

Happy Tale—Monte

By Lynn Bolhuis

Take a journey back in time to January 2007. A puppy named Montague, Monte for short, had been relinquished by a Good Samaritan that had rescued him from a neglectful situation. Unfortunately they weren't able to keep him so they asked KAR for help and a dog foster volunteer took him in. Monte was about four-months old at the time and a whopping 42 pounds. Our best guess is he is a Bullmastiff and Australian Cattle dog mix. Whatever



the pedigree, Monte was a super-sized pup and oh so sweet, friendly and playful.

Fast forward to 2010 and big boy Monte is "doing great and is super spoiled" according to his adoptive mom, Sara. She recently sent KAR an update about how well this loveable pooch is doing. "Everyone wants to clone him because he is so cool. He attracts attention where ever we go," she says.

Sara began looking to adopt a dog in early 2007. She found Monte on

Petfinder.com™ and contacted the rescue. Another family was also interested in Monte and it looked like they might be better suited for him since Sara and her husband lived in an apartment. She was heartbroken but requested that Monte's foster contact her if anything changed because she really wanted him. A few days later Sara received an email to arrange a meet and greet. The visit went well and they were given the opportunity to adopt Monte.

"He has been a great addition to our family. Monte loves to play with his toys and has lots of them. He loves to go on walks; he gets along great with other dogs;

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Happy Tale—Ayla

By Dawn Pearson

One cold day last March, KAR got a call from a homebound woman living in a derelict apartment complex. She was concerned about a stray cat she had named Ayla, who was due to give birth any day. Ayla had already birthed at least two litters under the woman's house, surviving on garbage pulled from a nearby dumpster.

A pair of volunteers went to size up the situation. Ayla wouldn't come out from under the house and did not appear to be friendly, so they regretfully informed the woman that KAR could not take Ayla, and that the best course would be to get her spayed and release her again. That

way, at least, there would be more kittens. They volunteered to personally help the woman get her spayed.

Over the next few days, they set humane traps and finally saw Ayla waddle up to one (hugely pregnant) and go inside. The door snapped shut behind her and she was hustled to a volunteer's house. Within 24 hours, she gave birth to a litter of four kittens. KAR could socialize and find homes for the kittens, but the volunteers knew Ayla would go back where she came from as soon as they had her spayed.

But, to their surprise, Ayla wasn't the fierce wildcat they thought. She let them handle her kittens and give her a few head rubs. On garbage day, she was upset by the noise of the trucks and tried to drag her

kittens behind a TV stand, so they moved her nesting box into a dark closet to help her feel more secure. After that, her personality continued to blossom. She even started playing with toys. Ayla was a patient, doting mom to her kittens. She officially became a KAR cat, and her future was looking much brighter.

However, a couple weeks after giving birth, Ayla began to have difficulty emptying her bladder. The vet did an ultrasound and found that her bladder was near bursting. He

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KAR Adoption Statistics

As of September 30th, 298 cats and 125 dogs have found forever homes in 2010.

Adoption Events at Crossroads Mall

Starting in February, KAR began taking adoptable dogs and cats to Crossroads Mall in Portage the first weekend of every month. These adoption events have been hugely successful and mall visitors love to stop in and see the animals available for adoption.

KAR will be returning to the mall for adoption events after the holidays. Check our website for future event dates and times to drop in and see us ... the cats and dogs would love the attention and pets.



Community Fundraising Efforts

A sincere thank you to the following people, groups and businesses who recently held fundraisers to benefit Kalamazoo Animal Rescue:

- Alfred E. Bike
- Girls on the Run of Ryan Intermediate School
- Joey Gustafson
- Alyssa Layne
- Kalamazoo County Department of Human Services
- Alexis Sommers
- Two Thumbs Up

Monte (continued)

loves going for car rides and he especially likes to visit PetSmart. If we even mention PetSmart, Monte understands and gets excited!" says Sara.

Monte has many endearing qualities and they've also discovered that he likes kids. "Our friends have brought their little ones over and he gets curious about them for five minutes and then lays down so they can crawl all over him," adds Sara. "Monte is a smart boy that has learned how to shake, lie down, give high fives, and he also loves to give hugs and kisses. Monte has never been to an obedience class but he aims to please and listens very well."

This big boy was fortunate to be saved by a Good Samaritan as a pup, be given shelter with KAR, and then be blessed again by finding a loving forever family to share his life with for many years to come. 🐾



About Us

Kalamazoo Animal Rescue is an all-volunteer, federally recognized 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that was founded in 1991 and is funded entirely through private donations.

KAR is dedicated to providing refuge to homeless, stray and abandoned cats and dogs in Southwest Michigan.

