

Among Friends

Summer 2009

Volume 4, Issue 1



WITH
a LITTLE
HELP FROM
MY FRIENDS

News, views and updates on animal issues in Antrim County

WITH a LITTLE HELP FROM MY FRIENDS, INC.

A non-profit corporation dealing with animal issues in Antrim County
Organization identification number
38-3605652 section 501C (3)

3820 Ritt Road · Bellaire, MI 49615
(231) 533-4070

walhfmf_4@hotmail.com
www.walhfmf.org

Mission Statement

Protecting and teaching compassion for the animals in Antrim County.

Meetings

Meetings are held the third
Wednesday of every month at
Central Lake Public Library
7900 Maple · 7:00pm-8:30pm

Annual Events

Chili Cook Off

October 25th, 2009

Window Night

Central Lake –

Christmas Pet Photos

December 2nd, 2009

Garage Sale

May 22nd, 2010

Look for other WaLHFMF events throughout the year.

WaLHFMF loves to hear from adults and kids! Send us your stories, jokes, drawings, and pictures.

WaLHFMF reserves the right, without further consideration, to use all entries in any publication, media and related promotions.

Keep a copy for yourself, entries can not be returned.



VISIT OUR GREAT PETS AT
Petfinder.com
ADOPT A HOMELESS PET



Just foundation blocks and mortar now, but by July volunteers will be painting, finishing up the inside and getting the building ready for inspections. The goal is a September opening for With a Little Help From My Friends' new Pet Sanctuary in Antrim County.

There will be some differences from other rescues and sanctuaries in the way it will operate. One big difference is WaLHFMF will serve Antrim County only, assisting county agencies such as animal control with a place to bring pets in emergency situations.

The purpose of the building is to hold pets that are in true emergency situations such as an owner is hospitalized or dies suddenly, maybe a family's home burns down and there is nowhere for the pets to go.

This will not be a place for the public to bring in a pet but it will be a place for the public to visit. WaLHFMF' new sanctuary will offer adoption of pets that cannot be reunited with their owner, a place for the non-adoptable pets to live out their lives and a place for schools and community groups to visit. Programs created to assist and educate the public with animal issues will be offered and of course, fun opportunities for volunteers.

All the wonderful support coming in for this magnificent but humble building even during these difficult economical times tells us Antrim County is ready.

WaLHFMF would love to help every pet in need but it's just not humanly possible. The idea is by staying in the county we can help make a difference in our own backyard, actually seeing change happen.

If you would like more information, want to receive email updates or wish to donate, please call or email With a Little Help From My Friends at (231) 533-4070 or walhfmf_4@hotmail.com

President's Corner



This President's Corner is about the excitement of reaching one of our goals, the steps that got us here, and all the wonderful people that joined hands with us to create an unbreakable link in

the chain to our goal.

I fondly remember it starting with \$100 of birthday money I had and decided if it were to happen it was now or never. With the help and understanding of my two children and husband, we were off and running.

I had made friends with Mona Minish, her husband Bill and their children who own and operate the Carpet Barn in Central Lake years earlier. We all had like thoughts and decided to give it a go. I was sooooo excited when donations started coming in and couldn't believe when our first \$100 was received.

Mona's mom, Babe (Violet) Shannon, soon joined us and added her expertise. Blain Russell (then President of Alden State Bank) helped us establish our 501c(3) licensing and then Gary Hutchens (from Torch Lake Classics) built us the most beautiful wooden canoe which we sold at raffle raising \$6,400.

Mona and Bill then graciously donated five acres of their own Bellaire property and Alden State Bank soon approved a loan for the road, well, electric survey and phone line. Continued support of the public allowed us to pay back that loan ahead of schedule.

We worked hard at fund raising but were also spending large sums on hardship cases and spay/neuters in the area. Finally, our "war chest" reached \$40,000 – still a long way from reaching the goal of \$100,000 to start a sanctuary in Antrim County.

