

CATS AND DOGS

A MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO COMPANION ANIMALS



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and the Spirituality of Animals



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CATS AND DOGS

PO Box 996, Jenison, MI 49429-0996

616-777-0645

catsanddogsmagazine@comcast.net

www.catsanddogsmagazine.com

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Publisher: Janet Vormittag
Owner: JLV Enterprises LLC

Deadlines

Spring: Feb. 10 - Summer: May 10
Fall: August 10 - Winter: Nov. 10

Home delivery of *Cats and Dogs* is \$16 per year. Make your check payable to Cats and Dogs and mail to:
Cats and Dogs, P.O. Box 996, Jenison, MI 49429-0996

Advertising information:

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Rescue Tidbits

Pleasant Hearts Pet Food Pantry is always in need of scoopable cat litter, cat/dog kibble, and canned cat/dog food. Flea/tick prevention, as well as gently used or new toys, collars, leashes, harnesses, and more are accepted and needed. You can find the list of donation barrels, our Amazon and Chewy wish lists, and other ways to help on the 'Donate' page of our website: www.pleasantheartspetfoodpantry.org

If you are interested in volunteering, making a recurring monetary donation, hosting a donation barrel, holding a donation drive, or have any questions, please email us at info@pleasantheartspetfoodpantry.org. Help us keep pets & families together!

Hearts of Hope Rescue: Gracey came to us unable to walk. She was skin and bones. Since being with her fantastic foster family she has gained 11 pounds and immeasurable spunk. On Nov. 15 she will have surgery on her right leg (she will have her patella repaired and an osteotomy to line that leg back up). After a careful healing process that will take three to four months, she will have another surgery to repair the patella on her left leg. We're happy to help dogs like Gracey, but we can't do it without amazing volunteers and the generosity of our supporters. Please help us with the cost of Gracey's care. Thank you!
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Fig and Friends Pet Rescue: Come get your pet's picture taken with Santa! We have three opportunities for you to capture festive memories with your family members whether they be furry, feathered or finned. Saturday, Dec. 10, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Posh Petals, 806 Bridge St NW, GR., Sunday, Dec. 11, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Chow Hound, 734 28th St SE, GR, and Saturday, Dec. 17, 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. at Pet Supplies Plus, 2033 28th St SW, Wyoming. No registration required. The price is a donation to Fig and Friends Pet Rescue. There will be a raffle drawing and other festive fun.



Michele's Rescue: Check out this smart girl. Tilly traveled from Texas to find her forever home this winter. Besides being absolutely adorably, Silly Tilly is curious about new things—we can't wait to see her first experience playing in the snow! Tilly is 3½ years old but doesn't quite realize her size so she would be best suited for a home with older kids. She is good with other dogs who are respectful, but requires a slow and controlled introduction because, after all, she is

a southern lady. At the end of the day, Tilly is a cuddle bug who wants a warm place to lay her head and dream sweet doggy dreams. Visit www.michelesrescue.com and fill out an application to meet sweet Silly Tilly today.

A Feral Haven is growing as an organization that supports feral/community cats in Ottawa and Allegan counties by loaning traps, and providing spay/neuter vouchers and food. Volunteers Needed: We are looking for two Board Members and several other volunteers to assist on an as-needed basis. Ideally, the board members would either have fundraising experience and/or customer service skills to assist with daily tasks. Members commit to 10+ hours a month and a two-year term. Other volunteering opportunities include trap/carrier maintenance and caregiver assistance. Please email us what your volunteer interests are to get the process started: a.feral.haven.mi@gmail.com.

Pet Tales Rescue: Come have your pet's portrait taken with Santa! Dec. 3., noon to 3 p.m. at Pet Supplies Pets on Alpine in Grand Rapids. A \$20 donation gets your family pictures with Santa. There will be a bake sale and a gift basket raffle for \$1 per ticket. Pet Tales merchandise will be available—think Christmas gifts. PetTalesRescue.com

Mackenzie's Animal Sanctuary 'Tis The Season! Remember to include Mackenzie's Animal Sanctuary in your holiday giving. We can think of no greater gift to give! In a perfect world, every pet would spend its time surrounded by a loving family. Sadly, that isn't the case. Your generosity ensures that these rescue dogs are given the gift of time until a forever home is found. Your support is vital. Not only are you helping all our dogs get the medical care they deserve, but you are also giving them a second chance at a happy, healthy life. Please donate today! mackenzies.com

The West Michigan Ferret Connection does not believe ferrets (or any other animal) should be Christmas presents. Therefore, we are suspending adoptions until after Jan. 8, 2023. If anyone is interested in supporting the WMFC this holiday season, please visit The Ferret Giving Tree 2022 on the internet. We have 19 ferrets who need Santas on Trees 5 & 6. www.ferretgivingtree.com.

Wishbone Pet Rescue Alliance: 4,928 days saving lives, 20,000+ animals cared for in strays, surrenders, seizures, adoptions, low-cost and no-cost spay/neuter clinics.

Wishbone Pet Rescue Alliance is an umbrella animal welfare organization that oversees the Allegan County Animal Shelter, Cat Adoption Center, Pet-Food Pantry and Low-Cost Spay/Neuter Clinics. Our mission is to alleviate the pain and suffering of homeless pets. We cannot survive without the generosity of our donor community. Donate today! P.O. Box 124, Douglas, MI 49406, 269-455-5247 www.wishbonepetrescue.org



WINTER KITTIE FUN NEWSLETTER

New Logo, Kai !



Special Adoption Events have been hosted by Pure Ink Studio, Clifford Lake, Stanton - Tractor Supply Greenville, Kaleidoscope of Times, Greenville. Our appreciation to these event sponsors and many others over the years.

