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KAR Friends ~ March 2016

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Dear Reader;

While I don't think we're all ready to trust that we've seen the last of winter, at least for now we seem to be heading into spring (switching to Daylight Saving Time is a big hint, isn't it?) – cleaning up the doggie offerings in the backyard and wiping kitty nose prints off the windows (and checking to be sure that screens are securely fastened). And, at least in my case, looking for new projects that I can put ahead of spring cleaning, such as new ways to support KAR (see below). We're also coming up to puppy and kitten season, so the articles on dog breeds and socializing cats are particularly timely.

Katie Drenth
Marketing Coordinator

Pat Hollahan
KAR Friends Editor

P.S. And flea and tick season . . . 'nuff said!

2 More Ways To Support KAR

Give a Second Chance to Animals In Need



By Lynn Bolhuis

Last month we provided [12 easy ways to help](#) our rescued cats and dogs. **This month we have two more ways to support the rescue at no cost to you:**



1. ResQwalk – this free app gets you moving and helps homeless animals at the same time. Download the app from the [Apple Store](#) (iPhone) or [Google Play](#) (Android) and select Kalamazoo



Pets of the Month



Read [Jackson's](#) Story



Read [Norman's](#) Story

Upcoming Events

- Mar. 19 & 26; PetSmart
- Apr. 2 & 16; Petco
- Apr. 9; PetSmart
- Apr. 17; MV Pets

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

KAR Links

Animal Rescue as the animal welfare organization you want to support. Start the app before your next walk, run, or bike ride, and then post the distance when you're done. It's a simple way to earn money for our dogs and cats each time you go for a walk.

2. Advia Credit Union – members can support KAR by enrolling in Advia's [Community Advantage Program](#). Credit union members earn points which translate into cash for charitable organizations like us. At least 25 members are needed before KAR (CAP code 1104) can start to earn points. [Click here](#) to enroll. At the end of each year, Advia transfers the points to cash and sends a donation check to Kalamazoo Animal Rescue.

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Doggie Den

Big Dog, Little Dog, Brown Dog, Red Dog



By Kim Bourner

Do you prefer dogs that are big or little, short or long hair, dark or light fur, hunter or couch potato? There are more than 400 breeds recognized by dog registries around the world. Which is right for you?



The American Kennel Club (AKC) lists seven groups of dogs: Herding, Hound, Non-Sporting, Sporting, Terrier, Toy, and Working. Yet they also have lists of dogs by size: small, medium, and large. Lastly, they provide groups of dogs by characteristics: best dogs for apartment dwellers, family dogs, guard dogs, dogs for kids, hypoallergenic dogs, and smartest dogs.

Characteristics of good family dogs include friendly, dignified, intelligent, devoted, and loving. Even-tempered, easygoing, and calm are traits identified for the beagle and pug. Yet for the traditional class of dog, the beagle is part of the hound group and the pug is in the toy group. This is because the characteristics for the type of dog that works well in a home or with children are based mostly on personality. The traditional groups of dogs are based on the working life or use of the dogs.

Here are some of the traits of each group:

- Herding Group – This group was created in 1983; its members (e.g., border collie, corgi) were previously all part of the Working Group. These dogs are naturals at obedience, agility, and herding trials.
- Hound Group – Originally hunting animals, they are divided into sighthounds and scent hounds.
- Non-Sporting Group – Dogs that no longer perform the duties they were bred for originally, such as the bulldog and the poodle. Breeds range in size, activity level, coat, and origin.

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

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- Sporting Group – Developed as hunters for finding, pointing, flushing, holding, and retrieving. These are pointers, setters, and retriever breeds.
- Terrier Group – These breeds come in varied sizes, but all like to chase and catch vermin.
- Toy Group – Dogs that come in a small package, and often have high spirits and strong personalities.
- Working Group – These medium and large breeds are known for their athleticism, strength, courage, and loyalty.

Dog Characteristics for Lifestyles:

- Best Dog Breeds for Apartment Dwellers – No matter what size the dog is, low energy (requiring limited brisk walks), low barking, and politeness when meeting people are desired traits.
- Best Family Dog Breeds – For dogs in this category, it's best to consider your family's lifestyle. Some breeds are friendly, especially patient with kids and other pets. Some are attention-seeking. Some need room to roam or vigorous exercise.
- Best Guard Dog Breeds – These dogs bark to let you know of nearby action. They are loyal, brave, and protective.
- Best Dog Breeds for Kids – Some of these breeds have unlimited patience, and others are endlessly affectionate. Select based on the needs of your family.
- Hypoallergenic Dogs Breeds – While no dog is 100% hypoallergenic, these are breeds that offer nonshedding coats and produce less dander.
- Smartest Dog Breeds – Some are eager to learn while others are eager to please, but both are attentive and easy to train. These breeds need people who are ready and willing to train and practice for a lifetime.

Many of the dogs who come into KAR are mixed breeds, but certain traits stand out in each of the dogs in the rescue. Our foster parents are glad to share what they see in each of our adoptable dogs.

Additional Resources:

- [American Kennel Club](#)
- [Encyclopedia of Dog Breeds](#)
- In addition to breed, [energy level](#) and [age of pet](#) are also important considerations

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Cat's Corner

Antisocial Behavior In Cats

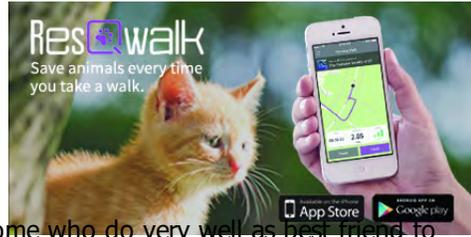


By Karren Jensen

Antisocial behavior in cats is a widespread phenomenon which comes in a couple of different flavors. A cat can exhibit antisocial tendencies toward humans or toward other cats. The roots of these behaviors are varied but can be categorized in general terms. Cats, like people, are individuals

with distinct

personalities. There are cats who just don't like being around other felines but who adore humans. For such solo kitties, a home without other cats is the best option. There are also some who do very well as best friend to another cat but who are not attracted to people. A home with another kitty who gets most of the human attention but can share a strong feline bond with the human-shy cat is ideal for this kind of antisocial cat.



Of course, the most significant cat social problems from the human viewpoint involve cats who just don't warm up to people. Such cats may express their displeasure by hissing, growling, or even lashing out with their claws. They may take a less-aggressive stance and just hide from humans. The root cause of this fear of human contact is based on both genetics and early experiences. Studies of cat personalities have shown that those with a shy or unfriendly father will probably inherit that tendency to reject human interaction. Lack of exposure to humans early in life will also result in an antisocial feline. Such kitties can become friendly with people but require much patience and a long process of social interactions to warm up to their potential human friends. There are many online resources available detailing how to socialize shy or fearful cats if you seek guidance for this process.

An additional consideration which must be mentioned is that a sudden attack of antisocial behavior in a previously friendly cat needs investigation. The best place to start is with your veterinary healthcare provider, who can look for any health issues which might impact your cat's behavior. If the cat is otherwise healthy but suddenly becomes distant or aggressive, look for a traumatic experience that may have driven the cat away. Most kitties enjoy being a cherished companion but nearly every cat must be approached on his or her own terms. Antisocial behavior is just his or her way of saying "I'm afraid of this situation and will defend myself the best way I know how." Patience and understanding go a long way toward solving such problems and earning the love of a furry friend.

Additional Resources:

- [Convert the reclusive cat](#)
- [Socializing cats](#)
- [Make your cat more affectionate](#)

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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 [here](#) for more KAR information!



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