

Among Friends

Winter 2009

Volume 5, Issue 2

News, views and updates on animal issues in Antrim County



**WITH
a LITTLE
HELP FROM
MY FRIENDS**

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 from
7:00pm-8:30pm. For information
please call (231) 533-4070.

Annual Events

Window Night Central Lake – Christmas Pet Photos

December 2nd, 2009
Photographer Melissa Zelenak
www.MZpix.com

Garage Sale May 22nd, 2010

Chili Cook Off & Silent Auction October 31st, 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



WaLHFMF's pet sanctuary is close to opening! The vision that started 5 years ago to aid Antrim County agencies during emergencies will soon be a reality. This new building will house 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 spot for the public to drop off a pet but a place for them to visit.

WaLHFMF's 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.

The well-being of Antrim County's animals ultimately rests in the hands of an educated public.

Education programs for the general public, promote compassion towards all living things. The programs offered at the new sanctuary will not only improve the lives of individual animals, but enhance the status of all animals in our community, both domestic and wild.

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



Susie (Gray Torti)

ADOPT-A-PET!

I'm not sure how I ended up on my own, but I was trying to make the best of it. I found a group of cottages on a lake that I would travel back and forth through and the renters would take me in for the night and feed me. With vacation season ending and predators all around who would have liked me for dinner, the owner of the cottages thought it was best if I found a permanent home of my own. So what do you think, you need a friend? I'm very sure of myself and get along with everyone. I won't be a lot of trouble, I just need something to eat and a lap to lay in :) If anyone would like to give this little gal a home, please contact WaLHFMF at 231-533-4070

President's Corner



As I was reading through the section of the paper that has made my husbands' hair turn

gray, I noticed how many ads there are. "Free 9 year old beagle. Great dog. We're moving," or "2 Labradors need room to run." This is hard for me to imagine. When I take on a pet it has the importance of a wedding vow. I will be there in sickness and in health. From the time I say "I do" they become part of my family. How could someone who has cared for a beagle for nine years all of a sudden say "you're not coming with us"? Even if you have to rent a place, why even consider a place that wouldn't allow pets when you already have a pet? The people that had the Labradors, did they not think they would need exercise? Any dog has room to run if you put a leash on it and get out there with it.

To the people that couldn't take their two cats with them because they were "moving four hours away and the cats couldn't ride that far with the family". WHAT? What are you saying? It's like a foreign language to me. Would you say drop Grandma off on the corner—she is not coming with us—she is too much trouble?

Please people — these animals are not throw aways! They are your family. They are not throw away things that "oh well — we can get a new pet when we get settled in our new home." They are all adorable when we get them, but like people, they get older and may need more care.

PLEASE—if you are considering a new pet—think about it and get into the frame of mind that IT IS A 'til death do us part commitment. Then enjoy every precious moment you have with your faithful friend.

Heather Knust
President



In Memory Of

**Abbey, Scooter, Sam,
Murphy & Pebbles**

*From Carol & Tom Artusi
Central Lake*

Hunter

*From Doug & Arliss Wickstrom
Bellaire*

Molson (search & rescue dog)

*From Michelle Mclean MD
Saginaw*

**My two dogs that passed away
a few years ago**

*From Diane Terrian
Farmington Hills*

Debbie Shannon

*From Marlene Altridge
Royal Oak*

Debbie Shannon

*From Aunt Ruth & Uncle John
Pennsylvania*

Debbie Shannon

*From Sandi & Cherlye Shannon
Azusa, California*

Deklin, an amazing canine friend

*From Marine & Joanne Homberg
Rapid City*

Charles DeVerney

*From Donna DeVerney
Mancelona*

**My dear departed friend & cat
lover Jean Brudzinski**

*From Roberta Murray
Bellaire*

Killians, Barkley & Woodstock

*From Becky Whiteherse
Rapid City*

Bob McLachlan

*From Carl & Dorothy Merillat
Elk Rapids*

In Memory Of

Coonie Cran (our 20.5 year old cat)
Died in 2005

*From Mrs. Linda Cran
Bellaire*

Gerald Ingraham

*From Nancy Culver
Bellaire*

Harold, Steve & S' Kitty

*From Nancy DeWeese
Central Lake*

Timmons

*Merrie & Mona's brave little friend
and*

Butch

*Sam's buddy & WaLHFMF' baby
From Mona
Bellaire*

Gordon Elieff

*From Josephine Paulshock
Pearce, AZ*

Buttons

*"You're in Chuck's lap now."
From Violet (Babe) Shannon
Bellaire*

Jane Erskine

*From Jo Paulshock
Pearce, Arizona*

Jake & Samantha

*To honor the love these friends
gave us over the years.
From Linda Wolf
Royal Oak*