We have a Booth of Goodies For Sale - Check it out at Kaleidoscope of Times, Greenville

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Special Thanks To:
Tammy Cilibrise and Katherine Malik Kline for organizing Paws with Claws Auction (Over \$7,000 raised - Thanks to all who donated items and bless all the lucky bidders)

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Hansen Feed and Seed, Greenville
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Pet Supplies Plus, Alpine Ave, GR
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Pet Supplies Plus, 28th St, Grand Rapids

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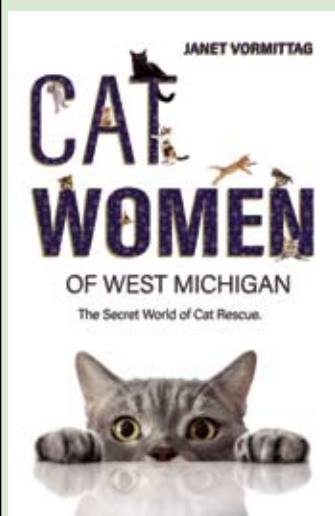
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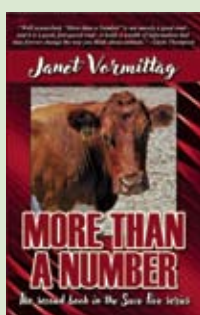
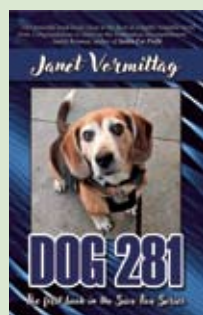
During the years of publishing *Cats and Dogs Magazine*, I've met amazing people involved in animal rescue. Some of the most amazing have been women devoted to helping cats and kittens.

I'm humbled and honored to be able to tell the stories of these unsung heroes. In *Cat Women of West Michigan, the Secret World of Cat Rescue*, you'll meet women who start rescues, trap-neuter-return feral cats, foster homeless cats, socialize wild kittens, bottle-feed orphans, transport cats for spay/neuter surgeries, fund-raise and so much more.

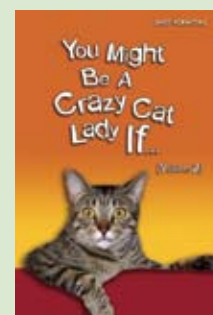
You'll learn the stories behind rescues such as Heaven Can Wait, Faithful to Felines, Carol's Ferals, Focus on Ferals, Crash's Landing, Cat Tales Rescue and several others.

My hope is by reading *Cat Women of West Michigan* you'll be inspired to help or at least get your own cats spayed/neutered. We have a problem with an over population of cats that was made worse by the Covid-19 shutdown. For ten weeks, C-SNIP and veterinarian clinics weren't allowed to do spay/neuter surgeries, which has caused an explosion of kittens and subsequently, homeless cats. Those involved in cat rescue are tired. Rescues are full. Foster homes are full. They need your help.

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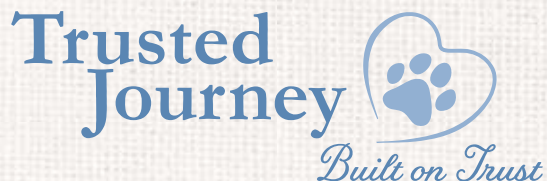
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Furry Philosophy

By Jodi Jarvis -Therrian CPDT-KA CTDI
Certified Pet First-Aid & CPR Instructor
AKC CGC Evaluator



I believe every dog that comes into our lives has a purpose and a message.

Odin J., my soul dog, now at the Rainbow Bridge, shown in the photo, came into my life to teach me many lessons. One of the lessons being how to help reactive dogs live their best lives.

Sometimes the messages that our furry friends bring us are ones that we do not want to face. However, when we are handed these situations, there is a lesson that I feel called to share the information I acquire.

I believe part of my dog Olaf's purpose is to help other dogs and their humans who are struggling with the same issues he is. This has been very difficult for my heart and his.

When I rescued Olaf, almost three years ago, he was diagnosed as heartworm positive.

I chose to do the slow kill with doxycycline and heartworm preventative. I am very holistic minded and believed that would be easier on his body. A year later he did test negative. I was told to keep him on heartworm preventative and test again the next year.

Fast forward to a year later when Olaf had an incident where he scared me when he threw up and had a vagal response (a sudden drop in blood pressure that can cause fainting). I was so glad I had my First Aid, CPR training. It helped me deal with the situation so much more efficiently than if hadn't had the power of knowledge. Olaf was fine, but it caused me to go into my veterinarian and get some blood work.

When the tests came back, I was shocked and cried when I found out he was positive for heartworm. How could that be? I had him on heartworm preventative. What had happened?

I now know one of the possibilities is the male heartworm did not produce enough antigen to show up in a test to make it positive. I want my readers to research and know there is a heat test that can be done that can determine this. If you are routinely checking for heartworm one test if usually fine. However, if you dog had

heartworm, I would suggest multiple tests to confirm the negative result.

From tests, I believe Olaf's heart is in good shape. I am choosing to not do the harsh treatment at this time. I am doing research and meeting with an integrative veterinarian. I love my veterinarian, who suggested steroids and Melarsomine. However, we need to be our pet's own advocate and do what our heart calls us to do. I am not saying either of us is right, there are many paths. My research and heart directs me to start herbal remedies. Olaf is on heartworm preventative, and he cannot spread the disease. If it does not work, I would look at the alternatives. I choose to believe in the power of positive thinking. It will work.

I will update you, my readers, what I conclusively decide to do and what the results turn out to be. I am finding so many conflicting answers out there. I truly feel it's Olaf's mission to help others by reporting my experiences.

