

KAR Friends

January 2012



Dear Reader,

Happy 2012! To get the new year off to a good start, we are offering 10 tips to help keep your pets active during the winter months. Our animal spotlight shines on Ice, an abandoned cat that has found refuge in KAR but is still waiting for his forever home. This month, we also share heartwarming stories of two dogs and three cats that are living the good life after being adopted into loving homes.

Danielle Wallis
Marketing Coordinator

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P.S. Here is a friendly reminder to dog owners in Kalamazoo County that you have until March 1st to renew or obtain a license for your canine pal. For more information, [click here](#) or call Kalamazoo County Animal Services & Enforcement at 269.383.8775.

Winter Activities for Pets

By Danielle Wallis

It is January and that means SNOW. Not only can this induce the winter blues in humans but pets too! Here are some tips from for keeping your furry kids stimulated and active in the winter months, which can be fun for people too. Before you know it, it will be spring!

Winter Fun for Dogs



1. Hide and Seek – Is a great way to entertain your pooch and get the whole family involved. You can either train your pet to stay on their own or with another family member whilst you hide or you can leave a trail of treats to help them find you.

2. Doggy Day Care – If you are not able to get out and about with your pet as much as you would like during the

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day, then consider getting them into day care while you work. They get to play with other dogs and will be all tuckered out by the time you collect them. Here are a few options in the area:

- Pet Vet 269.382.6200
 - Camp Fido 269.544.1520
 - Paws and Claws 269.344.0431
3. Play Dates – Not just for kids! Why not invite your friends over and have them bring their dog too. As long as the pets all get along, it can be a great experience for the animals to romp and play.
 4. New Toys – Why not treat your dog to some new toys and treats for the New Year? Puzzle your dog with some [tricky treat ideas](#).
 5. Teach Fido Something New – Why not teach your dog something new to add to their repertoire of tricks and practice them every day? You can even play fetch (carefully) indoors or set up some agility obstacles in your front room or basement to challenge them.

Winter Fun for Cats



1. Toys – Cats may not like toys as much as dogs do but they still like to chase a good mouse or a stick with a toy on the end. Set aside some time each night to play with your feline and their toys. Laser pointers and even bubbles are great fun for cats.
2. Cardboard Boxes – Something so simple can provide hours of entertainment for cats young and old, and there are usually a few lying around this time of the year. Cats love jumping in and out of them. You could even construct tunnels for your felines to run through.
3. Bird Feeders – Placed outside near a window are nice for cats to watch throughout the day and is a great source of entertainment. Plus there are plenty of birds in the winter months that would be grateful for some extra nutrition.
4. New Cat Tree – Cats love to climb up high and it will be a nice investment for your cat. You can spend anywhere between \$50 and \$300 depending on where you shop, or why not build your own from these [ideas](#).
5. Wheat Grass – Is not only a great source of nutrition for your cat but they love it too. You can buy it at most pet stores either fully grown or purchase seeds to plant yourself. Learn more [here](#). Your cat will appreciate it! .

OUR SPONSORS

(click the ads to visit their websites)



Behind the Scenes

Animal Spotlight ~ Ice

By Danielle Wallis



Much of 2011 was spent living outside and homeless, but it was finally time for Ice to have a new beginning. In August, KAR received a request from a lady living in an apartment complex near Oakland Drive. She was concerned about a cat she had been caring for but could not keep. The feline was declawed and living outside. He crossed a busy road everyday to get to her house for food. It is unclear how he ended up homeless, but our guess is that this friendly guy was left behind by

his family. He had been an indoor cat at one point because he was declawed. Without claws, catching meals was difficult and defending himself near impossible. Fortunately, this guy was resourceful and clever enough to find the caring woman and arrive safely at her house for daily meals.

The cat team members of the rescue knew they had to act. Once space opened up in a foster home, a volunteer collected Ice and brought him home. It is always a concern when you bring a cat into the rescue what kind of pet they will make. KAR evaluates all animals but it isn't clear what their temperament and personality are until you get them into your home and observe them for awhile.

Ice's foster family had his room ready with food, water and warmth. After a few hours to settle in on his own they checked on him to find that he was peaceful and calm. It was then that the big tough guy softened and finally allowed himself to relax. You could see the stress and worry of surviving outside leave his little body. He relaxed so much that he fell asleep and snored right there on his bed! Finally, Ice had been rescued. He no longer had to worry about danger or where he would get his next meal. It was evident that Ice was grateful to be loved once more. This is the reason we foster and rescue, and our greatest reward.

Ice is waiting for his happy ever after. If you are interested in reading more about him and to complete an adoption application to meet him, [click here](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS

- January 21st, Petco
- January 28th, Petco
- February 4th, Crossroads Mall
- February 11th, PetSmart *

* This is a [PetSmart Charities®](#) National Adoption Weekend event to support saving the lives of homeless pets. Meet or adopt a KAR dog or cat on this date and you will receive some great incentives as a new pet adopter.

Doggie Den

Two Is Better Than One

By Cisco and Daisy Austin

Sometimes when people start researching for a new furry friend with KAR, more than one cat or dog entices them. This story is told by two dogs adopted into their forever home and in their own words.

Hola! My name is Cisco, and I've been adopted. I am a purebred Chihuahua, about eight years young. It's hard to remember now, but I think I first lived with an older lady who called me Squirt. When she couldn't take care of me anymore, I went to live with her daughter's family and they had big scary dogs. That didn't work out very well, so they approached Kalamazoo Animal Rescue about taking me in.

