



Happy Tails

Save a Life. Adopt a Rescued Pet.

February 2015 Volume 3, No.1

Animal Aid of
Southwestern Michigan
PO Box 407
St. Joseph, MI 49085
(269) 934-SPAY (7729)

**PLEASE CHECK OUR
WEBSITE FOR
INFORMATION ON
CURRENT ANIMALS
UP FOR ADOPTION:
www.animalaidswmi.org
OR VISIT US AT AN
UPCOMING
ADOPTION DAY.
(SEE LOCATION
SCHEDULE on Page 2)**



See Inside
Page 6

2015 Officers

- President Margo Klein
- Vice President Beth Wild
- Treasurer
- Secretary Judy C urry
- Dog Coordinator Margo Klein/
Pam Gillespie
- Cat Coordinator Beth Wild
- SoCo Coordinator Martha Fenton
- Web Page Becky Cooper
- Newsletter Editor Toni Miller

**Please
Report Animal Abuse
or Abandoned Animals
Hotline:
(269) 934 - 7729**

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Recently I had a conversation with a couple I met on the SJ bluff. It was one of those rare winter days where the sun was shining and it was warm enough for me to get my little dogs out for some much needed exercise.

The couple had stopped to comment on my critters, my proud rescues, and the topic of conversation soon turned to whether or not it is a good thing to "take on a rescue dog with issues" or just get a new puppy from a breeder or a pet store.

I asked the board of Animal Aid if I could take the column this month to vent. If you have high blood pressure, please take your meds now.

The misconceptions of the public regarding homeless pets astound me. So, let's think about this together.

In this country, 9000 dogs and cats are put down DAILY because they do not have a home. But these animals are just as smart, loving and in some cases, even more desirable than those you would purchase from a breeder or a pet store. Don't misunderstand me, I'm all for preserving breed standards as long as the breeding is done responsibly. Unfortunately, puppy mills and irresponsible breeders abound. Basic care for "breeding stock" is often neglected. The "parents" live in tiny wire cages, do not experience grass under their feet or the touch of a human hand. They often lack basic veterinary care. You see many dogs who have no teeth causing their tongues to hang out of their mouths. While the "parents" live in abject misery, their pups are sold for big bucks. When the stock is worn out and used up, they are either killed or sold at auction.

As I visit shelter around the country and see the faces of abandoned animals, I just get to thinking about their situations. Sometimes a cage card will tell their history. Sometimes it is up for conjecture. If the animals could talk, here's what they might tell us:

- *I was once part of a family and then they moved. How could they leave me behind?*
- *I thought they loved me...I guess I was wrong.*
- *My owner gave me up -What an idiot!*
- *Don't judge me because my owner is irresponsible. I deserve better than that.*
- *My family had a baby and now they don't have time for me anymore.*
- *My human didn't have enough food for the both of us, so they brought me here.*
- *We all have bad days but my worst day was when my family gave me up.*
- *I used to have a warm lap to sit on every-day...what happened?*
- *My person is fighting for our country and brought me here for safe keeping.*
- *My family didn't want to leave me but they had to move and couldn't take me with them. I sure do miss them.*
- *I used to have my very own loving person but then they died...now I am alone.*

There are probably as many stories out there as animals. You can be a chapter in the lives of these animals. It may take some patience on your part and yes, perhaps some much needed medical care, but the rewards are boundless. Ask anyone who has rescued their pet.

We have a number of wonderful dogs and cats currently available for adoption. Until they find homes, our resources are stretched and we are unable to be there for the current crop of homeless dogs and cats running the streets. Please visit our website regularly. I guarantee one of them will speak to your heart...and they will say:

"My owner may have left me behind, but if you adopt me, I will love you till I draw my last breath and I will NEVER leave you."

Toni Miller, editor

THIS MONTH'S SPOTLIGHT...Meet TROUBLE!!



MR. TROUBLE, that is!

Animal Aid first met Mr. Trouble as a kitten when he and his sister were thrown out the window of a speeding car. His sister sustained major injuries but has been treated, recouped and adopted. Now it is brother's turn. He is now three months old, up-to-date on his shots and Animal Aid will provide a certificate for free neutering along with his adoption contract.

Mr. Trouble loves to play with paper bags, other cat's tails and will provide his new family with non-stop entertainment! This light grey tabby with four white sox is waiting for YOU! Please call Shirley (269-944-3196) to arrange a meeting.

