



# Humanely Speaking

H I N S D A L E   H U M A N E   S O C I E T Y   /   S P R I N G   2 0 1 7

## Farewell to our Executive Director

*Lori Halligan says Goodbye to HHS*

## HHS Kennel Improvements

## Adopt a Cat Month

## NEW

## Ask a Vet Column

*Dr. Ann Marie LoPiccolo*

## Pet Walk & Run Returns!

*One of our Biggest Fundraisers of the Year*

*Photo Courtesy of Megan Erickson*

# Pet Walk & Run

## | Sunday, June 4, 8-Noon |

*Pet Walk & Run returns with even more fun!*

Our Pet Walk & Run Fundraiser (one of our biggest of the year!) returns for the 28th year, on Sunday, June 4 from 8am-noon at Katherine Legge Memorial Park, 5901 S. County Line Road in Hinsdale. The certified 5K run portion of the event that debuted last year, provides a scenic route through Hinsdale neighborhoods, beginning and ending in the park.

Once again the event provides a day of family fun and fitness, featuring our vendor mall with giveaways, entertainment, demonstrations, games, food trucks and more. We are excited to share that our friend Judy Hsu from ABC-7 returns as our M.C.

For runners, race packet pick-up takes place at Spark Fitness, 777 North York Rd in Hinsdale, Suites 5 & 6, on Friday, June 2 from 2-6pm, and Saturday, June 3 from 9am-1pm.

Run the 5K, walk it, or take the traditional Pet Walk path within Katherine Legge Park. "We had such a great first year for the 5K portion of this event," said Mistie Lucht, Race Director. "I am thrilled to be part of it again, and to welcome back our runners, walkers, spectators, and all of our HHS supporters. This year we're also including a Pledge page for participants, so check out the details once you register."

Registration fees are: **\$35 per adult runner** (price goes up to \$40 after May 1), **\$25 per walker** (walkers are not timed) **\$25 for children runners under 9 years old** and **\$10 for the Kids Dash**. All registered runners and walkers receive a special Pet Walk & Run t-shirt. Kids Dash participants receive an HHS Hero cape. Race

day registration is 7-7:30am (t-shirts are not guaranteed day of race). Warm-up with Spark Fitness begins at 7:45am, Kids Dash at 9:15am and 5K Race Awards are presented at 9:30am. Awards will go to top finishers in each age bracket.

"Pet Walk & Run is one of our biggest fundraisers of the year," said Robin Carroll, Director of Public Relations/Special Events, HHS. "We hope to have one of our most successful years yet, while providing attendees with a morning of family fun and fitness, all to benefit our homeless animals."

Save the date and bring your two and four-legged family members out for this very special day in the park that benefits the homeless animals of Hinsdale Humane Society.



Judy Hsu, ABC-7 Chicago, returns as M.C. of Pet Walk & Run



To register for Pet Walk & Run, visit [hinsdalehumanesociety.org](http://hinsdalehumanesociety.org).



# Farewell to our Executive Director

*After Nine Years, Lori Halligan says Goodbye to HHS*

This spring, after nine years of serving as Hinsdale Humane Society's Executive Director, we say goodbye to Lori Halligan. She will be moving out of state with her husband Mike, who has taken on a new career opportunity.

Boiling down nine years of animal shelter adventures, milestones and achievements wasn't easy, but certainly was fun. Here are some of the highlights:

## Milestones & Achievements

Of Lori's many accomplishments during her tenure, she received, and continually renews her CAWA certification (Certified Animal Welfare Administrator), which demonstrates the highest standards and ethical practice in the field of Animal Welfare.



Lori is proud of expanding the HHS Pet Therapy program to Paulson Pediatric Rehabilitation and Amita Health Care facilities, helping to bring the impactful work of our Therapy animals to those in need.

She also led the addition of the Carla E. Fisher Memorial garden in 2009, as well as



multiple remodeling projects dating back to 2010. Every area of the shelter, except for our isolation room, will have been renovated by the time Lori departs.