Then, in the fall of 2008, an anonymous donor stepped forward with an amazing check in the amount of \$60,000 – payable to With a Little Help From My Friends.

UNBELIEVABLE!!

Our community continues to support us: local Alden author Dave Looman is donating a percentage of his book sales to the sanctuary; Helena Township continues to donate the use of their facilities for the annual Chili Cook Off; and recently, yet again an anonymous donor stepped forward to guarantee the loan that will get our building framed in and ready for the final fund raising "push" to finish the interior. We are known as "With a Little Help from My Friends", but I can say it may be better to call us with With a Lot of Help from My Friends.

To all our loyal supporters, our old and new friends, and our very special volunteers who have been with us since the beginning, please come out and see what you have accomplished and share in our pride.

Thank You,

Heather Knust

President



In Memory Of

Wilma Zupin

*From Christi Grace and
Lillian McLachlan*

Mrs. Lundstrom

*From Heather Knust and
Mona Minish*

Donald Perry

*From Leonard Perry, Betty Perry
Bill & Marilyn Dewey*

Donald Perry

From Debrah Johnson

George Cole

From Rita Cole

Sprout & Corky 1994-2008

Mark & Viv Winn

Angus- Ol' Boy

Galary Family

From Lynda Wolfe & Gene Masta

Robert Cranson

From Liz Cranson

Uncle Joe Paulshock

From Ben & Celi Benavidez

Joe Paulshock

From Bill & Mona Minish

Nermal the cutest kitten ever

Max forever in our hearts & memories

Miss Priss changed Mom & Dad's life

forever and Sophie WaLHFMF' and

Connie's sweetheart

From Mona & Bill Minish

Webb & Jeanne Templin

From Heather & Jim Knust

Dakota, Calvin & Tater Tot

We will always miss you

Heather & Jim Knust

In Honor Of

Josie & Joe Paulshock

Christmas

From Ben & Celi Benavidez

Maggie Barnard

Merry Christmas ☺

From Pam Barnard (Mom)

Amy Donaldson

Merry Christmas

From Kelly Donaldson (Brother)

Maggie & Katie

With love to our cousins

From Michelle & Berry Zeeman

ADOPT-A-PET!



I'm so lonesome I could cry.

I have no idea how I ended up walking the streets. A nice man & woman took me in and tried to find my home but no one stepped forward. I can't believe my family would leave me but I have heard times are tough and that's just what some people are doing. I'm willing to trust again and I have a lot of love to give. Besides being handsome – if I do say so myself – I love to sit in laps. I will mind my manners and keep you company, please don't you have a home I can share?

*If anyone would like to give this little guy a home, please contact WaLHFMF.
Phone: 231-533-4070*

**Want to show your support for
With a Little Help From My Friends**

**as well as compassion for a loved one or beloved pet?
Send your donation and In Memory Of or In Honor Of to:**

**With a Little Help From My Friends
3820 Ritt Road
Bellaire, Michigan 49615**

Meet Trooper...



Laurie Olson
Paradise Properties USA,
Alden, Michigan

Look at this beautiful kitty! You'd never guess he was found on the side of the road, broken and alone. But it's true, and a whole string of miracles brought this lucky kitty to his new loving home.

The first Miracle that brought me to kitty was traveling a road I rarely travel. It had been perhaps a year. As I was

traveling slowly on the snow covered road, I noticed an apparent casualty of the road, a distinct tabby colored lump unmoving against the snow bank up ahead. Miracle 2 was that I even noticed him amidst all the mud lumps and road dirt. As I slowly approached, kitty lifted his head and looked straight at me, giving us Miracle 3. I slammed on my brakes, pulled over and ran across the road to him.

Immediately knowing his leg was broken, I carefully picked him up. Miracle 4 floored me. Until that exact moment, I was totally unaware there was a snow plow truck barreling toward us, blade down, cutting back the snow bank. We hurried back to my car as I realized that within seconds, kitty would have been decimated by the huge vehicle approaching.