In Honor Of

Sami (our little dog)

*Bill & Karen Scadin
Central Lake*

**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**

Teacup Dogs Agility Association



Spanky — Pride and Joy of Viv Winn of Eastport, MI

TDAA is growing very rapidly. Today, more than 1,900 dogs representing 81 different breeds are registered in all but 20 states. One club has also formed in Canada. Participants travel from all over the country for the chance to compete with their dogs in teacup trials. There are no monetary rewards in TDAA. Instead, titles and ribbons are

handed out. For most, however, love of the sport and the camaraderie shared between members make it worth the effort.

Small dog owners interested in agility should do TDAA first because of the friendliness of the people, said Donni Breaden.

“Some other organizations are so competitive that if you don’t understand the sport it could turn any owner off to agility.”

Breaden also said agility is a great sport for a shy dog because it builds confidence. “I’ve talked to many people who have rescued dogs from an abusive environment,” she said, “and agility has

turned them into very confident, well-rounded dogs.” The secret to agility, according to Bud Houston the founder of TDAA, is that it’s a game you play with your dogs on a Sunday afternoon in the park - if you remember that the competitiveness goes away and the fun starts to take over.

Pine Meadow’s farm in South Boardman, Michigan

Classes in Dog Agility and Obedience training are offered year round in all levels, you’re sure to find just the right one for you and your furry friend! The training facility is 5,000 square feet with a dirt floor covered in thick rubber mats for your dogs’ comfort.

TDAA (Teacup Dog Agility Association)

Contact: Jane McManus

Toll free (877) 276-6215

6125 Woodman Rd SW

South Boardman, MI 49680

Email: Pine.Meadows.Farm@coslink.net

Donni Breaden — TDAA Judge

Pet Ownership Stats

- About 60 percent of all households in the United States have a pet. (Source: American Veterinary Medical Association)
- About 60 million dogs and about 75 million cats are owned in the United States. (Source: Pet Food Institute)
- According to the National Council on Pet Population Study and Policy (NCPSP), about 65 percent of pet owners acquire their pets free or at low cost.
- The majority of pets are obtained from acquaintances and family members. About 15 to 20 percent of dogs are purchased from breeders, 10 to 20 percent of cats and dogs are adopted from shelters and rescues, and 2 to 10 percent are purchased from pet shops. (Source: Ralston Purina and NCPSP)
- At least 20 percent of cats are acquired as strays. (Source: NCPSP) Many strays are lost pets who were not kept properly indoors or provided with identification.
- More than 20 percent of people who leave dogs in shelters adopted them from a shelter. (Source: NCPSP)
- The cost of spaying and neutering a pet is less than the cost of raising puppies or kittens for one year.
- The average cost of basic food, supplies, medical care and training for a dog or cat is \$400 to \$700 annually.
- About 75 percent of owned pets are neutered.

All data are ASPCA estimates unless otherwise indicated.

With a Little Help From My Friends’ Wish List

General Pet Care

Cat litter

Pet toys

Stainless pet bowls

Kurandas pet beds (available through [WalHfMF website](http://WalHfMF.com))

New towels or baby blankets

Human baby food - plain chicken or turkey

Baby rice cereal

Sanitation/Cleaning Supplies/Medical

Laundry soap

Bleach

Paper towels

Disposable gloves

Extra large trash bags

Left over pet medications that has not expired

Purell gel hand sanitizer

Q-tips

Syringes

KMR(kitten replacement milk)

Isopropyl alcohol

Appliances

Washer/dryer

Dishwasher

24” or larger TV

Miscellaneous

Money for food

Pet store gift cards

Copy paper (white or colored)

Pre-paid phone cards

Postage stamps

Surge protectors for computers & other items

www.walhmf.org

Things To Do On The New Sanctuary...

