



Animal Humane Society is the largest animal welfare organization in the Upper Midwest dedicated to engaging and serving local and regional communities of people and animals. Our mission is to engage the hearts, hands and minds of the community to help animals.

Through comprehensive programs and services, Animal Humane Society provides resources that compassionately serve all the stages of an animal's life.

As a private non-profit organization, we receive no federal, state or government funding and rely totally on private donations, merchandise sales and adoption fees.

Animal Tracks Spring/Summer 2011

Circulation 60,000

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Photography Miroslavich Photography Laurie Schneider Photography

Animal Tracks is published in March and October.



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petcetera

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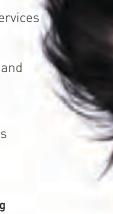
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a message from Janelle Dixon

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Animal Humane Society is a member of the National Federation of Humane Societies and Pets Across America, a consortium of humane organizations throughout the country that raise funds to care for animals in local shelters.

Animal Humane Society is a founding member of Minnesota Partnership for Animal Welfare (MnPAW) and the Minnesota Horse Welfare Coalition.



At Animal Humane Society we have been living and breathing our Bound for Home initiative for the past 24 months.

Through this process, we've focused on new and different ways in which we can help the animals in our community. Realizing we cannot do this work alone, we have worked to engage people in the community to be a part of the solution to the challenges facing animals.

Since March 2009 when we launched our Bound for Home plans,



we've been gradually transforming our programs and service delivery. We have focused our efforts on how we can reduce the numbers of animals coming to us with programs that assist pet owners, while increasing the numbers of animals being adopted in the community and reducing the number of animals that are euthanized. Our goal has been to not only provide better services for the animals, but to create understandings with people about alternatives to surrender, the scope of pet homelessness and the reality of outcomes for animals who are displaced from their homes.

One of the biggest changes was implemented in January of this year — we changed the way in which we accept animals from the community to a surrender by appointment process. The appointment process provides us with more detailed information about an animal so that we can do our very best to ensure the animal's best and quickest placement.

Reducing the length of stay for animals in our care and moving them quickly to a new home has always been a focus for the AHS staff, but this past January we witnessed such an amazing change: felines moved through our shelters to their new homes at an average of 10 days, compared to 40 days just 12 months ago! This outcome is historic for our organization and has meant more cats now have life-saving opportunities at Animal Humane Society.

These positive trends continue to inspire us. In 2010, while we saw a 2.5% increase in the number of animals that came to us, we saw our placements for animals increase by 9%. In the past two years we have decreased the rate of euthanasia by 14%.

As we continue to implement our modifications, we can see the impact of these changes resulting in more positive outcomes for animals. We've begun to see the realization of what we have planned and envisioned for animals and our community as a whole.

We thank you for your support as our changes have taken place. I so appreciate the ongoing trust you place in our organization to do the right thing for animals. Animal Humane Society has been and continues to be an open-admission, temporary safe haven for all animals in need of help regardless of their situation.

In April, join us for the Walk for Animals and show your support for the animals we love in our lives and the ones that continue to need all of our help.

-JANELLE DIXON, CEO/PRESIDENT

locations

4375 Hwy. 55 S.E. • Buffalo, MN 55313 (763) 390-3647

Pet adoption and surrender, memorial garden, microchip and nail clinics, pet loss services, retail area, shelter tours, youth programs

Coon Rapids

1411 Main St. N.W. • Coon Rapids, MN 55448 [763] 862-4030

Pet adoption and surrender, dog training, microchip and nail clinics, pet loss services, retail area, shelter tours, youth programs

Golden Valley

845 Meadow Ln. N. • Golden Valley, MN 55422 (763) 522-4325

Pet adoption and surrender, dog training and playgroups, microchip and nail clinics, pet boarding, retail area, shelter tours, wildlife rescue, youth programs

St. Paul

1115 Beulah Ln. • St. Paul, MN 55108 [651] 645-7387

Pet adoption and surrender, microchip and nail clinics, pet loss services, retail area, shelter tours, youth programs

Woodbury

9785 Hudson Rd. • Woodbury, MN 55125 (651) 730-6008

Pet adoption and surrender, dog training, microchip and nail clinics, pet loss services, shelter tours, retail area, youth programs

Now Boarding

6002 28th Ave. S. • Minneapolis, MN 55450 (612) 454-4850 • www.nowboardingpets.com Pet boarding and doggy day care, grooming

and dog training

hours

Adoption Center

Monday through Friday: 12 p.m. - 8 p.m. Saturday and Sunday: 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Incoming Animals

Surrender by Appointment

Please call for an appointment to surrender an animal. Monday - Friday 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. Saturday & Sunday 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

The Animal Humane Society is closed Easter, Memorial Day, July 4 and Labor Day.



our services

Adoption

Let an animal choose you! Cats, dogs, rabbits, birds, ferrets, guinea pigs and small critters are available for adoption at our five locations. View the animals available today at www.animalhumanesociety.org

Surrender by appointment

No animal is ever turned away at any of our five open admission locations where we provide safe refuge for thousands of animals each year. Appointments are available to surrender an animal. Call (763) 412-4969 or visit

www.animalhumanesociety.org/surrender

Pet boarding

We offer two options for pet boarding. There's Animal House at AHS in Golden Valley (763) 489-2222 and Now Boarding near the Minneapolis St. Paul Airport (612) 454-4850 or visit www.animalhumanesociety.org/boarding

Dog training

We speak fluent animal. More than 40 classes are offered weekly at our Coon Rapids, Golden Valley, Woodbury and Now Boarding locations. Check out www.animalhumanesociety.org/training or call (763) 489-2217.

Pet food and supplies

Purina One dog and cat food and treats as well as Tidy Cat litter, collars, leashes, toys and grooming supplies are available at our five Adoption Centers.

Humane investigations

Our humane agents work with law enforcement and respond to thousands of reports of animal neglect and cruelty each year. Visit www.animalhumanesociety.org/ prevention for more information.

Youth programs

From Unleashed Summer Camp to PetSet Youth Club and our extensive programs in the classrooms, there's a lot for kids to do at AHS. Call (763) 489-2220 or visit www.animalhumanesociety.org/youth

Microchip and nail clinics

Microchip and nail trim clinics are offered at our locations. Check the calendar in this magazine for specific times.

Birthday parties

Have your birthday party at an AHS location and invite up to 15 quests. Call (763) 489-2220 for more information.