Not knowing what to do, I called WaLHFMMF and left a message. Knowing kitty needed immediate care, I hurried to

my vet, Dr. Adrienne Waffle, who quickly determined that both rear legs were broken. Her assessment was amputation of one badly broken leg or euthanasia. Neither of which I wanted or could afford! I was devastated.

In the meantime, Mona Minish phoned back and offered the wonderful assistance of WALHFMMF. Our final and most blessed miracle! Through their work with another wonderful vet, Dr. Donna Simons, I was able to get help for kitty and WALHFMMF covered the cost. However, sadly, Dr. Simons concurred with Dr. Waffle's diagnosis and kitty did lose one of his back legs. But shhhh, don't tell him. I don't even think he knows! He gets around like any kitten and has the nickname Turbo. He has adapted fabulously to his new digs and family (including cats and dogs!).

That's why we named
him Trooper
because he is one!

www.cathappy.com/rescued.htm

I RESCUED A HUMAN TODAY

by Janine Allen

Her eyes met mine as she walked down the corridor peering apprehensively into the kennels. I felt her need instantly and knew I had to help her.

I wagged my tail, not too exuberantly, so she wouldn't be afraid. As she stopped at my kennel I blocked her view from a little accident I had in the back of my cage. I didn't want her to know that I hadn't been walked today. Sometimes the overworked shelter keepers get too busy and I didn't want her to think poorly of them.

As she read my kennel card I hoped that she wouldn't feel sad about my past. I only have the future to look forward to and want to make a difference in someone's life.

She got down on her knees and made little kissy sounds at me. I shoved my shoulder and side of my head up against the bars to comfort her. Gentle fingertips caressed my neck; she was desperate for companionship. A tear fell down her cheek and I raised my paw to assure her that all would be well.

Soon my kennel door opened and her smile was so bright that I instantly jumped into her arms.

I would promise to keep her safe.

I would promise to always be by her side.

I would promise to do everything I could to see that radiant smile and sparkle in her eyes.

I was so fortunate that she came down my corridor. So many more are out there who haven't walked the corridors. So many more to be saved. At least I could save one.

I RESCUED A HUMAN TODAY!

Top 10 Reasons to Spay or Neuter Your Dog

- Altered dogs, on average, live longer, healthier lives.
- Female dogs spayed before their first birthday are 99.9 percent less likely to develop reproductive cancer.
- Altered dogs behave better and are more focused on training.
- You'll stop overpopulation. One female dog and her offspring can produce 67,000 dogs in just six years.
- You'll stop homelessness. Only one in four dogs find a permanent, loving home.
- You'll stop the killings. More than eight million surplus dogs and cats are destroyed each year because there are not enough homes for them. Taxpayers pick up the tab to the tune of \$300 million.
- Eighty percent of dogs struck by vehicles are unaltered males.
- The majority of dog bites to postal carriers are from unaltered male dogs.
- Pet licensing fees are lower in cost for altered dogs in many cities and countries.
- Thanks to improved surgical and anesthesia equipment and techniques, you can spay a female or neuter a male as early as 8 weeks of age. Don't hesitate.

Common Poisonous Plants

If your pet has a reaction to any of these plants call your veterinarian immediately or Poison Control in your area. Find that phone number in your telephone book and post it somewhere before something happens

Lilies

Members of the *Lilium spp.* are considered to be highly toxic to cats. While the poisonous component has not yet been identified, it is clear that with even ingestions of very small amounts of the plant, severe kidney damage could result.

Marijuana

Ingestion of *Cannabis sativa* by companion animals can result in depression of the central nervous system and incoordination, as well as vomiting, diarrhea, drooling, increased heart rate, and even seizures and coma.

Sago Palm

All parts of *Cycas Revoluta* are poisonous, but the seeds or “nuts” contain the largest amount of toxin. The ingestion of just one or two seeds can result in very serious effects, which include vomiting, diarrhea, depression, seizures and liver damage.

