



KALAMAZOO ANIMAL RESCUE

Phone: (269) 226-8570

KAR Friends

April 2014

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Dear Reader,

Animal hoarding is a widespread problem and poses a challenge to anyone interested in the welfare of homeless pets. Our feature article explores the topic and offers tips on how you can identify hoarding situations and intervene to help the animal victims.

Check out details for the KHS Annual Dog Walk for a day of fun with your canine friends. This month's Doggie Den tells the story of Polly, a deserving girl who found her forever home and Cat's Corner will bring a smile to your face as you read about Guinivere's happy ever after.

Thank you for your continued interest in KAR and for your love for animals. Feel free to forward this issue to your friends so that we can spread the good word about how pets make our lives better. Together we really can make a difference!

Danielle Wallis
KAR President

P.S. If you recently subscribed to our monthly eNewsletter, our welcome email unknowingly had some broken links. We apologize for the inconvenience and are including the links to browse [past issues](#), peruse our [special canine edition](#) for dog lovers and [special feline edition](#) for cat lovers.

Animal Hoarding

A Growing Problem

By Karren Jensen

Any animal lover would be appalled to find cats or dogs starving, living in filthy conditions, and suffering from treatable diseases without any hope of receiving professional health care. What sort of person would create the animal equivalent of a concentration camp, subjecting helpless dogs or cats to lives of misery and squalor? Surprisingly, the perpetrators of such misery consider themselves to be pet lovers and rescuers. Here are a few facts about animal hoarding to help you to identify the difference between a hoarder and a legitimate animal rescue operation.



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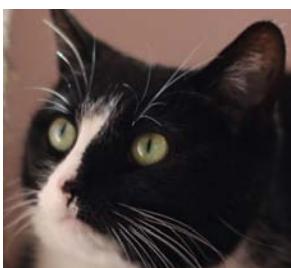
- Animal hoarders usually have excessive numbers of pets far beyond their ability to provide proper care and socialization for each animal. A hoarder's home frequently is filthy with squalid conditions unfit for either the animals or the humans living there. Strong pet odors, large numbers of cats or dogs in and around the home, an aversion to answering any questions about the animals, and strong negative feelings toward animal law enforcement officials are telltale signs of hoarding.
- The majority of animal hoarders are middle-aged or older women who often live alone or with limited contact with others. While these characteristics are frequent, there is no gender or age limitation to becoming a hoarder. Mental health professionals have several theories about the underlying problems leading a person to become a hoarder but all agree that this is a serious mental health issue.
- When animals are removed from a hoarder's home and the mess is cleaned up, nearly all hoarders return to their animal collecting addiction. Constant follow up and intervention is needed to prevent misery to new animals who might be collected by the hoarder.
- The number of animals subjected to this form of cruelty every year is staggering, with about 250,000 cats and dogs falling prey to hoarders according to the Humane Society of the United States. Cases are reported and investigated across the US, making the chance that your community has one or more hoarding situations quite likely.

What can you, as an animal lover, do to protect cats and dogs from this life-threatening form of cruelty? The most effective tool for dealing with hoarding is to report the situation to the police or animal control officers in your area. Once a complaint has been filed, an investigation can be carried out and the animals' suffering can be ended. Silence acts as permission for hoarders to continue to create misery for both themselves and the animals they hold prisoner. A hoarder may be angry about being reported but the dogs and cats will be relieved to be rescued from such intolerable living conditions.

On occasion KAR has intervened to assist [cats in a hoarding situation](#) as well as [dogs rescued from a puppy mill](#). If you truly love and care for animals, please have pity on the ones who need help to be rescued from a hoarder's collection.

**Additional Resources:**

- [Cat Hoarding](#)
- [Dog Hoarding](#)
- [Rescued from Squalor](#)
- [Inside Animal Hoarding](#)
- [How Many Pets are too Many?](#)

Pets of the Month[Piper](#)[Harley Quinn](#)**Special Event****Kalamazoo Humane Society Dog Walk**

By Katie Drenth

The Kalamazoo Humane Society is celebrating the 30th anniversary of their Dog Walk and K-9 Festival! This year's event will feature extended hours, new vendors and activities, and a new all-in-one admission fee—no more registered participant fees—to give you access to all of the festival's activities. Purchase your admission wristband in advance and find out all about the 2014 Dog Walk on the [KHS website](#).