No matter what, we need to keep that heart and entire body strong to fight the disease! In research, it is found that we should feed what the body is weak in (i.e. feed liver for a compromised liver). I am feeding Olaf a diet that includes raw heart and dehydrated heart treats. He eats a diet rich in whole, immune boosting foods and high in Coq10, such as sardines, broccoli, spinach, peas mussels, organs, and herring.

I believe whole foods are key in keeping the body strong and healthy to fight off disease.

Please send Olaf love and good vibes.

A few resources for nutrition advice:

If you are local, I highly suggest talking to Tonya Christianson at Must Love Dogs in Grand Haven.

Books:

[The Forever Dog](#) by Karen Becker and Rodney Habib

[Canine Nutrigenomics](#) by Dr. Jean Dodds

[Yin and Yang](#) Dr. Judy Morgan DVM.

[Dr. Cathy Alinovi's blog and books](#)

I also suggest you follow them on Facebook and YouTube.





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On the Wild Side

with Allyson Swanson



With Retirement Pending, Wildlife Rehab Center Seeks a New Nest

Wildlife Rehab Center (WRC) has served the Grand Rapids community for 30-plus years as a reliable resource for injured and orphaned wildlife. Since our founding, we have grown to rescue over 4,000 animals a year in a one-acre urban setting; our founders Peg and Roger Markle's residence. In 2022, Roger suffered a serious accident while working in the barn. Thankfully he is recovering but it became clear that it was time for the Markles to officially retire and that WRC needed a new home.

Unfortunately, their well-deserved retirement comes with a price. If our team is unable to find a new location, WRC will face closure. In response to this dire community need, we have embarked on an ambitious capital campaign. In addition to monetary contributions that will fund the initiative, we are seeking a donation of a moderately sized piece of land with water, electric, and sewer. Outbuildings would be a plus, but they can also be built.

Our grand vision is a partnership with other organizations to create a rehabilitation and nature center unlike any other in Michigan. We imagine an eco-friendly center with public spaces, educational areas, community involvement programs and more! We seek a space where West Michigan residents young and old can experience nature and gain a sense of responsibility toward it. With your help, our small center with humble beginnings could become a glorious haven for wildlife within the city.

What can you do to support WRC and ensure it has a future for years to come? Visit wildlife-rehab-center.org to donate funds, use your connections to secure a new facility, or simply spread the word! Our wildlife needs you!

Allyson Swanson is a Licensed Wildlife Rehabilitator with Wildlife Rehab Center Ltd, 1504 Union Ave NE, Grand Rapids. She has been licensed since 2013 but started as a volunteer over twenty years ago. Since then she has worked with countless species of birds and mammals and has become one of the main local resources for Virginia Opossums. She is also the Center's Education Coordinator and does presentations with their Educational Ambassador animals. allyson@wildlife-rehab-center.org – 616-606-5805

Training Tips

The holidays from a dog's perspective

By Bob Crough

For us humans the holidays can be very fun time of year. We see all the hard work that was put into a large meal, we get excited to see family coming in from out of town, and can't wait for all the amazing presents! This can fill us with warm feelings of happiness and love. However, looking through a dog's eyes this event can be very different. Dogs simply do not understand what is going on or the relevance of what is happening. From a dog's perspective, there are a few days of the year the owners make some of the rarest foods and put them out. Then all kinds of strangers, who do not live there, show up to steal the food and trespass on the property. This miscommunication can put dogs in the position to have disagreements with other doggy siblings or confrontations with human guests.

Here are a few tips to avoid any issues with the family pet during the holidays.

- * Teach and practice a place command (go to your mat) for use during times the dog is milling around the table to avoid issues.

- * Practice a sit stay about 10 feet away from the door for use when guests arrive to avoid jumping and puppy nipping.

- * Get your dog a new awesome bone to eat in privacy in a bedroom. Wait until the greeting and high energy of the moment dies down, then release the dog to meet guests after the dust has settled.

- * Rigorously exercise your dog before the busy parts of the holiday begin so the dog is more relaxed and tired.

- * Practice the "no touch, no talk, no eye contact" rule for the first 15 minutes of new people arriving to the home.

- * Have you and your guest take the dog for a walk together before settling in to the environment as an easy way to break the ice with new people.

- * Contact a seasoned trainer to help you through any issues or questions you may have leading up to the holiday.

- * Give the dog a task or have them focus on a game or puzzle while events are taking place. Include them by giving the dog their own presents to open. They love that!

Paying attention to the dog's behavior and follow these few time-tested tips can help you avoid any holiday pet mishaps.

I hope you all have a very happy and safe holiday season!

Bob Crough, owner Paradigm Dog School
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Muskegon Humane Society Expands Services

In June, Alexis Robertson, Executive Director of the Muskegon Humane Society, learned the owners of the Pay It Forward Animal Outreach were considering closing their clinic.

For years, Pay It Forward, operated by Dr. Sandi Strandberg and her husband Floyd, has offered affordable pet care to low-income residents in the Muskegon area.

Alexis called a meeting of the humane society's board members to discuss expanding their services by taking over Pay It Forward. Board members agreed on the expansion and on August 1 they closed on the building that housed the clinic. "It was a quick process," she said.

A capital campaign was started and the Bissell Pet Foundation offered a \$50,000 matching grant. So far, close to \$15,000 has been raised. Alexis said their biggest need is money for renovations of the building.

Before the Strandbergs bought the building at 1827 W Sherman in Muskegon, it housed a dentist office and a chiropractor. Both businesses used small rooms, making the floor plan a maze. Alexis said they decided to redesign the layout. They knocked out walls, constructed new walls, updated the flooring and painted.

