

# KALAMAZOO ANIMAL RESCUE

## KAR Friends.....

Summer 2018 Edition

### A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT

By Ken Fischer

Dear fellow supporters of Kalamazoo Animal Rescue:

As the new president of KAR, I would like to tell you about a few of the exciting things going on in our rescue. We have begun renovations to our office, especially to the areas where some of our cats are housed awaiting adoption. We have made the cat rooms brighter and more organized, providing not only comfortable surroundings for the cats but also a nice place for our potential adopters to visit. We are especially proud of our wall of helping hands, which we hope will eventually include hand prints from all of our volunteers.

We have also been able to establish a vet-approved clinic and hire an in-house veterinarian. This allows us to perform spays and neuters right here in the office and to provide some necessary medical

services to all of our cats. We've also been able to make arrangements with a local kennel to take in some of our rescue dogs, enabling us to help more of our canine friends as well.

While we have made vast improvements, we still have a ways to go to fulfill the dreams of our generous donors and volunteers. We would like to thank all of you for your continued support to the rescue and we are delighted to invite you to visit our office any Monday, Wednesday, or Friday, when we have office hours from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.

Thank you all for all you do!

~ Ken

*KAR Friends* is an 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 copy, go to our website and subscribe today!



Helping Hands wall at the KAR office

### DOG HAPPY TAIL ~ KIMBER By Renée Daudert

Late in 2017, a handsome Lab (now known as Kimber) had been found as a stray and turned in to Calhoun County Animal Center. He was a older dog, probably around six years old, super sweet and a bit underweight. Perhaps his age was why he just wasn't getting a lot of attention at CCAC. When CCAC notified Kalamazoo Animal Rescue that they were over capacity, KAR's dog team stepped right in. Renée, Kimber's foster mom, soon realized he was the perfect dog in every way, comfortable with other dogs, a quick learner, and eager to please. After just under a month in his foster home, Kimber found his perfect forever family.

Kimber's adopters, Dawn and Gary, took him to their own vet, who said that he had most likely been used as a hunting dog, judging by his scars, and might have been abandoned when he was no longer much use in the field. How fortunate that he ended up at Calhoun County and then Kalamazoo Animal Rescue—and now with his new family! Kimber's mom sends many updates and photos of him enjoying life with his mom, dad, and two golden retriever brothers and shepherd mix sister. Here is a recent update from his happy adopter:

"Renée, I believe that someone fits right in to our family. He loves sleeping in the chair with me. He doesn't care if his brothers or sister are up there with him or on him. He loves playing in the snow with them. He even started giving me kisses when I come home from work at the back door. He is a (continued on next page)

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love bug for sure. I hope this makes your heart warm for the day!!”



**Kimber and Friends:** Kimber is to the left, with the tie that doesn't say "Kiss Me, I'm Irish!"

Thank you to Dawn and Gary and ALL of our wonderful adopters from all of us at KAR! 🐾

### Adoption Statistics

So far this year, KAR has placed 242 cats and 26 dogs into loving and permanent homes. In 2017, KAR placed 625 cats and 78 dogs into permanent homes.

### 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.

### 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](http://www.kalamazooanimalrescue.org)

## BUILDING THE FUTURE FOR KAR

By Karren Jensen

Kalamazoo Animal Rescue was founded in 1991 and has passed its first quarter-century of caring for needy animals in southwest Michigan. Throughout our existence as an organization, the overarching goal has been to provide the best care possible for needy and at-risk cats and dogs. As we dream about the future, building on our years of service to the community, we at the rescue look forward to even better opportunities to fulfill our mission and build a legacy of quality care for our furry friends.

Recently KAR has embarked on a long-range plan to improve our ability to give the dogs and puppies, cats and kittens who come to us from a variety of situations a second chance for "happily ever after." A few months ago I had a conversation with Hisham Saleh, our treasurer and an avid volunteer, about this vision for KAR's future. Many of the ideas he shared with me are already coming to fruition and additional opportunities have also occurred to expand our ability to bring hope to pets in need. Here are some highlights of our dreams for KAR and how they have been realized.