Tulip/Narcissus bulbs

The bulb portions of *Tulipa/Narcissus spp.* contain toxins that can cause intense gastrointestinal irritation, drooling, loss of appetite, depression of the central nervous system, convulsions and cardiac abnormalities.

Azalea/Rhododendron

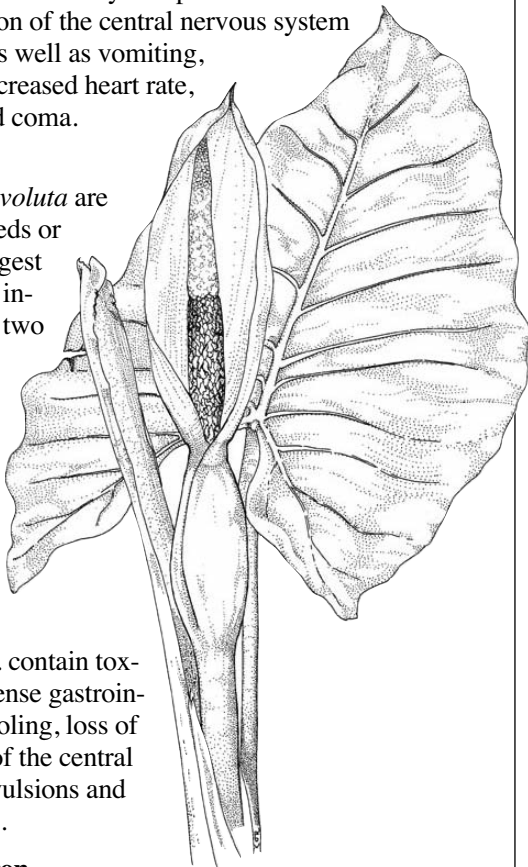
Members of the *Rhododendron spp.* contain substances known as grayantoxins, which can produce vomiting, drooling, diarrhea, weakness and depression of the central nervous system in animals. Severe azalea poisoning could ultimately lead to coma and death from cardiovascular collapse.

Oleander

All parts of *Nerium oleander* are considered to be toxic, as they contain cardiac glycosides that have the potential to cause serious effects—including gastrointestinal tract irritation, abnormal heart function, hypothermia and even death.

Castor Bean

The poisonous principle in *Ricinus communis* is ricin, a highly toxic protein that can produce severe abdominal pain, drooling, vomiting, diarrhea, excessive thirst, weakness and loss of appetite. Severe cases of poisoning can result in dehydration, muscle twitching, tremors, seizures, coma and death.



Cyclamen

Cyclamen species contain cyclamine, but the highest concentration of this toxic component is typically located in the root portion of the plant. If consumed, *Cyclamen* can produce significant gastrointestinal irritation, including intense vomiting. Fatalities have also been reported in some cases.

Kalanchoe

This plant contains components that can produce gastrointestinal irritation, as well as those that are toxic to the heart, and can seriously affect cardiac rhythm and rate.

Yew

Taxus spp. contains a toxic component known as taxine, which causes central nervous system effects such as trembling, incoordination, and difficulty breathing. It can also cause significant gastrointestinal irritation and cardiac failure, which can result in death.

Amaryllis

Common garden plants popular around Easter, *Amaryllis* species contain toxins that can cause vomiting, depression, diarrhea, abdominal pain, hypersalivation, anorexia and tremors.

Autumn Crocus

Ingestion of *Colchicum autumnale* by pets can result in oral irritation, bloody vomiting, diarrhea, shock, multi-organ damage and bone marrow suppression.

Chrysanthemum

These popular blooms are part of the *Compositae* family, which contain pyrethrins that may produce gastrointestinal upset, including drooling, vomiting and diarrhea, if eaten. In certain cases depression and loss of coordination may also develop if enough of any part of the plant is consumed.

English Ivy

Also called branching ivy, glacier ivy, needlepoint ivy, sweetheart ivy and California ivy, *Hedera helix* contains triterpenoid saponins that, should pets ingest, can result in vomiting, abdominal pain, hypersalivation and diarrhea.

