



# THE SCOOP

News from the Washington Humane Society



## WHS Alumni: Building Families and Connecting Communities

One of the most special aspects of our jobs here at the Washington Humane Society (WHS) is undoubtedly making matches between our animals and their adopters. Witnessing the beginnings of a lifelong human-animal bond created in our shelters is a rewarding experience that reminds us why we do what we do each and every day.

Diving into a new family life brings fresh challenges and opportunities, and we enjoy hearing about the touching, funny and even sometimes sad experiences of those who begin their journey at WHS. We listen with a sense of true satisfaction in knowing that another animal has been given a second chance at happiness, and a family is forever enriched.

We especially look forward to the many “happy ending” tales that continue to inspire us to do everything in our power to end pet homelessness in our region. These stories are powerful, and in our opinion, can never be shared often enough.

Andrew Thompson IV, a former soldier, shares with us one such experience:

*After being enlisted in the Army for seven years, I finally moved back to Baltimore. Like many single soldiers, I could not have a pet during my service, so when my enlistment ended, I was in need of what I like to call “pet therapy.”*

*I have always loved dogs, and I knew that there was a dog out there who could help me transition back into civilian life, so I began my search. After much research, I came across a Doberman Pinscher who was in a foster home through WHS. After giving it some thought, I contacted his pet foster parents and scheduled a meeting to chat about the “dobie” named Bamboo.*

*When I arrived at Bamboo’s foster home, I was greeted warmly by his human companions, Katherine and Shawn. I was excited and nervous at the same time. After some discussion about Bam, the moment that forever changed my heart was finally upon me – like a bolt of lightning, a skinny red Doberman flew into the living room.*

*He seemed not to notice me at first, while he jumped and played with his toys and asked for the attention of his foster parents. I called out his name and knelt down. Without any hesitation, the dog walked over and gave me a big kiss and began to show me all of his toys, one by one. He even laid on*

*his back to ask for a belly rub. Some say the human picks his pet, but in this special case, the pet definitely picked his human.*

*We parted ways and I will never forget the feeling I experienced when I got into my Jeep; I knew deep in my heart that a connection was made. Much to my excitement, soon after my visit, a WHS adoption counselor called to tell me the match was made; I was officially Bam’s new pet parent!*

*I chose to give Bam a new name to commemorate the beginning of our new life together. I decided to keep part of his original name out of respect for his past, and after seeing his playful, youthful and crazy side, I finally came up with Bamarama Bam-Bam, fitting for a young dobie with the energy of a workhorse.*

*This dog changed my life. He has grown with me, leaning on me as much as I lean on him.*

*He is a gift that respectfully deserves attention, compassion, dedication and understanding.*

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Andrew & Bamarama Bam-Bam



Foster Cats  
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Walking to End Pet  
Homelessness  
page 5



The Washington Humane Society publishes The Scoop quarterly to inform friends and supporters about our work protecting, sheltering and improving the lives of homeless and abused animals in Washington, DC.

# THE SCOOP

Editor: Jacquie Toppings

## GETTING IN TOUCH

Cruelty/Neglect Reports: 202-BEHUMANE (202-234-8626)

Call our main number, 202-BEHUMANE (202-234-8626), and enter an extension for the following areas:

- Development/Fundraising, ext. 221
- Public Relations/Media, ext. 205
- Finance, ext. 252
- Human Resources, ext. 209



## HOURS AND LOCATIONS

**7319 Georgia Avenue, NW**  
202-BEHUMANE (202-234-8626)

### Adoption Hours

12:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. daily

Closed for adoptions on Wednesdays

Cruelty reports are accepted  
24 hours a day

**1201 New York Avenue, NE**  
202-576-6664

### Adoption Hours

12:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. M - F

12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. S, S

Stray and unwanted animals are  
accepted 24 hours a day

Closed for adoptions on Wednesdays

## National Capital Area Spay and Neuter Center

1001 L Street, SE

For appointments call

202-88-ALTER (202-608-1356)

(by appointment only)



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# THE INSIDE SCOOP

At this time of year, when colder weather, holidays and the New Year draw upon us, I am especially thankful for the warmth that family and community can provide. In addition to my family at home (two- and four-legged), I am lucky to be a part of the Washington Humane Society family – as a foster mom to animals in need, an adoptive pet parent and a proud staff member.