"The vision is to be a full-time, full-service clinic that supports pets in need, whether they are owned or in shelters," Alexis said.

The clinic will be self-sustaining. Long-term goals include applying for grants for spay/neuter of feral cats and for vaccine clinics. Weekend hours for emergencies is also being considered.

Alexis said they contacted local rescues and asked what services they needed. "Together we can save more lives," she said. The goal is to have one day each week devoted to spay/neuter for local shelters and rescues. But before that can happen, they need to find another veterinarian or two.

Currently there are two part-time vets on staff. Dr. Bohn works two days and Dr. Strandberg works one, which makes it possible for clinic to be open three days a week.

Humane Society board members also made the decision to change the name of the clinic from Pay It Forward to Big Lake Community Animal Clinic.

A Pay It Forward Fund has been started that will be used to help cover costs for people who can't afford the clinic's services. "We are here to ensure every pet gets the care they deserve," Alexis said.

Alexis said rescues and shelters are feeling the trickle effect of the Covid-19 pandemic. Pet surrender is up along with abandonment and neglect cases. Every day they receive requests for transfers from other shelters. It's becoming common to have people who are living in their cars deciding to give up their pets.

"Everyone is full," Alexis said. "It's been a tough year. The prospect of opening this clinic gave us new life."



**The Big Lake Community Animal Clinic team.
Alexis Robertson, Diane Neas, Katie Doom, Amy
LaBash, Brenna Morgan, Lisa Simon, Jayde Alsteens,
Leah Wetmore and Dr. Sandi Strandberg.**



Surgery room before and after renovations.

Big Lake Community Animal Clinic, 1827 W Sherman, Muskegon, is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Contact them at 231-799-1074 or biglakeac@gmail.com. Follow them on Facebook.

Reuben's Room Cat Rescue

A 501(c)(3) non-profit, all volunteer, no kill cat rescue.

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Left: 9 yr. old declawed Catty



Right: 7 yr. old Tia

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Kent County Releases Cold Weather Pet Tips

Owners Urged to Protect Pets from Dangerously Cold Temperatures

GRAND RAPIDS, MI (Nov. 10, 2022) - The Kent County Animal Shelter (KCAS), in collaboration with the Kent County Sheriff's Office (KCSO) Animal Control Division, want to remind residents of the special care their pet needs during the cold weather. While Michigan law does not prohibit dogs from being left outside in the cold, state law requires that all dogs who spend time outside have access to adequate shelter, fresh water, and dry bedding. The statute also stipulates separate shelter requirements for livestock.

"The best place for our pets is in our home but we know that is not always possible. We encourage all pet owners to take appropriate steps to protect those animals that may be left outside for long stretches of time," said KCAS Director Angela Hollinshead. "Many pets are not equipped to handle the effects of cold temperatures so we want to remind pet owners of their responsibilities to care for them during the winter."

A few of the cold weather requirements in state statute include:

1. Maintain adequate shelter, which can be one or more of the following:
 - * Inside the owners' home.
 - * An enclosure or shelter with at least three sides and a roof that is appropriate for the size and breed of the dog. A structure, including a garage, barn or shed, that is sufficiently insulated and ventilated to protect the dog from exposure to extreme temperatures, or if not sufficiently insulated and ventilated, contains a doghouse inside the structure.
 - * Structures or natural features such as trees or topography for livestock.
2. Provide dry bedding, such as straw, when the temperature is or predicated to be below freezing. Avoid using blankets or cloth bedding as these materials will likely get wet and freeze.
3. Provide water that is safe to drink and suitable for the age and species of the animal. Owners are encouraged to check every few hours to ensure the water is not frozen.

Although Michigan law does not directly address free-roaming cats, the KCAS encourages residents to also be mindful of their needs. Cats are typically well adapted for living in colder climates, but they greatly benefit from having access to a shelter. Simple cat shelters made from a storage tote lined with foam and stuffed with straw make great places for cats to escape from the cold.

"If someone suspects an animal is being neglected or is in danger due to cold weather, we encourage them to contact Animal Control," said KCSO Lt. John DeGroot. "The KCSO is prepared to investigate all reports of animal neglect throughout the winter."

All reports of animals being kept outside for an extended period without adequate shelter, water, and bedding should be reported to Animal Control at (616) 632-7310.

"Michigan winters are certainly beautiful but can be dangerous for some animals if they do not have appropriate resources," concluded Hollinshead. "If you cannot keep your pet indoors and need resources, please call the KCAS to see how we can help."

*Kent County Animal Shelter, 740 Fuller Ave. NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503
616-632-7300 - www.accesskent.com/kcas*

Animal Chaplains and the Spirituality of Animals

By Ginny Mikita

I am currently enrolled in my second year at One Spirit, an interfaith/interspiritual seminary in NYC, and a related Animal Chaplaincy Training program, the first of its kind. I hope to be ordained in both capacities next June.

When I share this with friends, I am often asked what is an interfaith/interspiritual animal chaplain? Animal chaplains spiritually support all sentient beings, regardless of species or belief systems, including not only companion animals, but those held captive in human systems—factory farms, zoos and research facilities. Chaplains promote the human/animal bond through spiritual practices, offer sacred send-offs and advocate on behalf of all beings. An interfaith/interspiritual Animal Chaplain is, in the words of my dear friend and mentor Reverend Sarah Bowen, similar to being a *free-agent*, free to pull from all belief systems—religions, wisdom traditions, spiritual ways, philosophical paths, and scientific perspectives—to support each being in the way that is most helpful for them.

