

VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER

HELP US. HELP THEM.



SPCA
southwest michigan

May 2019 | Issue 256

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



EXTRA VOLUNTEER DUTIES



One of the biggest questions we always get from volunteers is "what more can we do to help out?" We are always looking for volunteers to help out in various ways beyond just dog walking and cat socialization. Volunteers can make crafts to sell on their own and donate funds or donate materials to the shelter so other volunteers can make crafts. You could also hold a community event such as a bake sale, car wash, pop bottle drive and donate funds or even sponsor a volunteer program fee or sponsor an adoption fee for one of your favorite animals at the shelter. We also look to volunteers to help with kennel maintenance, in home foster care, helping at adoption events, adoption counseling and processing, taking photos of our animals for their online profiles and writing bios to highlight the animals personality. The office is always looking for more help was well. There's a wide range of duties that the office is in need of varying from giving shelter tours, helping with phones

and follow up adoption calls, filing, and mailing acknowledgments. One of the most important duties a volunteer can help with is simply making sure our shelter and grounds are tidy and in tip top shape. This can be as simple as picking up litter or waste from other animals found on the grounds while you're walking a dog or sweeping around litter boxes in kitty city. If you can think it, then it's probably something that you could help with around the shelter.

We are currently looking for more volunteers to help out in our office with adoption counseling, shelter tours, helping phones, and other light office work. You do need to go through a new volunteer orientation if you're interested in volunteering in the office. If you're interested in volunteering for SPCA, please refer to our volunteer page on our website. You can also email info@spcaswmich.org or call (269) 344-1474 for general inquiries about volunteering.



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Karen - Dog Walker



Here at SPCA, our volunteers have been and always will be an essential part of our organization. Our volunteers do a variety of different work, which varies from adoption counseling, event help, making and selling crafts to generate revenue, and most importantly helping enrich our many animals lives that come through the shelter. This month, we would like to highlight one of our veteran volunteer dog walkers, Karen. Karen has been volunteering with SPCA since June of 2018. Karen spends many mornings during the week taking our dogs out for walks on the trail, spending time with them in different areas of the shelter to get them used to being in different environments, and making sure they are showered in love and treats. You'll never see Karen at the shelter without her bag of dog treats to reward all the dogs for their good behavior. If you're interested in becoming a volunteer at SPCA, check out our [volunteer webpage](#).

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

May 17th & 18th - Kalamazeuter Free Spay/Neuter, A free spay/neuter event for dogs (May 17th) and cats (May 18th) for those in need. You must call to schedule an appointment to be put on the waiting list. Please call (269) 344-1474 to join the list. Drop off will be between 7 & 8am and pick up will be between 5 & 6pm unless we call for earlier pick up if your dog or cat is done earlier.

May 18th - 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.

June 1st - Pet Adoption Day at Warner Vineyards, 1-4pm: Rescue an animal in need! Warner Vineyards is hosting a pet adoption event Saturday, June 1st. Come find your family's new best friend! Located [here](#).

June 13th - Bark in the Park, 6pm-9pm: The Kalamazoo Growlers are hosting a fundraiser for us on Thursday, June 13th which is Bark in the Park Night! Feel free to bring your dogs as well! They have put together 3 special ticket packages for our supporters. We will be recognized as non-profit of the night and will get the opportunity to partake in the Miracle Minute! A portion of every fundraiser ticket sold will be given back to us! Isn't this Exciting! Special ticket options are available, please follow the link to purchase them!

HOW AND WHERE TO COOL ANIMALS DOWN WHEN TEMPERATURES SOAR



The summer months can be uncomfortable—even dangerous—for pets and people. It's difficult enough simply to cope with rising temperatures, let alone thick humidity. We can help you keep your pets safe and cool this summer. Follow our tips for helping everyone in your family stay healthy and comfortable when temperatures soar.

Never leave your pets in a parked car

Not even for a minute. Not even with the car running and air conditioner on. On a warm day, temperatures inside a vehicle can rise rapidly

to dangerous levels. On an 85-degree day, for example, the temperature inside a car with the windows opened slightly can reach 102 degrees within 10 minutes. After 30 minutes, the temperature will reach 120 degrees. Your pet may suffer irreversible organ damage or die. Learn how to help a pet left inside a hot car by taking action or calling for help.

Watch the humidity

"It's important to remember that it's not just the ambient temperature but also the humidity that can affect your pet," says Dr. Barry Kellogg, VMD, of the Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association. "Animals pant to evaporate moisture from their lungs, which takes heat away from their body. If the humidity is too high, they are unable to cool themselves, and their temperature will skyrocket to dangerous levels—very quickly."

