

KAR Friends

May 2012



Dear Reader,

This issue of *KAR Friends* is chalk full of ideas for readers: spoil your pets with toys you can make yourself to entertain and give them hours of fun; and check out Cat's Corner for nine important tips that can help you reunite with a beloved feline who becomes lost.

KAR has several adoptable dogs waiting patiently for loving forever homes: Chewy, Lily, Pretty Girl, Tucker and Vinny. What these adorable pets want most is to be loved and to love in return. Learn more about them in Doggie Den.

Danielle Wallis
Marketing Coordinator

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Pet Toys to Make at Home

Hours of Fun for Your Furry Friends

By Karren Jensen



We love to spoil our pets with lots of toys but they can be rather expensive. Unlike humans, animals don't check labels or prices when they receive a new toy. Pets are only interested in the fun so homemade toys can provide an inexpensive solution to provide our

kittens and puppies with great gifts. Our suggestions will help you get started on creating entertaining and thrifty toys for your furry pals.

- **Dog - braided tug toy:** Start with a torn pair of jeans or other pants made of sturdy material. Cut off the jeans legs and split them open, then cut each opened jeans leg into four strips. Knot together three strips at one end, braid the strips together, and finish with a knot at the opposite end. You will have a sturdy braid with heavy knots at both ends. Use this simple toy to play with your dog. Make sure that the knots are pulled tight to keep the braid from pulling apart during play.

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- **Cat - catnip candy bar:** Materials needed for this toy are a piece of felt and some dried catnip. Cut a square piece of felt approximately five inches on each side. This can be larger or smaller to suit your cat's size and needs. Fold the square in half and sew one short side and the long side, forming a rectangle which is closed on three sides. Stuff the pouch with catnip and then sew the remaining side shut. Make sure the stitching is secure so that the catnip doesn't leak out. Your cat can carry this lightweight toy around, bat it with his paw, or just enjoy licking it.

You can also make great toys from items you already have around the house, keeping in mind that the new toy should be sturdy and not have any parts small enough to cause choking or be swallowed. Some examples of this are:

- **Dog** - old tennis balls make great toys and can be used for a lively game of fetch. Any sturdy and nontoxic ball can be reused as a dog toy. Flying disks such as Frisbees® are another great dog toy made from an item you might find free or at little cost.
- **Cat** - favorite feline activities are chasing or batting around lightweight items. A bag of craft pompoms can provide lots of fun as long as the smallest sizes are not used because they can be a choking hazard or be swallowed. Milk bottle caps or other small plastic caps also provide hours of fun.

Remember, the most important ingredient in providing toys for your pet is your participation in the play. Toys don't need to be elaborate or expensive to be enjoyed. Give your canine or feline friend a simple item and join in the fun.

Additional Resources:

- [Homemade pet toys](#)
- [Homemade dog toys](#)
- [Make dog stuff](#)

Special Event

KHS Dog Walk Update



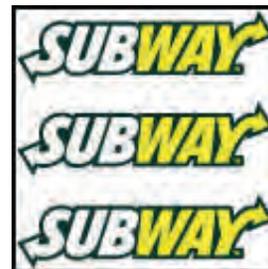
Big and little dogs, thin and chunky dogs, wet and dry dogs! Dogs walking on trails, dogs catching Frisbees® and dogs jumping into a pool - the Kalamazoo Humane Society's 28th Annual Dog Walk was a canine's dream-come-true day.

This event is the biggest annual fundraiser for KHS and proceeds support these special programs:

- Operation Fix-It - 30,000 pets have been spayed/neutered since this service started in 2000

OUR SPONSORS

(click the ads to visit their websites)



- Fix-A-PIT/Be ResponsiBULL- a campaign to fix pit bulls at a reduced cost began earlier this year
- Feral Cat Thursdays - another new program in 2012 to alter feral felines and barn cats for free once a week, and provide a rabies vaccination
- Pet Food Bank - distributes pet food to needy families. In 2011, over 6,500 bags of dry/canned pet food and 1,250 bags of litter were given to over 900 families

Thanks goes out to the [Kalamazoo Humane Society](#) for hosting the Dog Walk event and for caring about the welfare of animals in our community.

Cat's Corner

How Personality Clues Help to Find Lost Cats

By Kim Bourner



As the caretaker of a cat or two, what is one of the worst possible scenarios you can imagine? For me, it is the possibility that my indoor-only kitties would make their way outdoors and become lost. Although I work to prevent this by making our home a cat happy habitat, accidents happen. Here are nine steps to take if your cat becomes lost:

1. If you believe your cat is lost and could be outside, but you are not sure, check the inside of the home and thoroughly look ...
 - Behind shelves, dressers, and access panels
 - In closets, chimneys, chairs, and couches
 - Under beds, dressers, and crawl spots
 - Wrapped in drapery, blankets, and laundry baskets
2. Investigate close to home. Search outside beginning with the perimeter of your house and slowly moving out from there.
3. Take a moment and contemplate your cat's personality. Think like your cat to find him swiftly. Cats can travel as fast as 30 miles per hour. It is urgent to find your cat quickly. What would your kitty do when not with you? Would it be friendly, intrigued, or nervous?

Friendly: This cat will hide at first and then begin to travel. Use your senses. What smells might entice him to investigate? What sounds would he follow? Are there shiny lights or objects in his path that he would pause to investigate?