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Electric (Lee Electric) | <input type="checkbox"/> Doggie Doors (Need 6 @ \$275.00 ea.) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Drywall Repair (Rich Charbonneau, Ind. Contractor) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Roof (Ray Hall Roofing) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cabinet Building for Vet Room | <input type="checkbox"/> Ceiling Paint
(Need 8 gallons @ \$22.00 ea.) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plumbing (Tuttle Enterprises) | <input type="checkbox"/> Epoxy Floor Paint (Need 22 gallons @ \$35.00 ea.) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Landscaping | <input type="checkbox"/> Air Purifier for Quarantine Room – \$400 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Flooring (Carpet Barn) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Drinking Fountain
(Ferguson Traverse Supply Company) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Get The Word Out (Creative Characters & Antrim Review) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cabinet, Sink & Countertop
(Odom Reusable Building Materials) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Well (Schultz Drilling) | <input type="checkbox"/> Cat Door – \$140 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excavating & Septic (Buffman Excavating) | <input type="checkbox"/> Kuranda Dog Beds (see website) Need Total of 6
(2 beds have been donated by Dr. Michelle McLean
in memory of Molson, and 1 bed has been donated
by Meredith Kadlec) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Foundation & Handicap Ramp (Knust Masonry) | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cat Units (Northern Eagle Services) | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Front Door & Window Trim (Kimron Construction) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dog Room Doors (Need 5 @ \$400 ea.) | |



In need of volunteers and financial support for the unchecked projects. Some checked off projects have associated costs above what has been donated and also require financial support.

The Day Streak CHOSE Us

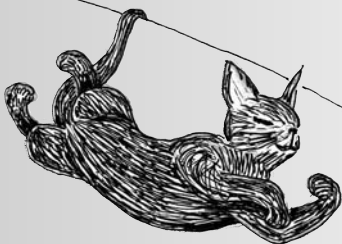
When we went to Mona Minish's house to choose a cat to adopt, Streak climbed into our pet carrier and wouldn't come out, even when we held it upside down and shook it. So he chose us rather than us choosing him, and we took the pet carrier home with Streak inside it, leaving his less-determined siblings behind.

Once home with us, Streak has worked hard to show us that he is just the pet we need. He always comes running when we return home, eager to be petted, wanting to share anything new we may have brought home, hoping to get into the garage to check out the car both inside and out. Streak is the only cat I've ever had who will come when called. He even answers to my whistle.

At first, Streak was very interested in all the things on our bedroom dressers, especially in the middle of the night, when things made a satisfying thunk as they hit the floor one by one. After Streak had this kind of fun for a while, the room's human occupant usually woke up, and escorted Streak out of the room, where he could find more entertainment in seeing how far he could reach his paws under the closed bedroom door. Soon, we decided the easiest plan was to clear all our stuff off the dressers and leave them bare. Streak now spends part of each day leaping from one dresser to another and sleeping on the highest chest of drawers.

At night, Streak sleeps on all of the family beds in turn, waking up the occupants for petting, and sliding under the covers for a short game of footsy. When I change the sheets, Streak likes to get on the bed and lie there while I spread the sheets over him.

Streak has made instant friends with Rascal, our resident cat whose need for a playmate was the spur of our decision to adopt again. Rascal's idea of playful mock-fighting had always been too rough for human skin. Streak spent hours wrestling with Rascal, gradually training her to keep her claws in and bite gently. Streak sleeps in weird positions, no curling up on a chair for him. And now, he has taught Rascal to sleep this way too. — *Judy Thurston, Central Lake*



Microchips: Common Questions

I have heard there are problems with micro chipping pets. What are the issues surrounding micro chipping?

There were several different microchip frequencies that required a specific scanner to read each one. In other words, each microchip could only be read by that company's scanner. If an animal entered an animal shelter, the shelter worker would have to individually scan the animal with each of the manufacturers' scanners—a tedious and imperfect system, to say the least. If the shelter did not have the right scanner for the microchip implanted in the animal, the animal could pass through the shelter and the owner would not be notified. That, however, has changed with the extensive distribution of universal scanners, which read all microchip frequencies on one hand-held scanner.

