



KALAMAZOO ANIMAL RESCUE

Phone: (269) 226-8570

KAR Friends

December 2014

In This Issue

[Best of the Best ~KAR Friends 75th Issue](#)

[Adopted Faces of 2014](#)

[Doggie Den ~ Rusty ~ A Poem to My Foster Dog](#)

[Cat's Corner ~ Ollie](#)

[Special Thanks ~ Rock to the Rescue and Rachel](#)

Dear Reader:

This month we celebrate the 75th issue of *KAR Friends* and ring in the Holiday Season! We extend joyful wishes to you and to your pets for a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

To end the year on a high note, we tell two heartwarming happy tails—Rusty and Ollie—and we present our ever popular **Adopted Faces of 2014** video showcasing some of the adorable cats and dogs finding permanent homes this year. KAR is forever hopeful for the day when every animal will have a loving home and our job will be done.

Please feel free to spread good cheer and forward our eNewsletter to friends and family. Let this be your gift to Kalamazoo Animal Rescue!

Danielle Wallis
KAR President

Best of the Best

KAR Friends 75th Issue

By Lynn Bolhuis and Pete Kushner

This month's publication of *KAR Friends* is our 75th issue! We've come a long way since our humble beginnings in the fall of 2008 when our first issue was emailed to approximately 130 subscribers. Today *KAR Friends* goes out each and every month to over 1,300 people.

As you can imagine, lots of great articles have been written about pet-related topics, rescue news, and happy tails of dogs and cats that found forever homes. We looked through the archives to find the most popular content selected by readers and here it is.

Most Popular Feature Articles:

1. [Four Ways to Cope with the Loss of a Pet](#)
2. [Winter Activities for Pets](#)



[View Past Issues Here](#)



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3. [Keep Pets Cool When It's Sizzlin' Outside](#)
4. [Pet Nutrition](#)
5. [Introducing Your Dog to a New Dog](#)
6. [The Plight of Black Cats and Dogs](#)
7. [Winter Pet Safety](#)



Top Ask the Vet Articles:

- [Nail Trimming](#)
- [First Aid for the Pet Owner](#)

Top Doggie Den Articles:

- [Doggone Fun: Area Dog Parks](#)
- [10 Family Friendly Breeds](#)
- [Chance Gets a Second Chance](#)



Top Cat's Corner Articles:

- [Dupont Street Rescue Update](#)
- [Two Cat Only Diseases: FeLV and FIV](#)
- [Tiny Tim's Holiday Rescue](#)

Publishing 75 email newsletters is a feat made possible because of a dedicated group of animal-loving volunteers who write engaging content for our readers to enjoy. We also want to thank our faithful readers for their interest in Kalamazoo Animal Rescue, a non-profit organization that relies on volunteers, the community's support and private donations to save animals in need.

As we ring in the New Year and embark on the journey toward our next milestone—100 issues—please help to spread the word about KAR and our adoptable cats and dogs currently looking for forever homes. You can forward the eNewsletter to friends, co-workers and family. You may also follow us on [Facebook](#) and check out more stories on our [Blog](#).

Adopted Faces of 2014

We've assembled our annual [video](#) to showcase some of the adopted animals we helped in 2014.

These adoptions would not be possible without much needed financial support. Special thanks goes out to all the volunteers that helped with this year's events and to our community of supporters!



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 an abandoned dog, and give them a second chance at a happy ever after. 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

Pets of the Month



[Harvey](#)



[Cassie](#)

Welcome New Volunteers

- Emily Gross
- Deb Horrocks
- Kimberly Jako
- Melissa Knapp
- Amanda Scull
- Abbey Thompson
- Linda Woodford

Doggie Den

Happy Tail ~ Rusty's Dilemma

By Karren Jensen

Rusty was a young dog with boundless energy and a heart full of love to share. With all of this canine goodwill and the best intentions, poor Rusty was just not appreciated. Instead of living up to his mission to be someone's best buddy, he found himself in KAR foster care with Dusty when his family relinquished him. Rusty's name was "Cutter" when he came into the rescue, but Dusty saw his potential to be a best friend to some lucky new family and renamed him "Buddy".

