

Dear Reader,

Twenty eleven has been a challenging year for Kalamazoo Animal Rescue. A sluggish economy has resulted in fewer donations, declines in cat and dog adoptions, rising expenses, and more pleas from people asking to re-home companion animals they can no longer afford to keep.

As a result of these unfortunate circumstances, KAR is running a much larger deficit this year than in previous years. While we are not in immediate financial danger, we rely on the generous support of animal lovers like you to enable us to continue our good work—saving homeless dogs and cats in our community.

Kalamazoo Animal Rescue volunteers open their hearts and homes to shelter animals in need. While these people are vital to saving cats and dogs and finding them homes, we can't provide for our animals health and well being without your financial support. The need is great and any amount you are able to give makes a difference: \$10 buys cat litter, \$20 pet food, \$35 covers a feline spay, \$50 purchases seven microchips, and \$65 covers a canine spay or neuter surgery.

Please use the coupon and the enclosed envelope to make a tax-deductible donation today. The dogs and cats whose precious lives are saved thank you, and KAR thanks you. 🐾

Microchipping Your Pets

By Kerrie Harvey

If you have a cat or dog, you undoubtedly have been amazed by their curiosity and desire to explore. Unfortunately, there are times when these tendencies can lead them astray. This is just one scenario that can cause families to undergo the heart-wrenching experience of trying to find a lost pet.

In the event your animal goes astray, having them microchipped can increase the likelihood of being reunited.

According to the American Veterinary Medical Association, "A study of more than 7,700 stray animals at animal shelters showed that dogs without microchips were returned to their owners 21.9% of the time, whereas microchipped dogs were returned to their owners 52.2% of the time. Cats without microchips were reunited with their owners only 1.8% of the time, whereas microchipped cats went back home 38.5% of the time." (Lord et al, JAVMA, July 15, 2009)

You may be wondering, why aren't all microchipped animals reunited with their owners? The main reasons reported by animal shelters are there is no owner information or there is inaccurate

owner information in the microchip registry database. It is vital upon microchipping your cat or dog to register the chip and to keep your contact information up to date whenever there is a change, such as moving or getting a new phone number.

Some pet owners may worry that microchipping their animal will be painful or have adverse health effects. Microchipping a pet is considered safe and is endorsed by the Humane Society of the United States, the American Veterinary Medical Association and the American Animal Hospital



Association. KAR microchips all our cats and dogs before they are put up for adoption. A chip can be implanted by your veterinarian and is typically inserted between the animal's shoulder blades. If you have questions concerning safety or

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KAR Adoption Statistics

As of October 31st, 261 cats and 126 dogs have found forever homes in 2011.

Microchipping Your Pet

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the appropriate time to implant the microchip, talk to your veterinarian.

Concerns over cost may prevent some pet owners from microchipping their four-legged friends. The cost is relatively inexpensive but can vary from one veterinary practice to another so you may want to do some research first. Microchips are designed to last for 25 years so it should not have to be done more than once in your pet's lifetime.

Here is one more tip to increase the likelihood of being reunited with your dog or cat should they become lost in Kalamazoo County. Contact Kalamazoo County Animal Services at (269) 383-8775 and ask them to enter your pet's microchip number into their database. Make sure your contact information is also current. Then, should your cat or dog ever be brought to the shelter, it will be scanned and the chip will quickly trace them back to you. 🐾



Community Fundraising Efforts

A sincere thank you to the following people, groups and businesses who recently held fundraisers to benefit Kalamazoo Animal Rescue:

- Alfred E. Bike
- Lisa Fender
- Home Again Childcare
- Rachael's lemonade stand
- Two Thumbs Up
- Ullrey & Company

Portage Animal Hospital Update

By Karren Jensen

The partnership between Kalamazoo Animal Rescue and Portage Animal Hospital started about a year ago. From its inception, this relationship has been a rousing success. To date, 32 cats and kittens have found loving new homes as a direct result of their participation in the program. Portage Animal Hospital's new facility, which opened last fall, was designed with an ongoing adoption program in mind. Comfortable and attractive display enclosures in the waiting room allow anyone entering the facility to view the available cats. The PAH staff care for the kittens and cats on display, and help potential adopters interact with the animals upon request. PAH has generously provided this space for the felines in their waiting room area, making sure that each cat or kitten stays healthy and happy while waiting for their forever home. Adopters love the program because it allows them to come and meet any of the participating cats during Portage Animal Hospital's regular business hours.

