

VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER

HELP US. HELP THEM.



SPCA
southwest michigan

August 2020 | Issue 259

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 25,000 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



EXCITING NEWS FROM SPCA SWMI EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR KATIE TIMBER

We are happy to be back and saving lives! This year we have had some challenges, none of which are too big for us to overcome together. We are back to having open hours and are following CDC restrictions by asking volunteers to schedule and wear masks.

Though we have vets back and dogs coming in, we are still facing the challenges of limited access to supplies and talents due to the covid crisis. Please be patient as we adjust to the changes moving forward.

In exciting news we have new staff members at the helm of this great organization.



Jaci is our new Office Manager and available M-F from 11am - 7pm to assist our community when they are entering the Rescue Center! If you have any customer services questions please contact Jaci@spcaswmich.org. See her bio on page 5.



Tricia is our new Volunteer Coordinator and available M-Thurs 10am - 6pm and Saturday 9am - 4pm for all volunteer training, scheduling, ideas, foster programming, and concerns. She can be contacted at Tricia@spcaswmich.org.

(continued on next page)



Emily has been with the SPCA SWMI for 8 years working with both dogs and cats, she has now been promoted to Kennel Manager, if there are any concerns about animals or staff please contact Emily@spcaswmich.org.

Myself, the Office Manager, Volunteer Coordinator, Kennel Manager, and our Feline Coordinator meet every Thursday for leadership meetings, any ideas or comments may be submitted to Katie@spcaswmich.org.

A CALL TO ACTION



As we move into these unknown times, we know that our community is going to need us more now than ever. 44 million Americans have filed for unemployment since the start of covid-19, between 19-23 million will potentially be evicted with pets.

The number of pets coming into shelters will be unknown. We will need your support desperately. Please consider fostering a cat or dog that needs placement until adoption occurs.

The rewards of fostering are plentiful, ensuring the animal in your care is in safety until we find them a home. All cats and dogs will be provided medical care and food by the SPCA SWMI, the SPCA will also find their forever homes moving forward.

We as a community are working towards no animal being left behind. We can only do this with your support.



In exciting news we will be featured on a national network! Our pets and adopters will be seen on the Hallmark channel's Tails of Joy scheduled to air Labor Day! We will posting updates on times for our families to see!

See more info from wwmt [here](#).

Thank you so much for your continued support to help the SPCA SWMI grow!

Katie Timber
Executive Director

DONATION MATCH FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST



The Maple Hill Auto Dealership is matching all donations to the SPCA SWMI up to \$10,000 for the month of August! Thank you to Jim Vandenberg and the Maple Hill family for their continued support. Please consider [donating](#) today. Every little bit helps!

JOIN OUR ADOPTION COUNSELOR TEAM



Volunteer adoption counselors facilitate the adoptions of SPCA cats and dogs. It is a rewarding experience to place a needy animal in the arms of a loving family. The vital work of counselors adopting out animals in conjunction with office staff promotes a well-run system ensuring that the SPCA can rescue more animals in need of a temporary home.

Counselors are needed during SPCA open hours with Saturdays and late afternoons being high traffic hours. Oftentimes, counselors join the SPCA staff at adoption events on and off-site. With the SPCA's flexible volunteer system, adoption counselors can pick their own hours and sign-up on the SignUp Genius when they are available.

To enquire about becoming an SPCA adoption counselor, please contact our volunteer coordinator, Tricia Mohny, at Tricia@spcaswmich.org.

HOW YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS/ DONATIONS HELP

FINANCIAL DONATIONS

ANY amount you are able to donate, either as a one time, recurring, or endowment gift will benefit homeless animals in our community.

\$10 PAYS FOR A 10 DAY RESCUE QUARANTINE

\$50 PAYS FOR ALL SHOTS AND PARASITE TREATMENT

\$100 PAYS FOR SPAY/NEUTER, ALL SHOTS, AND MICRO-CHIPPING

Participating in any SPCA SWMI events helps us to raise funds.

SHOP AMAZON SMILE

Set [Smile.Amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com) as your default page for Amazon purchases and select SPCA of Southwest Michigan as your charity of choice!