Limit exercise on hot days

Take care when exercising your pet. Adjust intensity and duration of exercise in accordance with the

temperature. On very hot days, limit exercise to early morning or evening hours, and be especially careful with pets with white-colored ears, who are more susceptible to skin cancer, and short-nosed pets, who typically have difficulty breathing. Asphalt gets very hot and can burn your pet's paws, so walk your dog on the grass if possible. Always carry water with you to keep your dog from dehydrating.

Don't rely on a fan

Pets respond differently to heat than humans do. (Dogs, for instance, sweat primarily through their feet.) And fans don't cool off pets as effectively as they do people.

Provide ample shade and water



Any time your pet is outside, make sure they have protection from heat and sun and plenty of fresh, cold water. In heat waves, add ice to water when possible. Tree shade and tarps are ideal because they don't obstruct air flow. A doghouse does not provide relief from heat—in fact, it makes it worse.

Cool your pet inside and out

Whip up a batch of quick and easy DIY peanut butter popsicles for dogs. (You can use peanut butter or another favorite food.) And always provide water, whether your pets are inside or out with you.

Keep your pet from overheating indoors or out with a cooling body wrap, vest or mat (such as the Keep Cool Mat). Soak these products in cool

water, and they'll stay cool (but usually dry) for up to three days. If your dog doesn't find baths stressful, see if they enjoy a cooling soak.

Watch for signs of heatstroke

Extreme temperatures can cause heatstroke. Some signs of heatstroke are heavy panting, glazed eyes, a rapid heartbeat, difficulty breathing, excessive thirst, lethargy, fever, dizziness, lack of coordination, profuse salivation, vomiting, a deep red or purple tongue, seizure and unconsciousness.

Animals are at particular risk for heat stroke if they are very old, very young, overweight, not conditioned to prolonged exercise, or have heart or respiratory disease. Some breeds of dogs—like boxers, pugs, shih tzus and other dogs and cats with short muzzles—will have a much harder time breathing in extreme heat.

How to treat a pet suffering from heatstroke

Move your pet into the shade or an air-conditioned area. Apply ice packs or cold towels to their head, neck and chest or run cool (not cold) water over them. Let them drink small amounts of cool water or lick ice cubes. Take them directly to a veterinarian.



Shortened article from The Humane Society of the United States, full article with informative PDFs available [here](#).

Heatstroke can be deadly.

Share this image to keep dogs safe!



The signs of heatstroke include:

- Excessive or exaggerated panting
- Lethargy
- Weakness
- Drooling
- High fever
- Dark red gums
- Rapid heartbeat
- Unresponsiveness to commands and surroundings
- Vomiting
- Collapse
- Staring/anxious expression
- Warm/dry skin

If you think your dog may have heatstroke, head straight to your vet's office. It could save his life!

Petfinder
SUMMER **Pet**
Safety

Happy Tails

submit your happy tail to happytails@spcaswmich.org

DIXIE

Submitted by: Nicole Ninee

Kona (aka Dixie) is fitting into our family wonderfully. Thank you so much SPCA of Southwest Michigan for helping find the missing piece of our family. We love her so much.



SMOOTH

Submitted by: Riley Fast



About three months ago I adopted this little baby. Jax (Smooth) has CHANGED MY LIFE! He is my absolute best friend and guards me like his life depends on it! He's the best cuddle buddy, gives the best kisses and never leaves my side. As my first dog ever he has taught me so much and showed me so much love. He has genuinely made my life so much better and meaningful. Shelter dogs have so much love and appreciation, and Jax has made me that much more excited for my next. Thank you SPCA.

LASSIE

Submitted by: Abigail Garberick



Sigurd (Lassie) came home a few months ago. Now he's our 70 lb cuddle bug. He loves going on bike rides to the river, and standing guard at the front window with his kitty sister

