



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 8

Pet Walk & Run Returns June 3

*A Morning of Family Fun
and Fitness!*

Myths about Adoption

Summer Camp!

Be Kind to Animals

New Shelter Groundbreaking!

Photo Courtesy of Chris Carroll

For more information go to our website at www.hinsdalehumanesociety.org or call 630-323-5630



Bring on the Sun and Fun!

Pet Walk & Run

| Sunday, June 3, 8-11am |

Pet Walk is back for its 29th year! Join us Sunday, June 3 from 8-11am at Katherine Legge Memorial Park, 5901 S. County Line Road in Hinsdale for the walk and certified 5K race through scenic Hinsdale neighborhoods, beginning and ending in the park.

"This is one of our biggest fundraisers of the year, and provides a great day of fun and fitness for everyone," said Jacki Rossi, Development Director.

Judy Hsu from Chicago ABC-7 joins us again as our M.C. and official presenter of awards to the fastest runners in each category.

"Pet Walk & Run is a stroller and dog-friendly 5K walk and run, combined with a vendor mall of awesome local businesses, veterinarians and trainers sharing free advice and giveaways," said Mistie Lucht, Race Coordinator. "There is entertainment, awards and so much more. It's a great kick-off to the summer for an even greater cause."

To register, visit:
<http://tiny.cc/HHSPetWalk>

Fees are:

\$35 per runner (\$40 after May 1 and \$50 after June 2)

\$25 per walker (non-timed)

\$25 for children runners (under age 9)

\$10 for Kids' Dash runners

Kids 5-9 can register to race the Kids Dash. All participants can set up a

virtual fundraising page on our registration site. Packet pick-up takes place at Midtown Athletic Club, 215 63rd St, Willowbrook, on Friday, 6/1 from 6-8pm and Saturday, 6/2 9-noon.

If you've been to this event in the past, you know how fun it is. If you haven't, we encourage you to check out this morning of animals, families, local business vendors and fun activities. Run, walk or just attend Pet Walk & Run, to help raise funds for homeless animals!

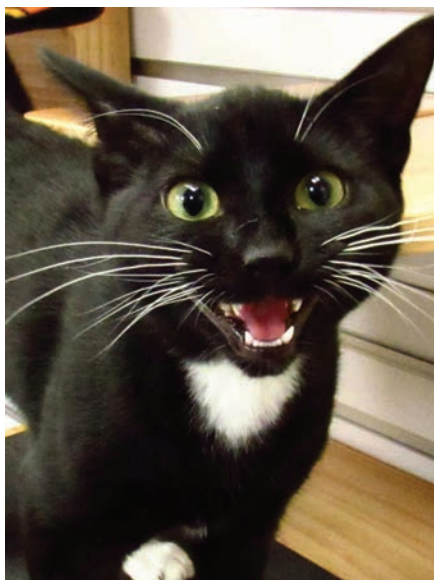


PET WALK & RUN
HINSDALE HUMANE SOCIETY

Schedule

Race Day Registration	7 - 7:30am
Warm-up	7:45 am
Start of Race	8 am
Kids' Dash	9:30 am
Presentation of Awards	9:45 am

Photos courtesy of Nicee Martin, MissMotleyPhotography.com



Myths about Adopting an Animal

*The myths about adopting a shelter animal abound, but the facts are clear: **Adoption Saves Lives***

Many of us who volunteer or work in animal rescue and shelters, came into it ourselves believing some of the prevalent myths surrounding shelter pets. We've witnessed it from the inside, and we know which ones are myths without a doubt.

The bottom line is that 6.5 million animals enter shelters each year. Only 3.2 are adopted out. Some of them are returned to their owners, while 1.5 million of them are euthanized. That difference is extreme, and illustrates that adopting homeless animals saves lives.

Humane Education and the programming HHS provides to the community are critical to furthering the mission of "Adopt, Don't Shop."