SPCA MERCHANDISE

All net proceeds from merchandise purchases go back to helping the animals at SPCA. You can find our merchandise [here](#). We have shirts, hoodies (pull-overs and zip-ups); tank tops, necklaces and dog tags!



10th Annual Doggie Dash

5K

VIRTUAL



Saturday September 19

**Spring Valley Park and Virtual
5K Your Way | Help Us Help Them**

Presented By



Join us at Spring Valley Park **OR** virtually for our 10th Annual 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!

Due to COVID-19, only the first 100 registrants may participate at the park location, all others must register as VIRTUAL 5K. Activities (obstacle course, vending sales, family activities) will be subject to COVID mandates and we will adjust accordingly to comply. Please stay posted for any updates and changes due to COVID regulations.

Check-in, same day registration, and activities such as an obstacle course for the dogs, activities for the family and vendor sales, all starting at 9am. Race begins at 10am! This is a self-timed event. Be sure to check back closer to the race to find out more about other activities taking place!

For Virtual Racers: This is open to anyone, anywhere in the world. You must start your run/walk at the scheduled time for the race which is 10:00am EST. Even though this is not a timed race, you are welcome to submit your time onto the app under "RESULTS".

Packet Pick Ups are scheduled for the week of the event from Monday, September 14 - Friday, September 18, 1pm - 7pm.

Kids under 12 are free! Shirt not included. Extra t-shirts are available for purchase. Large group registration discounts available starting at 6 people or more. Strollers welcome.

Dog(s) not required to participate in the race. All dogs must be well behaved and leashed. Please review all requirements to bring your dog to the event.

All registrations fees are final. In the case of severe weather, the race may be delayed up to 1 hour for the weather to clear. If hazardous conditions continue, the race reserves the right to cancel without reschedule or refund.

Dog requirements:

All dogs must be at least 4 months of age and kept on a non-retractable, 6ft or shorter leash at all times. Dogs must be current with all vaccinations. Owner must keep their dogs under control and clean up after their animals. Bags will be provided. In the instance where the dog(s) require medical attention at or after the event for any reason, the owner is responsible for transportation, medication, treatment and hospitalization. The pet owners assume all risk and responsibility for any damages to person, property or other animals caused by their dog(s).

Registration and more information [here](#).

SAY HELLO TO JACI

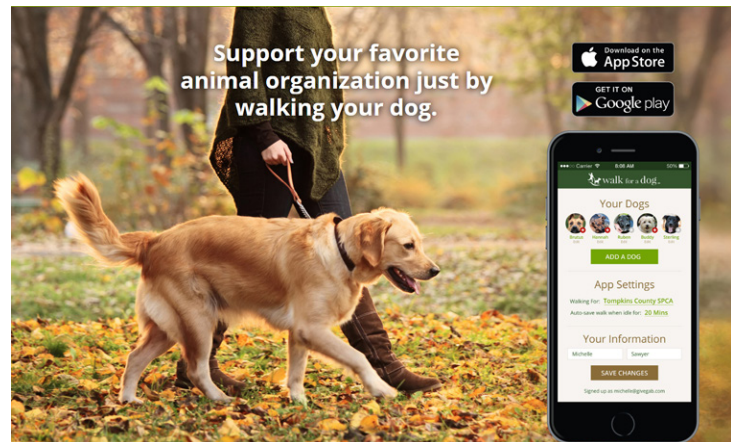


Jaci recently joined our SPCA staff as Office Manager in June 2020. She recently married in May 2020 to her husband Eric, owns a 13 year old cat named Mayor and is looking forward to expanding her fur family with her husband.

She brings over 10 years management experience from co-owning a martial arts studio where she has earned a 5th degree black belt and 12+ years instructing martial arts/ladies self defense in the art of Tang Soo Do Kyohoe Kwan. In her spare time, she loves to share her passion of teaching women self defense and sharing her own personal story as a way to encourage and inspire women from abusive backgrounds. In addition, she loves to travel, loves the water- mostly beaches and lakes, nature walks, trying different restaurants, working out and spending time with her husband, friends and family.