Lisa with Lila

As you read each issue of the Scoop, I hope you also feel the gratification that comes from being a part of the WHS community. So many of you help WHS and our animals in a variety of ways, from providing a temporary safe haven for a foster animal, to volunteering and attending our special events, to generously welcoming an animal into your home through adoption. This issue of the Scoop is filled with stories of friends like you. I hope that reading these stories will warm your heart and inspire you to continue to help our region's animals in new and meaningful ways.

Perhaps learning about Andrew and his beloved companion Bamarama Bam-Bam (Bam) will encourage you to add a new member to your family through our foster or adoption programs. If the timing isn't right for such an addition, maybe now is the time to volunteer or to spread word of WHS's work to all of the families and communities of which you are a part; consider sharing Bam's story far and wide. If you were one of over 500 WHS community members who had the opportunity to meet Bam and Andrew in person at our DC Walk for the Animals, you know how powerful and inspirational their relationship is.

At our Walk in October, Bam reconnected with someone who was tremendously important in his life. When Bam was first rescued, he was malnourished and extremely scared. The Animal Control Officer who came to his aid – Shawn Covington – actually took him home and fostered him to make sure that he was 100% ready for his new life. Officer Covington was reunited with his former foster pup amidst all the fun of the Walk; this is one of many foster relationships that continue well after the animal is adopted from WHS.

We feel very privileged to help build new families every day by making matches like that between Andrew and Bam. We also provide the care future animal companions need until their forever homes come along. While always rewarding, this work is difficult and never-ending; more animals enter our shelters every day. We are so appreciative that you are part of the WHS family and that your support never wavers. For without you, we would be hard pressed to help the numbers of animals we do every year, every day. Your commitment to WHS and to the District's animals is truly a gift that continues year round. Thank you for being a part of our WHS community!

For the animals,

Lisa LaFontaine  
President and CEO  
ceo@washhumane.org

## SAVE-THE-DATE



*25th  
Annual  
Bark Ball*

June 2, 2012  
Washington Hilton



## ASPCA CHALLENGE WRAPS UP - DC ANIMALS WIN AND CHALLENGE YOU TO DO MORE!

The National ASPCA Adoption Challenge officially ended October 31. Results weren't in at press time, but it looks like an amazing Texas shelter will take home the \$100,000 prize. WHS applauds our colleagues in Texas while we celebrate all the animals in DC who won, by finding new homes, as part of our own Challenge effort.

When WHS embarked on this Challenge we believed that every adoption was a victory, and that holds true today. The overall goal of the Challenge is to help shelters network and find new ways to help more animals find new homes. WHS took on this Challenge, under the belief that *dc loves dc animals*, and encouraged our Metro community to come to the aid of animals who are in need right here in the District.

During the three months of the Challenge, we adopted out 145 more animals than we did during the same time period last year; in total, 740 animals found new homes. Three hundred and fourteen went to rescue groups. Five hundred and four went into foster homes. Each one of these lives saved is cause for celebration. And that's not all the good news from the Challenge! During the months of August, September and October, more of you joined us on Facebook than ever before, countless "first time visitors" came through our shelters during our Empty-the-Shelter event, our business partners stepped up to help promote the adoption "word of the day" and more of you decided to volunteer your time and efforts to help DC-native animals. For that, we can't thank you enough!

There is no time to waste however in helping still more of DC's animals in need. The animals in our care right now want to offer you a challenge of their own: Bring at least one friend into the WHS family by the end of the year. Invite him or her to volunteer with you, come to the shelter to help him meet his new best friend, agree to be foster co-parents, visit the shelter to drop off newspapers or blankets, start a Celebration pledge page together through our website...the possibilities are endless! At the Washington Humane Society we have aggressive goals to save more animals in DC than we ever have before, and community support will be vital to helping us meet that goal. Join us!

## THANK YOU FOR 30 YEARS OF SERVICE, SERGEANT DEPPNER

By Lisa LaFontaine, President & CEO



Sergeant Ted Deppner and Lisa LaFontaine

True mastery is a rare thing to see. In a world where people are frequently changing jobs, cities and professions it is difficult to acquire the skills, the wisdom and the perspective to become truly elite at what you do. On those rare occasions when it happens, it is beautiful to see.

On October 21, Sergeant Ted Deppner celebrated his 30th anniversary with the Washington Humane Society.

During the last three decades, he has worked as an Animal Control Officer and now serves as the department's deputy director. He does some administrative duties, trains other officers and works a more than full shift on the streets, every day. Ted has seen his city, his organization and his profession change in ways that were unimaginable when his career began. Through it all he has retained his center, his

focus and his heart – at the same time becoming completely and thoroughly proficient in his role.

