

# Among Friends

Fall / Winter 2011

Volume 7, Issue 2

News, views and updates on animal issues in Antrim County



## WITH a LITTLE HELP FROM MY FRIENDS, INC.

With a Little Help From My Friends is a public charity. Organization identification number 38-3605652 section 501C (3). As a nonprofit WaLHFMF works on donations without county, state or federal funding.

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 the Pet Crisis Center from 7:00pm-8:30pm. For information call (231) 533-4070.

## Annual Events

**7th Annual Holiday Pet Photos**  
Saturday, November 19th, 2011

**9th Annual Garage Sale**  
Saturday, May 26th, 2012

**3rd Annual 5K Pet Walk**  
Saturday, August 18th, 2012

**12th Annual Chili Cook Off & Silent Auction**  
Sunday, Oct. 28th, 2012

**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 adoptable PETS at Petfinder.com and WaLHFMF.org  
You can also Donate Online!



It is awe-inspiring to watch our community of pet lovers come together and create a beautiful building to house their friends and neighbors' pets in a crisis. Then to watch them hop on board to help take care of these precious pets until their owners can reclaim them or they find a new family is equally amazing. This is a mission that has been blessed from the start and continues to be blessed every step of the way!

The Pet Crisis Center offers a safe place for pets in true emergency situations and will soon offer classes and workshops for community groups. If you would like more information about volunteering, would like to schedule a tour of the sanctuary, or want to receive our email updates, please call WaLHFMF at (231) 533-4070 with your request or email — walhfmf\_4@hotmail.com.



## ADOPT-A-PET!

*Brindle is a one year old American Pit Bull whose owner left for Army boot camp. She is defiantly man's best friend – or woman or kids ☺. Brindle is very smart, loves everyone and for the record, not a mean bone in her body. She is spayed and up to date on shots.*

*You must own your own home with a fenced yard to adopt Brindle due to the prejudice of the breed.*

*If that might be you please contact WaLHFMF at 231-533-4070*

## President's Corner



I like working with the animal group because almost every day I learn something. Either about the care of animals, their habits, a

new food, or it causes me to learn something about myself.

Our group was asked to step in and care for a young Pitbull whose owner was leaving to serve in the military. Oh dear I thought, a Pitbull. We will have to make sure she doesn't hurt our other dogs and the cats. My gosh, we won't be able to let the dogs and cats run loose in the building like we always do, too risky. But this is the service our group provides so we must move forward. Who will want a Pitbull? We will really have to screen this person carefully.

She arrived and what a beautiful dog in appearance. Black and brown brindle and that in fact was also her name, Brindle. A bundle of energy and much to our surprise, she loved our other dogs and also got along well with the cats – hoorah! hoorah!, everything is hunky-dorie and getting better every day.

Then came the day Mona stepped outside to get better reception on her phone call. All of the sudden Brindle was barking wildly. Mona went back inside to see what was the matter. Much to her horror there was blood splattered on the wall and a cat lying limp with Brindle barking over her. What had caused Brindle to all of the sudden do this vicious attack? We took the cat to the vet. What we found out was the cat had a seizure. The previous owner had forgotten to tell us that she had an allergy to flea medication that causes her to seizure. The vet had just been out for some preventative flea treatments. In her seizure she has severely bitten her tongue and splattered blood on the wall, there was not one other mark on her. Brindle never touched the cat but had instead somehow sensed the seizure and barked for help for her friend.



