



KALAMAZOO ANIMAL RESCUE

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KAR Friends

August 2014

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Dear Reader,

As we enjoy the final days of summer, there's plenty of time left for fun summer reading, whether you are dwelling at the beach or cozying up on a rainy day with a child. We are pleased to highlight several wonderful books about or featuring animals for your reading enjoyment. Likely your furry friends have been enjoying their naps in the sunshine and may be cuddling up alongside you while you read.

Also in this issue, we shine the animal spotlight on Molly, a dear sweet cat looking for the purr-fect forever home. We have a terrific and quite humorous happy tail on Mugsy in Doggie Den, and feline lovers can check a review of the Warriors book series in Cat's Corner.

As always don't forget to check out upcoming events in this issue or on the KAR website!

Danielle Wallis
KAR President

Summer Reading

Book Reviews and Suggestions for Animal Lovers

By Kim Bourner

There are so many good books to read. If you are an animal lover and enjoy stories about cats or dogs, fiction or non-fiction, then we have some suggestions for your reading pleasure—there is something for everyone!



True Stories with Pets

A Street Cat Named Bob by James Bowen is about a cat who saved a man's life. Bob is not your average cat (at least not in my home). He not only learns tricks easily, but he is completely and utterly devoted to his caregiver James. This book shares their story of healing and adventures on the street together.

Paw Prints in the Moonlight by Denis O'Connor is about the first year of Toby's life with Denis. Denis takes us through the traumatic circumstances in which he found

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Toby, learning to care for a bottle baby (he could learn a lesson or two from KAR bottle-baby fosters), the worries of letting a cat outside, and so much more. You'll just have to read it to get the rest of the story.

My Life with George by Judith Summers is about the life and times of George. Judith was a widow with a young son, and she thought they'd get a dog and heal together. George was a bit more complicated than that. Check it out at your local library to find out how life with George turns out.

Bliss to You by Trixie Koontz is about the author Dean Koontz's dog after she has passed from this earth. She shared from Heaven the stories she needed Dean to share with the world. She is quite a wise hound, and I try to follow some of her sage advice.

Shelter Dogs by Peg Kehret is a children's book but will be enjoyed by all dog lovers. There are eight stories of shelter dogs who have seen heartache, endured illness or abandonment, and then became the heart of a family and went on to do amazing things.

Mystery Kitties

The Cat Who series by Lilian Jackson Braun recaps the adventures of Jim Qwilleran and his cats, Koko and Yum Yum. It takes place in northeast central United States. Jim was a newspaper writer but came into a windfall. His kitties help him solve various crimes around town.

Temple Barr and Midnight Louie are the stars of Carole Nelson Douglas' series taking place in Las Vegas, Nevada. They live in an old retro apartment building with a festive group of neighbors. Midnight Louie writes every few chapters to keep Temple on the right track.

Mrs. Murphy, a tabby cat, and Mary Minor Haristeen, a postmistress, share the spotlight of Rita Mae Brown's mysteries with Tucker (a corgi) and Pewter (a chunky cat) where crime solving is involved. Crozet, Virginia is a small town, but there's plenty of action going on in this rural setting.

Laura Levine writes the Jaine Austen series with Prozac. Ms. Prozac isn't quite as helpful as some other kitty mystery solvers, but with a name like Prozac, the humor is present and accounted for.

Mystery Hounds

Susan Conant writes about Holly Winter and her menagerie of dogs. Holly is a dog trainer and writes a dog column for magazines. She also dates a veterinarian. What better help when there is trouble in a house full of hounds? These books are filled with countless facts about dogs, training tips, and hot topics in the dog world.



Lee Charles Kelley has a series of books with character Jack Field, a retired NYPD detective. He runs a kennel in Maine and provides much factual information on caring for dogs throughout their lifetime. Listening to the dog's behavior is key in solving crimes.

Chet is the faithful companion of Bernie Little, a private investigator. Peter Abrahams wrote the Chet and Bernie Mystery series using the pen name, Spencer Quinn. Chet tells part of the story from his perspective. Chet and Bernie are a great team and they always get the bad guy.

Pets of the Month



[Tuck](#)



[Portia](#)

Cynthia Baxter is the creator of the Reigning Cats & Dogs series starring Jessica Popper, a mobile veterinarian. She travels to her patients whether dog, cat or horse. She has a house full of pets that need extra TLC, such as a one-eyed Dalmatian, a tailless Westie, and others. She rents a small home from an eccentric elderly actress, dates a private investigator, and must solve every mystery she stumbles upon.

Picture Books for Young Children

By Kara and Kallan (age 4) Harmsen

Spot Loves His Mommy by Eric Hill describes small adventures Spot takes with his Mom. Earlier this year, best-selling children's author Eric Hill passed away. His adorable books are sure to provide laughter and comfort to any young child.

Good Night Spot by Eric Hill helps prepare children for their bedtime with a warm tale of Spot.

Tails are not for Pulling by Elizabeth Verdick is a fun book illustrating ways for children to learn how to positively treat their pets.

Animal Spotlight

Sweet Molly

By Lynn Bolhuis

Molly came into KAR in early June. She is approximately five-years old and had been abandoned at an apartment complex when her owners moved away. This lovely lady is a wonderful cat that thoroughly enjoys cuddling, soaking up loving pets, and then showing her appreciation by being very affectionate in return. "Molly is one of those very sweet cats who never uses her claws and likes to have her ears rubbed," says her foster mom.



