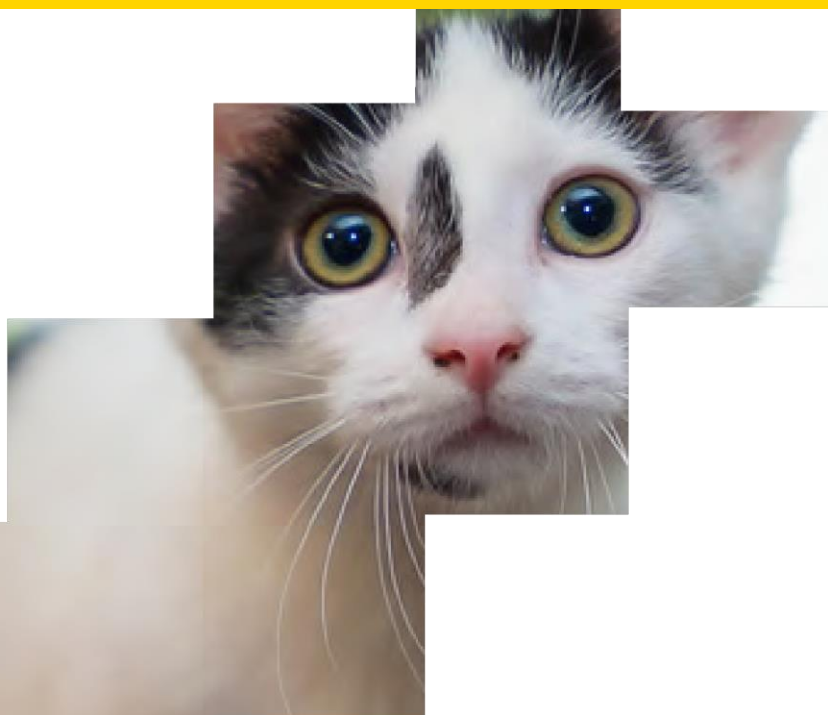




*Willie*

Adopted  
December 2022

*Continue Your Legacy*  
**West Suburban Humane Society**



*Gatsby*  
Adopted May 2016



**West Suburban**  
Humane Society

# About Us

## Our History

The West Suburban Humane Society (WSHS) is a volunteer-based, no-kill animal rescue that was founded in 1972 in the western suburbs of Chicago.

This facility is 100% operated by donations. 25 dogs and 60 cats can be accommodated at one time and the shelter is always at capacity.

## Our Mission

At West Suburban Humane Society, our mission is to work towards the day when all dogs and cats are loved and cared for and pet owners have access to essential resources so they may enjoy a fulfilling relationship with their pets. In doing so, we strive to:

**P**rovide compassionate care for cats and dogs on their journey to compatible and loving homes.

**E**ngage our community and serve as a resource for a variety of pet-related topics and challenges.

**T**eam with volunteers of all abilities and strengths to build a robust network of support in our community.

**S**trengthen the human-animal bond through advocacy, humane education and promotion of animal welfare initiatives.

By working together, we can change the lives of the dogs and cats that have forever changed us.



*Jude Paw*

**Adopted May 2021**

# Why Continue your Legacy With WSHS?

## More Than a Shelter

WSHS not only shelters cats and dogs, we strive to be a community resource for all pet owners.

Our unique STAR (Special Training and Development) program provides extra training for dogs who need assistance transitioning into suburban life which broadens the available pool of adopters and increases successful life-time placement of that dog.

We provide Humane Education programming (both online and in person) for adults and children to improve standards of care of all cats and dog and facilitate an closer bond between humans and animals.

We share dozens of pet-related resources, for all pet owners, with an emphasis on financial resources to help keep pets with their families even in times of crisis.

## Your Support is Important

WSHS is an independent non-profit animal rescue primarily funded by donations from individuals, local businesses, and local family foundations. The inclusion of WSHS in your estate plan helps assure the continuity of our resources for pet owners in the surrounding communities.



*Harper*  
Adopted September 2021

# 3 Simple Ways to Continue Your Legacy

## Include WSHS as a Beneficiary in your Will or Trust

It is important to have a will or trust in place, especially so that any pet(s) you own when you pass are cared for by someone of your choosing. You can also include a gift to WSHS in your will or trust. If you do not have an estate planning attorney, your county's bar association can give you a referral that may come with a free consultation.

*Begin your legacy with us:*

To help you get started on your plans and legacy, you can use FreeWill, an online tool that guides you through the process of creating your will or trust. It's easy to use, accessible online and can be completed in 20 minutes. You can use this resource on its own, or use it to document your wishes before finalizing your plans with an attorney.



*Artemis*

**Adopted December 2020**

## Make WSHS a Beneficiary of Your Retirement Plan

You can donate to WSHS from your retirement account during your lifetime or as part of an estate plan. Talk to your financial advisor about making qualified charitable distributions during your lifetime or making WSHS a beneficiary of any amount remaining in your retirement plan after you pass. Both options provide you with tax savings.

## Donate Your Life Insurance Policy

If you have a life insurance policy, you can make WSHS the beneficiary for part or all of the death benefit or, for certain policies that are fully paid for, transfer ownership to WSHS. Talk to your insurer for more details and about the tax savings advantages.

# Join the WSHS Legacy Society Today

## Our Legacy Society

If you have included WSHS in your estate planning, let us know so we can include you in our Legacy Society. As a Legacy Society member, you will be recognized as such in our annual report and be invited to member-only events to get a closer look at our life-saving work.

Start your will today at [FreeWill.com](https://FreeWill.com):



Let us know that you have already named us in your will or trust:



## Beneficiary Information

When naming WSHS as a beneficiary, please refer to us as:

West Suburban Humane Society,  
an Illinois not-for-profit corporation  
1901 W. Ogden Avenue  
Downers Grove, IL 60515  
Federal EIN: 23-7355420

*This brochure is not intended to be legal or financial advice. We recommend you work with your attorney or financial advisor when creating your legacy.*

*Paulie  
Walnuts*

**Adopted December 2022**



# THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT



*Cleo*

Adopted June 2019

**West Suburban**  
Humane Society



If you have any questions or want to give us the great news that you've joined our Legacy Society, please contact:

1901 W. Ogden Avenue  
Downers Grove, IL 60515

Heather L. Kash  
Director of Development  
Direct: (630) 442-0671  
development@wshs-dg.org