My worries soon went away when Tom and Melanie became my foster parents. They were wonderful to me, and I started to hope that I would soon find my forever home. Tom called me "Mr. Nice" and let me sit on his lap. Melanie is a very talented photographer, and she took my picture for the KAR website.

In November 2009, David and Gail Austin were very sad because their beloved Chihuahua, Bambi, had passed away. They decided to be very sensible and not have any more dogs, but they were both



secretly looking at rescue websites without telling each other. When they saw my picture, they decided that life without a little companion was not for them and they filled out the application to adopt me. After being approved by KAR

and meeting face to face, I went home with them to start my new life with a cool new name, Cisco. My new Dad is retired, so I get lots of attention and am never lonely. Also, in March 2010, Dad and Mom adopted my pesky little sister, Daisy. I'll let her share her own story.

Hi! My name is Miss Daisy, and I am about four-and-a-half years young. They call me a "Yorkie mix," but I don't really know what the mix part is. I have soft wavy fur and I don't shed at all, but I need to be groomed every six weeks or I disappear into my fur! I really don't remember much about how I ended up at the shelter, but I was very scared and lonely there. I was adopted by a nice lady but that didn't work out so she contacted Kalamazoo Animal Rescue and they took me in. Tom and Melanie became my foster parents.

When David and Gail went away on vacation, they left Cisco with us, and I liked Cisco right away. Tom sent emails to David and Gail, telling them how much fun Cisco was having, and I made sure I was in the photos of us walking and having fun together. It must have

PETS OF THE MONTH



[Nancy](#)



[Scooter](#)

See all of our adoptable [Cats](#), [Dogs](#) and [Kittens](#)!

worked, because when they came back to pick up Cisco, they adopted me, too!

I am so happy now--I love being home all day with Dad, and I bark with joy when I hear my Mom's car turn in the driveway after work. I am learning fun new tricks like "sit" and "shake." My Mom thinks I am adorably cute, and I have lots of squeaky toys to play with. My favorite spot is on the family room sofa with my squishy pillow. Cisco and I both want to thank KAR, and especially Tom and Melanie, for helping both of us to find our forever home.

Cat's Corner

From Trash to Treasure

By Karren Jensen

One man's trash is another man's treasure. This old saying often proves true when it comes to pets, particularly in the case of Wooby, Weena and Marie. Their happy ever after came at the end of a very difficult start in life. Wooby, Weena and sister, Willow, were born in a barn to a feral mother and threatened with extermination when they were just a few weeks old. The kittens were underdeveloped when they entered KAR and had to be carefully nurtured and even taught to walk. The three little fur balls proved to be resilient and soon began going to adoption events.

During one of these events, Steven and his children Zoe and Brendan fell in love with these once cast-off kittens. They wanted to adopt all three siblings but Willow was already spoken for so they directed their love toward Wooby and Weena. The furry brother and sister had to wait because their new family was not able to take them yet. Steven's busy work and travel schedule necessitated many weekend visits with foster mom, Holly to bond with the kittens. Meanwhile, another drama was playing out that would impact the family.

Marie was just a couple of days old when someone dumped her in the back seat of an unoccupied car. She was found by the car's startled owner who surrendered her to KAR. Shortly before Marie's arrival, a young pregnant cat, Ave Maria, was hit by a car and gave birth prematurely. She lost all of her kittens but was able to recuperate in foster care with Holly. Baby Marie had very little chance of survival due to her young age. Ave Maria began to produce milk and fed the tiny kitten, giving her the nutrition she needed to survive. Steven and his children found little Marie irresistible and adopted her along with Wooby and Weena. They took the kittens home as soon as they could settle into a stable routine.



KAR LINKS

- [Volunteer](#)
- Become a [foster family](#)
- [Senior Cat Companions](#)
- KAR [Website](#)



Make a [donation](#) and help KAR help animals!

Each kitten has a unique personality, as demonstrated by a recent bath-time adventure. Steven tackled bathing the kittens when they were in particular need of cleaning. The girls protested loudly but easy going Wooby didn't make a peep. Instead he just reached up and turned off the water when he had had enough. Steven was astonished and not sure that Wooby had performed this feat on purpose. When Wooby reached up two more times to turn off the water after the flow had resumed, it became clear that he knew exactly what he was doing. Perhaps Weena and Marie will look to big brother Wooby to lend a helping paw at their next bath session. Steven and the children look forward to many years of such adventures with their treasured felines.

CONTACT US

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Rescue

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

Visit our [website](#)

Special Thanks



Kalamazoo Animal Rescue extends a special thank you to Ellee, a 10-year old animal lover. She recently celebrated a birthday and in lieu of presents, she asked her guests to bring donations to benefit the rescue.

Ellee managed to gather 87 cans of cat food, 65 pounds of dry cat food, eight bags of treats, lots and lots of toys, 22 pounds of kitty litter, about two dozen bowls and food scoops (brand new), two scratching pads, and one kitten play cube. When asked why she decided to do this, Ellee replied, "I have enough things. I would rather donate to some animals that need it!"

The rescue greatly appreciates the generosity Ellee and her friends have shown which will help to make many animals very happy and content while they wait to be adopted.



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.

