



# KALAMAZOO ANIMAL RESCUE

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## KAR Friends

March 2014

### In This Issue

[Does My Pet Need A Buddy?](#)

[Animal Spotlights ~ Shilo and Duffy](#)

[Doggie Den ~ DNA Testing for Dogs](#)

[Cat's Corner ~ Ashley and Ogi](#)

[The Blanketeers ~ Providing Blankets of Love](#)

[Special Thanks ~ Old National Bank](#)

Dear Reader,

This month we have stories of companionship, not just for people but also for pets! Some animals do well as the sole fuzzy buddy in a household while others need a comrade in fur. If you are contemplating adding another pet to your family, check out "Does My Pet Need a Buddy?"

Sometimes KAR comes across animals that need each other as much as they need a new home. Shilo and Duffy are a mother and son doggy duo who would really love to be adopted together. In Cat's Corner, we share the tale of two felines who were adopted separately from the rescue. Now, they greatly appreciate one another in the same loving forever home.

Enjoy the issue and stories of togetherness as well as the stuff that comes together to make up a pet's DNA. Doggie Den explains how the DNA history makes up the dog before your eyes today. So much to read, let's get started.

Danielle Wallis  
KAR President

## Does My Pet Need A Buddy?

### *Some Animals Benefit from Having a Companion*

By Karren Jensen

Have you ever wondered if your furry friend needs the companionship of another animal? Sure, you're best pals and provide your cat or dog with all the love and attention you can, but is it enough? You might feel a bit guilty about leaving your pet alone for many hours of the day if you work or attend school. If this has been on your mind, consider the following tips to decide whether adopting an additional canine or feline friend is right for you and your current pet.



- First ask if you would enjoy having an additional pet. If your current pet is all you can afford, and you don't want an additional furry family member, then you should not adopt any more animals. Even if you feel that your best dog or cat friend would benefit from the companionship of another animal, this newly adopted pet will ultimately look to you for love and care. If you adopt another pet just to satisfy the

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- social needs of a pet you already have, then you will do a disservice to the new animal who you may ultimately decide you can't keep.
- Consider the real needs of your current cat or dog: does he or she really want another animal around? Is your pet a "party animal" who loves to socialize or a recluse who is content to be alone? Remember that your home is also your pet's territory and a newcomer might not be welcome. Dogs usually make up their minds right away whether a new dog or even a cat will be a good addition to the family, according to many experts. Cats, on the other hand, may take a long time to adjust to a new cat or dog and will need to be carefully introduced to any new pet. If you leave your pet alone for long periods of time, a companion might be just right for keeping your canine or feline buddy happy and engaged in play.
  - If you decide that your cat or dog really would benefit from having a companion, you must also consider the personality of the two. An older quiet animal will not be likely to welcome the antics of a youngster. An extremely dominant pet would be better matched with a laid back companion rather than another dominant animal who will fight for territory and attention. The secret to having long-term success lies in the introduction of a new pet to the resident cat or dog. We have a great series of articles on pet introductions, which you can reach through the links below.

A single cat or dog is a joy to add to your family, and multiple pets multiply the joy, as long as there is peace among them and a sense of belonging to a loving family. If this sounds like the right decision for you and your current animal buddy, we would like to help you find the right match. Our volunteers are experienced "matchmakers" who can help you find a new pet who will fit right in, so give us a call today!

### Additional Resources:

- [Introducing your dog to a new dog](#)
- [Introducing a dog to a cat](#)
- [Introducing a cat to a new cat](#)
- [Should I get another cat?](#)
- [How to Keep Your Dog and Cat From Feuding](#)
- [One Dog or Two?](#)
- [Why Adopt a Second Cat?](#)

## Animal Spotlights

### Shilo and Duffy: Tag Team Love

By Kim Bourner

Wouldn't it be great to have a team at home to lavish love on you? A team dedicated to cuddle, care and comfort you? It just so happens that KAR has a mother and son doggy duo that will bring all of these good things to you on a daily basis for years to come.