"A big initiative during my time here was The University of California - Davis operations evaluation," said Lori. "That analysis prompted the organizational study, that in turn led to our Strategic Plan, all of which was a 2 1/2 year project from 2012-2014."

When Lori began in 2008, HHS had no social media presence. Today the shelter thrives on multiple social media outlets. Additionally, she led the re-design of the website in 2012, and its upgrade in production currently, as well as the graphic upgrade of the newsletter, logo and branding over the past three years.

## Special Animals

A "famous" dog named Rusty, who had previously been an elusive homeless pet in Oak Brook, was finally captured, brought to us, and transported to a facility where he could live out his years with a rescue group. "The "sending off" party we had for Rusty, complete with a police escort, and local and national media attention, is a favorite memory of mine," said Lori. "Close to 100 people came out on a bitterly cold January day."

Among other memorable animals, is of course her own HHS alumni dog, Zoe, as well as the parade of unusual strays that have made their way through our doors, including a goat, tortoise, bearded dragon lizard, ferret and chicken.

## Memorable Moments

In 2011, a cat escaped its cage and was covering in a 3-inch wide space. He couldn't be reached by hand or with a humane catch pole. Multiple steel cages had to be disassembled with screwdrivers so the sound of power tools wouldn't further agitate the cat. "Removing the cages took all day," said Lori. "As soon as

## Director's Desk

*"Piglet noticed that even though he had a very small heart, it could hold a rather large amount of gratitude." A.A. Milne, Winnie the Pooh*

It's hard to put into words my thoughts as I contemplate leaving Hinsdale Humane Society. I cherish remarkable memories of special animals and amazing people. But mostly I hold a tremendous amount of gratitude in my heart.

I am especially grateful to the wonderful staff who put their hearts and souls into caring for the animals... and one another. It's never "just a job" for the shelter staff. It's a daily opportunity to put compassion into action. Whether they are cleaning a cage, preparing a meal, writing a marketing plan or returning a phone call, they do so with an amazing capacity for selfless giving. To all our staff members: I thank you for your effort, energy and heart. It has been an honor to stand beside you in service to the animals.

I want to express my profound gratitude to our volunteers, including board members and Advisory Council members. While there are multiple opportunities to do anything in life, they CHOOSE to give back. And the work isn't always fun or easy... sometimes you get peed on or pooped on or perform your tasks in crappy weather... and you do it anyway. To all our volunteers: I am in awe of your sacrificial giving of your time.

And finally, I am forever thankful to the community at large which supports HHS in so many ways: adopting, participating in programs, educating about animal welfare, donating, fostering, etc. We really couldn't do what we do without you! Thank you for sustaining Hinsdale Humane Society in our mission of helping animals and the people who love them.

I am endlessly grateful for the past nine years and the opportunity to lead and to serve. So as I depart rather reluctantly, I leave you with one additional quote from Winnie the Pooh: "How lucky I am to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard."

Thank you!

Lori Halligan  
Executive Director

*continued on page 5*

# Good News!

## La Grange Public Library

We were honored to be a part of the La Grange Public Library's food drive for our animals. They promoted it to their patrons for the month of January and invited us to be present during the Martin Luther King Day Blood drive. We were able to meet with patrons of the library and tell them all about the work we do, as well as volunteering opportunities available, all while pet therapy teams greeted visitors and shared details of the work they do in the community. It was all capped off with our READ program later that evening, in which children read to our animals to bolster their self confidence and reading skills. Thank you to La Grange Public Library for embracing our cause and sharing our story with your patrons!



*Pictured left to right: Pet Therapy Team Dietre Hayford and Bosco, Leslie Hartoonian of La Grange Library, and HHS volunteers, Betty Tetens and Marilynn Pavlik.*



*Leslie Hartoonian and her daughter Phoebe, dropping off all of the donated supplies to the shelter.*

# PAWS FOR APPLAUSE



Our sincere thanks and gratitude to the wonderful children who so generously donated birthday money, allowance, proceeds from cookie and lemonade stands, Christmas money and handmade blankets for the animals. Our hearts are full with the generosity of these Big Hearts for Little Paws Club members and their big, kind gestures for our homeless animals.

