

KAR Friends

August 2011



Dear Reader,

This month we celebrate our pets by sharing in both life and death. August's feature article explains the compassion and care we can give to both our companions and ourselves when they pass away.

The Doggie Den article provides local parks where dogs can play off leash.

Several cats are highlighted in the Cat's Corner and the Animal Spotlight articles. Each has a story to tell, and two of the Kalamazoo Animal Rescue cats find forever homes.

May the remaining days of summer bring you and your pets safe fun in the sun.

Danielle Wallis
Marketing Coordinator

Kim Bourner
KAR Friends Editor

Four Ways to Cope With The Loss Of A Pet

By Karren Jensen



We love our pets from their earliest puppy or kitten days to serene old age. They bring us joy every day and give us unconditional love in return for sharing our homes and lives. Our love for our pets always meets the greatest challenge, however, when the time arrives to say goodbye. Even with the best medical care

and nutrition, a cat or dog will nearly always be outlived by his or her human family. The following suggestions will help you cope with losing a feline or canine companion.

Euthanasia

Ask your vet to give you advice on your pet's health status. The doctor can suggest treatment options, telling you about the pet's quality of life. When your beloved companion is in pain and further treatment will just delay the inevitable outcome at the cost of more suffering, the time has come to make the wrenching decision to "put them to sleep". The process is painless to the pet and can be your last gesture of love for this dear creature. My 10-year-old cat

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Scamper recently faced a severely painful illness from a fast growing cancer so we decided to give him the only relief we could. He had fought a valiant battle as we had attempted to treat his illness but to no avail. His death was peaceful and dignified as I held him while the doctor anesthetized him. It was a heart wrenching experience but also comforting, knowing that my beloved animal family member went gently from life feeling loved and not experiencing pain or fear.

Allow Yourself to Mourn

You would never consider ignoring the death of a beloved human and moving on without shedding a tear. The same is true for our feline or canine family members. Take time to remember and celebrate your pet's life by sharing funny or touching stories and photos. If you enjoy writing or journaling, record your memories so that you can keep them fresh. The passing of time helps us heal but we don't want to forget the dear pet who meant so much.

Make a Positive Gesture

You can honor your pet's memory in a positive and uplifting way. Your love for this special animal might lead you to volunteer with a pet rescue organization, such as KAR, or to donate funds in your pet's honor. Making a positive contribution to pets in need is a great way to celebrate your love for animals and honor your cherished companion's memory.

Consider Adopting Another Pet

When the initial shock of losing your pet has passed, you might want to consider adopting another animal companion. A new pet is not a replacement for the loved one that died but a new friend. It can be comforting to fill the void in your life with another animal's company, building a new relationship. If you are not ready to make a lifelong commitment to a new pet, consider offering foster care to a needy pet by joining an animal rescue group. Whether you adopt or foster to fill the need for a furry friend in your life, you will still be saving a life and giving love to an animal in need. That is a fitting tribute to your beloved pet who was laid to rest.

The companionship and unconditional love provided by a feline or canine companion gives our lives richness and keeps us healthy. Losing a pet is a stressful event but these suggestions can help you cope with the loss in a positive way. Our memories of our pets live on and give us happiness even when they are no longer with us. Let's cherish our animal family members while they live and celebrate their memory after they are gone.

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 Richard@269.345.7000.com

SUBWAY
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Animal Spotlight

Your One and Only

By Kim Bourner



After long hours at work, do you enjoy relaxing with a loyal companion? When the day does not go your way, are you cheered by entertainment? Do you appreciate sharing your secrets with a friend who will never betray your trust? I am just the friend for you!

Hello! My name is Molly. At one time, I had a home and they were kind enough to have me spayed. Fortunately for me, I was rescued in October of 2009 after being on my own for a while. I am now seeking a forever home where a one-of-a-kind cat can be your one and only. I'd be most faithful as your only furry feline.

My family history includes the domestic short hair and some Siamese. My well-groomed outer coat is black with a gray undercoat, and some gentle tiger stripes if you look closely (please do). I would enjoy coming into your home to mesmerize you with my ability to dance with feathers and return ping-pong balls. Your secrets are safe with me, and I'll keep you informed of all that happened around our home while you were away.

If this hasn't enchanted you yet, check out my [video](#) on the Kalamazoo Animal Rescue website. If that clinches the deal, please fill out the [online application](#) to make me a part of your family.



UPCOMING EVENTS

- August 20th & 27th, Petco
- September 3rd & 4th, Crossroads Mall on the Lower Level by Abercrombie & Fitch

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

Doggie Den

Doggone Fun!