Our volunteers give their time and energy to the efforts of rescuing animals and helping them to find permanent homes.

Adopt

If you or someone you know is looking for a furry companion please consider adopting from KAR. All foster animals live in private homes until adopted. To see the available cats and dogs, visit www.kalamazooanimalrescue.org.

Other Ways to Help

- Donations to help us pay vet bills
- Cat and dog food
- Cat litter
- Dog crates and cat carriers

KAR Friends

Looking for great tips and information on caring for pets? **KAR Friends** provides helpful pet-related articles, heartwarming dog and cat rescue stories, news about upcoming events, and valuable coupons and special offers from area sponsors. Previous issues are archived on the KAR website. To receive your own personalized copy, go to our website and subscribe today!



Portage Animal Hospital Partners with Kalamazoo Animal Rescue: In-Clinic Adoption Program for Cats

By Nancy Dolan

It began when Dr. Andrew Helmholdt of Portage Animal Hospital, invited KAR to give a presentation at the Portage A.M. Rotary Club. After Kendalyn, a KAR board member, finished her presentation, Dr. Helmholdt shared his idea with her about an in-clinic cat adoption program. His new building would be finished in October and he was interested in helping a local animal rescue place cats into lifelong homes.

KAR board members, Candy and Nancy quickly arranged to meet with Stephanie Walunas, Practice Manager at PAH. She explained that the PAH staff would provide supplies and lots of love and attention to the cats in the clinic's adoption program. Within a few short weeks, the logistics were worked out and three KAR felines were placed into PAH's cat adoption area.

According to Dr. Helmholdt, "We are excited to provide a unique adoption opportunity. It has already

proven very successful; of the five cats we have had in the past three weeks, we have adopted out four! Our clients are playing a big role in helping to network the availability of the cats we have here and helping us to find them homes. We are very excited to be a part of helping these homeless cats find great families."



Back row: Holly, Ashley, Leah, Stephanie, Anita, Caitie
 Front row: Dr. Cynthia Lunney, Dr. Andrew Helmholdt
 Cats: Little Miss and Hope



Stephanie agrees, "It is very rewarding for us to see the cats in our adoption niche find their forever families. We hope that this program

will help Kalamazoo Animal Rescue gain more exposure to help place more pets in homes where they will be loved and have happy lives. We truly feel honored to have the opportunity to help people and these wonderful cats find each other!" 🐾

Cat and Dog Foster Volunteers Needed

KAR needs people who are willing to open their hearts and homes to animals in need until a forever home can be found. Food, supplies and vet care are provided by KAR. New foster volunteers receive training and mentoring from experienced volunteers. For more information and to fill out a volunteer application, visit our website at www.kalamazooanimalrescue.org and click on Volunteer Now.

I want to help Kalamazoo Animal Rescue care for homeless dogs and cats. Here is my tax deductible donation.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please make your check payable to: Kalamazoo Animal Rescue Amount enclosed: \$ _____

Mail this coupon with your check to: Kalamazoo Animal Rescue • P.O. Box 3295 • Kalamazoo, MI 49003

Ayla

(continued)

carefully catheterized her, but still she could not go on her own. He diagnosed nerve damage from the birthing process.

For the next week or so Ayla and her kittens were packed into a carrier daily so she could have her bladder manually expressed at the vet. Although the procedure clearly caused her discomfort, she never fought, scratched or bit, but patiently endured all the poking and squeezing. It was truly amazing that this “feral” cat had turned out to be so docile.

Finally, Ayla was able to use the litter box again on her own. She nursed her kittens until they were weaned, spayed, and adopted into new homes. Then it was Ayla’s turn to be



fixed, and not a moment too soon: Within days of her last kitten leaving, Ayla went straight into heat.

Once Ayla was spayed, she calmed down and showed no interest in going outside. We knew she was adoptable, but we were worried about how long it might take, mainly because she was a black, adult cat. Black cats and dogs are less likely to be adopted. But again, we were surprised. The vet team who had provided Ayla’s medical care mentioned her to a client who had recently lost a cat. The couple was drawn to her story and wanted to meet her. It was love at first sight. Ayla lolled on the



floor at their feet, purring and chirping, and even sat up on her hind legs to catch ping pong balls tossed to her by her new “dad.” She went to her new home a few days later. Here’s the latest report from her new

family:

“Ayla definitely owns the place... She is too funny...and sassy... She and Zener (her cat brother) are getting long well. Zener has renewed his interest in playing. It is great to watch them chase one another around. Our concern about her attempting to get outside has, so far, proven to be unfounded... It is so hard to believe that she has only been with us two months...she is dearly loved...and most definitely spoiled beyond all reason! Thank you so very much for all you did in bringing her to our family.” 🐾