

# KALAMAZOO ANIMAL RESCUE

KAR Friends

Special 2014 Fall Edition

## **Pet Partners: Portage Animal Hospital and Camp Ravenwood Kennels**

By Katie Drenth and Danielle Wallis

Many KAR pets have been adopted into loving homes thanks to partnerships with Portage Animal Hospital (PAH) and Camp Ravenwood Kennels (CRK). Doctor Helmholdt and the PAH staff have been instrumental in placing 117 kitties since the in-clinic cat adoption center began in October 2010. Since January of this year, 31 dogs have been adopted thanks to CRK.

At PAH, our felines stay in comfortable enclosures in the main lobby and are cared for by clinic staff to ensure they are happy and healthy during their two-week stay. Anyone can visit the cats during PAH's business hours and interact with them upon request. Kitties can be adopted directly from PAH with pre-approval and permission from the KAR foster parent.

PAH provides great exposure, especially for the "less adoptable" such as black kittens, mature and senior cats, and those with special needs. Cats are adopted quickly because the PAH venue showcases a feline's true personality.

While PAH helps cats, the Camp Ravenwood Kennels program helps canines. KAR needed a plan to cope with the need to assist dogs amidst a shortage of foster homes. The rescue received a special donation and dedicated a portion toward

temporarily board healthy dogs in a private facility: Camp Ravenwood Kennels. This was a great fit as the owner, Jeff Vander Meer, has been a long-time supporter of KAR. We started with a couple dogs at a time to gauge how to successfully run the program.

Our volunteers help to feed, exercise, socialize and play with the dogs. Thanks to your donations we are able to purchase food as well as beds and toys during a dog's stay at Camp Ravenwood. KAR is still a foster organization and our intent is

to transfer dogs from CRK into a private foster home as soon as space becomes available. CRK provides a great venue for pre-approved adopters to schedule a visit and meet different dogs—to interact with them and find the perfect pet. Occasionally, one of our canines is adopted straight from CRK into their new home.

These partnerships have been hugely successful. We are grateful to everyone at Portage Animal Hospital and to Camp Ravenwood Kennels for their ongoing commitment to assisting KAR, and by making it possible to rescue and re-home more animals in need.

*Note: All of the cats and dogs in the PAH and CRK programs go*

*through our intake and evaluation process. PAH and CRK are private businesses and do not accept stray or homeless pets. If you need to re-home a pet, please visit the intake page on our website.* 



### **Community Fundraising Efforts**

A sincere thank you to these groups and businesses who held fundraisers to benefit KAR:

- Epic Nick Nacks
- Healthcare Midwest
- Kalamazoo Community Foundation
- MV Pets
- Petco
- The United Way

### **Happy Tail: Skylar**

By Lynn Bolhuis

Charles M. Schultz (*Peanuts*) wrote, "Happiness is a warm puppy." For one particular boy, Brendon, he found his dog and happiness when Skylar joined their family. This is their tale.

Skylar was a stray that wound up at Animal Services last summer. Fortunately, this loving mature

*(continued on back)*

## Special Animal Saves

By Kim Bournier and Karren Jensen

Many animals come to our attention because they need special care, medical attention or surgery. Your donations make it possible for KAR to provide treatment and cover these expenses so that our doggy friends, pregnant cats and abandoned litters of kittens can be rescued. Here are some of the precious pets we've helped.

**Petey** was hit by a car and taken to the local shelter. A KAR volunteer came to his rescue and took him to a vet for assessment. In order to have a chance at a favorable future, he needed surgery for a displaced hip. After six months of recovery he was adopted into his forever home. Petey underwent one more surgery to remove the metal plate in his hip and he is pain free. Now he's living the good life!

**Sabrina** was taken to Animal Services by her owners—emaciated and with a dislocated hip. She was very timid, afraid to be touched (a sign of abuse) and in a great deal of pain.



Sabrina needed immediate care. KAR posted a plea for help on our Facebook page and generous supporters helped to offset the \$1,600 surgery. Her foster mom did physical therapy with her for two weeks, during which time Sabrina started to trust her and give kisses. The only evidence of her trauma is a small scar and a slight limp. Sabrina now has a doggy sister and two felines to play with in her forever home, and a family that loves her very much.

**Sully** and **Chi Chi** both came into KAR with heartworm disease. They received the specialized treatment they needed to live long, healthy lives. Sully now has a loving forever home with three kids and two other doggy pals. Chi Chi is finishing up his medical care and then will be ready for adoption in October.

**Portia** came to us from Animal Services. In her foster home, she showed



signs of being pregnant and a few weeks later gave birth to four kittens. The babies were adopted but, as often happens, the mom must wait patiently for a new home. This lovey girl is barely more than a kitten herself at one-year old. Portia deserves the purr-fect home where she will be loved and pampered.

**Tiki** had owners that were unable to care for her and four kittens, so KAR came to their rescue. This spunky calico was a good mother to her babies who grew quickly and were soon ready for new homes. Tiki is still waiting for a special human to call her forever friend.

