

VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER

HELP US. HELP THEM.



SPCA
southwest michigan

March 2019 | Issue 254

SPCA of Southwest Michigan
Pet Rescue & Adoption Center
6955 West KL Avenue
Kalamazoo, MI 49009
269.344.1474
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

SPCA MERCHANDISE



WELCOME DR. E!

We are so excited to announce that we have on boarded Dr. Stacey Engbretson as our Dog Behaviorist. Some of you may recognize her from her time teaching the WMU behavior science students years back. She will be helping to create behavior plans for our dogs. Please join us in giving her a warm welcome!



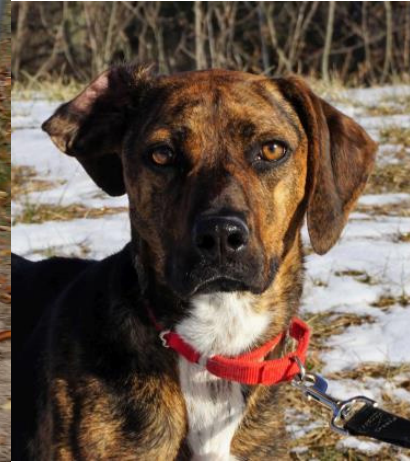
Stacy moved to Michigan in 2009 pursuing a master's in behavioral psychopharmacology

from Western Michigan University. During her time at WMU, she taught the applied animal behavior analysis practicum at Kalamazoo County Animal Services and expanded it to the SPCA of SW Michigan. After earning her master's in 2012, her heart kept pulling her back to shelter dogs. She graduated from WMU again in 2018, this time with a doctorate in applied behavior analysis, specializing in canine behavior. Since 2013, has been a board-certified professional dog trainer and a professional member of the Association of Pet Dog Trainers.

FEATURED PET: JUMANJI



Jumanji has been with the SPCA for over 320 days!!! This is unheard of these days and we just don't know why he is still here! He would love to go to a busy, fun home. He would even love to go to a home with other dogs! All this time here, he's made lots of friends with all the staff and volunteers but is ready to find his forever family. If you've been considering adopting, its worth coming in and checking him out to see if it's the right fit for you.



WE ARE LOOKING FOR ADVERTISERS!



**YOUR
AD
HERE**

We are also looking for a regular contributor to write up an informational piece with information on training, animal health, or promoting other animal related services.

- Special promotion pricing for a ½ page article and a commitment of 6 months for \$600.

Contact treasurer@spcaswmich.org for more information.

**SPCA of SWMI reserves the right to review and refuse content*

Emailed to over 1,800 animal loving followers

- Posted to our newsletter website
- Promoted on Facebook with over 12,500 followers
- Limited time prices!
- 1/8 page advertising only \$100!
- ¼ page for only \$150!



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

March 31st - 3rd Annual Puppy and Kitten Shower, 1pm-4pm: stop by and help us raise funds and awareness for all the puppies and kittens that need our help! There will be games and prizes for the family members of all ages! Plus, some of the puppies and kittens that are currently in foster will be at the shelter for you to meet! If you would like to purchase something off our registry, click [here](#).

April 13th - Advanced Dog Walking Training/Mentorship Program, 9am-11am: Looking for senior and new volunteers that are interested in joining us in developing a volunteer mentorship program. No RSVP required, email info@spcaswmich.org with questions.

WHAT IS KITTEN SEASON?



Shorted format of article from Best Friends, [full article here](#)
The term “kitten season” sounds like something out of a children’s book — a magical time when tiny purring fur-balls sprout like blossoms beneath rainbows in dew-kissed meadows. But to animal rescuers and shelters, the mere mention of it can make them snap to attention and double-check their preparations, like emergency teams bracing for a massive hurricane. While big-eyed baby cats are irresistibly cute, thousands of them can roll in all at once, making kitten season the most challenging time of the year in shelters around the country.

In most places across America, animals mate and give birth in spring. This phenomenon can be attributed to a variety of factors, such as longer days, better weather and more access to food, which means higher survival rates for the offspring of many species. Unlike other animals, though, cats can keep on reproducing, having litter after litter right up until the weather turns cold again. In many regions, kitten season can last from spring until early winter.

