

# VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER

HELP US. HELP THEM.



**SPCA**  
southwest michigan

April 2019 | Issue 255

**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**  
**SPCA MERCHANDISE**



## DOG & CAT SHELTER ENRICHMENT



What is enrichment? According to the ASPCA, enrichment is a process for improving the environment and behavior care of confined animals within the context of their behavioral needs. By definition, this is something SPCA of Southwest Michigan provides every day for our shelter animals. You might have seen recent posts asking for radios, CDs, snuffy mats, sturdy toys, and other items to provide enrichment to our animals. Enrichment toys have many purposes, which can range anywhere from reducing stress, increasing behavioral health, decreasing illness, and even reducing the animals length of stay in the shelter. For these reasons, enrichment is something that is crucial for animals in these stressful environments.

Keep in mind, enrichment is not *(continued on page 2)*



behavior modification. Enrichment is more of a prevention while behavior modification is a treatment. Even though enrichment is not modifying behaviors, it is still an essential part of our animals' daily lives. From our shelter behaviorist, Dr. E, without enrichment "...dogs will suffer. The shelter is undoubtedly a place for chronic and acute stress in dogs and without things like enrichment, adoptability and safety of an animal will decrease."

According to Dr. E, the best way to provide widespread psychological health is kennel-wide enrichment. It will give the animals an improved environment and/or behavioral care for confined animals and the purpose is to stimulate their brain, giving them a task, and distracting them from their own kennel. It also allows dogs to engage in species-typical behavior, such as smelling, chewing, and playing, and reduces species atypical behavior, such as spinning, self-injury, and behavior problems. Not only does enrichment engage the animal, but also staff and volunteers at the shelter. It also provides enrichment for staff because it gives them something positive to do each day to improve the well-being of the animals and can even help prevent burnout, which is always a concern in animal welfare organizations.

Although enrichment is an essential part of every animal's day, it is not magic. Enrichment will always provide the animal with daily activities, but there will always be limitations and adjustments that have to be made. Enrichment can assist with behavior problems, but it will not be a cure all fix for all issues the animal may be experiencing.

If you are looking for ways to give, we are always in need of supplies for the shelter specifically enrichment toys for our animals. Sturdy toys, CDs, materials for snuffy mats, and many other items are welcome. Our **Amazon Wishlist** is also a good resources to reference for any other donations the shelter may be in need of. For questions concerning enrichment items, feel free to reach out to us by phone at (269) 344-1474 or email us at **[info@spcaswmich.org](mailto:info@spcaswmich.org)**.





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

**May 11th** - PetCo Adoption Event, 11am- 3pm: Be sure to join us for our PetCo Adoption Saturdays! It's a great way to meet the animals and talk with SPCA of Southwest Michigan volunteers and staff! Pick up your pet supplies from PetCo while you're here! Located at 6280 S Westnedge Ave. Portage, MI 49002.



## TRAVELING WITH PETS

For some pet parents, a trip is no fun if the four-legged members of the family can't come along. But traveling can be highly stressful, both for you and your pets. If you're planning to take a trip with pets in tow, we have some tips to help ensure a safe and comfortable journey for everyone.

Remember, no matter where you're headed or how you plan to get there, make sure your pet is microchipped for identification and wears a collar and tag imprinted with your name, phone number and any relevant contact information. It's a good idea for your pet's collar to also include a temporary travel tag with your cell phone and destination phone number for the duration of your trip.

### Traveling by plane?

Unless your furry friend is small enough to ride under your seat, it's best to avoid air travel with your pets. If you must bring your pet along on the flight, here are a few suggestions to keep your pet safe while flying the friendly skies.

Book a direct flight whenever possible. This will decrease the chances that your pet is left on the

tarmac during extreme weather conditions or mishandled by baggage personnel during a layover.

Make an appointment with your pet's veterinarian for a checkup. Prior to your trip, make sure your pet's vaccinations are up-to-date and obtain a health certificate from your veterinarian dated within 10 days of your departure.

Purchase a USDA-approved shipping crate. The crate should be large enough for your pet to stand, sit and turn around in comfortably, and lined with some type of bedding—shredded paper or towels—to absorb accidents. Prior to your trip, tape a small pouch of dried food outside the crate so airline



personnel will be able to feed your pet in case he or she gets hungry during a layover. The night before you leave, freeze a small dish or tray of water for your pet. This way, it can't spill during loading and will melt by the time he or she is thirsty. Make sure the crate door is securely closed, but not locked, so that airline personnel can open it in case of an emergency.