Although KAR originally functioned as a home-based rescue, with all

our dogs and cats cared for in foster homes, that model has limited how many animals we can help. The implementation of Kitty Kamp in our office facility offered an opportunity to house even more cats, while partnership with Derspinna Kennels provided the ability to take in a larger number of dogs. Kitty Kamp has



**Kitten room at the KAR office**

evolved slowly and its expansion has depended on donations of equipment and supplies. One of our dreams for the future included a plan to remodel the office and to provide space within the office that was more organized and easier to maintain. This has actually taken shape over the past few months, with improved housing and storage areas to support our in-house cat population. Whether in a cage or in one of our community rooms, each cat is given a clean, comfortable area to call home with plenty of fresh water and nutritious food. Quarantine space has also been created to separate cats with contagious illnesses from the general population.

Another goal was to reduce our medical care costs; and this, too, has come to fruition. One of our smaller rooms, which had formerly housed just a few cats, has been converted into a medical service facility, with care provided by our in-house veterinarian, Dr. Kathleen Corbett. Dr. Corbett's professional expertise has greatly enhanced our ability to provide treatment in the office, including spay/neuter surgeries. All the equipment needed to provide the sterile instruments for surgery has been installed and the medical room is kept secure. Any assistance provided by adult volunteers is directed by Dr. Corbett, who also supervises training.

### Connect with KAR



Like us on FACEBOOK!



**Diego\***

Volunteers do the cleaning to ensure a safe and sterile surgical and medical care environment and handle other simple but vital tasks.

Under the visionary leadership of our new president, Ken Fischer, and our Board of Directors, we are moving toward a bright future in which KAR's dedicated volunteers can put your donations to work even more effectively to save the lives of our canine and feline friends. Every pet deserves a second chance at a good home and our mission is to give that chance to as many furry friends as we possibly can! Thank you so much for your commitment to animal welfare and for making it possible for us to rescue, care for, and re-home hundreds of pets every year. 🐾

**All pets shown with an asterisk(\*) are adoptable at the time of the design of this publication. If interested in meeting them, please check our website!**

### CAT HAPPY TAILS: BILLY BOB and WANDA By Kara Harmsen

When Kara, a foster for Kalamazoo Animal Rescue, was contacted by another volunteer who had found kittens by her apartment, she promptly took them. Both were very social and loving right from the start. Kara's eight-year-old son promptly named them Dorito (a beautiful calico girl) and Chocolate Chip (a super-cute black guy). Days later the kittens became lethargic with awfully high fevers and Kara rushed them to the vet to get meds and special food. After a few days, both kittens recovered and were ready to be adopted.

Luckily, someone wonderful took notice of the kittens from the cute photos Kara had posted. As the adopter says: "When the last of my four children decided to move out and live on her own, she planned to take her two cats with her. The prospect of not having a cat or two in my life was unfathomable. I've had cats, or they've had me, my entire life. So when I saw on my friend Kara's Facebook page that she was fostering two kittens and looking for a home for them, I jumped at the chance. I am so glad I did. Wanda (formerly Dorito) and Billy Bob (formerly Chocolate Chip) have been a welcome and fun addition to my household. I have an eight-year-old golden retriever who absolutely loves them. When I first brought them home,



**Billy Bob and friend**

the dog stood by them as if protecting them. The kittens love him as well and many times I will come home to see them sleeping or playing together! Animal adoption is important not only for the animals, but for the people who do the adopting. I am so happy to have them in my life!" 🐾



**Lucy\***

I want to support KAR and give hope to homeless animals. A tax-deductible donation of \$20 can buy cat or dog food, \$50 purchases vaccines, and \$100 pays for one dog or two 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 • PO Box 3295 • Kalamazoo, MI 49003

## DINNER AUCTION 2018

Winnie\*



FOOD, FUN, DRINK, SILENT AUCTIONS  
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Please Join Us

3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, November 11, 2018

at the Gull Lake Country Club

9725 West Gull Lake Drive

Richland, Michigan

Dinner and Entertainment begin at 5:00 p.m.

**Seating is limited and by reservation only.**

Tickets are \$50 if reserved  
by September 30, 2018, \$55 if reserved  
after. Visa and Mastercard Accepted.

Lance\*



For Reservations Call: 269.547.7277

### Community Fundraising Efforts

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

- Alaskan Brewing
- Chow Hound
- The Kendall Group
- MVPets
- Sprinkle Road Tap House

KAR would also like to extend special thanks to our many individual and family donors.

**FOSTERING SAVES LIVES!**

