorite recipe that you know others love? Do you want to support us in a unique way? If so, please consider baking items for our bake sale. We are looking for treats that humans can enjoy, and will also have a table set up to sell treats for dogs and cats.

If you are able to bake items for our bake sale, we ask that baked goods be packaged to sell, clearly identified as to what the baked goods are, and either dropped off at CRHS between 9am – 5pm on Friday, June 5th, or between 9:30am – 10:00am at our table at Sam's Club on Saturday, June 6th. Also, if baking items for cats or dogs, **please** clearly identify this on the package or tell the person to whom you give the baked goods.



Kwik Rewards Fundraising Program

When you apply for a personal Kwik Card you can participate in their fundraising program. Instead of receiving the rebate for purchases made on your personal account, you have the option of selecting our organization to receive your Kwik Rewards. What does this mean for Coulee Region Humane Society (CRHS)? It means that 10% of all of your in-store purchases (excluding tobacco, money orders, stamps, lottery, and lotto) will be donated to us. In addition, Kwik Trip will donate an additional 5% of your total in-store purchases you make on your Kwik Card to us as well. As for your gas purchases, Kwik

Trip will donate \$.03 per gallon of gas you purchase at any one of their locations to CRHS.

How do you apply for a personal Kwik Card? Stop in any Kwik Trip location and pick up a Personal Account application or call 1-888-736-5945 to apply over the phone.

If you already have a Kwik Card and would like to designate your rebate to the CRHS, please call 1-888-736-5945 or stop by our location to pick up a postcard to send to Kwik Trip requesting this change. If you have additional questions, you can contact Jenny Frandsen at 608-793-6319 or jfrandsen@kwiktrip.com.

Spay Neuter Assistance Program (S.N.A.P.) Update



In our last newsletter, we introduced one of our newest efforts to assist our community – S.N.A.P. This program offers low cost spay-neuter services to qualifying pet owners. We have experienced an overwhelming need for this program in just the three short months it has been operating; through 3/31/09, 76 vouchers have been issued! This number far exceeds our projections for the first 6 month plan as the goal was to issue 62 vouchers! We want to thank our veterinarian partners for seeing more clients than originally desired and for providing additional funding as the amount contributed is greater due to the higher number of clients utilizing S.N.A.P.:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Central Animal Hospital | Van Loon Animal Hospital |
| Hillside Animal Hospital | VCA Sand Lake Animal Hospital |
| La Crescent Animal Care | West Salem Veterinary Clinic |
| La Crosse Veterinary Clinic | |

It is clear that a program like S.N.A.P. is needed in our community. We will continue efforts to raise funds for this program like the SPAYghetti and FIXins dinner, Yappy Hour, and rummage sales. We also have prepared written grant proposals and will continue to pursue any opportunities that seem to be a good match for our program. And, of course, this program would not be possible without your support by attending and giving to these events – thank you so much for this! Donations are always welcome and if you would like to give to this program, you can call or mail in your donation making sure to designate for S.N.A.P.

One last thank you for now with respect to S.N.A.P. – our logo was designed by All Seasons Design. They donated their time and expertise to develop a logo that captures the essence of this program. We appreciate their contribution to this life saving endeavor!

Receipt Reminder
Remember to save your receipts from Festival and Quillins! We earn 1% of all receipts that you give to us! You can either drop them off at the shelter or mail them directly to us.

.....
: A cat makes :
: coming :
: home :
: something :
: to look :
: forward to :
: ~Author Unknown :
:

Yappy Hour at Stoney Creek Inn

Looking for something different to do with your dog? Maybe a way to meet other people and their dogs? If so, please join us at Stoney Creek Inn's Lumber-Jack Saloon and outdoor patio on Friday, June 12th, 2009, from 5:00pm – 8:00pm. If you would like to attend, the following are guidelines/requirements for this canine cocktail hour:

- Limited to the first 20 dogs who register
- Minimum donation of \$10, to benefit S.N.A.P. (spay neuter assistance program)
- With your donation, you will receive one "buy one drink, receive one free drink" coupon
- Discounts will be offered on pizza and breadsticks
- All dogs attending will need to be spayed/neutered,

licensed, and current on the following vaccinations – bordetella, distemper, and rabies (proof of all will be required prior to admission)

-All dogs must be social in nature. No aggressive dogs will be allowed. Staff and volunteers will ask those whose behavior is not acceptable to leave.

Pre-registration for this event is encouraged as it is limited to 20 dogs. To register, visit the Coulee Region Humane Society during office hours. Registration will also be accepted the night of the event until maximum capacity is reached. Remember to bring proof of your dog's spay/neuter, license, and current rabies vaccination records. For more information, contact Heather Schmid at 781-4014.