Everyone who likes animals fantasizes at some point about working in a field that serves them, and being an animal control officer is one way to fulfill that dream.

And yet, very few can actually handle the demands, and fewer still can sustain themselves through a career.

The work is hard in every way – physically, spiritually and emotionally. It is dangerous – involving volatile encounters with angry humans and frightened and injured animals. It often means having to climb great heights, navigate underground or perform a complex rescue in a small space. The work is perplexing, and requires you to figure out how to perform a rescue or resolve a dispute with the resources at hand. And it is taxing, because you are often working outdoors in extremes of climate – and seeing and experiencing things that go against every fiber of what called you to work in the field in the first place.

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## FOSTER CATS FIND A PLACE IN THE HEART OF THEIR COMMUNITY

By Katie Swanson, Owner of Old School Hardware and WHS Volunteer

Old School Hardware, a neighborhood shop in Mount Pleasant, has a new member of their team – a four-legged one to be exact. The latest hardware store resident is Widget, a sweet, talkative calico foster cat who enjoys meeting customers during the day and scampering around the warehouse at night.

Widget is part of a pioneering program to take adoptable animals out of the shelter and place them closer to the heart of the community. My husband Phil Lepanto and I, owners of Old School Hardware, are proud to be the pilot business for the Washington Humane Society's business foster program. Our participation was the result of a happy series of events that began three years ago, and we are pleased to be able to partner with WHS in helping cats find their forever homes today.

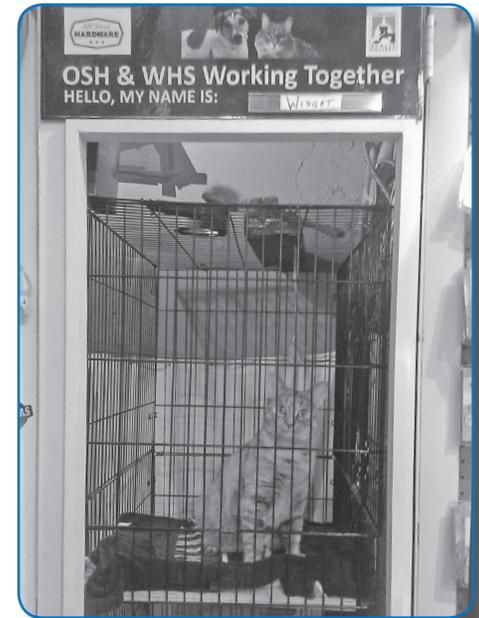
It all began back in 2008, while I was volunteering at the Georgia Avenue shelter. I was content walking the dogs and playing with the cats in the shelter until one day I saw a mother cat in the holding area upstairs surrounded by her five very rambunctious kittens. She looked at me, reached her paw out of the cage and said (wordlessly) "FOSTER ME", or maybe it was more like "get me away from all these crazy kittens". Either way, I was hooked. Next thing I know we were hearing the pitter patter of 24 little paws around our condo in Mount Pleasant.

Two years, eight foster cats and many WHS events later, my husband and I decided to purchase our neighborhood hardware store. Then in June 2011, WHS Foster Cat Program Manager, and now friend, Alyson Burgess told me that WHS was looking to launch a new foster program

with local businesses and wondered if we would be willing to foster cats in the hardware store. Knowing firsthand that every animal taken out of the shelter and placed into foster care gives another animal a chance, how could I not say "yes"? After running it by our amazing managers – one of whom is also a WHS volunteer – we took in our first foster kitty, Harriett. Although the staff had grown quite attached to her, we were all happy she went home with her new family in September.

Our new foster cat Widget arrived in early October. We find it is very rewarding to collaborate with our customers to find her a good home, and we're hoping to inspire other potential businesses to set up an in-store foster program with WHS as well. Because sometimes, it takes a village to adopt a cat.

WHS will roll out its business foster program in 2012 by partnering with other local businesses. WHS will provide the cage and supplies, as well as routine medical needs, and will promote the foster cat and business throughout the adoption process. If you would like more information about this program or if you are interested in becoming one of our foster partners, please contact Alyson Burgess, WHS Community and Foster Cat Program Manager, at [aburgess@washhumane.org](mailto:aburgess@washhumane.org).





