

KAR Friends

October 2013



Dear Reader,

Kalamazoo Animal Rescue's annual dinner and auction is just around the corner on Sunday, November 10th. Details for this fun-filled event are included below. You can also preview the fabulous auction items on the KAR website. We hope you can join us to make this year's event a rousing success!

October is Adopt-A-Shelter Pet month and our animal spotlights shine on several pets that came from Animal Services: Paddy, Dex, Kimber, Dana, Izzy and Skylar. These adoptable pets found refuge in KAR until forever homes are found for each one of them. Plus, three former shelter pets, Little Miss, Bruiser and Carmen have wonderful happy tails to share with you.

Danielle Wallis
KAR President

Lynn Bolhuis
KAR Friends Editor

Adoption vs. Free Pet: A Cost Comparison

By Katie Drenth

A rescue group like KAR or your local shelter can be the perfect place to find a new furry family member. You can find animals of all breeds, sizes, ages and personalities waiting for a loving home.

Save Lives

Too many pets are relinquished or abandoned each year, and too few people choose to adopt rescued animals. Many cats and dogs are in this predicament due to circumstances beyond their control: a move that didn't include them, lack of time to care for the pet, financial constraints, a death or illness in the family, or improper training. According to the National Council on Pet Population Study and Policy, 65% of pet parents in the U.S. get their pets for "free" or "low cost" and 30% percent of those pets

The best things in life
are rescued.

DON'T SHOP! ADOPT!

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end up being surrendered to animal shelters. When you choose to adopt a shelter pet you're saving multiple lives—even at no-kill shelters or animal rescues—because you're creating space for another animal to be saved when you welcome home a new dog or cat.

Healthy, Happy Pets

Shelters and rescues are full of happy and healthy animals. Most shelters examine, vaccinate and spay/neuter pets prior to adoption. Many shelters also screen and evaluate an animal's temperament and behavior to better match it to the lifestyle and requirements of potential adopters. You know exactly what you are getting when you adopt a shelter pet and there aren't any surprises unlike with a "free" pet whose history is often a mystery.

Financial Savings

If you're considering a new pet, adoption is the best option—in fact it's a bargain! While a "free" cat or dog might seem appealing, you'll quickly learn that "free" isn't a bargain. Adopting is significantly less expensive, because shelter or rescue pets will have already received veterinary care that is included in their adoption cost. When you get a "free" pet, you are responsible for obtaining the veterinary care the animal needs.

Let's look at some of the vet care a KAR puppy or kitten receives and the average amount you would need to pay for a "free" pet to receive the equivalent care. The age of the puppy or kitten will determine the number of vaccinations and vet visits the animal received up until adoption. Spay/neuter, heartworm preventative and flea/ear mite treatment prices are determined by weight so prices will increase for larger animals.

Puppy (under 6 months)	Male	Female	KAR
General Health and Wellness Exam/Office Visit (four visits)	\$159	\$159	
Distemper/Parvo Vaccinations (four doses)	90	90	
Spay/Neuter	218	253	
Flea/Ear Mite Treatment/Prevention (minimum one dose)	18	18	
De-wormer (minimum two doses)	21	21	
Microchip	50	50	
Heartworm Test	45	45	
Heartworm Preventative (one dose)	11	11	
Rabies Vaccination (at three to four months of age)	24	24	
Annual Dog License (un-altered fee is higher)	10	10	
Total Cost	\$646	\$681	\$225

OUR SPONSORS

(click the ads to visit their websites)



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Find us on Facebook

The average cost of a “free” puppy would be between \$640 and \$690; and for a “free” kitten the range is between \$390 and \$460.

Kitten (under 12 months)	Male	Female	KAR
General Health and Wellness Exam/Office Visit (two visits)	\$ 79	\$ 79	
FVRCP Distemper/Parvo Vaccinations (two doses)	46	46	
Spay/Neuter	132	196	
Flea/Ear Mite Treatment/Prevention (minimum one dose)	17	17	
De-wormer (minimum two doses)	18	18	
Microchip	50	50	
FeLV/FIV Test	50	50	
Total Cost	\$392	\$456	\$90

When you see the numbers, it’s clear that adoption fees can be quite reasonable, especially considering what you get: a new best friend who is going to give you a lifetime of happiness and joy and be forever grateful to you.

Additional Resources

- [Top 5 myths about shelter dogs](#)
- [Pet statistics](#)
- [Basic annual expenses for cat and dog owners](#)

UPCOMING ADOPTION EVENTS



October 19th and 26th
November 2nd and 16th



November 9th

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

Dinner Auction 2013

A Fundraiser to Support Our Furry Friends

Kalamazoo Animal Rescue organizes a dinner and auction to raise money for the benefit of our animals. **This is our biggest fundraising event of the year!** The proceeds help to pay the expenses associated with rescuing our furry friends, 450-500 cats and dogs each year, and placing them into loving homes.

