



KAR Friends ~ February 2018

Dear Reader;

February is the month of love ... Celebrations sometimes involve flowers and chocolates – not to be shared with our pets (which is handy because some of us are not good about sharing) – and maybe the odd bit of jewelry. Of course you can present your four-legged friend with a diamond collar, but for this issue of *KAR Friends* we're focusing on more practical forms of demonstrating affection.

Since **February is also Spay/Neuter Month**, we'll start there. As Karren Jensen explains, one of the best ways you can show your love for your pet is to be sure that he or she, ummm, doesn't litter. Our Cat's Corner and Doggie Den highlight something else you can do, if you are able to – adopt a new friend (or two)!

There are so many homeless cats and dogs who are eager to shower you and your family with love, all the months of the year!

Please feel free to share this issue with friends and family. We appreciate your continued support of KAR's mission to help homeless, stray, and abandoned cats and dogs. Together we make a difference!

Sincerely,

Pat Hollahan
KAR Friends Editor

The Gift Of Love For Every Pet



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- [Doggie Den](#)
- [Cat's Corner](#)

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Pets of the Month



By Karren Jensen

Even after we've put away the Valentine's Day hearts and boxes of candy (which we have been careful not to share with our pets!), February is a time when we think about love: families, friends, and even pets are the focus of our affections.



A card or gift says to the recipient that you care about their happiness and want them to feel cherished. **So how do we tell our furry family members how much we care about them?** A new toy, extra treats, or some extra bonding time come to mind, and those are all great ways to make the fur people in your life feel very special. There is another way you can also say "I love you" to your own dear canine or feline friends and to the other pets looking for loving homes. Supporting routine spay or neuter procedures for every pet helps to control the overpopulation problem and to ensure that every companion animal has a chance at a loving home. Here are some facts to keep in mind:

- Start with your own pet(s) and commit to spay/neuter every furbaby in your care. This says "I love you and want you to live a long and healthy life." Your pet has no need or expectation to have offspring to be happy and fulfilled. In fact, spayed or neutered pets live much longer and healthier lives. You are not depriving you companion dog or cat of anything except future health problems if you have him/her surgically sterilized to prevent unwanted pregnancy.
- The pet overpopulation problem in the U.S. has improved over the past several decades but there are still far too many healthy animals euthanized in shelters because there just aren't enough loving

Read [Twixy's](#) Story



Read [Candy's](#) Story

Upcoming Events

· February 24 ; MVPets

Please check the [KAR homepage](#) for other events as they are announced

KAR Links

- [VOLUNTEER](#)
- [Become a Foster Family](#)
- [Adoptable Dogs](#)
- [Adoptable Cats](#)
- [Adoptable Kittens](#)
- [Special Needs Pets](#)
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homes to adopt every puppy or kitten born and abandoned by pet owners who failed to prevent pregnancy in their pet(s). Although many people want to ignore the problem and pretend that the kittens or puppies they dump or take to an animal shelter will find a good home, the reality is much different. There are heartbreaking stories for every "surplus" pet rescued and too many sad endings. Please don't contribute to this tragedy.

If you have room in your home and your life for a shelter pet, by all means adopt a companion in need. You will be rewarded with unconditional love that lasts a lifetime and the gratitude of a precious furry friend. If you already have all of the pets you can personally support, consider donating your time and money to supporting pet rescue organizations like [Kalamazoo Animal Rescue](#). Together we can help end the suffering and give "happily ever after" stories to so many lovely animals.

Despite the grim realities, the good news is that this is a problem we can solve by working together and making a commitment to ending pet overpopulation. Let's make every month a month of love and say "I love pets" by supporting spay/neuter for all companion animals.

Additional Resources:

- [Benefits of spaying/neutering](#)
- [Pet overpopulation](#)

Doggie Den

Mimi The Marvelous



By Pat Hollahan

Mimi is a sweet senior terrier-mix gal who's mostly blind at this point but isn't letting that keep her from enjoying life with her foster mom, Dusty. Dusty recognized Mimi's potential when she saw her at the Kalamazoo County Animal Shelter, where she was big

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favorite, and brought her home for some pre-adoption spiffing up.

Mimi has settled in very well in her foster home and now has a regular daily routine: coming out of her crate in the morning, dashing around the yard, getting breakfast and snuggles, going back outside—kind of like “eat, play, repeat” ...



Her low vision doesn't seem to slow her down at all! According to Dusty: “Mimi is amazing in the way she gets around. Once she knew the area she just high-tailed it around like she could see. At first she bumped into some things but it didn't take her long to just use her nose. She dashes out, takes a fast run around the fenced-in area, jumps in the air, then rolls in the snow and kicks it with her hind legs. She gives lots of kisses. The way she acts is absolutely a dog that loves life and people.”

And the really good news is that Mimi's eyesight can probably be improved by surgery, according to her veterinarian. (For a happy story about corrective eye surgery, [see Polly's Happy Tail](#) in our Spring 2017 special appeal.)

If you would like to know more about Mimi or arrange to meet her, please [check out her webpage](#). She'd love to meet you!

Cat's Corner

True Love: Delta and Penelope



By Kim Bourner and Pat Hollahan

Introducing KAR's own pair of (formerly!) star-crossed lovers—Delta and Penelope.

Delta is a loving and friendly tuxedo gentleman who came from a hoarder's collection and has some scars to show for it. He lost an eye to a bad infection, an unfortunate side effect of the cruelty and neglect suffered by hoarded animals. He is also FIV positive but gets along well with other cats (especially his one true love, Penelope) and can live many years as a dear kitty friend in a caring environment. (For more information about FIV positive cats, [click here](#).) This sweet guy is always grateful for attention.



Penelope is a lovely gray and white lady who came from a home that had 113 cats in it, so she is ready to have a place of her own (preferably with her special guy). She is a bit more reserved than Delta but is happy to have people come by and pet her.

These two cats love to snuggle together on the couch, snoozing the time away and enjoying each other's company. Coming from hoarding situations, they've both had a rough start in life. As glad as they are to have found refuge—and each other—in KAR, they'd really appreciate having a home and family of their own.

[Delta](#) and [Penelope](#) live at Kzoo Cat Cafe. If you'd like to learn more about them or schedule a time to get to know them, please check out their webpages or [Kzoo Cat Cafe](#).

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.



Visit our website [here](#) for more KAR information!



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