



KALAMAZOO ANIMAL RESCUE

Phone: (269) 226-8570

KAR Friends

September 2014

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Dear Reader,

Pets delight us with their cute fuzzy faces and playfulness, but their behavior can be puzzling at times. Before you can attempt to correct any peculiar or unwanted behavior, you first have to know what is causing it. This month we offer many tips and suggestions on sleuthing out behavioral problems, as well as specifics for dealing with separation anxiety in dogs and understanding your cat.

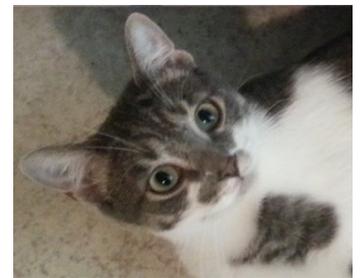
Save the dates for two great fundraising events to benefit our furry friends—the **Two Thumbs Up! Book Sale** on October 4th and **Dinner Auction 2014** on November 9th—details are provided below.

Danielle Wallis
KAR President

Sleuthing Pet Behavioral Problems

By Karren Jensen

Pets are wonderful friends and companions but sometimes their behavior can be absolutely baffling. Some of the most difficult pet problems can be solved by observing your dog or cat, and trying to see the world from his or her perspective. Here are a few tips, resources and examples to help you start your journey as a pet problem sleuth.



Tiny Tim

- Talk to your vet. One of your best resources for information about pet behavior is your veterinarian. Consult your vet for an assessment of your pet's physical and mental health. What seems "crazy" to us may actually make sense to your cat or dog and probably makes sense to your vet, who has vast experience with animal issues.
- Educate yourself about animal behavior. Doctor Nicholas Dodman, for example, is an expert in animal psychology and has written two best-selling books on animal behavior issues. He explores dog psychology in "The Dog Who Loved Too Much" and cat psychology in "The Cat Who Cried for Help," shining a light on the reasons behind pet behavior problems. These books and many others are available at your local library and are also easy and fun to read.

KAR

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- Put yourself in your pet's place. Gaining perspective by looking at things from your dog or cat's point of view can be enlightening. Our pets rely on us and are very eager to please. Even the most aloof feline or hyperactive dog is, at heart, a companion who craves your approval. Your pet's desire for love is also accompanied by a strong need for stability, which can lead to problems when your life undergoes a major change. A sudden change in your pet's behavior might be caused by a sudden change in your routine. A little praise, one-on-one playtime, and a few treats are most welcome to an anxious pet.

I had a pet "Sherlock Holmes" moment a couple of years ago when I was providing foster care for a very traumatized little kitten who had come to KAR following the terrifying experience of being dumped at an abandoned barn with his brother, who didn't survive. [Tiny Tim](#) was very frightened when I took over his care but started to blossom when he was treated with love and patience. He had a setback, however, when I was cleaning his litter box and didn't see him run into the spot where I was about to sit down. Suddenly I felt something soft underneath me followed by a scream, a hiss, and a fast run to a safe hiding place. After that, Timmy refused to use his litter box and started relieving himself on a towel instead. By providing him with a second litter box in a different location and giving him plenty of affection, he once again started to faithfully use his litter box.

You are the most important person in your pet's world. When your furry pal acts inappropriately, take time to see what you can do to get him or her back on the right track. You'll be rewarded by having a happy, well-behaved and balanced companion to cherish.

Additional Resources

- [Pet behavior solutions](#)
- [Virtual pet behaviorist](#)
- [Behavior problems in kittens](#)
- [Behavior problems in dogs](#)
- [Behavior problems in cats](#)

Doggie Den

Separation Anxiety

By Kim Bourner

Dogs are pack animals and, in the wild, they are rarely ever alone. Throw in some nasty thunderstorms like the ones Kalamazoo has seen this summer while the humans are at work and school, and some unpleasant behavior may arise. One of my cats has taken to hiding under the sofa each time it looks like rain since we were out of town last month during a storm. In her nine years of life, this is a new behavior.

Has your dog taken to howling or barking incessantly, chewing on your favorite carpet, pacing around the family room, or panting and drooling while you are away? These could be signs of separation anxiety.

