

Northwoods Humane Society – Deanna Persson, President

This past week, my husband Mike found two small dogs running on our road off Hwy 27. One of the dogs immediately came to him and the other little one ran away. When I got home I found the little guy in our laundry room. There were no messes, chewed shoes or gnawed on wood. Yeah! I introduced him to Lola and Chip and all went well. It was after 6 pm so I got on the phone and called several neighbors, call the Sheriff's office and left a description and contacted Alecia to see if a lost dog had been reported to us. I struck out on all fronts. He spent the night with us. I spoke to animal control in the morning to see if any calls had come in. I should have taken him to the Sawyer County Pound but I didn't. Instead, after I left the thrift shop I went to each of the farms south on Highway 27 with a picture of a cute chunky dog. No one recognized the dog, but I got to meet some very nice people. The last house I stopped at thought that 'maybe' she had an idea so I told her where I lived and my name.

Home I went. About 20 minutes later a truck pulled into our driveway and Mike opened the door and said that 'Chunky's owner was here. The dog was very excited to see his owner and she was happy to see him. The other little dog had found his way home. The next evening the owner showed up again with holiday cookies. All turned out well. However, it would have been so much easier on all of us if the dog had ID tags on.

This is the time of year when homeowners receive their property taxes and a reminder that if they have a dog (s) they need to get their annual dog license(s). Wisconsin Statutes require all dogs five (5) months of age and older need to be licensed annually. Licenses may be obtained through the township treasurers. If you wish to obtain a license by mail, a self-addressed, stamped envelope must be included with your payment in order to have the tag and receipt mailed to you. A current rabies vaccination certificate (not a client receipt) must be presented or be on file in the clerk's office before a license will be issued.

A dog license is another form of pet identification. Monies from the sale of licenses goes toward the salary of the Sawyer County Animal Control Officer. The job serves as an advocate for the well-being of animals in our community. The Northwoods Humane Society and the Sawyer County Animal Control have worked cooperatively for animals in need. 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 lose 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. This is part of being a responsible pet owner.