



KAR Friends ~ March 2017

Dear Reader;

Despite our current return to winter, we know that spring is just around the corner (again! really!), which means . . . spring cleaning. Whatever may be your level of commitment to this enterprise (we won't discuss mine), you'll find handy tips in our spring-cleaning article by Anna Kushner. And if the weather has you down a bit, your spirits will be lifted by Luna's and Rusty's happy tails!

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

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3 Simple Ways To Spring Clean For Your Pet



By Anna Kushner

We all love our pets, but throughout the year they can build up quite a mess throughout the house! We know you are busy with your life and don't always have time to clean up after your furry friend, but what better time to clean than spring? **So, here are three simple ways to spring clean for your furry companion.**

1. **Bedding:** Your pet's bedding builds up lots of dust, dirt, and grime over time. According to the American Cleaning Institute, cat bedding should be cleaned once a week. Remove the cover and run it through the washing machine and dryer according to care instructions. Make sure to wash in cold water, use a mild laundry detergent (without dyes or fragrance) and add a cup of baking soda to help neutralize odor. Using at least one pet-safe dryer sheet will



Pets of the Month



Read [Lucy's](#) Story



Read [Betsy's](#) Story

Upcoming Events

- March 18 & 25; PetSmart
- March 19; MVPets
- March 25; Kalamazoo County Expo Center
- April 1, 8, & 15; PetSmart

KAR Links

- [VOLUNTEER](#)
- [Become a Foster Family](#)
- [Adoptable Dogs](#)

reduce static electricity and remove even more hair. Also, if bedding appears dirty no matter how much you clean it, it may be time to get a new bed for your furry friend.

Spring Cleaning Tips for Pet Owners



2. Toys: Much like bedding, your dog's toys need to be washed regularly as well. Soft toys can be put in the washing machine; ideally in a garment bag. Make sure to line dry them or put them in the dryer inside a pillowcase so they don't get destroyed. Hard toys should be hand-washed in the sink, preferably with a 50/50 solution of water and white vinegar. However, an easy alternative is to put your hound's toys in the dishwasher. While cleaning toys, it's also a good time to organize them into keep, donate, or toss piles to further declutter and pass some of your companion's less-loved toys to other pets to enjoy.
3. Grooming: During the winter your pet's hair may grow out to accommodate the cold weather. Spring is the perfect time to pamper your pup with a trip to the groomer! You can further keep up with your companion's cleanliness by giving her frequent dry baths which, unlike over-bathing, won't cause dry skin which can result in itching and flaking. First, brush her out to loosen dead hair, dirt, and debris. Continue by wiping her down with a towel spritzed with a 50/50 mixture of apple cider vinegar and water. Rubbing baking soda on your pet afterwards will neutralize the smell of the vinegar. Let it sit for a couple minutes and then brush it off. Follow up by applying lavender oil between your dog's shoulder blades, which will not only keep her smelling clean but also soothe her central nervous system and keep fleas and ticks at bay.

These are some simple ways to spring into the new season with your furry friend!

Additional Resources:

- [Spring cleaning for cats](#)
- [Four DIY homemade cleaners that are safe for dogs](#)
- [The 10 best cleaning products that are safe \(and effective\) for your dog](#)
- [Spring cleaning tips for dog owners](#)

- [Adoptable Cats](#)
- [Adoptable Kittens](#)
- [Special Needs Pets](#)
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Doggie Den

Lovely Luna



By Erica Holbert



My husband, Jimmy, and I have always talked about getting a dog but wanted to wait until renovations on our home were nearing an end.

We also knew we needed to make sure we found a puppy that would mix well with our two rescued cats, Salem and Bella, and our niece and nephew, who come over frequently.

Before her adoption, Luna and her foster mom, Susan, came to my home for a visit to be sure that she would be comfortable with my home, my cats, and me. I was already in love with her after meeting her at an adoption event but I must say I was quite nervous if she would be as enamored with me as I was with her. Midway through the home visit, after looking around the house and developing a quick mutual respect with my cats, she sat on the couch with Susan and me. Before I knew it she was lying on my lap and falling asleep. It was amazing to know that my gut feeling about our future together might be mutual. Susan even commented that she'd never seen Luna do that with anyone. She lay on me while Susan and I talked until it was time for the two of them to go home.

