



# HOPEFUL TIMES

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THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF EYES OF HOPE SHELTER

AUTUMN 2011

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## AWESOME AUTUMN

What a beautiful time of the year as I write this! Our part of Wisconsin is saturated with rich shades of red, yellow, orange, brown and, of course, evergreen green. The shelter dogs have lots of energy in the cooler weather and would be happy to visit with you as a potential adopter or a volunteer who could give them some attention. We promise that you would be amply rewarded by them. So, come visit us, take a tour and maybe you will “fall” for one of our amazing, deserving dogs.

There were 28 adoptions during the summer quarter from July 1 through September 30. We are happy to say this is up from the last quarter. There have now been 339 adoptions since our inception in July of 2008. So many dogs have found their forever home because of Eyes of Hope Shelter. Speaking of adoptions, we have good news! All three “Featured Pets” from our first three newsletters have been adopted. How wonderful for these deserving dogs.

November is “Adopt a Senior Pet” Month. Emma Nem did her part; she went on a sleepover on November 3 and was adopted on November 4, 2011!

## OLD OR GOLD?

By Kris Steffens, President

It seems surprising that so many older animals find their way to the shelter. The reasons for their arrival number almost as many as the animals. Many are surrendered for reasons like an owner passing away or moving, displacement by a new younger pet, changes in the family such as divorce or remarriage, children going to college, illness, allergies and on and on. And the honest truth is some people just plain don't want them anymore.

For some people there would never be a good enough reason to give up a loved family member who has been their loyal companion through so many years. For other people, the decision to give up a pet in hopes that it will be better cared for the manner in which it deserves but they are unable to provide is the hardest decision they will ever make. For still others, it's no big deal – there are plenty of animals in the world to replace this one.

Then there are our poor lost souls, who come to the shelter as older strays. Again, the reasons vary. Some are left to fend for themselves or for others to find and take care of, and some have just simply lost their way.

Whatever the reason, the lucky ones find their way to Eyes of Hope where they can get the care they need and deserve, and wait for their Second Chance. Sometimes they wait for what seems like forever. They watch people walk by day after day, hoping that someone will see them. And they wait. They watch the crazy teenagers come and go. And they wait.

They patiently wait for the person who comes in and says, "This dog is perfect – I want to take him home." This is the person who knows that puppyhood is fleeting and comes with so much work. While the new puppy is at her new home being housebroken and obedience trained, this person is reading his book until the older dog simply walks to the door. While the teenage dog is getting walked two to three times a day, and still wants to play ball, this person knows that the older dog is happy with an after-dinner stroll, a few fetches and some belly rubs in front of the television.

Their hearts may not beat as strongly, but they still beat as true. Their eyes might not shine as brightly, but they're still full of love. For me, in terms of the love, adoration, love, wisdom, love, loyalty, love, appreciation, love and companionship, our seniors aren't old, they're gold.

\*Originally published in the CCHS Watchdog. Revised for Eyes of Hope for November 2011, "Adopt a Senior Pet" Month.

## FEATURED PET



Brownie is a young, male, black Labrador retriever mix who needs a new start at a real life. When we found him he was tied to a tree with a doghouse, a bowl of water and not much else. Brownie was shy when he got here, but now he loves everyone. He is friendly with people of every type. Will someone please give Brownie the opportunity to learn what life as a dog REALLY is? Love, a nice soft warm bed, love, a best buddy to play and cuddle with, love, lots of food and treats, love and toys! Brownie gets along very well with other dogs and he loves toys. Brownie also seems to have a shoe fetish (when they're still on your feet!). But, who doesn't love shoes? Brownie is sponsored by Lorne Tschanz.

## CAN'T ADOPT? BE A SPONSOR

For \$25 you can sponsor a dog for its entire stay. This means you will be recognized as his/her sponsor on the web site, on Petfinder and on its kennel door. The fee will help provide for its care and medical needs.

## SUCCESS STORIES



### Sherlock

We adopted Sherlock in June. When we first brought him home he was very jumpy and shy. I spent a lot of time with him trying to get him used to his new home and family. My husband and I were committed to integrating Sherlock into our family. It took a lot of time and patience, but it paid off. Sherlock is doing great. He has transformed into an entirely different dog. His hair has grown back, he is filling out and he is a sweet giant puppy. He loves to be brushed, go on long walks and run in our backyard. He is so graceful when he runs.

