

# VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER

HELP US. HELP THEM.



**SPCA**  
southwest michigan

May 2021 | Issue 266

**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**



BISSELL PET FOUNDATION'S

**empty the shelters**

NATIONAL MAY 6-9, 2021

Visit [bissellpetfoundation.org/ets](http://bissellpetfoundation.org/ets) for more details!



BISSELL PET FOUNDATION®  
Until every pet has a home.



## Bissell Empty The Shelter Event

**Thursday - Saturday**  
**May 6th - 8th**

Bissell is holding their Empty The Shelter event May 6th – 9th! This is a very exciting event for all involved as this helps us to find great homes for all of our adoptable animals and Empty Our Shelter!

Due to the SPCA being closed on Sundays, we will be holding this event Thursday – Saturday (May 6th – 8th).

All Adult dogs aged 10mths or older and cats 1 yrs and older, will be at a reduced price. The reduced price does not apply to kittens and puppies.

We are a 1st come, 1st serve and all applications are done in house.

## CAT WANTS OUTSIDE?



Your cat wants outside, but he keeps getting into trouble? Is your cat sick of quarantining? A good way to help is to build a catio. A catio is an enclosure structure you can build on your patio or outside a window that your cat is able to go inside and outside when they please. Catos help your cat be outside without the worry of him escaping or getting attacked by predators. Bringing the indoors—outdoors. This can enrich an indoor cat's life and make them a happier cat. It can help prevent your cat from interacting with unwanted visitors, which leads to reduction of the chance of your cat getting diseases. Catos also help prevent your unfixed cat from getting pregnant, though please spay and neuter your pets. Catos provide all the scents and exercise your cat craves, making our relationship with our cats more harmonious.

If a catio is not what you are exactly looking for, just simply hanging a bird feeder outside a window can be a great way for your cats to "interact" with the outdoors but still be completely inside your home. Another way to enhance the bird feeder window is to get a window perch for your cat to lay and sit on while they watch their birdie friends. A window perch is also a great way to designate a spot for your cat to sunbathe as well.

## GET WOOFTRAX



walk for a dog.  
by WoofTrax

Support the shelter while you walk your dog! Just download the app. It's free and easy. Learn more at [Wooftrax.com](https://www.wooftrax.com).

## SPCA SHELTER SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM



Our Shelter Sponsorship Program is a thoughtful way to memorialize a beloved family member, pay tribute to a family pet (past or present) and an effective way to advertise a business. These annual sponsorships help promote community involvement and show support of our shelter's work. Please click [here](#) to view and download our Shelter Sponsorship form.



Please visit our [Amazon Wishlist](#) for specific items that both our four-legged and two-legged friends need!



## VOLUNTEER NEEDS



Our SPCA volunteers have been awesome about walking dogs, socializing cats, and helping in the office. Our foster homes are full. Our transportation needs have been met. There are a few areas of volunteering that we could still use help with. Here are a few of those:

**Cat City Morning Cleaning.** Every morning a volunteer or a volunteer family come into the SPCA to help ready the healthy cat room for the day. They change out the blankets, fill the food bowls, scoop the litter, sweep the floor, and cuddle the cats. While we have a few awesome volunteers who regularly do this job, there are still a few days each week we need help filling.

**Photos.** Photos are a huge part in getting our dogs and cats adopted. We have volunteers that regularly snap pictures of the dogs, but we could use a few people to snap photos of our cats and kittens.

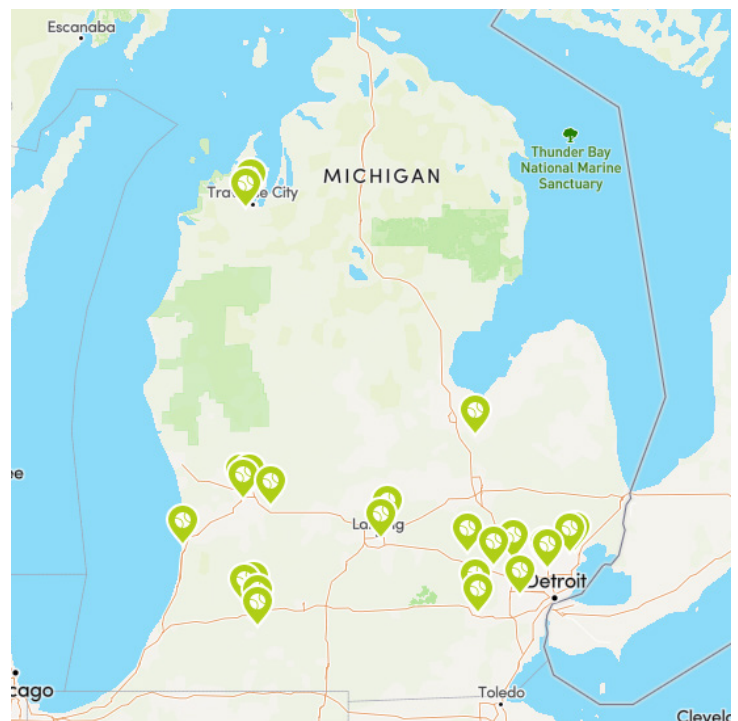
**Advanced Dog Walkers.** It's always a good time walking dogs at the SPCA, but some of our dogs do not get many walks a day due to being "advanced." We are looking for more dog walkers who are comfortable walking our bigger, stronger dogs. If you would like training walking the advanced dogs, we can provide this.