Special thanks go to: Will Aikens | Brooke B. | Samantha & Camryn B. | Giuliana D. | Claire Entsminger | Teddy E. | Madeline Gilhooley | Audrey Giltner | Meg G. | Brennan & Peyton Israel | Grace Kerr | Eleanor Lucht | Gavin McDonald | Lily Morgan | Sophia Murphy | Elena & Marco Quinonez | Grace Ross | Gavin S. | Alexa Salzman | Cody S. | Graham Van Ek and Nic N. | Bridget Waight | Kate | Natalia

Many thanks are also due to:

Our own past staff member, Robyn Garrison (who still returns to help us out at the shelter!), for the Shop and Share promotion she and her husband ran at their book store, The Frugal Muse in Darien | Sulita and ATI Physical Therapy and Hinsdale Orthopaedics for their HHS fundraiser that yielded cash, supplies and gift cards | Great Hearts Initiatives, LLC for funds secured for HHS through their giving website at: [www.greathearts.community](http://www.greathearts.community) | Vern Goers' Greenhouse for proceeds donated from their holiday Shop and Share program | Uncle Bub's BBQ, Inc. employees for sharing a percentage of their tips with us | Denise Custer for donating toys, treats, bandanas and dog shampoo | St. Francis Xavier Kindergarten, 1st and 6th graders | Donations from St. Isaacs Jogues Catholic School Hinsdale | Debbie's Professional Dog Grooming for collecting donations for us | Unitarian Church of Hinsdale congregation for their kind and generous donations | Eve Assisted Living brought in hand made fleece blankets made by residents for the animals | Ms. Axelson's 4th grade class at Field Park Elementary created hand made blankets at their Valentine's Day party to keep our homeless animals warm.

We apologize for the following errors in our Winter 2017 issue:

- We referred to Atticus' adopter Molly Akers, as Maggie Akers in parts of our feature sidebar story. We apologize Molly!
- In Honor Of Pets Bucky & Holly should have been "by Marilynn Pavlik."
- We omitted a tribute gift in memory of Albert and Helen Chodl from Barbara Chodl Wright.

## Farewell to our Executive Director, con't.

one layer was removed, the cat retreated further away from us." Once all of the layers of cage were removed, the cat literally ran up a staff member's torso like it was a ladder, and escaped into the ceiling. "We were eventually able to capture him and adopt him out. I don't recall his name, but I still think of him as Houdini."

In another memorable moment, a car accidentally ran into the building, causing severe damage to the front door. The very next day, a water main broke resulting in two consecutive days of police, fire and ambulance response at the shelter.

The blizzard of 2011 caused the shelter to have to close down for two days. Lori and staff member Patty Powell were the only two who could get to the shelter to take care of the animals. "A 7-foot drift covered the back door," said Lori. "After what seemed like hours of shoveling, we were finally able to get into the building."

## Happiest Stories

"I see happiness every day," said Lori. "But when those difficult to place, long-timers are adopted, those are the happiest stories. Animals like cats June & Little Orphan Annie, and dogs like Hank, Sierra, Rusty and Dover. So many happy memories and happy tears over the years!"

## Saddest Stories

So many individuals have come through the doors during Lori's time here, devastated to give up their animals because of heart-breaking circumstances. "Some of those stories will stay with me forever," said Lori. "You have to be comfortable with soul bearing tears around here."

## Favorite Part of the Job

The stories of joy that HHS pets have brought to adopters' lives have made the biggest impact on Lori. "Even the sad, tearful stories of beloved pets who have passed away, remind me of the depths of unconditional love we receive from our furry friends," said Lori. Those stories don't even include the joy that pet therapy pets bring to the community, as well as the stories of volunteers and adopters from decades past, who return because HHS has had such an impact on their lives.

Lori's guiding principle and mode of operating at HHS has been to ask herself: "Is it helpful? Is it necessary? Is it kind?"