NEWS

SPAYghetti and FIXins Dinner Update

Dogs are not our whole life, but they make our lives whole.

~ Roger Caras

The first ever SPAYghetti & FIXins Dinner to benefit the Spay Neuter Assistance Program (S.N.A.P.) was a tremendous success! The entire dinner was organized by the efforts of our Spay/Neuter Committee and the Onalaska American Legion. The event also was made possible due to the large number of enthusiastic, dedicated, compassionate volunteers who spent hours cooking spaghetti, serving spaghetti, wrapping silverware, and cleaning.

Close to 350 spaghetti dinners were enjoyed by individuals and several hundred raffle tickets were bought to support this life saving program. After dinner, guests enjoyed scrumptious desserts at the bake sale organized by the pet therapy program that received support from individuals and businesses throughout the community. The dinner raised a little over \$3,400 after expenses were paid.

There are many to thank for making this successful as well as keeping our costs at a minimum:

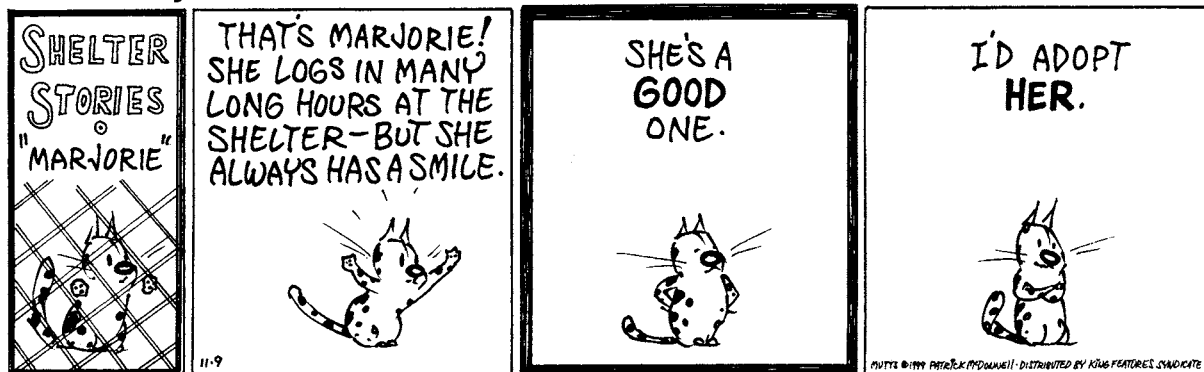
- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------|
| Arctic Glacier Ice | Traditions |
| Eric and Cassandra Speltz | U-Bake |
| Festival Foods | Val Driscoll |
| Great Lakes Cheese | Vision of Light |
| Kwik Trip | Wal-Mart |
| Madeline Anderson | |
| Matt Kenseth Fan Club | |
| Our volunteers | |
| Onalaska American Legion | |
| Pepsi | |
| Sam's Club | |

The Warehouse Hosts Concert for CRHS

The Warehouse, one of America's longest running, all ages, no alcohol, independent concert venues, will be hosting "Music Goes to the Cats and Dogs" with proceeds benefitting our organization. Details include:

- Date:** Saturday, May 9, 2009
- Place:** The Warehouse, 328 Pearl St.
- Time:** Doors open at 5:00pm
Hoola Hoop Contest from 5:30pm—6:30pm
Drawings for door prizes at 7:00pm
Local bands from 8:00pm—11:00pm
- Cost:** Admission only—\$5
Admission & goody bag—\$10
Admission, goody bag, & event shirt—\$20
- Other:** There will be a donation bin on site for donations of cat and dog supplies (see wish list at www.couleehumane.com under "How to Help")
For additional information, visit www.warehouse.rocks.com or www.myspace.com/warehouselacrosse