That phrase packs a lot more punch than its three words convey. The myths surrounding it are out there for all of us to hear, and understandably, to believe. We've taken the most popular myths, and are sharing our opinions on them here.

Shelter pets are damaged

This is the number one misconception we hear, and along with our adopters,

we couldn't disagree more. (Our Operations Manager, Kym Iffert, shares her personal experiences regarding this myth in her column on page 11.)

Pets come to us in a variety of ways. Some are surrendered by an owner who has fallen on hard times or is sick, while some owners have passed away, and due to no fault on the pet's part, they wind up in a shelter. Others are transferred to us from overcrowded shelters.

Every pet that comes through our doors goes through a medical and behavioral screening to determine overall health and what ages and types of adopters are best suited to them.

Just like humans, no pet is perfect... from a breeder, or a shelter. But shelters have a huge variety of animals that can be trained and that will give unconditional love and joy to an adoptive family, while saving a life.

Additionally, we have a special Medical Fund that ensures any pet who does arrive injured or in need of special medical help, can receive it prior to their adoption.

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DIRECTOR'S DESK



In this quarter's newsletter, you'll read about myths humane societies like ours face everyday trying to find new homes for the pets in our care. Whether it's "shelter animals are broken" or "I can't find a purebred," there are many misconceptions about shelter pets. While they're all different in their own ways, there is a common theme among them, which is that animals are "property," just like any other object in your home.

Viewing pets as property actually originates from the law. When a law is established, we classify it into one of three groups - property (public or personal), nature/wildlife (no one owns it) or human beings. Pets fall right in the middle of all three of those categories. They aren't human, they aren't wildlife and I would argue they aren't property. Legally, we haven't come up with a good fourth option, so pets have been determined as property. From an animal rights standpoint, this creates many problems, but that's

continued on page 7

Two Paws Up!

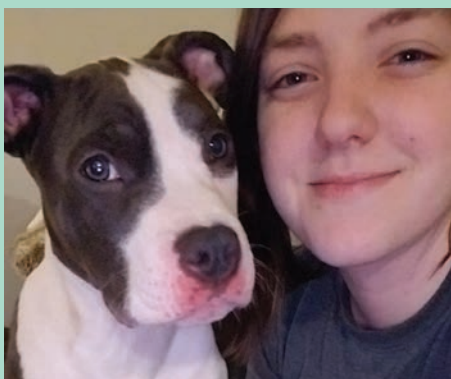
Lilly Pulitzer



*Tracey Fussaro and Jennifer Steinhagen
pictured with Honey*

Our volunteers Lisa Glaub, Jennifer Steinhagen and Tracy Fussaro had a girls' shopping day out with our adoptable dogs Mocha and Honey at Lilly Pulitzer's Oak Brook Shop and Share on Saturday, 3/10. The dogs loved visiting with shoppers and attracted some potential adopters, all while helping us raise funds. Two paws up to our volunteers and to Lilly Pulitzer for making a difference in the lives of our animals!

Fostering Love



*Staff member Amber O'Neal with her foster,
Guinness*

Fostering is love as evidenced by our own staffer, Amber O'Neal. She and her mother kindly took in Guinness while he recovered from surgery. To learn more about fostering, visit our website.



PAWS FOR APPLAUSE



Bridget

Stella

Our sincere thanks and gratitude to all of the wonderful children who so generously donated money, supplies, pet food & treats, blankets, toys, gift cards, towels, cleaning supplies and cat litter, collected from a garage supply drive, winning at games, birthday parties, online donations and a student council that donated hundreds of dollars on our animals' behalf.

Special Thanks Go To:

Kayla Rask | Ava & Audrey Hartschuh | Kailee Norris | Avery Bolick
| Paxton Cutler | Bridget Waight | Cate Gilhooley | Stella Krueger
Gabriela & Noah Casabal | Regina Nitti | Liam Busch



Additionally, the Elmhurst Bryan Middle School Student Council (pictured above) collected supplies and hundreds of dollars in donations.