Intrigue: Does your cat enjoy an adventure? Is there another building nearby to check out? Are there cars around that might have fascinating smells? One of my girls wandered out the door when a friend left my home. She ran away from me when I

UPCOMING ADOPTION EVENTS

- May 19th, Petco
- May 26th, Petco
- June 2nd, Crossroads Mall
- June 9th, PetSmart
- June 16th, Petco

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

BLAST FROM THE PAST

Kitten and puppy season is here! Revisit these stories to help you prepare:

[Puppy and Kitten Proof Your Home](#)

[Adorable Kittens](#)

[Puppy Potty Training Tips](#)

called her. Fortunately, she has a healthy appetite, and I was able to sit in a lawn chair for a couple of hours until the scent of the cat food, chicken, and tuna I had surrounded myself with drew her close.

Nervous: This cat is likely to hide and seek a new hiding place when threatened. Continually seek any hiding place your cat can reach: high or low. This includes trees, vehicles, and any nook or cranny your furry friend can squeeze into. You may be amazed where your nervous Nelly might force herself into when frightened. I had a cat climb up into our car engine and was tightly pressed between the engine parts of the car when we found her only five minutes after she disappeared.

4. Here are six additional tactics to try:

- Contact neighbors to let them know you are looking for your feline and provide a photo
- Make flyers with a photo of the lost cat, and if it's a long time, change it to a "Cat Still Lost" flyer
- Ask friends and family to search with you, the more eyes the better your chances
- Call a pet detective if one is available in your area
- Place a baby monitor outside along with some cat food in case your pet returns while you are home
- Keep your spirits up, there are many amazing stories of cats who return home after long absences

No matter what stage of seeking you are in, call for your cat every chance you get, and then remain silent waiting to see if he/she responds in kind.

Additional Resources:

- [Find a lost cat using personality clues](#)
- [How to find a lost cat](#)
- [General pet search tips](#)
- [Help find lost pets](#)
- [Speed of animals](#)

PETS OF THE MONTH



[Shepherd](#)



[Auddie](#)

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

Pet Factsoids

The American Pet Products Manufacturers Association 2011-12 National Pet Owners Survey relates these facts about U.S. pet owners:

- In 2010, U.S. pet owners spent \$48.35 billion on their pets; the estimate for 2011 is \$50.84 billion.
- The cost of veterinary care in the United States for 2011 is estimated at \$14.1 billion.
- 62 percent of American households own a pet, which equates to 72.9 million homes.
- 38.2 million households have a cat, and the total number of owned cats is 93.6 million.
- 46.3 million households have a dog, and the total number of owned dogs is 78.6 million.

On average, dog owners spend \$225 and cat owners spend \$203 annually on routine veterinary visits.

Source: *Workforce Management* Online, July 2011

Doggie Den

Canine Love Knows No Bounds

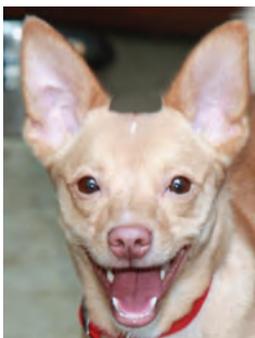
By Kim Bournier

Looking for a faithful friend? Unconditional love? How about some canine companionship to warm up your heart and your life? KAR has several patient pups looking for furever homes. All of the dogs are microchipped, spayed/neutered, and up-to-date on their vaccinations. Check them out and see if one of them fits the bill to become your new roommate:

Chewy

Size: Small
 Breed: Chihuahua and Pomeranian Mix, male
 Born: March 6, 2010
 Adoption fee: \$175

Greetings from your future cuddle bug! Although I am wary of strangers at first, I warm up to folks quickly. Children are another matter, but I'm sure there is a warm and cozy home for me without wee ones. I am young and will be there to warm your heart for many years to come. Please pick me!



Lily

Size: Medium
 Breed: Pit Bull Terrier Mix, female
 Born: September 9, 2006
 Adoption fee: \$130

Call me Lily, and I'll call you forever (seriously, that's what I'm looking for in life). I enjoy playing outside, playing with other dogs, and playing ball. I am also skilled in the areas of lying and sitting when instructed, snuggling on the couch, and adoring children. I am ready to be the noble queen of your royal abode.



Pheobe

Size: Small
 Breed: Chihuahua Mix, female
 Born: July 27, 2002
 Adoption fee: \$100

Good things come in small packages and I'm no exception. I'm spunky and have loads of personality. I'm very food motivated and have a repertoire of tricks to show in return for a treat. I live with other dogs and cats, and get along with both. I'm a real snuggle bug and would love a home and family to call my own. I can be a little shy at first so you'll have to take the first step towards getting to know me and then I'll be your friend for life.



KAR LINKS

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



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

WELCOME NEW KAR VOLUNTEERS

- Colleen Dittrich
- Karla Lohse
- Laura Mowry
- Corey Sarenus
- Melissa Sarenus
- Amanda Shull
- Patricia Shull-Blood

Pretty Girl

Size: Medium

Breed: Pointer and Pit Bull Terrier Mix, female

Born: February 4, 2011

Adoption fee: \$175

My foster mom found me so adorable that she named me Pretty Girl. I'm not going to argue with her, because she has such good taste in dogs. I am your ideal dog for long walks, playing in the yard, and running around the backyard to ensure your safety. I enjoy the company of other dogs and cats, so give me a call soon to round out your home.

Vinny

Size: Large

Breed: Pit Bull Terrier and Labrador Retriever Mix, male

Born: July 6, 2011

Adoption fee: \$175

Vinny's the name and forever is my game. I've been in KAR for a while as I needed time to recover from an injury. Now that I'm thoroughly healed, I want to adore you, your kids, and your friends. I excel at nestling in with you for a cuddle session, and playing with kids and other dogs. You'd better hurry! I was at the Dog Walk on May 5th, and I made quick work of showing off my laid back personality and gentle demeanor.

**CONTACT US**

Kalamazoo Animal Rescue

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

Visit our [website](#)

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.