It may sound like a dream come true to be swimming in kittens, but while the pitter-patter of a few furry

paws is manageable, a downpour of kittens can quickly become a life-threatening flood. It tends to start with a few litters showing up in shelters in early spring. By summer, they’re pouring in.

What should you do if you find kittens outdoors? Many well-meaning people often scoop up litters of kittens that they find outdoors and rush them to shelters, wrongly assuming that will save their lives. Unfortunately, these good intentions may actually put kittens in greater danger of being killed. What many people don’t realize is that the safest plan for the kittens — and one that also decreases the burden on shelters — is to leave the kittens where they are, keep an eye out for the mother cat’s return to make sure she’s caring for her babies and, once they’re old enough, humanely catch the family for spay/neuter surgery.

Everyone reading this can become a hero this kitten season, no matter what your age, ability or resources are. In fact, it can take as little as five minutes to help save lives. You can sign up and train to be foster for a litter of kittens, donate old towels and blankets, or share a post on social media from a group that’s looking for volunteers or adopters. Send in \$10 or \$20, and you’ve just vaccinated a litter of kittens, or maybe you can throw a virtual kitten baby shower at work to purchase supplies off our [Amazon wish list](#). There’s not a person out there who can’t help. So, while kitten season isn’t an enchanting fairy tale with fluffy baby cats sliding down rainbow arcs, it doesn’t have to be an annual saga of epic floods either. We all have the power to help change the forecast.

HAVE YOU EVER CONSIDERED BECOMING A FOSTER?



Have you ever considered fostering? Do you have questions or concerns? Well Jada, a Foster Nanny Dog, and her Mom are here to help answer your questions.

Jada, what are the benefits to fostering?

Fostering has many benefits. For one it helps with overcrowding at the shelter so we can help animals. It helps get scared, shutdown dogs out of the shelter so a foster and the shelter staff can identify if there are any issues that may need to be addressed. It gets pregnant mommy dogs and cats a safe quiet place to have their babies and allows for care to happen in a home environment where they can relax, be themselves and feel safe.

Jada, what's your favorite kind of foster?

I love the babies. I love to play with them, clean them, sleep with them, steal their toys.

Jada -

I mean show them how to play with their toys, I really love that puppy food.

Jada -

I mean I love showing them how to eat their puppy food. Giving kittens baths is also fun. I know you enjoy that a lot. Yes I do.

Jada, do you know what a Foster Mom and Dad, or in your case Nanny Dog, is the most important thing we can teach our fosters?

I do, first to walk, run, play nice, eat all our

food, dig holes.

Jada, we don't teach to dig holes.

Oh, chew on sticks.

Jada, We don't teach chewing on sticks, we teach the right things to chew on.

Oh. Um, play in the mud puddles, that's always fun.

Jada, no mud puddles.

Oh, how to roll around in the grass cause that's the most fun way to scratch your back. And play with balls, take long naps and cuddle. Teaching them how to cuddle is always fun especially when they are climbing all over me and we wrestle first, oh I love that. Going up and down the stairs, ignoring the cats, playing tug-a-war and taking a bath in the big tub. How to get used to having your nails trimmed, which I still don't like and where to go potty.

Jada?

Yes Mom?

All of that is great, but what's the most important thing? That no matter where they go they can always remember and can (continued on next page)





take to their forever and share with them?

Mom I don't remember. Is this a quiz?

The most important thing is LOVE Jada. The one and only thing that will help

them the most is love. Do you understand?

I think so. I know you love me a lot.

Yes I do very much.

I know you love all of your fosters too.

Yes I do very much.

But Mom, how do you teach love?

Jada, by doing everything you mentioned and being there for them when no one else will! By laying down with them and rubbing their bellies and telling them its going to be ok. Gaining their trust by making them feel like they are in the safest place that they could ever be in. Giving them the skills that they can take with them when its their turn to find their forever love. Being able to let go and reassuring them that they have everything they need to make all of their dreams come true. Crying when they leave and celebrating when they are adopted!

Mom?

Yes Jada?

That's a lot of work.