MUTTS by Patrick McDonnell



© Patrick McDonnell, King Features Syndicate

Looking for a Kind Word

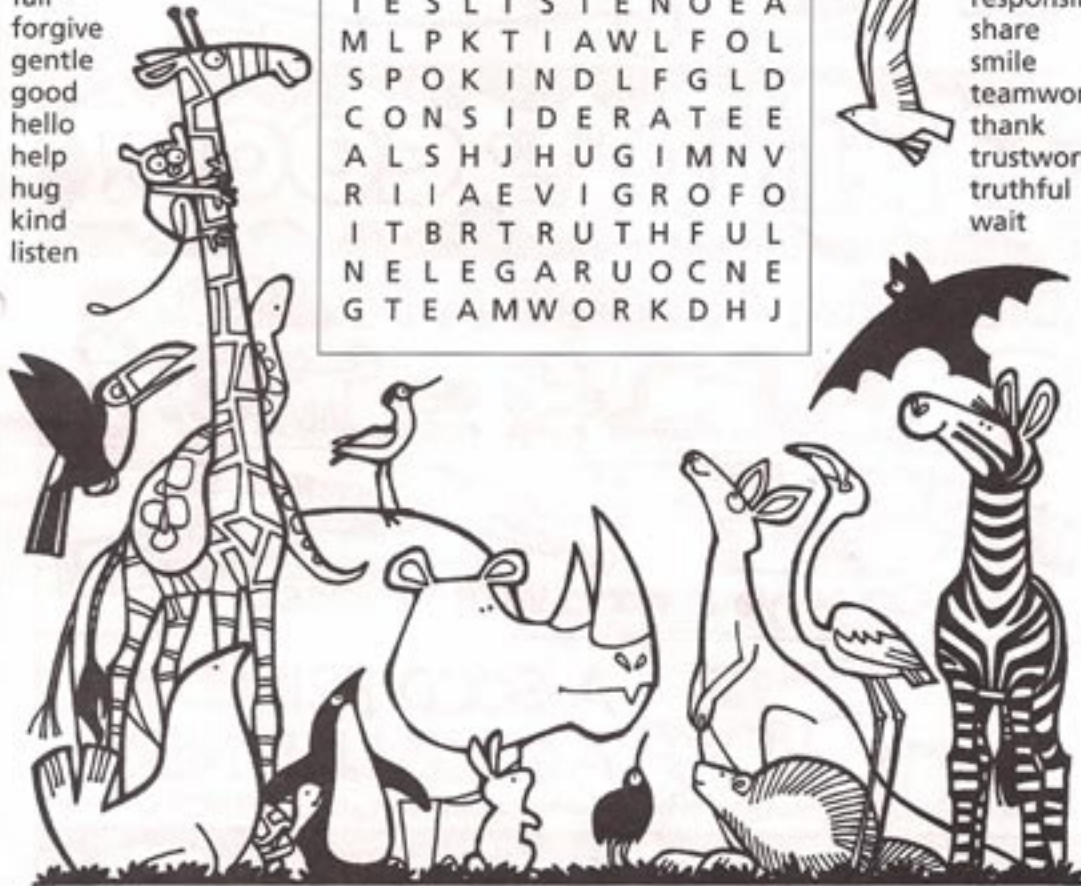
These kind words are hidden in the puzzle below. Can you find and circle them

all? The words may be up and down, sideways, backward, or on the diagonal.

caring
considerate
encourage
fair
forgive
gentle
good
hello
help
hug
kind
listen



love
pal
polite
responsible
share
smile
teamwork
thank
trustworthy
truthful
wait



Upcoming events for youth...

4/25 – Earth Day Celebration at Three Rivers Waldorf School from 11am – 5pm

5/23 – Onalaska Sunfish Days Parade beginning at 12pm

6/7 – Safety Days at Sam’s Club from 10am – 2pm

Thank you...

*to Longfellow Middle School for holding “Cause for Paws” which raised over \$1,400 as well as miscellaneous food and supplies.

*to Jordan M., Mandy B., Paige

E., and Ellie R. for asking family and friends to support our organization instead of receiving birthday gifts. Their kindness brought us financial assistance, dog, cat, and small animal food, toys, treats, copy paper, and bleach.

*to Northwoods International, Emerson Elementary 4th graders, West Salem Elementary 4th graders, Sand Lake Elementary 3rd – 5th graders for donating supplies and funds to help animals in our care.

*to Mary Mother of the Church

Early Childhood Center, Troop 244 at St. Patrick’s School, Kindernook, and Roots and Shoots Club for donating food, treats, towels, cleaning supplies, leashes, and funds to care for the hundreds of animals in need the first few months of this year.

*to everyone in the community that donated items from our wish list and supports us financially.... it is because of you that we are able to be a resource for both animals and people in need!

Kids’ Corner

Thank You



To Coulee Region Humane Society~

In October 2000, I adopted my dog named Maggie Mae from your facility. She was approximately 4 months old. You had asked for a picture of her but never got it back to you until now, a week after she passed away.

I can't begin to tell you how blessed I was to have found her there. I was looking for a companion for my 86 year old mother who lived with me. Even at 4 months, she became the perfect friend and confidant to her. It amazed me how she knew mom needed to be handled gingerly. She remained at mom's side until mom died at age 92. She

grieved, which again surprised me, for approximately a month. She then stayed at my side until I think she felt I had gotten through my grief and died February 22, 2009. It was brought to my attention in the past month that she likely had been ill for quite some time but never let on until her last days.

She brought many smiles, comfort, and love to mom, me, and many others she had contact with. I would like to thank you, on behalf of Maggie and my mother, for what you do, for being there, and for bringing that wonderful blessing and miracle into my life. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Mary W.