Peace Lily (AKA Mauna Loa Peace Lily)

Spathiphyllum contains calcium oxalate crystals that can cause oral irritation, excessive drooling, vomiting, difficulty in swallowing and intense burning and irritation of the mouth, lips and tongue in pets who ingest.

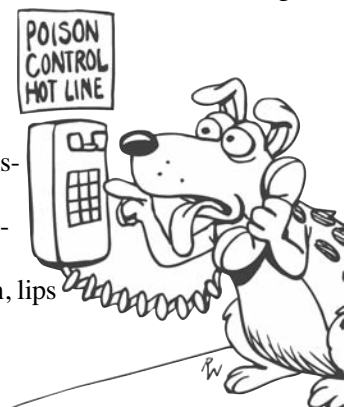
Pothos

Pothos (both *Scindapsus* and *Epipremnum*) belongs to the Araceae family. If chewed or ingested, this popular household plant can cause significant mechanical irritation and swelling of the oral tissues and other parts of the gastrointestinal tract.

Schefflera

Schefflera and *Brassaia actinophylla* contain calcium oxalate crystals that can cause oral irritation, excessive drooling, vomiting, difficulty in swallowing and intense burning and irritation of the mouth, lips and tongue in pets who ingest.

2008 ASPCA www.aspc.org



Many Thanks to our Hardworking Volunteers for all the time, love, and tears they give for the cause.

And to the following businesses and individuals.

- **Antrim County Animal Shelter** for their continued support to WaLHFMF.
- **Antrim County Review** for their donation and help with PR.
- **Antrim County’s veterinarians** and their caring staff for taking care of the animals.
- Jack Bodis of **Creative Characters** in Central Lake for his help in the formatting and printing of this newsletter.
- All the Antrim County restaurants that kindly donate chili for our cook-off every October.
- **Chris & Merrie Corbett & Sophie DeWitt**, for their continued faith and support with WaLHFMF’s new sanctuary.
- **Helena Township Hall** for the continued use of their facilities.
- **Mark Winn** for designing and maintaining our website.
- **Anonymous Donors** — Bless You!

Donors '08-'09 Winter Fifty dollars +

Adams Madams
Charles & Susan Armour
Marlene Attridge
Ben & Celi Benavidez
Pam Barnard
Butch & Cindy Bartz
Reg & Ann Bird
Rud & Mary Ellen Boucher
Wil & Trudy Brown
Carpet Barn

Alan Childs
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Ann Deveriglio
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Jill Straight
Brian & Deborah Taylor
Dr. Daniel & JoAnne Thomas
Mark & Vivian Winn
Lynda Wolf & Gene Masta
Shirley Wolfe
Greta Zaka
Michelle & Berry Zeeman

Thank You For Your Continued Support! Please accept our sincere apology if your name was inadvertently omitted.



Charlie & Kathryn belong to Shana Minish Miami, Florida.



Ben & Jerry were adopted from WaLHFMF in 2008 by JoAnne & Dan Thomas & Vinnie, Elk Rapids

Ben is our hunter... anything that moves in the house, he's on it. He is very independent and loves to roam the 3 stories of this house. They are both growing so fast. Jerry looks like his Mom. I remember her well.



Charlotte (the black puppy) and Maverick belong to Jeff and Dawn Helderich, Bellaire.

Jerry is my shadow, every room I go in, he comes in right behind me. He doesn't like me to leave. Dan said when I leave he runs from window to window to watch me.

Vinny lay's around here like he's basking in the sun in Hawaii. He is now friends w/ the twins "Ben & Jerry" and they all get along just fine.





Being a pet owner is never easy.

While pets bring us joy and companionship on a daily basis, they also require training, veterinary care, time, love, attention, and even tolerance. Tolerance is especially necessary when a pet owner is allergic to his or her companion animal.