*11<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Sugar &  
Champagne Affair*

*Hosted by*  
Chef Todd and Ellen Gray  
of Equinox & Watershed  
Restaurants and Muse at the  
Corcoran Gallery of Art

*Presented by*  
Trade Center  
Management Associates

*Benefiting the*  
Washington Humane Society

*February 1, 2012*

Ronald Reagan Building  
and International Trade Center  
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20004

– Leashed dogs permitted –

General Reception:  
7:00 – 9:00 PM (\$90)

VIP Chefs' Tasting Room:  
6:00 – 7:30 PM (\$150)  
*(includes entry to General Reception)*

To purchase tickets or for more information visit:  
[www.sugarandchampagne.org](http://www.sugarandchampagne.org), call 202-683-1822  
or email [events@washhumane.org](mailto:events@washhumane.org)



# WALKING TO END PET HOMELESSNESS..ONE STEP AT A TIME

We would like to thank everyone who supported WHS at the DC Walk for the Animals on October 15 in Adams Morgan. This year's event, which included 500-plus attendees, was a huge success! Thanks to the help of our generous donors and supporters, the event raised nearly \$60,000 – a new record – to support the critical programs and services that benefit thousands of homeless, lost and abused animals in our Nation's Capital. Our top fundraiser was Andrew Weinstein, and our top fundraising team was *Team Friends of the Homeless*, which included members Jennifer Sullivan and Guiliana Cortese.

During this exciting afternoon filled with contests, games and fun and informational vendor booths, guests enjoyed many family-friendly activities. Dogs were treated to "bobbing for hot dogs" in small pools, in which they could also take a dip if they were so inclined. Human guests enjoyed face painting, photo ops with their dog and testing out the agility course while they explored the field at Marie Reed Elementary School.

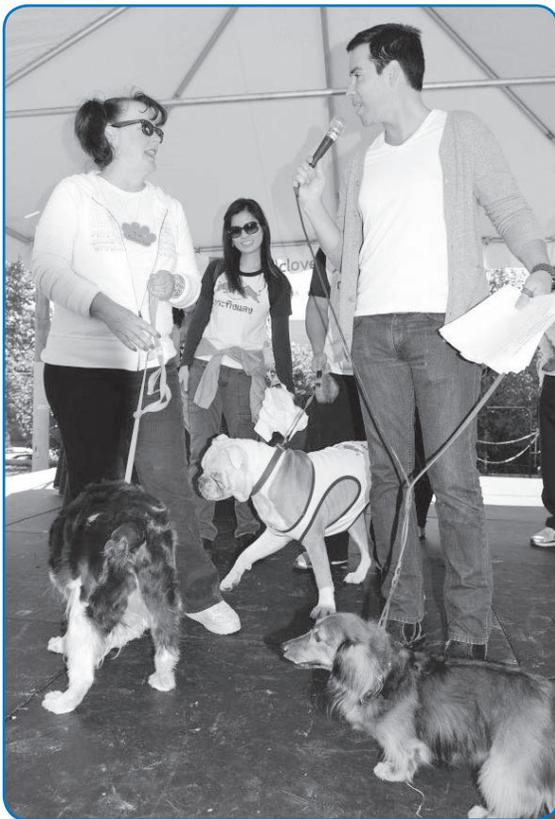
Activity booths featured information about WHS programs and services, free vaccinations provided by the DC Department of Health and animal-friendly goods from many of our community partners. We are also excited to report that several of the adoptable cats and dogs who participated in the event have found their forever homes with Walk participants. Our community really proved that *dc loves dc animals!*

We couldn't have done any of this without the support and dedication of the 80-plus volunteers who helped make the event a success. We also thank Will Thomas of FOX 5 News, who once again served as a terrific emcee who really got the crowd on their feet. And finally, WHS would like to give a special thanks to this year's DC Walk for the Animals sponsors: Pro Feed Pet Nutrition Centers, Trade Center Management Associates, Unleashed by Petco, Fur-Get Me Not, Wagtime, Carbone Entertainment, Barkley Square, NOVADog Magazine and Hot 99.5. We also had two delicious food trucks onsite: Big Cheese and Capitol Greenz.

We can't wait to see you at our 2012 DC Walk for the Animals!



WHS President & CEO Lisa LaFontaine led the Walk with Mike Vallante and Sebastian Knox.



FOX5 News Anchor and Walk emcee Will Thomas led participants in contests and games.



Giuliana Cortese, member of *Team Friends of the Homeless*, winners of the Top Fundraising Team Award, posed with her father, Michael Cortese.