Success Stories

Hi, my name is Jade and I am a 5 year old Bluetick Coonhound that was adopted after 2 ½ weeks at this shelter. My new owners have kept my name.

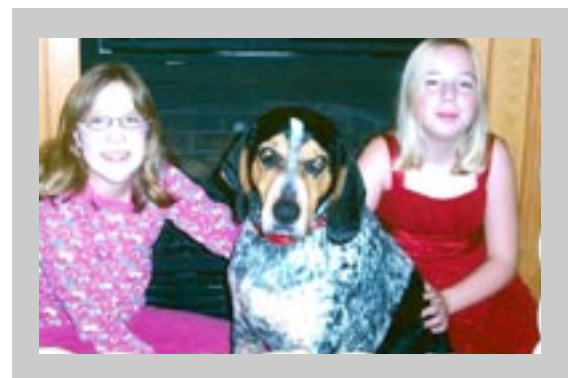
They had a Bluetick Coonhound before me that was almost 9 years old named Maggie who they loved very much. But Maggie went to doggie heaven in December because she had Lyme disease which created a lot of other health issues that she did not recover from. They decided after that they would stay a one dog family, since they also have a 9 year old yellow Lab named Amber.

But as fate would have it, my new owners had seen me on TV and the next day they were shown pictures of me from the newspaper (I happened to be pet of the week). That day they came

to see me, and two days later they brought Amber to meet me to see how we would get along.

And guess what? They took me home, and I am so thankful for that. I now have a loving home. I live in the country and have a whole back yard to play in. I have a doggy door so I can come and go as I please, and I even have free reign of my new home. They love my doggy personality because I crave lots of attention. And they just love my hound dog howl.

So, I just wanted to say **Thank You CRHS** for giving me a home for a few weeks, but most of all Thank You for advertising me on TV and



the newspaper because without you doing that my new owners would not of known about me because they live an hour away. You have made me one happy dog!

Jade

Note: CRHS would like to thank all of the media and business partners who help pets like Jade find new homes by featuring them!

It is amazing to think we are almost 4 full months into 2009! We have been busy at your Coulee Region Humane Society and before time gets away from all of us, I want to share the amazing work your support allowed us to do in 2008.

During 2008, we cared for a record 3,443 domestic animals – an increase of 45% from 2004 and an increase of 11% from 2007! Our adoption numbers have also increased from 571 animals in 2004 to 1,111 in 2008! Our goal is to exceed this number in 2009 as we will not be satisfied until we reach our goal of placing all adoptable animals. We continue to seek out the help of other animal welfare groups to help us as well as creative adoption programs to help animals be given a second chance. I am so thankful that our community recognizes the importance of a humane society being available to help animals and people in need. And, though it is unfortunate that so many animals become displaced, just think what would happen if there was not an organization like ours in our community. Believe it or not, many communities do not have an organization such as ours...

Our animal control program served over 2,000 domestic animals and nearly 900 wild animals during 2008. They responded to thousands of animal welfare concerns, inspected several facilities to ensure they are in compliance with local ordinances, and continue to provide oversight

to animal bite quarantines. This program helps to ensure animals are safe and properly cared for. Again, imagine what might happen if our County did not have this service available...

Our training and behavior program assisted 706 dogs and their owners during 2008. This number is pretty incredible considering that in 2007 we assisted less than half that number! This program keeps dogs in loving homes by providing knowledge and resources to strengthen the human-dog relationship while working through common behavior or training needs.

Our volunteer program saw hundreds of individuals give of themselves to help care for animals staying with us, plan special events, and help with the many and varied needs of our organization. A total of 8,389 hours were volunteered during 2008!

Our pet therapy program grew to over 80 pet therapy teams during 2008!!! These volunteer teams spent at least 3,000 hours of their time (and trust me, it is probably at least triple this amount as many teams would rather not focus on the time spent but the true goals of this program) befriending your family, friends, and neighbors, visiting patients in our hospitals, reading with children, and spending time with those who stop by our table or area at community events. The number of people these 80 volunteer pet therapy teams

visited with in 2008 reached over 70,000 through over 7,000 different visits...truly amazing!

I am so honored to work alongside the individuals I do...from staff to volunteers to our Board of Directors to youth raising funds and securing items we need to supporters like you.... thank you for everything you do. I often hear "I know this is not a lot" or "I wish I could do more" – do not underestimate the power of your support. Every single dollar or hour given to help us makes a difference.

I realize that our daily lives have become more challenging over the past year as we strive to do more with less. I simply cannot thank you enough for continuing to find ways in which to support our organization. As you can see from the numbers and efforts shared above, we need you now more than ever.