Studies show that approximately 15% of the population is allergic to dogs or cats. An estimated one-third of Americans who are allergic to cats (about 2 million people) live with at least one cat in their household anyway. In a study of 341 adults who were allergic to cats or dogs and had been advised by their physicians to give up their pets, only

Create an “allergy free” zone in the home—preferably the bedroom—and strictly prohibit the pet’s access to it. Use a high-efficiency HEPA air cleaner (available at almost any home and garden store or discount department store) in the bedroom. Consider using impermeable covers for the mattress and pillows because allergen particles brought into the room on clothes and other objects can accumulate in them.

Use HEPA air cleaners throughout the rest of the home, and avoid dust-and-dander-catching furnishings such as cloth curtains and blinds and carpeted floors. Clean frequently and thoroughly to remove dust and dander, washing articles such as couch covers and pillows, curtains, and pet beds. Use a “micro filter” bag in the vacuum cleaner to effectively catch all the allergens.

Bathing your pet on a weekly basis can reduce the level of allergens on fur by as much as 84%. Although products are available that claim to reduce pet allergens when sprayed on the animal’s fur, studies show they are less effective than a weekly bath. Even cats can become accustomed to being bathed; check with your veterinarian’s staff or a good book on pet care for directions about how to do this properly, and use whatever shampoo your veterinarian recommends.

Don’t be quick to blame the family pet for allergies. Ask your allergist to specifically test for allergies to pet dander, rather than making an assumption. And understand that allergies are cumulative. Many allergy sufferers are sensitive to more than one allergen. So if you’re allergic to dust, insecticides, pollen, cigarette smoke, and cat dander, you’ll need to reduce the overall allergen level in your environment by concentrating on all of the causes, not just the pet allergy. For example, you may need to step up measures to remove cat dander from your home and carefully avoid cigarette smoke during spring, when it is difficult to avoid exposure to pollen.

Immunotherapy (allergy shots) can improve symptoms but cannot eliminate them entirely. They work by gradually desensitizing a person’s immune system to the pet allergens. Allergy-causing proteins are injected under the person’s skin, triggering the body to produce antibodies (protective proteins) which block the pet allergen from causing a reaction. Patients are usually given one dose per week for a few weeks to months (depending on the severity of the allergy) and then can often manage with one injection per month.

Additional treatments for allergies to pets are symptomatic, including steroidal and antihistamine nose sprays and antihistamine pills. For asthma, there are multiple medications, sprays, and inhalers available. It is important to find an allergist who understands your commitment to living with your pet. A combination of approaches—medical control of symptoms, good housecleaning methods, and immunotherapy—is most likely to succeed in allowing an allergic person to live with pets.

Of course, if you do not currently have a pet and are considering one, and know you are pet-allergic, be sure to consider carefully whether you can live with the allergy before you bring a new pet home. Except in the case of children, who sometimes outgrow allergies, few allergy sufferers become accustomed to pets to whom they are allergic. Too many allergic owners obtain pets without thinking through the difficulties of living with them. And too often, they end up relinquishing pets, a decision that is difficult for the owner and can be life-threatening for the pet.

Coping with allergies to your pet

one out of five did. What’s more, 122 of them obtained another pet after a previous one had died. It’s clear the benefits of pet companionship outweigh the drawbacks of pet allergies for many owners. Living comfortably with a companion animal despite being allergic to him requires a good understanding of the allergic condition and an adherence to a few rules.

All cats and dogs are allergenic (allergy-causing) to people who are allergic to animals. Cats tend to be more allergenic than dogs for allergic people, although some people are more sensitive to dogs than cats. Contrary to popular belief, there are no “non-allergenic” breeds of dogs or cats; even hairless breeds may be highly allergenic.

Dogs with soft, constantly-growing hair—the Poodle or the Bichon Frise, for example—may be less irritating to some individuals, although this may be because they are bathed and groomed more frequently. One dog or cat of a particular breed may be more irritating to an individual allergy sufferer than another animal of that same breed.

