

# VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER

HELP US. HELP THEM.



**SPCA**  
southwest michigan

April 2018 | Issue 250

**SPCA of Southwest Michigan**  
Pet Rescue & Adoption Center  
6955 West KL Avenue  
Kalamazoo, MI 49009  
269.344.1474  
[www.spcaswmich.org](http://www.spcaswmich.org)

*The SPCA is a non-profit animal rescue group based in SW Michigan. Thanks to volunteers like you, we have rescued over 16,000 dogs, cats, puppies & kittens since we started in 2002!*

## OUR MISSION

SPCA of Southwest Michigan is dedicated to working for the well-being of animals and creating an adoption-focused community in Southwest Michigan. Our goal is to end senseless animal euthanasia in SW Michigan, and provide all animals with a loving, caring home.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**  
**AMAZON WISH LIST**



BISSELL PET FOUNDATION'S  
**empty the shelters**  
NATIONAL 5.5.18

Visit [bissellpetfoundation.org/ets](http://bissellpetfoundation.org/ets)  
to find a list of participating shelters



BISSELL PET FOUNDATION™  
Until every pet has a home.



## Bissell Empty The Shelters Event

We will be participating in Bissell's Empty the Shelter this coming May 5th from 11 am to 4 pm. Not all of our animals will be fee waived/sponsored. Only the ones that have been with us for 4 month or more and those that are considered seniors. When the event gets closer, we will mark which dogs and cats will be participating. The other adoptable animals will be available for adoption but at their normal adoption fee.

— some call me —  
**A SENIOR DOG**  
that just means I have  
**YEARS OF EXPERIENCE**  
— in the fine art of —  
**FRIENDSHIP**  
— THE LABS & CO. —



## Upcoming Events (see our [website](#) for all events and more details)

**April 22nd** - Puppy and Kitten Shower

**May 5th** - Bissell Empty the Shelter Adoption Event

**June 9th** - PetCo Adoption Event

**June 15th** - Loving Home Adoption Event

**July 1st** - Let's Play Ball Adoption Event

## Michigan Bully Breed Laws Could Be Changing



Banning a dog due to his/her breed is not allowed according to the Michigan Senate. Dogs like Pit Bulls are frequently banned from apartments, parks and other places that Golden Retrievers and other dogs that are deemed "non-threatening" are accepted. But targeting specific breeds is not an effective approach to dog bite prevention. The fight to protect the rights of dog owners isn't over. This bill now makes it's way to the House. Read more [here](#).

## Want to be Part of the Newsletter Team?



What would you like to see in the newsletter? Are there any topics you would like more information

about? Something you would like to see more of? Do you want to be involved with writing articles for the newsletter? Let us know!

Email [newsletter@spcaswmich.org](mailto:newsletter@spcaswmich.org).



## T-Shirt / Apparel Design Contest!

The merchandise sales with the new logo was a big success! Thanks to everyone that purchased items, we hope you love them! Items are in the mail to be delivered soon!

This time, we want to do something fun. What would you like to see on a shirt? Do you want tank tops? Fleece zip ups? Bandannas? Want it to be funny? Cute? Let us know! Submit your designs or item requests to [events@spcaswmich.org](mailto:events@spcaswmich.org) by **April 30th** with "Contest" in the subject line.

Winners will get their item PLUS one other free!





# Kitten & Puppy

## SHOWER

*Please help us prepare  
.....for 2018 .....  
kitten and puppy season*

Sunday  
April

22

1:00 PM – 4:00 PM  
at the SPCA of SW Michigan



Foster Kittens visitation times:  
1:30 PM, 2:30 PM & 3:30 PM



Foster Puppy visitation times:  
1:00 PM, 2:00 PM & 3:00 PM

### Stations: Join us for some fun and games

Craft Table

Kitten/Puppy Bingo for Prizes

Name a puppy or kitten for \$1. The name will be used for a puppy or kitten. The person will be emailed a picture of the animal.

Bake Sale items Fundraiser

Guess the Number of Treats in the Jar

Scavenger Hunt for prizes

Foster information table

Dog Bone Toss for prizes

Pup-eroni Pizza Sale Fundraiser

### Needs:

Food Scales  
Gerber 2<sup>nd</sup> foods meats  
Esbilac powder milk  
replacer puppy  
Pet thermometer  
Velcro puppy ID collars

Registered on  
Amazon.com

Puppy playpens  
Blankets  
Breeders Edge powder  
milk for kitten  
Puppy & kitten food  
Heating pads

SPCA, Kalamazoo, MI  
Arrival 04/2018

We hope you can make it  
But if you are unable to  
and wish to help. Please  
check out our amazon  
wish list.