Is there a scanner that can read all the different types of microchips?

Yes! Universal scanners are now readily available to all U.S. animal shelters and veterinary clinics. They are universal because they must read multiple microchip frequencies sold by different microchip manufacturers. There are at least four different microchip frequencies marketed in the U.S.

The universal scanner is a necessity to allow shelters and veterinarians to be able to read all microchips easily and accurately. The next logical step to improving microchips is a failsafe method of animal/owner identification—the total adoption of the ISO international standard frequency microchip. This microchip is used by the majority of the countries of the world, but not by all the manufacturers in the U.S. Several of the U.S. microchip companies have already made the switch to the ISO standard chip. We would encourage the rest of the companies to do the same!

My animal has already been micro chipped, how do I know if my local shelter will be able to read the information on it?

The only way to know for sure if your local animal care facilities have the ability to read the microchip implanted in your pet is to call them. Search online or check your local listings to find your local shelter.

My animal has not yet been micro chipped. If I purchase one, how do I know if my local shelter will be able to read the information on it?

This is the responsibility of the business or group providing the microchip. Ask whether the chip being implanted in your pet is compatible with the readers in place in your community. If there is any question, call your local animal shelter to be sure.

What do I do if my local animal care facility cannot read the chip that is implanted in my pet?

Call the microchip manufacturer and ask that they send at least one scanner to your local facilities free of charge.

What is The HSUS doing to help?

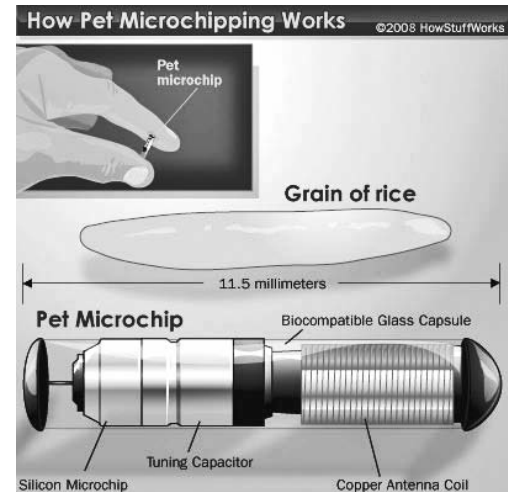
The HSUS was the first group in the U.S. to call a meeting in July 2004 in Washington, D.C., of all the microchip manufacturers and all major animal welfare groups to discuss the issues related to microchips and try and find solutions. As a direct result of this meeting came the creation of The Coalition to Reunite Pets and Family to address changes necessary in the microchip industry. The HSUS continues to work as an active member of the coalition to address microchip issues.

How long do microchips last? Do they ever need to be replaced?

Microchips are designed to last the lifetime of a pet—a chip typically lasts at least 25 years. Chips do not need replacing. Once the microchip is implanted, it will remain there and active for the life of the pet.

What else can I do to ensure that my pet will be returned should he or she become lost?

All pets should wear identification tags at all times. Tags should include a local contact number, as well as a number for a friend or out-of-town relative. Proper identification tags are your pet's first ticket home if he becomes lost. Microchips provide an important extra level of protection in the event your pet becomes separated from his collar and tags. Providing your pet with both tags and a microchip can help ensure a happy reunion if the unthinkable happens: your beloved pet gets lost.





Can Cats & Dogs Catch Swine Flu?

Pet parents of dogs and cats can relax for now, say ASPCA veterinarians. While the 2009 H1N1 virus—a faster moving and possibly more debilitating strain of influenza than the typical seasonal flu—has become an international concern, the virus, referred to as swine flu when first identified, appears to present little risk of infecting dogs and cats. However, viruses can mutate quickly and taking important preventative measures remains essential.

“Many species can become infected with influenza viruses, but the current 2009 H1N1 virus, which is a mixture of genetic material from different species, has not been identified in animal populations in the United States to date,” says Dr. Miranda Spindel, Director of ASPCA Veterinary Outreach. “These viruses are notoriously unpredictable, though, and it is important that we remain vigilant.”