Shilo and her son, Duffy, were raised in a home with much love and they gave it right back. Unfortunately, their caregiver suffered a stroke and was no longer able to care for them. However, she taught them to be as darling as any mother and son team could possibly be.

Shilo is eight-years old and in good health. She has had regular dental visits, which help to keep her motor running well. She must be part prairie dog as she likes to sit



## Pets of the Month



[Duffy](#)



[Bret](#)

## Adoption Events



March 22nd and 29th  
April 5th



April 12th

Visit the [Events](#) page on our website for upcoming adoption and other special events.

on her haunches with her chest in the air—looking much like a prairie dog standing up—for a good long time so that she better understands her fellow creatures.

Duffy is six-years old and believes that cuddling is the key to all good things in life. He enjoys eating out of your hand. He enjoys time to play and time to rest just as much as he enjoys time to eat and time to cuddle.

Do you have the space to give two darling dogs a second chance? [Duffy](#) and [Shilo](#) are ready to meet you and they have a lot of love to give. Check out their web pages and if you are interested in being their new human companion, fill out an application.



## Doggie Den

*Ever Wondered What Breed of Dog You Actually Have?*

By Guy and Danielle DeRose

We thought it would be pretty interesting to look into DNA testing for dogs. It's an increasingly appealing option for canine owners who have rescued "mixes" from local rescue groups and shelters, and who are unsure of the breed origin. Many of these tests are minimally invasive and no vet is required. The dog's owner simply swabs the inside of their pet's mouth with a special kit that they are sent by the company and results are usually returned within a week or two.



Whilst there are many companies who offer this service, none offer 100% guarantee, but the test results are certainly more accurate than visually detecting breeds, as opinions from professionals vary so much.

Why is there room for difference between the visual characteristics observed, even by professionals, and the results from one of these DNA tests? The difference is due to the Genotype-Phenotype distinction. When we talk about the Genotype of an animal, be it a cat, dog, or even human, we are talking about the entire information coded into their DNA. This is the information passed to them by their mother and father at the moment of conception. The Phenotype is the expression of that coded information, and it can be affected the presence not only of dominant or recessive traits, but also by the environment that the individual lives in. This environmental factor is the reason why even identical twins have enough small differences to enable family members and friends to tell them apart, even though a stranger might struggle.

In dogs, the traits that we use to identify them, be it coat color, coat length, skull shape, or body size, are controlled by only around 50 of their 20,000 genes – that is 0.25% of their genotype. This means that we are missing 99.75% of the information about the dogs we are looking at! The repercussions of this have been [explained by Dr. Victoria Voith](#), PhD, DVM, DACVB, who has surveyed more than 19 million markers in 13,000 dogs.

"If a visual trait is recessive (for example like the trait associated with long fur), only dogs with two of the same version of the gene will exhibit long fur. If one of these dogs is the ancestor of a mixed-breed dog, the mixed-breed dog may contain both the DNA for the recessive version of the trait (long fur) and the dominant version of

## KAR Links

- [Volunteer](#)
- [Become a Foster Family](#)
- [Adoptable Dogs](#)
- [Adoptable Cats](#)
- [Adoptable Kittens](#)
- [Special Needs Pets](#)
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- [KAR Website](#)



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the trait (short fur). However, the long-haired recessive appearance will not be observed because the dominant short-haired DNA would determine the visual appearance of coat length (making it short). Subsequently, the visual identification of breed would inaccurately specify short-haired breeds based upon the visual observation of short hair.

The DNA test would be able to detect the recessive version of the gene for the long hair along with the dominant version of DNA for the short-hair and the DNA test result would use that information to determine the breed. The DNA results might report both long-haired and short-haired breeds in the dog's ancestry even though the dog only has short-hair. Coat length is not the only trait that can be "hidden" from visual observation due to dominant and recessive patterns of genetic inheritance in dogs.

Although the genetic test may not assess every gene or even each physical attribute of a dog, the regions of the genome that it uses to assess breed take into account much more information than visual observation. The DNA test is better than visual breed identification because it takes into account the pattern of genetic variation at many different regions across the dog genome to generate a "genetic snapshot" of a mixed-breed dog's ancestry. The resulting genetic evidence for what breeds make up a mixed-breed dog may or may not agree with visual observations, but they do agree with what scientists have discovered from two decades of sequencing and studying genomes.

