

# VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER

HELP US. HELP THEM.



**SPCA**  
southwest michigan

December 2020 | Issue 263

**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 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**



HAPPY  
HOLIDAYS

If you are looking for ways to help the SPCA in this time of giving, please consider checking out our **Amazon Wish List**. You would be helping us care and provide enrichment for all of our furry friends.

Immediate needs are: cat litter, kitten and puppy food, pet safety salt for sidewalks, adoption folders - 2 pocketed (with or without middle prongs) and pens. We thank you and Happy Holidays!



## SPCA BOARD UPDATE

Every 2 years the SPCA SWMI has officer elections!

### Former Board President



**Eric Kaurud** has been an asset to the SPCA Board, he will remain a general member. If you see Eric make sure to stop by and thank him for his years of service. Eric is passing the reigns to a great community member Travis Cree.

### Incoming Board President

**Travis Cree** is a passionate community member and animal lover. Travis has served as Vice president for the SPCA for over 3 years, he is also a member of the Boys and Girls Club, the United Way, and several non-profit community organizations. Not only is Travis a passionate leader he is also a dedicate husband and father. Thank you for your leadership, we are excited to have him at the helm.



### Board Vice President



Lori Marshall is our new Vice President! Lori is a long time board member, marketing committee chair, and out right dog lover! Lori is a trend setting marketing professional, wife, mother, and grandmother! Thank you Lori for joining our executive leadership.



## VOLUNTEERS OF THE MONTH

*Chelsea Zenker & Mike Bischak*



December's SPCA Volunteer of the Month is a wonderful couple, Chelsea Zenker and Mike Bischak. They have been volunteers for a year walking dogs with a focus on the advanced dogs. Chelsea enjoys the fulfillment of improving the dog's quality of life while they wait for a home. She also enjoys any opportunity to meet a dog and getting great exercise. Mike enjoys running around the play yard with the energetic dogs and trying to get the shy dogs to become more playful.

A special moment for Mike at the SPCA is the first dog that became attached to him. The dog was Zion, a German Shepard. He ran really hard with Mike and when Zion was with other people, he always ran up to see Mike.

Chelsea's special moment is more about a special dog, Malfoy, the blind lab. Malfoy inspired Chelsea to bring toys, special treats, and a yoga mat to simply enjoy their time together. Chelsea would have brought Malfoy into their home, however, their dog at home wouldn't allow it. Their dog at home is Petey,

a rescue pit bull!

Outside of the SPCA, Chelsea is a KVCC/WMU psychology student who is currently working as a server & bartender at Erbellis. In the future, she hopes to become an animal behaviorist to help homeless pets find families. Swimming, tennis, and crafting are other hobbies of Chelsea's. Mike also likes tennis, but his other hobbies include watching movies and playing board games.

The SPCA is lucky to have Mike and Chelsea as dog walker volunteers. They are always kind, friendly volunteers.

## COVID-19 UPDATE

Per Michigan Governor's orders, we are scheduling by appointments only until further notice. Appointments are in 30 minute increments.

Monday - Friday we are open 11am - 6pm. Last appointment is taken at 5:30pm.

Saturdays we are open 11am - 3pm. Last appointment is taken at 2:30pm.

The last hours are reserved for extra cleaning. We apologize for any inconvenience and thank you for your understanding and cooperation as we all work together to get through these tough times.

*The Cat's  
New Year's Resolutions*



#1 SLEEP MORE

## HOLIDAY DECORATIONS & PETS

### - SAFETY TIPS

#### Christmas tree:

Make sure your dogs or cats do not chew on limbs or droppings from the tree. Ingested pine needles could get lodged in the intestinal tract, puncturing the lining or bunching together and causing an intestinal obstruction.

#### Water base:

The water base of a Christmas tree contains dangerous chemicals that could harm your pet.

#### Christmas lights and tinsel:

Position your tree's lights and tinsel draping away from the bottom of the tree where pets can get to them.

#### Candles:

Don't leave candles unattended. Pets may accidentally knock them over and spill wax or start a fire.

#### Fire starter logs:

Dogs that enjoy chewing should steer clear; these logs contain sawdust and paraffin which can cause an irritated stomach or even intestinal blockage when ingested.

#### Plants:

A number of seasonal plants are poisonous to pets if nibbled or eaten, including ivy, holly, mistletoe and poinsettias.

*This is a shortened article, read full article [here](#).*

## TOP 5 HOLIDAY PET TOXINS

In order, the top holiday toxins are:

### 1. Chocolate

This tasty treat is hands-down the winner for most calls at Christmas. Why? Usually it's because of wrapped chocolate gifts left under the tree. And often a pet has shredded wrapping paper to get to the treat, thus destroying the chance to learn exactly what ingredients have been ingested. Also, with the growing popularity of higher cocoa content, it takes even less candy to get our four-legged friends into a world of trouble.

### 2. Tree Preservatives

What is generally seen is mild gastrointestinal upset. However, if there is bacterial contamination, the potential for gastrointestinal upset can be more significant.

