

KALAMAZOO ANIMAL RESCUE

IN THIS ISSUE...

- [10th Annual Dinner Auction](#)
- [Behind the Scenes with Holly Herriges](#)
- [Doggie Den ~ Puppy Mills](#)
- [Cat's Corner ~ Best Friends Sanctuary](#)
- [Stray Cat](#)
- [KAR Wish List ~ October](#)

OUR SPONSORS



KAR Friends

October 2009

Dear Reader,

Kalamazoo Animal Rescue's annual dinner and silent auction is November 15, 2009. Details are provided below and we hope you can join us to make this year's event a rousing success!

This month's Doggie Den offers insights into puppy mill operations, while Cat's Corner provides a firsthand account of the rescue work being done at Best Friends animal sanctuary in Utah.

Danielle Wallis
KAR Marketing Coordinator

Lynn Bolhuis
KAR Friends Editor

P.S. We welcome a new *KAR Friends* sponsor, **Oak Ridge Feed!** They are located just west of 9th Street on Stadium Drive in Oshtemo. Oak Ridge Feed specializes in feed, supplies and accessories for all animals. You can view their ad in the left column of *KAR Friends*. Click on the ad to check out their website. Thanks for your support Oak Ridge Feed!

10TH ANNUAL DINNER AUCTION

A Fundraiser to Support Our Furry Friends

Kalamazoo Animal Rescue organizes a silent auction and dinner each year to raise money to support our rescue efforts. **The funds generated from this event are used to defray the costs associated with rescuing dogs and cats, as well as veterinary care and other expenses that arise throughout the year.**



Here are the particulars for this year's extravaganza:

Date: **Sunday, November 15, 2009**

Place: Gull Lake Country Club, 9725 W. Gull Lake Drive, Richland, Michigan (see [map](#))

Time: 3:30-6:30 p.m., Silent Auction ~ 5:30 p.m., Dinner

Cost: \$35 per person (\$20 of which is tax deductible)

Tickets: For reservations, call 269.629.9714 by November 11th

Emcee: Keith Thompson from Channel 3

Entertainment: Bob Schultz, formerly with the Bob Seger System and Doug Decker, a local keyboard artist

Auction: **KAR is still in need of items for the auction!** To see our *wish list*, [click here](#).

We hope you can join us for an evening of fun-filled shopping opportunities, dinner, entertainment and much, much more!

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BEHIND THE SCENES

Volunteer of the Month, Holly Herriges

Holly is an avid cat lover and rescue supporter. On May 1, 2008 she decided to join Kalamazoo Animal Rescue in the hope she could make a difference in the lives of stray and orphaned cats, and kittens. Holly began her involvement as a foster home for felines. She quickly discovered there were plenty of other areas that also needed her help and expertise, including adoption counselor, answering messages left on our phone line, post-adoption follow up, and volunteer training (helping new volunteers with their orientation).



Holly and her husband, Bob, have fostered almost 100 felines in their home, ranging from orphaned kittens to pregnant cats to older, homeless cats – all of them needing help, TLC and a new home. As a foster family, Holly, like so many others in our organization, opens her heart and home to these animals. She ensures that every cat is cared for as if it were her own, and that each one finds a loving home for the rest of its life.

Holly genuinely feels that by “helping animals you are helping people.” She has seen this time and time again with her adoptions. There is one very special adoption for Hope that stands out in her mind. Hope was adopted by a kind lady who had been through some tough life experiences in the months preceding the adoption. Adopting a cat was something the lady felt compelled to do. When she saw Hope, the lady knew that the cat’s name was much more than a label; it provided her with a chance to move on and feel purpose. This is just one example of how rescuing an animal means more than meets the eye. Every animal and person has a story. “It’s a truly magical experience,” Holly explains, “when a person meets the cat they have been waiting for.”

Holly has helped so many animals in a short span of time. She still opens her doors to other cats in need but more than this, she helps other foster volunteers by matching their cats to great adopters. Adoption counseling is an in depth and difficult role, as volunteers need to gain a good understanding about the reasons applicants are looking to adopt, and what they would be like as pet owners, therefore ensuring that all of our cats go to good homes.

DOGGIE DEN

Puppy Mills

By The Humane Society of the United States



Every year, millions of puppies are mass-produced at puppy mills. Most of these dogs are shipped to pet stores across the country. Many more are sold directly to the public, either through the Internet or newspaper ads. Pet stores are not required to inform their customers that their new dog came from a puppy mill, and classified ads are not obligated to tell potential buyers if the puppies they’re selling were born and raised in dismal conditions.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

**DOGGIE DEN** (continued)

Even though most puppy mills are inspected and licensed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, loopholes in the system allow many mills to get away with poor living conditions for their dogs. The facilities where these puppies are bred are often filthy and overcrowded. Their construction usually consists of a number of small wooden or wire crates and cages that are stacked one on top of the other or cramped side by side. Some of the larger dogs in puppy mills, like those used only for breeding, are barely able to turn around in their tiny cages.

Because the dogs are often underfed and lack proper veterinary care, there are a number of medical issues commonly found in mill dogs, including epilepsy, cataracts, personality disorders, periodontal disease, and mammary tumors. Also, because the dogs receive little in the way of human companionship, their social skills are often lacking, making them problematic house pets.