From the moment she came home to me, Luna has always been at my side. She is my angel. My best friend. Due to his work schedule (he travels across the country, sometimes for a month or two at a time), my husband wasn't able to be able to meet her before the adoption. Thankfully, it only took her a few minutes to warm up to him. Now she loves to sit in "his" La-Z-Boy chair while he is away and plays tug with her toys with him when he is home. She also loves to do a running jump from across the room onto him when he's sitting in the La-Z-Boy to cuddle up!

It has been incredible how quickly she has stolen the hearts of my family and friends. My parents and sisters adore her. My grandparents can't get enough of her. My parents and grandparents live very close to us and Luna loves visiting both their homes while we are out on our daily walks. She is great with my niece and nephew, as well as my friend's kids. She has also become best friends with my sister's dog and our neighbor's dog. Both my cats love her as well. They all lie in bed with me each night. She's a great cuddler!

One of her favorite things is going for long walks, especially

in the woods. She seems to like the water so I can't wait to take her to our lake house up near Charlevoix. Luna also loves to play with her toys. She can nearly pull me across the room with her rope! She's such a curious girl. Luna always wants to check out what everyone is doing, whether it's my dad fixing the TV or my husband tinkering in the garage. She never wants to be left out of anything and loves going on car rides with my husband or me.

Luna has been such an angel for me. She shows me unconditional love, is protective of me, and her kisses always put a smile on my face. I never anticipated how much joy she would bring to my family and me. I am so thankful that Luna and I found each other. It's been such an amazing blessing.

Cat's Corner

Rusty Comes Home



By Karren Jensen

Rusty is a lovely pale orange boy who became a KAR rescue kitty when his owner developed a severe and debilitating allergy and reluctantly surrendered this beloved feline to find a new home. The sweet and personable little guy was obviously loved when he came into the KAR office Kitty Kamp

accompanied by a special blanket, toys, a food dish, and other items that are given to a cherished pet by a loving owner. Unfortunately, poor Rusty also had a food sensitivity that had to be addressed with a special diet and he suffered from some health issues until he was provided with the correct special food while he was in KAR care. Happily, Rusty's gastrointestinal problems were addressed and he was able to recover his health and show off his "catitude".



Once Rusty's health was on the mend, he became a great favorite of all his KAR caregivers. He would happily greet each person who attended his needs. My Friday morning cat care time was brightened by Rusty's cheerful chirps of greeting and enthusiastic appetite for his special food. Once feeding was taken care of, Rusty begged for attention and did his "pattycake" routine, kneading the arm or leg of the person stroking his soft fur. Such a perfectly sweet gentleman cat was sure to find a loving home and he soon did.

Rusty's new mom Olivia tells the story best:

"Rusty's adoption profile was spot on. He was described as reticent and when I first met him he paid me no mind. I brought him home that night anyway and, after casing the apartment for ten minutes, he came up to where I was sitting on the floor to pattycake my leg and accept pets. By the time he cuddled with me on the couch later that evening, I already knew that I loved him. He's cuddled with me on the couch every day since.

"Rusty quickly proved himself to be a winsome combination of surly and affectionate. He takes managing the apartment and supervising me very seriously. He greets me at the door when I come home and sometimes I can even hear him meowing or chirping the instant I put my key in the keyhole. When company comes over, he greets them, informs them what the rules of his territory are, and teaches them how to properly pet him.

"When he's not sound asleep on the couch or one of the radiators, he enjoys looking out the window, hunting plush mice, sliding across the floor on a paper bag (he gets a running start and jumps ...), and rolling around with a catnip toy. He's extremely adept at reminding me where the kitchen is. He looks stunning in a bowtie or a tiny hat, and his modeling work recently landed him on the Portage District Library's Facebook page. Bringing Rusty to live with me is one of the best decisions I've ever made."

Rusty is another example of how an adult cat can bring joy to an adopter, and we at KAR are excited to have played a part in this "happily ever after" story.

Special Event

Kalamazoo Reptile Show



Surprise! Thanks to a generous donor, Kalamazoo Animal Rescue will be at the March Kalamazoo Reptile Show, which is held at the county fairgrounds. This is an unusual venue for KAR, so we hope a lot of our friends will come out to see our cats and dogs.

Kalamazoo Reptile Show:
- March 25
- 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- Kalamazoo County Expo Center
[2900 Lake Street](#), Kalamazoo 49048

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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