Wildlife rehabilitation

Injured and orphaned wildlife are accepted at our Golden Valley location. For information call (763) 489-2223 or visit www.animalhumanesociety.org/wildliferescue

Lost and found pets

We offer a Lost and Found Online Bulletin Board for you to post missing or found pets. Also, review stray animals in our care at our facilities at www.animalhumanesociety.org/ lostandfound

Behavior helpline

Have a question regarding your pet? Call our helpline at (763) 489-2202.

Online behavior library

Visit our online library for help with pet training and behavior. www.animalhumanesociety.org/training/library

Therapy animals

Animal Ambassadors, AHS's animalassisted therapy teams, visit hospitals, schools and nursing homes. For more information call (763) 489-2220.

Tours

Tours of our facilities are available to students or other groups by appointment. Maximum group size is determined by location. Our Golden Valley location also offers evening volunteer-led tours on the first and third Wednesday of the month by appointment. To schedule a tour at any of our locations call (763) 489-2220.

Pet loss

Humane euthanasia and cremation services are offered. Call (763) 489-2203 or visit www.animalhumanesociety.org/services/lossofpet Pet loss support groups are offered on Monday evenings at 7 p.m. in Golden Valley.

Memorial garden

Visit the peaceful perennial garden at our Buffalo location where past pets are honored with memorial plaques throughout the garden.



Like us on Facebook: facebook.com/animalhumanesociety



Follow us on Twitter: twitter.com/Animal_HumaneMN

Animal Humane Society thanks Purina ONE for its ongoing support



Purina ONE feeds all of Animal Humane Society's cats, dogs, kittens and puppies.

A new day for animals

With intake by appointment, animals reach their forever homes in record time

or too long animals that came to $oldsymbol{\Gamma}$ Animal Humane Society had to wait their turn behind the scenes to be placed in our adoption centers. With the best of intentions, the unfortunate result was that many animals had to wait for others that needed more care and time than they did before being placed. This created undue stress and illness in our shelters that affected all of the animals. Opening our Animal Admissions Center and starting our Surrender by Appointment process in January has changed that and we're proud to share with you the new day it has created for animals.

One new day was Champ's, a



Champ spent a grand total of four hours at the shelter.

chocolate Labrador retriever who was surrendered because his owners were moving. During his intake appointment at our Woodbury shelter we learned that he had severe allergies to cats that would make a long stay in the shelter difficult for him. Fortunately, because we were able to learn a great deal about Champ during the appointment with his owner, we were able to place him in the adoption center right away. Just four hours later he was leaving the shelter — and the chance of an allergic reaction due to the cats in our care — and heading home with his new family.

Read more about Champ's new life and that of so many other companion animals whose lives changed for the better because of our new surrender by appointment process at www.animalhumanesociety.org/newday.

Feline companions in a home near you

Cat adoption initiative results in increased feline placements over the last few months

R ecently, a lot has changed for cats in our community. For years, Animal Humane Society has been sharing with you the ever-increasing number of companion cats in need of homes each year. We have reached out to the community requesting their help to provide these pets with homes.

Last September, when we reduced the adoption fee for adult cats to \$50, we were delighted at the community's response. Feline adoptions have increased by 25% for adult cats and the average length of stay for a cat at our shelters is now two-thirds of what it had been for years. This reduction in an animal's length of stay and increase in adoption contributed to an 8% reduction in the rate of euthanasia for all companion animals in our shelters in 2010.

Historically, we have taken in more than 20,000 felines at our five shelters each year. It's too soon to tell what this spring and summer will bring, but we will continue our work to make a difference and hope that the community will continue to support our efforts. Together, we can continue to reduce animal homelessness.



Feline adoptions are up 25%— a trend we hope will continue!

Nearly 100 animals rescued

Humane investigations lead to companion-animal rescues

Since mid-December Animal Humane Society has rescued nearly roo dogs from neglect and cruelty situations.

In mid-December, 71 dogs and puppies were taken from an Aitkin, Minn. home after our humane agents were called in by the Aitkin County Sheriff's Office regarding animals living in cramped kennels and foul conditions.

In late January, our agents removed 28 dogs from a Minneapolis-St. Paul metro residence after they were found to be severely underweight and competing for food.

Dogs from both cases were vol-

In 2010, Animal Humane Society Humane Agents Keith Streff and Wade Hanson helped more than 6,000 animals throughout Minnesota. Learn more about their work and the effort to keep all Minnesota animals healthy and safe at www.animalhumanesociety.org/prevention.

untarily surrendered into our care and 63 have been adopted into new homes and 14 were transferred to rescue partners for placement. Of the remaining dogs, 18 were euthanized for severe health or behavior issues, two others passed away in shelter and two are still currently receiving care in Golden Valley.

One of the new dogs' families reflects on their new family member:

hen we met her at Animal Humane Society she didn't respond to the usual coos and kiss noises one expects a dog to respond to. She grew up in a cage; she wasn't housebroken, but we had love to give and surely this little girl was ready to receive some.

It took two days. Just like that she became an integral part of our family. In two days, she was housebroken, coming when called, and sitting pretty for her treats. In just two days, our other two dogs had warmed up to her.

One month later, it's already impossible to imagine life without her. We take her in our arms and tell her, "We will always keep you safe and warm." She, in turn, barks at passersby. We tell her, "You're too little to protect us, but we love that you want to."

We thank the world every day for the fate that brought her to us, and Animal Humane Society for keeping our girl safe and warm, giving us the opportunity to know all this wonderful love.

We named her Goo."

—Sally, new owner of a miniature poodle/pinscher mix from Aitkin

For more information on how you can make Minnesota a more humane place for animals, please visit www.animalhumanesociety.org/prevention.







Not your typical summer camp

"Unleashed" offers new adventures for kids in grades 3-12

A nimal Humane Society's Unleashed Summer Camp is a place for kids to get away and immerse in the incredible world of animals. This week-long adventure is neverending fun with a new adventure for kids every day. One day they may be meeting shelter animals and making toys for them, the next they may be taking field trips to learn about urban wildlife or zoo animals.

This is what one parent had to say: "I was impressed that they gave the kids the responsibility of expressing what they had learned during the parent tour portion at the end of the

camp. Not only did they have a lot of fun, but they also learned some valuable teaching tools and gained confidence with themselves in the process."

