



Phone: (269) 226-8570

KAR Friends ~ June 2019

Dear Reader;

Welcome to summer – though some of us are grateful that we’re still having spring-like weather (at least for now). And summer means . . . kittens and puppies! **We’re devoting this month’s issue of *KAR Friends* to what we call “Bringing Up Baby.”** If you’ve lost your heart to a kitten or a puppy (or both!), check out advice and encouragement from Kim Bourner and Kelly Fischer about introducing a puppy into your life and tips from Karren Jensen on how to raise that adorable kitten you’re bringing home.

Of course early summer also means that the Fourth of July is just around the corner, so please be aware of the need to keep our furry friends safe and comfortable during the flash-and-boom festivities!

Please feel free to share this issue with friends and family. We appreciate your continued support of KAR’s mission to help homeless, stray, and abandoned cats and dogs. Together we make a difference!

Sincerely,

Pat Hollahan
KAR Friends Editor

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Pets of the Month



Read [Ashley's](#) Story

Bringing Up Baby: Puppy Training



By Kim Bourner and Kelly Fischer

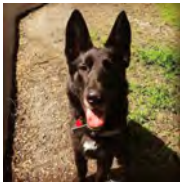
When training puppies, rewarding desired behavior can make all the difference. Other important factors are consistency, supervision, confidence, socialization, and time.



Investing time in training your new furry family member is vital for the long-term happiness of all involved. Part of training is having the proper tools on hand. This includes having a crate and plenty of chew toys. A trip to the vet is necessary to keep up on preventing heartworm and other diseases. A happy, healthy fur friend is much easier to train.

Involve everyone in the training process, and be sure to include puppy obedience classes. This will help with both animal and human socialization, as well as teaching your puppy how to be the best dog possible. While you’re learning the training methods that work best for your fur pal, be consistent with implementation. Only reward good behavior, even though it’s tempting to dole out treats just because giving treats is so much fun.

Do keep in mind that **accidents will happen** – that’s part of the learning process. But frequent trips outside will reduce accidents inside. Creating a meal and exercise schedule, along with plenty of potty time, will make the adjustment easier for all involved. Acclimate your new family member to being touched on the paws, ears, and face, even checking their mouth. Not only will this help



Read [Prince's Story](#)

Upcoming Events

- June 22, **PetSmart**
W. Main St.

- June 29, **MVPets**
Westnedge Ave.

For details on these and other upcoming events, please [see our Events page](#) on the [KAR website](#).

KAR Links

- [VOLUNTEER](#)
- [Become a Foster Family](#)
- [Adoptable Dogs](#)
- [Adoptable Cats](#)
- [Adoptable Kittens](#)
- [Special Needs Pets](#)
- [Senior Cat Companions](#)
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Newsletter Team

- Pat Hollahan, Editor
- Lynn Bolhuis
- Kim Bourner
- Kara Harmsen
- Karren Jensen

[Email us](#) with any newsletter suggestions or questions!

Contact Us

Kalamazoo Animal Rescue
P.O. Box 3295
Kalamazoo, MI 49003
(269) 226-8570



you become acquainted with your pet, it will also help them get ready to take pills and have ears cleaned and nails clipped.

And now for some specific advice from an experienced puppy trainer:

- Before bringing your puppy home, be sure to have a **size-appropriate crate** for crate training, puppy pads for potty training, collar, leash, food, dishes, and lots of chew toys. Have a vet picked out and decide in advance how you are going to train your new friend.
- When you first bring the puppy home, take him or her outside to go potty. Then it's **time to start working on a good routine** for feeding, walking, outside play, and bed time. Schedule your first vet appointment.
- To handle your puppy's early **interactions with other family members, including other pets**, it's a good idea to keep him or her on a leash in the beginning. This keeps the pup in eyesight, which helps with potty training (you'll learn the signals for "I need to go out NOW") and also makes it easy to reel puppy in if they decide the cat or the couch is a chew toy. Encourage gentle play.
- Even before enrolling your puppy in a puppy obedience class, you'll want to get started on **house-breaking, crate training, and walking on a leash**. Get a crate that's big enough that the puppy can stand up, turn around, lie down, and stretch out. Keep crate time a positive experience – never punish the puppy in his or her crate. Be sure the puppy has enough outside time to potty and use walks and games like throwing a ball to burn off excess energy. It's a good idea to hang a bell somewhere the puppy can reach it and teach him or her to hit the bell with their nose or paw to let you know that they need to go out.
- Always, always, always, **give lots of praise and a few treats** to reward desired behavior!

