

Northwoods Humane Society – Deanna Persson, President

Finding the ‘RIGHT’ home for the animals in our care is always a top priority. Sometimes it takes a long time to find that home. It is important that we share everything we know about an animal to potential adopters.

We have some animals that are difficult to adopt out. Currently we have Pocky, Argus and Goofey who are dogs that have been with us for a while. Alecia Austin shared the following overview. She had been asked why the staff was so strict about placing them. Will they make great pets? Yes they will if they are in the right home. The dogs have let us know what their needs are and we listen to them.

The three dogs that we are talking about are animal aggressive. Some like Argus could still live with another dog because he is pushy and dominant, but does not want to seriously injure or kill them, it would just need to be the right dog. (When I look at Argus, my heart says that he belongs with me – but Chip, Lola and Belle would not be pleased and it would put them at risk.)

Pocky has gotten along with some female dogs but not males, it just depends on the female’s personality. Neither Argus, Goofey or Pocky could live in a home with cats. They don't want to chase the cat, which is a fixable behavior, they want to kill the cat which is not necessarily fixable.

Most learned behaviors are fixable with a committed person who works with a trainer. But having a prey drive that is high enough that all they want to do is kill, is not always fixable and would require a huge amount of work with a committed owner and trainer. If there were a cat in the home, it would put the cat at extreme risk during the time it is being worked on will put the cat in the home at an extreme risk. All it would take is one small mistake to have the unthinkable happen.

We have seen what happens in homes where the adoptive owners had a fool proof plan to work with the dog and one small mistake caused a catastrophe. Our job is to make sure that both any current pets in a home and any adoptive pets are going to a place where all will be loved, well cared for and safe. We try very hard to make this a reality. Goofey and Pocky are both amazing dogs but they do come with issues that make them harder to place, which means that they will take longer to find them the right home.

While they are with us waiting for homes they get multiple walks a day on our groomed walking trails, they get play yard time and one on one snuggle time. They are not and never have been left to languish in their kennels. We have an unbelievably committed staff and group of volunteers who all go out of their way to make the animals at the shelter feel loved and wanted while they are with us. They try to meet each individual animals needs no matter what they are. Whether that be extra enrichment toys and games, extra one on one time, extra exercise or needing to be in a foster home instead of the shelter. We do everything we possibly can for each and every one of them.

Thrift Shop note: We have lost some of our cashiers for the shop during the winter months. If you have time to share, volunteer cashiers work from 10:45 to 3:15 one day a week. Paula Bilitz will give you training sessions. It is fun and purposeful – a great combination. Just give them a call or stop in for a volunteer application or get one on our website at

<https://www.northwoodshumanesociety.org/volunteer.html>.