

KALAMAZOO ANIMAL RESCUE

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OUR SPONSORS



KAR Friends

April 2009

Dear Reader,

On Saturday, May 2nd, join KAR at the 25th Annual Dog Walkathon hosted by the Kalamazoo Humane Society.

On Sunday, May 10th, KAR will be having a special Mother's Day adoption event at MVPets. More information on these activities is provided below.

Also in this issue, Doggie Den offers some insights about age when making a decision to adopt a dog. Our Cat's Corner story tells about the life-saving rescue and adoption of Seraphim.

Danielle Wallis
KAR Marketing Coordinator

Lynn Bolhuis
KAR Friends Editor

P.S. The nicer weather is enabling folks to get out in their yards and do some spring cleanup, add plants and mulch to their gardens. Please be aware that **cocoa mulch can be dangerous to pets**. For more information, [click here](#).

KALAMAZOO DOG WALKATHON

Dog Walk '09

By Alyssa Finkel

Come join KAR and the Kalamazoo Humane Society for the 25th Anniversary of the Kalamazoo Dog Walkathon!

Date: Saturday, May 2, 2009

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Location: Prairie View Park (click [here](#) for a map)

Website: www.KazooDogWalk.org

This annual event is full of fun activities for dogs and their human companions. While the main purpose of the walkathon is to raise money for the Kalamazoo Humane Society, there are many activities you can sit back and enjoy, including:

- Milt Wilcox's Ultimate Air Dog Challenge
- The Classic K-9 Show
- Skyhoundz Hyperlite Canine Disc Championship
- Frisbee dogs

There are also plenty of activities to enjoy with your dog, such as the doggie obstacle course and pet photography. Be sure to visit the many unique demonstrations and information booths, partake in contests, children's games and face painting, and much, much more. It's guaranteed to be a dog of a time!



OUR SPONSORS



UPCOMING EVENTS

[Visit the "Events" page on our website](#) for upcoming adoption (and other) events.



KALAMAZOO DOG WALKATHON (continued)

If you're up for a walk, the route is approximately two miles long and Humane Society volunteers will be posted along the way to help you and your pet if anything is needed.

Kalamazoo Animal Rescue will be there with many adoptable dogs to show as well as KAR bandanas, leashes and other merchandise to offer in exchange for donations.

To learn more about how you can get involved, to register for Dog Walk '09 or reserve your V.I.P. pass, visit the web site or call the Humane Society at (269) 345-1181.

SPECIAL EVENT

Mother's Day Adoption Event

Everyone wants kittens and puppies at this time of the year, but what about the momma cats and dogs? So often the momma cats and dogs are left behind after their litter has been adopted. KAR is hoping to raise awareness and find as many homes for our mother cats and dogs as possible! Join us for a special Mother's Day adoption event.

Date: Sunday, May 10, 2009

Time: 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Place: MVPets on South Westnedge



BEHIND THE SCENES

Volunteer of the Month, Darline McDaniel

Kalamazoo Animal Rescue is very fortunate to have a skilled and experienced volunteer overseeing cat intake, Darline McDaniel. For over 20 years she has been doing whatever she can – sometimes alone – sometimes as a member of different groups – to save animals across Southwest Michigan. As a result, Darline is well known by rescues, veterinarians and the public. She has single handedly saved hundreds and hundreds of animals.



During a typical week, KAR receives approximately 25 requests for help with cats. Some are owners who have a cat they can't or won't keep. Others have found strays or injured cats. Others have cats that have developed behavior problems. Darline coordinates the small group of volunteers who respond to these requests. The requests for help far outnumber the foster home space we have to take cats in, but we try to respond to each person with advice or information.

Responding to cat intake requests is one of the most difficult in the rescue. Intake involves listening to many sad stories, both about people and animals, and in some cases having to disappoint people by telling them we can't take the cat involved. Darline does her best to keep the volunteers for this job motivated. She answers the bulk of the cat intake phone calls herself, and makes sure that other volunteers answer the intake requests that come in via our web site.

In addition to intake, Darline coordinates the movement of foster cats within the rescue. She knows which foster homes are free at any given time, and makes suggestions regarding which cats waiting to get into KAR might be a good fit for a particular foster home. We typically have about 100 cats in the rescue at any point in time.

PETS OF THE MONTH



[Austin](#)



[Tyler](#)

BEHIND THE SCENES (continued)

Darline has extensive volunteer experience with Kalamazoo Animal Rescue and often travels around the Kalamazoo area helping people with feral cat situations. She is an expert at trapping feral (wild) cats, arranging to get them neutered, and then re-releasing them if there is someone to feed them and ensure shelter is available. She sometimes pays for surgeries herself, just to ensure that these cats are given a chance to live but will not reproduce anymore.

In 2001, Darline broke her back and had to take a break from rescue work to recover. Despite this her commitment to homeless cats and dogs never wavered. We are very fortunate that she is part of KAR. Darline is very organized, compassionate and fair to everyone. She cares about every homeless animal she encounters, no matter how small, sick or feral, and she does her best to provide care to them whenever possible.

Darline also understands something that is often overlooked in rescue work, that what we do is just as much about helping people as helping animals. Behind most animals in trouble is a person in trouble – people dealing with poverty, illness, family changes and other challenges. Many people appreciate having someone to talk to about their problem with their animal or an animal they have found. Caring people like Darline are a gift to both the people and animals in our community.

DOGGIE DEN

What Age is Right for You?

By Lynn Bolhuis

If you are thinking about adding a canine companion to your family, there are several important factors to consider: breed, size, temperament, energy level, gender and age. When adopting, many people think of puppies first. What you may not be aware of is that there are many other wonderful dogs available from shelters and rescues that will also make outstanding pets. This article offers some insights about age to consider when making a decision to adopt a dog.