Camp sessions are available at all five AHS locations for campers entering grades 3–12. Space is limited, and many sessions fill up quickly. Registration is already underway so be sure to guarantee your child's space at Unleashed — where "acting like an animal" is a good thing! www.animalhumanesociety.org/unleashed



Consider therapy animal training with your small animal

Pets bring a smile to our faces. Share the love your pet gives with those who need it most by becoming a certified animal therapy team. Therapy work traditionally uses dogs, but there are a number of facilities and programs in the Twin Cities seeking small critters to come and visit. In fact, cats, rabbits and guinea pigs are in high demand at nursing homes, senior centers, schools, hospitals and other places where therapy animals help make a difference in people's lives.

To learn more about how you can become a small animal therapy team with your small pet, attend one of our free Introduction to Therapy Animals sessions. Training classes are offered several times a year for therapy cats and therapy rabbits and guinea pigs. For more information, please call (763) 489-2220 or email education@ animalhumanesociety.org



Opening soon: Sit. Stay. Shop.

Online shopping just got more meaningful

T ake pride in your support of Animal Humane Society by shopping at Sit. Stay. Shop. Our new online store will open this spring with clothing and accessories to show the world you're a pet lovin' friend of Animal Humane Society.

Sign up to be notified when the e-store is open! www.animalhumanesociety.org/shop

Community support leads to the start of low-cost spay/neuter service at AHS

The mobile unit hits the road in May 2011, but support still needed for community clinic

Providing a low-cost, high quality spay/neuter service is the next big step Animal Humane Society is taking toward ending animal homelessness in our communities. We are thrilled to announce that this service will soon be offered to individuals and families of limited means in the Twin Cities. Starting in May, sterilization services will be available through a partnership with AHS and Dr. Meghann Kruck, a local, private practice veterinarian. AHS will fund the program while Dr. Kruck will provide veterinary services.

This new service will be launched in two phases. Beginning in May,

services will be provided in a new mobile service unit that will travel to locations throughout the Twin Cities where we have documented a high volume of unwanted litters and stray animals. Funding to launch the mobile service was provided through a generous matching challenge from the Huss Family Foundation that was met by attendees at our Fall Wine Dinner. The second phase includes opening an on-site community clinic at our Golden Valley facility, but additional funding is still needed before we can break ground.

Our ultimate goal is to provide an additional 25,000 surgeries annually.

We are very excited about what this means for the people and animals we serve. It will provide much-needed care to animals who would not otherwise receive it and further reduce animal homelessness and euthanasia in our communities by reducing the number of unwanted litters born every year.

You can help us make this giant leap toward a better future for animals by pledging your support for the Bound for Home initiative today. To learn more, contact Donor Relations at (763) 432-4525 or giving@animalhumanesociety.org.

Fewer than 20 states don't have puppy mill legislation; Minnesota is one of them

Support legislation to regulate the breeding industry

For all of us who love animals it's hard to imagine any animal suffering. But for many cats and dogs bred in inhumane commercial dog and cat breeding facilities (better known as puppy mills) in Minnesota, that is precisely what is happening.

Minnesota is among the top producers of puppies in the nation — with some breeding kennels housing 300, 600, or more than 1,000 dogs, some in deplorable, inhumane conditions. Kittens are also mass-produced in Minnesota.

Currently, Minnesota has no state laws to license, inspect or regulate the dog and cat breeding industry. This lack of oversight does not allow law enforcement or Animal Humane Society humane agents to stop the abuse and neglect before it starts. Sadly, these animals often come into our shelters malnourished, ill and unsocialized.

The Dog and Cat Breeder Regulation Bill (S.F. 462/H.F. 702) was recently introduced at the Minnesota State Legislature by Senator Barb Goodwin and Representative John Lesch. AHS and a coalition of animal organizations including Animal Folks MN, A Rotta Love Plus, the Minnesota Animal Control Association, Minnesota Humane Society, Minnesota Voters for Animal Protection, Minnkota Persian Rescue, Pet Haven of Minnesota, Prairie Edge Humane Society, Retrieve A Golden of Minnesota, Second Chance Animal Rescue and Tri-County Humane Society strongly support this bill.



We ask you to do the same. Your support of AHS has helped us to rescue dogs and cats from some of these inhumane breeding facilities. Now, we need your voice for the countless animals still suffering. Minnesota's companion animals deserve better. Please speak up by contacting your state senator and state representative in support of S.F. 462/H.F. 702.

For more information visit www. animalhumanesociety.org/puppymill.







SUSSNER DESIGN Cº

why i Management of the Colon o

The Walk for Animals is a fun-filled morning each year for my family. We love all of our animals, from our two dogs to the bearded dragon named Kiwi. Animals



Animals. And I do it because of all those great pets that need good homes and loving families. That's why I bring my family to this important event every year."

V will be walking in

my sixth Walk for





— LEE VALSVIK, CITIES 97 MORNING SHOW

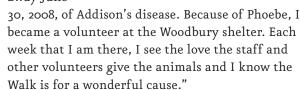
want all animals to be loved."

bring happiness to our family and we love them. We

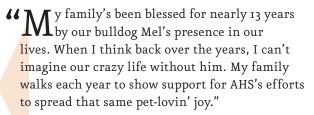
"Pets always seem to make it better with a tail wag or a sloppy kiss..."

-JENNIFER ANDERSEN

Walk in honor of my poodle, Phoebe, who passed away June



— LAURA BARNUM



KEITH MARLER, FOX 9 MORNING NEWS

I walk because I want to help in any way I can to improve animals' lives. They are helpless — they can't tell us when they are in pain or in need. I can do my part by raising money and walking in their honor. I love how a person can be having the worst day, but pets always seem to make it better with a tail wag or a sloppy kiss on the face because they are excited to see their owner is home."

— JENNIFER ANDERSEN





To view video of the Walk for Animals, visit www.animalhumanesociety.org/walk



I'm in love with my threeyear-old miniature pinscher
named King. He's a part of
our family and he gives back
love and affection every day to
make our world even brighter.
Every person should experience
the love of an animal.
Animals deserve the best care
and attention from their
owners. That's why I'm a part
of the Walk for Animals."

- DAWN STEVENS, FOX 9 MORNING NEWS

"It's an awesome experience to be around so many people who care so much about animals."

—KRISTEN REITHMEIER



I rescued my dogs, Sai and Jack, from the streets of India. I walk to raise awareness for homeless animals all over the world. I walk because I believe our pets need a voice. My dogs look at me with those loving eyes and I know if they could talk they would first say "thank you" and then say "can I please have a treat?" I know my dogs are happy to be alive and to be citizens of the U.S. They are why I walk for the animals."