Heather

From the Desk of the Executive Director

Preventing Home Collisions

Spring migration of birds is underway. The birds you love to watch in your yard are occupied with many activities from recovering from long journeys, establishing territories and nesting. American Bird Conservancy estimates that as many as 975 million birds were killed by collisions with windows in the United States every year.



Why do birds hit windows?

The two most common causes of daytime window collisions are:

- Birds see landscapes in *window reflections*.
- If a bird can see through to the outside through two aligned windows in your home, they confuse them for a tunnel and will attempt to fly through to get to the other side.

Collisions can be reduced by any of the following:

- To avoid a bird's ability to look through one window and see the outside through another window, simply close the blinds or curtains on one of the windows.
- Apply window clings. To be effective, clings may have to be placed no more than 4" apart.
- Hang brightly colored fluttering ribbons in front of windows. Alternately, tie unwanted compact disks (CDs) on string in front of the window so that they turn in the wind.
- One of the most effective ways to reduce bird window collisions is to install fine-mesh plastic netting in front of windows (especially during periods of peak migration). Leave a few inches between the glass and the netting to allow birds to collide softly with the mesh instead of hitting the glass
- Apply film such as CollideEscape that greatly reduces the reflections on the outside of windows.
- Place bird feeders very close (within three feet) or at least ten yards away from windows.
- Lower window awnings to reduce window reflections.

Please take some action on your home windows to help reduce the number of bird deaths this year.

Registering your home will let other people know that you are taking action to prevent bird window collisions! You can apply to register your home at

http://savinglives.wihumane.org/site/Survey?ACTION_REQUIRED=URI_ACTION_USER_REQUESTS&SURVEY_ID=16400

Adapted from Wisconsin Humane Society's "Preventing Home Collisions" at <http://www.wihumane.org/wildlife/wings/homecollisions.aspx>. Additional information can be found at https://www.abcbirds.org/birdconservationalliance/members/window_paper.PDF



Staff Profile: Molly Burns, Animal Caregiver and Adoption Counselor



Molly cuddling up with one of her many favorites at CRHS.

I became associated with the Coulee Region Humane Society in 2006 when I did an internship through Viterbo University. I wanted to learn more about the programs they offered which I was able to do through shadowing each department from pet therapy to animal control.

Once my internship was done I continued on volunteering in all areas including cats, dogs and small animals. I was then offered a job in April of 2007 as an animal caregiver and adoption counselor. In addition I also help by fostering animals as well as transporting them to other shelters or rescues when needed. I feel very strongly about the mission at CRHS and am proud that I play a small part in that role.

In addition to my compassion and love of domestic animals, I am also inspired by wild animals. It has been a goal of mine to work with wild animals for a very long time. I was able to fulfill this goal in the summer of 2008...it all started out with having a breakdown in the career counselor's office. She knew my love of animals and my future aspirations and gave me some ideas. I applied to several zoos in the Midwest and chose Brookfield Zoo in Brookfield, Illinois because of its standards, programs and recognition. After interviewing in six different departments I was given my first choice which was to work with Pachyderms.

The first weeks overwhelmed me with information. Cleaning procedures, feeding times, getting to know

the other keepers and layout of building, but most of all meeting the nine animals that would be in my care for the next twelve weeks. They included two African elephants, four black rhinoceros, one Nile hippopotamus, one pygmy hippopotamus and last but not least, one Lowland Tapir. They all had names and identities. All were at least middle age or at life expectancy. Each had a different routine.

My childhood dream has always been to wear a khaki uniform and work in a safari. Though Brookfield Zoo is no safari, I did have the honor of wearing a khaki uniform which included steel toe boots, due to size and weight of animals. The zoo is situated on over 200 acres. During my free time I would take advantage of my surroundings and go visit Mexican Grays in Wolf Woods or go see Ramar, the Western Lowland Gorilla, the silverback.

Besides getting to see firsthand a variety of medical procedures I was also privileged to partake in one in particular, which was drawing blood from an adult male Black Rhino. The blood was tested to check for signs of fertilization, for stress levels and a variety of other reasons. I watched daily training sessions which included foot trims for each elephant. I helped give the Tapir his bath and I brushed a 6000 pound hippo's teeth. I conducted a routine husbandry session with one of the Rhinos using a target pole. Brookfield Zoo is part of a program called the Species Survival Plan (SSP) which other zoos are affiliated with nationally and globally. It is an initiative to protect endangered species from going extinct. Zoos coordinate with one another and transfer species in order to breed them, which happened to a young female Black Rhinoceros while I was there as an intern. Elephants are highly intelligent and sensitive animals. They show it in their eyes. Being that I was there temporarily I was not allowed to have contact with the elephants. I watched on the sidelines. Each elephant knew over forty commands. Getting to know the elephants I have such an admiration for them and their bond to one another.

