

VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER

HELP US. HELP THEM.



SPCA
southwest michigan

July 2019 | Issue 257

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

SW

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



FUN NEW MERCHANDISE ADDED!



If you're looking to show your love of animals and support the SPCA, check out our **merchandise store**! We have our "Help Us Help Them" apparel as well as some fun, pet lover t's. Thanks for your support!

Have ideas or requests on apparel? Email haase@spcaswmich.org.





**YOUR
AD
HERE**

WE ARE LOOKING FOR ADVERTISERS!

Showcase your company or product to thousands of pet lovers in one easy place.

Contact haase@spcaswmich.org for more info.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT *Jane - Office Volunteer*

For this months volunteer spotlight, we would like to recognize Jane. Jane has been volunteering for the SPCA for 12 years now. Jane is one of our volunteers that helps in almost every aspect of our organization. She helps out with our PetCo adoption events, office help, adoption counseling, taking dogs to visit our two legged friends at the nursing home, dog walking, and even helping at senior expos to provide more information to community members about what we do here at SPCA. Thank you for all you do, Jane!

If you'd like to be a superstar volunteer like Jane, check out our [volunteer webpage](#) for more information!



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

July 20th - Matt Coon State Farm, 11am-2pm: Visit Matt Coon State Farm for an adoption event. They will be sponsoring the first dog and cat adoption!

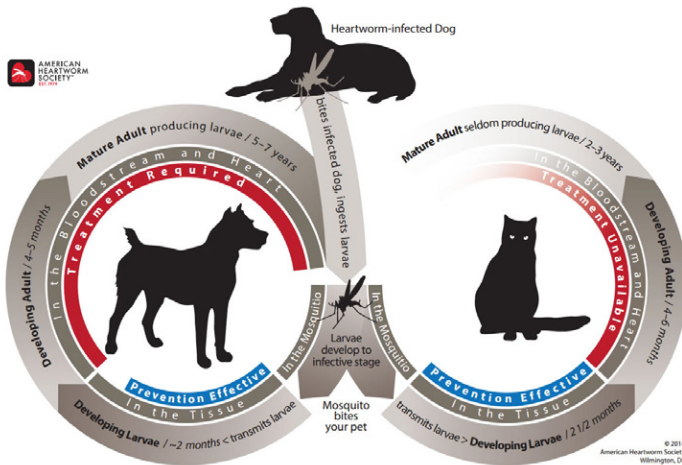
July 27th - Richland Community Library, 10am-12pm: Add a new character to your story! Come visit the Richland Community Library for an adoption event. Bring your children in for a chance to read to therapy dogs.

August 9th - Callandar Commercial Pet Adoption Event, 2-5:30pm: Callander Commercial is hosting a pet adoption event! Stop by to give a dog or cat a Loving Home. Can't adopt? Donations are gladly accepted to help support us continue our mission to provide all animals with a loving, caring home. Callander Commercial will pay the adoption fee for the first four dogs and the first four cats adopted during the event.

September 14th - Doggie Dash 5k Fun Run, 10am-2pm: Join us for our 9th Annual, Fun 5K, Doggie Dash! Come out and walk or run the trails at the beautiful Spring Valley Park while raising money for the SPCA SWMI. This is a family friendly event with more than just a race; bring your kids, bring your dog, bring your friends!

HEARTWORM INFORMATION

What is heartworm disease?



Heartworm disease is a serious and potentially fatal disease in pets in the US and many other parts of the world. It is caused by foot-long worms (heartworms) that live in the heart, lungs and associated blood vessels of affected pets, causing severe lung disease, heart failure and damage to other organs in the body.

Dogs. The dog is a natural host for heartworms, which means that heartworms that live inside the dog can mature into adults, mate and produce offspring. If untreated, their numbers can increase, and dogs have been known to harbor several hundred worms in their bodies. Heartworm disease causes lasting damage to the heart, lungs and arteries, and can affect the dog's health and quality of life long after

the parasites are gone. For this reason, heartworm prevention for dogs is by far the best option, and treatment—when needed—should be administered as early in the course of the disease as possible.

Cats. Heartworm disease in cats is very different from heartworm disease in dogs. A cat is an atypical host for heartworms, and most worms in cats do not survive to the adult stage. Cats with adult heartworms typically have just one to three worms, and many cats affected by heartworms have no adult worms. While this means heartworm disease often goes undiagnosed in cats, it's important to understand that even immature worms cause real damage in the form of a condition known as heartworm associated respiratory disease (HARD). Moreover, the medication used to treat heartworm infections in dogs cannot be used in cats, so prevention is the only means of protecting cats from the effects of heartworm disease.

How is heartworm disease transmitted?