— JESS ELIAS

They can woof and meow and squawk and communicate for sure, but they really can't speak for themselves and their needs.

That's why I support the Animal Humane Society and the Walk for Animals."

— BRIAN "B.T" TURNER, CITIES 97 MORNING SHOW



— ALIX KENDALL, FOX 9 MORNING NEWS







Animals because it brings awareness to the fact that there are so many pets out there in need of lots of love! It makes me feel good to know the money raised will help those pets be cared for while in transition to their new homes. It's also an awesome experience to be around so many people who care so much about animals!"

© biglama - Fotolia.c







The best medicine is unconditional

By Carrie Libera

Dania arrived at Southside Family Nurturing Center (SSFNC) where she attends preschool. She began to cry when she and her sister Destiny went to their separate classrooms. But the tears stopped and her mood quickly changed when she caught a glimpse of Duke's soft auburn fur, soulful brown eyes, and ear-to-ear grin as he entered the school. The golden retriever is a therapy dog and just moments into his visit, he already succeeded in brightening the little girl's day.

Duke and his owner, Mindy Jensen, are a therapy team with Animal Humane Society's Animal Ambassadors program. Volunteers are trained with their pets to provide animal-assisted therapy and activities to people throughout the Twin Cities metro area. They visit schools, nursing homes, hospitals, and other facilities

to provide comfort, enrichment and learning opportunities to the people who need it most. "Visiting with people and watching the joy in their eyes as they interact with Duke is amazing," says Mindy. "It's very rewarding for me and for Duke as well."

For more than a year, Duke and Mindy have been visiting kids at





"We have kids who don't smile all day and they just light up when they see Duke. He allows them to relax and just be kids."

> —BETSY BORN, PRESCHOOL TEACHER AND FAMILY WORKER AT SSFNC

SSFNC. The organization provides therapeutic classes for toddler and preschool aged children who come from families living in moderate to severe poverty and dealing with additional issues such as mental illness, homelessness, domestic violence and chemical dependency. "A lot of the kids have experienced some type of trauma in the home, so this is such a positive experience for them," says Betsy Born, preschool teacher and family worker at SSFNC. "We have kids who don't smile all day and they just light up when they see Duke. He allows them to relax and just be kids."

Mindy and Duke's visits are a highly anticipated event at SSFNC. The kids can't wait to see Duke, each spending about 10 minutes with him in groups of two. They give him hugs, brush his fur, and practice counting as they feed him treats from a toy shovel. The 80-pound dog is gentle with the kids and he doesn't even flinch when they pull on his ears or accidently step on his tail. He is trained to immediately lie down as kids enter the room and wait for them to approach him - something Duke practices outside the classroom as well. "When Duke and I are on a walk, he'll naturally lie down when kids walk by. Sometimes I have to ask the kids to pet him so we can continue our walk. He won't get up until they do, that's his job," says Mindy.

There are certain characteristics that make a good candidate for animal therapy work, including a love for people, confidence around new stimuli, and a friendly, calm



demeanor around all ages, genders, and personality types. While it is often assumed that therapy animals are always dogs, domestic animals of almost any kind can be therapy animals, including cats, guinea pigs, rabbits, horses, chickens and more. "We'd love to see a greater variety of animals registered as therapy teams

and joining Animal Ambassadors," says Patti Anderson who teaches therapy animal training classes at AHS. Besides classes for dogs, AHS offers therapy training classes for cats, rabbits and guinea pigs.

Carol Pawlicki has seen firsthand just how effective other types of therapy animals can be. Carol has been

animal

ambassadors

working with therapy animals for seven years — first with rabbits and now with her cat, Molly May. As an Animal Ambassadors therapy team, Carol and Molly May visit residents at Catholic Eldercare a few times each month. Molly May's peaceful demeanor and soft touch is both entertaining and relaxing for the residents,

Become an Animal Ambassador



Apply to become an Animal Humane Society volunteer

Therapy teams interested in joining the group must complete an application process and be approved as AHS volunteers. To learn more about the volunteer application process go to www.animalhumanesociety.org/volunteer.

Train for therapy work

Dogs must have their Canine Good Citizen certificate and complete a therapy dog training program. Cats, rabbits, and other small animals must complete a four-week training program offered by the AHS Training School. Call (763) 489-2217 for more information.

Become a registered therapy team

Upon completing the appropriate training program, teams must pass an evaluation exam and become registered with the Delta Society. Registration demonstrates that you have the necessary handling and visiting skills for therapy work, and that your pet has the training and temperament to be safe and comfortable in a therapy visiting environment. Registration also provides you with liability insurance coverage in case of an incident during a visit.

Agree to be an active member of the Animal Ambassadors

New members of the Animal Ambassadors must shadow a current member during a therapy visit. They must also commit to a regular schedule of volunteering and to attending at least three group meetings each year.

Optional: Complete R.E.A.D. training

R.E.A.D. (Reading Education Assistance Dogs) training workshops are offered at AHS approximately every eight weeks. These four-hour workshops equip the volunteer to participate with their animal (not just dogs) in reading sessions with children at schools, libraries, and other locations. R.E.A.D. animals must be registered therapy animals.

Know more about animal-assisted therapy

Join us for an upcoming Intro to Therapy Animals Class. You'll learn what makes a good therapy animal, what kind of training is required to get started, and what you can do with your therapy skills once you've become a registered animal therapy team. This one-hour program is free, but registration is required. Call the Education department at (763) 489-2220 for more information.

Upcoming *Intro to Therapy Animals* classes:

April 20, Golden Valley, 7–8 p.m. May 11, St. Paul, 7–8 p.m. July 13, Golden Valley, 7–8 p.m. September 11, Coon Rapids, 3–4 p.m. November 10, Woodbury, 7–8 p.m.

"We are a team and we both put our hearts into every single visit."

—CAROL PAWLICKI,
ANIMAL AMBASSADOR
WITH HER CAT. MOLLY MAY

some of whom have Alzheimer's or dementia. "Sometimes the residents have bad days and don't want to be touched by people, but you set an animal in their lap and they just come alive. It's really a magical moment when you see them connect," says Kathy Bulicz, animal assisted therapy coordinator at Catholic Eldercare.

Molly May's needs are simple — a lap to sit on, some gentle petting and friendly attention is all she requires. Some of the residents talk to Molly May while others sing to her, and yet others are content to just have her quiet company. Many of the residents

are in wheelchairs, but that doesn't stop them from interacting with her. Carol puts a small fleece blanket on their lap and that's right where Molly May sits. "When she's on her blanket, she knows she's working. She knows what to do and loves doing it," says

Carol. Their visits are equally rewarding for her as well.