You will fall in love just in time for Valentines!...

Check out website for our current adopt-ables.
www.animalaidswmi.org



AND SPEAKING OF CATS...

New York is poised to become the first state to ban the declawing of cats, a practice that is highly inhumane. If you are operating under the mistaken notion that declawing your cat will save your furniture, please consider alternate and successful training methods. Do a little research. Provide a suitable scratching post or scratch toy to amuse your kitty. Please don't subject them to a procedure that basically amounts to ripping their fingernails off and leaves them defenseless should they escape to the great outdoors.. By the way, *YOUR* cats are spayed and neutered, right?

Several Animal Aid cats are always available for a meet and greet at Martin's Paw Mart in St. Joseph during regular store hours.

SMOOCH & POOCH! CUDDLE & KITTY!

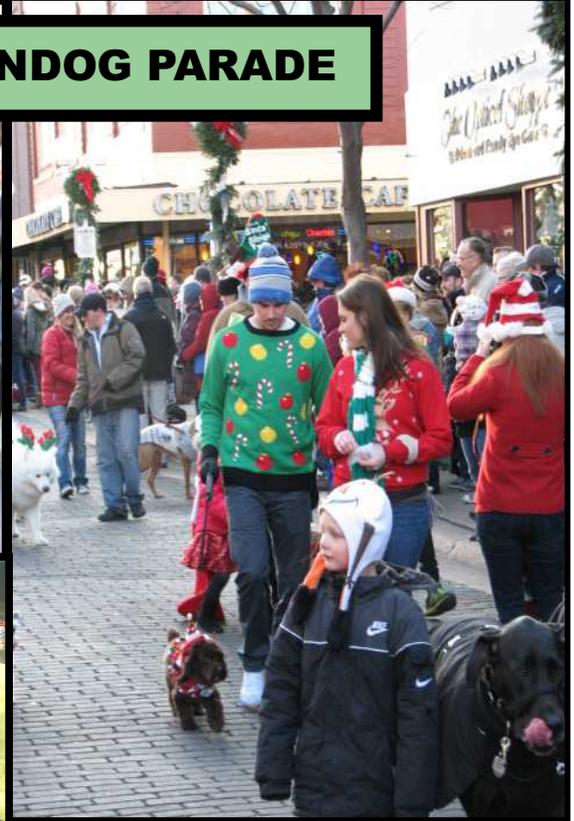
FEBRUARY 7, 2015
PAWMART, ST. JOSEPH
NOON—2:00 P.M.



2015 ADOPTION DAY SCHEDULE

1st Saturday of the Month	Martin's Paw Mart/St. Joseph	Noon—2:00 p.m.
2nd Saturday of the Month	Family Farm and Home/Benton Harbor	Noon—2:00 p.m.
3rd Saturday of the Month	TBA	
4th Sunday of the Month	TBA	Noon—3:00 p.m.

REINDOG PARADE



HOLIDAY Open House
 Today 11-4pm, The Whitcomb
Holiday Shopping! →
 • Gifts for Everyone • Holiday Friends
 • Gift Basket • Holiday Goods
 • Memorial Tree • Crafts • Refreshments
 • Drop in Cans for Adoption







**HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE
AT THE WHITCOMB**





DONATIONS

Animal Aid survives solely on the communities' donations. The animals which are rescued are treated by our local veterinarians, housed in volunteer homes and occasionally boarded at local facilities for lack of foster homes. Vaccines, life-saving surgeries, food and ongoing medicines cost money. This is where we rely on your generous donations.

When your dogs or cats go missing, you call Animal Aid to enlist help in finding them. Day or night, despite the weather, our volunteers stand at the ready to help you search. We love them as if they were our own. We rejoice when they are found and mourn with you when they are not.

Animal Aid educates the public about being responsible pet owners, about the importance of spaying and neutering and where to find such low-cost programs.

Without Animal Aid and the other rescue organizations, even more strays would run the streets. Yet, those very animals could have a future as loving pets.

We wish to thank the following people who have stepped up to help. Your generosity is most appreciated.