While breed identification by DNA analysis is more accurate than visual breed identification, it's important to remember that neither identifies genetic markers influencing specific traits, or predicts behavior of any particular dog. Each dog is an individual, and its physical and behavioral traits will be the result of multiple factors."

Should you get a DNA test? That is entirely up to you,. Maybe you'll discover something interesting! If you do so with a dog adopted from KAR, we would be interested in the results.

**Additional Resources:**

- [Animal DNA Testing](#)
- [Wisdom Panel Breed Identification](#)

## Cat's Corner

### *Happy Tail ~ Ashley and Ogi*

By Katie Drenth

Ashley Marie came into KAR as a two-year-old stray. Her initial timidity around new people and places caused her to be overlooked, especially with all of the younger kittens the rescue was flooded with during the summer months. Fortunately when her adopter saw Ashley, she knew that she would be perfect for her and was just as sweet and cuddly as her original name, Sweetie Pie, conveyed.



Ashley adapted quickly to her new home and absolutely loves to snuggle with her new mom. "Ashley loves when I pull out her pink fuzzy blanket and she would snooze in my lap for hours if I let her." She is very much a lap cat and loves to lounge around.

### Welcome New Volunteers

- Cheyenne Ryzenga
- Shelly Crandall
- Shane Pierce

Ogi was born in the rescue when a foster home took in a pregnant cat, Peaches, from Animal Services. Peaches gave birth to seven adorable orange-and-white tabby kittens including Ogi shortly thereafter.

It wasn't too long after her adoption that Ashley Marie's mom thought she would benefit from a kitty playmate. That's when her adopter heard about Peaches' kittens, and about a month later, little brother Ogi came to live with them.



At first mature and laidback Ashley wasn't too keen on her new hyperactive little brother. "He certainly frustrated her a lot at first, and I had to break up the sibling rivalry a few times." But now Ashley and Ogi are the best of friends and love curling up together and perching in front of the windows for some bird watching and investigating.

## The Blanketeers

### *Providing Blankets of Love*

Each cat and dog in KAR has a special gift made available to them—a blanket made by loving hands. These hands do not get to know each pet, yet they provide much needed comfort to an animal in transition. The blanket becomes filled with familiar scents during their foster home stay, so that when the cat or dog is adopted these comforting scents go with them to their forever home.



Dorilee has a heart for animals and wanted to help homeless pets in some way. She approached KAR and started making blankets for us in 2007. Initially she "thought of the blankets as a gift for the foster parent and something to call their own. An unexpected and more important outcome was the dog or cat taking the scent of their foster home to their forever home, making the transition much easier for them. This made me realize it was worth doing to an even greater extent."

Now and then, Dorilee has had some help making the blankets as well as obtaining thread, fabric and batting. Kathy Michinock, a long-time KAR volunteer, helped to bring in donated fabric as well as old blankets to use for batting. The blanket sizes made vary based on the fabric that is available but there is something for any sized cat or dog in the rescue.

Just recently, Dorilee passed the milestone of making 1,100 blankets. She considers her eight years of labor "the gift of giving to the animals" and is so appreciative of the opportunity to work with KAR. Truly, we are blessed by the talents she and the other blanketeers give to our dogs and cats, which makes their foster home stay a more comfortable one and makes the transition to a loving permanent home a bit easier.

If you are interested in supporting the blanketeers by donating fabric, batting or thread, please [email us](#). KAR greatly appreciates all this group has done and will continue to do for animals in transition.

### Contact Us

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### Newsletter Team

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[Email us](#) with any newsletter suggestions or questions!

## Special Thanks

A huge thank you goes out to Old National Bank's Oshtemo location and their customers! KAR tied for first place with Animals Best Friend Fund and won \$1,000 due to their customers voting for our charity to win! This money will go towards paying veterinary bills and saving more cats and dogs.



## 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 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.

Visit our [website](#) for more KAR information!