Don’t miss out on an evening of fun-filled shopping opportunities, dinner, great entertainment and much, much more. Make your reservation today!

KAR is still in need of items for the auction. To see our *wish list*, [click here](#).

KALAMAZOO ANIMAL RESCUE

Dinner Auction 2013

Food! Fun! Drinks!

Live and Silent Auctions

Professional Entertainment:
Jazz Pianist Terry Lower and Singer Edye Evans Hyde

Where: Gull Lake Country Club
9725 West Gull Lake Drive, Richland, Michigan

Date: Sunday, November 10th

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

Animal Spotlights

Adoptable Shelter Pets

By Kim Bourner

Many of the pets in Kalamazoo Animal Rescue come to us by way of Animal Services. If a dog is good natured but their time is running out, the shelter will contact KAR for help. Here are some of shelter pets looking for their forever homes.

[Paddy](#)

Male, 1.5 years old, Shih Tzu Mix

I, like so many of my friends in KAR, came from the local shelter. I had kennel cough and once my treatment started, it took a while before I wanted to eat. When my strength starting coming back, my fun-loving and warm-hearted nature became apparent to all and I could see the relief in my foster mom's eyes. I love to roll on my back in the soft grass while smiling at my rescuer. I'm a playful young man who is ready to be your new roommate!



[Dex](#)

Male, 15 months old, Staffordshire Bull Terrier/Spaniel Mix

After spending a couple of months at Animal Services, my time was up and my fate was sealed. Or was it? I cheated death and am a ready-to-adopt pet. My foster mom tells me I am intelligent and wonderful. I knew it, but since we have a minor language barrier, there wasn't a good way to share this. I love walking on the beach, cuddling in front of the fire, and responding to commands such as sit and stay. I am ready to be your one and only, providing you with the opportunity to share your skills and knowledge teaching me new things every day. Give me a call!



[Kimber](#)

Female, 3 years old, Boxer Mix

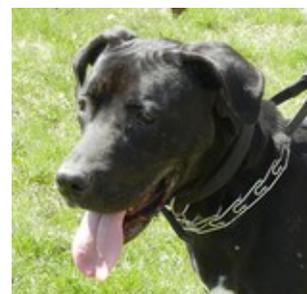
Like my furry friends, I was taken from the shelter to be given another chance at the good life every dog should know. I have had a solid education in the school of manners: no jumping; the ability to sit, stay and wait as directed; and waiting patiently in the other room while you enjoy your meal in peace. As a pet connoisseur, walk aficionado, and snuggle girl, who loves the company of older children and women, I am ready to be your forever friend.



[Dana](#)

Female, 4 years old, Labrador Retriever Mix

I too was a shelter dog for a while, and I tried my best to find a new family. Fortunately, just as time was running out, I was given a longer lease on life by being welcomed into a KAR foster home. If you enjoy long walks, even jogging, I'm ready to be your partner. I rest easy in my crate, run free in a fenced yard, train with food, have learned to sit and am working on stay, lie down and heel. If you meet me, I'll gladly shake your hand and take a belly rub if offered. Check out my video on the KAR website!



[Izzy](#)

Female, 2 years old, Papillon/Dachshund Mix

My journey has been long and difficult, but I know it is almost over. There is a happy home out there for me! Other cats and dogs are welcome in my life, as well as a loving human. I enjoy a good run in the yard, but I also like to stay close to people I adore. I appreciate positive reinforcement while I work to finish learning a few final lessons for house life. Would you like to take me to obedience school? I'm an eager student!

[Skylar](#)

Male, 7 years old, Beagle Mix

I have been told that I am gentle and loving. Life wasn't easy prior to making it into a safe and friendly KAR foster home. Today, I don't have to worry about my next meal, a roof over my head, warmth or affection. That's all I need for a happy home. Would you be interested in providing these things for me? My love for you will be unconditional. Let's make a home together.

**Doggie Den***Happy Tails ~ Little Miss and Bruiser*

By Lynn Bolhuis

Several times this summer, Animal Services sent out a plea for help to prevent adoptable pets from being euthanized because the shelter was full. Little Miss and Bruiser are two dogs that found wonderful new homes because a KAR volunteer responded to the call for help.