During the first month of the Animal Chaplaincy Training program, we began to explore and attempt to answer the question, “Are animals, who are animated by the same Divine Spark as we are, capable of having and do they have spiritual lives?” James Harrod, a researcher in this area, defines animal spirituality as being evidenced by five basic elements: 1) reverence or awe or intense love, 2) ritual, 3) terror, 4) wonder and 5) empathy. In the Companion Animal Loss Grief Support Group I facilitate, participants have shared hundreds of stories over the years in which they have observed their companion animals demonstrate one or more of these elements.

The first element, reverence or intense love, is probably the most evident for anyone who has spent time with a companion animal. This past week, a young couple, Matt and Cait, attended the Support Group grieving the loss of their beloved black lab mix rescue, Jack, who recently died of cancer. Woven into Jack’s beautiful life story was a love story.

Jack had been Matt’s dog for a number of years before the couple married. After Matt and Cait married, they adopted a declawed cat who Matt found near their home—they made a valiant but unsuccessful attempt to locate the cat’s original home. They named the cat Dora (the Explorer) until learning Dora was male, at which time they renamed him Diego.

Diego loved Jack. Jack tolerated Diego.

During our Group, the couple shared many stories and pictures of Diego maintaining a respectable distance from Jack but intentionally mirroring Jack’s bodily positions—the direction of his limbs, the curve of his spine, the tilt of his head. Uncanny and absolutely delightful.

After Jack died, Diego was finally able to snuggle up close and, in his grief, laid across Jack’s body. Diego



Diego mirroring Jack’s bodily positions.



is bereft, just as Matt and Cait are. Love, ritual, terror (at times), wonder and empathy...all the elements of a spiritual life.

In my own spiritual life, I have to come to understand God, the Divine, as Love, pure and simple. Could it be that our companion animals, simply by displaying love for one another and their human companions, are demonstrating a capacity for and the existence of spiritual lives? And might it be that we have so much more to learn about and from them?

If you are interested in learning more, need the services of an Animal Chaplain, would like to attend the Support Group or are willing to share your own witness to animal spirituality, please call or text me at 616.460.0373.



Ginny Mikita, JD, MDiv Candidate

www.animalblessings.love

ginny@animalblessings.love

616.460.0373

Facilitator

West Michigan Companion Animal
Loss Grief Support Group

2nd Tuesday of each month, 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Heaven at Home

1530 Monroe NW, Grand Rapids, MI

Please RSVP, text or call 616.460.0737

before noon on the day of the gathering.



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Grand Rapids Pit Bull Alliance Continues to Expand

By Janet Vormittag

If you visit the Facebook page of the Grand Rapids Pit Bull Alliance, you'll see a notice that the non-profit needs volunteers. Listed are numerous categories they need help with such as food distribution, re-homing counselors, crafting and enrichment, fundraising, crisis fostering, transportation, pet drop-in visits and much more.

Five years after Tanelle McFadyen, Jess Calton and Lyndsey Sturgeon founded the Alliance, the organization has increased its outreach and continues to grow. They have 27 volunteers, but due to expanding services they needed additional help. The Alliance is 100 percent volunteer-based.

The Alliance is an advocacy and outreach organization that collaborates with human service agencies and other animal welfare organizations. It is not a rescue.

Tanelle, Director of the Alliance, said volunteers need a non-judgement mentality and are paired with a mentor for training.

"We're going into people's homes and into their lives. We want people to feel comfortable connecting with us for help," she explained. She added seniors with mobility issues often become reclusive and worry they're going to lose their pet.

On their team of volunteers the Alliance has social workers and a veterinarian.

When the women started the Alliance their intention was to start small and then expand—five years later they're still expanding.

Their outreach goals were always bigger than just providing food. They wanted to offer other pet supplies, dog training, vaccines, transportation for spay/neuter and whatever else was necessary. The goal was to keep pets out of the shelters and in their homes.

"I care about people, and I see the connection between animals and people. That's what drives me to help keep them together," Tanelle explained.

Through their Pet Outreach Program, the Alliance partnered with Meals on Wheels to provide pet food for senior pet owners. They now partner with the Flat River Outreach Ministries in Lowell. When the ministry hands out food boxes, volunteers from the Alliance are there to offer pet food. They also ask if anything else is needed—vaccines, spay/neuter, beds, leashes.

The Alliance also works with in-home senior assessors from various organizations. If a pet owner is referred to them, they call and offer pet food.

"Pet food builds trust," Tanelle said. Once a friendship has been established they follow-up with monthly phone calls. Besides food, vaccines and spay/neuter, they'll supply pet beds, fence repair, dog walking, and grooming. During Covid they added two rolls of toilet paper and hand



Tanelle McFadyen with 4-year-old Caesar who spent the day with her at the Pet Support Center as part of the Alliance's Shelter Dog Day Camp Program. The program allows stressed dogs a chance of getting out of the shelter environment for the day. Caesar is available for adoption at the Kent County Animal Shelter.

sanitizer to each pet food delivery. Sometimes they even delivered groceries. They currently help 86 seniors.

The Alliance also helps unsheltered people who have pets. Volunteers travel to encampments, hotels and the streets to provide pet food, vaccines, spay/neuter—whatever pets need.

Tanelle said some people question if low-income or unsheltered people should have pets. Her answer is yes.

"Your bank account doesn't determine if you're a good pet parent," she said. "That animal is that person's lifeline, their everything."

In March, the Alliance moved their operations to an office building in Kentwood. When they first started, the women worked out of a storage unit, then they upgraded to a short-term office rental. Their latest move is to a three-room suite with a lobby, which they have dubbed the Pet Support Center. They have space for storing pet supplies, a multi-use office and a room to hold vaccine clinics or dog obedience classes and behavior consultations. They'll also be able to hold workshops, seminars, pet food bank days, and shelter pet enrichment days.

A supporter paid for their first year's rent.