And when all else fails, and things don't go as planned, she operates under the philosophy of "Don't get your undies in a bunch."

Lori is terribly sad to leave behind the staff, volunteers, donors, adopters and community members she has come to know through her work here. "I'm going to miss all of the compassionate people who care so deeply about HHS, and all the amazing people who have offered words of encouragement to me along the way," said Lori.

HHS has benefitted in so many ways from Lori's leadership and has grown and flourished in the community as a result. Deep gratitude comes from the staff for all she has done within the organization. The Board of Directors is especially grateful to her for all of her hard work during her tenure at the shelter, and wishes her a bright future, much happiness, and lots of furry friends in her new life.



Lori & Rusty

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*"The best part of all is the happy faces of adopters and their pets (yes, those pets really do smile!) when they walk out the door together, ready to begin their lives."*  
—Lori Halligan

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# Two Paws Up!

## Mad Viking Beard Club

Our own Kym Iffert took her coolness factor up a notch by hanging out with the Mad Viking Beard Club (Illinois), a social group of bearded men (and non-bearded women) who dedicate themselves to philanthropic causes. Animal rescue is near to their hearts, so for their February meeting, they asked each member to bring a donation for HHS. The result was over \$1,000 of necessary supplies, gift cards and cash donations. They presented it to us at Q Bar in Darien on February 25th, filling up multiple vehicles with the supplies. We cannot thank them enough for their generosity, kindness and compassion.



## A Friend in the Neighborhood

Our thanks to family-owned Vern Goers Greenhouse in Hinsdale. They have been supporting our work for a decade through their Shop and Share programs twice a year. Once again they have kindly continued their program of donating a percentage of proceeds to our homeless animals. Just bring in the coupon near the end of this newsletter, and they'll share the love with us. Their continued generosity to our cause is greatly appreciated. Vern Goers is located at 5620 S. Oak St. and their website is [www.verngoersgreenhouse.com](http://www.verngoersgreenhouse.com)





# Summer Camp!

*Unique Experiences for Children of all Ages*

Hinsdale Humane Society is happy to announce the return of its Animal Adventures Summer Camp. There are three different camp offerings of multiple sessions, created for age groups 6-8, 9-11 and 12-14 years old.

The camps bring children and animals together to promote a greater understanding of animals, to learn about their needs and care, explore their environment, and develop an awareness of the impact they have on our lives.

This year we've had a change of location. Instead of the Hinsdale Youth Center, drop off and pick up will now be at the PetPeople store in Western Springs. Campers will receive a t-shirt, fresh fruit snacks and water bottles (provided daily). Camps are limited to 20 students per session. When a session is full, a wait list will open up. There is a minimum of one camp counselor for every five campers, in addition to the daily leadership of our Humane Educator. Camp counselors are high school or college students who are active members of the HHS Junior Board. The cost is \$175.00 per camper, per session. A limited number of scholarships are available for families who demonstrate financial need.

**Pet Camp** is for campers who are **6-8 years old**, and will teach children about pet responsibility and safety with domesticated animals, as well as present an intro into animal rescue through

hands on interaction with rescue animal groups. Campers will begin to learn about how even the smallest of animal lovers can make a difference. Camp will be held from **9am to 12pm. Session 1: June 12-16. Session 2: July 24-28.**

**Adventure Camp** is for campers who are **9-11 years old**. They will learn about animal rescue and why it is necessary for Humane Societies and rescues to exist, as well as pet responsibility and interacting safely with animals. Together students will embark on several field trips throughout the week. Campers will also get an introduction to environmental and human welfare issues, with a special emphasis on what kids can do to make a difference in our communities and in the world. Camp will be held from **9am to 12pm. Session 1: June 19-23. Session 2: June 26-30. Session 3: July 31-Aug 4.**

**Crusader Camp** is for **12-14 year olds**. These middle school age campers will embark on three full-day field trips in which they will gain a firsthand understanding of humane issues such as animals, environment, and human welfare, discussing vulnerable communities and how we can be advocates. Camp will be held from **9am-3pm. Session 1: Aug 8-10.**

Visit our website to register today. We hope you'll be a part of the adventure this summer!