Thanks to these other organizations for helping the animals at HHS in so many generous ways: The Rotary Club of Westmont made a donation to HHS through Westmont Public Library for every student who met their reading goal during the summer reading program in 2017 | Petco Foundation | Eve Assisted Living | OutUGo! Pet Care | Lilly Pulitzer from a 2017 Shop and Share | PetPeople pet store Western Springs | Comfort for Critters blankets for pets.

We are so grateful for matching gifts from the following organizations: Allstate | AON | Microsoft.

We apologize for the following errors in our Winter 2018 issue:

- Marion Kierscht donated in memory of her husband, Charles Kierscht.
- Joyce Meyer donated in memory of her friend Barbara Kohrs.

Myths about Adopting a Shelter Pet *con't from page 3*

Shelters are dirty

Our staff takes pride in making certain our kennels are clean and comfortable. It's scary enough for a pet to wind up in a new place, especially a shelter with so much noise and commotion. We ensure they are comfortable, dry and clean, have calming music playing in their rooms, and are spending time every day with volunteers who play with and socialize them to help them be happy, healthy pets when they go home.

Shelters are sad

We understand this misconception 100%. But we can tell you that our staff and army of volunteers work incredibly hard to walk our dogs, and give all pets calm down time, socialization and most of all, love and attention. And happily, most of our pets are not with us all that long.

On average in 2018, our dogs have been with us 9 days before adoption and cats average 17 days. During that time, volunteers and staff are with them every day of the year, cleaning, feeding and tending to their needs.

So yes, it can be sad to think of them being without a permanent home, but we are fortunate to have high adoption demand, an incredibly supportive community of friends, donors and sponsors who fund their care, and helpers who make their time with us as pleasant as possible.

Shelters are all part of Humane Society of U.S.

That misconception, and the one in which all shelters receive government funding, are not true. All humane societies are not alike and are not run by any one governing organization. They are typically independently run, and many times not for profit, as in the case of Hinsdale Humane Society.

Taken directly from the HSUS website: "HSUS complements the work of local

groups by focusing on national-level issues like ending the puppy mill industry..." Even though the national organization's name has the words Humane Society in it, they are not affiliated with local shelters.

It is too hard to adopt

Most shelters have varying degrees of strict protocols in place to ensure the best possible match of adopter to pet. It's in an effort to minimize wear and tear on a pet being shuttled back and forth from a home back to the shelter if it's not a good match.

So the questions and information requested in online adoption applications like ours, have more to do with making the adoption process as permanent and harmonious as humanly possible.

Our goal is to get as many animals into homes as possible, while doing our best to ensure they have the best shot at success, not only through matching pet to parent, but also providing obedience instruction, a behavior helpline and any other tools it takes to have a happy adoption experience.

I can't get the breed I want

While we may not have the exact dog you're looking for in our shelter on a given day, we do have access to networks and partnerships with breed-specific rescue groups all over the country.

Check our website for up to the minute details of pets in the shelter, or visit our breed request form on our website at: www.hinsdalehumanesociety.org/adopt/breed-request to put in a request and be on a waiting list for the breed of your choice.

While we always encourage exploring adoption first, there are good breeders focused on the health and welfare of their animals. If you can't find that exact dog you're looking for in a shelter, then research your breeder to make sure they are reputable.

Puppy stores are rarely a good idea since many source from puppy mills. We hope those thinking of adopting will keep in mind that so many animals need homes. When you adopt, you are not only rescuing the pet you choose, but also making room for another one to take his/her spot and be adopted. Adoption truly saves lives!





Summer Camp!

Awesome Adventures Await...

Our Humane Education department is happy to bring back our popular Summer Camps. Three different camps with multiple sessions, were 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 environments and develop an awareness of the impact they have on our lives.