The mosquito plays an essential role in the heartworm life cycle. Adult female heartworms living in an infected dog produce microscopic baby worms called microfilaria that circulate in the bloodstream. When a mosquito bites and takes a blood meal from an infected animal, it picks up these baby worms,

which develop and mature into “infective stage” larvae over a period of 10 to 14 days. Then, when the infected mosquito bites another dog or cat, the infective larvae are deposited onto the surface of the animal’s skin and enter the new host through the mosquito’s bite wound. Once inside a new host, it takes approximately 6 months for the larvae to develop into mature adult heartworms.

When should my pet be tested?



Testing procedures and timing differ somewhat between dogs and cats.

Dogs. All dogs should be tested annually for heartworm infection. Following are guidelines on testing and timing:

Puppies under 7 months of age can be started on heartworm prevention without a heartworm test, but should be tested 6 months after your initial visit, tested again 6 months later and yearly after that to ensure they are heartworm-free.

Adult dogs over 7 months of age and previously not on a preventive need to be tested prior to starting heartworm prevention. They, too, need to be tested 6 months and 12 months later and annually after that.

You need to consult your veterinarian, and immediately re-start your dog on monthly preventive—then retest your dog 6 months later. The reason for re-testing is that heartworms must be approximately 7 months old before the infection can be diagnosed.

Annual testing is necessary, even when dogs are on heartworm prevention year-round, to ensure that the prevention program is working. Heartworm medications are highly effective, but dogs can still become infected.

Cats. Heartworm infection in cats is harder to detect than in dogs, because cats are much less likely than dogs to have adult heartworms. The preferred method for screening cats includes the use of both an antigen and an antibody test. Your veterinarian may also use x-rays or ultrasound to look for heartworm infection. Cats should be tested before being put on prevention and re-tested as the veterinarian deems appropriate to document continued exposure and risk. Because there is no approved treatment for heartworm infection in cats, prevention is critical.

What happens if my dog tests positive?

No one wants to hear that their dog has heartworm, but the good news is that most infected dogs can be successfully treated. The goal is to first stabilize your dog if he is showing signs of disease, then kill all adult and immature worms while keeping the side effects of treatment to a minimum.

Here’s what to expect if your dog tests positive:

Confirm the diagnosis. Once a dog tests positive on an antigen test, it should be confirmed with an additional—and different—test. Because the treatment regimen for heartworm is both expensive and complex, your veterinarian will want to be absolutely sure that treatment is necessary.

Restrict exercise. Physical exertion increases the rate at which the heartworms cause damage in the heart and lungs. The more severe the symptoms, the less activity your dog should have.

Administer treatment. Once your veterinarian has determined your dog is ready for heartworm treatment, he or she will recommend a treatment protocol involving several steps. Dogs with no or mild signs of heartworm disease, such as cough

or exercise intolerance, have a high success rate with treatment. More severe disease can also be successfully treated, but the possibility of complications is greater. The severity of heartworm disease does not always correlate with the severity of symptoms, and dogs with many worms may have few or no symptoms early on.

Test (and prevent) for success. Approximately 6 months after treatment is completed, your veterinarian will perform a heartworm test to confirm that all heartworms have been eliminated. To avoid the possibility of your dog contracting heartworm disease again, you will want to administer heartworm prevention year-round for the rest of his life.

What if my cat tests positive for heartworms?



Like dogs, cats can be infected with heartworms. There are differences, however, in the nature of the disease and how it is diagnosed and managed. Heartworms in the circulatory system also affect the cat's immune system and cause symptoms such as coughing, wheezing and difficulty breathing. Heartworms in cats may even migrate to other parts of the body, such as the brain, eye and spinal cord. Severe complications such as blood clots in the lungs and lung inflammation can result when the adult worms die in the cat's body.

Here's what to expect if your cat tests positive:

Diagnosis. While infected dogs may have 30 or more worms in their heart and lungs, cats usually have 6 or fewer—and may have just one or two. But while the severity of heartworm disease in dogs is related to the number of worms, in cats, just one or two worms can make a cat very ill. Diagnosis can be complicated, requiring a physical exam, an X-ray, a complete blood count and several kinds of blood tests. An ultrasound may also be performed.

Treatment. Unfortunately, there is no approved drug therapy for heartworm infection in cats, and the drug used to treat infections in dogs is not safe for cats. Nevertheless, cats with heartworm disease can often be helped with good veterinary care. The goal is to stabilize your cat and determine a long-term management plan.

Monitor your cat. Heartworm-positive cats may experience spontaneous clearing of heartworms, but the damage they cause may be permanent. If your cat is not showing signs of respiratory distress, but worms have been detected in the lungs, chest X-rays every 6 to 12 months may be recommended. If mild symptoms are noted, small doses of prednisolone may be administered to help reduce inflammation.