We want to thank Kris for believing in Sherlock and for doing all she does for the dogs who might not otherwise be able to enjoy a loving home.

Naomi & Jerry Berkowitz  
Port Washington, WI

### Louis



Louis (Fuzzy) is doing well. He is huge!! 76.8 lbs the last time we were at the vet. We push forward with our training, finally had to put him back into the kennel because he was being naughty chewing (after such a great summer), but I get it, and we will get there...haven't had a puppy for many, many years, so we are both learning together!! He is a nice dog though and keeps me busy!! Taught him to beg...took awhile for that one, "wait" for the biscuit...does that one pretty well now with treats and food. He loves rawhide bones thankfully; helps with his chewing. Still no luck with the nail trimming and hair cutting. I will be happy when he finally realizes that those are both good things:-)  
mlm

## DOGTOBERFEST 2011

The third annual Dogtoberfest celebration was held October 15, 2011. Although the temperature was fairly moderate, the winds were unbelievably strong. We really had to hang onto our hats and couldn't do as much outside as we normally do! There may have been fewer visitors than usual due to the high winds, but those who came really enjoyed themselves. We had food, games, a live DJ, a door prize, raffle prizes and face painting. Critterrrman again made a special appearance and entertained the children. The Oxford Fire Department came and provided truck tours, talked about fire safety, had their own special dog in its fire costume, and a bean bag toss with stuffed Dalmatians as prizes. Our volunteers walked around with the dogs who thoroughly enjoyed all the attention they got. Whisper and his family also came to visit (see below).

The children enjoyed the games and won lots of prizes. Some brought their dogs who bobbed for tennis balls and kept the ball if they got one! Hans Brammer won the door prize and some people won multiple raffle prizes provided by generous friends and businesses. We had music for the entire event. The food was a hit; we had grilled hamburgers, hot dogs, and brats with the usual accompaniments. All in all it was a memorable and successful event.

We learn from every Dogtoberfest and strive to make improvements. We have lots of ideas for next year. Keep us in mind. We do have a lot of fun while raising money for the shelter.

Thank you to all our friends and friendly Oxford businesses who donated raffle prizes: The Boondocks, Borud's Hardware, County Line Pet Grooming, Expressions in Bloom, Maggie Mae's Café, Marquette-Adams Telephone Cooperative, Oxford Fuel & Food, Oxford Travel Plaza, Royal Bank, Trend Setter Hair Salon, Sky Blue Dreams and Village Spirits. Also, thank you to all of our wonderful volunteers. We couldn't do it without you!

Dogtoberfest pictures and more in the Winter Issue.

## WHISPER



August 3, 2011 – In this picture Whisper is awaiting his debut at the Black River Falls Fair in obedience and agility competition on the beginner's level and he recently earned his Canine Good Citizen award. He came to Eyes of Hope Shelter the day before he was supposed to be euthanized as he is deaf. He is so special! He was loving, strong and thrived on any attention he got while at the shelter. He was adopted by a wonderful family committed to helping him. And, look how far he has come. He came to visit during Dogtoberfest and impressed all of us who knew him at the shelter. What a wonderful happy ending.....or beginning!

## HANDS FOR HOPE

The purpose of Hands for Hope is to help support, promote and raise funds for our animals and the shelter, provide education regarding them and current accepted care practices, as well as to have a positive impact on and relationship with our community. This new group is for those who cannot volunteer on a weekly or permanent basis, but can help by providing their expertise or assistance occasionally or by helping with financial support. There are adult and junior divisions. Think of all those hidden talents you have and how they could help the animals! Membership is \$10 per year for an individual or \$20 per year for a family with a "Hands for Hope" window cling given as a thank you gift. Please consider joining and lending us a helping hand in some capacity. The application is on the Eyes of Hope website: click on Hands for Hope, then Hands for Hope Application. At Dogtoberfest three new families joined Hands for Hope.

Kathleen McGwin from the Marquette County Tribune came to the shelter and interviewed director Kris Steffens and Hands for Hope members about the future dog park. It was wonderful to get this type of exposure. As a direct result of the article which appeared in the September 22, 2011 issue, we received two generous donations: cattle fencing and a monetary donation. In addition, one person offered to help with labor. This means so much to the dogs and us. Thank you! Please let us know if you, too, could help with fund-raising, planning, implementation, procurement of materials (we still need posts for the fencing) or

construction? Even the smallest bit of support would help in a big way. Think of how much the dog park would enhance our community.

