

KAR Friends

December 2013



Dear Reader,

Happy Holidays to all our amazing supporters! We hope you and your pets have a joyful Christmas and make many happy memories together in the New Year.

This month's edition is jammed full of happiness to get you in the holiday spirit! Learn how to make gifts for your pets and read about how one lucky pooch and furry feline found their forever families. We also share highlights from 2013. Suffice it to say, the need is great and we will be back to saving cats and dogs in 2014—forever hopeful of the day that every animal will have a loving home and our job will be done.

Please feel free to spread the word and forward our eNewsletter to your friends and family. Let that be your gift to Kalamazoo Animal Rescue this year!

Danielle Wallis
KAR President

Lynn Bolhuis
KAR Friends Editor

Create a Memorable Christmas for Your Pet

By Kim Bourner and Danielle Wallis



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:

1. **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. What a great gift for your pets this Christmas!
2. **Toys** – Everyone enjoys toys, even lovable critters. There are plenty of pre-made options available in stores this time of year,

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pleasantly bundled and ready to put under the tree; however, if you prefer to craft a custom creation for your feline or canine friend here are some ideas!

For Dogs why not make them a [Sock 'n' ball](#)? Everyone has an old sock laying around, put a tennis ball in the toe, tie the top and bingo you have a fab new toy for your pooch—probably one of the cheapest and easiest things to make!

For Cats how about a [Cat Nip Sock](#)! Stuff an old sock with some cat nip, tie the end and let your cat enjoy! You can always take some old shoe laces and tie them around the end and let your cat chase you around the house! Easy, fast and CHEAP! Merry Christmas Cat!

- Pet Safety – Keep safety in mind at holiday time! Remember that there are lots of twinkly, stringy ornaments around the house at this time of the year that aren't usually there. The tree HAS to be climbed by the new kitten and those decorations make great soccer balls for cats! Dogs will try to get into gifts under the tree especially if they smell food inside!

Here is a [list of items](#) to watch out for this Christmas—we don't want you ending up with a hefty vet bill from Santa!

- Holiday Plants – mistletoe, holly berries and poinsettia
- Adhesives and glues are poisonous to dogs and cats too
- Ribbon, string, yarn – can be swallowed by cats and dogs and get tangled in their intestines
- Candles can easily ignite dogs and cats tails ending in severe burns
- Foods for your pets to avoid – chocolate, small bones, onions, avocados and don't give pets milk!

As a rule, stick to their normal diet and water over the holidays. However tempting it is to give them special treats (like scraps from the table), you don't want to be up all night with pets who need to use the bathroom! Maintain their daily, physical, exercise routines—they still know it's THAT time even at Christmas.

2013: KAR's Year in Review

By Danielle Wallis

There are countless people and businesses that have helped Kalamazoo Animal Rescue and I wish I could thank each of you in person. Support has come from individuals to families to local businesses, to pet stores that host our adoption events, and to the veterinary offices who give us discounts and care for our animals. All you do is appreciated, for without it there would be no rescue. Here a few supporters we would like to specially recognize:

OUR SPONSORS

(click the ads to visit their websites)



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- PetSmart
- The Pfizer Foundation
- Zoetis
- Truist
- Kalamazoo Community Foundation
- iGive.com
- Gull Lake Country Club
- Evelyn Sweet who remembered KAR in her estate

This year has been incredibly busy and I feel honored to have served as President. A special thanks also goes to our foster homes. Together we have saved over 230 cats and 70 dogs. We had a few challenging cases: five kittens that contracted Feline Leukemia and needed very special homes. We also had a dog named Reggie who was an awesome dog but suffered from separation anxiety. With love, training and patience, KAR helped him to find his forever home.

It is staggering to think that all these animals have been saved by no more than 20 foster homes. KAR has worked hard to build a solid support system and we intend to keep recruiting and growing in 2014. Our volunteers are our biggest and most valuable asset, and we give them every opportunity to be successful and save animals. Fostering cats and dogs is not a numbers game, and by no means is it a competition, but I would like to give special commendation to these fosters: Dusty Reeds, Dennis Herman and Rebecca Powers.

As animal rescuers, we want to put ourselves out of business, but if there is a need we will help the best we can. In 2013 we saved many but for the ones we could not get to in time, let us take a moment to remember them.

We have taken hundreds of calls from the public all year long asking for help with unwanted, injured and sick pets, and have responded where we can. There have been some great saves and countless time and energy expended helping those lucky few flourish and find loving homes. They live on for the ones who were not so fortunate.

As the year draws to a close, more than 280 cats and 70 dogs have found forever homes because everyone working together saves lives. We assembled a video to showcase some of the adopted animals helped in 2013.

These adoptions would not be possible without much needed financial support. The [fall newsletter](#) we mailed in October has brought in over \$8,500. Our annual Dinner Auction, which was one of the best ever, raised more than \$21,000 (netting about \$17,000 to benefit our animals)! Special thanks to the

UPCOMING ADOPTION EVENTS



December 21st and 28th
January 4th and 18th



January 11th



December 20th and 24th

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



[\(click to view the 2013 adopted animals video\)](#)

volunteers that helped with the event and our community supporters. Your efforts yielded incredible results!

To give you an idea how important donations are to KAR, our veterinary bills exceeded \$77,000 in 2013 and adoption fees only covered \$32,000 of this amount. Donations help to keep adoption prices affordable to improve the chances of our dogs and cats finding new homes.

