

KAR Friends

December 2011



Dear Reader,

Happy Holidays! Have you gotten something for everyone on your Christmas list, including your lovable lap dog or furry feline? We have some fun ideas for making this holiday a memorable one for your pets. Try the homemade *Yogurt Pups* dog treat recipe or make a catnip toy for your kitten to enjoy. Most importantly, don't let the hustle and bustle of the season distract you from keeping your critters safe.

From all of us at Kalamazoo Animal Rescue, may you, your family and beloved pets have a safe and joyous holiday season.

Danielle Wallis
Marketing Coordinator

Lynn Bolhuis
KAR Friends Editor

Create a Memorable Christmas for Your Pet

By Kim Bourner



The holiday season is a special time to celebrate with family, friends and pets. We are sharing three things that will make this Christmas a memorable and safe one for your animal companions.

Goodies

The holiday feast served at the dining room table is probably not appropriate for your furry friends. However, local pet stores have lots of delectable delights that are made especially for dogs and cats. If you enjoy cooking or baking, the Internet is a great resource for locating recipes to make

special treats for animals. Here is one for homemade dog treats:

[Yogurt Pups](#)

Ingredients:

16 ounces plain nonfat yogurt

3/4 cup water

1 tablespoon chicken bouillon granules

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Instructions:

Dissolve bouillon in water. Combine water and yogurt in a blender and blend thoroughly. Pour into small containers for freezing, cover and freeze.

Toys

Everyone enjoys toys, even lovable critters. There are plenty of pre-made options available in stores this time of year, pleasantly bundled and ready to put under the tree. If you prefer to craft a custom creation for your feline or canine friend, here are some gift making ideas to give them hours of fun.

For Cats:

- Catnip sock – fill an old, clean sock with some catnip. Tie it tight and then give it to the kitty for their holiday pleasure.
- Wrapping paper balls – take wrapping paper and crumple into balls for cats to chase.
- Here are more [homemade cat toy](#) ideas.



[Jingle Bell](#)

For Dogs:

- Tennis sock – place a tennis ball into an old, clean sock. Tie it off for hours of pulling fun.
- Tie the Knot – take a long strip of fabric and tie large knots at both ends. Use one end for you and the other end for the dog to engage in a game of tug of war.
- For more ideas, check out [10 DIY dog toys you can make](#).



[Rylee](#)

Pet Safety

Keep safety in mind at holiday time! We invited friends over for Thanksgiving and they both gave us house plants. One was animal friendly and the other was not, so we opted to re-gift the one that wasn't safe for pets. Here are some tips for keeping your home and furry ones safe:

- Christmas tree – Be sure to put breakable ornaments near the top of the tree. If you have a cat who likes to climb, put the breakable ornaments in a box in the attic, safely away from your adventurous feline.
- Candles can be a hazard for wagging tails and tree light cords can be a hazard if chewed. Monitor both carefully to avoid singeing and electrocuting your beloved critters.
- Many holiday plants are poisonous to pets including: mistletoe, poinsettias, amaryllis, lilies, and holly to have a few. If you receive any of these for Christmas, this is one time when re-gifting to protect the life of your pet is acceptable.

OUR SPONSORS

(click the ads to visit their websites)

- The holiday buffet is not an appropriate diet for our furry friends. If necessary, secure the cat or dog in a pet-friendly bedroom until after the meal, away from the temptation of people food and guests who don't have the will power to give in to begging pets.

Additional Resources:

- [Make your Christmas tree pet safe](#)
- [Holiday pet-health tips](#)
- [Holiday hazards](#)

Ask the Vet

Rabies in Companion Animals

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



Many of us are familiar with the story of "Old Yeller," and have heard urban legends about rabies but may not know some of the facts about this devastating disease. Rabies is caused by a virus that is able to infect many different species of animals, including humans. This makes the threat of rabies very serious not only for our pets but for our families. Due to rabies vaccination protocols and regulations in the United States today, the

incidence of rabies is much lower than it was 50 to 100 years ago. But the worldwide incidence of human rabies is still estimated at about 55,000 deaths per year. During 2009, 49 states and Puerto Rico reported 6,690 rabid animals and four human rabies cases to the [Centers for Disease Control](#) (CDC).