Continued on page 3



### In Memory Of

**Debbie Shannon**  
*Marlene Attridge*

**Kutya, Sketter, Deeter & Lucky**  
*Richard & Vickilyn Olsafsky*

**Charles DeVerney & Brandy**  
*Donna DeVerney*

**Alley**  
*Stuff & Such/Pat Koch*

**Harry** – an old crow that quickly became a part of our family  
*Heather & Jim Knust*

**Max's sister – Bailey**  
*Mona Minish*

**Claire**  
*Karin & Dave Harrison*

**Allison Rayner**  
*Bruce & Lillian McLaclan*

**Dottie Peebles**  
*Jim & Heather Knust*

**Janice Buffman**  
*Pam Barnard*

**Jan Buffman**  
*Bill & Mona Minish*

**Debbie Shannon**  
*Sandi & Cherlye Shannon*

**Charles Shannon**  
*Violet Shannon*

**Patsy Marshall**  
*Bill & Mona Minish*

**Charles DeVerney & Brandy**  
*Donna DeVerney*

**Kutya, Sketter, Deeter & Lucky**  
*Richard & Vicki Olsafsky*

**Marion Sterner**  
*Mona & Jenna Minish*

**Allison Mayer**  
*Bruce & Lillian McLachlan*

**Mindy**  
*Mona Minish*

**Boots & Queen**  
*Marian Racey*

**Donnie Minish**  
58th B-Day Nov. 1, 2011  
*Carol Smith*

**Uncle Don**  
*Minish Family*

**Jetty & Shanty**  
*Juilletet's Restaurant*

**Ruth Ann Cooper**  
*Herb & Florence Reiley*

**Ruth Cooper**  
*Bill & Mona Minish*

**Bo Beagle Childs**  
*John & Carol Stoutjesdyk*

**John T. Herron & his beloved Quincey Lee**  
*Hugh & Michelle McMasters*

**Mercy & Benny**  
*Bill & Mona*

### In Honor of

**Marion Conrad & Don Juan**  
*Debbie & Fred Goldenberg*

**Bob Milstein**  
*Mary Blanchard*

**Herb & Florence Reiley's 70th Wedding Anniversary**  
*Dr. Carlton & Nancy Reiley*

**Herb & Florence Reiley's 70th Wedding Anniversary**  
*Bill & Mona Minish*

**Cathy McAuliff**  
*Maxwell Medals & Awards*  
*Traverse City*

**Bonnie Blue**  
*Mary Lou DeTar*

**Honor of & Thanks to Mary & Gil Richards**  
*Terry Rowe*

**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**

## President's Corner

*Continued from page 2*

What I learned about myself was animals are like people—each individuals—that you have to accept on an individual basis. Shame on me! The cat ended up fine and our loving Brindle is still looking for her forever home. She is a wonderful dog that if I didn't already have my fair share of, I would take in a heartbeat.

If you are looking please come out and see us and our new facility. It's a great place to fall in love.

Thanks for listening,  
Heather Knust  
President

### — Wish List —

*Below is our winter wish list for items the sanctuary will need to keep stocked. Any donation is appreciated and needed!*

- Wags to Wiskers Pet Supplies Gaylord gift cards  
[www.wagstowiskersgaylord.com](http://www.wagstowiskersgaylord.com)  
or (989) 731-4200
- Disposable gloves
- Extra large heavy trash bags
- Thick paper towels
- Laundry soap for front load washing machine
- Postage stamps
- 40" or larger flat screen for presentations
- Canister vacuum
- Artwork of pets
- Pet toys and slicker brushes
- Cat & Dog treats (nutritional ones)
- Recycled newspaper cat litter
- Money for pet supplies
- Motivated volunteers ☺

## Volunteer Spotlight: Danielle Prate

Danielle comes to the Pet Crisis Center just about every week to play with the cats and walk the dogs. She brings her mom Linda and sometimes her brother Ryan or a friend to help.

Danielle requested money instead of gifts at her recent birthday party to buy toys and supplies for the center.

**Thank you Danielle for your dedication to the center and your furry friends!**



## Just Keep 'em Smiling!

We have been hearing since grade school “brush your teeth after every meal, avoid between meal snacks, get “regular dental check-ups” and your teeth will last a lifetime. The same is true for your pets.

In recent years, we have learned more and more about dental disease in our pets. Research has revealed that 80% of dogs and 70% of cats have dental disease by the age of two.

Dental disease begins with the build-up of bacterial plaque on the teeth. In time, the plaque turns to hard tartar which causes gingivitis (inflammation of the gums) and may eventually progress to periodontal disease that can damage the teeth and even the jaw bones. But it does not stop there – as microscopic flecks of the plaque and tartar break off and are swallowed, the bacteria often invade the heart valves and kidneys, resulting in life threatening and costly heart or renal failure. It is amazing how simply neglecting a small part of your pet’s health can have profound effects on their quality of life, not to mention your pocketbook!



Not every pet has a problem with dental disease, but in my practice I can tell you that the majority of animals I see on a daily basis are affected on some level. Many of these have severe gingivitis and periodontal disease and the owners often have no idea that there is a problem at all. As a pet owner, there are several signs that indicate that your pet may have dental issues. The most common signs include: bad breath, yellow-brown staining on teeth (especially on the back molars), rubbing their face on the floor or with their paws, difficulty eating, or drooling.

Just like we learned in school, the best way to assess your animal’s oral health is to consult with a professional – in this case, your veterinarian. If your animal does have signs of dental disease, there are many ways to remedy the situation. Dental prophylaxis (cleaning and polishing) under general anesthesia, specially designed enzymatic chews and prescription foods, and regular brushing can all help. You and your vet will determine which method is most appropriate for your pet. Together, we can keep your animal smiling brightly for a long and happy life.