If you have not done so already, please consider making a tax-deductible donation. Your financial gift will enable KAR to make a difference to a homeless cat or dog, and give them 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

Doggie Den

Happy Tail ~ Shelby

By Danielle Wallis



Back in 2010, KAR took a call from a concerned member of the public who knew of a dog in a bad situation. The living conditions were deplorable and to make matters worse, the little dog was pregnant.

This lucky Cockapoo was saved and brought into a foster home where she gave birth to four little puppies. Of course, the pups all found homes very

quickly but it wasn't long before mom found a loving home with the Fillingham family. She now has a little Dachshund brother. Shelby "let him know right away that she was in charge" and apparently "he doesn't mind a bit!" The other day her owner was watching the television and some puppies appeared and were making their little squeaks. Shelby's natural instincts kicked in and she "perked up" and tuned in to what they were watching!

We are so grateful to her family for choosing to rescue a pet and give Shelby her forever home. Three years later, it certainly seems as though she is happy and loved. Another successful match! "We just thank you so much for letting us take this wonderful little dog into our home."



Dachshund pal, Axel and Shelby

PETS OF THE MONTH



Dex



Holly Berry

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

Cat's Corner**Tiny Tim's Holiday Rescue**

By Karren Jensen



Sometime during the Thanksgiving holiday weekend of 2012, two tiny kittens were dumped near an abandoned barn on a bitterly cold day. The two waifs were left without food or shelter to perish in the cold but were reported to KAR by a concerned person. By the time help arrived, only one kitten survived, standing next to the body of his fallen brother and crying pitifully. The terrified little gray and white kitten was tenderly gathered up and taken to rescuer Candy's home to be warmed, fed, and loved until a longer-term foster home could be found for him. This traumatized baby, in a new home for the holidays, was soon named "Tiny Tim" after the famous Christmas Carol character.

Little Timmy was so terrified by his ordeal of abandonment that it took much effort to get him to trust humans again. When he came to my home a couple of days after his rescue he was shivering with fear and hid behind the books in one of the bookcases. I had to talk softly to him for several days to persuade him to come out. Tiny Tim loved to play but was quite lonely with only a human as a playmate. He longed to join the other cats in the house but was isolated until he could be tested for FeLV/FIV. Little Timmy found the three weeks spent in quarantine very trying—he hated solitary confinement.

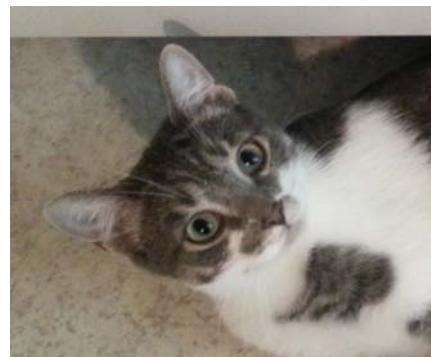
While waiting to come out of his room, Timmy and his new foster brother, Flynn, attempted to play through the gap under the door, touching paws as best they could manage. Flynn was anxious to meet the new kitten and spent many hours camped outside the door, talking to his new friend and attempting to glimpse this lively little guy. Finally the day arrived when Timmy could be released and soon he and Flynn became inseparable.

The time soon arrived for Timmy to find a loving forever home. Tiny Tim's soon-to-be adoptive dad, Brad, had applied to adopt a new friend when his own cherished cat passed away. Although Timmy was still a bit shy with strangers, Brad decided to take a chance and meet this little boy, who warmed up quickly to such attention. With a couple of weeks left to wait for Timmy to have his neuter surgery, Brad prepared his home to become a kitty's paradise with a cat tree and other delights. Tiny Tim was a holiday waif with a name to match, but Brad decided that his new life would be well started with a new name so Timmy became Oliver, named after another famous Dickens character. Brad reports that Oliver has grown into a handsome cat and is his best friend. Oliver is a quirky cat whose endearing traits include fetching, making little cackling sounds instead of meowing, and being very independent. This year Oliver and Brad will celebrate the holiday season happily together as a family.

CONNECT WITH KAR[Find us on Facebook](#) **WELCOME NEW
KAR VOLUNTEERS**

Richard Gilman

Samantha Thorson



Special Event

Dinner Auction 2013 Update

By Kim Bourner



This year's gala was held on a brisk and bright day at the Gull Lake Country Club. Yvonne Stork did a fantastic job as event coordinator, continuing the 14-year legacy started by Dusty Reeds. KAR volunteers rallied to obtain a plethora of auction donations. The Country Club was

filled with bidding options for people of all ages and interests. This amazing event netted over \$17,000 to benefit our animals.

A new addition to this year's program was recognizing several people for their service to KAR in 2013. Rachael received a certification of appreciation for her lemonade stand which raised \$1,292. Ellie and Lauren, organizers of the annual Two Thumbs Up! Book Sale were also acknowledged for their efforts, which raised \$1,610 over the past two years. Long-time volunteer, Dennis Herman was recognized for his outstanding commitment and for everything he does to support our animals and the rescue. KAR is very fortunate to have so many talented and gracious people in our midst.

KAR's president, Danielle Wallis, also shared a few words, "I cannot possibly, thank everyone. I cannot pay any of you for what you do but I can thank you over and over again for all that you do for our rescue. Every single person in the rescue has helped to be a part of these rescues. YOU have changed the lives of not only these animals but their new owners. YOU make this rescue successful by being a part of it!"



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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