My last day was emotional. I feel very connected to those nine animals those hot summer days at the zoo. I never knew how spectacular each of these species were. Now I know.

*I am only one,
but still I am
one. I cannot
do everything,
but still I can do
something;
and because
I cannot do
everything, I
will not refuse to
do the something
that I can do.*

~ Edward Everett Hale

Ways to be a Breed Advocate for Your American Pit Bull Terrier

By: Cary Wyninger, Customer Relations Manager

Pit Bulls have a reputation that can be positive or negative depending on whom you speak with. Sometimes even well-intentioned pit bull owners can add to their negative reputation because of some simple mistakes made. And while each American Pit Bull Terrier (APBT) has their own personality, there are some things an owner can do to ensure that they are doing their best to put their dog in a positive light. Really...these could apply to ANY dog owner!

1. Make sure you have a good knowledge of the breed (even if you've "owned them before"... have you really done your research to really know them? A vital mistake to remedy ASAP!)
2. Give good mental and physical exercise (a gentle stroll around the block? Sorry...that doesn't cut it.)
3. Teach and ensure good manners both in the home, and out in public (that includes you too!)
4. Follow leash laws and provide responsible containment.
5. Spay or neuter your APBT.

For starters, get a good grasp of the breed history and characteristics, and learn to be well-versed in dog body language. If you don't know the history, you are missing out on truly understanding why your APBT behaves the way he/she does, and giving him/her truly what he needs to be a happy housemate. Get backgrounds from many different sources. Some may vary, but having more knowledge enables you to intelligently converse with others about your dog or even their own dog. Also, learn what dogs are saying with their non-verbal cues! Their body is the primary way they communicate with each other.

A typical APBT is an intelligent athlete, who typically likes short bursts of intense workouts. A gentle stroll around the block is nice to get out and have some

fresh air, but that shouldn't be the only exercise your APBT gets. Incorporate commands they already know (minimally they should know sit, wait, down and leave it) into your physical workouts so they get to exercise their brains as well.

Good manners start with you! In the home, make sure your APBT doesn't bombard visitors, is taught what to chew and what not to chew (they need to be provided proper chew items!) and knows how to exhibit self-control out and about in public. Taking some good training classes can help begin that foundation. (Classes are just the beginning...it's up to you to practice the techniques and utilize them in your life.)

It's imperative that a responsible APBT owner uses a good leash and collar system. Collars need to be strong and fitted so your dog can't slip free and run amuck! A martingale style collar might be suitable, or you could look at different harnesses such as an Easy Walk to inhibit pulling and give you optimal control over your strong dog.

Spay or neuter is so important! As beautiful as APBT's are, there are simply too many of them out there, and too many that are not even temperamentally or genetically sound enough to begin with!

As an owner of an APBT (or dog owner in general) it is imperative to know what you're getting into so you will be able to offer your dog a great life. Or if you already have an APBT, know what they need so you can step up to the plate! They depend on us to set the bar and help achieve a more positive reputation. For more information check out the following websites:

www.badrap.org

www.pitbulllovers.com



Planned Giving Options

Have you thought about what your wishes are for your estate – your cash savings, property, and personal belongings? Did you know that if your wishes are not clearly stated in a will or living trust that you may lose control over your belongings after your death? If a will or living trust are not in place, your property and finances are settled according to state laws regardless of whether or not the laws coincide with your wishes. (The differences between these two documents are mainly that a living trust is carried out immediately upon death, while a will goes through probate and the information remains private.)

Death is not something many enjoy thinking about, but for purposes of clearly stating your wishes, it is something you need to think about. First and foremost, you need to ensure that your loved ones are cared for in the event you are no longer with them. But, are you aware that you can also leave a portion of your estate to a charitable organization such as the Coulee Region Humane Society? You may leave any of the following:

Bequest – A bequest is made through a will or living trust and typically states that a specific dollar amount or percentage of your estate be left to the charity or charities of your choice, with no restrictions on how the bequest will be used.

Life Insurance – You have a couple options with life insurance. First, you can leave a policy that has been completely paid for and receive a tax deduction for the fair market value while allowing the charitable organization to also benefit. The other option you have is to purchase a life insurance policy and name a charity as the irrevocable owner and beneficiary. You as the donor will receive a tax deduction for the policy's cash value and you can also deduct the amount of any future payments paid to the charity for premium on the policy. You can name more than one charity on the policy in either example above.

Retirement Accounts – You can name a charity as a beneficiary on your retirement accounts such as a

401K, IRA, and/or Roth IRA.

Charitable Remainder Trust – This allows immediate tax benefits and income to you as the donor and allows for any remaining funds to be gifted to the charity or charities of your choice at time of death.