WHS staff and dog mascot posed for the camera.



A Local Girl Scout troop sold dog treats to benefit WHS.



## FASHION FOR PAWS® 2011: A YEAR IN REVIEW!

By Tara de Nicolas, Fashion for Paws Executive Director

Fashion for Paws (F4P) has taken 2011 by storm, raising more than \$524,000 for the Washington Humane Society. Thinking “outside-the-donation-box” the F4P platform has raised more than \$1.5 million dollars in total for WHS since 2007 with the goal to raise another \$625,000 in 2012!

In the fall of 2009, we transitioned F4P from an annual spring event to a fundraising platform with year-long fundraising drives based on an array of ongoing themed auxiliary events, product merchandising, corporate sponsorships, individual gifts and social marketing/new media. This venture was a new concept not yet implemented in the animal welfare community; its success has brought a strong and active new base of supporters to WHS and increased awareness for our mission in the Washington, DC region.

The expansion of the F4P platform also meant a change of venue for the annual spring Fashion for Paws Runway Show; we went from the 800-person capacity French and Italian Embassies to the National Building Museum in 2011, featuring a 1,700-person capacity. Notwithstanding its recent doubling in size, the F4P Spring Runway Show sold out with 900 general admission guests, 400 in the VIP runway show seated section and 400 in our seated dinner table section.

The achievements of F4P are due to the generosity and hard work of a number of dedicated supporters and sponsors, including: Amanda Polk; Dr. Dondi Dahlgard; Marielle Shortell; our top fundraisers Tommy McFly and Sara Nielsen; our 40+ executive committee members; our 80+ fundraising models; Tysons Galleria, who provides the human fashions; Barkley Square and Wagtime Boutiques, who dress the canine models; and major sponsors such as Michael J. Saylor; Syzygy Event Productions; vitaminwater zero; Digital Lightening; Design Cuisine; Edge Floral Event Designers and many, many others!

Most importantly, the caliber and sophistication of the F4P Runway Show has grown in leaps and bounds due to our generous sponsors who donate almost every aspect of what’s needed for the event, from the food, liquor, wine and champagne to the major production of the runway, décor and lighting. This giving spirit allows the funds raised at F4P to change the lives of the nearly 30,000 animals a year for whom WHS cares as well as support the vital WHS programs that serve our community.

Our 2012 F4P Runway Show on **April 14, 2012** at the National Building Museum promises to outdo our 2011 event, with our top sponsor, **Syzygy Event Productions**, working to impress attendees with a new objective in design and décor! Tickets will go on sale on February 4, the day our model fundraisers embark on their 2012 campaigns to each raise \$5,000 to walk the runway at our 6th annual event! Please be sure to get your tickets by visiting [www.fashionforpaws.org](http://www.fashionforpaws.org) before they sell out! To follow all of our events and happenings, be sure to follow us on Facebook by “Liking” our page, <http://www.facebook.com/fashionforpaws>.





# WHS VOLUNTEERS SPEAK OUT: *How has volunteering impacted your life and connected you to the community?*



“I am among the newer volunteers for WHS. I moved to DC over a year ago and instantly felt a connection to the area. As much as I love living here, I started to feel like something was missing, aside from a dog. (Unfortunately, I live in a no-pets-allowed townhouse, so I can’t have a pup of my own just yet).

I finally realized that while I used to do community service, I wasn’t

involved in anything like that here in DC. Around this time I was researching animal welfare policy issues for work and I quickly became a fired-up advocate. I decided that the best fit for me would be to volunteer at an animal shelter. Volunteering with the Washington Humane Society fulfills my desire to give back, my compassion for advocating for animal adoption and satisfies my puppy-fix. Win, win, win! I love feeling like my contribution, although small in comparison, might have something to do with giving these pups a long, happy life in a brand new home.”

- Kaytee Lozier

“I love coming to the shelter and working with the dogs. After all, what other volunteer job are you constantly thanked with hugs and kisses — big slobbery kisses.”

- Helene Jorgensen

“Working with WHS has enhanced my passion for animals and been a learning experience. Whether I am helping out at the WHS office or working an event, I know my time volunteered is appreciated by the organization and the animals. When a dog or cat you have escorted to an event meets their forever family, a feeling of accomplishment is only eclipsed by the joy on the faces of the adopters.”