Campers receive a t-shirt, snacks and water bottles (provided daily). 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 on 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

Session 1: June 11-15
Session 2: July 16-20

Campers ages 6-8 years old will learn about pet responsibility and safety with the types of pets we would see in our homes and get an introduction to 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! Monday-Thursday 9:30am-12:30pm at PetPeople Western Springs and Friday at Hinsdale Youth Center.

Adventure Camp

Session 1: June 18-22 Session 3: July 23-27
Session 2: June 25-29 Session 4: July 30-Aug 3

Camp participants 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 into other humane topics such as 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. Monday-Thursday from 9:30am-12:30pm at PetPeople Western Springs and Friday at Hinsdale Youth Center.

Crusader Camp

Session Date: August 7 - 9

Middle school age campers will embark on 3 full-day field trips in which they will learn about and gain a first-hand understanding of humane issues such as animal, environment, and human welfare, discussing vulnerable communities and how we can be advocates. Monday and Tuesday 9:30am-3:00pm at PetPeople Western Springs and Thursday at Hinsdale Youth Center.

For additional information or to register for one of the camps, visit <https://www.hinsdalehumanesociety.org/programs/summer-camp>

Director's Desk *con't. from page 3*

for another newsletter. For this newsletter, being classified as "property" leads to people's perception of animals in shelters.

What do you do with a TV that doesn't work very well any more? You give it away. When you purchase a used car, what's the first question you ask? "What's wrong with it?" It's ingrained in our heads that "brand new" means no problems and "used" means issues exist, because that's what we expect when buying a new vs. used inanimate item. With animals, that is not the case. Just as with humans, there is no perfect, defect-free pet. Do some come with challenges? Yes, but that's true no matter where you get the animal. Coming from a shelter doesn't mean defective. Adding a pet to your family regardless of the source means adding love, happiness, challenges, humor, sadness and so much more.

I would love to think we'll change everyone's mind with this issue. In reality, I hope we can shed more light on the subject and I encourage you to contact us to talk about these and any other questions you may have about our animals.



Be Kind to Animals week, May 1-7, has been in existence for more than 100 years, making it one of the longest running commemorative weeks in history.

It began in 1914 during the start of World War I when the need to celebrate kindness and compassion was more important than ever. By 1922, President Warren G. Harding issued an official proclamation on Be Kind to Animals Week.

The poet Edgar Guest wrote a poem "On Kindness to Animals" that contains the verse:

*They cannot ask for kindness
Nor for our mercy plead,
Yet cruel is our blindness
Which does not see their
need.*

From Shirley Temple and Eleanor Roosevelt, to Carol Burnett and Betty White, celebrities have long worked to spread the word and foster awareness of the Be Kind to Animals campaign. We encourage our friends to think of the animals at this time of year by doing something special for homeless pets, that shows them kindness and compassion.

Save the Date

June

3

Pet Walk & Run

Sunday, 8 - 11am

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!



August

18

Clear the Shelters

Saturday, 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 all adoption fees are waived!



News from Pet Therapy



Michael & Jango



Bosco



Marley & Glory

Adoption myths apply to our therapy pets, just like they do to others. Deborah Kraus, who runs this program, takes a look at a few myths in light of our therapy teams.

Adoption Myth #1: Rescues have Baggage

Rough starts, perhaps, but baggage? Jango the Lab mix was found at a construction site in downstate Illinois. His microchip had been cut out of him, and he had no identification. A worker who found him took him to the vet who cleaned up his wound, neutered him, gave him his rabies vaccine and got him to a nearby shelter. In stepped future pet parent, Michael Bresolin. Jango had a rough start, but Michael knew he was going to be a great therapy dog. Michael and Jango work in our Pet a Pet program and made a recent inaugural visit to a new Pet a Pet venue at the Caledonian House Memory Care facility.

Adoption Myth #2: You don't know what you're getting with a rescue pet.