North Country Veterinary Services  
Ellsworth, MI  
Christian Randall DVM  
(231)588-2190

# Keep Your Cat Happy Indoors

Although many cats enjoy being outside where they can hunt prey and explore their surroundings, it's a myth that going outside is a requirement for feline happiness. Playing regularly with a cat easily satisfies her stalking instinct, keeps her stimulated, and provides the exercise she needs to stay healthy and happy.

Here are some tips for safely confining your cat and making the great indoors an interesting, feline-friendly environment that meets all of your cat's needs.

**Start young:** Kittens who are kept indoors usually show no desire to venture outside when they grow up.

**Fence me in:** Provide a screened porch or other safe way enclosure for your cat to experience the outdoors. Consider building or purchasing a "cat fence" or similar. Such an enclosure can allow your cat to experience all the pleasures of the great outdoors without the risks. However, a fence may not prevent animals from entering your yard, so you should always be present when you allow your cat outside.

Be sure to cat-proof the yard by checking that the fence has no escape routes and by making , garden chemicals, and other dangerous objects inaccessible.

You can purchase cat enclosures online.

**Walk this way:** If you live in a peaceful neighborhood in which you can walk without encountering loose dogs, consider buying a harness and training your cat to walk on a leash. This training takes time and patience, for both you and the cat, and it's easiest when your cat is young. Some cats can even be trained to sit on your lap while you are on the deck or patio, or harnessed and tied to a stationary object to enjoy the outdoors while you are gardening nearby (but be sure to never leave your cat alone while she is tied to a stationary object).

**Hang out:** Install a perch indoors near a sunny window; padded perches can be purchased at many pet supply stores, through catalog retailers, or online. Another option is an enclosure that sits in a window frame (much like an air conditioning unit) and provides a secure space in which your kitty can "hang out." Larger options are available that attach to the side of a house or ground-floor apartment patio. It's best to allow your cat access to these when someone is home to supervise.

**Tree's company:** Buy a ready-made cat tree (often called a "kitty condo"), or make your own. A cat tree may stretch from floor-to-ceiling or be shorter. It provides great climbing opportunities and, in multi-cat households, creates more play and rest areas by taking advantage of vertical space. If you can, locate the cat tree next to a window so your cat can watch the action outdoors.

**Play time:** Play with your cat each day. Try different types of toys that allow your cat to stalk, chase, pounce, and kick. When you've tired out your cat, store toys that could harm him (such as toys with strings attached) out of reach. Leave "toys" such as paper bags, with the handles removed and cardboard boxes out when you cannot supervise. Be sure to switch the toys from time to time so that they seem "new" and more interesting to your cat.

**Bring the outdoors in:** Plant cat grass (available from pet supply stores) in indoor pots so your feline can graze.

**Clean house:** Clean the litter box regularly to prevent accidents.

**ID, please:** Even cats who are protected from roaming free should still be outfitted with a collar and visible identification. The occasional open window (make sure your windows have secure screens) or door offers a tempting opportunity for your cat to explore the outdoors. And your cat may become frightened and make her way outside if strangers come to work on your house or if there is a fire or similar disaster. The collar and visible ID could help someone get your pet back to you.

For extra insurance, consider having your cat microchipped and keep your contact information with the registry up to date. If you do lose your cat, contact your local animal shelter immediately to file a report. Shelter workers can give you tips on getting your pet back home safely.



*WaLHFMF' office buddies, Moka Bear (dog) and Sugar.*

*P.S. – Sugar is up for adoption!*

*KiKi, JoJo and Mikk belong to Art & Nancy Zelenak of Central Lake.*



## 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.
- **Antrim County Review** for their help with PR.
- **Antrim County Veterinarians** and their caring staff for taking care of the animals.
- **Helena Township Hall** for the continued use of their facility.
- **Antrim County Businesses** for their support of the Silent Auction and other events.
- **Alden State Bank** for their many years of support.
- **Antrim County Residents** for their outpour of support!
- 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.
- **Dr. Michelle McClean** for donating 2 more Kuranda dog beds and all of her wonderful support over the years!
- **Wags to Wiskers Pet Supplies** in Gaylord for their donations and support!
- Cherie Hogan from **North Country North Cars & Credit** and **Cyman Gardens** for the cute fountain and front garden.
- **Chris & Merrie Corbett** for supplying food and drinks at the Grand Opening Celebration and for all their support since the beginning!
- Keith Verellen of **MD Tent Rentals** for supplying tents and chairs (plus the set up) for the Grand Opening Celebration.
- **Mark Winn** for WaLHFMF' website and taking photos at the Grand Opening Celebration.
- Christian Randall DVM from **North Country Veterinary Services of Ellsworth** for signing on as the Pet Crisis Center's lead veterinarian.
- **Deborah Goldenberg and her Mom** (also **Don Juan's Mom**) for donating a compact washer & dryer

## Mindy and Molly —

— Submitted by Marlene Attridge in memory of Mindy, 2006-2011

I'm a native Michigander but anyone who has lived here for awhile knows how our weather can change from bright and sunny to dark grey days overnight. I'm very weather sensitive and know I suffer from SAD (seasonal affective disorder).