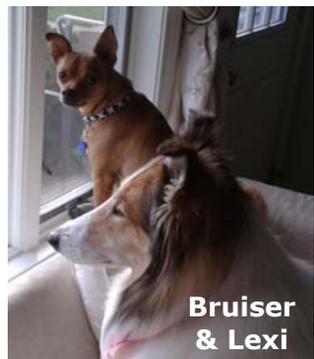
Little Miss came into the rescue in July. The folks at the shelter and the veterinarian that first examined her were all impressed with how gentle and sweet she was. Her foster mom also found the Beagle-Chihuahua mix to be adorable, playful and loving—endearing qualities that touched the hearts of anyone who met Little Miss.

Within a month of entering KAR, this sweet girl found her forever home and is now living happily ever after. According to her new family, "Little Miss is the sweetest little dog you could ever meet. Adopting her was the best decision we made. She brings joy to our lives every day."

Bruiser was transferred from Animal Services to the rescue in June. His foster mom found this little Chihuahua-Terrier mix to also be quite loving, quick to cuddle and relax for pets. However, he was leery of people when they came to meet him and would bark—behavior not very becoming of a dog trying to win over a prospective family. So, his foster mom put him on a leash and had potential adopters walk him around for a while. Some animals need time to adjust as they go from place to place, like the shelter to a foster home where they begin to settle in, and then to a new home. It requires an adopter to have patience to allow the dog to feel safe and to nurture trust.



**Little
Miss**



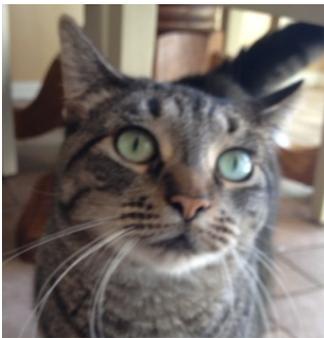
**Bruiser
& Lexi**

Three months passed before Bruiser found his forever family. His new mom says, "He is adjusting wonderfully. He gets along great with our collie, Lexi. They like to run around the yard and play chase and tag. We get lots of laughs watching the little dog chase down the big one. When Bruiser is the house, he's either on my lap or my husband's lap. We've fallen in love with his sweet little face. Thank you for allowing us to be his forever family."

Cat's Corner

Happy Tail ~ Carmen

By Danielle Wallis



In March, KAR received an urgent call from Animal Services that they had a pregnant cat ready to give birth any day. The shelter only allows approved rescue groups to take in pregnant animals to ensure the mom and offspring will be well cared for and spayed/neutered prior to adoption. One of our dedicated volunteers quickly jumped in to assist Carmen and her unborn kittens.

Carmen was very ill and it was a race against the clock to get her medicated, well fed and comfortable before the kittens arrived. She received multiple rounds of fluids to treat an upper respiratory infection, but was still sick when she went into labor ten days later.

I woke up around 6:00 a.m. to discover that Carmen had delivered one kitten. I stayed home from work to help her deliver eight babies, many of which I had to assist with delivering the placentas and cutting umbilical cords. We dried and warmed the babies and made Carmen as comfortable as possible. Because Carmen was so sick so were the babies. We lost the runt and a second kitten due to an intestinal birth defect. This was very sad and stressful, but we had six kittens and the momma to care for.

Once she was feeling better, Carmen proved to be a very good mother—clearly relaxed and safe in the knowledge that she and her babies were receiving the TLC they needed. One by one, her six kittens were adopted.

By August, Carmen had transferred to a different foster home where things were a little quieter and it became apparent that she did not care for dogs or other cats. She wanted to be by herself—the lone lady of the house—and she quietly stayed in her own room patiently waiting for the right family to come along.

The Bakkers spotted her online, instantly loved her pictures and arranged to meet her. This family has three young children, no other pets and they decided that an older cat would be preferable in their household instead of a kitten. They saw the benefits of having a cat that was already trained, calm and from a foster home. Carmen was

PETS OF THE MONTH



[Callie](#)



[Pee Wee](#)

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

used to being around children and her foster mom was able to tell them more about her personality. Carmen is queen of her new castle, living contently with her forever family. It was a match made in heaven. They could not be happier and neither can we!

Special Thanks



The fifth annual Two Thumbs Up! Book Sale took place at Parchment Middle School on October 5th and over \$500 was raised. The event date was threatened by rain but that didn't stop best friends, Ellie and Lauren from getting out there and waving signs at passersby throughout the day. Several brave kitties and dogs (Skylar pictured at left) came to the event hoping to find their forever homes.

We deeply appreciate the volunteers and members of the public who showed their support by coming to the book sale. And we extend a very special thank you to Lauren and Ellie, and their families who take on this task each year to raise money for KAR's furry friends.

Check out [Two Thumbs Up Book Sale](#) Facebook page here!

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.



KAR LINKS

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



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

CONTACT US

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Rescue

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

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