"You put as much into it as the animal does. We are a team and we both put our hearts into every single visit."

There is no doubt that animals can have a powerful affect on people. The excitement in a child's face when Duke trots into the room or the joy Molly May brings by snuggling in on a welcoming lap is a true testament of what animals can do for people simply by being there. The Animal Ambassadors program gives therapy teams the opportunity to experience how the calm presence, non-judgmental company and unconditional love of an animal benefit the people they connect with.

Carrie Libera is on the staff at Animal Humane Society. She and her husband, Jason Melillo, recently adopted Foxy, a shepherd mix from Animal Humane Society.





2011 💸 Spring Campaign to save lives

At Animal Humane Society, we believe that every animal surrendered to us has a unique story. Gigi was one of the thousands of dogs we receive each year.

Gigi, a recent mother, came to us with two of her pups. She was recently surrendered by an owner who could not longer afford her.

Through your support we were able to provide her with essential medical care, a spay surgery and a bright new beginning when Gigi was quickly adopted into a loving home.



Help end the cycle of unwanted litters while helping dogs like Gigi by supporting the work of Animal Humane Society.

Donate now 👛



To view video about Gigi and her new family visit www.animalhumanesociety.org/gigi

Start spring on the right paw, join our training classes today





Family-friendly, flexible go-at-your-own-pace classes

classes offered in Coon Rapids, Golden Valley and Woodbury and at Now Boarding



NEW STUDENT SPECIAL OFFER

\$20 off 2 or 4 month training pass. Expires August 31, 2011

Please mention this code: AT01



(763) 489-2217

www.animalhumanesociety.org/training





It's not uncommon for employees to take their work home. At Animal Humane

Society it can take on a whole new meaning. Temptation abounds in the form of soulful eyes, furry tails and wet kisses. And, every once in a while, a

connection is made that results

The deal was sealed when the tiny three-month-old, blue-nose pitty crawled into my lap and started licking my face. I don't know if it was the way Blue Bear's tiny body fit in my arms or that I am a sucker for puppy kisses, but it was probably a little of both.

Truthfully, the deal had started long before. As a humane educator I had been studying and teaching about myths and perceptions surrounding breeds such as the pit bull. My heart had been slowly gravitating toward the misunderstood breed as I discovered the need for exceptional owners to help turn their reputation around.

When I took the little guy home, I had no idea what I was in for. My family was a little nervous when they heard I was coming home with a pit bull. But after that first night, they were as in love as I was.

Don't get me wrong, Blue Bear was a typical puppy. He went through all the phases: mouthing, furniture chewing, potty training. If it wasn't for the gentle guidance of Animal Humane Society's training and behavior specialists, I would have returned the fast growing ball of energy more than once. But after five months of weekly training sessions, puppy playgroups and lots of practice at home, Blue Bear has become the pride of my life.

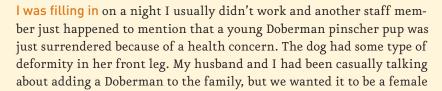
When I watch him play excitedly at the dog park or gently take a treat from the hand of a small neighborhood child, I know that I have been given a wonderful gift of a better understood companion.

-MATTHEW BAXLEY, HUMANE EDUCATOR

in a perfect match — and a
love that has a lasting
impact. Here are
some stories from
those who have
dedicated their
professional
lives to saving
animals.



"I remember falling in love with her, telling her I will try and get you out of this mess."



our resident male Doberman/shepherd mix.

After my shift I went to the puppy holding area and saw the sweetest and most beautiful red Doberman. Bella had an obvious deformity, but she didn't realize it. She flopped around

> using the leg as best as she could even though it was a definite hindrance to her mobility. I remember sitting on the floor of the kennel and falling in love with her, telling her "I will try and get you out of this mess."

After many consultations with the vet staff it was decided that the best thing to do would be an amputation of the front leg. Bella had the surgery and physical therapy while being a "permanent foster" in my home. A few months later I officially adopted her and she has been with us ever since.

She has attended training classes at AHS and is definitely my dog. She is now starting to get a little gray around the muzzle, but it seems just like yesterday when I was sitting on the floor of that kennel falling in love with her.

- KELLY RADOTICH, CUSTOMER SERVICE, COON RAPIDS

Editor's Note: Sadly, Bella passed away in February. Our hearts go out to Kelly at this difficult time. Bella will be missed.



Shortly after getting married, I moved into a townhouse that allowed pets. After years of pet-free apartment living, I was anxious to have animals in my life again and began looking more carefully at the cats in Woodbury. My husband wasn't so sure. He came from an "animals belong outside" upbringing. We compromised and I became an Animal Humane Society foster volunteer.

When I picked up my first foster cat, Cleo, there were several cats in carriers waiting to go to foster homes. They all had upper respiratory infections and needed two weeks of medication and much needed TLC before being placed for adoption. I randomly picked one and didn't look inside the carrier until I got

home. When I got there, a short, stubby brown tabby sauntered out and chirped at me. He had little bobcatlike ears, a result of frostbite while he was a stray. He was calm and friendly, and settled right in. He never meowed or purred, he just followed us around and chirped at us in a sweet little voice.

Three days after Cleo's arrival, my husband sat me down for a serious discussion — he didn't want Cleo to go back to the shelter. He wanted to adopt him. I hadn't let myself consider the possibility. In the end I was the one who needed convincing, but I'm glad I agreed to adopt him.

As our first pet, Cleo took on the role of both dog and cat - greeting us at the door, following us around the house, going for car rides, cuddling on the couch and playing with string. Cleo has greeted each of our subsequent pets with goodwill and

After our 10-year-old husky passed away in May 2008, my family decided we'd wait at least a few months before we got another dog. Then, just nine days later, my wife and two kids decided we'd waited long enough. It turns out the timing was perfect because a litter of husky mix puppies had just come in to AHS. I was out of town at the time, so my wife and kids went to check out two of the puppies. They never even saw the second one that day — they instantly fell in love with the first one and knew right away he was our new dog. I was thrilled when I came home and met Darin. The shepherd/husky/Labrador mix quickly became my best bud.