Dusty took good care of Buddy while he waited for his forever home. When he was adopted by the Levanduski family they named him "Rusty" and the young dog landed in doggy heaven. He has another dog to play with, cats to bark at (the cats don't seem to mind), and best of all there are three lively kids to share his adventures. Showered with love and giving his whole heart in return, Rusty is one happy and fulfilled pup!

Dogs like Rusty wouldn't get a second chance if not for dedicated foster parents like Dusty. Rusty's new mom, Kim, shared the following poem with Dusty, expressing the joy and sorrow shared by all pet foster parents.



A Poem to My Foster Dog

By Diane Morgan

I am the bridge,
Between what was and what can be.
I am the pathway to a new life.

I am made of mush,
Because my heart melted when I saw you,
Matted and sore, limping, depressed
Lonely, unwanted, afraid to love.

For one little time you are mine.
I will feed you with my own hand.
I will love you with my whole heart.
I will make you whole.



I am made of steel.
Because when the time comes,
When you are well, and sleek,
When your eyes shine,
And your tail wags with joy
Then comes the hard part.

I will let you go—not without a tear,
But without a regret.
For you are safe forever—
A new dog needs me now.

Adoption Events



December 20th and 27th
January 3rd and 17th



January 10th

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

Connect With KAR



Find us on Facebook

Cat's Corner

Happy Tail ~ Ollie is Home for the Holidays

By Kim Bourner

Happy Holiday Greetings!

I am Ollie, and I am here today to wish you a holiday as joyous as mine. I was found at nearly two months of age, entered a foster home for the next ten months, and found my forever home just before my first birthday. There was a hiccup along the way that kept me in a foster home for longer than your typical kitten.



This rescue sees dozens and dozens of kittens each year (my foster mom told me so). I saw that the majority of my fellow fuzzy friends were adopted quickly. However, my unusually chronic constipation required daily doses of medication, I was in my foster home for many months receiving lots of love and care.

Fortunately for me, I was placed in the home of a seasoned foster parent. It takes a very special human to attend to a kitty in need of daily medications. The patience of my foster mom was thoroughly rewarded. She continued to advocate for me even though she and I were becoming very close friends. She let others know I chirp for birds, cuddle on laps, and have excellent bathroom skills.

At just shy of a year old, I found my fur-ever mom. Abby was glad to take in this kitten-sized kitty who requires a bit of extra work. She has given me a ribbon toy that I keep close at all times (I like the way it makes her laugh). I also have a big brother, Gus, who keeps me in shape with wrestling exercises. We also work together to chirp at the birds outside of our reach. He's such a good friend.

I sent Santa a letter telling him that my wish list is complete: great mom and fun brother. May your Christmas be as merry as mine is this year!

Tidings of Great Joy,
Ollie



KAR Links

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



[Donate Today!](#)

Contact Us

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- Danielle Wallis

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

Special Thanks

By Katie Drenth

Rock to the Rescue

On Thursday, December 4th, volunteers from Kalamazoo Animal Rescue partnered with Rock to the Rescue to earn money for both charities by selling raffle tickets to win an autographed guitar signed by members of the band Styx.



Rock to the Rescue is a non-profit founded by Styx and they choose a local charity in each city they visit on tour to partner with. Working together we raised \$845 for KAR. A big thank you goes out to all the volunteers who helped and to Meesh with Rock to the Rescue for this wonderful opportunity. We hope to partner with them again the next time the band comes to Kalamazoo!

Rachel

A huge thanks goes out to Rachel, an animal-loving young lady who raised \$100 at her lemonade stand for KAR. Her parents are owners of the Sticks & Stones shops. She set up the stand in front of their downtown Kalamazoo location. Last year she did the same thing and we are so grateful for the difference this young person is making.



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!