"We're lucky. We have people who believe in what we do," Tanelle said, adding that having the larger facility is a game-changer in what they can do. The list of services they provide continues to grow.

Once a month they hold a by-appointment-only vaccine clinic where cats and dogs receive age-appropriate vaccines, microchips and flea protection.

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Home is where our pets are.

Pets are family, period. Despite this emotional bond, over 1 million households are forced to give up their pets each year.

It doesn't stop there.

An estimated 7 million pets enter shelters and approximately 2.7 million are euthanized annually. We believe that when armed with the right resources and provided with trauma-informed and judgement-free education and support, pet owners have a better chance of keeping their pets at home. And their families together. – Grand Rapids Pit Bull Alliance

Chow Hound also believes in the group's mission and donates pet food. In addition, there are donation barrels around town to collect supplies.

The Alliance also helps people rehome pets, but they request the owner keep the cat or dog until placement can be found.

If they receive a referral from one of their partner organizations regarding someone with an unexpected medical expenses for a pet, they'll do their best to help. The Alliance has close to 5,000 followers on Facebook. When a need is posted, followers donate.

Tanelle explained the work they do is tailored to each individual. Sometimes emergencies take priority, such as a referral regarding the need for crisis fostering in the case of domestic violence or a pet-owner who has been hospitalized.

Tanelle works part-time at the Kent County Animal Shelter. She's a certified professional dog trainer and finds satisfaction working with dogs in the shelter. She seldom takes on paying clients, but she does provide free training to families who need assistance with their dogs but can't afford classes or private training.

"It's another program we offer to help keep pets with their families," she said.

She'll also work with people and their dogs who can financially contribute to the Alliance.

Tanelle's primary job is that of a landscaper. The seasonal work gives her extra time to devote to the Alliance in the colder months. She estimates she puts in 20 to 30 hours with the Alliance every week.

"It's nonstop. Your day can change with a phone call," she said. "We're not a well-oiled machine. We just get things done."

For additional information about the Grand Rapids Pit Bull Alliance email grpitbullalliance@gmail.com or follow them on Facebook. They have an Amazon Wish List if you want to help. You can call 616-710-1068 to leave a message, but understand response might be slow due to high needs.

House Bill introduced to prohibit declawing cats

HOUSE BILL NO. 6459

Oct. 11, 2022, introduced by Reps. Rabhi and Aiyash and referred to the Committee on Agriculture

A bill to prohibit certain medical procedures for declawing a cat; and to prescribe civil sanctions.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN
ENACT:

Sec. 1. As used in this act:

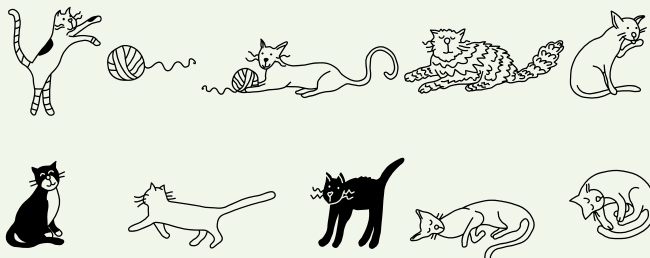
(a) "Cat" means a domestic cat of the species *Felis catus* or a hybrid of that species. Cat includes, but is not limited to, a savannah cat, Serengeti cat, Maine coon, Bengal cat, or chausie.

(b) "Therapeutic purpose" means the necessity to address a physical medical condition of a cat, including, but not limited to, an existing or recurring illness, infection, disease, injury, or abnormal condition in the claw of a cat that compromises the cat's health. Therapeutic purpose does not include cosmetic or aesthetic reasons or reasons of convenience in keeping or handling a cat.

Sec. 3. (1) An individual shall not perform by any means an onychectomy, a partial or complete phalangectomy, or tendonectomy procedure, or any other surgical procedure that prevents normal functioning of the claws, on a cat in this state, unless the procedure is necessary for a therapeutic purpose.

(2) An individual who violates this section is responsible for a civil fine of not more than \$1,000.00. A violation of this section may be prosecuted by the prosecutor of the county in which the violation occurred, or by the attorney general.

<http://legislature.mi.gov/doc.aspx?2022-HB-6459>



Humane Society of West Michigan
(formerly Humane Society of Kent County)
3077 Wilson Drive, Grand Rapids, MI 49534

	2020	2021
DOGS		
RECEIVED/ADMITTED:	940	1,146
RETURNED TO OWNER:	12	20
ADOPTED (Altered):	904	1,062
ADOPTED (Not Altered):	3	0
SOLD:	0	0
TRANSFERS:	1	3
SHELTER ANIMALS EUTHANIZED:	30	22
OWNER REQUESTED EUTHANIZED:	164	116

CATS		
RECEIVED/ADMITTED:	1,172	1,678
RETURNED TO OWNER:	17	12
ADOPTED (Altered):	1,171	1,554
ADOPTED (Not Altered):	7	0
SOLD:	0	--
TRANSFERS:	4	--
SHELTER ANIMALS EUTHANIZED:	30	10
OWNER REQUESTED EUTHANIZED:	108	67

* Owner requested euthanized animals are NOT included in intake totals.

Kent County Animal Shelter
740 Fuller NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503

	2020	2021
DOGS		
RECEIVED/ADMITTED:	1,448	1,727
RETURNED TO OWNER:	469	584
ADOPTED (Altered):	582	695
ADOPTED (Not Altered):	11	23
SOLD:	0	0
TRANSFERS:	55	79
SHELTER ANIMALS EUTHANIZED:	104	113
OWNER REQUESTED EUTHANIZED:	185	223

CATS		
RECEIVED/ADMITTED:	1,325	1,633
RETURNED TO OWNER:	37	26
ADOPTED (Altered):	588	835
ADOPTED (Not Altered):	4	4
SOLD:	0	0
TRANSFERS:	449	522
SHELTER ANIMALS EUTHANIZED:	89	69
OWNER REQUESTED EUTHANIZED:	135	164

* Owner requested euthanized animals ARE included in intake totals.