Jada it can be, but it's also one of the most rewarding things we could ever do. For some fosters, you, me, dad, the kids and the other dogs and cats at the house are the only love they might have ever known so far. So its very important to make sure we do our very best to help them turn out ok.

Mom?

Yes Jada?

I get very sad when they leave.

I know me too, but we can't keep them all.

Why not?

It's not fair to them, or the lives that they are going to touch. We want them to meet the one person or family that will love them with all their heart.

Mom?

Yes Jada?

Couldn't we do that?

Yes we could, but sooner or later we would be out of room and then we couldn't help any more fosters because we wouldn't be able to provide them with all of the things they need. I would be giving all of my attention to all of you.

But Mom-

Jada the job of a foster is to be a bridge, a stepping stone, someone that helps make the trip in life a little easier to go through. To reassure, to comfort.

Mom, I know the last one.

What is it Jada?

To love!

Yes Jada, to LOVE!



Happy Tails

submit your happy tail to happytails@spcaswmich.org

BUTTERBALL

Submitted by: Daphney Dotson



Hi Everyone, we adopted Butterball, now Maddie Lou, March 28, 2017. She is a fun loving, playful girl who enjoys snuggles and being the center of attention. We absolutely adore her!

MONOCEROS

Submitted by: Daisey Werve



Hello! Just wanted to update you guys with how well she's loving her new home! She had no issue adapting at all, and is learning everything so quickly! We changed her name to Millie and her favorite thing to do is snuggle. She doesn't even whine in her kennel at night and never has accidents during the night in her kennel!



DOJER

Submitted by: Gabrielle Nelson

Hello! On 1/24 my boyfriend and I had the pleasure of adopting Dojer! His name has since been changed to Bruce Wayne, joining his sister in the comic book name family (hers is Selina Kyle). He has been adjusting quite well to his new home and is being spoiled by all our roommates daily. Bruce and Selina are slowly getting along more and more as long as he doesn't try to play with her! As for the other 3 cats in the house.. well they just stay away. Bruce is truly a character! He is so funny and has so many quirks. He is a fantastic nap partner and we are finally getting used to his snoring. We are so grateful to have him in our lives and we appreciate everything you all did to bring him to us!





ADOPTIONS - THANKS TO YOU!

CATS: Agatha, Bell, Bobber, Brindle, Buddie Boy, Buster, Catalina, Chesnut, Dilly, Dudley, Elliot Fraser, Fluffy, Fonzie, Fred, Fruit Loop, Gerald, Gilbert, Gouda, Joan, Kamora, Kari, Kellogg, Lady, Leo, Lil Bit, Luke, Lulu, Midge, Miss Kitty, Mister, Mittens, Monique, Mouse, Niblet, Obie, Penny, Phoebe, Pop Tart, Priscilla, Quilly, Rocco, Sabella, Snickers, Sonic, Spotty, Spotty, Tabitha, Tilly, Tinsel, Tips, Tobias, Tuck, Vera, Viola, Woody

DOGS: Apricot, Aqua LA, Astro, Athena, Autumn, Bailey, Bear, Big Bird, Bindi LA, Bingo LA, Boo LA, Buddy SC, Butterfly, Chuck, Cookie Monster, Count, Crissy LA, Daisy, Delilah LA, Dixie, Duck, Dunkin LA, Elmo, Freya LA, Gemma LA, Gibbs, Grover, Gumdrop, Harley, Hedgie, Henry LA, Holly LA, Jaker, Kane, Kenzie, Keurig LA, Lilly LA, London, Macy LA, Marina LA, Mason LA, Max Cass, Merle LA, Minnie LA, Molly LA, Muffin LA, Mustang, Nessie LA, Oscar, Ozzy Fozzy, Peaches, Pria, Princess Bubbles, Red, Remmi, Rocky LA, Ron, Ruby LA, Sassy LA, Snickers LA, Sugar LA, Tucker, Tundro LA, Vern, Xander, Zachary LA

Thank you for opening your hearts and your homes to these animals! See all our adoptable dogs, cats, puppies & kittens at www.spcaswmich.org.

Please send Volunteer Newsletter submissions to Jess Duncan @ newsletter@spcaswmich.org.