

KAR Friends

September 2012



Dear Reader,

Kids are back in school, fall officially arrives on the 22nd, and KAR is gearing up for our biggest event of the year—our annual dinner and silent auction fundraiser. Some details about the event are included in this issue and more information will follow in October.

Also this month, check out five cutting edge advances in veterinary medicine in our Ask the Vet column. And, we have two heartwarming adoption success stories: Allie and Mose .

Danielle Wallis
Marketing Coordinator

Lynn Bolhuis
KAR Friends Editor

Save The Date

KAR's 13th Annual Dinner and Silent Auction



Our annual dinner and silent auction extravaganza is just around the corner. **Plan to join KAR on Sunday, November 11th at the gorgeous Gull Lake Country Club!** This is our biggest fundraising event and the money raised goes toward supplementing veterinary expenses and other costs associated with rescuing dogs and cats in need.

We rely on the generosity of individuals and businesses to donate items for the silent auction. **If you can help, here is a wish list of popular items we can use:**

- Gift cards or certificates to shopping venues, restaurants, spas or salons, sporting goods stores, etc.
- Gift certificates for services that you or your company offers, such as plumbing, electrical or carpentry skills; IT or computer support, house cleaning, lawn and yard care, dog training, pet sitting, veterinary care, etc.

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KAR Friends
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- Gift baskets containing beverage selections, sweet treats, cheeses, gardening supplies, bath salts and soaps, etc.
- Tickets to plays, concerts and sporting events
- Handmade items that include afghans, baby/toddler blankets, baby items or clothing
- Christmas decorations, home décor, artwork and collectibles
- Household items such as antiques and small appliances
- Gadgets: iPod, iPad, portable GPS navigator, digital camera, flat screen television, etc.
- Toys for kids: bicycles, wagons, Razors, skateboards, Barbie dolls, etc.
- And, any other auction item ideas you may have would be appreciated.

This event is a great opportunity to get a jump on your Christmas shopping. Keep watch for more details about the 2012 dinner and silent auction in the October issue of *KAR Friends!*

Ask The Vet

Recent Advances in Veterinary Medicine: Hot Topics

Reviewed By Bruce Withers, DVM
[Eighth Street Veterinary Care](#)



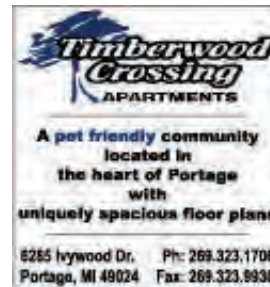
We frequently hear about the latest advances in human medicine and how cutting edge technologies can bring nearly miraculous healing to humans. Did you know that those same kinds of advances are also happening with veterinary medical research? In fact, many new kinds of therapeutic research that originate with human medicine soon make their way to veterinary medical science. Here is a

sampling of medical “hot topics” that will improve life for our furry friends.

- **Class 4 lasers:** a new generation of more powerful lasers is being used for a variety of medical applications but the most exciting new use is for joint pain relief in elderly dogs and cats. Class 4 lasers can painlessly deliver a high quality therapeutic dose of laser energy to an arthritic joint in just a short time without the need for anesthesia. The effects of this therapy are cumulative so that a few treatments can give pain relief for an increased length of time as the treatments are continued. This therapy isn't for every pet but the pets that respond can see truly astonishing relief from joint pain.
- **Oncology:** cancer in pets was once virtually untreatable but, thanks to advances in human cancer treatment, many cancers

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can now be treated successfully. The ideal for cancer treatment is a “silver bullet” therapy in which the cancer cells are targeted with no damage to healthy cells and no side effects. While this is not currently possible, there are many new cancer treatments which are much more effective. Advances in imaging systems to identify and pinpoint tumors, new and more effective drugs, and even new vaccines are all improving the outlook for pets with cancer.

- **Joint replacement for dogs:** advances in technology have allowed joint replacement to become less expensive and more successful, especially hip and elbow replacements. The most common reason for replacement of an elbow is osteoarthritis while hip replacement might be prompted by several different conditions. The latest replacement joints, like human prosthetic joints, are usually made of titanium and cobalt-chromium-molybdenum alloys. Micro-hip replacements for smaller animals (5 to 30 pounds) is a recent advance, although hip replacements for large dogs have been performed for decades using human prostheses.
- **Non-adjuvanted vaccines:** *adjuvants*, which are substances added to vaccines to stimulate the immune response, have been widely used. Unfortunately, these additives have also been linked to the formation of certain kinds of tumors at the vaccination site. One well-known example of this is sarcoma tumor formation following administration of Feline Leukemia Virus vaccine to cats. For this reason, recent advances in vaccine production are moving away from the use of adjuvants and utilizing recombinant technology, but the cost of the vaccine is often increased.
- **DNA testing:** if you’re a fan of television crime shows, you are already aware of many applications of DNA testing for humans. Veterinary DNA testing isn’t far behind but is used more commonly in a medical rather than a crime-solving setting. Test samples are easily obtained by a simple cheek swab of the dog or cat. The DNA information can be used to establish breed information and paternity, or to identify genetically linked health risks.