# Save the Date



## **Pet Walk & Run - Sunday, June 4, 8am-noon**

Join us for our morning of family fun and fitness as Pet Walk & Run returns to Katherine Legge Memorial Park. Register today on our website!



## **Pet Blessing - Sunday, June 25, 2pm**

Join us as we bless new bricks in honor of pets and people during this touching event.



## **Clear the Shelters - Saturday, August 19, 10am-4pm**

For one special day, we take part in NBC's Clear the Shelters day where our goal is to empty our shelter, along with all of the other participating shelters in the area. Don't miss this special day in which adoption fees for animals 6 months and older are waived!



## **Puppy Party - Saturday, October 7, 1-3pm**

Always a favorite, puppy party returns with all the puppy snuggles our attendees can handle. All we ask is that our guests bring items from our wish list to donate.



## **Howl-o-ween Ball - Saturday, October 28, 8-Midnight**

Our costume ball returns to Room & Board's Oak Brook showroom for another night of dancing, great food, signature cocktails, silent and live auctions, and so much more, all to help our homeless animals. Don't miss it!



## **Ask a Vet**

*We are thrilled to present our new Ask a Vet column where we'll feature information direct from veterinarians we work with on a regular basis. Our debut column features Dr. Ann Marie LoPiccolo, DVM. She and her husband, Dr. John Bishop, DVM, operate the Willowgrove Pet Clinic. In addition to the veterinary care they provide to our animals free of charge, Dr. LoPiccolo also served as a Board member for Hinsdale Humane Society for the past six years. Thank you to Dr. LoPiccolo and Dr. Bishop, and to the WillowGrove Pet Clinic for all of the wonderful work they do for all of their patients and our community!*

Q: What is the most common problem you encounter with feline patients?

A: The most common problem is not seeing them for annual wellness exams. Cat owners often have difficulty getting their cats to the vet; and don't perceive the value of that struggle when the cat seems fine at home.

The visit to the veterinarian can be difficult because the carrier, car, and the veterinary hospital are unfamiliar. When taking your cat to the vet, stay calm. Cats can sense our anxiety or frustrations, which may cause them to become more fearful or anxious. Help your cat become comfortable with the carrier long before your next scheduled vet visit. The goal is for your cat to learn to associate the carrier with positive experiences and routinely enter voluntarily. Make the carrier a familiar place at home by leaving it out in a room where your cat spends a lot of time. Place familiar soft bedding inside the carrier as well as treats or toys. It may take days or weeks before your cat starts to trust the carrier.

Cats age more rapidly than humans, and are notorious for hiding illness until they're almost at a crisis stage. Your cat could be developing a health condition long before you notice anything is wrong. Annual wellness exams allow your veterinarian to develop a plan to help your cat remain healthy. They can also help avoid medical emergencies; since veterinarians can often detect conditions or diseases that may affect your cat's health long before they become significant, painful, or more costly to treat.

**WillowGrove Pet Clinic is located at 86 W. 63rd St. Willowbrook, IL 60527 | 630-655-3800 willowgrovepetclinic.com**



Be Kind to Animals Week is May 1 – 7, 2017. It's a time to think specifically about animals in shelters, in wildlife and even in our own homes. While we at HHS live Be Kind to Animals week all year long, we love the idea of taking this one special week to really think about the ways our lives interact with and affect animals around us. Being kind should not just be an act toward fellow human beings, but also to the four legged beings all around us. It's up to us to protect them.

During this special week, please think about how you can help the homeless... whether it be to donate, volunteer, foster, become a pet therapy team, or adopt, all of these acts of kindness make a difference in the lives of animals. Take existing pets to the vet. Watch out for and protect wildlife. Keep cats indoors. Wouldn't it be nice to have Be Kind to Animals week last all year long?

