

Northwoods Humane Society – Deanna Persson, President

Mike, my husband, introduced me to camping and the Northwoods about 40 years ago. We purchased a little cabin on Little Lac Courte Oreilles – very rustic and wonderful. When Chris came into our lives as an infant we continued enjoying the ‘north’. We brought our dogs and the crib (crowded). We shopped at the CO-OP grocery which at that time had the ‘bench’ and Threads to Treads general store. I was waiting with Chris on the ‘bench’ as Mike shopped. Some person came in the door and put a small kitten on the floor in the midst of traffic and left. Of course, I was compelled to pick up the kitten. The people in the general store gave me a box and said there was no humane society in Hayward and that the pound did not take kittens. When Mike arrived he asked what was in the box and a little paw appeared. I do not remember his exact words. When we got to the car, I put Chris in his car seat and removed the kitten from the box and placed it in the car seat while I got in. Mike went off as he saw that the little kitten was covered with fleas. The kitten went back in the box. We stopped at the hardware store for flea treatment supplies and the challenge was on.

I promised Mike I would find a home for the kitten. We only knew a few people on Thoroughfare Road and none of them wanted a kitten. My birthday was coming up and Mike asked what I wanted and I said “All I want is to keep this kitten.” (We had two others at home in Chicago.)

Mike took a deep breath and said, “Okay, but you have to name him ‘Muskie’.” ‘Muskie lived with us for another 16 years.

The shelter staff is extremely vigilant about inspecting for and treating ticks and fleas.

Fleas are the most common external parasite for our four-legged friends. They are wingless insects that feed on blood, can jump up to two feet high and are persistent in the environment. They can live for as few as 13 days or as long as 12 months, and during their lifespan they can produce millions of offspring.

Symptoms of fleas, such as excessive scratching and hair loss, are similar between dogs and cats, but it is important to know what to look out for as fleas can cause health complications, like anemia.

Consult your veterinarian if you suspect your pet has fleas. Once your veterinarian confirms the diagnosis, a treatment plan may include:

- Topical or oral treatment or the use of shampoos, sprays and powders on the pet.
- Thorough cleaning of your house, including rugs, bedding and upholstery. Severe cases may require using a spray or a fogger, which requires temporary evacuation of the home.
- Lawn treatments may also be needed if your pet keeps getting re-infected every time they go outside.

***It is very important not to use products on your cat that are intended for dogs.**

Our challenge as pet owners is to be alert, provide preventive treatment and check regularly for ticks and fleas. Happy Owners – Happy Pets.

Dates to Save: Dining with Cats and Dogs – May 27 – Lynn’s Custom Meats and Catering – Hwy 63 – 10:30 to 2 p.m. Sponsored by Northwoods Insurance – 27th South

July 2 – Boulder Lodge Cardboard boat races and barbeque for NHS –

August 1 – NHS Tag Day – volunteers needed