



## *KAR Friends ~ July 2018*

Dear Reader;

Happy July, everyone! We and our furry friends have made it through the Fourth of July (and Bastille Day, for those of us who celebrate) and now we're well and truly into summer. Of course this means that some of us are planning various energetic outside activities, while others of us prefer to relax in the comfort of air-conditioning.

At least in our household, the pets are also divided in their interest in summer fun. The dog is not a fan of heat (and seriously not a fan of thunderstorms), so he's been enjoying the comfort of his crate in the basement. The cat, on the other hand, sees no reason why she can't spend these warm days on the screened-in back porch and her nights in the bedroom windows. In this issue of *KAR Friends*, we're focusing on the more active crowd—water safety for dogs and outdoor fun for your indoor cat, but we'd also like to call your attention to [general summer safety tips](#) for the all four-footed members of your family.

***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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## **Doggie Den**

### ***Water Safety For Your Dog***



By Pat Hollahan

For many of us and our canine friends, summer means time on and in the water—ocean, lake, river, pool, or the good ol' swimming hole. Now that I have a water-averse dog (a wise choice on his part, it turns out!), I admit I'm thinking a bit





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### Upcoming Events

For details on these and other upcoming events, please [see our Events page](#) on the KAR website.

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wistfully of our previous companions, including the one who walked off the boat dock by accident.

Jenny (a border-collie cross) and Sam (a shepherd mix) loved the water. Jennie wanted to herd the ducks at our lake and Sam just wanted to get wet, anywhere. Liam (a basset hound mixed with who-knows-what) doesn't even want to get near a sprinkler or walk in heavy dew. **If you're not sure where your pup falls on the spectrum, or if you're planning to take your friend out in a boat, here are some suggestions:**

- Begin by seeing if your canine companion is interested in swimming, or even in getting wet. Some dogs (retrievers, for example) are made for the water and will take to it like, well, ducks. Others not so much--our hound, for example, who is dense and would basically sink like a stone.
- Start in shallow water, with your dog on a leash. Wade into the water with your friend, but don't force her into it if she's not interested. If she wants to give this a try and starts paddling with her front legs, support her back legs so that she gets a sense of what it's like to float. Don't overdo it, though, and if you or your dog get tired, stop while it's still fun for both of you.
- If your dog likes water and you think he'll enjoy going with you in your boat, be sure he's wearing a life-preserver (and of course be sure you and the rest of your passengers are in them too!). If your pup wants to swim off the boat, be sure he's in the life preserver, preferably on a leash, and doesn't get too far away from you. Dogs never got the memo about treading water or floating on their backs, so they'll just keep going . . . until they can't.
- Last but not least: once you're all done in the water, it's clean-up time. Your buddy needs a shower, just like you do, to wash off salt, chlorine, algae, etc. You might also want to treat ears for water (or, ugh, anything else) that's made its way into them. (Ear drops are my best friend if I've been swimming.)

### Additional Resources:

- [General safety tips](#)
- [Specific suggestions about swimming in pools, lakes and rivers, and oceans](#)

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## Cat's Corner

*Safely Bringing the Outdoors to Your Cat*



By Karren Jensen

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Our feline family members just adore the outdoors and consider every window to be the best entertainment opportunity in the house, especially during the spring and summer months. We want to



provide stimulation for these cherished furry companions without endangering their lives by letting them run loose outside, so **we look for a compromise that meets our kitty's desire for outdoor access in a safe way. Here are some suggestions you might wish to try:**

- Set up a "catio" or cat patio with a screened enclosure, allowing your fur baby to engage with the outdoor environment without endangering birds or other wildlife and without risking the harm posed by cars, unkind humans, or wild animals. There are many options for cat enclosures with secure screened walls and latches on entrance doors. The "catio" can be a stand-alone structure or an attachment to your home, depending on your preferences.
- Even an open window or sliding glass door can be a great opportunity for your cat to engage with and observe the outside world. Standard household screens can fall prey to an excited cat quite readily but pet-resistant screening deals with this issue. Pet-resistant screens made from metal or other sturdy materials are not easily damaged by claws and can be purchased at home improvement stores, window companies, or online vendors. Shop around for the material and installation option that best suits your needs and budget.
- For an even better year-round outdoor watching experience, place a shelf in the window to allow your pet to sit comfortably while observing all the action going on outside. An observation post near a secure window provides hours of entertainment for an inside cat, stimulating his/her curiosity and interest.

While a cat may appear to crave the great outdoors, life inside is really the safest and healthiest option. Let your pet enjoy limited exposure to the things s/he loves this summer by providing a fun place to interact with the outside world.

### Additional Resources:

- [General summer safety for cats](#)

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## Special Thanks

Many, many thanks to those who participated in KAR's Open House on Saturday, July 14. In addition to showing off our newly remodeled office space and cat shelter, the event featured some of our adoptable cats and dogs

- and a bake sale - all made possible by the generous support of our friends and volunteers!



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## 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.



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