Rabies is most often found in wild animals such as foxes, raccoons, skunks, and bats. These animals are frequently found near our homes, raising the probability that our pets could come in contact with an infected animal. The virus congregates in the salivary glands of the infected animal so that it can be easily passed through a bite. Rabies has two forms: paralytic and furious. The paralytic form is characterized by weakness, loss of coordination, and paralysis. The furious form is the more well known of the two and is characterized by extreme aggression or other abnormal behavior. The symptoms of rabies are common to both cats and dogs and include:

- Excessive excitability, irritability, or aggression
- Hydrophobia and excessive salivation
- Paralysis, fever, and seizures

The virus attacks the central nervous system of the infected pet following exposure. It is fatal within a few days of apparent clinical symptoms. The CDC recommends the following steps to prevent rabies in pets:

UPCOMING EVENTS

- January 7th,
Crossroads Mall
- January 14th,
PetSmart

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

WELCOME NEW KAR VOLUNTEERS

Cyndi Poth
Rob Poth

- Schedule regular veterinary visits and keep pets current on rabies vaccinations
- Keep cats indoors and keep dogs under control while outdoors. Do not allow pets to roam free as they may be exposed to infected animals
- Spay or neuter pets to control the stray pet population
- Call Animal Services to remove stray animals from your neighborhood

Exposure to rabies is invariably fatal for an unvaccinated pet. The incidence of dog rabies in the U.S. has been reduced due to vaccination requirements. Cat rabies has become more common due to lack of such requirements, and their nocturnal hunting lifestyles. Therefore, it is just as important to vaccinate cats as dogs. Following a suspected exposure or bite, a vaccinated pet must be quarantined for ten days. If you suspect your pet has been exposed to rabies it is essential to take him or her to a vet immediately for evaluation and quarantine. You must take every precaution to avoid being bitten or scratched by your exposed pet during capture and transportation to the vet's office. Although rabies is a deadly disease it is preventable through the steps outlined above. We need to keep our feline and canine best friends safe by taking these precautions to give them the best chance to live a long and healthy life.

PETS OF THE MONTH



[Sugar Plums](#)



[Pretty Girl](#)

Fundraising Successes

The Dinner and Silent Auction held in November was a rousing success due to the amazing efforts of event coordinator, Dusty Reeds, and her team of hardworking volunteers! The event raised just over \$16,000 which will help to cover veterinary care, food and other animal-related expenses. We want to express heartfelt thanks to everyone who supported the event this year.

Our [special fall newsletter](#) mailing has generated approximately \$8,000 in donations. Kalamazoo Animal Rescue greatly appreciates the financial support we receive. These contributions will help to make happy endings possible for the cats and dogs we rescue.

In spite of these great fundraising successes, KAR depends on the public for ongoing donations. We receive requests every day to help animals because of the depressed economy. The demand is greater today than ever before.

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As the year draws to a close, we hope you will consider **making a tax-deductible donation to KAR** if you have not done so already. Your financial gift will enable us to save lives by giving homeless dogs and cats a second chance. If you would like to help, you may make an [online donation](#) or you can mail a check to:

Kalamazoo Animal Rescue  
 P.O. Box 3295  
 Kalamazoo, MI 49003

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

## Happy Holidays

In the spirit of Christmas and counting our blessings, Kalamazoo Animal Rescue would like to recognize and express gratitude to ...

- Our dedicated and hardworking volunteers
- The foster moms, dads and families who care for our cats and dogs in their homes
- Individuals, groups and businesses who support the rescue through fundraising efforts, donations of food, pet supplies, items for our dinner and silent auction, and with monetary gifts
- The doctors and staff of area veterinary clinics who treat our animals and provide for their care and well being
- Kalamazoo County Animal Services & Enforcement
- *KAR Friends* sponsors and readers
- The wonderful people and families who have adopted a pet from KAR

As 2011 draws to a close, over 400 cats and dogs have found forever homes. We have assembled a [video](#) to showcase some of the adopted animals helped by KAR this year.



## 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

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



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

## CONTACT US

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

Visit our [website](#)