CARe and READ dog Rico Suave has proved that you're getting a very special pet! Rico, a small mixed breed, was found at a construction site in Puerto Rico while volunteer David Ore was on vacation. After determining Rico was living on his own, David and his wife followed the necessary process to bring this pup in need home with them. David and Rico Suave became a registered Pet Partner therapy team and participate in our READ and CARe programs. They volunteered to make extra visits to the La Grange

Memorial Hospital rehab unit in order to help a patient adjust to life changes that necessitated rehab.

Adoption Myth #3: Mixed breeds are not as "good" as pure breeds.

Bosco the Cockapoo blows that myth out of the water! This sweet boy works with his handler, Dietre Hayford in our Pet a Pet, CARe (hospital and hospice), and Special Ed classroom READ. The Bereavement Supervisor at St. Thomas Hospice reported after a visit from Bosco that "my middle schooler had a great time meeting Bosco. He was just awesome! I think it's exactly what she needed. She had a huge smile on her face the whole time."

Pure breeds need to be rescued too – sometimes breeders think certain dogs don't have the right look or talent for showing. What they might have instead is a talent for reading. New READ dog Bailey got a warm welcome at Thomas Ford Library recently. Handler Mary Beth Turek heard a librarian say to her coworkers, "I love that Golden Retriever! Every time I take her picture she's smiling!"

Purebreds have a few myths of their own. It's often said they are "for show" only. Jim & Karen Wierdak's golden retrievers Marley and Glory prove otherwise. Teams Wierdak have spearheaded therapy work in Special Education rooms throughout local school districts. After a recent visit to Old Quarry Middle School, we heard the dogs actually led children in a warm up dance! The healing therapy of these animals knows no bounds.



ON THE MOVE

Wonder what it's like to move a shelter? Our staff and Board members have been working on it tirelessly for months.

The animals will stay safe and sound at our current facility until the new one is ready for them.

In addition to moving everything needed for their care, we'll also bring our memorial garden bricks with us to create a new reflection park. Those who helped us in our current shelter by sponsoring a kennel will also be recognized in our new home.

We are still months away from our projected move, but no stone will be left unturned as we continue the work of making our new facility a place of comfort, community and compassion.

All About Oak Brook Kennel Club

Oak Brook Kennel Club (OBKC) is a veteran-owned and operated boarding and day care facility at 3110 Meyers Rd. Long time supporters and sponsors of HHS, owner Dave Grooms also serves on our Board of Directors.

OBKC's facility boards pets of all sizes, whether they're furry, fuzzy, feathery, scaly or slimy, with a large breed specialty and plenty of room for the biggest pups. They also board cats in a secluded private cattery. "There's been an operating kennel at our location since 1946," said Dave Grooms, owner of OBKC. "We've completely renovated the property, installing state of the art electronics, air recirculation and stainless steel private enclosures."

"We don't do 'packs' at OBKC," said Grooms. "While the trend is open daycare, where pets are divided into play groups and are supervised by just a few employees, our daycare is much more personalized. Our guests play one-on-one with our staff in one of three outdoor play yards with real grass and real trees."

All staff members are pet first aid and CPR trained for emergencies. Grooms is a nationally-recognized Instructor for PetTech, the first international organization dedicated to canine and feline first aid and CPR. Dave teaches first responders, pet care professionals, shelters, pet sitters, walkers and groomers.

"I was initially asked to train HHS Staff on pet first aid and CPR," said Grooms. "I had such a great time getting to know them that I asked how we might partner on housing animals if the shelter ever had capacity issues. That led to my visiting the facility, and looking for more ways to help."

Dave was asked to join the Board in 2015 as a member of the Operations Committee. He currently serves as the head of the Development Committee and helped with the purchase of HHS' new facility.

Dave and his wife Denise who runs OBKC with him, also recently adopted "Frankie" the cat from HHS, who has become an OBKC mascot. Visit their website at: <http://www.oakbrookkennelclub.com/> for more information about this outstanding organization.