## How to Keep Cats Out of Flower Beds and Gardens



As a responsible, loving pet parent, you probably know that the safest, healthiest lifestyle for your cat is one that's indoors. Unfortunately, many of your neighbors may feel differently. As a result, your garden could be doubling as a neighborhood litter box. Not only is this unsanitary — especially if you're growing produce — it can be destructive to your crop and unhealthy for you if your neighborhood cats are carriers of certain bacteria. Not to mention, digging can lead to potential root damage.

Of course, from a cat's point of view, a bed with fresh mulch or turned soil is a welcoming spot to take care of business. Fortunately, there are a number of ways to make your garden a feline-free zone:

There are several tried-and-true strategies homeowners use for keeping cats and other critters out of their gardens. Here are some of the most effective and humane:

**Ultrasonic devices.** These products emit an unpleasant sound at a frequency cats can hear but humans can't. Many are motion-activated and only go off when an animal is nearby.

**Motion-activated sprinklers.** Like the ultrasonic devices, these sprinklers are only activated when a cat comes near. An unexpected burst of water is a highly effective deterrent for cats, as most felines dislike getting wet. But don't worry; it's not harmful, just momentarily unpleasant.

**Chicken wire fencing.** If you're just starting a garden,

lay chicken wire at ground level or just below the soil. You can create holes in the wire large enough for your plants to grow, but the texture of the fencing will make walking in your garden uncomfortable for cats. Just be sure there are no sharp edges jutting up out of the soil!

**Unpleasant odors.** Alley Cat Allies recommends citrus scents such as from lemongrass, citronella, orange or lemon peels. Coffee grounds, vinegar, lavender oil, eucalyptus oil, and tobacco can also deter cats. Experiment with which scents or combinations of scents work. Just remember that whatever you choose will have to be replaced from time to time as the potency of the scent wears off. Also, be aware that some of these substances can harm your plants, so you should place them around, not in, your garden.

**Plant marigolds or rue.** The jury's still out on whether or not marigolds are an effective cat deterrent. Many gardeners swear by marigolds, but if they don't work for you at least they'll be a lovely addition to your garden. And don't worry; they're not toxic to pets. Rue is recommended by Alley Cat Allies.

### Create a Cat-Friendly Oasis Elsewhere

A clever way to keep cats out of your garden is to redirect them to an area of your yard where you don't mind their presence. You can do this by creating a separate spot that's appealing to cats. Fine-grained sand, catnip and catmint are irresistible to most felines. Just be aware that cats like clean areas, so if you don't remove their waste from time to time, they will eventually relocate to areas where they're unwelcome (like your garden).

### Be a Good Influence on Your Neighbors

When possible, and without coming on too strong, share with your neighbors why you keep your cats indoors. Mention to them the concerns you have about the health and safety of cats in your neighborhood. For instance, if you saw their cat have a close encounter with an automobile, tell them! And, finally, let them know that if they do decide to make their cat a full time indoor cat you have plenty of tips and advice you can share with them.

(original article from [petfinder.com](http://petfinder.com))





***Did you know that a spayed/neutered animal is better behaved?***

**Males:** Neutered cats and dogs focus their attention on their human families. On the other hand, unsterilized, unsupervised males roam in search of a mate, risking injury in traffic and in fights with other males. They mark territory by spraying strong-smelling urine on surfaces. Indoors, male dogs may embarrass you by mounting furniture and human legs when stimulated. Don't confuse aggressiveness with protectiveness; a neutered dog protects his home and family just as well as an unneutered dog, and many aggression problems can be avoided by early neutering.

**Females:** While their cycles vary greatly, most female cats exhibit the following signs when in heat. For four or five days, every three weeks during breeding season, they yowl and urinate more frequently sometimes all over the house, advertising for mates. Often, they attract unneutered males who spray urine around the females homes. Female dogs also attract males from great distances. Female dogs generally have a bloody discharge for about a week, and can conceive for another week or so.

***Did you know that a spayed or neutered animal will live a longer, healthier life?***

Spaying/neutering are veterinary procedures

performed under general anesthesia. Both surgeries usually require minimal hospitalization. The ASPCA strongly recommends spaying or neutering your pet as early as possible. Besides preventing unwanted breeding, neutering a male cat or dog before six months of age prevents testicular cancer and prostate disease. Spaying a female cat or dog helps prevent pyometra and breast cancer; having this done before the first heat offers the best protection from these diseases. Treatment of pyometra requires hospitalization, fluids, antibiotics and spaying. Breast cancer can be fatal in about 50% of dogs and 90% of cats. For an older, seriously ill animal, anesthesia and surgery are complicated and costly.