Charitable Lead Trust – This is similar to a Charitable Remainder Trust but it differs in that gifts can be made to a charity for either a specific number of years or for the donor's lifetime. At the end of the specified period, the assets in the trust are typically passed to the donor's children or their trustee.

Memorials – A memorial can be left or directed to a charitable organization. Often, donors will clearly identify to their loved ones a charity or charities in which memorials should be directed. A memorial can also be made to remember a companion animal, either your beloved companion animal or a companion animal of a loved one or a friend. These are just a few of the options available to you to be able to continue your legacy. We strongly encourage you to consult with a professional such as a financial planner, tax accountant, and/or a lawyer to discuss your options further. Through your will or living trust, you can give a gift that allows for hope, growth, and the ability to allow the charity to make a difference within the community. We do hope that you will consider the Coulee Region Humane Society in your plans, for it is your generosity that animals depend on.

Do you need to inform the charity that you have left something to them? This really is up to you. If you do make the decision to inform the charity of a gift that has been left to them, this will allow them to recognize you (if you would like) and the gift can be included in future planning.

If you are considering leaving a gift or have left a gift to the Coulee Region Humane Society, and you would like us to know, please contact Heather Schmid, Executive Director at 781-4014.

13th Annual Cause for Paws Banquet

On February 21st, 2009, we held our annual Cause for Paws Banquet at the Stoney Creek Inn. Over 225 people attended the event, spending time with their family and friends bidding on silent auction items, enjoying dinner, and listening to testimonials shared by just a few of those who have been touched by our services and programs. Once again, the evening brought tears of joy and laughter to all.

Anne Paape and Cory Malles hosted the evening and sparked great interest in the silent auction throughout the evening. The funds we raised as a result of our guests, room and table sponsors, and businesses and individuals who donated items for the silent auction will help us care for thousands of animals who will need us this year as well as continue to offer the many services we do to our community. "Thank you" does not begin to express how grateful we are to everyone who supported this event as well as all of our efforts throughout the year.

We would like to acknowledge and thank the following businesses and individuals who helped make this event possible:

Event Sponsors



CENTRAL ANIMAL HOSPITAL

Your Pet's Care Is Our Primary Concern

608-783-6606 • www.centralanimal.com



**RIVERS EDGE
PET CREMATORIUM**

*"Making the love and respect
you shared with your Pets last
forever....."*



Howard & Marcia Kelly

Dinner Table Sponsors

Carol Taebel
Central Animal Hospital
Fowler & Hammer, Inc.
Smile Care Dental



Spay-Neuter Week Turns into Weeks

As shared in the winter 2009 newsletter, 8 local veterinary clinics agreed to participate in our first ever Spay-Neuter Week, February 23 – 27 which coincided with Spay Day USA on February 24. Due to the overwhelming commitment by local veterinarians to help homeless animals at CRHS, Spay-Neuter Week turned into Spay-Neuter Weeks, beginning on February 23 and ending on March 13!

The participating clinics provided spay and neuter services (some also donated rabies vaccinations) to 43 animals including:

- 5 female dogs
- 5 male dogs
- 15 female cats
- 16 male cats
- 2 rabbits

The 8 clinics participating in this effort most definitely affected the lives of the animals in our care and quite frankly, staff, volunteers, and community members. We continue to receive numerous positive comments from staff, volunteers, visitors, and donors sharing how much they appreciate the commitment by these gracious clinics to help homeless animals. During the final week of Spay-Neuter Weeks, 19 different animals were adopted in just five days...this is amazing and again, a direct result of the efforts of these fine veterinary clinics:

Central Animal Hospital	Thompson Animal Medical Center
Hillside Animal Hospital	Van Loon Animal Hospital
La Crescent Animal Care	VCA Sand Lake Animal Hospital
La Crosse Veterinary Clinic	West Salem Veterinary Clinic

We cannot thank these clinics and their staffs enough for all that they have done, are doing, and will do to help the animals in our care.

Festival Foods Paw Away Hunger Program

How can you donate \$5 or \$10 for our organization to purchase needed supplies at Festival Foods? Next time you go grocery shopping or stop in Festival Foods to pick up lunch or dinner, locate the Paw Away Hunger display or ask a Festival Foods associate for assistance, pick up a \$5 or \$10 grocery bag, and hand it to the cashier to ring it up for you.

