

KAR Friends February 2013



Dear Reader,

Happy Valentines. Roses are red, violets are blue, your support helps us so thank you!

This month's edition is filled to the brim but it is important to note that **February 26th is [World Spay Day](#)**! The over population of cats and dogs is something we must not ignore. According to [AnimalKind](#), **50,000 puppies and kittens are born every day** in this country. The only way we can combat the problem is to focus on our city, one cat and dog at a time. There are many ways that you can help and you can read more in this edition.

Whether you have a pampered pooch, mangy mutt, frisky feline or purring princess, we know you love your pets and care about the work we do. Please forward this month's edition to as many friends and family you can as a Valentine from KAR. Then maybe we can help prevent more animals dying needlessly due to over population and find homes for these precious pets.

Thank you,

Danielle Wallis
Marketing Coordinator

Lynn Bolhuis
KAR Friends Editor

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, contact [Kalamazoo County Animal Services & Enforcement](#) at 269.383.8775.

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Spay and Neuter Day

Celebrate Pets on February 26th

By Kim Bourner

There are many days in February set aside for special events: the 2nd is Groundhog's Day, the 10th is Chinese New Years, the 14th is Valentine's Day, the third Monday is President's Day, and the 22nd is Washington's birthday. There is also a day to honor our pets: the 26th is [World Spay Day](#).

See Past Issues of
KAR Friends
HERE

As responsible pet caretakers, we express love for our furry friends in many ways. February honors the very best gift we can give to our beloved pets. To spay or neuter our companion animals is to give them health, happiness and harmony. All can be backed up with



WORLD SPAY DAY
2013



medical evidence of reduced cancer risk, less veterinary visits, and reduced desire to fight for territory.

Another reason to spay or neuter your cat or dog is to help the community. Each spring the local rescues, including KAR, are flooded with requests to take in litters of kittens and sometimes puppies. A single cat can have three litters per year, and if those litters are an average of four kittens per litter, one unsprayed female could produce 180 kittens in her lifetime. Where will they all live and who will care for them? In the end, it is the community no matter whether it is volunteers, neighbors, or devoted foster parents.

How can you have your cat or dog spayed (female) or neutered (male)? Call your local veterinarian for an appointment. If there is financial difficulty or low income is a concern, the [Michigan Humane Society](#) offers assistance. Also check out the [Michigan spay neuter map](#) for potential support.

Please consider giving this gift for your pet and your community.

Local Assistance

[Kalamazoo Humane Society](#) — Provides spay/neuter services through their Operation Fix-It program. Visit their website or call 269.345.1181 for details.

[Animal's Best Friend](#) — For pets living in Kalamazoo and Van Buren counties, ABF provides small subsidies at particular veterinary clinics each month. Visit their website or call 269.624.1090 for details.

Additional Resources

- [Kitten spay neuter facts](#)
- [Spay/neuter facts](#)

7 Facts about Cat and Dog Overpopulation

1. [Pet overpopulation](#) is the leading killer of cats and dogs in our country.
2. An estimated 3.7 million animals are euthanized in animal shelters each year across the United States.
3. 84% of owned cats and 72% of owned dogs are already spayed or neutered.

OUR SPONSORS

(click the ads to visit their websites)

Camp Ravenwood Kennels

 Boarding for Dogs, Cats and most other small animals
(269) 375-9606
www.CampRavenwood.com

Timberwood Crossing APARTMENTS

 A pet friendly community located in the heart of Portage with uniquely spacious floor plans
 6285 Ivywood Dr. Ph: 269.323.1706
 Portage, MI 49024 Fax: 269.323.9930

REO Specialists llc

 FREE list of foreclosures at www.REOmamma.com
 Richard Stewart «PRO
 914 S Burdick St
 Kalamazoo MI 49001
 Direct: (269) 345-7000
 Fax: (269) 585-5922
Richard@2693457000.com

4. The majority of pet overpopulation comes from unaltered pets living in low-income neighborhoods.
5. Fifty thousand puppies and kittens are born every day in our country.
6. U.S. taxpayers spend up to \$2 billion each year on services to collect, house, destroy and dispose of unwanted animals.
7. One cat or dog is euthanized every eight seconds!

5 Tips on How to Care for Your Newly Altered Pet and Video Links

1. While the cat or dog is at the veterinarian’s office, [prepare the home](#) for their return
2. [Collect the cat or dog](#) from the veterinarian and help them in and out of the car. Keep the car ride to a minimum to help prevent them moving around too much and damaging the incision.
3. They will need a clean and dry place inside the house to recover and prevent infection.
4. Give them a comfortable bed in a quiet area of the home.
5. Cats should be given a litter box on the floor in the quiet area so that they do not have to jump or climb stairs.

UPCOMING ADOPTION EVENTS

- February 23rd, Petco
- March 2nd and 16th, Petco
- March 9th, PetSmart

Visit the [Events](#) page on our website for upcoming adoption and other special events

WELCOME NEW KAR VOLUNTEER

Shannon Knake

Behind the Scenes

Our Homeless Valentine Pets

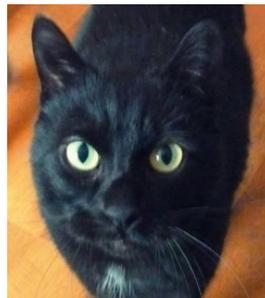


Rosie

Well [Rosie](#) is not red or blue but she is a beautiful terrier mix just waiting for you! This one-year old little bundle of joy is no more than 20 pounds! Rosie does great with other dogs and humans, but she is not too fond of the feline species! She is loving and playful and ready for her forever home. Rosie is spayed, up-to-date on all of her shots, microchipped and crate trained!