***Did you know that you can help prevent the suffering and death of millions of animals?***

Almost everyone loves puppies and kittens, but some people lose interest when these animals grow up. As a result, millions of cats and dogs of all ages and breeds are euthanized annually or suffer as strays. Many of these are the result of unwanted, unplanned litters that could have been prevented by spaying or neutering. Rarely surviving for more than a few years on their own, strays die by starvation, disease, freezing or being hit by cars.

**Myth:** A female cat or dog should have a litter before she is spayed.

*(continued on next page)*

One pair of unspayed/unneutered dogs and their offspring can create **67,000 dogs** in just **six years**.



One pair of unspayed/unneutered cats and their offspring can produce **420,000 cats** in just **seven years**.



**Fact:** The sooner you spay your female, the better her health will be in the future. As long as a kitten or puppy weighs more than 2 pounds and is 2 months old, he or she can be spayed/neutered. Many veterinarians practice perfectly safe early sterilization. The longer a female goes unspayed, the greater the likelihood of developing mammary tumors or uterine infections. In fact, a female spayed before her first heat (6 to 9 months of age) has one-seventh the risk of developing mammary cancer as an intact female.

**Myth:** Spay/neutering will alter my pet's personality.

**Fact:** Any slight changes will be positive. Your pet will remain a caring, loving and protective companion. Neutering will reduce the need to breed, which has a calming effect. Both neutered male canines and felines tend to stop roaming and fighting, and they also lose the desire to mark their territory with urine.

**Myth:** Companion animals will become fat and lazy if they are neutered.

**Fact:** Absolutely not! Lack of exercise and overfeeding make pets fat and lazy, not neutering. Your pet will not gain weight if you provide exercise and monitor food intake. Neutering is good for your pet, since sterilized pets tend to live an average of two to three years longer than unsterilized pets.

**Myth:** Sterilization is a dangerous and painful surgery for my pet.

**Fact:** Spaying and neutering are the most common

surgeries performed on animals. With a minimal amount of home care, your pet will resume normal behavior in a couple of days.

**Myth:** Children should witness the miracle of birth.

**Fact:** Countless books and videos are available to teach your children about birth in a responsible manner. Letting your pet produce offspring that you have no intention of keeping is teaching your children irresponsibility. Anyone who has seen an animal euthanized in a shelter for lack of a home knows the truth behind this dangerous myth.

Many states and counties have established low-cost spay/neuter programs that make the surgery affordable. Many cities also offer reduced licensing fees for owners of spayed and neutered pets. To find a low-cost program near you, call your local humane society or shelter, or call toll-free (800) 248-SPAY.

(original article from [petfinder.com](http://petfinder.com))





# Happy Tails

submit your happy tail to [happytails@spcaswmich.org](mailto:happytails@spcaswmich.org)

## MUFFIN

Submitted by: The Stouts



We adopted Muffin. She is SO sweet!! She loves the kids and is getting along fabulously with Maurice, our other cat! You all do such great work caring for these sweet animals...thank you!!



## GRETCHEN MS

Submitted by: Rachel Bulock



This Annie (formerly Gretchen MS). We adopted her 2 years ago this summer. She is a smart dog but was never very cuddly/just-pet-n-love-on-me with neither myself or my husband.

Pictured is my 4 month old daughter Annie has been protector BFF with since she was 7 weeks into pregnancy.

We tried figuring out why Annie came into our lives when we chose her and she turned out to be such a different personality than my other 2 adoptee dogs.

This photo is a \*ah ha\* she came in our lives for the baby (and future babies), before she was even a sparkle in our eyes :D





### **Bella Blue**

**Submitted by: Ashley Hopson**

We adopted Bella Blue in February 2017 and couldn't be happier to have her in our lives! Thank you, SPCA!

### **Nyx**

**Submitted by: Morgan LeAnn**



Nyx just turned 8 months on the 23rd and is doing an amazing job!! He's a fast learner, he just learned how to play dead and now starting to do really well with shake. I am so so THANKFUL for my 53 pound puppy and for the SPCA!! But a couple months back my mom, dad, and I were talking about maybe getting all of his family all together for a play date!! It'll be awesome if his siblings parents couple contact me on this post or messenger. Thank you so much!!