In her foster home, Molly has become pals with Chi Chi, a two-year-old Chihuahua, proving that [dogs and cats can be friends](#)! Their relationship began shortly after he entered the rescue in mid June. According to their foster mom, "We three sit on the sofa and I take turns rubbing ears. They love it."

Do you have space in your heart and home for a delightful pet? If you are interested in meeting dear [sweet Molly](#), check out her web page and fill out an application. This

is one cat that has a lot of love to give!



Chi Chi and Molly

Adoption Events



August 30th
September 6th



August 23rd
September 13th

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

Welcome New Volunteers

- Pat Adams
- Margo Mielke
- Gail Mills
- Mindy Mitchell
- Jenny Rodriguez

Doggie Den

Mugsy: No Longer a Lonely Dog

By Kim Bourner

Mugsy came into the rescue from the local animal shelter last April. When Animal Services contacted KAR, they were concerned because he was so frightened in their environment. The staff was finally able to get him out of the cage and, when they did, he gladly sat on laps to cuddle and give kisses. We don't know what Mugsy's life was like before this, but we hope that he will never be that scared again.



Mugsy was adopted into his forever home in May. He has a few roommates and loves them all. Perhaps that love wasn't returned as quickly as he would have liked, but all is well now. Mugsy shares his home with Sadie, a five-year-old Shih Tzu. She is half his size, and yet Mugsy respects her and follows her lead. His is quite well behaved. For example, Sadie takes longer to eat and so Mugsy will wait calmly nearby allowing her to finish. *A gentleman never eats what has not been offered.*

The other companions in the home are feline. They took a bit longer to come around and find their comfort zone, but Mugsy knew they would eventually come to trust him. He also has human housemates who enjoy playing fetch with him. He even has a nice backyard to play in. *A gentleman has patience.*



Mugsy did not know any commands when he came into the rescue, but his foster mom taught him sit and stay. He is quite intelligent, eager to please, and glad to follow the requests of his family. *A gentleman is willing to learn all of his life long.*

After being in his new home for a while, Mugsy and his partner in crime, Sadie, enjoy cuddling together. They also like playing tug of war with stuffed toys. Neither dog wants to harm the toy, but to entertain each other and their caregiver. *A gentleman respects those around him and their property.*

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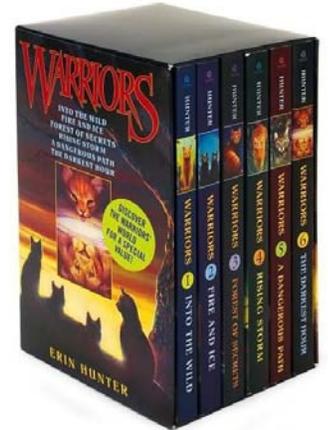
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Cat's Corner

Warriors: Cat Adventure Books

By Karren Jensen

When an adventurous kitten named Rusty decides to explore the forest near his home, a new world of cat culture he never dreamed up opens before him. The Warriors books by Erin Hunter chronicle the world of the clan cats, their freedom from humans, and their code of honor which governs their lives. The Warriors books, with their detailed descriptions of the harrowing lives and struggle to survive in spite of the encroachment of humans into their territory and rivalries among the four clans, paint a sprawling saga of heroes and villains with Rusty, renamed Firepaw, at the center of the stories. Although the books are marketed as children's books, there are numerous adult fans of the series.



The story of the flame colored kitten who earns a place among the fiercely independent clan cats is fascinating in its presentation of detailed characters and a long history of the clans and their warrior code. As Rusty progresses through the progression of warrior training and name changes to mark each stage of his life, he eventually becomes Firestar, the wise and compassionate leader of his adopted clan. Although the wild-born cats see this interloper as somehow inferior with his "kittypet" origins, he proves to be just the leader that was needed to overcome incredible odds so that his clan as well as the other three clans of forest cats survive the challenges of human destruction to their habitat and internal strife among the ambitious cats striving for supremacy.

The dark side of leadership is explored in the evil machinations of Tigerclaw, the ambitious and power hungry cat who tries to conquer all of the clans and unite them under his tyrannical leadership. Tigerclaw's harsh rule nearly destroys the cat clans while his thirst for vengeance ranks with the most sinister villains of human tales and legends. Friendship, love, and self-sacrifice are the powers that eventually overcome all of the evils to be fought but with a terrible price paid by many of the leading characters.

The stories are so beautifully and seamlessly woven together that, although the series has numerous books, you will be sorry to reach the last book. None of the stories or characters ever disappoints by being less than a complex and fully realized personality. There is never gratuitous violence but certainly plenty of drama as Firestar works to try to bring peace and order to all of the clans against great adversity.

A new series, currently being released, tells of the origins of the clans and explains how the warrior code started. This is still a work in progress so you can continue to enjoy the characters while adding new friends to your acquaintance. If you aren't convinced that these books are worth reading, whatever your age, share the first book with a child or grandchild. You might just fall in love with the heroic cats yourself.

* * * * *

Author, Erin Hunter has also written a book series with dogs (Survivors) as the primary characters and another series with bears (Seekers) as the focus. I have only read the cat books but I love the complexity of the characters and situations, which are as good as any story I have read.

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

Special Event Update

The Drake House Adoption Event

On July 19th, KAR attended the 10th year celebration of the Oshtemo Historical Society at the Drake House. Rescue volunteers were on hand with three adoptable dogs. The pups received lots of attention, especially Doatsey who was fortunate to meet his forever family at the event. He went to his new home a week later. Hank and Hercules were the other two dogs in attendance. Hank has been adopted and [Hercules](#) is still looking for a loving, permanent home.



Pat holding Hercules

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!