Pepper

You don’t need to look for your Romeo. He’s here. Meet [Pepper](#) who is ready to be your Valentine for the rest of his years. This sweet, gentle, young man will give you tiny kisses on your fingers! He is declawed, neutered and up-to-date with his shots. He is an all-round fantastic cat—great with everyone!



Doggie Den

Prostate Problems in Male Dogs

By Danielle Wallis



Meet Teddy, a five-year old purebred, Cocker Spaniel. Up until last year this working dog was fully intact. His owners did not plan to breed him but they did not want to neuter him until unless he began to have issues. Teddy frequently scooted his bottom along the ground, but did not have worms. When he was taken to the vet for his annual checkup they noticed he was sore around his rear. Upon further investigation they found that his anal glands were full to bursting and infected. The glands needed to be emptied under general anesthetic and the vet also

explored with a camera to find that his prostate was enlarged. The veterinarian advised the best thing would be to castrate Teddy. This would lower his testosterone levels and reduce inflammation. Thankfully this was not too severe but if left untreated, it might have been.

Like Teddy, many unneutered male dogs suffer with various kinds of problems, such as prostate enlargement and infections, especially as they age. The same can be said for dogs that have been sterilized. While neutering does not stop your dog from developing canine prostate cancer it can reduce risks. Sterilization does prevent [testicular cancers](#).

There are various types of canine prostate cancer and the cause is unknown. According to the [Natural Dogs Health Remedies](#) website, owners should “watch out for these symptoms if you have a male dog, especially an older dog:

1. **Urination Problems:** A dog with prostate cancer has difficulty urinating. He has to strain to urinate and has to urinate frequently. You may find blood in his urine. Sometimes you may also see blood or pus dripping from the dog’ penis.
2. **Bowel Problems:** A dog with prostate cancer may also suffer from constipation. Quite often, you will see the dog straining during bowel movements.
3. **Gait Abnormality:** If a dog has prostate cancer, he will walk unnaturally. His steps are short and his rear legs are stiff.
4. **Other Systemic Problems:** Other problems are rather indistinct, and may include fever, weakness, and lethargy.”

It is clear that unless a dog owner has plans to breed they should neuter their male dogs as a cancer prevention strategy. The benefits far out way the risks as these surgeries are routine. Always discuss the options with your pet’s veterinarian.

PETS OF THE MONTH



[Clarabelle](#)



[Rosie](#)

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

Cat's Corner

Flynn's Neuter Saga

By Karren Jensen



How many surgeries are needed to neuter a male kitten? If you answered "just one," then you might be surprised to learn that for Flynn the answer to this question was "three." How on earth could it take three tries to neuter one little kitten? Buckle your seatbelt because Flynn's life story is quite a bumpy ride!

Flynn and his siblings were brought into KAR when they were just a couple of months old. They were born to a barn cat and then were moved to a garage where they were fed dry adult cat food. The little kittens were unable to digest this new diet and were literally starving when they came into KAR. Unfortunately, one of the kittens did not survive in spite of much love and care.

Flynn and his sister, Rosie, needed extra TLC so they were transferred to my foster home where they could receive my full attention. Feeding these tiny ones five times a day on high quality kitten food soon brought them up to a healthy weight. As they passed the 12 weeks mark they were ready for their spay and neuter surgeries. Rosie came through her surgery with flying colors and soon went to a new home but Flynn's surgery brought a surprise. The doctor could only find one testicle to remove so Flynn was scheduled for an additional abdominal surgery two weeks later to remove the missing testicle, probably still inside his body. This condition, cryptorchidism, is caused when a male kitten's testicle fails to migrate from inside his body to his scrotum as he matures through the early stages of growth. Although common in puppies, this is a rather rare occurrence in kittens.

The second neuter surgery was completed but the results were uncertain as the testicular tissue was not positively identified during surgery. Flynn returned to his foster home with the warning that he might still not be fully neutered. "See how he develops" was the doctor's advice along with the warning that if he started to show signs of being an intact male as he approached his first birthday, he would need another surgery. Flynn's life continued to be a bit rocky as he fought bouts of giardia, coccidia and roundworms, but he continued to grow and soon had won a place in our hearts. We decided to adopt this beautiful boy rather than putting him up for adoption as a "special needs" kitten.



KAR LINKS

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



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

When Flynn was about 13 months old he suddenly started spraying and trying to mate with our spayed female cat. He earned himself a trip to the vet where his status as a maturing male was confirmed. This time around, surgery was performed by a certified veterinary surgeon and astonishingly, she located the missing testicle in Flynn's right hind leg. Removal of this errant organ was unfortunately accompanied by damage to Flynn's leg and resulted in some long-term disability. Overall, Flynn is a happy and beautiful cat who loves his people and his adopted brother and sister. Flynn has been and continues to be the joy of our lives. Don't let fear of medical problems discourage you from adopting a kitten or cat you love. He has been worth every penny!

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.



CONTACT US

Kalamazoo Animal
Rescue

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Kalamazoo, MI 49003

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

Visit our [website](#)