FOUR PAWS UP TO:

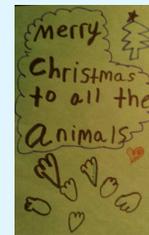
- Nick & Cherie Johnston
- Jill Rauh
(for Berrien Kennel Club for MM Booth)
- Bev & Hank Ruis
- James Kerill & Wendy Foss
(for Moses)
- Trina Thompson
- Elsie Woodrow
- Roxanne Kaatz
- Mary Knapp
- Jean Miller
- Robert & Debra Rushlow
- DeGroot Family Foundation
- Terry & Carol Dalrymple
- Patricia Marvin
- Marie Volpe
- Diane Kopp
- New Life Baptist Church
(Puppy Roundup Event)
- Mary Gowens
- Delores Catania
- Audrey Skamer
- James & Jacqueline Tessman
- S. E. Conybeare
- Susan Kretchman
- Robert & Mary Hamm

- Susan Parker-Hotchkiss
- James O'Haver
- Karen Brininstool

Steve Reed & Mike Beall - owners of Marketing Partners, for donating office space to Animal Aid

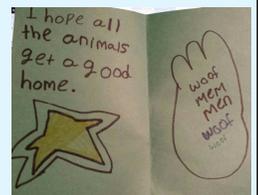
Roxanne and Ben Kaatz - for providing Animal Aid with a storage unit

Thank you to the special needs students at Berrien Springs Middle School for the lovely blanket and your special card to the animals!!



Cindy Chaney, Steve Swenson, Tom Roth and Kristina Blackmore, Teachers—CI Program

YOU GUYS ARE ROCK STARS



Mark Thy Calendars!

Calling all Damsels and Knights to join us for a

Medieval Mutt March

August 22, 2015

11:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

S.J. Bluff

Costume Contest
Themed games

Vendor and Pet-Related Info Booths



WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS!

Cindy Ludlam
Sandra Hacker
James Couch

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Yes, I would like to become a member of **Animal Aid** and, with my membership, help sustain the organization and the local homeless, neglected, abused and abandoned animals of Berrien County.

Enclosed is my tax-deductible donation made payable to:

Animal Aid of SW Michigan.

Mail to: ANIMAL AID of SW MI, PO BOX 407, ST. JOSEPH, MI 49085

One-year Membership: Individual: \$15.00 Family: \$25.00

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____

PHONE: (best #): _____ CELL: _____

YES, I would like to receive email updates and the electronic newsletter.

EMAIL ADDRESS : _____

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

No receipts for under \$25 will be issued unless requested.

HOMELESS PETS NEED YOUR HELP!

Please take a moment to complete and mail this page, along with your tax-deductible check made payable to

Animal Aid of SW Michigan.

Mail to: ANIMAL AID of SW MI, PO BOX 407, ST. JOSEPH, MI 49085

Please give whatever you can. Your gift assures that medical care and shelter are provided for abandoned, abused or lost animals in our community. Every gift helps!

\$10.00 \$15.00 \$20.00 \$25.00 Other _____

NAME _____ DONATION AMOUNT: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE (best #): _____ CELL: _____

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

No receipts for under \$25 will be issued unless requested.

Animal Aid meetings are held at the Maud Palenske Memorial Library in downtown St. Joseph every 3rd Wednesday of the month at 6:00 p.m.

Upcoming meetings:
February 18
March 18
April 15

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

ANIMAL AID OF SOUTHWESTERN MICHIGAN IS AN ALL VOLUNTEER ANIMAL WELFARE/RESCUE ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO PREVENTING THE SUFFERING OF INJURED, ABUSED, NEGLECTED AND HOMELESS DOGS AND CATS IN BERRIEN COUNTY.

MEMORIALS

GONE FROM THIS WORLD,
BUT FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS...

IN MEMORY OF...

Andy
from Paul & Helen Elston

CJ and Archie
from Paul Fletcher

Panda
from Karen & Roger Priebe

Ryno
from Elizabeth Mandarino

Baylie
from Bob & Lynn Basselman



Oliver

I'll meet you at the Bridge my Luv's...

from Toni Miller.



Tori

IN MEMORY OF...

Lael Jackson
from Toni Miller

Don DeForge
from Toni Miller

Cindy Bravender
from
Ronald and Janice Brewer



HONORARIUMS

In Honor of **Dr. Christy**
(from Mary Jo Tomasini)

In Honor of her
Co-workers at Meijer #41
(from Mary Weisser)

In Honor of Pet Named
"Laddie"
(from Merrily Mahon)