



KAR Friends ~ July 2017

Dear Reader;

"*Summertime and the livin' is easy...*" except for those of us who haven't really gotten our heads around summer vacation yet. (I'd like to think this is just me - since I have the excuse of being retired - but I have a feeling that I may not be completely alone here.) If you're still dotting the "i"s and crossing the "t"s, at least as far as your pets are concerned, do we have some advice for you!

This month's theme is **boarding**, so we lead off with an article on making arrangements for your pet(s) while you're on vacation. Then we follow up with two short pieces on KAR's own boarding arrangements. Although we are a foster-based rescue, we do have facilities in our office to house some cats and we work with a local kennel to house dogs when our foster homes are overflowing.

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

Going On Vacation? Best Pet Options

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By Anna Kushner

Summertime! The kids are out of school and it's the perfect time for a vacation. However, what will become of your furry friend? **You have three options: hire a pet sitter, board at a kennel, or bring your pet**



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Pets of the Month



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Upcoming Events

- July 22 & 29;
PetSmart
- August 5 & 12;
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KAR Links

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

with you. Many pet owners discover that hotel restrictions, travel-induced pet illness, and runaway animals can turn their trip into a disaster. This leaves two options: hire a professional pet sitter or board at a kennel.

When a pet sitter might be best:

- If your pet's health is, or could be, an issue. Elderly or infirm animals often have a hard time with change. A kennel without the stability and comfort of home may cause them distress. Other potential problems include exposure to communicable diseases such as "kennel cough" and other health issues. If she isn't well enough to leave home, it may be best to hire a pet sitter.
- If your cat or dog has special needs or suffers from separation anxiety, keeping them in their home may be best.
- If your pet isn't good with strangers or animals, they won't do well in a kennel.
- Turning over the care of your animals to well-meaning but untrained neighbors or friends can result in your furry friend escaping or becoming ill due to lack of knowledgeable supervision.

However, hiring a pet sitter is often more expensive than boarding, and a pet sitter may leave her alone for long periods of time. If she's used to having company during the day, this can cause distress and anxiety.

When boarding might be the better idea:

Another option for pet care while the rest of you are on vacation is boarding your best pal in a kennel. This option might be best when you take into account:

- Most boarding kennels provide a variety of services, such as boarding, grooming, training classes, and pet supplies.
- Many also offer boarding for horses, birds, reptiles, and exotic pets.

- [Adoptable Kittens](#)
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If you choose to use a boarding service, you should evaluate a few local kennels to find the best fit. Be sure to make a personal visit to each kennel to check out its conditions. Key things to look for include: clean environment and clean smell, good ventilation and light, comfortable temperature, knowledgeable and caring staff, sizable individual runs, exercise areas protected from the elements, dog beds vs. floor, separate cat and dog housing, adequate space for cats to move around, ample space between litter box and food dish, safe fencing, and fresh water supplied. Boarded animals should not be wearing collars (strangulation danger) and should appear content, not stressed.

Ask the following questions: What are the required vaccines? What is the feeding schedule and how flexible can it be? Can you bring your pet's food? What is the exercise schedule? Do dogs play together or are they separated by age, size, etc.? Is individual playtime included (and how often)? Are toys provided or should you bring your own? Do the dogs get daily walks? Is there an extra charge to administer meds? How are emergencies handled? Is there a vet on call?

Sometimes people feel guilty for leaving their pets at home. But the right kennel or sitter can mean you both can have a great vacation with some well-deserved rest and relaxation!

Additional Resources:

- [Vacation preparations](#)
- [Pet sitter vs. boarding your cat](#)
- [Family vacation – what to do with your pet?](#)

Doggie Den

KAR's Boarding Partner, Derspinna Kennels



By Kim Bourner

Most dogs taken in by Kalamazoo Animal Rescue go to foster homes, but we do place a few dogs in a local boarding facility, [Derspinna Kennels](#), when our fosters are getting a bit crowded. KAR volunteers still work with the boarded pups and take them to adoption events, and

we're very grateful to have a reliable partner.

There are currently three adoptable KAR dogs at Derspinna:

- [Apache](#), a cattle dog mix, is very people-friendly with older humans; kids tend to make him a little uncomfortable. He is a cuddle-bug, good in the car if he can sit in a lap, and he would love to be the star (translation: the only pet) in his home.
- [Glory](#) is a sweetheart who thinks she's a lap dog! She's a young girl, maybe a year or a year and a half, and she has a bit to learn. But she loves treats and wants to please, so someone who'll spend a bit of time training her will be rewarded with a wonderful dog.
- [Paige](#) is eight-months old and still very much a puppy. She is playful and energetic but also super cuddly. She is gorgeous and eager to please.



Apache



Glory



Paige

Cat's Corner

Smitten With Kittens



By Karren Jensen

All of the Kalamazoo Animal Rescue volunteers who care for the adoptable felines in our shelter facility have the privilege of getting to know many adorable cats and kittens. While all of the shelter residents are



delightful, there is something about our kitten room that draws smiles from anybody who visits these sweet babies.

Our kitten community room houses little ones of adoptable age in an environment in which they can play, climb, and develop their social skills with others of their own age. The play structures allow kittens to exercise their muscles in order to develop physical strength and agility. Toys are abundantly available for the little ones to indulge in their natural penchant for play, and the shared food and water dishes (and litter boxes) sometimes also become toys, as well as lessons in sharing. The favorite toys, of course, are other kittens. It's fascinating to watch friendships (and yes, some rivalries) being formed.



On any given day, a visitor needs only to sit down in the kitten room to be mobbed with adorable babies looking for attention. There is nothing more charming than cuddling a lapful of friendly little ones who are purring loudly and wriggling with delight at any attention which comes their way. Our constantly changing population, with the adoptees leaving and being replaced by newly rescued kittens, ensures that

adopters are presented with a variety of options. It is difficult to choose from among so many deserving youngsters but each adopter can find a special friend to bond with for life. Each endearing little animal is just waiting to become a lifelong companion.

Come visit our kitten room if you're looking for a new furry friend. You can help save lives while making your kitten's dream of a forever home come true. We guarantee that these precious little creatures will put a smile on your face.

Special Thanks



Kalamazoo Animal Rescue would like to thank Girl Scout Troop #80423 for throwing a pet party and donating the supplies to KAR. Our rescue dogs send a huge woof of thanks for the treats and toys!



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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