This is just a brief sampling of the new frontiers in veterinary medicine. These and other advances in medical science will keep our pets happy and healthy for an increasing lifespan, allowing us to enjoy our furry family members for as long as possible.

UPCOMING ADOPTION EVENTS

- September 22nd and 23rd, Petco
- September 29th and 30th, Petco
- October 6th and 7th, Petco
- October 13th, PetSmart

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

WELCOME NEW KAR VOLUNTEER

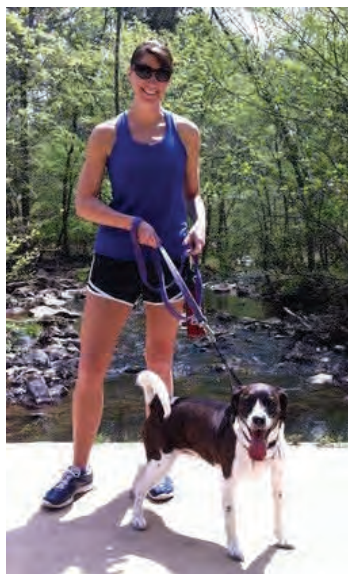
Danielle Etzel

BLAST FROM THE PAST

Check out tips for introducing a cat to another cat or dog:

[Introducing a cat to a new cat](#)

[Animal meet and greet](#)

Doggie Den*Happy Tail ~ Allie*

This has been long overdue, but I wanted to give you an update on a dog we adopted about five years ago. I volunteered with KAR for a semester while I was attending Western Michigan University, and because of that, we were able to adopt our loyal friend who still lives like the puppy she was when we first brought her home. Her name was originally Sally and we changed it to Allie following the adoption. I lived with my girlfriend, Kristin, in an apartment in Battle Creek at the time. It was not an ideal situation for a dog, but since I had previously volunteered with the rescue and promised to take Allie on plenty of walks to make up for the cramped

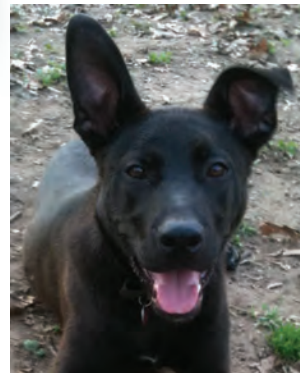
quarters, we were able to adopt her.

Fast forward five years, Kristin and I have since married, relocated to North Carolina and have a house in Raleigh. It has a fenced in yard for Allie and her new sister, Lucky, a Boxer mix we rescued from a shelter in Durham. She and Allie get along great! My wife works at an animal hospital so both our dogs get excellent veterinary care. Most of our neighbors have dogs too so Allie and Lucky have lots of playmates. We also have plenty of nature centers around here that they go nuts for. One of which we actually just got home from a few minutes ago and it made us think about KAR.

I just wanted to say thank you again for giving us the chance to adopt Allie. I can assure you she has been well taken care of and, while I'm sure she misses Michigan, she is having a great time in North Carolina with her sister and friends. Take care, and I hope all is well in Kalamazoo.

Happy pet parents,

Christopher and Kristin

PETS OF THE MONTH

[Reggie](#)



[Roger](#)

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

Cat's Corner

Happy Tail ~ Mose



Winkie (cat on the right) was a super-friendly kitten that found himself in need of rescue this past June. He was only in KAR about a month when his new mom, Jessica, saw him online. She was looking for a kitty playmate for Gob, her five-month old feline. She proceeded to adopt Winkie and then changed his name to Mose.

The first couple of days in his new home were a little tense. Gob (pronounced Jobe) wasn't too pleased about having Mose around which was really surprising to Jessica since Gob was so laid back. There was some hissing, growling and swatting during the initial meet and greet. The first night in his new home, Mose slept in Jessica's arms while Gob slept in his cat tree.

The next day, Gob acted like he wanted to play with the kitten but Mose wouldn't have any of it. Later that night, the two cats bonded over the dishwasher—they were both so intrigued by the sounds it made that they didn't care how close they were to each other. Then they started chasing each other and wrestling with only an occasional hiss or growl. According to Jessica, "It's pretty funny to watch Mose, who is quite a bit smaller, chase Gob around the house."

A few days later, Jessica reported that the boys were getting along pretty nicely. There was still a lot of chasing and wrestling but it is playful in nature. Mose has warmed up to his new mom. He lies on her chest and purrs loudly. Mose seems to be happy in his forever home and has adjusted well to the new environment. Jessica is "very excited to have him in the family!"

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.



KAR LINKS

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