In terms of other animals that are susceptible, Dr. Spindel warns that influenza or flu viruses are occasionally transmitted

from people to pigs, and the 2009 H1N1 virus has also been identified in turkeys. Pet parents of Vietnamese Potbellies, African Pygmies and other pet pigs should monitor their animals’ health closely, notify their veterinarian of any signs of illness and speak to their veterinarian about influenza type A vaccines. Ferrets are susceptible to most human flu viruses, so pet parents should take extra care to prevent exposure of pet ferrets to people or other ferrets with flu symptoms.

Meanwhile, flu season is upon us and pet parents should take common-sense preventative measures to keep their dogs and cats healthy:

- If your dog is exhibiting flu-like symptoms, including coughing, nasal discharge or fever (normal dog and cat temperature is 101 to 102.5 degrees), play it safe and avoid taking him to places like dog parks, where he can pass on germs or come into contact with unvaccinated or sick dogs.
- Avoid letting your cat roam freely outside.
- If your dog comes into frequent contact with other dogs or is kept in a kennel, the ASPCA recommends that you discuss with your veterinarian whether vaccination against canine influenza may be appropriate. Note: Canine influenza and H1N1 are not the same virus.
- Talk to your vet about what flu vaccines are currently available, and be sure all your pets get vaccinated!
- Don’t let your pet share water bowls, food dishes or toys with other animals.
- Make sure your pet is eating, drinking and playing as he normally does each day. If you notice your pet behaving unusually, or if he has flu-like symptoms, check in with your veterinarian immediately.

From ASPCA October 2009

**Don’t Forget... Order Your 2010 Cute & Cuddly Critter Calendars!
GREAT GIFT IDEA — Order by calling us at 231.533.4070
or visit our website: www.walhofmf.org to download order form.**

Help Get the Word Out —

Dog fighting is banned throughout the United States and is a felony in all 50 states. If convicted of animal fighting charges, those arrested each face up to five years in prison.

Michigan Compiled Laws Annotated Currentness. Chapter 750. Michigan Penal Code. The Michigan Penal Code. Chapter IX. Animals. 750.49. Animals; fighting, baiting, or shooting; dogs trained for fighting; application; money seized, deposit, examination, return

Citation: MCL 750.49

Citation: MI ST 750.49

Summary: The anti-animal fighting provision prohibits conduct related to animal fighting, including but not limited to organizing or being a spectator at a fight and training or using animals for fighting.

Progress Update: Animal Related Bills in Lansing

Michigan Governor Jennifer Granholm signed a landmark bill October 12, 2009 that will, for the first time, extend modest yet meaningful protections to farm animals. A result of extensive negotiations between humane and agricultural groups, the law requires that certain farm animals have enough room to stand up, lie down, turn around and extend their limbs, rather than being confined in tiny cages.

HB 5127 phases out veal crates for calves within three years, and battery cages for laying hens and gestation crates for breeding sows within ten years. The state has more than ten million laying hens, approximately 100,000 breeding pigs, and is ranked by the Cattleman's Beef Board as a top veal-producing state (no official numbers are available).

Michigan becomes the seventh

state to ban gestation crates, the fifth to ban veal crates, and the second to ban battery cages. Arizona, California and Florida have passed similar measures through ballot initiatives, and Maine, Colorado and Oregon have passed related laws in their state legislatures.

The House approved HB 5127 by a vote of 87-20, and the Senate approved it 36-0. The House concurred with the Senate version of the bill by a vote of 86-22.

Major national retailers like Wendy's, Safeway, Burger King, Red Robin, Carl's Jr. and Hardees are increasingly phasing in crate-free and cage-free products due to consumer demand for better animal welfare.

Scientific research confirms the welfare problems with battery cages, veal crates and gestation crates.

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

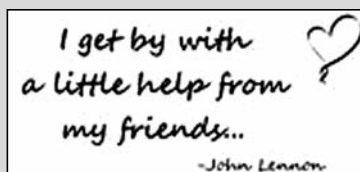
With a Little Help From My Friends receives a portion from sales on both these sites. Between the two sites almost every store you shop at is there. Please give it a try, it doesn't cost you anymore and WaLHFMF gets a donation!

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 WaLHFMF.

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



Please recycle, pass this newsletter on! ☺



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Bellaire, Mi 49615

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