Provide veterinary care. If the disease is severe, additional support may be necessary. Your veterinarian may recommend hospitalization in order to provide therapy, such as intravenous fluids, drugs to treat lung and heart symptoms, antibiotics, and general nursing care. In some cases, surgical removal of heartworms may be possible.

Maintain prevention. A cat that has developed heartworm disease has demonstrated that it is susceptible to heartworm infection, and both outdoor and indoor cats are at risk. It's important to give your cat monthly heartworm preventives, which are available in both spot-on and pill form. Preventives keep new infections from developing if an infected mosquito bites your cat again.

Shortened article from American Heartworm Society. Full article and FAQs available [here](#).

SPCA



southwest
michigan

9th Annual Doggie Dash

5K



PRESENTED BY



Z H A N G
FINANCIAL

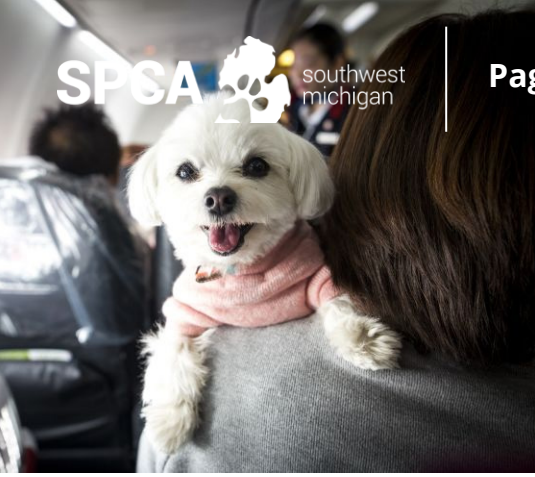
A Fee-Only Wealth Management Group

SAVE
THE
DATE



Saturday September 14

Spring Valley Park, Kalamazoo



THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ESA, SERVICE, AND THERAPY DOGS?

Do you know someone who is interested in searching for an emotional support dog? How about a service or therapy dog? Each of the three types has a different role, and the many terms can be confusing, but they aren't interchangeable.

Owners of dogs often speak about the benefits their pets offer in reducing stress and anxiety, helping them to complete daily tasks much easier. There is often debate about which breeds make the best therapy dog, but the truth is any breed can be trained for therapy work.

Instead of focusing on one breed, look for dogs with the right temperament. Service animals should be patient, gentle and affectionate. Focus on how these wonderful pets make you feel.

What is an emotional support dog?

Emotional support dogs are defined by their ability to comfort people through affection and companionship. Though they don't receive any formal training, they are a big help to those who suffer from mental and/or emotional issues.

You might be wondering how are they different from other service dogs? Emotional support dogs aren't required to perform any specific tasks needed to aid a person who is limited by a disability like service dogs are.

Because emotional support animals aren't required to undergo specialized training, they aren't allowed access to all public areas. But most notably, you've likely seen emotional support dogs flying with someone who has emotional or psychological disabilities. This is common practice as long as a letter is provided by a physician.

Their primary role is to provide their owners with emotional comfort. Emotional support animals can psychologically benefit an individual who has a disability tremendously. The gift of companionship and unconditional affection

can be just the right therapy to counter a condition like debilitating depression.

Emotional support dogs provide comfort, a calming presence, and company. Emotional support dogs do not have access to all public areas, but there are two legal protections.

First, they can fly with a person who has an emotional or psychological disability. Second, they can qualify for no-pet housing. A letter from a physician may be requested by housing authorities and airlines because the use of emotional support dogs has been abused by some over the years.

What is a service dog?

A service dog is trained to perform tasks and do work that can help alleviate their owner's disabilities. Service dogs are much more than highly trained companions; they have important jobs.

Working as part of a team with their partners, service dogs help attain the safety and independence from which many disabilities would otherwise limit them.

What is a therapy dog?

Therapy dogs receive extensive training but have a completely different type of job from service dogs. Their responsibilities are to provide psychological or physiological therapy to individuals other than their handlers, who are usually their owners.

These dogs have stable temperaments and friendly, easy-going personalities. Typically, they visit various institutions like hospitals, schools, hospices, psychotherapy offices, nursing homes and more.

Unlike service dogs, therapy dogs are encouraged to socialize and interact with a variety of people while they're on-duty.

Shortened article from PetFinder, full article found [here](#).

Happy Tails

submit your happy tail to happytails@spcaswmich.org

HERME NIETO

Submitted by: Jenny Lint



Pixie is doing well. This is today after her grooming appointment. She has been with us just little over 2 months and she brings so much joy and love in our home.