Harbor Humane Society (Ottawa County)
14345 Bagley St., West Olive, MI 49460

	2020	2021
DOGS		
RECEIVED/ADMITTED:	1,417	1,401
RETURNED TO OWNER:	170	209
ADOPTED (Altered):	1,059	1,033
ADOPTED (Not Altered):	0	0
SOLD:	0	0
TRANSFERED:	89	92
SHELTER ANIMALS EUTHANIZED:	67	74
OWNER REQUESTED EUTHANIZED:	na	101

CATS		
RECEIVED/ADMITTED:	2,369	2,345
RETURNED TO OWNER:	83	41
ADOPTED (Altered):	2,153	1,936
ADOPTED (Not Altered):	0	0
SOLD:	0	0
TRANSFERS:	24	33
SHELTER ANIMALS EUTHANIZED:	129	110
OWNER REQUESTED EUTHANIZED:	na	51

* Owner requested euthanized animals are NOT included in intake totals.

Allegan County Animal Shelter
(Managed by Wishbone Pet Rescue since April 2011)
2283 33rd St., Allegan, MI 49010

	2020	2021
DOGS		
RECEIVED/ADMITTED:	441	514
RETURNED TO OWNER:	168	193
ADOPTED (Altered)	255	239
ADOPTED (Not Altered):	8	15
SOLD:	0	0
TRANSFERS:	9	8
SHELTER ANIMALS EUTHANIZED:	14	19
OWNER REQUESTED EUTHANIZED:	1	0

CATS		
RECEIVED/ADMITTED:	314	353
RETURNED TO OWNER:	8	6
ADOPTED (Altered):	314	236
ADOPTED (Not Altered):	29	22
SOLD:	0	0
TRANSFERS:	0	42
SHELTER ANIMALS EUTHANIZED:	6	7
OWNER REQUESTED EUTHANIZED:	0	2

* Owner requested euthanized animals ARE included in intake totals.

Continued on page 21

Pound Buddies Animal Shelter**Muskegon County**

3279 E Laketon Ave., Muskegon, MI 49442

	2020	2021
DOGS		
RECEIVED/ADMITTED:	1,073	1,294
RETURNED TO OWNER:	482	611
ADOPTED (Altered):	202	109
ADOPTED (Not Altered):	250	271
SOLD:	0	0
TRANSFERS:	110	160
SHELTER ANIMALS EUTHANIZED:	91	97
OWNER REQUESTED EUTHANIZED:	36	59

CATS

RECEIVED/ADMITTED:	92	78
RETURNED TO OWNER:	3	1
ADOPTED (Altered):	21	9
ADOPTED (Not Altered):	8	3
SOLD:	0	0
TRANSFERS:	73	37
SHELTER ANIMALS EUTHANIZED:	11	5
OWNER REQUESTED EUTHANIZED:	11	25

* Owner requested euthanized animals are NOT included in intake totals.

Ionia County Animal Shelter

275 Sprague Road, Ionia, MI 48846

	2020	2021
DOGS		
RECEIVED/ADMITTED:	362	450
RETURNED TO OWNER:	110	178
ADOPTED (Altered):	126	119
ADOPTED (Not Altered):	0	0
SOLD:	0	0
TRANSFERS:	133	144
SHELTER ANIMALS EUTHANIZED:	6	9
OWNER REQUESTED EUTHANIZED:	0	0

CATS

RECEIVED/ADMITTED:	622	788
RETURNED TO OWNER:	9	9
ADOPTED (Altered):	377	563
ADOPTED (Not Altered):	0	0
SOLD:	0	0
TRANSFERS:	127	148
SHELTER ANIMALS EUTHANIZED:	52	68
OWNER REQUESTED EUTHANIZED:	0	0

* As of August 2017, this facility does not provide owner requested euthanasia.

Adopt, Spay/Neuter, Give Locally

For years intake at area animal shelters has been on the decline. Last year the numbers increased. Another consequence of Covid-19. When Michigan was shutdown during the pandemic, veterinarians were only allowed to provide essential services, unfortunately spay/neuter wasn't considered essential. C-SNIP, which provides affordable spay/neuter, was closed for ten weeks. Ten weeks of no spay/neuter surgeries has resulted in an abundance of kittens and cats. Shelters and rescues are full ... and staff and volunteers are tired.

Another problem is that some of the pets adopted while families were at home during the pandemic are now being surrendered. Puppies couldn't be properly socialized and grew up to be socially awkward. Instead of receiving the training they need to be good pets, they're being dropped off at shelters.

I suspect the 2022 intake numbers will be even higher than those of 2021.

Please get your pets spayed/neutered.

If your dog has issues, please hire a dog trainer.

Volunteer or donate to a local shelter or rescue.

Adopt, don't buy.

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Community Resource Guide

Cemeteries

Clock Timeless Pets

1469 Peck St., Muskegon, MI 49441
231-722-3721 - www.clocktimelesspets.com

Noah's Pet Cemetery & Crematory

2727 Orange Ave. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546
616-949-1390 - noahspc@comcast.net
www.noahspetcemetery.com

Trusted Journey Pet Memorial

2755 64th St. SW, Byron Center, MI 49315
616-538-6050 - www.trustedjourney.com

Feral Cat Support Services

A Feral Haven

Supporting feral/community cats in Ottawa and Allegan Counties by loaning live traps, and providing spay/neuter vouchers and food.