If you're interested in any of these opportunities, please contact the SPCA's Volunteer Coordinator, Tricia E. Mohny @ [Tricia@spcaswmich.org](mailto:Tricia@spcaswmich.org).

## OFF-LEASH MICHIGAN DOG PARKS



There are few things in life a dog loves more than running off-leash with his canine comrades. No matter where you live or where you're headed in Michigan, BringFido can help you find an off-leash dog park nearby. They'll even give you the scoop on poop bag and water availability. Click [here](#) for a list and map locations. 5 are in Kalamazoo/Portage area!



## SEVEN BEST DOG-FRIENDLY BEACHES IN MICHIGAN

1. Norman F. Kruse Park
2. Nordhouse Dunes
3. Grand Mere State Park
4. South Higgins Lake State Park

### *Norman F. Kruse Park*



- a secluded beach, popular with dog-owners
- if you're in the mood for a walk and a breathtaking view, explore the nature trails through the dunes
- look for the designated area where you can let your dog play off-leash

### *Nordhouse Dunes*



- a very secluded place to explore, camp, and enjoy the beach
- if you intend to camp, be sure to come prepared with a way to properly seal or hang your food
- dogs must be leashed

5. Warren Dunes State Park
6. Kirk Park
7. Buttersville Beach

### *Grand Mere State Park*



- enjoy a mile of coastline, and nature trails through the dunes
- the shore can be rocky, so bring appropriate footwear
- dogs must be leashed on the beach and hiking trails

### *South Higgins Lake State Park*



- a beach dedicated to dogs, and perfect for swimming
- the park offers full amenities, including a concession stand
- your dog is free to play off-leash



### Warren Dunes State Park



- enjoy three miles of shoreline, and hiking trails through the dunes at this gorgeous park
- for more information on park fees and camping, visit the park's website
- dogs must be leashed

### Kirk Park



- a popular spot for sunbathing, picnicking, and cross-country skiing in the winter
- if your in the mood for a hike, explore the nature trails though wooded dunes
- look for the designated off-leash area

### Buttersville Beach



- play and swim on a gorgeous stretch of beach, with campground amenities nearby
- if you'd like more information about camping, please visit this website
- look for the designated off-leash area

Shortened article from Rover.com. Full article and map available [here](#).

## HOW TO DETECT **FLEAS** ON YOUR PET

Here are six tips to help you spot fleas on your pet:

- 1. Look for SIGNS OF FLEAS:**
  - Frequent itching and scratching
  - Constant biting at their fur
  - Restlessness
- 2. You see RED, IRRITATED SKIN, RAISED SKIN, or patches of missing fur.**
- 3. Use gloves and a flea comb to carefully inspect your pet by DIVIDING SECTIONS OF FUR to identify fleas.**
- 4. THOROUGHLY INSPECT THE SKIN AND COAT, especially in these areas:**
  - Ears
  - Neck
  - Armpits
  - Belly and groin
  - Leg folds
  - Tail
- 5. Know HOW TO IDENTIFY FLEAS:**
  - 1/16" - 1/8" in length
  - Dark brown or black
  - Six legs
  - Avocado shape
- 6. Talk to your vet about FLEA TREATMENT OPTIONS:**
  - Topical/Oral Medication
  - Collars
  - Shampoos



# Happy Tails

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

## PRINCESS

Submitted by: Anne Catherine



We are insanely in love with our girl, Princess!!! Thank you so much for bringing us together!!!

## JENNY

Submitted by: Tiana Lyn Gee



Jenny is adjusting well for all those volunteers who loved her! We love her so much already!

## BEAU

Submitted by: Cayla Milner



We were blessed to adopt Beau 3 weeks ago....he is a daddy's boy for sure!

## PATTY

Submitted by: Michele Johnson Solitro



This is June who we adopted five years ago (her name was Patty). She was from Tennessee, and this week we took her along for a visit to her homeland. She liked her sunny porch and Smoky Mountain view.





## 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).