In 2009, we decided it was time to start looking for a second dog, in part to keep Darin company. Every couple weeks, a film crew shoots adoption profiles of animals available at AHS. A colleague of mine, who happens to be quite the matchmaker, was helping with the shoot and told me I had to come meet a dog they were filming. The first thing I noticed about Sammi is that she was much more talkative than any dog I've ever seen. I knew right away that this cute and cuddly malamute would be a great addition to our family. When my wife and kids met her they instantly loved her as

well. Sammi is such a cuddlebug and we are convinced that we aren't the first loving family she's had because she was already so well-trained!

Darin, now two-and-a-half years old, and Sammi, four years old, are the best of friends. They love to run and play and chase each other around the yard. We feel so fortunate to have two incredible dogs as part of our family.

- RAY ABOYAN, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

"... they instantly fell in love and knew right away he was our new dog."



patience, despite being hissed at, swatted at, sniffed impolitely and trampled. He is always available to greet guests at the door and waits politely on the floor for an invitation to sit on a warm lap. He charms those who lack a fondness for cats and patiently enjoys small children. He's a gem of a cat and I'm glad he was the one who walked out of that carrier seven years ago.

 JILL PAUL, GRAPHIC DESIGNER AND PRODUCTION MANAGER "He never meowed or purred, he just followed us around and chirped at us in a sweet little voice."

I first met Jerry in October 2009 during his second stay with us at AHS. At 23 pounds my arms almost gave out as I held him. Jerry was very charming and my heart hurt for him because he seemed so unsure of his current surroundings (and I'm sure the limited quantity of food).

we de h

"Everyone saw something really special in him."

I had a desire to make sure he would finally find the stability he deserved, but my thoughts of bringing him home were always followed up

by the fear of what would happen when he would have to interact with our moody resident cat, Kitty. Jerry was such a friendly cat though, so I kept telling myself he would get adopted by someone soon. The customer service staff members were also growing very fond of him and gave him a collar and tag that read "Voted AHS Best Cat 2009." Every time I would see him my heart would sink and I would tell my husband, AJ, that we should just adopt him.

In January I was relieved to hear that Jerry was finally adopted. Sadly I saw him back on the adoption floor just 15 days later. The new owner said that Jerry walked around all night crying for food. This broke my heart too much. With the aid of our behavior and training department we were able to successfully introduce Kitty and Jerry and give him a home.

As Jerry became more comfortable in our home, his crying stopped. I think that he had been put into so many new and unsure situations that he didn't know whether to believe he was actually going to stay. Jerry feels now that he is a part of the family as he runs around playing, follows me around everywhere and sleeps on the bed with us. His coat has shed all of the dander and he has dropped to a svelte 19 pounds.

It's hard to imagine our lives without Jerry now. AJ, Jerry, and I are so grateful for the wonderful care and patience that was given to him by the staff at AHS. Everyone saw something special in him and the kindness really helped him through his long stay. My only regret is that we didn't adopt him sooner.

— BRIE GEURINK,
DONOR RELATIONS OFFICER

I was working in Woodbury in 2005 when a gentleman came in with a cage. Inside was about an inch of feces and a chubby, sweet guinea pig. Her nails were curled and untrimmed and she needed a bath.

The man surrendering the guinea pig owned rental property and a pair of his tenants had vacated a week earlier with no notice. Amongst the piles of rubbish he found the cage with the pig inside.

He took her home and bought her some food. The next day he brought her to the shelter and donated \$10 for her care. I named her Maisie after a character in a book I was reading that



was treated unkindly, but was able to make the best of her situation. I felt it was an appropriate name for a pig that was neglected and left behind. I knew Maisie was something special — how else could a little, stinky pig

inspire such kindness from a perfect stranger?

After adopting Maisie I learned a lot about guinea pig care. She was my beloved companion for two years. Sadly, Maisie passed away in 2007 from complications of a bladder stone.

You could say Maisie was my "gate-way guinea pig." I've since fostered dozens of guinea pigs, from the pregnant to the one-eyed to the unsocialized, and have owned an additional five pigs including my three current pigs — Amelia Bones, Miggory Sow, and Harriet B. Suit.

— ANNE AHIERS, CUSTOMER SERVICE SUPERVISOR. ST. PAUL

To view more staff stories, visit www.animalhumanesociety.org/ATspring11

memorials and honorariums

July 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010

e are grateful for your generous support of the animals through memorial and tribute gifts and are pleased to acknowledge these gifts in this magazine. We are committed to providing quality content with information about our programs and services and want to ensure that your donations are directly supporting the animals in our care. We sincerely appreciate every gift made in honor or memory of a loved one or pet, however, only pet memorials of \$100 or more will be listed in this publication.

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Max & Emma

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T was walking through Animal Humane Society $oldsymbol{1}$ in Woodbury with a girlfriend so her daughter could look at the puppies. I had absolutely no intention of bringing a furry little friend home with me. When we were strolling around the cats I found myself drawn to one specific cage in the elderly cat section. This huge beautiful medium haired orange cat looked right at me, stood up and started reaching his paws out of the cage towards me and crying in a way that captured my heart. When he was brought into a room with me, he walked directly into my lap, curled up and started purring. He cocked his head and looked up at me like he was saying, "Ok this is it, time to go home now."

I was told that sometimes animals choose us. My dear Rusty, who I was blessed with for seven amazing years made me a believer. He truly showed me what it meant to have a best friend in a pet.

He wrapped his paws around my shoulder giving me hugs when I would cry. He curled up with me in bed constantly trying to steal my pillow. He pooped in my entryway when I would go on vacation show-

ing he disapproved, then upon my return he would pout by sitting/laying facing away from me, as far across the room as possible, yet would always follow me to whatever room I



would move to. He would beg for samples of whatever meat I was cooking, and actually sit in front of the fridge and shift his gaze between it and me as if saying "I know you have good stuff in there for me ... c'mon just a lil' snack?"

The bond we developed was stronger than any words can describe and I will forever be thankful for the time we were blessed with.

