

KALAMAZOO ANIMAL RESCUE

KAR Friends

Special 2015 Spring Edition

What Makes KAR Special

By Karren Jensen and Katie Drenth

With so many animal lovers and rescue groups, you may wonder what the difference is among them. The number of abused, abandoned, or neglected pets in our community is large enough that many organizations are needed to solve this problem. While each group tries to find a niche, we would like to take this opportunity to tell you what sets KAR apart.

No Animal is Turned Away Because Their Case is Difficult or Expensive. We try very hard to save as many animals as possible

within the limits of our resources and available foster homes. We rescue pets that are quickly able to find forever homes, as well as pets that require more TLC

before being adoptable. Sweet Ayla, whom you may have seen on our Facebook page, is an 18-month-old pit bull mix that was rescued with severe trauma to both front legs. She required surgery totaling over \$6,000. Ayla is truly inspiring and a great success story in the making, just like Champion who you'll read about in our cat happy tail. Other



Ayla

dogs and cats that required medications or surgeries include: Cookie (pneumonia meds \$350), Cindy Lou (hip surgery \$800), Daisy (double ACL surgery \$1,200), and Frederick (dental surgery \$1,000).

We Treat and Rescue

Heartworm Positive Dogs. KAR is special because we not only provide treatment for dogs that test positive for heartworm (HW), but we also take in dogs that are HW+ prior to coming into the rescue. Heartworm disease is caused by mosquito bites, but it takes six to seven months after the bite to know if a dog has been infected with heartworms. The sooner HW is detected, the sooner treatment can begin and the odds of recovery increase. Depending on the severity, treatment can take over four months. During which time the dog has to be kept at a low activity level to lessen the strain on their system. It's tragic that pets contract this disease when it is easily preventable with an affordable monthly HW medication. In 2014, KAR treated and rehomed five HW+ dogs.

Currently we have six dogs undergoing treatment: Poppy (\$390), Oliver (\$650), Mazda (\$330), Duke (\$600), Maddie (\$520), and Farrah (\$425). Even with generous discounts that vets offer the rescue,



Duke

HW disease is still very expensive to treat. But these canines and the joy they will bring their new families are worth it!

We Work with Felines That Don't Fit the Typical Profile of Easily Adoptable Pets.

On numerous occasions we have helped FIV+ and FeLV+ felines find loving homes. While it can be a challenge to re-home these cats, they are no different than other pets and make wonderful companions in a single-cat home, or with other FIV+ or FeLV+ cats, or for cat-loving canines. We also help with TNR (Trap-Neuter-Return) programs that sterilize and then return feral felines to their territories. In some cases, semi-feral cats are relocated to safe barn homes where they are cared for and provide much needed pest control. Our volunteers are also successful at socializing some of these kitties so they become loving, adoptable companions.

Breed and Age Discrimination Are Not Part of Our Philosophy.

We don't turn away dogs based on breed prejudices. KAR has several "bully breed" experienced fosters and we are able to train new volunteers to become foster homes to find homes for these loving dogs that others would turn away.



Wyatt, FIV+

(continued on page 3)

Happy Tail: Senior Dogs

By Andrew Domino

Long-time KAR volunteers know that sometimes there's nothing like fostering a mature pet with a few years under their belt—enjoying their mellow temperament and gentle demeanor. Mike has a special place in his heart for seniors and he's adopted several dogs from KAR including Xena, who he adopted in 2006. She is ten-years old and the pack leader. "Xena has never been a people person but she's mellowed over the years," says Mike. "The first time I met her, it took Xena a half-hour to accept a treat from me. Now she acts as if treats will fall out of the phone when I try to take her picture!"

Just after Christmas 2007, eight-year-old Poopy joined the pack. He is not a fan of the camera but he loves to bark—at the camera's shutter noise. Poopy gets along really well with people and pets—as long as the other dogs aren't bigger than him. He loves going for walks. He isn't a fan of snow, so winter is definitely not his favorite season. While Poopy is the youngest of the bunch, he seems to understand the need to use caution and care



Xena, Poopy, Telula and Spunky

around the older pack members when playing and exercising.

In March 2013, Mike adopted Telula. She was eleven-years old and had an enlarged heart. She is always ready to play and chase tennis balls with Poopy just "like little pups." Telula had a home prior to KAR where she had been taught sit and stay commands—hidden talents that Mike didn't know she possessed until a guest tried them with her. Telula has learned how to be a pack member and share her toys (sometimes) even though the toys belonged to all the dogs prior to her arrival!

Spunky became the fourth pack member in May 2014. At 16 years old, he wasn't as spry as Telula or as loud as Poopy, but he enjoyed spending time with Mike and his pack mates. Spunky passed over the rainbow bridge in January. Although he was only with Mike and the pack for a short time, Spunky brought lots of joy to them all.