Here's to many happy years with your best canine friend! Enjoy the puppy time, with all its challenges, because before you know it your dog will be all grown up!

Additional Resources:

- [Raising a perfect puppy](#)
- [Potty training](#)
- [Interactive puppy guide](#)

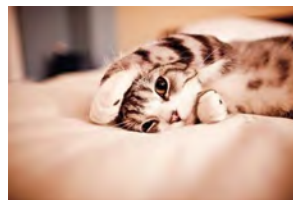
Bringing Up Baby: Tips For Kitten Care



By Karren Jensen

Adopting a kitten is a joyful event in the life of any pet owner but it also brings some challenges.

Even the most experienced cat person can find that the journey from new kitten to well-mannered adult cat brings challenges. Fortunately your new baby is smart, clean, trainable, and eager to please.



Here are a few behavioral issues and some tips for dealing with them as your kitten adapts to his or her new home.

- **Litter box training:** any kitten of adoptable age will be litter-box trained before being adopted but adapting to a new environment can still be daunting to this little one, occasionally resulting in accidents.

While introducing your new kitty to your home, you should ensure that (s)he is never far from a litter box while learning about his or her new home. It is best to keep the new kitten in a single room or playpen with a litter box close by to avoid confusion for the first few days. The litter box must be kept very clean and any outside-the-box incidents need to be cleaned up and de-scented right away to avoid reinforcing any wrong behaviors. Remember that your new baby is still learning, so reinforce good behavior with positive reinforcement.

- **Claws/scratching issues:** most cat owners have concerns and opinions about a cat's natural clawing and scratching behavior. Training your cat to never scratch is about as feasible as training yourself never to yawn or sneeze! A more sensible solution is to train your new kitten to scratch in appropriate places. This can be accomplished through a combination of positive reinforcement and avoidance. First, purchase at least one scratching post and introduce your kitten by gently rubbing his or her paws on the post to add their own scent. Make any undesirable scratching location (furniture or carpet, etc.) unattractive by covering it or using a repellent scent. Praise your kitten for correct scratching behavior and gently discourage scratching inappropriately. Nail caps or nail trimming will make claws less sharp and can help the training process. Do not yell at, physically punish, or declaw your kitten because these are all likely to result in unexpected problems.
- **Nutrition:** Your new kitten will grow quickly and burn lots of calories during play but you need to be careful not to overfeed or keep him or her on kitten food too long. Your veterinary care professional can provide helpful advice on proper feeding. Too many treats or feeding too long on high calorie kitten food can set your baby up for adult obesity while switching to an age- and weight-appropriate food will help maintain your cat's healthy weight.
- **Exercise:** be sure to spend time every day playing with your new pet, along with lots of snuggle time. Kittens are very energetic and can get into mischief if they are allowed to become bored and lonely. Bonding through playtime is a great way to get to know your kitten and to keep him or her active and healthy.

Adopting a new kitten is the start of a wonderful journey with your new companion. Enjoy each stage of your furry friend's life and take time to understand his/her needs, training him/her to be a well-behaved and lovable family member.

Additional Resources:

[Litter training for kittens \(text + video\)](#)

[How kittens grow: 0-8 weeks](#)

[How to train a cat not to scratch furniture](#)

About Us

Kalamazoo Animal Rescue is an all-volunteer, federally recognized 501(c)(3) charitable organization that was founded in 1991 and is funded entirely through donations from the public.

KAR is dedicated to providing refuge to homeless, stray and abandoned cats and dogs in Kalamazoo and the surrounding communities.

Our volunteers give their time and energy to the efforts of rescuing animals and helping them to find permanent, committed and life-long homes.

Visit our website [here](#) for more KAR information!



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