

Northwoods Humane Society – Deanna Persson, President

I love old dogs - our needs and personalities are usually a match. I like to chatter and they like to listen. I like a cup of coffee in the morning – they like that quiet time too. I like to read they like to snuggle, I like to walk to the mail box – they like to go about that far too. I like to snack – they like to snack. I like to watch the Bears and they like to watch the Bears or the Packers or the Vikings.... It is a match. The down side to adopting an old dog is that our lives together are shorter than when you adopt a younger dog. The up side – they bring a sense of knowing they are in a safe place, they have lots of love to give and usually have great manners. Older dogs are already house trained and usually fit into a household with ease. Senior dogs are great for senior people.

I am always floored when an old dog comes to us from the Sawyer County Pound or the LCO Pound. It means that their owners have not looked for them there – that they have been gone from their home for at least seven days and probably more. What would it feel like if your family of 12 – 14 years didn't look for you?

When a stray dog is found in Sawyer County it goes to the Sawyer County Pound located on Highway 63 South. If the dog is found on the LCO Reservation, the dog goes to the LCO Pound. The Animal Control Officers make every effort to locate the owners. If the dogs are tagged for rabies, licensed or have a microchip, they will explore those avenues of finding an owner. Sometimes, if the dog has a unique look or characteristic, they will contact our area vets and they let the NHS know. The Animal Control officers will sometimes post the dogs on Facebook which NHS can share with their viewers. We all work cooperatively for the animals' well-being. The dogs are held for seven days – at the end of seven days if the dog is not claimed and there is no issue of aggression, the dog comes to the NHS Shelter.

If you or a friend loses a dog, contact the pounds during the workdays and let the sheriff dispatchers know. If you find a dog, take it to either of the pounds, depending on where it is found. Call in advance to ensure that there is someone there to receive the dog. If it is after hours, the Sawyer County Sheriff and LCO officers will meet you at their pound to admit the dog. The contact numbers are: Sawyer County Animal Control – 715- 634-5139 – Sawyer County Sheriff's – 715-634-8350. LCO Animal Control – 715-699-9017 – LCO Tribal Police – 715-634-8350.

I have frequently heard people that have found a lost dog say that they feel bad taking the animals to the 'pound'. Don't feel bad! The dog will be in a safe place with food, shelter and water. The dog will be in a location that will work to unite them with their owners. The Animal Control Officers will ensure that the animals are vaccinated and licensed. If the dog is chronically at-large the owners will be fined. Remember, at the end of seven days, the dog will come to the Northwoods Humane Society and will be on the way to their new home.

What about cats? Neither facility has services for stray or lost cats. Those calls should go to the Northwoods Humane Society during the work day. Call the NHS shelter to make an appointment to bring the cat in – 715-634-5394.

Make sure you license your dogs and that they wear the tags or another form of identifying information. I often write about one of our dogs by name of Chip. Chip is a great little guy. He was found walking down Nelson Lake Road. No collar, no microchip – no nothing. Chip went to the Sawyer County Pound for seven days. He then came to the Northwoods Humane Society. Chip was neutered, fecal checked,

vaccinated, micro-chipped, heartworm tested and received a vet health check. No one looked for Chip. Mike, my husband, went to Canada on a fishing trip and I adopted Chip. Life is good!

Dates to Save:

July 17 – NHS Bingo – Red Schoolhouse Wines – Stone Lake – 5:30 p.m.

August 7 – Tag Day – Marketplace

August 26 – Been There Done That Band – Flat Creek Saloon – 7 p.m.