**Tara** was rescued when her owner passed away. She was discovered to be pregnant and gave birth to five kittens. Tara is also a very young girl, barely past kitten hood at just over a year old. With her babies off to new homes, beautiful Tara is looking for a fur-ever home where she can return to being the playful kitten she should be at her young age.

See photos, videos and learn more about all our adoptable animals on the KAR website. 🐾

### About Us

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

KAR is dedicated to providing safe refuge to homeless, stray and abandoned cats and dogs in Kalamazoo and the surrounding communities.

Our volunteers give their time and energy to the efforts of rescuing animals and helping them to find permanent, committed and life-long homes.

### Adopt

If you or someone you know is looking for a furry companion please consider adopting from KAR. Animals live in private foster homes until adopted. To see the available cats and dogs, visit [www.kalamazooanimalrescue.org](http://www.kalamazooanimalrescue.org)

### Connect with KAR



Like us on Facebook!

### KAR Friends

Looking for great tips and information on caring for pets? **KAR Friends** is a monthly eNewsletter providing helpful pet-related articles, heartwarming rescue stories, news about upcoming events, 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!



## Happy Tail: Gigi

By Kara Harmsen

A KAR foster volunteer went to Animal Services to pick up three adult cats and asked if there were any other felines that really needed help. The ladies at the shelter mentioned a kitten that everyone adored, and Dusty scooped her right up and called her Isabella Baby. She was the sweetest, itsy bitsy black kitten you could imagine.

After a few weeks, Isabella Baby was transferred to a new foster home where she arrived wide-eyed and full of spunk. At this foster

home, Isabella was greeted by two other adult cats and one four-year-old boy who couldn't stop exclaiming how little and cute she was. Who knew a kitten the size of your palm could be so brave. Being so tiny, she found her way around the house and especially loved hiding in the heaping piles of stuffed animals in the boy's bedroom.



After a few months and growing just the littlest bit, her foster mom was contacted by a friend interested in adopting a kitten and who also loved black cats. Given Isabella's charm, loud purr and overall cute as a button face, it was no time at all before adoption papers were signed and she was whisked away to her fur-ever home.

The adopter renamed the kitten Gigi after one of her favorite movies, *Kiki's Delivery Service*. As you can see in the photo, Aya and Gigi were meant to be! The kitty follows Aya all around her home and she is so happy to have Gigi as a member of the family. 🐾

## Update: Memorial and Honorary Gifts

By Lynn Bolhuis

In the spring we let all our KAR Friends know about our memorial and honorarium gift program. The response was overwhelming and the rescue experienced a significant increase in donations to the tune of several thousand dollars. These contributions made it possible to help some very special dogs and cats needing expensive surgeries and medical treatments, which you read about in this publication.

Our rescue graciously accepts memorial and honorary gifts of love on behalf of people and animals that have been such an important influence on your life.

**Gifts In Memory** – recognize a pet, friend or family member that recently passed away by making a contribution to KAR on their behalf. To make a memorial gift, please provide the name of the deceased; the name of a friend or family member to the deceased and their address; the donor's name and address; and a check made payable to Kalamazoo Animal Rescue.

**Gifts In Honor** – recognize a friend, family member or business for a special occasion such as a birthday or anniversary, or a special



accomplishment such as a graduation or promotion. To make an honorary gift, please provide the honoree's name and address; the occasion or achievement; the donor's name and address; and a

check made payable to Kalamazoo Animal Rescue.

The rescue is a federally recognized 501(c)(3) charitable organization. All gifts in memory or in honor are tax deductible. These heartfelt donations make it possible for KAR to help homeless cats and dogs receive the care they need until permanent, loving homes can be found for them. 🐾

**I want to support KAR and give hope to homeless animals. A tax-deductible donation of \$20 can buy dog or cat food, \$50 purchases vaccines, and \$100 pays for 1 dog or 2 cat spays.**

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

# KALAMAZOO ANIMAL RESCUE

## Dinner Auction 2014

Food! Fun! Drinks!  
Live and Silent Auctions  
Professional Entertainment:  
Tony Fields and Doug Decker

**Where:** Gull Lake Country Club  
9725 West Gull Lake Drive, Richland, Michigan

**Date:** Sunday, November 9th

**Time:** 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.  
Dinner and Entertainment begin at 5:30 p.m.

**Cost:** \$35 per person. Visa and MasterCard accepted.

For Reservations Call: 269-629-9714



### Skylar

(continued)

Beagle mix made it into a KAR foster home and was saved.

A young boy was embarking on his search for a doggy soul mate, and as fate would have it, Skylar was at a Petco adoption event the day the family stopped in. After



spending time together, Brendon decided that this gentleman was the dog for him and the family began the adoption process. Skylar has adjusted well into their daily routine and enjoys going on frequent walks and trips to the park. Brendon has his puppy—Skylar has a loving home—together they are living happily ever after. 