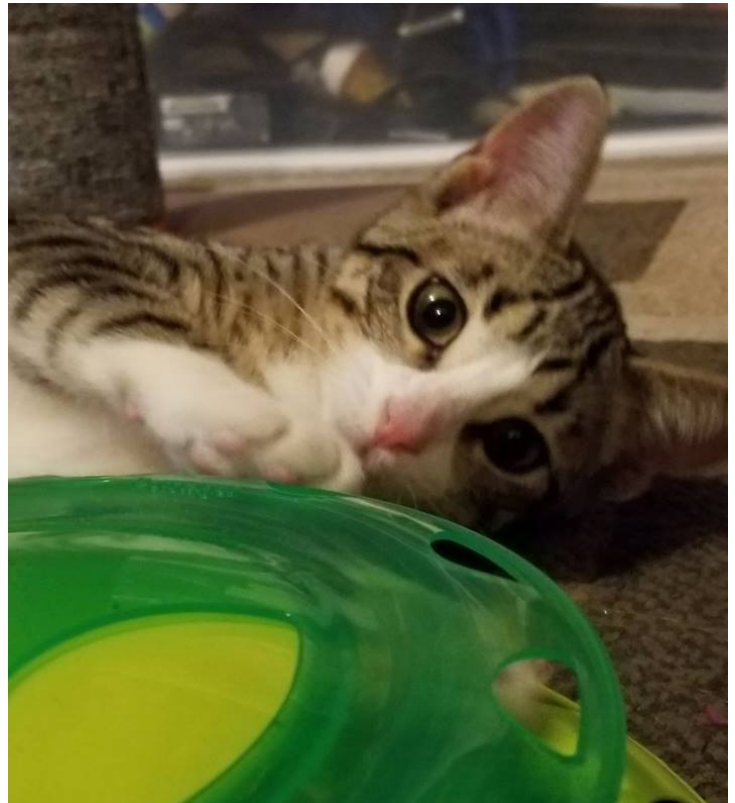
### **Bear**

**Submitted by: Laura Winsborrow**

We adopted Bear several months ago. We were told he doesn't like high places..he lives laying on the table....he will meow at you to get up out of your chair so he can use it to get on the table. He is a wonderful addition to our family.

### **Melanie**

**Submitted by: Melissa Lynn**



Melanie is enjoying her new home!!!! Her big brother is getting used to her!!! She is great with my girls. A little hyper but that is expected because of her age!!! Thank you SPCA!!!!





## ADOPTIONS - THANKS TO YOU!

**CATS:** Aladdin, Alexia, Babe, Biggie Smalls, Binx, Bud E., Bussy, Charley, Charlotte, Chloe, Clover, Courtney, Diana, Dolly, Echo, Edna, Elisa, Elvira, Ember, Ethan, Figaro, Franny, Galaxy, Hamilton, Hazelnut, Hello Kitty, Jill, Judd, Kent, Keokeo, Leonardo, Lester, Lilo, Maggie, Magic, Malachai, Mariah, Mel, Melanie, Mesa, Milton, Mis-Chief, Morpheus, Ollie, Pascal, Phoenix, Possum, Rocky, Roland, Salvadore, Sammy, Scandle, Shaver, Soya, Splinter, Spooky, Springs, Stella, Suzy Q, Tabu, Tawanda, Tempe, Theodore, Tigger, Tommy Boy, Trigger, Trinidad, Tuscon, Violet, Wade, Wiggins, Woody, Zigzag

**DOGS:** Abbie, Acton, Apollo, Athan, Bambi, Beefy, Bella, Benji, Beth, Bingo, Bora Bear, Canela, Chestnut, Chevie, Dane, Deja, Dot, Grover, Guchi, Harley, Honey JC, Honeydoodle, Hope, Jack A. Van, Jewelry, Jingle Belle, Kinley, Lacey, Lady Cass, Lana TN, Libby, Lucy, Luke, Lulu, Luna, Maddie, Magic, Major, Mandy, Marie, Marlow, Martin, Max Ohio, Maximus, Merlin, Misty, Mocha, Mona, Myia, Nacho Cheese, Oscar JC, Paisley Jo, Poncho, Rose A. Van, Roxanna, Roxie Mama, Russell, Shana, Shoney, Skii, Smokey, Smokie Pearl, Sparky, Spirit, Tatum, Tenor, Tootsie, Van, Walnut, Wells, Wesley, West, Yale, Yoda, Zac, Zack, Zee, Zuzu

Thank you for opening your hearts and your homes to these animals! See all our adoptable dogs, cats, puppies & kittens at [www.spcaswmich.org](http://www.spcaswmich.org).

Please send Volunteer Newsletter submissions to Jess Duncan @ [newsletter@spcaswmich.org](mailto:newsletter@spcaswmich.org).