**Date:** Saturday, May 3, 2014**Time:** 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**Place:** [Prairie View Park](#), Vicksburg (click for map/directions)**Admission Fees:**

\$10 Adult (Ages 14 and over)

\$5 Youth (Ages 6-13)

Free Child (Ages 5 and under)

Come join the fun and support KAR at the 2014 Dog Walk in May! We have been a proud participant of the KHS Dog Walk for many years and we're looking forward to this year's revamped event. Be sure to visit the KAR booth and meet some of our adoptable dogs hoping to find their forever homes!

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Doggie Den**Happy Tail ~ Polly**

By Danielle Wallis

Back in September two dogs—a young, friendly, pit bull puppy and a senior Pomeranian—were found by the side of the road on Eighth Street in Texas Township. The Good Samaritans that found them took them home and then contacted KAR. Thankfully a great home was quickly found for the puppy but the Pomeranian, who was in great discomfort, really needed our help.

Polly's picture shows how extensive her condition was. She had a severe flea allergy that had been allowed to manifest itself. In addition, the veterinarian speculated that she had been used as a breeding dog, having had many litters of puppies. When Polly became too old, she was more than likely dumped off and abandoned by her former owners.

Poor Polly was exhausted from itching and trying to survive. She slept when she was not scratching her tired, sore body. On top of the allergy which left her entirely bald on the back half of her body, she had cataracts which if left untreated



KAR Links

- [Volunteer](#)
- [Become a Foster Family](#)
- [Adoptable Dogs](#)
- [Adoptable Cats](#)
- [Adoptable Kittens](#)
- [Special Needs Pets](#)
- [Senior Cat Companions](#)
- [KAR Website](#)



[Donate Today!](#)

Adoption Events

April 19th and 26th
May 3rd and 17th



May 10th



May 3rd



May 17th

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

meant she would eventually go blind. Luckily for Polly, she wasn't killed by a car the day she was rescued or starved to death in the middle of an open field. The kind people that saved her paid for extensive veterinary care out of their own pockets and then a KAR foster home took her in.

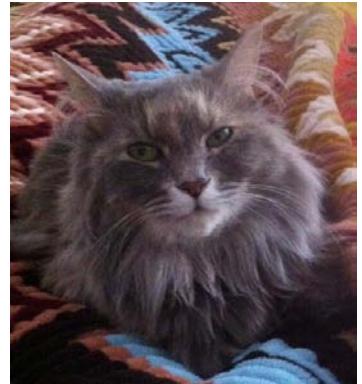
With lots of TLC and a new haircut, Polly was ready for adoption. Within a couple of weeks, Joan opened up her heart and home to Polly, giving her a second chance. Polly is in her golden years and may not be on this Earth much longer yet Joan is willing to give this sweet girl a dignified and happy ending. They two are now "soul mates." KAR never turns a dog away based on breed, health or age. If they need us and we have space, we will save them.

**Cat's Corner*****Guinivere's Happy Ever After***

By Lynn Bolhuis

A stray cat with a queenly attitude was aptly named Guinivere by her KAR foster mom, Dusty. We knew nothing of her past, just that she was homeless and in need of help in August 2012.

As her name implies, Guinivere is a regal and lovely lady, very affectionate and personable. She really loves people and is eager to greet them—seeking attention and strokes by her adoring subjects. This beauty was in the rescue a couple of months before being adopted by a kind-hearted maiden.



Happily Gwen—as she is called these days—found her Camelot and is all settled in to her castle. One of her favorite tricks is to jump onto the top of the refrigerator and then scare her new mom. Her royal highness also seems to prefer the top of the fridge to her kitty condo, and Gwen loves to take her afternoon nap in the spare room.

Gwen has traveled far and wide to visit relatives in the eastern corner of her realm (Detroit). She is a good traveling companion and is content to relax and chill in her private carriage (aka cat carrier). Upon reaching her destination, Gwen loves to soak up affection and be the center of attention.

KAR is dedicated to rescuing homeless and stray pets, and helping them to find their happy ever after, just like we did with Gwen. Tales such as this are what make fostering such a rewarding experience and to keep doing it again, and again, and again.

Contact Us

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[Email us](#) with any newsletter suggestions or questions!

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](#) for more KAR information!