The focus of the Be Kind movement is to commemorate the roles that animals play in our lives and to encourage others to treat animals humanely. Here are a few ideas for

you and your family to Be Kind to Animals:

- Take good care of the pets in your home with regular vet visits and routine maintenance and care
- Learn about how best to protect wildlife in your area
- Put up a bird feeder or bird house in your yard
- Keep cats indoors
- Consider meatless alternatives at meal time
- Request a humane education lesson for your school or club
- Report suspected animal abuse to law enforcement authorities
- Spay or neuter pets

Our favorite idea is for you to visit our shelter and consider adoption if you haven't already. When we reach out with our Be Kind to Animals mailing soon, please give as generously as you can to help the homeless cats and dogs who are dependent on us to meet their needs. To everyone who advocates for animals, we thank you for being kind!

## Executive Director Search

With the departure of our current Executive Director, the HHS Board of Directors has been focused on a search for the new individual who will fill this role.

The Board has engaged DeVine Consulting to conduct the search process on the shelter's behalf. The firm caters to nonprofit organizations seeking fundraising counsel, executive search services and strategic guidance to senior leadership and their boards. The search is expected to take 4 to 6 months. The internal search committee consists of current Board members

Matt Booth, Nate Lucht, Seth Crist, Barb Lorschach and past president, Anne DeSimone. HHS and Lori Halligan, as exiting director,

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*"HHS is poised for growth and sees a promising future. We are here to support the leadership and ideas of our new Executive Director." – Matt Booth, Chairman of the HHS Board of Directors*

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are committed to a smooth transition of leadership. The programs and services at HHS will continue on at their highest level of excellence during the transition.





# Ask Jenny...

HHS Operations Manager, Jenny Vlazny answers pet-related questions and offers advice.

**Q. I have to re-home my adult cat as a result of severe allergies. What is your procedure to surrender a cat and what is the process once the cat is relinquished?**

A. I am very sorry you are in a position where you are unable to keep your feline family member. I can only imagine what a difficult and emotional decision it has been. Hinsdale Humane Society accepts owner-surrendered animals by appointment. By doing so, we are able to control the number of animals we house at one time, enabling us to keep our adoptable animals until they all find homes. To schedule an appointment, call the shelter at 630-323-5630 during our business hours. Please know there may be a wait to accept your pet. In that case, we will add your name to our waiting list and contact you as soon as space is available.

On the day of your appointment, bring your cat to the shelter during our animal intake hours. Our receptionist will greet you and notify our staff of an incoming pet. The staff member will direct you to a counseling room while your cat is placed in a cage within our Feline Intake Room with access to a litter box, blanket, toys, food and water. The cage door is covered to minimize the cat's exposure to noise and activity, which aids in its adjustment. The staff member will meet with you to ask questions about your cat's behavior, personality, likes/dislikes, favorite toys, diet, medical history, etc. You'll read and sign the Incoming Contract and be assured that we will take very good care of your pet.

Animals are routinely vaccinated and de-wormed upon arrival. After allowing a minimum of 48 hours for the cat to acclimate, our Animal Care Technicians will perform an assessment to better determine the cat's behavior and personality. They will observe how the cat accepts gentle handling and petting, its reaction to toys, being held, brushed, etc. The results of this assessment, along with information provided by the owner, assists us in finding a home that best meets the needs of each individual animal. A general physical examination will be performed at that time and the cat will have its nails clipped, be checked for external parasites, have blood drawn for Feline Leukemia/FIV testing, and be microchipped. Once processed for adoption, the cat will be placed in a roomy cat suite in our Cat Adoption Room to wait for its new home. A description and photos will be placed on the Cat Adoption page of our website. In addition to calming music, a bed, toys, and fresh food and water, each cat is taken out of its suite daily by our volunteer cat socializers who provide one-on-one interaction and playtime in private rooms.

Once a match is made with an adopter, the cat is fitted with a safety collar and ID tag and sent home with its new family along with well-wishes from our staff to have a long and happy life.