Beloved Charles - Pet Therapy Dog

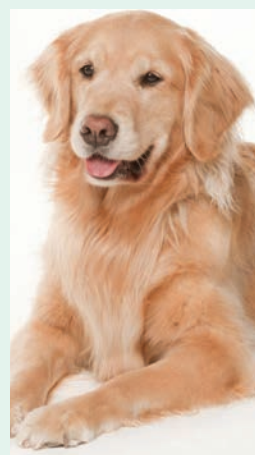


We are mourning the loss of long-time Pet Therapy dog, Charles LoPresti.

"He was such a strong and special little guy," said Madeline LoPresti. "Although I have had many dogs in my life, he will surely stay closest to my heart forever."

Everyone at HHS, and the people that he helped in his therapy work, will miss Charles greatly. He was indeed a very special guy. We are so thankful to Madeline and Charles for the work they did on behalf of HHS and for the lives they positively impacted.

Joyful Maggie - Pet Therapy Dog

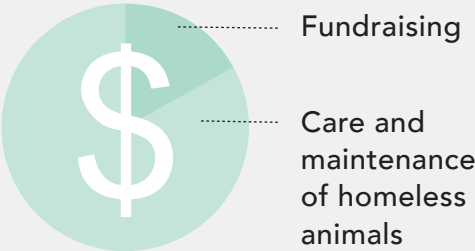
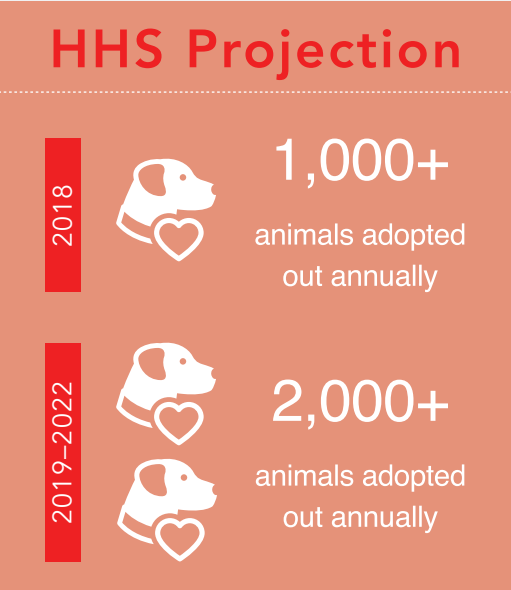
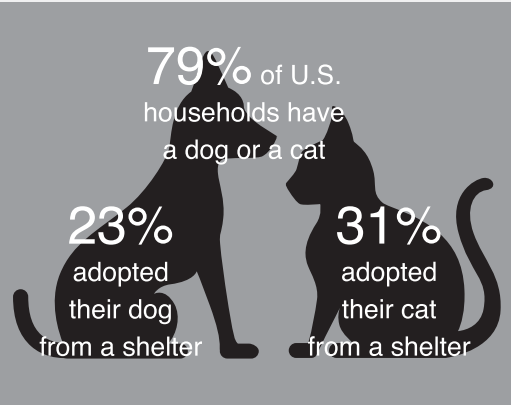


Another very difficult loss in our Pet Therapy world was that of Maggie Turek. As her dog mom, Mary Beth, shared with us, "Sweet Maggie. Therapy Dog. Beach Dog. Nose Work Dog. Dancing Dog. What would we have been without you? Thank you for changing our lives, and so many others, for the better. We love you, we miss you. Always."

It is always heartbreaking to lose a pet, especially one as beloved as Maggie.

New Building Updates

Our new building brings so much excitement and promise for the future... while it's come with some interesting wrinkles like the occasional skunk and a water main break or two, none of that can dampen (pun intended) our passion for the work we'll be able to do in our new home. These graphics show facts about adoption and projections of how we plan to grow so we can help more animals.



These renderings give a sense of what the inside of our new space will look like.

HHS receives no government funding and unlike a for-profit business, the services we provide cost far more than the income they bring in. Nearly three quarters of our income is generated by fundraising.