Puppy

A dog less than eight months old is considered a puppy. Puppies are indeed cute and playful. People often select a dog based on these elements; not realizing that the “puppy stage” is short lived compared to the other stages of a dog’s life. At this phase, you may not know exactly how large the animal will get, especially with mixed breeds. Caring for a puppy requires a lot of attention, some late nights and messy clean ups. Time and effort must be expended to housebreak, socialize, exercise and train the animal. If you’ve never had a dog before, be sure to research what it takes to raise a puppy so you know what to expect. One of the benefits of adopting a puppy is that it allows you to influence its development—they are a blank slate that can be molded into the ideal pet for you and your family when the proper commitment is made.

Adolescent

Dogs between eight months and three-years old are considered adolescents. These animals are almost or completely full grown, which helps determine whether the dog’s size will work in your home. Adolescents are still very active, they need regular exercise and instruction to aid in their development. Young dogs adopted from a shelter may require training to learn manners and socialization skills if they did not receive this previously. The advantages of adopting an adolescent: they are highly trainable, they learn quickly and have longer attention spans. Because an adolescent

KAR LINKS

- ADOPT a [Kitten, Cat or Dog](#)
- [VOLUNTEER](#)
- Become a [FOSTER FAMILY](#)
- [Senior Cat Companions](#)
- KAR [Website](#)



Make a [DONATION!](#)

DOGGIE DEN (continued)

is beyond the “puppy stage,” they may be housebroken, know some basic commands and have been exposed to children and other animals.

A dog that is between the age of one and two-years old is often referred to as a young adult.

Adult

A dog three to eight-years old is an adult and in the prime of life. Many dogs in this age group take longer to adopt. Similar to adolescents, adults are also very trainable; many are housebroken and probably know some commands. Adult dogs can be quite active depending on their energy level. These dogs may come to a shelter or rescue through no fault of their own, such as a move, divorce, job loss, death in the family, etc. Some adults may have issues or bad habits that need to be dealt with. On the other hand, an adult dog’s personality and temperament is pretty much set so you can get a good idea how well the dog will fit into your household.

Senior

Canines eight years and older are senior citizens. Dogs at this stage of life may have many more years ahead of them and they make wonderful companions. As dogs get older they become calmer, more relaxed and easygoing, and their need for exercise diminishes as well. Seniors are often housebroken and they settle into a new home environment quite easily. Mature dogs don’t demand as much of your time as puppies and adolescents. They have slowed down a little bit, perhaps expending bursts of energy as opposed to being able to play for hours on end. Older dogs may not be right for families with young children or those with an active lifestyle. With a senior dog you know what you are getting, their personality is fully developed and they still have much love and affection to share.

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When considering age as a factor for adopting a pet, keep in mind that a dog’s lifespan varies according to size. Smaller canines tend to live longer (twelve years or more) than larger breeds (approximately ten years). [Click here](#) to see a chart showing a dog’s age in human years by size.

If you find a dog you are interested in adopting, examining the teeth is one of the best ways to determine the approximate age of the animal. [Click here](#) to see a chart and diagram that can help.

Whatever a dog’s age, you will find them to be smart, loving and resilient animals. If you and your family are willing to be patient, provide exercise, direction, attention and affection, a dog can be a wonderful addition to your family.

Additional Resources:

- [Find your dog match](#)
- [Puppy versus dog](#)
- [Older dog advantages](#)
- Cesar Millan’s latest book, *A Member of the Family*.

CONTACT US

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Visit our [website](#)

[Questions or
suggestions](#) for the
newsletter?

CAT'S CORNER

A Story of Hope for Seraphim

By Danielle Wallis and Holly Herriges

Her second life started on September 25th, it was the day Seraphim's guardian angel came to save her and her babies from certain euthanasia at Animal Services.



Holly Herriges had made her way to the shelter to rescue four kittens; little did she know that she would return home with these four kittens plus a female cat and her two babies. If she had not looked into the cage housing Seraphim and her boys, Gideon and James, who knows if they would have made it out alive. Thank goodness Holly saw their potential to make wonderful pets and saved them too.

This is where Seraphim's story of hope began and how lucky she was to be free and loved once more. Unfortunately the cats caught upper respiratory infections (common amongst shelter populations) during their time at Animal Services. They needed to be quarantined and treated before being introduced to the other cats in Holly's home. After a struggle to regain their strength, they all pulled through and Seraphim's babies found new and loving homes.

Seraphim was named by Holly as it represents the name of angels in the Bible and she certainly had angels looking down on her that fateful day. She proved to be the most friendly, low maintenance feline with no fear of dogs, cats or humans. Not once did she complain or bother her human guardians for anything other than love once in awhile. A truly deserving cat and one that would prove difficult to let go of.

After staying in the rescue for almost seven months, Seraphim found her new home with Carl and Pat Benson, a retired couple devoted to their pets. They have been loyal supporters of KAR and regularly donate to help our animals. Sera(phim) now lives with a feline brother and a canine sister and has everything an angel could need, space for sunbathing, food and lots of love. Sera has proven to be a wonderful addition to the Benson household. As soon as Sera entered their home, she immediately set about exploring and showing her new owners what a "people cat" she really was. There were no issues between her and the other animals in the home. It's as if they all knew that she was part of the family and accepted it.

A purr-fectly happy ending for Seraphim and her adoptive family. Thank you Carl and Pat for wanting to adopt an older cat and give her a loving home for the rest of her life.

About Us

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

KAR is dedicated to providing refuge to homeless, stray and abandoned cats and dogs in Southwest Michigan.

Our volunteers give their time and energy to the efforts of rescuing animals and helping them to find permanent homes.