## Vern Goers "Digger's Delight" Shop-N-Share

Plant Sale to benefit Hinsdale Humane Society **May 1st through May 31st**  
Annuals | Perennials | Landscape supplies | Flowering shrubs | Ornamental grass

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Sales Total \_\_\_\_\_

Vern Goers Greenhouse: 5620 S. Oak St. Hinsdale **630-323-1085**

Hours: M-Sat 8am-6pm. Closed Sun.

**Vern Goers generously donates 10% of purchases to help HHS animals.**

# Humanely Speaking



**Humanely Speaking** is published quarterly for friends of Hinsdale Humane Society

22 N. Elm Street,  
Hinsdale, Illinois 60521  
630-323-5630  
FAX 630-318-7930  
www.hinsdalehumanesociety.org

### Shelter hours:

Tuesday 2 - 8pm; Wednesday -  
Friday 12 noon - 6 pm;  
Saturday & Sunday 10am-4pm;  
Closed Monday

### Board of Directors

*President:* Matt Booth  
*Vice President:* Nate Lucht  
*Secretary:* Sharon Foley  
*Treasurer:* Cindy Rein  
*Members:* Dave Grooms,  
Brian Davis, Paul Hollis,  
Jeanne Van Dyke, Seth  
Crist, Barb Lorschach

### Staff

*Executive Director:*  
Lori Halligan  
*Operations Manager:*  
Jennifer Vlazny  
*Development Director:*  
Jennifer Fisher  
*P.R./Special Events Director:*  
Robin Carroll  
*Animal Care Staff:*  
Samantha Cheatham, Patty Powell,  
Alan Lis, Nuha Abdessalam,  
Kelsey Barry, Kathleen Habbly,  
Elena Garza  
*Receptionist:* Kathy Daly  
*Volunteer Coordinator:* Kym Iffert  
*Humane Education:* Jessica Lamb

### Contributing Services

*Bookkeeper:*  
Mary Alex  
*Obedience Instruction:*  
Kym Iffert, Marcy Mossburg  
*Pet Therapy Coordination:*  
Deborah Kraus  
*Website Coordination:*  
Mary Drew

**Thank you to our Graphic Designer, Katrina Garagiola, who artfully designed this newsletter.**

# News from Pet Therapy



HHS Pet Therapy teams at Manor Care-Hinsdale included (back row) Paul Hollis & Teddy, Ann Marie Casper & Lilly, Laura Donohue & Edelweiss, Jamie Altman & Bowzer, Deborah Kraus (sans Sophie), Jean Trzos & Mr. Max (front row) David Ore & Rico Suave, Sharon Detro & Prince Rainier, Kathy Burns & Theo, Roberta Arnold & Rocky.

**Who can believe that there is no soul behind those luminous eyes! – Theophile Gautier**

We hear so many moving stories about our Pet Therapy Teams. From our volunteers, librarians, teachers, facility managers, and community members whose hearts are touched by these special souls, we say a big thank you for being a part of this program.

## Manor Care of Hinsdale

Our teams visited the Manor Care facility to take part in a Valentine's Day Pet Parade. "The residents are still talking about how much fun the Pet Parade was," said Susan Psyk, Assistant Activity Director. "One resident said she likes to watch Animal Planet 24/7, but this Parade was fantastic in real life. There was one dog that came over to her and let her pet him for a long time, like he didn't want to leave her. The dog made her feel very special."

## La Grange Area Department of Special Education (LADSE)

Volunteers Jim & Karen Wierdak with their Golden Retrievers Marley and Glory, began work with LADSE's Emotional Disability Network at Westchester Primary last Fall. Feedback has been that the teams have become very important to the curriculum. "We love having Marley and Glory come to our classroom," said Ruthanne Focht, Special Education Teacher. "Spending time with the dogs gives our students a chance to learn respect for animals while providing them with an authentic reading experience. They love choosing and practicing books they will read to the dog." Each student has 15-20 minutes to talk about the books and topics they enjoy reading about, giving them a great way to practice their social interaction skills.

## Westmont Public Library

Our READ program has received an impressive reception at Westmont Public Library. "We have one young patron whose mom religiously watches for when registration opens," said Alea Perez, Head of Youth Services. "She said her daughter thinks of Pat and

Sasha (HHS READ Team Miller) as friends, often talks about them at home, and cannot wait to come read to them."