The dollars raised are tracked by a unique number within their computer system and at the end of a calendar quarter, the dollars you give allow us to purchase needed food and supplies. **It is that easy.** If 100 shoppers purchase a \$5 bag, \$500 is given back to our organization. If 500 shoppers during a 3 month period purchase a \$10 bag, \$5,000 is given back to our organization. **Please consider purchasing a Paw Away Hunger bag the next time you go shopping!**

Board of Directors

Marcia Kelly, President
Jon Trapp, Vice-President
Shannon Hentges, Secretary
Jo Ann Marson, Treasurer
Jeneen Ablan
Ann Abraham
Heidi Blanke
Mike Dvorak
Chris Huston
Cheryl Matuszewski
Penny Reedy
Sheri Schneider

Staff

Administration

Heather Schmid, Executive Director
Marcia Christman, Executive Assistant
Kaylynn Cooper, Education Director
Kelly Dvorak, Volunteer Coordinator
Amiie Gabrilka, Animal Control Supervisor
Jason Hake, Accounting Clerk
Renee Knutson, Pet Therapy Director
Cassandra Speltz, Kennel Operations Manager
Cary Wyninger, Customer Relations Manager

Humane Officers/Animal Control Officers

Lynn Zee Dokken-Knox
Kelly Dvorak
Dan Olson
Rich Schrader

Animal Behavior

Shirley Richards

Animal Care/Adoption Counseling

Cassie Adamietz
Molly Burns
Amber Grosch
Kristy Haack
Rachel Holthaus
Angie Lee
Kelly Metzger
Meranda Nelson
Stephanie Nikolai
Sara Olson
Rhonda Taylor
Samantha Vandenberg
Lisa Waeger

Customer Relations

Sonia Collins
Kathy Gregerson
Heather Hankins
Rachel Holthaus
Leilani Savitt
Peg Zappen

Maintenance

David Collins

Contact Information

911 Critter Court
Onalaska, WI 54650
608-781-4014
Fax 608-781-1646
www.couleehumane.com



911 Critter Court
Onalaska, WI 54650

Your animal experts. Your community resource.

Non-profit organization
U. S. Postage
PAID
La Crosse, WI
54601
Permit No. 61



Hours

Viewing

Monday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday 1pm - 5pm
Tuesday and Thursday 1pm - 7pm
Wednesday - Closed

Office

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9am - 5pm
Tuesday and Thursday 9am - 7pm
Saturday and Sunday 1pm - 5pm

Wish List

Animal and Kennel Care:

Cat scratching post
Kong stuffers:
 Small treats, peanut butter, spray cheese
Toys for cats:
 Little mice with a tail and bell on end, etc.
Toys for dogs:
 Sturdy, squeaky toys, Kongs
Rawhide bones or chips - things to keep our dogs busy
Pig ears
Dry cat food (Science Diet, Eukanuba, PetSmart Authority, Purina)
Dry kitten food (Science Diet, Eukanuba, Purina, PetSmart Authority)
Dry dog food (Science Diet, Eukanuba, Purina)
Dry puppy food (same brands listed for Dog Food)
British style slip leads for dogs - 1/2 inch and 3/8 inch - can be found at www.cleanrun.com, click on collars and leashes then click on slip leads, then click on british style
Leashes - 1 inch thick, 4 - 6 feet long
Baby food (for cats that are not eating - no onion powder, please)
Dog collars
Martingale collars for dogs
Feliway spray (see www.petedge.com)
Carefresh bedding
Yesterday's News - litter
Timothy hay

Guinea pig food
Aspen shavings or chips (no pine or cedar)
Small animal food (birds, hamsters, rabbits, ferrets)
Small animal litter
Rabbit pellets
Fresh carrots and romaine lettuce for rabbits
12 inch diameter oil pans (to use as litter pans)
Pooper scoopers - heavy duty
Dish rags/washcloths
Gas gift cards (transportation of animals)
Gift cards (to buy food and supplies)
 • Target
 • Wal-mart
 • Sam's Club
 • PETCO
 • PetSmart

Office Supplies:

Pocket folders
Small gift bags (to send info. home with adopters)
Stamps
Copy Paper - 8.5X11 - plain white

Cleaning Supplies:

Garbage bags - 33 gallon size
Garbage bags - 13 gallon size
All purpose cleaner (Lysol, Mr. Clean, etc.)
Windex
Paper toweling

Kleenex

Special Needs:

Buster Cubes (for dogs) - Qty 4
Chomping toys (no stuffed toys) from planetdog.com
Feliway plug-ins - Qty of 4 - 1 for each cat room

Pet Therapy Needs:

White ink jet card stock
White postcards for ink jet - 5-1/2 X 4-1/4
Plain white or plain royal blue gift bags
Royal blue or red pocket folders
"My Book About Me" A Dr. Seuss book - 25 copies - 1 for each
Pet Therapy Reading Team

URGENT

Clay cat litter (non-clumping)
Canned dog food - loaf please, no meats in gravy/sauce
Canned cat food - loaf please, no meats in gravy/sauce
4 small brooms with dust pans
Bleach
Laundry detergent