-DELORA MEYER

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Bob and Jane Weathers

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Warren Wildes and Mary

George Kathleen Engelke George Warren Erickson Ginger & Rosie Lynn and Steve Middleton-Koller

Gracie JoAnna Trumbull Hadley "Monster" Tony Delphia Happy Austin Kallevig

Heart Linda Krafthefer Hector Robert Wilyat

Henry & Charlie Sharon Miller-Thompson

Kerri Michels

Rosa Costain

Jake & Duck James and Suzanne Clemens

Jake & Schatze

John and Michael

Julie and Jay Cain

Katzen Jammer

Alice and Vernon Peterson

KC & Ranger Richard and Sheila Chaffee

Carole and Patrick Toohey

Maddie, Kiki & Marley

Barbara Johnson

Maggie
Iohn and Michael

Lucy, Mochi & Tulip

Mary Abe Maddie & Trigger

Mandy

Max

Gloria Smith

Mandy Mae

Linda Miller

Mercedes

Backstrom

Millie

Mimi

Ming

John and Michael

John and Michael

Jean and Michael

John and Michael

Dennis Erickson

Meece, Daisy & Charlie

Dianne and Gary Smith Miina & Yvette

Amy and Caleb Quenzer

Deborah Kloss

Jack

lett

Heidi Terry Hamm **Molly** David and Elizabeth Stofferahn

Molly & Emma Patrick Miner Molly & Maddie Daniel Gillett

Moose & Radar Audrey and Jason Andersen Nat & Rudy Kathleen and Thomas

Martin Natasha, Katrina & Charlie Paulette Deane

Natty Margret and Larry Olson Nicholas Patricia and Samuel Halgren

Nikolai & Napoleon Scott Sawver

Oliver Bethany Johnson

0wen Jana Friedrich 0wen John and Michael

Petra & Greta Nancy Sticha

Pippen Amber Genetzky Pirate

Appliance Specialties, Inc. Reba

Shirley Thury Ricky

Michael and Gail Moharter

Rodman Patty Carlin Rosie Norma Buchanan Ruby Janet and John Remington Rusty Robert and Judy Prentiss Sammy Judith Bonneville Sasha & Minnie Tom Torborg Sassy John and Michael Shasta & Luna Amy and Hans Steege Shelby, Buffie, Sascha, Marvin, Zues & Buck Tina and Richard Raisanen Sid & Charlie Vicki and William Kolh Sniper

Erin Martin Snowy, Sparky, Nova, Zorro, Morrison, Xerxes, Snowball, Riley, Gunner & Riley Emily Medcraft Spencer Wendy and Peter Podany Spike, Sugar & Sophie

Carol Wolfgram Takoda & Kobe William Welshons Timber & Stormi Reina A. Olson

Timmy Tippee

Clayt and Julie Tabor

Tom, David & Melanie Heidi and W. Mercer Tommy & Buddy Carole Weatherby Tootsie Richard Fischer Trevor Greg Skluzacek Tucker John and Michael Tulio & Ezzy Rachel and Chris Gilchrist Wednesdays with Snoozin Sandra Lee Wendy John and Michael Wilhemina Ipana Federa III "Willy" Richard and Patricia Coan Wilson Diana and Richard D. Klein Wrigley & Puzzle Ann and Mark Schulze Xena Mary and Keith Zilinski

Elizabeth Buschor

Yoello Kelly and Lee Walker Zeke

Catherine and Keith Kinniburgh

Carol and Robert Romeo Zoe & Jack Jane Nichols



Make your next gift in memory or in honor of an animal you love Your support of Animal Humane Society can also be a wonderful way to remember and celebrate the special animals in your life. Demonstrate your love by helping animals less fortunate than

To make a memorial or tribute gift, you

your own. Gifts of \$100 or more made in

memory or tribute to an animal will be

listed here in Animal Tracks.

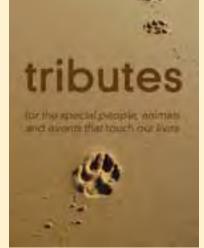
• use the donation envelope provided in the center fold of this issue

 visit www.animalhumanesociety.org/ donate and select the honor/memorial option

or call our Development office at (763) 489-1589

Create a personal fundraising webpage to honor the special people, animals and events in your life at: www.animalhumanesociety.org/tributes

Thank you!



Calendar of Events

April 2011 - October 2011



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Save the date! • Fall Wine Dinner

Friday, November 4 • The Saint Paul Hotel, St. Paul

Enjoy exceptional courses prepared by outstanding local chefs and paired with exquisite wines by Ray Zemke from Cellars Wine & Spirits. You'll have the opportunity to bid on exclusive auction items, but most importantly, you'll support the programs, services and animals of Animal Humane Society. Seating is limited. Please make your reservations early to guarantee your seat at this premier Twin Cities dining event. For reservations, call (763) 432-4842 or email winedinner@animalhumanesociety.org. Sign up to be notified when our Wine Dinner website goes live — www.animalhumanesociety.org/winedinner

Special events

Walk for Animals

You love animals. You know what a difference they have made in your life. You also care about animals less fortunate than your own. The Walk for Animals is your opportunity to help the tens of thousands of companion animals that will come through Animal Humane Society's doors this year. Begin raising pledges now and get ready for the best stand-up-on-your-hind-legs-and-bark event of the year! To register, request pledge forms or recieve more information, visit www.animalhumanesociety.org/walk, email walk@animalhumanesociety.org, or call (763) 432-4841.

Saturday, April 30 • Golden Valley Check-in begins at 8:30 a.m. Walk begins at 10:00 a.m.

Now Boarding Open House

Stop by for a tour and find out why Now Boarding will soon become your pet's favorite daycare and vacation spot. The tour is for people only. Please leave your pets at home. We'll meet them during their first stay at Now Boarding! Now Boarding is located at 6002 28th Ave S. in Minneapolis, just off Hwy. 62. For more information about services offered there, visit www.nowboardingpets.com or call (612) 454-4850.

Saturday, June 11 • 12-4 p.m.

Youth programs

PetSet Youth Club

Be a part of the PetSet Youth Club - now available on Thursdays too! Youth members meet twice a month to learn from animal experts, examine animal-related current events, develop community service projects to help animals and much more. The club is open to students in grades 5-8. New members can join at any time! For more information, visit www.animalhumanesociety.org/ petsetyouthclub or contact the Education department at (763) 489-2220 or education@animalhumanesociety.org.

Golden Valley • Wednesdays & Thursdays Woodbury • Tuesdays

Unleashed Summer Camps

Unleashed is an animal-themed summer day camp. Campers spend a full week immersed in animal learning and fun. Each week includes animal-related educational activities, animal interactions, visits from special guests, field trips, and more. Unleashed is available at all AHS locations for kids entering grades 3-12. Camps run from mid-June to mid-August. For more information or to register online, visit www.animalhumanesociety.org/ unleashed or call (763) 489-2220.