KAR and all of our volunteers want to give a big "thank you" to the Portage Animal Hospital staff and to Dr. Andrew Helmholtz for their commitment to finding new homes for cats and kittens in need. We look forward to continued success in this partnership and many more "happy tails" to report as the program continues. 🐾



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.

Adopt

If you or someone you know is looking for a furry companion please consider adopting from KAR. All foster animals live in private homes until adopted. To see the available cats and dogs, visit www.kalamazooanimalrescue.org.

Other Ways to Help

- Donations to help us pay vet bills
- Cat and dog food
- Cat litter
- Dog crates and cat carriers

KAR Friends

Looking for great tips and information on caring for pets? **KAR Friends** provides helpful pet-related articles, heartwarming dog and cat rescue stories, news about upcoming events, and valuable coupons and special offers from area sponsors. Previous issues are archived on the KAR website. To receive your own personalized copy, go to our website and subscribe today!



Charley's Happy Reunion

By Kerrie Harvey

They say what goes around comes around and I'm glad they're right! I have gone around and now I am back where I belong. I know it probably sounds like I am running in circles chasing my tail, but let me tell you my story.

My siblings and I were rescued by KAR. While a pup and in the care of a foster home, I was known as Beau Bear, a very good name for a loving little guy like myself. My foster family gave me love and a great temporary home while I was given veterinary care and micro-chipped, and waited to be adopted. Looking back on it, while I was appreciative of everything they did for me, I firmly believe micro-chipping was the greatest gift I could ever have received. You see, I was adopted in August 2010 by a terrific family. I had forever parents and two human sisters that I loved and adored. I could tell by the way they cared for and played with me, and that they took me everywhere

with them. I believed the feelings to be mutual and the family gave me an awesome new name, Charley.

After my adoption, there was a dark time when I thought we might never see each other again because I had accidentally gotten separated from my family. After being apart for four months, they had nearly given up hope of finding me. Then, I was picked up and taken to Barry County Animal Control this summer. Since I had been injured, they took me to see a veterinarian and also had me scanned for a microchip. Fortunately I had one.

When they found the microchip number, they contacted the manufacturer and determined that my chip had been sold to and implanted by KAR. Barry County contacted the rescue and they in turn contacted my adopters. My forever family was ecstatic to learn where I was and they came to get me the very next day. I was lucky to



have been reunited with my family, even though they hadn't kept my registration information up to date with the microchip company. Some pets are not so fortunate even if they are microchipped, because no one took the time to register the chip or they did not update their contact information when they moved or changed phone numbers.

So here is a friendly reminder to all pet parents: make sure your contact information for your animal's microchip is kept updated. This is critical for recovery! 🐾

Cat and Dog Foster Volunteers Needed

KAR needs people who are willing to open their hearts and homes to animals in need until a forever home can be found. Food, supplies and vet care are provided by KAR. New foster volunteers receive training and mentoring from experienced volunteers. For more information and to fill out a volunteer application, visit our website at www.kalamazooanimalrescue.org and click on Volunteer Now.

I want to help Kalamazoo Animal Rescue care for homeless dogs and cats. Here is my tax deductible donation.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please make your check payable to: Kalamazoo Animal Rescue Amount enclosed: \$ _____

Mail this coupon with your check to: Kalamazoo Animal Rescue • P.O. Box 3295 • Kalamazoo, MI 49003

Rupert's Journey

By Kim Bournier

Rupert, Rupert, where will you go?
From your mother's loving pat
To wandering many roads
Life has been rough for this black tiger cat.

Homeless and hungry, two friends you made
A fellow cat to cuddle with on harsh winter nights
A generous woman to feed you every day
Trailer park life was survived by this black knight.

Kalamazoo Animal Rescue came into the picture
Rupert found a foster home to bring him comfort
Shelter and family became a fixture
He found a safe place under the davenport.

Ten months with a foster family
Gave Rupert a chance to adjust
To life with perks than can end happily
Finding a home for this gentle giant was a must.

Although Rupert is naturally meek
His foster family helped bring him out of his shell
Now when his caregiver is feeling sick and weak
He becomes the nursemaid until all is well

After ten months with a
foster family
Rupert found his forever
home
Where he feels safe and
love comes freely
Family life is awesome!

