



# KALAMAZOO ANIMAL RESCUE

Phone: (269) 226-8570

## KAR Friends

June 2015

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Dear Reader,

Hooray; summertime is finally here! To start off your summer reading list, our June newsletter lists six of the greatest gifts you can do for your amazing animal companions in *How to be the Best for your Pet*. As pet owners, there's always something new to learn and we hope this article helps you create a happier home for your pets and for you!

We also have two wonderful adoption stories to share—the first is a happy tail about a little dog named Derby who fortunately gained a second chance at a happy life and who's new family often ask themselves, "Who rescued who?" Our second story is a bit of a mystery with a magical ending—a beautiful kitty-cat called Elsa—named fittingly after a character in the popular animated Disney tale, *Frozen*.

Please be sure to share our newsletters with your family and friends.

Danielle Wallis  
Marketing Coordinator

Lynn Bolhuis  
KAR Friends Editor

P.S. It's kitten season and KAR foster volunteers are busy taking care of many unweaned, orphaned kittens. If you should ever find yourself serving as caregiver for bottle baby kittens, these [guidelines providing basic information](#) will help you. The first three topics: warmth, feeding and hygiene are the most important!

## How To Be The Best For Your Pet

By Kim Bourner

Most people I know admit that their pet is the best one ever. The greatest dog, the sweetest cat, the smartest horse ... Do these furry friends deserve the best care possible? Of course!

Here are six of the greatest gifts you can do for your amazing animal companions:

1. **Annual Check-up:** Plan an annual trip together to your preferred local veterinarian. Yearly exams ensure that all systems are working as they should.



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Kalamazoo Animal Rescue • P.O. Box 3295 • Kalamazoo, Michigan 49003

Phone: 269.226.8570 • [www.kalamazooanimalrescue.org](http://www.kalamazooanimalrescue.org)

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### Adoption Events

June 20th and 27th, **Petco**  
June 28th, **MVPets**  
July 11th, **PetSmart**

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

### Welcome New Volunteers

- Tammy Dilling
- Mindy Girolami
- Samantha Melvin
- Jaime Mickel
- Sandy & Corinne Smith

2. **Be Hip and Get the Chip:** Although some cats are strictly supposed to be house-cats and some small dogs are mostly indoors, the unfortunate happens, and they get lost sometimes ... no matter how diligent we've been. With a microchip, this will make your search for your dog or cat much easier. Microchips increase your chances of a joyous reunion, as they can be easily scanned at any vet or shelter.
3. **Indoor Cat and Leashed Dog:** Cats who roam free and dogs who are off leash can encounter many problems that could harm or shorten their life span. Keeping them safe saves you both from heartache.
4. **Balanced Meals:** Although the human food pyramid isn't appropriate for our companions, there are guidelines for nutrition based on size, age, and breed of your multi-legged friend. Following these can make your companion's life not only longer, but more fun to live.
5. **Pet-Proof:** Just as when small children come to my home and I remove all things glass from the living room, there are things we can do to make our homes safe for our cats and dogs. Keep all items that could be ingested either out of reach or behind lock and key. Ribbons and sewing notions can be a temptation to puppies and kittens or even playful adults, so try to clean them up as soon as you're done using them. We've had a cat that can jump six feet straight up without a running start, so consider how high is high enough for your beloved pet.
6. **Know Your Companion:** Identify your cat's daily routine, your dog's eating practices, your feline's litter habits, and your hound's happiness. This knowledge allows you to see when an extra trip to the vet might be in order, or if perhaps the doggie ate your child's toy instead of his food. The quicker you can provide assistance, the quicker your lives should be back to normal.

A happy home is good for both you and your pets. May your home be happy in every way!

### Additional Resources

- [Common mistakes cat owners make](#)
- [Common mistakes dog owners make](#)

## Doggie Den

### Happy Tail ~ Derby Darlin'

By Kim Bourner

It's so important to make a plan for your pets in your will. Derby is an example of what can happen when pets are not included in the will to ensure their future care. Fortunately, Derby's tale has a happy ending, but it was almost not so.