- Pam Kirby

“I enjoy taking the dogs out at the shelter for exercise and training. I love being able to see their wonderful personalities and the expressions on their faces as they learn new training skills or are just getting some fresh air and exercise outside.



As a volunteer, I adopted my dog Sabrina from the New York Avenue shelter. She has a big fox-like tail that gets noticed right away on the street, and we often stop to meet new people. Sabrina really brings out the softer side of people and I treasure these exchanges in the community.”

- Julie Stack

[www.washhumane.org/volunteer](http://www.washhumane.org/volunteer)

## THANK YOU FOR 30 YEARS OF SERVICE, SERGEANT DEPPNER

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During those thirty years, hundreds of animal welfare professionals have worked beside and learned from Ted. Untold numbers of community members have welcomed him into their homes to solve a problem, provide advice or help them with a difficult situation.

Tens of thousands of animals have been rescued, have experienced his tremendous skill and compassion – and have had a second chance at a fantastic life as a result.

But here is what is truly remarkable. Ted does his work in a quiet and low-key manner, without expectation of praise or honor. He does it because he believes in it and because it is the right thing to do. Mastery with humility is one of the most inspiring of combinations.

Earlier in October, Ted’s colleagues gathered around him to honor his work. They presented him with a scrapbook of his

career so far – leaving many pages in the back blank because we all fully expect to fill it over the next couple of decades with more memorable rescues and encounters.

On the day of his anniversary, his WHS family showered him with thanks and appreciation. However, even after all the handshakes, phone calls and congratulations, we haven’t come near to thanking him enough for the difference he has made for his community, for individuals within it and for the cause of animal welfare.

Throughout history people have tried to define a life well lived. What about thirty years of increasing excellence in a role where you get to enhance the lives of people and animals – without expectation of return? Thank you, Ted – it is a privilege to work with you.



## GIVE, VOLUNTEER, ADOPT! WWW.WASHHUMANE.ORG

The Washington Humane Society, the only Congressionally-chartered animal welfare agency in the United States, has been the leading voice for animals in the District of Columbia since 1870. As the only 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.

### Examples of how your donation could help the Washington Humane Society:

- \$35 – Helps provide microchips for six newly adopted animals
- \$50 – Helps a senior citizen adopt an animal at a discounted charge
- \$100 – Helps provide a medical examination of an injured or abused animal
- \$150 – Pays for the average cost of each homeless animal's stay at WHS
- \$250 – Helps provide funding to rescue abused and neglected animals
- \$500 – Helps provide a thorough cruelty inspection
- \$1,000 – Helps provide heartworm tests for 150 animals

#### Washington Humane Society

7319 Georgia Avenue, NW

Washington, DC 20012

Darcy Levit, Director of Major Gifts

(202) 683-1824

dlevit@washhumane.org

United Way #8222 / CFC #58899



## WHS Alumni: Building Families and Connecting Communities

(continued from pg 1)

*Without the Washington Humane Society I could have missed a chance to help a bright, beautiful dog on the outside become a bright, beautiful dog on the inside, too. I am thankful to WHS and the caring individuals in their community for opening my eyes to a world and a cause that now means so much to me.*

We can't thank Andrew enough for taking this incredible journey with Bamarama Bam-Bam. It is their shared experience – and those experiences of all of our successful WHS alumni – that inspire not only our WHS team, but our community as a whole, to open their hearts and homes, and serve as a voice for animals in need. We hope that our alumni family will continue to connect with us and with their own families, friends and communities in support of animals – because what transpires can be truly life changing.

## LOOKING FOR A UNIQUE GIFT THIS YEAR?

You can make a positive impact in the lives of Washington, DC's homeless animals AND give a meaningful gift that will stand out from the pack by sponsoring dogs or cats in our shelters as they await permanent homes. For just \$150, you can have the satisfaction of knowing that your generosity helped the Washington Humane Society, and your chosen recipient will know that their gift provided the bedding, treats, special foods, toys, gentle leader leashes, "Adopt Me" vests and more that make an animal's stay at the shelter as comfortable as possible. Both your name and the name of the person receiving the gift will be prominently displayed on the animal's kennel for all visitors to see.

Please send your sponsorship donation of \$150 today and specify if you prefer to sponsor a dog or cat. You may also make your gift online at [www.washhumane.org/sponsor](http://www.washhumane.org/sponsor).

For more information, contact Darcy Levit at (202) 683-1824 or [dlevit@washhumane.org](mailto:dlevit@washhumane.org).