If it weren't for my beautiful cats I would have many depressing Michigan grey days. They have always brought me sunshine. Who needs antidepressants with furry bodies around?

However, on September 7, 2011 my sunshine was taken away when my beautiful cat, Mindy, died. Mindy was only five years old and vibrant with out any symptoms. We sent for her routine physical that day only to be rushed to the cardiologist from that visit. The cold rain and grey sky matched my tears in the ride there and home without my Mindy. She was gone in a matter of a few hours.

Callie, my other cat and I received many kind words on our loss and for once I appreciated the grey Michigan days. They matched our hearts. Callie and I will be adopting a new kitty soon and I can guarantee whatever the Michigan weather is that day the sunshine will be radiating in our home and hearts. Hug your furry pets every day because your sunshine day can turn into a grey Michigan day anytime.

*Mindy died of congestive heart failure. She never had symptoms and Marlene always took her in for yearly exams. The doctor Marlene works for said if she didn't have an audible heart murmur her condition would have gone unnoticed – just like some of the young people that die at sporting events.*

**Here is the happy ending to Marlene's story...** Marlene was supposed to go to Florida but her trip was postponed so she decided to go to the Detroit Zoo for their huge adoption day. Rescues from all over showed up with pets needing homes. That's where Marlene met Molly. She had been found with her littermates and Mama outside a pet store in a box. Tigerlily Cat Rescue fostered them and came to the zoo on the same day Marlene was there. (Molly had also been featured on Pet Finders.com). Marlene says Molly is such a lover and her and Callie got along right away 😊



### Donors Summer 2011 Fifty dollars +

Sally Adamson  
Mary Blanchard  
Chris & Merrie Corbett  
Mary Lou DeTar  
Sophie DeWitt  
Barbara Faas  
Debbie & Fred Goldenberg  
Dave & Karin Harrison

Heather & Jim Knust  
Dave & Joyce Looman  
Douglas & Dottie Lualdi  
Charles Lundstrom  
Dr. Michelle McClean  
Bruce & Lillian McLaclan  
Hugh & Michelle  
McMasters  
Juilletet's Restaurant  
Maxwell Medals & Awards  
Traverse City  
Bill & Mona Minish

North Country Cars &  
Credit/Cherie Hogan  
Barbara O'Hair  
Jo Paulshock  
Marian Racey  
Dr. Carlton & Nancy Reiley  
Herb & Florence Reiley  
Terry Rowe  
Sandi Shannon  
Violet Shannon  
John & Carol Stoutjesdyk  
Stuff & Such/Pat Koch

Keith Verellen  
Wags to Wiskers Pet  
Supplies/Gaylord  
Nancy Weston  
Mr. & Mrs. James Wilson  
Lynda Wolf  
Colleen Wolfe

*I get by with  
a little help from  
my friends...*

—John Lennon

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

Remember when you have shopping to do –

[www.igive.com](http://www.igive.com)

With a Little Help From My Friends receives a portion of the sales from this site. Please give it a try, it doesn't cost you anymore and WaLHFMF gets a donation!

You'll also find a link to this site on [www.walhfmf.org](http://www.walhfmf.org)

**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 WaLHFMF. Remember to have your receipt stamped for "community cash".

*"I am in favor of animal rights as well as human rights. That is the way of a whole human being"*

—Abraham Lincoln



Please recycle, pass this newsletter on! ☺



IN MEMORY OF  
MAX  
1997 - 2009

To contact us:  
With a Little Help From My Friends  
3820 Ritt Road  
Bellaire, MI 49615  
1-231-533-4070  
walhfmf\_4@hotmail.com  
http://www.walhfmf.org

In Memory / In Honor Of  
**BRICK PAVER FUNDRAISER**

\$50 ea – 4 x 8 Brick (up to 3 lines of copy)     \$100 ea – 8 x 8 Brick (up to 6 lines of copy)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to: **With a Little Help From My Friends**

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No. of Bricks	<input type="checkbox"/>																		
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For a full size order form, visit us at [www.walhfmf.org](http://www.walhfmf.org)



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