Jaci is excited not only to grow and learn more about her role, but be able to apply her management experience to benefit the lives of the animals, community, and the SPCA organization.

APP OF THE MONTH



WOOFTRAX

Do you and your fur-baby love going for walks but need some extra motivation? How about instead of “walking your dog”, start “walking FOR a dog”! Support your favorite animal organization by simply walking your dog!

There is a wonderful FREE app called Wooftrax.com that you can download to your phone, that not only monitors and keeps track of your walks, but each time you walk, Wooftrax.com donates to a shelter of your choice! It doesn't stop there! Are you competitive? Love Challenges? You can see who the other top walkers are and see if you can beat their score or start a challenge with other fellow walkers!

Here's how it works:

1. Go to www.wooftrax.com and download the free app to your phone.
2. Choose your animal charity. Join a challenge.
3. Use Wooftrax.com every time you go for a walk. The more walkers, the more your organization earns!

For more information, please visit www.wooftrax.com

EXPERIENCE OF THE MONTH



Today my Dad and I found my dad's new best friend. My dad is recently divorced and he has been looking for a new buddy.

We knew that we wanted to rescue this friend. So we drove from Sturgis to Kalamazoo. We were told a dog who we were interested in was transferred there from our local animal control.

When we arrived we were greeted by Jaci who asked if she could help us. She asked if we were interested in a certain dog or just wanted to look. We replied we were interested in Turbo. She immediately had us go into an adoption room, as she went to get him. She brought him into us and we introduced ourselves

to him. I believe it was love at first sight for my dad. Jaci left us alone for a bit so we could see how it was going to work. After a few minutes, Turbo went to my dad and sat down and put his paw on him. My dad was hooked then and there. Jaci came back to the room and my dad said "he is mine!". My dad filled out the paperwork and we were set to leave. HAPPY HOMEWARD BOUND FOR TURBO!

This is my first experience with rescuing from the SPCA SWMI, and will not be our last. We felt incredibly welcomed and at home once there. We could feel the love they have for each and every one of the animals there. It truly showed. Thank you for the utmost amazing experience and day.

Much love,

Jerry Smith & Kelly Sikorski



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



Lynn Roth

Lynn is one of the SPCA's most dedicated Kitty City Volunteers! For over four years she has been with the SPCA SWMI. Helping the animals become comfortable in their surroundings is her favorite part of working with the cats. Lynn finds her visits to the shelter special and rewarding. Thursday is Lynn's cat at home and according to Lynn, Thursday is, "The love of my life." Outside of the SPCA, Lynn is an avid Pickleball player and likes to spend weekends at her summer home. We are very thankful to have Lynn as part of our SPCA Volunteer Team!

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH



Tabitha has been with the SPCA SWMI since June 2014 and has moved her way up to Feline Coordinator as of April of 2020. She has two cats of her own and her favorite part of her work is helping the cats find their furever homes. She also loves to help the cat community as much as possible. We are lucky to have her strong leadership on our team!

WISH LIST

Thank you to everyone who has donated blankets, beds, crates, food, medicine, and toys to the SPCA SWMI! All of the fur-babies in our care thank you from their little to big hearts, as it makes their stay here just that more comfortable. Please keep them coming!

Because of the surge of donations we have received, we are in desperate need of shelving units that do not exceed 40 x 92. They can be small or large – anything helps us to properly store and keep things organized. Another item we could use are large storage bins that can

hold blankets and towels that have secure working lids. We like to keep our place clean and organized and these items would be beneficial to keeping that high standard. Other items we could use are kitty litter and laundry detergent.

Items Needed:

- Shelving units: No larger than 40 x 92
- Large Storage Bins with secure working lids
- Kitty Litter
- Laundry Detergent
- View a full list of items needed [here](#).