The source of irritation to pet-allergic humans? Glands in the animal’s skin secrete tiny allergy-triggering proteins, called allergens that linger in the animal’s fur but also float easily in the air. Allergens are present in the animal’s saliva and urine, too, and may become airborne when saliva dries on the fur. The severity of reaction to these allergens varies from one person to the next, ranging from mild sniffing and sneezing to life-threatening asthma, and can be complicated by simultaneous allergies to other irritants in the environment.

If your or a family member’s allergies are simply miserable, but not life-threatening, take these steps to reduce the symptoms:

Michigan Penal Codes regarding animal abuse

<http://michiganlegislature.org/mileg.asp?page=getObject&objName=mcl-750-50&highlight=>

Michigan Penal Code 750.50 – Animal Abuse

<http://michiganlegislature.org/mileg.asp?page=getObject&objName=mcl-750-50b&highlight=>

Michigan Penal Code 750.50b – Maliciously killing or injuring

Animal Cruelty is defined as: “Fail to provide an animal with adequate care; cruelly drive, work, or beat an animal. Carry or cause to be carried in or upon a vehicle or otherwise any live animal having the feet or legs tied together. Carry or cause to be carried a live animal in or upon a vehicle or otherwise without providing a secure space, rack, car, crate, or cage in which all animals may stand, turn around, and lie down during transportation, or while awaiting slaughter. Abandon an animal or cause an animal to be abandoned, in any place, without making provisions for the animal’s adequate care, unless premises are temporarily vacated for the protection of human life during a disaster. Willfully or negligently allow any animal, including one who is aged, diseased, maimed, hopelessly sick, disabled, or nonambulatory to suffer unnecessary neglect, torture, or pain. Tether a dog unless the tether is at least 3 times the length of the dog as measured from the tip of its nose to the base of its tail and is attached to a harness or no choke collar designed for tethering.” The first offense of such is a Misdemeanor with a fine up to \$1000 and/or imprisonment up to 93 days and/or community service for not more than 200 hours. The second offense of such is a Felony with a fine up to \$2000 and/or imprisonment up to 2 years and/or community service for not more than 300 hours. The

third or subsequent offence of such is a Felony with a fine up to \$5000 and/or imprisonment up to 4 years and/or community service for not more than 500 hours. In all of the above, the convicted shall pay for the prosecution of his case and may be required to forfeit the animal(s) in his charge and may prohibit the ownership of animals for a period of time or permanently for a second conviction. Exemptions are made for fishing, hunting, trapping, wildlife control, horse racing, operation of a zoological park or aquarium, pest or rodent control, farming, husbandry, and research.

Malicious Animal Cruelty is defined as: “willfully, maliciously and without just cause or excuse kills, tortures, mutilates, maims, or disfigures an animal or who willfully and maliciously and without just cause or excuse administers poison to an animal, or exposes an animal to any poisonous substance.” This is a Felony with a fine up to \$5000 and/or imprisonment up to 4 years and/or community service for not more than 500 hours. In addition, the convicted may be required to pay for his prosecution, the cost of care of the animal victim, psychological evaluation and treatment, and may be prohibited from owning domestic animals. Exemptions are made for fishing, hunting, trapping, wildlife control, pest or rodent control, and research.

Love Lessons from Dogs?

By Chelsea Kaplan

1. The reassurance of forgiveness

In order to have a successful partnership, letting bygones be bygones is crucial. An inability to get over issues and move ahead is a key roadblock to happiness. Dogs, Forbes notes, are always in the moment and therefore don’t hold grudges or hang onto resentment. “Dogs wipe the slate clean many times a day,” he explains. “If you are grumpy and yell at your dog, but then wait a minute and act like you never did, he will forgive you — many times over. If humans could let the little things go as easily as dogs do, their relationships would be better for it.”