Our fundraising ratio (the money spent on fundraising per dollar raised) equates to about 17 cents spent to generate that revenue. The rest of funds raised go directly to the care and maintenance of animals in need.

Our new facility will be a destination for individuals and families who want to interact with our animals, learn more about the human/animal bond, or who want to fall in love with an adoptable pet in need of a home.

In this new space, we will also be able to enhance and grow our humane education, pet therapy and obedience programs, with dedicated classroom spaces and interactive offerings. And our on-site spay/neuter clinic will allow pets to go directly from our shelter into their new homes.

We look forward to a future of great opportunities here with our mission to educate, advocate and provide animal welfare services to the community.



Ask Kym...

MYTH: Shelter pets are damaged goods.

I was one of the lucky ones. With my first pet, our family wasn't in the market for a dog, but my parents stepped up when they were told "if someone doesn't take this dog, I'm putting her down." Saving that little black dog changed our lives for the better and launched my lifelong love for animals.

I went the breeder route as an adult, not knowing what to look for and ended up with a purebred who had both medical and behavioral issues. Eventually, we tried rescue again. We found a purebred dog in a rural shelter, but not without consequence, and our family was once again faced with some very tough choices. I began to see her as "damaged goods." The truth is she wasn't a bad dog, but we were not the right family. Once again, I turned to a breeder. This time, I did my research and located one who helped find us the right dog who is now in his senior years. Still haunted by our rescue experience and the thought of so many animals who never find that forever home, I made it my mission to rescue again and find a way to help others live a happy life with their rescued pets. I was drawn to Hinsdale Humane Society, ironically, because in my quest to "rescue," I was once told by HHS that we were not the right fit.

Finding that right fit means every animal that HHS considers for adoption is given basic vaccinations, assessed for general health and behavior. We "play" with dogs to see how they respond - do they become nervous, jump up, chase things? When they "catch" something, do they bite down, grab, shake? When excited, what does it take to calm one down? Will they "protect" food or toys?

We handle paws, ears, tail, look at teeth, etc. to see how tolerant one is of being held, hugged or "grabbed" the way a child might, as we understand that dogs don't know the difference between a hug and restraint.

When assessing cats, we want to know if they seek out interaction, how do they tolerate being picked up, handled, brushed and how do they play?

We ask our adopters pointed questions to help ensure a good fit. We hope to educate families so there are safe interactions and happy, healthy children and pets. The reality is dogs and cats are not innately good, bad or "damaged," but do have widely ranging personalities and many lack some basic training. Making sure we match active animals with active families and/or quiet pets to a quiet home, helps make sure each one receives appropriate attention and affection and all family members, two and four-legged are safe, happy and healthy.

Debunking the myth about "damaged goods" has less to do with an animal's behavior, but is dependent upon finding a good match and helping families understand animal behavior. HHS offers a behavior helpline as well as dog obedience classes for families who may need more assistance to achieve a harmonious household.

We also realize that shelters can be stressful for an animal who may end up in our care. Sometimes, they act differently than they might once they get comfortable in a new home and personalities may change. As part of our long-term commitment to all of our animals, we always want one back if the fit is not right and we never consider this a "failure" but an opportunity to get more information to help make sure the next family will be forever.



Humanely Speaking
is published quarterly for
friends of Hinsdale
Humane Society

**22 N. Elm Street,
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630-323-5630
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www.hinsdalehumanesociety.org**

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

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



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

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PET WALK & RUN: Sunday, June 3, 8-11am



Ginger at Home

I've been meaning to email you and thank you for helping us find our Ginger! She has been the missing piece in our lives. We love her so much, and she has been endlessly patient with our girls. After losing our dog a year ago, I wasn't sure if I'd be able to connect with another dog. But after talking with you and discussing all my reservations, you helped place us with her. You do amazing work, and I can't thank you enough for helping us complete our family!

Thanks for everything,
Melissa H.