



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: April 10, 2012

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**Washington Humane Society Rehabilitates Abandoned Special Needs Dogs;
Animals Now Recovering and Seeking New Homes**

WHS Law Enforcement Officers Looking Into Possible Abuse

Washington, DC – Three animals in need of major medical attention were each brought to the Washington Humane Society (WHS) recently for emergency care. All three animals sustained traumatic injury due to accident or abuse and were admitted to the Washington Humane Society’s expert medical team within the last few weeks. The dogs, Hugo, Hubert and Beck are all now recovering in the care of WHS foster families. Donations for the medical treatment of these dogs are being accepted through the [Sophie’s Fund for Emergency Medical Care](#).

“Each of these dogs required immediate, comprehensive medical care, and they received it, from the wonderful staff at WHS and SouthPaws. WHS is the open-door humane society in Washington, DC; we never know how many animals we are going to take in on a given day, or what their condition will be when they come through our doors. When these dogs were brought to our adoption center, we were committed to doing everything we could for them, no matter how severe their needs were,” said Lisa LaFontaine, President and CEO of the Washington Humane Society.

The WHS veterinary team saw each of these animals as soon as they were admitted and were able to assess the extent and severity of each animal’s injuries within hours of their arrival at WHS. Working with area emergency care and specialists, WHS is now closely monitoring their recoveries.



Hubert, a 2-year-old Jack Russell terrier mix, suffered a severe leg fracture and other abrasions after being hit by a car on I-295. A caring citizen spotted the injured dog and brought him into the WHS for care on March 9th. No identification tags or microchip was found on Hubert. He is making a full recovery with a WHS foster family and awaiting adoption.

Hugo, 5-year-old pit bull type dog, was unable to open his or eat regularly when his owners surrendered him to the WHS. While the owners stated that Hugo has struggled with lockjaw since birth, the WHS Law Enforcement Office is



investigating the injury. Hugo was brought to WHS for care on March 9th and underwent two hours of intensive surgery. He can now chew regularly for the first time. Hugo is recovering with his foster family and awaiting adoption.



A 3-year-old Pomeranian named Beck was surrendered to the March 31st with two broken front legs. Allegedly, Beck's legs had been broken while playing with another dog in the house. The owners waited three weeks to take him to the vet. After the one-time vet visit, Beck's bandages were left on too long resulting in infection, rendering Beck unable to stand. Beck was given the medical treatment he needed and is recovering but his future remains unclear. An investigation has been launched into Beck's injuries by the WHS Law Enforcement Officers.

“Our team works diligently to provide protection and care to every animal who comes through our doors—but we also rely on the support of our community, especially when animals with special needs require more help than we can sometimes provide at our facilities,” said Stephanie Shain, Chief Operating Officer, Washington Humane Society. “We hope we can find the resources within our generous community of supporters to deliver the care needed by Hugo, Hubert, Beck and animals like them in our adoption centers.”

Anyone interested in supporting these and other WHS animals in need is encouraged to donate to [Sophie's Fund for Emergency Medical Care](#). Visit www.washhumane.org/donate for more information.

To report an animal emergency 24 hours a day, seven days a week, call 202-576-6664. For more ways to get involved with the Washington Humane Society or to offer to foster one of the animals in need, visit www.washhumane.org.

About the Washington Humane Society:

The Washington Humane Society, the only Congressionally-chartered animal welfare agency in the United States, has been the leading voice of animals in the District of Columbia since 1870. As the open-access shelter in the nation's capital, no call for help goes unanswered and no animal is ever turned away. The Washington Humane Society provides comfort and care to nearly 30,000 animals each year through its broad range of programs and services including: sheltering, adoption, humane law enforcement, spay and neuter, humane education, human – animal rehabilitation programs and lost and found services. For more information, visit www.washhumane.org.

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