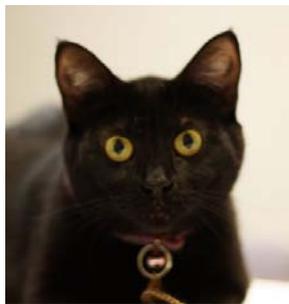
Derby ended up at the local animal shelter when her owner passed away and no relatives were able to take care of her. Fortunately for her, the folks at Animal Services knew Derby was special and stepped in to help save her. A call was made to the rescue, and she was brought in so that we could take the time to find her a fitting forever home.

Derby was adopted by a loving family where she has settled in nicely. She has parents who fenced in a yard for her, where she safely watches birds and squirrels. Derby also enjoys the long walks they take together. Her parents even installed a dog

## Pets of the Month



[Gina](#)



[Layla](#)

## KAR Links

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



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door for her to get into the fenced yard—which she has recently learned how to use. They found a jacket for her so she doesn't get wet on walks. However, if she does get wet, she is towed off and thinks it's a great time for snuggling.

At a veterinarian visit after her adoption, the vet was impressed by her health and spunk for her age. She has had her teeth cleaned, which is not only an improvement for breath and shows off the pearly whites, but good for her heart and overall health.



Derby is now one well-loved dog who has found her forever home. Her new human sister stops by more often to visit, just to have time with the new family pooch. And although Derby's human brother says she's too small to be a real dog, even he is falling in love with her. Her family often ask themselves, "Who rescued who?" She is a blessing to her new family, and her new family is a blessing unto her.

## Cat's Corner

*Happy Tail ~ Elsa The Snow Queen*

By Caitlyn Bodine

While weighing the pros and cons of two final contenders in my search for a kitty companion, I asked for a sign to help me choose. Shortly thereafter, I arrived at the home of one of my piano students for her weekly lesson—a house filled with three little girls under the age of seven, and obviously complete with an assortment of Disney princess paraphernalia. I knew my student, Lauren, would be delighted to hear that I was going to get a cat, and even more delighted to find out one of the two kitties' names was Elsa. When I mentioned the cat's name, the girls and their mom looked at me surprised. "Wait, is she in Kalamazoo Animal Rescue?" Lauren's mom, Kendra, asked. I responded that she was, now also intrigued. "Well, I'm sure there are lots of cats named Elsa," she continued. I replied that there weren't (and I knew because by that point, I'd memorized all the cats' profiles).



Kendra told me the story of a very sweet and beautiful cat that had appeared on her mom's porch in the fall while the home next door was under construction. Lauren's grandma had fed her, loved on her, made a little bed for her in their garage, and let the girls pet and play with her every time they went over to grandma's house to visit. Because Lauren's grandparents had dogs, they weren't able to bring the cat indoors, and when that early November snowstorm threatened, they realized this would probably be the first time this sweet cat would be exposed to the elements. The owners of the house under construction asked work colleagues if they could help this kitty and Tracey volunteered to foster her through KAR. Before kitty was taken to her foster home all the family collaborated to come up with her name—Elsa, the frozen kitty. She was warm and loved and cared for in her foster home, but still waited for her forever home. Lauren and her family checked the website regularly and had been discouraged to see the weeks go by without Elsa being adopted.

Could it be the same cat? Among all the rescued cats in Kalamazoo, surely it was not possible. But when Kendra scrolled through photos on her phone of the girls playing with the beautiful snowy kitty outside their grandma's house, it was the same Elsa.

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"Get Elsa, Miss Caitlyn. Now we'll get to know what happened to her!" Lauren squealed.



How could I not, with a sign as clear as that? And so my new roommate, Elsa, the Snow Queen, moved in a few months ago, and has been getting used to her home with me. She spends her days regally watching the birds from her window sill "throne," and graciously hops down to greet all our visitors at the door, purring immediately when anyone stoops to stroke her. She follows me from room to room, supervising all my activities, brainstorming how to handle those pesky squirrels that seem to have no sense of propriety or decorum, and altogether living the life of luxury that she was meant to live all along!

## 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!



### Newsletter Team

- Lynn Bolhuis, Editor
- Kim Bourner
- Andrew Domino
- Katie Drenth
- Kara Harmsen
- Karren Jensen
- Emily Pizza
- Kristina Ramsdell
- Anna Versalle
- Maria Violante
- Danielle Wallis

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

### Contact Us

Kalamazoo Animal Rescue  
 P.O. Box 3295  
 Kalamazoo, MI 49003  
**(269) 226-8570**