2. The security of unconditional love

Forbes says that as a rule, when a dog loves his owner, that bond is lasting and real. “It’s interesting to note that celebrities are over-the-top pet lovers,” he says. “This is because their dogs really love them for who they are, not their A-list status; a dog will always treat you the same. Dogs offer truly substantive relationships in a way most people don’t,” he notes. When it comes to romantic relationships, humans should strive to emulate a dog’s focus on what a person really offers in terms of love, kindness and warmth, he advises.

3. The comfort of consistency

In a romantic relationship, consistency can be quite comforting. What’s not to love about a partner who is never moody or capricious? “We as humans understand there are different types of behavior, yet we crave consistency,” Forbes says. “With dogs, regardless of your animal’s personality, you pretty much get the same behavior unless he’s ill. A lot of people take comfort in that aspect of pet ownership, so you can only imagine how much similar behavior could add to a romantic relationship.”

4. The need to be playful

Forbes notes that most dogs want to have a good time, keeping things light and not so serious all of the time. “The easiest way to burn out a working dog is to work him all the time — that pretty much goes for relationships as well,” he says. In police-dog training, Forbes explains, training is balanced with play and fun. “The harder you go at it in a training phase, the more you have to counterbalance it,” he says. “It’s the same with a relationship — you have to relieve the pressure through play and good times.”

5. The importance of effective communication

While communicating with your partner is important in a relationship, it’s not merely the act of communicating that will ensure your relationship’s success, but finding the way to do so that best matches your partner’s needs. This is a skill that you can easily learn from working with dogs, Forbes says. “The different ways in which I communicate with my three dogs are suited to what works best for them ... and for me with them,” he explains. You have to be willing to experiment and find the best way to communicate with dogs, and the same goes for your romantic interests, he says: “Just as a hot-tempered dog won’t respond to yelling and lots of commands, neither will a hot tempered person. At the same time, some more sensitive types may need a gentler approach. Essentially, no one person or dog communicates the same way — each individual has a unique style, and taking the time to learn about your partner’s needs is the key to a strong bond.”



Progress Update: Animal Related Bills in Lansing

S.B. 346 & H.B. 4065 –
Animal Cruelty
Prohibits fleeing the scene of dog or wolf-dog cross bite incident or failing to provide assistance to bitten individual.
Signed into law: 7/17/08

H.B. 4552
Animal Cruelty
Allows for consecutive sentencing for each animal in an animal cruelty conviction.
Signed into law: 12/23/08

PENDING: H.B. 4663
Eliminate Pound Seizers in Michigan Animal Shelters
Veterinary spay/neuter; veterinary teaching while correcting pre-existing conditions; non-fatal blood banking are exceptions.

H.B. 5331
Hunting
Eliminates participation license for bear and bobcat hunting.
Signed into law: 12/23/08

S.B. 1077 & S.B. 1084
Hunting
Authorizes the removal, capture, or lethal control of a gray wolf that is killing, wounding, or biting a dog under certain circumstances.
Signed into law: 12/18/08

You can contact any of these elected officials at www.michigan.gov

Carl Levin, Senator
Debbie Stabenow, Senator
Bart Stupak, Representative

Jennifer Granholm, Governor
Kevin Elsenheimer, House
Jason Allen, MI Senate

Remember when you have shopping to do –

www.igive.com

or

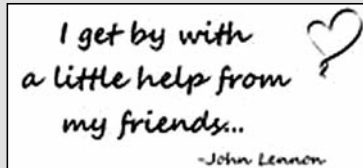
www.GiveBackAmerica.org

With a Little Help From My Friends receives a portion from sales on both these sites. Between the two sites almost every store you shop at is there. Please give it a try, it doesn't cost you anymore and WaLHFMMF gets a donation!

Also

For those in the Antrim County area...
If you save your receipts including gas receipts from the Elk Rapids and Rapid City Village Markets and mail them to With a Little Help From My Friends a portion will be donated to WaLHFMMF.

There is also links to these sites on www.walhfmf.org



**WITH
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HELP FROM
MY FRIENDS**

3820 Ritt Road
Bellaire, Mi 49615

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