

Why Fostering Needy Pets is the Best Job Ever!

By Karren Jensen

As a foster volunteer, I've heard plenty of excuses as to why some one cannot become a foster parent and help a homeless pet attain a better life. Here are a few of the excuses we frequently hear on this topic that you may have heard and used yourself, as well as responses you might not have considered.

Excuse 1: I can't foster because I would get too attached.

Response: Yes, I've had a special bond with every kitten I've fostered and felt sad to let them go. My first foster kittens came to me at about three weeks of age and needed much love, care and bottle feeding. These two precious brothers had lost their mother and were rescued by some caring people who then placed them with KAR. The 2:00 a.m. feedings left me sleep deprived but my babies looked adorable as they hungrily nursed from bottles. Not long after they were using a litter box, wrestling with each other and enjoying life as healthy and happy toddlers. When the time came to say goodbye, it was comforting to know my little ones were going to a wonderful home where they would be cherished for the rest of their lives. As wrenching as it can be to say goodbye, it is a way to make a positive difference in the lives of these animals that had a

rough start in life but were given a second chance.

Excuse 2: I just don't have time to take care of another animal.

Response: This might be true in the case of a small kitten or puppy, but nearly everyone has time to care for an adult or adolescent cat or dog. You can be matched with a pet whose energy level and needs match your available time and energy. Many of these animals have lost their home through no fault of their own and need time to find a new home. Some pets require TLC and socializing. If you have ever adopted from an animal rescue group, such as KAR, then you know how much it means to find your furry best friend to cherish and love. Fostering is a way to "pay it forward" by providing that same service for another animal lover.

Excuse 3: It is too expensive to take in a needy animal.

Response: Thanks to the fundraising efforts of KAR and its support of foster homes, taking care of any needy animals that you are willing to foster won't cost you anything other than some time. KAR provides all of the supplies needed to meet your foster pet's needs as well as necessary vet

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Marvelous Ming

By Danielle Wallis

Meet Ming—a three-year old grey tabby with an extraordinary story. In the spring of this year, we were contacted by Eighth Street Veterinary Care to assist one of their clients. Ming had managed to eat something and the object was lodged in his esophagus so he was not able to eat. Ming grew weaker by the day. He tried eating but regurgitated anything he swallowed. Ming's owners were faced with expensive surgery and x-rays



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On the fence about fostering?

I would rather cry watching them leave our home to live a life of happiness and joy in a loving home than cry because no one stepped up to help them and they died alone, hungry and frightened.

**Fostering saves lives.
Try it!**

Paisley's Diary

By Kim Bournier

Home sweet home! That's where I am today, but it was a long journey getting here. Some dogs have all the luck but I wasn't one of them. I will share my story so that you can see there is hope for everyone—and you could give someone a home too!

February 2012: I was a down and out dog, spending my days at the animal shelter until a KAR foster volunteer took me in and named me Reggie.

April 2012: My foster parent and I thought I had it made; a family decided to adopt me. It was good while it lasted but they weren't able to be with me much, and I left them too many reminders that I needed a bit more exercise and entertainment.

August 2012: KAR has a policy to take their animals back if there is an issue with the adoptive family. There wasn't space at the time but they squeezed me in and gave me a second chance at a forever home.

January 2013: I was adopted out again and thought this was my time! I was going to be the hit of the new family and they would play with me every day.

February 2013: Oops! I'm back

in the rescue seeking my third chance. Life is rough for an active guy. KAR and my foster parents did not give up on me, they obtained the services of a professional dog trainer who could show me how to be the best dog ever! Christine Mahaney from What a Dog saved my life. She taught me how to get that vivacious vigor out and face the world with a happy heart.

May 2013: Ms. Christine recommended a family for me to KAR. She was right and I am in my forever home today! I can be myself and not fear being turned away. My new family calls me Paisley. I've got a fresh start in every way!

Today, I enjoy the agility course my family built in the backyard. Just call me the master of agility courses because I have it down solid. My humans provide me with enough exercise, structure and stimulation to live happily ever after. I can even snuggle up and rest with ease. I am



Community Fundraising Efforts

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

- Kalamazoo Community Foundation
- Qdoba Mexican Grill
- Petco
- Pfizer Foundation
- Social Charity Circle of Kalamazoo and O'Duffy's Pub

The Joys of

- F**ellowship with animal lovers
- O**pen your heart
- S**ave a life
- T**raining/mentoring provided
- E**nriching and rewarding
- R**ehome an adoptable pet
- I**nspire others
- N**urture homeless animals
- G**ive back to the community

a loyal companion who has finally found his place in the world. Every dog can have his day! Will you give a dog a day too? 🐾

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 safe 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.