## AMITA/Adventist Hinsdale Hospital - Behavioral Health

HHS CARE Teams are assigned monthly to this unit. David Ore & his dog Rico Suave make regular visits and are committed to their work with these adults and teens. On a recent visit, patients petted Rico Suave and watched him perform tricks, sharing stories of their own pets. "We are very fortunate to allow patients and staff to take a quick break from



Rico Suave



Glory at Westchester Primary

the tasks at hand and enjoy a small respite with the cuddly and very charming Rico Suave," said David.

## Burr Ridge Middle School (BRMS)

Sharon Detro is a veteran Pet Therapy Team Volunteer. One of her Golden Retrievers, Prince Rainier, made his READ debut at BRMS' Saturday School monthly reading lab. Wendy Williams (on staff at BRMS), and her husband Travis, supervise the program and feel the teams are an integral part of it. "The therapy animals are therapeutic," said Wendy. "They help the kids to be calm and focus on their work despite any circumstances that might be distracting at home."

# Hinsdale Pet Memorial Services

*Celebrating 10 Consecutive Years of HHS Sponsorship.*

We are fortunate to have had the support of Hinsdale Pet Memorial Services for more than a decade. Not only have they been a sponsor of nearly every one of our events, but they also provide invaluable services to our community of pet lovers - the most important being individual, private cremation of pets.

“Private cremation is performed with one single pet at a time, just as in human cremations,” said Bill Remkus, owner, Hinsdale Pet Memorial Services. “Unfortunately, most pet crematories do not perform individual private cremations. We believe private is so important because it provides peace of mind for a pet’s family, as well as closure and comfort with the overall process.”

Full body pet burial in their scenic and peaceful cemetery is also offered, as well as countless memorialization options for families. One example is a small group cremation scattered on the cemetery grounds and in their Butterfly Garden. They also provide memorial headstones placed in different locations throughout the cemetery so a family or owner has a physical place to visit and remember their pet. They encourage client participation with every service offered.

“As animal lovers, we understand the importance of animal rescue and rehabilitation because we believe that all pets deserve a second chance at a great life,” said Remkus. “Animal welfare non-profits like Hinsdale Humane Society offer such a wonderful and selfless service for pets in need. All they need is a little support – support which we are happy to give.”

We are so thankful to the Remkus family for their continual and loyal support of the work we do, as well as the wonderful service they provide to the community. The comfort they provide to grieving pet parents is priceless.



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***“Animal welfare non-profits like Hinsdale Humane Society offer such a wonderful and selfless service for pets in need. All they need is a little support – support which we are happy to give.” -Bill Remkus***

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## Kennel Renovation/New Website Announcement



After sprucing up our lobby and office areas a few months ago, the next area in need of attention was our kennels.

The kennel gates and floors needed to be replaced after 15 years of constant use. We were blessed to have donors step up to help with generous donations that are making these much needed repairs possible.

Along with the reveal of the new kennels in April, we also plan to debut plaques on the new kennel doors acknowledging those donors who helped make the renovation possible.

With our new look inside the shelter, we’ll also be revealing a new look online. After more than three years with its current look, our website was also due for some updates. Visit [www.hinsdalehumanesociety.org](http://www.hinsdalehumanesociety.org) to see the new look of our site coming soon.

Our goal is to have both of these updates and changes positively impact the lives of our homeless animals, by their comfort when they are with us in the kennels, as well as by driving new people to visit and adopt through our website.



Hinsdale Humane Society  
 22 N. Elm Street  
 Hinsdale, IL 60521

Non-profit Org.  
 U.S. Postage  
 PAID  
 Permit #279  
 Hinsdale, IL

# PET WALK & RUN: Saturday, June 4, 8am-noon

# PET BLESSING: Sunday, June 25, 2pm

*Our thanks to the sponsors below who generously reached out to support our event as of the printing of this newsletter. Watch our website for new sponsors as they sign on!*



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