Step 1:

There are many tips and tricks from dog care providers to help alleviate the stress of separation anxiety for your furry friend. Step number one is that training utilizes positive reinforcement, never punishment. The first thing is to rule out any medical condition. Sometimes chewing on the carpet when you leave is not because the dog is lonely, but that it may be the result of an infected tooth that needs soothing. Or the

Pets of the Month



[Cocoamae](#)



[Wendy](#)

Welcome New Volunteers

- Nikki Gerber
- Rubi Gonzalez
- Janet Hughes
- Samantha Kulhanek
- Lindsey LaClear
- Rachel LaClear
- Sue Militzer
- Kristina Ramsdell

peeing behind the sofa might be due to a kidney infection. Once the health of your buddy is determined, proceed with separation anxiety training.

Step 2:

The second step is to relieve any pre-departure anxiety. According to the ASPCA website, "One treatment approach to this 'pre-departure anxiety' is to teach your dog that when you pick up your keys or put on your coat, it doesn't always mean that you're leaving. You can do this by exposing your dog to these cues in various orders several times a day—without leaving. For example, put on your boots and coat, and then just watch TV instead of leaving. Or pick up your keys, and then sit down at the kitchen table for awhile."

Step 3:

The third step includes numerous suggestions offered by KAR dog foster volunteers. This step is putting things in place for when you do leave the pet alone in the home.

- Leave a radio or the television on – This was the most common recommendation by both our dog fosters and several websites. A little background noise or images to watch on TV can make all the difference. The sound shouldn't be too loud so that it gets annoying during the day, but at a volume the dog will find relaxing. Your cats might enjoy this too.
- Positive reinforcement with confinement, such as crate training, baby gates or a single room – This option takes time and can be beneficial for both you and your pet. There are many steps to good crate training practices and the [Separation Anxiety](#) article by the ASPCA provides more details.
- Plenty of exercise – Just like the days I work out at the gym and proceed to get into less trouble with my family and sleep more soundly at night, your dog will benefit from daily exercise. Take a long walk before going to work and play with your doggy pal. Also, when you get home, make exercise the first thing you do together. Your dog will be more relaxed and ready to rest when you leave home, and know that there will be together time upon your return.
- [ThunderShirt](#) – A product that has a calming effect on your dog (or cat) to help them feel protected and less anxious.
- Tryptophan – Does the turkey on Thanksgiving make you tired? That's the idea here.
- Natural calming remedies and [essential oils](#) – There are many options available at local health food stores.
- Read the book by Patricia B. McConnell, [I'll be Home Soon: How to Prevent and Treat Separation Anxiety](#).

Additional Resources

- [Five tips for separation anxiety](#)
- [Separation anxiety in dogs](#)

Adoption Events



September 20th



September 20th and 27th
October 4th



Two Thumbs Up!
Book Sale
October 4th



October 11th

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

Dinner Auction 2014

Save the Date



Dinner Auction 2014

Food! Fun! Drinks!
Live and Silent Auctions
Professional Entertainment:
Tony Fields and Doug Decker

Where: Gull Lake Country Club
9725 West Gull Lake Drive, Richland, Michigan
Date: Sunday, November 9th
Time: 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Dinner and Entertainment begin at 5:30 p.m.
Cost: \$35 per person. Visa and MasterCard accepted.

For Reservations Call: 269-629-9714



If you would like to donate an item for the auction, please email Yvonne at jystork@sbcglobal.net.

Donation wish list suggestions:

- 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; doggy day care, dog training, pet sitting, veterinary care, etc.
- Gift baskets containing beverage selections, sweet treats, cheeses, gardening supplies, bath salts and soaps, etc.
- Tickets to plays, concerts and sporting events
- Donate a weekend or week at your cottage, time share or vacation rental
- Cook a delicious meal or bake something special and deliver it to the lucky bidder
- Handmade items that include afghans, baby/toddler blankets, baby items or clothing
- Christmas decorations, home décor, artwork and collectibles

KAR Links

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



[Donate Today!](#)

- 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.
- Recycle un-used merchandise or re-home gifts you received but never used
- 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 **Dinner Auction 2014** details on the KAR website and in the October issue of *KAR Friends*!

Cat's Corner

Understanding Your Cat

By Mailey (age 14) and Kate Fayling

Not understanding your cat can be a fatal flaw in the relationship you hold with your cat. Felines have a way of speaking to us and to each other that sometimes we humans overlook. To better understand your cat, you can learn the tell tail signs (vocal and body language) that all cats have adopted to better enhance their language.