Adopting a senior pet is an opportunity to share a loving home with a dog that maybe didn't realize that the best years of his life were still ahead of him. Even if they are with their family for a short time, mature pets have a lot to offer. Check out KAR's website for adoptable senior dogs and cats. 🐾

Community Fundraising Efforts

A sincere thank you to these groups and businesses who held fundraisers to benefit KAR:

- Petco
- PetSmart
- Shaver Road Animal Hospital
- Sticks&Stones
- Styx and Rock to the Rescue
- The United Way

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



Like us on Facebook!

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!



What Makes KAR Special

(continued)

At KAR, we also love our senior pets! We believe that pets, no matter their age, deserve a chance at a happily ever after. While they may be with their families for a shorter period of time, senior pets have a lot of love and joy to offer.



Maxine, 10

KAR's Rescue Activities Span Southwest Michigan. We work with other rescue organizations and respond to pleas for assistance to help ensure the best chance at a

new life for cats and dogs throughout Southwest Michigan, not just Kalamazoo. We work closely with Kalamazoo County Animal Services and Enforcement (KCASE), and often receive requests from shelter care givers to help a dog or cat that shows exceptional personality traits and adoptability but whose time is running out. Many of our most cherished pets (e.g. Bentley) who have delighted their new families were given a second chance because someone at KCASE spotted a great furry friend and called KAR for help.

This is a sample of the broad range of KAR's activities to help

needy animals in our community. We try hard to make every dollar donated go as far as possible toward saving the lives of dogs and cats. Every animal we rescue is given complete vet care, spayed or neutered, microchipped, and adopted into a loving forever home. Animals are held in foster care for as long as it takes to find just the right family where they can live safe and happy lives. Your donations allow us to continue our successful mission. 🐾



Bentley, Adopted 2014

Calling All Shoppers: Earn Money for KAR When You Shop

By Lynn Bolhuis

Whenever you go to Harding's Friendly Market for groceries, visit Petco or PetSmart for your furry friend, shop online for a gift or take the family out to eat, your purchases can earn cash for KAR at no cost to you!

How is this possible? All you need is an eScrip Community card which you can pick up at any Harding's store or contact KAR and we will mail one to you. When you activate the card, select Kalamazoo Animal Rescue as a charity to support. If you already have an

eScrip card, you can add KAR as one of the three charities

you want to support. **Bonus:** Add other grocery, retail and drug store loyalty cards, as well as credit and debit cards to your eScrip account so that all of your shopping earns money for your favorite charities. Lastly, whenever you shop just show the eScrip card to the cashier during checkout. That's all there is to it!



How does KAR earn money? Participating merchants make a donation based on everyone's purchases. The rescue receives a donation check four times a year. In 2014, we received \$1,551 to support the dogs and cats in foster care.

If you prefer to let your fingers do the shopping, there are several online programs that earn money for KAR and our rescued pets at no cost to you. These include: AmazonSmile, GoodSearch, iGive, eBay Giving Works and Paypal's Giving Fund (formerly MissionFish). Check out the Donations page on our website for more details. 🐾

I want to support KAR and give hope to homeless animals. A tax-deductible donation of \$20 can buy dog or cat food, \$50 purchases 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

Happy Tail: Champion

By Katie Drenth

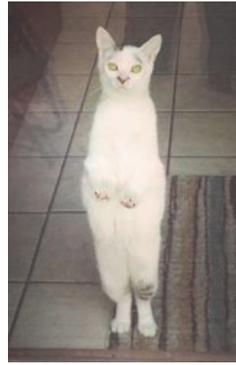
Two tiny, day old kittens were found abandoned in a parking lot on a late summer day in 2013. The Good Samaritan who found them quickly set about finding them help, and the kittens landed safely in the hands of one of KAR's veteran cat foster volunteers.

The smallest kitten, called Crumb, was found to have three leg deformities—one to his front left paw and his two back legs were completely limp and unusable. But there was hope. The vet said physical therapy could build his muscles and loosen tendons, so there was a chance that his limbs could become usable. So, for several weeks, ten



times a day, at every feeding, Crumb's foster mom would warm and massage his limbs. Crumb didn't care for this much, especially when he had to try to use his legs to get to his food, but he began to realize that all this specialized one-on-one attention wasn't so bad after all. It took several weeks of hard work, love and dedication, but Crumb persevered and gained the ability to use all of his limbs just like any other kitty!

His rescuer and adopter, Kimberly, thought it was only fitting that he now be renamed Champion after all this little kitten had overcome. "Champion has been with me for over a year now and I am



constantly bowled over by his cuteness, charm and sweetness. He is the absolute best. I didn't want a third cat but he found me for a reason and I am so glad he did. I'm so thankful to KAR for making it possible for him to be able to live his life to the fullest. I wanted to give back to animals and the rescue that made it possible to have this wonderful little guy in my life, and I am now a KAR volunteer, too!" 🐾



"Champion sleeps with his limbs sticking straight out in the air and it makes me laugh every time."