### 3. Poinsettias

Poinsettias are primarily mucous-membrane irritants – and despite the worry they cause pet owners, the plants aren't usually too dangerous if treated properly.

### 4. Medications

Guests. Winter colds. Kids home from school. This trifecta of medication dangers calls for caution. Add the fact that worried pet owners generally can't remember how much medicine was actually in that little baggie that the pup ate, and you can just feel a headache coming on. Any and all medications need to be stored up high or in a locked cabinet.

### 5. Alcohol

Eggnog and other holiday drinks are readily available during the holiday season and can be attractive-and dangerous-to pets. The good news: Pets usually vomit alcohol after ingestion. The bad news: Alcohol is absorbed quickly.

*This is a shortened article, read full article [here](#).*



# Keeping Pets Safe Over the Holidays

The holidays are a wonderful time to snuggle up with our pets, but many popular holiday treats can pose serious danger to furry friends. While celebrating this year, be sure to keep these foods well out of reach of curious pets!

**Chocolate**  
can cause gastrointestinal, neurologic and heart problems

**Sugar-free candies, gum and baked goods containing Xylitol** can cause low blood sugar and liver problems for dogs

**Raisins and grapes** can cause kidney failure for dogs

**Turkey and ham bones** may lead to foreign body obstructions

**Mixed alcoholic beverages** can cause alcohol poisoning in pets

**Raw bread dough** can cause electrolyte imbalances, tremors, and bloat

**Onions and garlic** can cause anemia and secondary kidney injury



*Please note: These are the most common holiday foods that can cause life-threatening issues when ingested by pets. For more information, visit [aspca.org/apcc](http://aspca.org/apcc)*

**ASPCA** | (888) 426-4435  
Animal Poison Control Center



# Happy Tails

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

## **STUMPY** Submitted by: Amanda Miracle



Hello frens, my name is Mars Thunder Paws and I want to give the SPCA team an update for my 1st Gotcha Day! It's on Sunday but my girl says I'm going to get an ice cream treato so I'll be very busy.

Your wonderful team took me last fall as a little puppy boy with a big hip injury. You knew me as Stumpy but my girl renamed me Mars. Mars is the patron of my listed birthday and my new people wanted to give me my power back so they named me for the God of War. I had a very ruff start but now I am so strong!

I have had a big year. I've had physical and mental healing time. As I got settled into my new home, we all realized I had a lot of mental baggage in addition to my hip injury but was okay because my girl knew what to do. We've worked together to understand

that I'll always be safe and loved. I've gotten so big and healthy too. I'm now about 15lbs and I can do zoomies and jumps with no problems.

This year has been awesome. I love my girl so much. She lets me snuggle under the blankets and I even have my own pillow in bed. We go bye bye in the car and she lets me hang my head out in the wind. We celebrated my first birthday over the summer. My girl bought us a house too so I have more nap spots and extra room for my treatos and toys. I have a lot of those. She says I'm something called spoiled. I also get to do walkies every day and say hello to all my frens in my neighborhood.

I've had a chance to become the doggo I was always meant to be. Thank you SPCA team for taking a little guy who needed a lot of love. You got me to my furever home. My girl and I have so many years of adventures ahead of us and we will always be grateful to you for the work you do for the doggos and cattos.



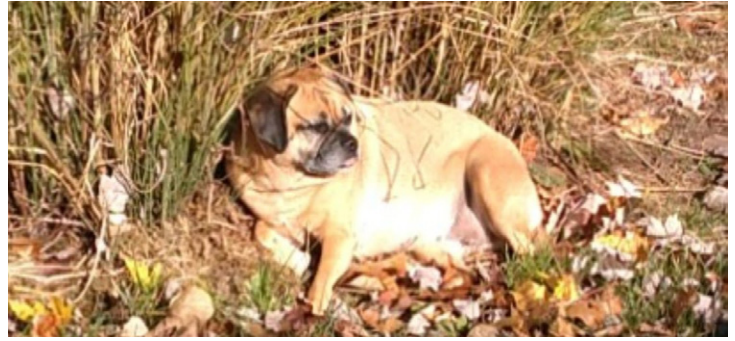
**FINLEY** Submitted by: Erika Kempf



About a year and a half ago we adopted Finley from you! He is the BEST dog and we can't imagine our lives without him. He even got dressed up to celebrate our wedding last month. Thanks SPCA for rescuing our boy!



**PIXIE** Submitted by: Herme Nieto



We adopted Pixie almost 2 years ago and she is an absolute doll! Been since day 1. Thank you guys so much for rescuing and bringing her into our lives.

**ZANDER** Submitted by: April May



Ollie (previously Zander) is by far the coolest cat! I've had him almost 3 years and he is the most handsome cross eyed boy that there is. Thank you for saving him. I can't imagine my world without him.

**MAX** Submitted by: Kristy Gelina Mann



So thankful for Max. He is the most loving guy! Thank you so much for what you do!





## 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](http://www.spcaswmich.org).

Please send Volunteer Newsletter submissions to Jess Duncan @ [newsletter@spcaswmich.org](mailto:newsletter@spcaswmich.org).