<http://www.aferalhavenmi.org> - 616-377-4783
a.feral.haven.mi@gmail.com

Humane Societies/Shelters

Allegan County Animal Shelter

2293 33rd Street, Allegan, MI 49010
269-686-5112 - www.petfinder.com/shelters/MI299.html

Harbor Humane Society

14345 Bagley Street (at US 31), West Olive, MI 49460
616-399-2119 - www.harborhumane.org

Humane Society of West Michigan

3077 Wilson Drive NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49534
616-453-8900 - www.hswestmi.org

Ionia County Animal Shelter

3853 Sparrow Drive, Ionia, MI 48846
616-527-9040 - www.petfinder.com/shelters/MI342.html

Kent County Animal Shelter

740 Fuller Ave. NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503
616-632-7300 - www.accesskent.com/kcas

Pound Buddies Animal Shelter & Adoption Center

3279 E Laketon Ave., Muskegon, MI 49442
231-724-6500 - www.poundbuddies.org

Pet Boarding/Sitters

The Cat's Pajamas — A luxury feline hotel where every cat's personality is catered to

1411 Robinson Rd. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49506
catspajamashotel.com — cats.pajamas.mi@gmail.com
607 592 8525 — Jill Hathaway, owner

Pet In-Home Hospice

Heaven at Home Pet Hospice — In-home pet hospice, palliative pet care and euthanasia for companion animals

616-498-1316 - doc@pethospicevet.com
www.pethospicevet.com

Pet Services

Pleasant Hearts Pet Food Pantry

1539 Taylor Ave. N #5, Grand Rapids, MI 49505
info@pleasanthearspetfoodpantry.org
www.pleasanthearspetfoodpantry.org
Distribution is every other Saturday, email with any questions

Pet Training

Paradigm Dog School, LLC

Professional dog training and doggie daycare
616-796-2275 - paradigmds@gmail.com
www.paradigmdogschool.com

Rescue Groups

BestPals Animal Rescue Center

13888 Blair St., Holland, MI 49424
Call for appointment, 616-212-3368
www.bestpalsarc.wix.com - bestpalsarc@gmail.com

Cannonsville Critters

Michelle Hocking — Helping cats in Montcalm County
989-287-2553 - www.cannonsvillecritters.org

Headin' Home Pet Rescue, Inc.

185 Panther Dr., Holland, MI 49424
616-886-1474 - headinhomerescue@sbcglobal.net
www.headinhomerescue.org

Hearts of Hope Dog Rescue

Until there are none, rescue one
616-366-8455 - rescueofhope@gmail.com
www.rescueofhope.com

Fig and Friends Pet Rescue

"Every pet deserves a chance"
[Facebook.com/figandfriendspetrescue](https://www.facebook.com/figandfriendspetrescue)
616-320-2400 — figandfriendspetrescue@gmail.com
www.figandfriendspetrescue.org

Mackenzie's Animal Sanctuary

'A home along the way' for dogs in need
Adopt - Volunteer - Donate
8935 Thompson Rd. Lake Odessa, MI 48849
www.mackenzies.info

Michele's Rescue

501c3 non-profit companion animal rescue
301 Alten Ave. NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503
231-798-4935 — michelesrescue@gmail.com
<https://michelesrescue.com>

Muskegon Humane Society - a no kill, non-profit shelter

2640 Marquette Ave., Muskegon, MI 49442
231-773-8689 - www.muskegonhumanesociety.org

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Community Resource Guide

Pet Tales Rescue

A non-profit, volunteer, foster-based, all-breed dog/cat rescue.
Kathy Brown, P.O. Box 88084, Kentwood, MI 49518
616-446-1591 – pettalesrescueboard@gmail.com
www.pettalesrescue.com – www.facebook.com/pettalesrescue

Reuben's Room Cat Rescue

Jeanine Buckner
A no-kill, non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization
www.reubensroom.org
catrescuereubensroom@gmail.com

The Next Chapter Pet Rescue

Where pets find their happily ever after
www.facebook.com/nextchapterpetrescue
616-606-0911 - nextchapterpetrescue@gmail.com
www.nextchapterpetrescue.rescuegroups.org

West Michigan Ferret Connection

Rescue - Adoption - Boarding - Education
Dee Gage, 616-447-2978 - wmf2001@att.net
www.westmichiganferretconnection.com
LIKE West Michigan Ferret Connection on Facebook

Wishbone Pet Rescue Alliance

Managing the Allegan County Animal Shelter
P.O. Box 124, Douglas, MI 49406
269-455-5247 - www.wishbonepetrescue.org

Spay/Neuter

C-SNIP

Reduced cost, high-quality, non-profit veterinary services
Spay/neuter, vaccinations, wellness and basic treatments
For appointment and more information visit www.csnip.org
or call 616-455-8220

Quick Fix Veterinary Clinic

www.quickfixvet.com
Affordable routine care, dental cleanings, spay/neuter and more.

Specialty Businesses

Wishbone House Thrift Store and Cat Adoption Center

Household items, pet items and more
165 Blue Star Hwy, Douglas, MI 49406
269-455-5247

Veterinarians

Laketown Cat Hospital

3604 64th Street, Saugatuck, MI 49453
(269)455-5056 mail@laketowncathospital.com
www.laketowncathospital.com

Quick Fix Veterinary Clinic

www.quickfixvet.com
Affordable routine care, dental cleanings, spay/neuter and more.

Wildlife

Wildlife Rehab Center

1504 Union Ave. NE, Grand Rapids
616-361-6109 – www.wildlife-rehab-center.org

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www.paradigmdogschool.com
paradigmds@gmail.com



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is now known as:



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