Unfortunately, the shocking level of neglect and carelessness in puppy mills goes on mostly unhindered. The plight of mill dogs has yet to be resolved.

Resources About Puppy Mills:

- [Last Chance for Animals](#)
- [The Human Society of the United States](#)
- [North Shore Animal League America](#)

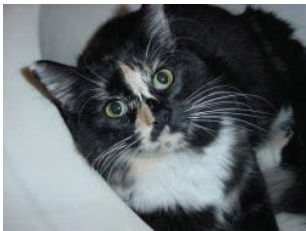
North Shore Animal League America, the world's largest animal rescue and adoption organization, has rescued, rehabilitated and found permanent homes for many victims of these cruel puppy mills, and offers a free [Puppy Mill Behavior Profile and Pet Rehabilitation Guide](#).

The Truth About Puppy Mills

Puppy mills thrive because they exist out of the public eye. Though they are legal, it's a breeding factory for puppies that has been the cause of many behavior and medical problems. Learn more about the undercover world of puppy mills.

- Puppy mills are factory-like facilities that produce large numbers of purebred puppies.
- Puppy mills use the Internet and newspaper ads to sell directly to the public, as well as selling their puppies through pet stores.
- According to The [Humane Society of the United States](#), exhaustive documentation on the problems surrounding puppy mills include the following: "overbreeding, inbreeding, minimal veterinary care, poor quality of food and shelter, lack of human socialization, overcrowded cages and the killing of unwanted animals."
- Buying a dog from a puppy mill, either directly or indirectly, may likely lead to having an animal that will need urgent veterinary care or caring for whatever genetic diseases the animal may be carrying. These symptoms may not surface for several years into the animal's life.
- The greatest victims in the puppy mill problem are the breeding parents, because they will live their life in that cage and it generally ends fairly brutally.
- There are about one to two hundred thousand dogs in puppy mills at any given time in the United States.

PETS OF THE MONTH

ButtonsLittle C

See all of our adoptable [Kittens](#), [Cats](#) and [Dogs](#)!

DOGGIE DEN (continued)

- All breeds of dogs are at risk of being bred in a puppy mill; even larger ones like Saint Bernards.
- It's common to see chronic infection in puppy mills, such as chronic eye infections, chronic ear infections that lead to blindness and deafness. Dental disease is also huge problem.

Additional Resources:

- [How to avoid adopting from a puppy mill](#)
- [Puppy buying tips](#)
- [Get more information and watch videos](#) with Cesar Millan.

CAT'S CORNER

Best Friends Sanctuary

By Lydia Roth

I recently visited Best Friends animal sanctuary in Kanab, Utah where I spent several days volunteering and helping with the animals, particularly cats. You can read more about my daily experiences and view the photos of this adventure at [my website](#).



Best Friends was founded in 1984 and operates the largest sanctuary for domestic animals in the United States. A variety of animals, mostly cats and dogs, come to the sanctuary from across the U.S., and sometimes from around the world. Animals arrive injured, abused or as part of emergency rescue operations. All animals there are guaranteed a place where they can live out their natural lives until they are adopted into a forever home of their own. You can visit their website at www.bestfriends.org.

In the 1980s, roughly 17 million cats and dogs were euthanized in shelters across the country. Thanks to organizations such as Best Friends, Kalamazoo Animal Rescue and many others like them, this number has dropped to around 5 million. While this number is still way too high, progress is made for every animal that is fixed and adopted into a forever home. For more information about what you can do to make a difference for animals in our community, please visit [KAR's website](#).

KAR LINKS

- [VOLUNTEER](#)
- Become a [FOSTER FAMILY](#)
- [Senior Cat Companions](#)
- KAR [Website](#)



Make a [DONATION!](#)

CONTACT US

Kalamazoo Animal
Rescue

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Kalamazoo, MI 49003

Phone: (269) 226-8570

Visit our [website](#)

[Questions or suggestions](#) for the newsletter?

STRAY CAT

By Francis Witham

Oh, what unhappy twist of fate
Has brought you homeless to my gate?
The gate where once another stood
To beg for shelter, warmth, and food
For from that day I ceased to be
The master of my destiny.

While he, with purr and velvet paw
Became within my house the law.
He scratched the furniture and shed
And claimed the middle of my bed.

He ruled in arrogance and pride
And broke my heart the day he died.
So if you really think, oh Cat,
I'd willingly relive all that
Because you come forlorn and thin
Well...don't just stand there...Come on in!

KAR WISH LIST ~ OCTOBER

If you can help or know someone who might like to help, Kalamazoo Animal Rescue is in need of the following items:

- Gently used cat carriers, any size
- Top-loading cat carriers (\$35 new)
- Gently used dog crates, any size
- 36-inch long, wire dog crates (\$75 new)
- 42-inch long, wire dog crates (\$90 new)



If you are interested in donating a *wish list* item, please bring it to one of our [adoption events](#). KAR also welcomes monetary [donations](#) that will allow us to purchase these items.

About Us

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

KAR is dedicated to providing refuge to homeless, stray and abandoned cats and dogs in Southwest Michigan.

Our volunteers give their time and energy to the efforts of rescuing animals and helping them to find permanent homes.