Happy Tails

submit your happy tail to happytails@spcaswmich.org



KELLAN Submitted by: Joshua Terry

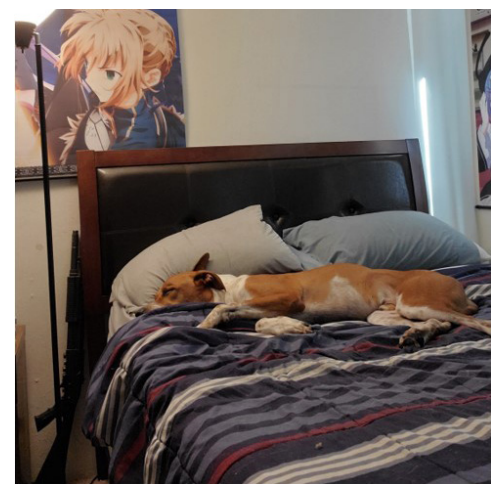
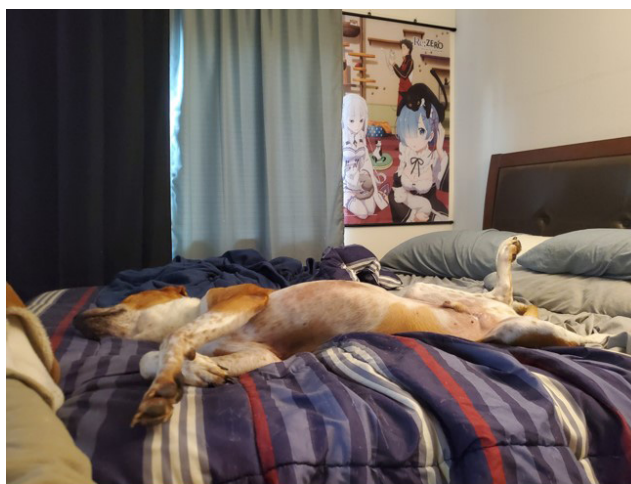
Hello all, I am writing to you to say thank you for allowing me to adopt Max. You all called him Kellan, I just called him Max. He answered it and I was like okay lets just call you Max.

The day I brought him home, my bed became his bed. He followed me everywhere and it was like he has been with me since he was a puppy. They say it takes time for a shelter dog to not be shy, this guy was not shy at all.

I was glad I could give him the best month ever and it was not in some kennel. As of 7-23-20 Max has passed away. I learned he had cancer and it was very aggressive. I also learned he would not live that long as well. This hit home hard because 2 years ago I lost my old dog to cancer as well. I did inform you all of this but decided that I would take care of him until his last day.

Even for the short time I had with him he changed in more ways then one. I was able to become active again and do stuff. I wanted to take him everywhere because he got a long with anyone and everyone. You could say he brightened my day when I came home from work cause he would be at the door waiting on me to come in. Someone that would help me eat the leftovers and also anything I dropped on the floor. I would pick up his toys and he would put them back all over the place just as soon as I left the room. Watching him chase his tail was the best thing ever. I have never had a dog that would chase their tail before.

He will be missed greatly. Here are pictures of him. You will see just how spoiled he was. So once again thank you very much.



JERRY

Submitted by: Katie Tolhurst



On October 6th 2018 we adopted Reinhardt FKA "Jerry." He had been returned to the shelter because he was bad with kids and he looked so sad in his kennel that day and my heart said "We NEED him!" We found out in July of 2019 that we would be welcoming triplets to our family and there was never a question of if he would do well with the babies, I just knew he would. His baby sisters were born on January 27th of this year and he has clearly embraced the role of big brother so well. He is a natural nanny!

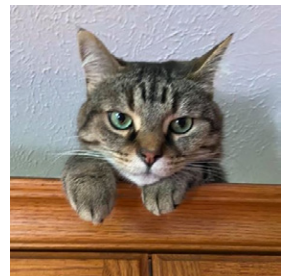


CROSBY

Submitted by: Anne Vought



I adopted Crosby from the SPCA about 4.5 years ago when he was 2.5 years old. Next month he will turn 7 and he has been a blessing in my life.



MARCY

Submitted by: Kristen Miller



Maizy (Marcy) has been the most amazing dog-so smart and just adorable. She loves snuggles, kids, belly-scratches and her squeaky ball. Adopted 10/19.



ADOPTIONS - THANKS TO YOU!

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.