

Northwoods Humane Society – Deanna Persson, President

Within the last couple of weeks, news sources reported that “Virginia senators Mark Warner and Tim Kaine said in a statement, “After months of advocacy we’re heartened to know that nearly 4,000 Envigo dogs will be spared a lifetime of suffering and will instead head to loving homes.” Inotiv, Inc., Envigo’s parent company, was ordered to close their Cumberland research facility that housed over 4,000 beagles.

The Humane Society of the United States is facilitating the rescue and placement of these dogs. HSUS has reached out to partner shelters who have previously been approved and have participated in rescues. The Northwoods Humane Society has actively been a part of rescues for many years and will be a part of this beagle rescue challenge.

Our shelter will be responsible for the transport of dogs to our shelter. We are getting bids from transport services that specialize in this type of need. Shelter Manager Alecia Austin and our staff have reached out to foster homes in our area. The hope is that the dogs will each go into a foster home. Canine behaviorist Jana Nichols, owner of Northwoods Animal Connection will provide training and guidance for foster homes. The HSUS provides a stipend for each dog’s medical care. The cost of spay and neutering plus vaccinations exceeds the amount we will receive, but it is a start. We anticipate that we will receive up to 30 beagles.

Most animal lovers immediately respond that they want to help. Being a foster home for needy animals is not for the faint of heart. Care giving is a huge challenge in many ways, but the reward of helping a wounded creature come to life is so rewarding.

The following letter was sent to potential foster homes. If after reading the letter, you feel that you may be a good home for one of the beagles, please complete the foster home application found on our website – northwoodshumanesociety.org under the ‘Volunteer’ heading.

Needless to say if you would like to help, but are not able to foster, financial help is certainly needed. Donations may be sent to NHS – P. O. Box 82, Hayward, WI 54843.

The letter to potential foster families:

“First I would like to thank each and every one of you for your generous offer to take on one of the research Beagles that are in such a great need. I find it amazing that so many people automatically answered our call to help these little souls.

These little dogs have spent their whole lives living in a small kennel with no access to the outside. Usually labs work by taking the next subject out of their cage, putting it into another cage that is on wheels, wheeling it to the laboratory for testing, when done placing it back in the cage on wheels, then wheeling it back to its cage and that is their whole life.

It is going to be so easy to want to shower this dog with love and affection in order to give them the life you want to provide. While love and affection will be important to the dog, for the dog’s sake it is going to be best showed by providing patient care, consistently, and in some cases space for the dog to gain

confidence. We can be so eager to show the dog it's ok and we are good people that we can scare the dog away.

These dogs will not be house trained, they will have spent their whole lives using their cage as a restroom. They more than likely have never seen a leash and have no idea what walking on a leash is all about. Human touch to this point probably was not a good thing and it could take a lot of time and slow consistent work to get past that. Your whole house is going to be a new scary thing. The TV, vacuum, dishwasher, telephone, radio, these will all be new and scary things that will take time and work to get used to. The sky and grass can be a huge fear factor for this type of dog. Metal and cement, that is all their world has been. And the list goes on and on. Usually this is not a quick thing, this is not an easy thing and working with these dogs will take time, a lot of time and consistency. This is going to be a big commitment on your part of time and patience. This is going to be one huge team effort to get these dogs to the point that they can go into a new home if you are just fostering or to be a well-adjusted member of your household if you are fostering to adopt.

Northwoods Canine Connection will also be fostering and going through this process with all of us. They will be offering on line classes and help for all of us. Jana is an amazing trainer who is a joy to work with. This process is going to take the whole village if it is going to work.

Now I want you to think really deeply about everything we said. Make sure that you feel that you have the time and commitment that these little dogs might need. Then please email me and let me know if you are ready to tackle this process and be a part of this amazing team!!"

It appears that NHS will be about 2 to 3 weeks out to receive our dogs. A motion filed in June said federal agents had already seized 446 beagles. HSUS will transport the remaining beagles from the facility at its own expense over the next approximately 60 day period. The HSUS has sixty days to remove all of the dogs.

The Northwoods Humane Society is ready for the beagles!

Dates to save: August 24 – Bingo – Red Schoolhouse Wines – 5:30 p.m. – Stone Lake
September 11 – NHS Dog Walk and Ice Cream Social.