



KAR Friends ~ June 2017

Dear Reader;

Well, the weather outside is delightful! We'll take it, especially if we could get a bit more rain. This month's theme, animal hoarding, is not so pleasant. Still, it's an important animal welfare topic that needs to be addressed, particularly in light of our rescue's involvement with a hoarding situation in a neighboring county a couple of months ago.

This issue contains a general discussion on [animal hoarding](#); KAR's experience with the related phenomenon of puppy mills and where we are now with our rescued hoarded cats. Many thanks to all the people who rallied to help in this extraordinary situation!

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

Hoarding: Excessive Love

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By Karren Jensen

As animal lovers, we are appalled whenever we hear of a hoarding situation and our hearts go out to the hapless cats and dogs subjected to such inhumane treatment. As this very disturbing kind of animal abuse is growing more common, we all need to know how to recognize a hoarding situation; something about what





Pets of the Month



Read [Chip's](#) Story



Read [Apache's](#) Story

Upcoming Events

- June 24; MVPets
- June 24; PetSmart
- July 1, 8 & 15; PetSmart

KAR Links

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

motivates the hoarder, and what we can do to help the animals and possibly the hoarder.

- Animal hoarders usually have excessive numbers of pets, well beyond their ability to provide proper care and socialization for the animals. A hoarder's home frequently is filthy, with strong pet odors, large numbers of cats or dogs in and around the home. Hoarders generally aren't willing to discuss the animals and often display strong negative feelings toward animal control or law enforcement officers.
- Although many hoarders seem to be older women who live alone, often withdrawn from social contacts, there is no gender or age touchstone for hoarders. Mental health professionals have several theories about underlying problems that might lead a person to become a hoarder but all agree that the phenomenon represents serious mental health issues. Hoarders generally do not have an accurate picture of how they and their animals are living, and often see themselves as rescuers. Where an objective observer would see unsanitary conditions and an abundance of sick, starving animals, the hoarder may well see a rosy picture of healthy animals living in a nurturing environment.
- Help for the hoarded animals, and sometimes for the hoarders, comes when outside observers report the situation to the police or animal control officers. Once a complaint has been filed, the appropriate personnel can conduct an investigation and the animals can be removed from their imprisonment. The hoarder may very well not be happy about intervention, but this may also be a chance for him or her to seek help.

Sadly, even though hoarding is a recognized mental illness, many friends and loved ones do not want to confront the hoarder in order to rescue the animals trapped in the hoarder's fantasy world. Although anybody suffering from a mental illness needs to receive appropriate help, reluctance to confront such a person dooms the canine or feline victims to a terrible existence and early death from disease, injury or starvation. As animal lovers, we can't afford to turn away from the needs of the helpless animal victims of hoarding. Kalamazoo Animal Rescue has stepped in many times in our 26 years of service to needy animals victimized by hoarding in our community. Your generous support of KAR's work helps to stop the scourge of hoarding, allowing us to offer the animal victims to receive the help they so desperately need.

Additional Resources:

- [Animal Hoarding](#)
- [Cat Hoarding](#)
- [Dog Hoarding](#)

- [KAR Website](#)
- [Donate Today!](#)

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Doggie Den

How Many Dogs Is Too Many?



By Kim Bourner

The short answer: you'll know by the smell and by the unhealthy physical and behavioral condition of the dogs.

The canines will often require extensive veterinary care and rehabilitation, if they're fortunate enough to be rescued by organizations like Kalamazoo Animal Rescue.



Hoarding leads to a lack of food, living space, water, and medical care. The unsanitary conditions cause physical illness in both dogs and humans. Sometimes the situation becomes so bad, the animals and home are abandoned. Dogs might not know the basics of obedience training or even how to romp or play because they have not had access to open spaces. Many have injuries because of confinement in limited space, have hair loss from lack of grooming and/or disease, and are sick because of poor diet and hygiene.

Dogs rescued from puppy mills have similar problems, since puppy mills are basically for-profit hoarding situations. The 11 dogs taken in by KAR after an April 2012 raid on a puppy mill in Allegan County had numerous health and behavioral problems from neglect and overbreeding.

KAR's dog foster volunteers coordinate veterinary visits and treatment plans. They work to gain the dog's trust and to teach the dog how to be a pet: social skills, dining skills, potty skills, etc. Horror stories can be turned into love stories. Every rescued animal who comes to us is given a fighting chance to win a prize home.

Additional Resources:

- [Puppy Mill Rescue](#)
- [Puppy Mill Rescue Update](#)

Cat's Corner

Here A Cat, There A Cat



By Pat Hollahan

By now I think most of our friends have heard about the

hoarding situation in Calhoun County last April. KAR stepped in and took over 50 cats (several of whom were pregnant, so that number has increased by quite a few kittens since then).



Sebastian

Our rescue heroes found foster homes for many of the felines, and the others are being cared for in our office Kitty Camp. Many of the hoarded animals have serious physical problems, some of which will require surgery. Other cats also have psychological scars from neglect, including extreme shyness and fear of male (or, less often, female) caregivers. We're working carefully to bring the shy ones out of their shells and showering love and attention on those who are eager for it.



Some of the felines seem to have such sunny personalities that they've come through relatively unscathed. Sebastian, a large orange and white boy, is on a special diet for now and is very good about reminding the Kitty Camp crew that he's as hungry for love as he is for his food. Pebbles

is a beautiful and friendly lynx-point Siamese who has just presented her foster mom, Shannon, with four darling kittens. Thanks to the awesome rescuers and the friends like you who support KAR, these kittens will grow up safe, loved and cared for until they're ready for their forever homes.

Additional Resources:

- [DuPont Street Cat Rescue](#)
- [DuPont Street Cat Rescue Update](#)

Special Thanks



Kalamazoo Animal Rescue would like to thank all the local veterinary clinics, businesses and individuals who have stepped up to help us in our extraordinary hour of need. You are our superheroes, and we and the rescued cats and dogs thank you so very much!



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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