Next Spring we hope to plant trees in the dog park area. These are the types of trees that would be appropriate for a dog park and would grow fastest and best per a local greenhouse: autumn blaze maples, silver maples, sugar maples and Norway maples. If you would like to bring a tree to plant or have us plant one for you in honor of or in memory of a special pet, please let us know in early spring. If we would provide one the cost would vary depending on the tree itself and its size. You may bring your own special marker, or we will provide one for you.

## HANDS FOR HOPE JUNIOR GROUP SECTION

Hands for Hope Juniors were a big help with Dogtoberfest this year as they took care of the games and the face painting as well as helping to set up and clean up.

They plan to set up an informational area for Hands for Hope with the volunteer opportunities available at the shelter, informational material and the application in the Westfield High School Library. A list of the teens to contact if the students would like more information will also be posted.

## FUR YOUR INFORMATION

That time of the year has arrived again. Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years are all around the corner. Sometimes this can be the worst time of the year for our dear family pets. Family or friends want to be sweet and feed the dog or the cat a little something from the table. Unfortunately this is more harmful than kind to our little furry friends. There is a disease that is treatable but is very painful and miserable called pancreatitis and is caused from feeding table scraps or fatty foods. Feeding table scraps is the worst thing we can give our animals. Not only is this disease painful and miserable for the animals, it is very costly for you as the owner to treat the animal. The treatment is not always successful. It consists of withholding all food from the animal, hospitalization with intravenous fluids and anti-nausea medications. This treatment could last up to 5-10 days and nutrients may need to be supplemented through a gastric tube if the animal won't eat after 3-4 days. Common findings with this disease are sudden onset of vomiting, anorexia, depression, fever (normal temp is 101.5-102.5), discomfort in the abdomen and dehydration. However all of these signs are not always present making it difficult for a diagnosis.

Another thing that happens quite often during the holidays is gastric obstruction. This is from animals eating bones or getting into the garbage and eating paper towels, plates, etc. What happens is the animal will eat these foreign objects and then they are unable to pass through the intestines and gets stuck causing the obstruction. This also is very painful for the animal and costly to the owner. Emergency surgery needs to be performed to remove the obstruction right away so that the intestines do not lose blood supply and become a non-viable organ. Sometimes if this is not diagnosed promptly the animal may become dehydrated and need to be hospitalized and put on intravenous fluids to help support it. Common findings of this disease may include lethargy, anorexia, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain, enlarged abdomen, fever and straining or no bowel movement.

\*Information provided by Adams Marquette Veterinary Clinic, Oxford, WI, 608-586-5768

## VOLUNTEER NEEDS

Shelter maintenance to help with minor repairs and chores  
 Dog walkers and runners  
 Dog bathers and/or groomers

## WISH LIST

Eyes of Hope accepts all donations, and is in particular need of blankets, food (dry and canned for adult or puppy), Vitamin C 250 or 500mg, rugged & durable toys, bleach, laundry detergent, antibacterial dish soap, paper towels, copy paper and 13-gallon garbage bags. All monetary donations are tax deductible.

## THE SHELTER SHOPPE

Eyes of Hope T-shirts	Sizes: Child	S-M-L	Pink or Light Blue	\$15.00
	Adult	S-XXL	Pink or Light Blue	\$25.00
Hands for Hope T-shirts	Youth	S-M-L	2 Designs/Colors	\$15.00
	Adult	S-XL	3 Designs/Colors	\$15.00

## CALENDER OF EVENTS

Westfield High School Junior Hands for Hope Drive

First Full Week in December

The Wishing Tree – Our adoptable dogs’ pictures are on the Shelter Christmas Tree. Choose one and bring gifts for your choice! This is Groucho with his gifts last year. See how proud and happy he is!

The Holiday Season



Great Lakes Pet Expo in Milwaukee

February 4, 2012

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*Kindness & Compassion One Animal at a Time*

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This newsletter is edited by “Hands for Hope”

If you have any questions or do not wish to receive this newsletter in the future, e-mail [ejg@maqs.net](mailto:ejg@maqs.net).



Oscar, Editor-in-Chief



James, Roving Reporter