Vocalization

It is no secret that cats use their noises to indicate a certain feeling. For insistence when a cat meows, he is usually trying to attract attention, many suggest in an attempt to attain more food! However, we all know that a cat's meow means something and usually in time, we learn to decipher their meanings. Did you know that a meow can mean different things for a kitten? Kittens often meow when they are discomfited, hungry, or to tell their mother where they are.

Another vocal attribute felines use often is the hiss. When a cat hisses it often suggests that they are frightened or angry, or it can be a warning to an approaching threat to stop. By all accounts, if your cat is hissing, you should most likely try to eliminate the threat, and if that threat is you, you should back away and allow your cat to calm down.

Yet another form of a cat's vocal ability is a yodel. A cat's call (yodel) is used when they are in distress, pain, or when a female cat is in heat. And of course, there is purring. But did you know that a cat purring can either mean that they are elated or in pain? Usually, we attribute a cat's purr to be synonymous with their happiness but rarely do we believe they are in pain. Typically, we see momma kitties in labor that purr. There are many forms of vocal communications that our feline friends use, and these are just some of the ways cats use their voice to indicate a certain feeling.

Body Language

Felines also have a way of using body language to indicate their feelings as suggested by the following. When a cat has its ears laid back on its head, the cat is defensive, whereas when the ears are upright and pointed, the cat is curious. I think we can all relate to and understand that when we see wide and opened eyes, this can suggest excitement or terror.

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Another form of body language is when your cat's tail is upright it can be interpreted as a nice greeting and sometimes a "follow me" sign. However, when a cat starts lashing their tail it could mean any of the following: irritation, anger, excitement, or curiosity. Did you know that the way your cat holds itself can mean different things? For example, if a cat comes to you directly it means that they are confident and friendly, but it can also mean they are aggressive. When a cat arches his back and puffs his hair it means he is very defensive.

Lastly, when a cat "makes himself smaller" he is trying to show that he is "not a threat". Cats have many ways to use body language, understanding just some of the ways is a leap in the right direction. Sometimes taking the time to understand your cat is the best gift you can give him.

Additional Resource

- [Cat behavior guide](#)

Special Event

Two Thumbs Up! Book Sale

Join us for the sixth annual book sale event to benefit Kalamazoo Animal Rescue! Two terrific young ladies and their families birthed the idea of holding a book sale to raise money and help animals in our community. The event continues to grow with each succeeding year and KAR is extremely grateful for the funds they work so hard to raise for our dogs and cats.

Date: Saturday, October 4th

Place: Parchment Middle School
307 N. Riverview Drive

Time: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The book sale will be held at the front entrance of the school which is under cover to provide shade or protection from any bad weather. KAR will have adoptable pets there to meet and greet the public.

Please stop by to browse through the hundreds of books, CDs, DVDs and other materials for sale to support this worthwhile endeavor to raise money for the animals in KAR. You can check out the [Two Thumbs Up! Book Sale](#) Facebook page here!



Contact Us

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[Email us](#) with any newsletter suggestions or

Special Thanks

KAR Receives De Groot Family Foundation Grant

On September 5th, Eric Leith (left), Vice President and Director of Operations of the De Groot Family Foundation, presented a \$5,000 grant check to Danielle Wallis, KAR President, to be used to pay medical bills for cats and dogs. KAR volunteer, Andrew Domino (right), completed the grant application on behalf of KAR.



"We approached Kalamazoo Animal Rescue because we liked your dedication to the community and the services you provide for the animals," Leith said. "We are glad to see that this grant will help animals in need in the Kalamazoo area." Eric's grandparents originated the Foundation. Its mission is to help communities primarily in southwest Michigan. Eric and his wife are animal lovers and share their home with two dogs and two cats. Also pictured is Monkey, a classic tabby recently brought into the rescue by Danielle. He is building up his strength and then will be available for adoption.

KAR Receives Radisson Plaza Hotel Donations



Last month, the Radisson contacted KAR about making a donation of linens. Many of the items they donated to the rescue were sheets, pillow cases, shams and mattress pads. The sheets and mattress pads will greatly help the [blankets of love project](#). The blankets that are loving made for our rescued dogs and cats will be white for a while, but they will be almost free to make because of the hotel's generosity.

KAR extends many thanks to the Radisson Plaza Hotel for thinking of us and for being so generous to our volunteers and furry friends.

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](#) for more KAR information!