By Kim Bourner



Prairie View Dog Park

The Kalamazoo area has grown in the last couple of decades to offer companion animal opportunities. The stores offering pet supplies have increased, the apartments allowing cats or dogs can be found on various websites, and numerous events are available to welcome dogs, such as the SPCA's Woofstock and the Kalamazoo Humane Society's Dog

Walk. There is something else in town that wasn't available even two years ago where dogs and their humans are honored.

Kalamazoo County now has several dog parks! This has been a luxury that other cities have enjoyed for years, while we have had to travel sometimes 50 miles to enjoy watching our furry friends romp off leash. Now we have at least three local parks. Following are some details to help you enjoy these treasures.

Prairie View County Park

This park first opened in June of 2010 and was the first official dog park of Kalamazoo County. This park is supporting a large number of dog people with an average attendance of approximately 7,000 people monthly. Their website offers a detailed map with dog park rules in order to plan your visit accordingly. A few other details:

- Three acres of open play area, three acres of wooded trail, and one acre designated for small dogs.
- Another three-acre expansion planned for the fall of 2011.
- No membership fee, but park admission is required: \$5 daily entrance or \$25 for an annual pass.
- Website: <http://www.kalcounty.com/parks/activities.htm#Dog>
- [Dog Park Brochure](#)

Fairmont Dog Park

This is a dog park opened by the City of Kalamazoo. The first phase is complete with more to come. As with most dog parks, there is an admission fee. The unique admission fee for this park is obtained by calling 337-8191 in order to purchase a park pass. It is an annual pass that requires an additional \$10 for an activation fee for a key fob that provides entry into the park's gates. More interesting facts:

- The park is open sunrise to sunset, seven days per week.
- Dogs must be over four months old to use the park, be current on all shots, and have a dog license.
- Use a leash to bring the dog into and out of the park, but no leash is permitted in the park.
- Website: <http://www.fairmontneighborhood.org/dogpark.html>.

Meadow Run Dog Park

This is a private dog park with a membership fee which can be paid in full, semi-annually or quarterly. There are discounts for the first year of use for newly adopted dogs and college students. It has numerous amenities and strict rules to keep both dogs and people happy while using the park. Due to the season changes in Michigan, there are varying hours the park is available throughout the year, which are all on the website. Some additional details follow:

- Twenty-five acres fully fenced including an indoor arena and a covered pavilion.
- The park has a fitness focus offering dogs swimming, dock jumping, agility course and games.
- Doggie spa services are available including a nail clipping manicurist and self-grooming baths.
- Website: <http://www.meadowrunpark.com/home>.

The next time you are looking for an activity for both you and your dog, consider one of these locations honoring the old adage, "Dog is man's best friend."

PETS OF THE MONTH



[Mufasa](#)



[Cody](#)

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

Cat's Corner

Romeo & Grubert's Story

By Karren Jensen



When David Jones' beloved cat Marley passed away suddenly, he was heartbroken to lose this dear pet. His remaining cat Salem was also sad as he mourned the loss of his closest feline friend.

As is the case with many who have lost a pet, David started to think that the best way to honor

his lost pet and fill the empty place in his home would be to adopt another cat. This would be a challenge because he needed to find just the right buddy for Salem and for himself. When he started this quest, David had no idea how much his life would change in the process.

While David was dealing with the loss of Marley, Romeo was accepted into KAR and had the good fortune to become one of Holly's foster kittens. Romeo and his two brothers were loved and cared for by Holly, but poor Romeo had a huge strike against him in finding a new home: he was black. For some reason black cats are the last to be adopted, no matter how great their personalities might be. Romeo was sweet natured and beautiful but didn't attract much attention from people looking for a new kitty friend. That was until David saw him and then Romeo's future started looking much brighter. David bonded with Romeo as soon as he met him and, when Romeo went to David's home, he also bonded well with Salem. This was a happy ending but not quite the end of the story.

David also met Grubert, "Gru" for short, a lovely black kitten who strongly resembled his lost pet Marley. Little Gru wasn't quite big enough to be adopted but David decided to give himself a great gift for his own birthday: he would adopt Gru as soon as Gru was ready. Now there was lovely family of kitties keeping David company but that wasn't the only change that came into his life at this time. He also found love with a special lady and her two children. Romeo, Gru and Salem not only have each other as a loving cat family but they also have three more humans to love and play with them. Is "happily ever after" just for fairy tales? Romeo and Gru don't think so!

KAR LINKS

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



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

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.



CONTACT US

Kalamazoo Animal
Rescue

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Kalamazoo, MI 49003

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

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