PENNY

Submitted by: Cindy Oliver



Penny has gotten so big. She's been a great addition to the family. We love her.

TAMPA

Submitted by: Lauren Janssen

This is Louis (pronounced Louie - formerly Tampa). I got him from the SPCA last summer when he was just 12 weeks old. He has been absolutely wonderful. I would highly recommend getting your new furry friend from here.



DIONYSUS

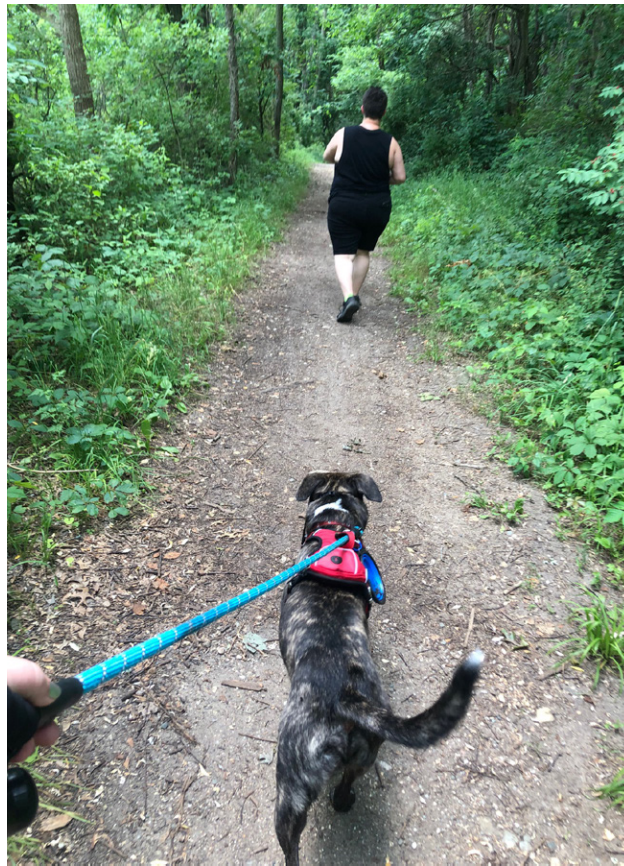
Submitted by: Lexi Cruse



Dionysus is doing great in our home! He's such an escape artist, our first week of him living with us he ripped the door frame off the bathroom because we haven't worked on his separation anxiety yet, and he slipped out of his collar, his harness, everything we tried. But we've learned from our mistakes. He now wears a head harness when out on walks so we can keep him safe. We've also invested in a heavy duty

crate, crate trained him so he feels safe, invested in some calming treats and a bike lock because he figured out how to unlock the crate. Phew! He's certainly been a handful but he has stolen my heart. I have never met a dog who loves to cuddles as much as my boy, and he adores playtime. We're still working on the dropping part of fetch but he loves chasing after his ball! He's a perfect hiking buddy with all of his energy, and is definitely the tug of war champion between my partner and him.

My favorite thing about Sylar (formally known as Dionysus) is how vocal he is. He loves to huff when we're annoying him, grumble when he's frustrated over not learning what he needs to do for a treat, whine when he's anxious and bark when he wants me to wake up to take him on his morning walk. He is so full of expression that with all of his difficulties, he has such an amazing personality that I love. If you have any pictures of him or anymore information of where he came from I would love it!!



My dog demands cuddles in the morning and I am ok with this



ADOPTIONS - THANKS TO YOU!

CATS: Ash, Bando, Beau, Blackie, Bloomer, Bo Peep, Brindle, Bumble, Bunny, Cinnabun, Dog, Dusty, Ebony, Emma, Fluffy RK, Garfield, Gritta, Honey, Jet, Lion, Lottie, Lucinda, Magic, Marble, Marcie, Mars, Mercury, Moe, Mojo, Monarch, Moon, Mr B, Orlando, Panther, Rocket, Ross, Rue, Sarge, Scarecrow, Seven, Shadow, Simon, Sonny, Stella, Steve, Stormy, Sugar, Tanner, Toto, Twiggy, Yoko

DOGS: Addie, Annie Jo, Apollo, Ariel, Avery, Bay, Bayer, Bijou, Billy, Blaze, Blue, Borker, Brina, Bubba, Champ, Chelsey, Cleo, Dexter, Diesel, Dopey, Fido, Gia, Gibson, Goldie, Howler, Jaba, Jacey, Jeff, Laya, Lily Lady, Lucky, Marsha, May, Micki, Mila, Murphy, Mutt, Nyla, Penny, Porkchop, Quarter, Rio, Rocky Lou, Roger Boy, Ronald Roo, Ronnie, Rose, Skye, Slugger, Stormy, Thomas, Tigger, Wendell

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.