Unleashed Express Mini Day Camps

Looking for something different to do on those no-school days? Unleash your child's love of animals with an Unleashed Express Camp. These day camp programs for grades 3-7 feature a variety of animal-related activities, with a special emphasis on service projects to benefit shelter animals. For more information, visit www.animalhumanesociety.org/ unleashedexpress or call (763) 489-2220.

Golden Valley and Woodbury • October 20-2

Family programs

Pet Parenting Workshops

When you bring a new pet into your home, everyone in the family should be ready to share the joys, challenges, and responsibilities involved in caring for a pet. The Pet Parenting Workshop is designed to help families explore and prepare for pet ownership. Families will learn some of the myths surrounding pets, find out what local laws pertain to pet ownership, learn about and plan for daily pet care responsibilities, and more. For more information visit www.animalhumanesociety.org/petparenting or call (763) 489-2220.

April 2 • St. Anthony Park Elementary, St. Paul • 9:30-11:30 a.m.

May 3 • Golden Valley • 6:30-8:30 p.m. Sept. 20 • Woodbury • 6:30-8:30 p.m.

R.E.A.D. with a Therapy Animal

Many of our Animal Ambassador Animal Therapy teams are trained in the R.E.A.D. (Reading Education Assistance Dogs) program, which helps reluctant readers in schools and libraries by encouraging them to read to a non-judgmental animal audience. Shelter visitors can experience this program and learn more about therapy animals by attending these special events. No appointment necessary — just stop by the shelter, choose a book, and settle in to read to a therapy animal. For more information on R.E.A.D events, call (763) 489-1585.

Golden Valley • May 15 & August 14 • 1-3 p.m.



Animal Tracks Spring/Summer 2011 www.animalhumanesociety.org

Tours, clinics and groups

AHS Tours

Ever wondered what goes on behind the scenes at Animal Humane Society? Join us for a tour of our Golden Valley location. You'll learn more about AHS and the animals we serve, and get a guided tour through the working areas of our shelter. Cost is \$1 per person. Participants must be at least six years of age. Space is limited and registration is required. Call (763) 489-2220 or email education@animalhumanesociety.org to register.

April 7 • Golden Valley • 7-8 p.m. September 8 • Golden Valley • 7-8 p.m.

Microchip and Nail Clinics

Microchip your pets for their safety in the event they are lost. Nail trims also available. Microchipping is \$40 and nail trims are \$12 plus tax. Clinics are held from 1–3 p.m. at the locations and on the dates listed below. For more information visit our online Events Calendar at www.animalhumanesociety.org/events or call (763) 522-4325.

Buffalo • Second to last Sunday of each month Coon Rapids • Second Sunday of each month Golden Valley • Second Sunday of each month St. Paul • First Sunday of each month Woodbury • Third Saturday of each month

Pet Loss Support Group

This support group is an informal and ongoing support group led by a trained facilitator for those dealing with the grief caused by the loss of a pet. There is no admission charge or reservation required. The group meets in Conference Room D, across from the Training Center. For easy and convenient access, please park in the North parking lot. For more information, please call (612) 730-6016.

Golden Valley • Mondays • 7 p.m. Group does not meet on holidays.

Training & Playgroups

Intro to Therapy Animals

Are you interested in learning how you and your pet (dog, cat, guinea pig, rabbit, and more) can become part of a visiting animal therapy team? Join us to find out more about what therapy animals do, what training you and your animal will need, and how to become a registered therapy animal team. This session is free, but registration is required. For more information, call (763) 489-2220 or email education@animalhumanesociety.org.

Golden Valley • April 20, July 13 • 7-8 p.m. St. Paul • May 11 • 7-8 p.m. Coon Rapids • Sept. 11 • 3-4p.m.

Rabbits

Bunny Basics

This is a class for people interested in getting a rabbit or those who already have one and want to know more about their care. (Please, no rabbits in class.) The class is free, but donations to the Minnesota Companion Rabbit Society are welcome. Register by calling (763) 489-2234. All sessions are held from 6:30–8 p.m. on the dates below.

Woodbury • April 7, May 5, June 2, July 7, August 4, September 1, October 6 Golden Valley • April 11, May 9, June 13, July 11, August 8, September 12, October 10

Hoppy Hour

A social hour for rabbits and their owners held at 1 p.m. every other Sunday in Golden Valley. \$3 per rabbit. For exact dates, visit www.animalhumanesociety.org/events or contact rabbitagility@mn.companionrabbit.org for more information. All rabbits must be spayed or neutered.

Rabbit Agility

An opportunity for caged and house rabbits to explore and get exercise and mental stimulation at the same time. For more information, please visit the website of our partner, Minnesota Companion Rabbit Society at www.mnhouserabbit.org or email rabbitagility@mn.companionrabbit.org. Classes are \$25 for five weeks and held in Golden Valley. All rabbits must be spayed or neutered.

Dogs

Introduction to Pet Dog Training

Find out about

the dog training classes offered at the Animal Humane Society. People only at this first session please. All classes are held from 6:30–8 p.m. No registration necessary. Classes are available in Coon Rapids, Golden Valley, Woodbury and Now Boarding. For exact dates and a schedule of all our dog training classes, visit www.animalhumanesociety.org/training or call (763) 489-2217.

Canine Good Citizen Test

A certification program designed to reward dogs with good manners at home and in the community. The program stresses responsible pet ownership. \$10 per dog. Registration is required. For more information and to register, visit www.akc.org or call our Training School at (763) 489-2217.

Golden Valley, one Friday per month at 6 p.m. For exact dates, please visit www.animalhumanesociety.org/events.

Coon Rapids, the third Wednesday of the month at 8:15 p.m.

Reactive Rovers

This class is designed for dogs that bark, snark, or growl at other dogs. We will help you learn to walk your dog past other dogs and teach your dog to greet other dogs politely. This class is not appropriate for dogs that are aggressive toward people. For more information, call the Training School at (763) 489-2217.

Wallflower

Does your dog cower when guests come over? Does he hide in the bedroom when the doorbell rings? Does he try to run away when he hears children playing outside? If so, the Animal Humane Society's Wallflower class might be for you. This class is for shy and fearful dogs. Call our Training School at (763) 489-2217 for more information.

Yappy Hour!

Well-behaved dogs are welcome with their dog-loving owners at this event. Admission is \$10 for the public and \$7 for enrolled Training School students. Dog owners need to bring vaccination records (rabies, bordetella, distemper, and parvovirus).

Sessions are held two Fridays per month at 5:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. in Golden Valley. For exact dates, please visit www.animalhumanesociety.org/events or call [763] 489-2217.

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