Make sure your pet's crate has proper identification. Mark the crate with the words "Live Animal," as well as with your name, cell phone and destination phone number, and a photo of your pet.

Tell every airline employee you encounter—on the ground and in the air—that you are traveling with a pet in the cargo hold. This way, they'll be ready if any additional considerations or attention is needed.

### **Taking a Road Trip?**



Traveling with a pet by car involves more than just loading the animal in the back seat and motoring off, especially if you will be driving long distances or plan to be away for a long time. Here are a few car travel safety tips to help you prepare for a smooth and safe trip.

Prep your pet for a long trip. Get your pet geared up by taking him on a series of short drives first, gradually lengthening time spent in the car. If you're traveling across state lines, bring along your pet's rabies vaccination record. While this generally isn't a problem, some states require this proof at certain



interstate crossings.

Keep your pets safe and secure in a well-ventilated crate or carrier. The crate should be large enough for your pet to stand, sit, lie down and turn around in. Secure your pet's crate so it will not slide or shift in the event of an abrupt stop. If you decide to forgo the crate, don't allow your pet to ride with his head outside the window, and always keep him in the back seat in a harness attached to a seat buckle. Some states are passing laws that require the animal to be secured or crated while traveling in the car, do your research before you travel!

Prep a pet-friendly travel kit. Bring food, a bowl, leash, a waste scoop, plastic bags, grooming supplies, medication and first-aid, and any travel documents. Pack a favorite toy or pillow to give your pet a sense of familiarity. Be sure to pack plenty of water.

Never leave your animal alone in a parked vehicle. On a hot day, even with the windows open, a parked automobile can become a furnace in no time, and heatstroke can develop. In cold weather, a car can act as a refrigerator, holding in the cold and causing the animal to freeze to death.

**Shortened format of article from ASPCA, full article [here](#).**



## A SPECIAL THANKS!

### Puppy & Kitten Shower



A special thank you to all our volunteers and donors that helped out during our Puppy and Kitten Shower on March 31st! With the help of our volunteers and donors, we were able to gain necessary supplies to support our foster program and help prepare the organization for the upcoming puppy and kitten season. We are extremely grateful to Harding's Market for providing cake and Cottage Inn Pizza for providing pizza during the shower! If you are still interested in donating to help towards the puppy and kitten season, donations can be dropped off at the shelter any time during open hours.



### Imperial Beverage Volunteer Group

March 28 - Our friends from Imperial Beverage came in for a day of volunteering and fun! During their time here, Imperial Beverage helped clean our shelter from floor to ceiling, walked some of dogs, and gave the cats lots of pets. We are always looking for volunteer groups to come in a help us out around our shelter. Groups have a variety of different activities they can do to help. Some of the different things volunteer groups can do to help are cleaning projects, landscaping, walking and bathing animals, and also socializing animals. If your business is looking for options for a day of giving, email us at [info@spcaswmich.org](mailto:info@spcaswmich.org) or call us at (269) 344-1474.





# Happy Tails

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

## SPUD

Submitted by: Lucy Kloko



Does anyone remember Spud? Spud was adopted in 2010 after an 11 month stay at your shelter. He was hard to place, with a perceived aggressive streak. Under firm guidance, he proved a well-mannered and good companion (note the unusual play pose).

Spud breathed his last on April 11, 2019 at the ripe old age of 16. The adoptive years provided him a caring and comfortable home.

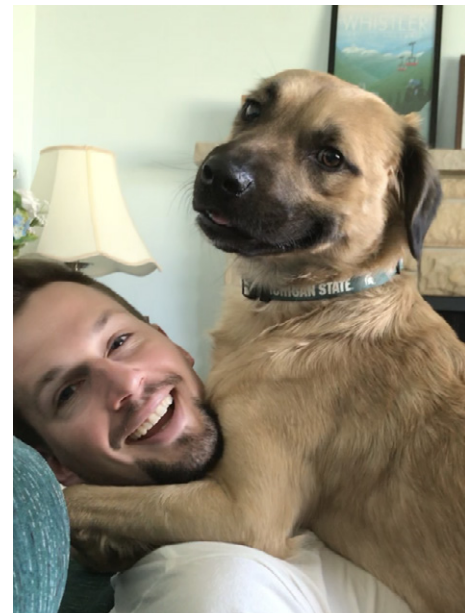
Hopefully this will provide some encouragement as you seek homes for other hard to place pets.