OSCAR

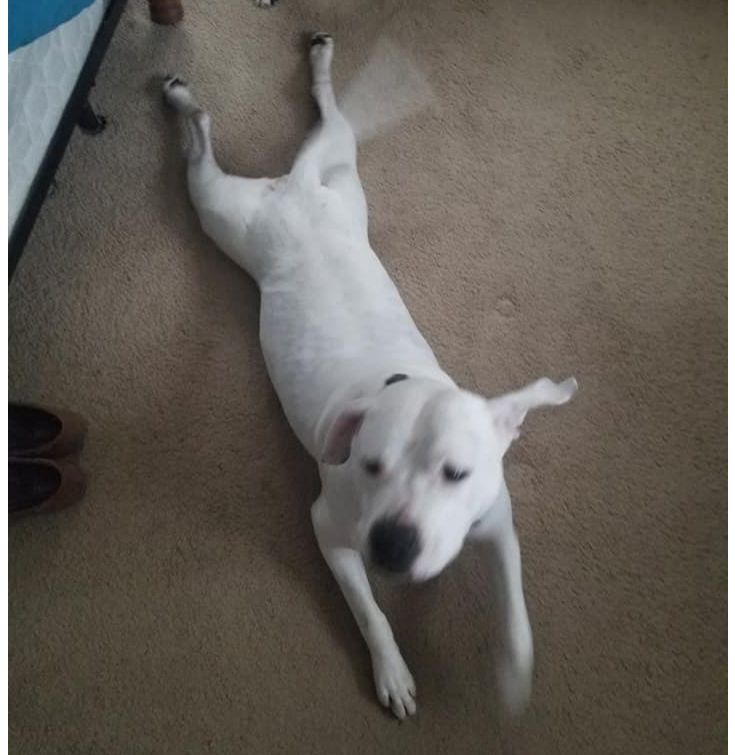
Submitted by: Robin Lizik



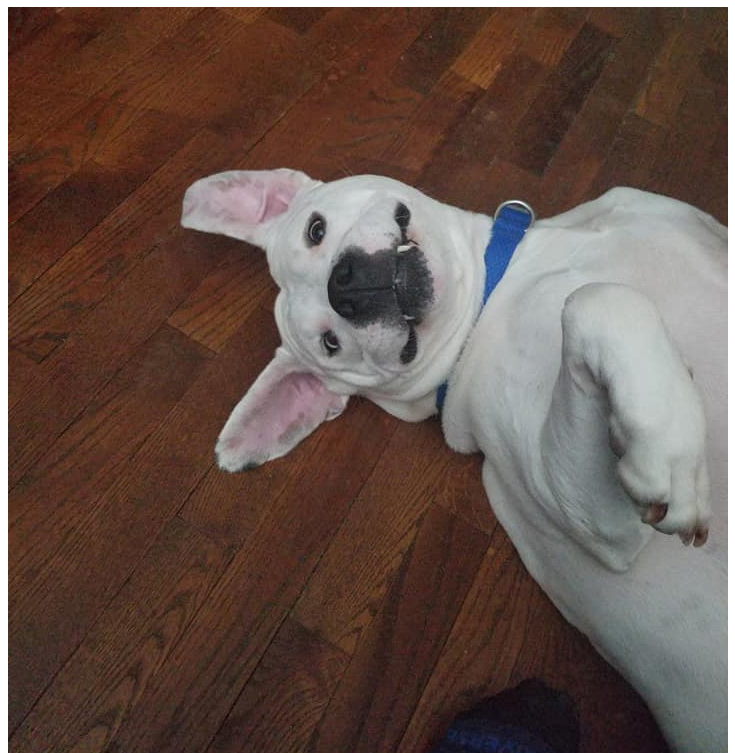
Bo (originally Oscar) is turning into quite the regal and prestigious young man. Still has yet to master stairs, jumping up on the bed, and walking on leash but we have all the confidence in him!

COLBY

Submitted by: Danielle McAdam Bailey



Today is gotcha day for this goofy doggo! Its only been a year, but Colby is definitely a huge part of our family, and is especially fond of his boy! He LOVES to spend his time outside and cuddle with his kid at bedtime.





ADOPTIONS - THANKS TO YOU!

CATS: Alley, Bella Grace, Bert, Binky, Bohdi, Buddy Christine, Calley, Daisy, Daisy Mae, Della Rose, Dewey, Dylan, Ellie Mae, Ellington, Goldie, Huey, Kia, Louie, Macie, Mackenzie, Mae, Maverick, Mimi, Miss Kitty, Mona, Nala, Penquin, Ridley, Salsa, Tiger

DOGS: Blair, Blue, Bre LA, Bubblegum, Chalie, Champagne, Champion, Cheyanne, CoCo, Coco May, Colbi, Confetti Cake, Cuba, Damon, Debbie, Dee, Dolphin, Donnie, Dwight, Elina, Fawn, Freddie, Gunner, Heath, Hiccup, Indy, Ivy, Jade, Jimmy SC, JLo, Jugger, Jumanji, Katie, Kendal, Lady Godiva, Logan, Luey, Luigi, Luis, Malani, Manatee, Marigold, Mia, Mikey Ike, Missy Ann, Nesbitt, Padme, Patch, Poppy, Queen Mercury, Quinn, Quinnie, Rockie, Ron, Rover, Sandy, Sassy, Scott Speed, Sea Lion, Sea Otter, Seal, Shark, Susie, Ted, Vernon, Wendy, Whale, Willie

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.