



Phone: (269) 226-8570

*KAR Friends - August 2019*

Dear Reader;

I suspect we're all shaking our heads and wondering where the summer has gone! Labor Day is just around the corner and schools are starting up for a new academic year. And there are still so many kittens and puppies, cats and dogs, needing their forever homes ...

As the year moves from summer into autumn (with, I'm guessing, still a bit of hot weather left), we're probably all a bit more in tune with the natural world around us – and the impact we make on Planet Earth. **This month's issue of *KAR Friends* looks at how we and our pets interact with our environment.** Karren Jensen offers suggestions about how we can make responsible choices to help preserve the beauties of nature, and Kim Bourner offers us some ways to laugh while we're doing so. (I know my congressional representative is going to be hearing from my dog and cat!)

***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

***In This Issue***

- [Is Your Pet Green?](#)
- [Eco-Friendly Pets](#)

**Pets of the Month**Read [Boomer's](#) Story**Is Your Pet Green?**

By Karren Jensen

No, I don't mean to ask if your cat or dog has green fur! **Have you ever considered the effect your pet has on the environment?** We are becoming increasingly aware of the impact our personal choices and habits have on the world around us but we rarely consider our pet's carbon footprint (pawprint). **In an effort to help all of us "go green," here are a few ideas to ponder:**



- **The most important eco-friendly decision you can make for your canine or feline friend is to spay or neuter your pet.** Reducing the pet overpopulation problem is the single most significant way in which we can ensure that our own pets thrive and the environment is not overwhelmed with more domestic animals than there are loving homes available. The largest at-risk population for euthanasia is puppies and kittens too young to be adopted. Unwanted animals released into the environment have a huge impact on wildlife as they attempt to survive on their own. If they are very young, they are unlikely to survive, becoming prey to other animals.
- **Select pet supplies that will have the lightest environmental consequences.** Whether your buddy's kibble is beef- or chicken-based, think about (research!) how the meat source was raised



Read [Amaretto's](#) Story

### Upcoming Events

- Aug. 31, **MVPets**  
Westnedge Ave.
- Sept. 7, **Petco**  
Westnedge Ave.
- Sept. 14, **Chow Hound**  
Drake Rd.
- Sept. 21, **PetSmart**  
W. Main St.

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](#)
- [KAR Website](#)
- [Donate Today!](#)

### Newsletter Team

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

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

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(factory-farmed versus sustainable animal farming practices) – and what parts of the meat source are ending up in your friend's food. Choose reusable pet dishes, cleaning cloths, bedding, and other materials which can be washed instead of being thrown away.

- If your pet is a dog, be sure to **clean up his/her waste and use a biodegradable bag** which can be deposited in the trash. If you have a cat, **select biodegradable cat litter** and dispose of it in a disposable bag rather than plastic non-degradable bags.
- **Never allow your pet to wander loose outdoors.** This is not only dangerous for your furry friend but can also have deadly consequences for wildlife.
- Be sure to **recycle** when your pet no longer needs/uses any toys, blankets, dishes, or other pet supplies which are still in good condition. By donating such things to a rescue organization, you and your pet can help bring comfort to a homeless shelter cat or dog.

Your pet is a wonderful addition to your family and will bring you loving companionship for many years. Please stop to consider how you can ensure that this dear furry friend can also be a good citizen of Planet Earth, making his or her contribution to the health of the world we all share.

### Additional Resources:

- [Going green with your pet](#)
- [The eco-friendly pet owner](#)

## Eco-Friendly Pets



By Kim Bourner

Our environment needs everyone's help. Losing our pollinators would be devastating to humankind in a short period of time. Our air needs to be clean, because pollution harms all of us. **What can we and our pets do to care for the world we share?**



Karren Jensen has addressed this question seriously in the previous article. Here I (with help from my cats) offer some more lighthearted suggestions:

- It is important to **get our legislators on board** so that we can have policy changes to reduce climate change. Writing letters to them helps. Adding commentary from your dog and including her paw print next to your signature will increase the urgency of your letter and cause it to be taken more seriously.
- Our food supply depends greatly on pollinators like the honeybee to produce much of the foods we (and our animals) eat. Granted, our cats don't need grains and veggies, but chickens do ... and I know my cats love to eat chicken. So that means teaching our cats that they must never chase or eat our pollinators. Some, of course, learn the hard way, but some cats are truly wild beasts and will continue such destructive behavior despite being stung. So sit down with your cat and have that heart-wrenching conversation about diminishing supplies of chicken-based food if he or she continues to prey on pollinators. I'm sure that many cats will change their ways in order to keep poultry in their diets.
- Service dogs learn how to turn lights on and off, open refrigerators, and shut doors. What a good

idea for all of our pets! We know that cats can open doors (we don't need to discuss how some of us know this), so surely they can close doors and then move on to manipulating light switches. For that matter, if you get touch lamps, your pets will have no trouble turning them off and on. It may be necessary to remind them that lamps are not toys.

- **Reduce, reuse, and recycle.** One way we can help the environment is to donate the items we no longer use. Talk to your dog about all of those Kongs, and if she is willing to part with some, donate them to Goodwill. Have your cats pick through their stuffed mice and milk jug rings to see how many they can pass on to others in need.

This is a short list of many possibilities to be kind to Planet Earth. Have a chat with your fur friends to see what else you can do together as a dynamic super-hero team!

#### **Additional Resources**

[The importance of pollinators](#)

[Reducing energy consumption](#)

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## 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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