Adopt

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

Connect with KAR



KAR Friends

Looking for great tips and information on caring for pets? **KAR Friends** is a monthly eNewsletter providing helpful pet-related articles, heartwarming rescue stories, news about upcoming events, 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!



Feline Leukemia Kittens

By Danielle Wallis

KAR received an urgent call from Animal Services that they had nine screaming kittens without mommies. The volunteer team rallied and three foster homes were able to take the babies that same day. They were all so small that they needed 24/7 feeding and care until they were strong enough and able to eat on their own.

As a foster volunteer, you never know what you are going to get into until a call for help goes out. If you can help, you become the animal's advocate—keeping it safe, helping it to get healthy and showing it unconditional love. You promise to do whatever it takes to make all this happen while they are in the rescue.

The kittens included two tuxedos, five orange, one white and one dilute calico. We had no idea if they were related or came from separate litters, which posed some challenges for the foster homes. All

the kittens contracted upper respiratory infections before entering KAR. Ordinarily this is treatable with antibiotics but by the time the kittens were old enough to test for feline leukemia (a contagious infection that compromises the immune system, shortens life span and can lead to lymphoma), some had had two to three rounds of medication and were still sick. Unfortunately four of the kittens tested positive for the infection and we lost one that was too weak to combat the illness. With medicine, amazing veterinary care and lots of TLC, the remaining eight kitties were adopted, including the three with feline leukemia.



FeLV can affect the chances of a cat finding a new home. We were concerned that the three infected kittens might grow into adults while in the rescue but two amazing homes adopted them. Fi Fi and Bailey (pictured at left) live together and Tazz lives with his new mom and three other FeLV positive cats.

Fortunately this story has a happy ending because Kalamazoo Animal Rescue volunteers stepped in to save these precious lives. As an animal foster, it can seem like a lot of work—visits to the vet, attending adoption events and cleaning out endless litter boxes, but when you realize that you gave hope to one dog or cat, it makes it all worthwhile. And, staying in touch with adopters is another great way to be reminded of the amazing experience over and over again. 🐾

Marvelous Ming *(continued)*

totaling more than \$2,000. They could not afford to help Ming so they relinquished him to KAR so that we could provide the surgery he so desperately needed. After scans, x-rays and exploratory surgery, the object found blocking his intestines was a button. Dr. Withers removed

it, saving Ming and giving him a chance at a normal life.

With lots of TLC from his foster mom, Ming returned to a healthy weight as soon as he could eat and drink again. Things could have turned out quite differently, but

fortunately for Ming he received the care he needed thanks to financial donations from animal lovers like you. Your generosity enables KAR to save lives and make a difference.

Thank you from all of us, especially on behalf of Ming! 🐾

Ming needed a life-saving operation. His owners could not afford his veterinary expenses so KAR stepped in to save his life.

I want to support KAR and give hope to homeless animals. A tax-deductible donation of \$20 buys dog or cat food for a month, \$50 buys 8 vaccines, and \$100 pays for 1 dog or 2 cat spays.

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

KALAMAZOO ANIMAL RESCUE

Dinner Auction 2013

Food! Fun! Drinks!

Live and Silent Auctions

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Where: Gull Lake Country Club
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Date: Sunday, November 10th

Time: 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Dinner and Entertainment begin at 5:30 p.m.

Cost: \$35 per person. Visa and MasterCard accepted.

For Reservations Call: 269-629-9714



Best Job Ever! *(continued)*

care. In addition, KAR provides training and mentoring for foster care providers so that you have assistance through any situation you might encounter. Any applications received for your foster pet are reviewed by our adoption screening team and then forwarded to you after being approved. You are then free to decide whether this home will be right for your foster cat or dog. You get to meet fellow animal lovers who want to become adoptive pet parents and who will give your special pet all the love needed for a happy forever home. The satisfaction you receive is priceless.

KAR is always looking for good foster homes. Please consider becoming a foster volunteer and embark on the best job ever: helping a needy pet find the forever home that every pet deserves. 