## LOGAN

Submitted by: Kara Mockler



We adopted Logan (now Ryder!) at the pet expo Saturday... he's awesome!

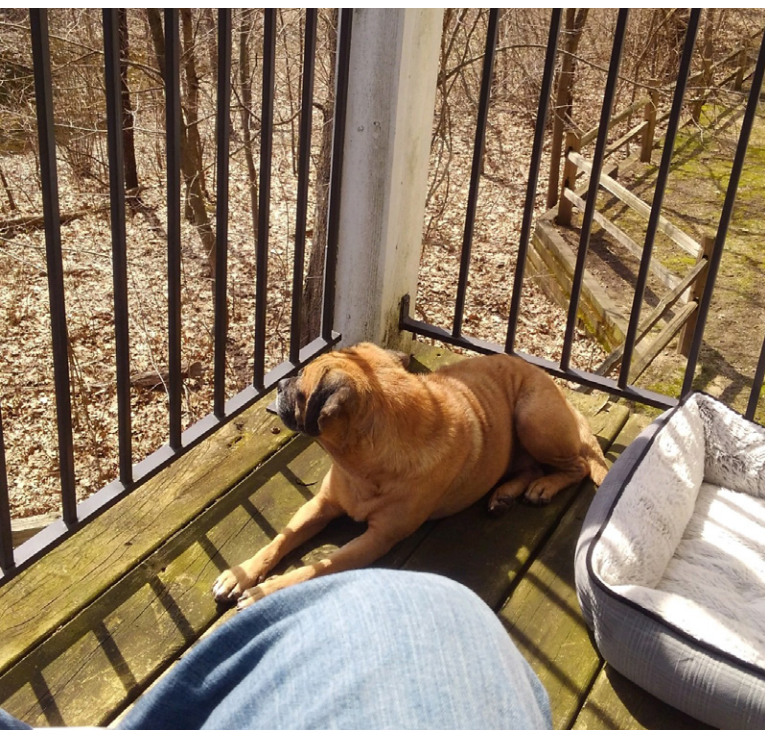




**PIXIE**

**Submitted by: Hermalinda Beeman**

Pixie is doing so well! From day one she has not tore anything up or had an accident inside the house. She is a very sweet gentle girl. No barking no whining. She was shy at first but within this week she has really come out of her shell. She loves to play and mostly nap. My lap has so far been her favorite spot but she loves to play with her new dad. We are very happy we chose Pixie and she is already loved by everyone. We thank you so much for allowing us to love and care for her. Today was her first vet appointment. They will continue to help alleviate her skin condition and hopefully it improves. But otherwise is in good health.







## ADOPTIONS - THANKS TO YOU!

**CATS:** Berry, Cagney, Carrie, Casey, Cato, Checkers, Cherry, Chester, Chloe, Coffee, Dobie, Eliana, Gladys, Idalia, Inky, Pinky, Jasper, Kiterina, Laney, Litto, Lou Lou, Mr Meow, Oakley, Oliver, Onyx, Ramon, Randall, Raul, Reginald, River, Samuel, Santa Fe, Sarabi, Silk, Sunshine, Superman, Tippy, Tony, Tucker

**DOGS:** Akira, Aspen, Bailey Girl, Bear, Bearry, Bennet, Benny, Bingley, Birch, Brownie, Carrie, Casey, Cecil, Champ, Chance, Charlotte, Darla, Dionysus, Dixie, Duey, Elmer, Genie, Ginger, Harriet, Heath, Hollie, Homer, Hudson, Huey, Izzy, Jane, Jax, JLo, Jodie, Jumanji, Kendal, Kira, Knightly, Lady Luck, Logan, Luey, Luigi, Luis, Malani, Marcie, Max, Milton, Molly, Nikolo, Nugget, Oakly, Panda, Peaches LA, Pepper, Philly, Pixie, Rocker, Ronald, Rubi, Rubia, Ruth, Ruther, Sadie SC, Sammy, Sanson, Snuggles, Socks, Specks, Thunder, Tilney, Tinker

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).