

Cats and Dogs

A MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO COMPANION ANIMALS



Dick and Penny Mercer – Page 5



Olaf and Annie
Furry Philosophy – Page 19



Lisa Lohman – Belly Dancer Raises Funds for
Local Animal Rescue Groups – Page 16



Nabisco needs a home.
Bunnies-R-Us – Page 4

Summer 2024

FREE



Heaven at Home
Pet Hospice

& AFTERCARE CENTER

Water Cremation & Memorials

Creating Peaceful Passings & Loving Memories

END OF LIFE CARE

- Quality of Life Assessments
- Palliative Care
& Pain Mgmt

HOME EUTHANASIA

- Peaceful Passings
at Home
- IAAHPC Certified

AFTERCARE SERVICES

- Water-based Cremation
- Memorial Services
- Memorial Gifts

"The best service
available to pet
parents...at home,
surrounded
by loved ones.
So peaceful and content."

Google
Reviews ★★★★★

www.PetHospiceVet.com | (616) 498-1316

CONTENTS

Animals For Adoption

West Michigan Ferret Connection	7
Cannonsville Critters	8
Big Lake Humane Society	12
Reuben's Room Cat Rescue	14
Community Cat Crew	18
Second Chance Cats	23



Kitty Needs a Home
Pet Tales Rescue
Page 4

Almost Every Month

Rescue Tidbits	4
Mewsings	10
Furry Philosophy	19
Community Resource Guide	21
Training Tips	22

Features

Dick and Penny Mercer	5
Grief Support Groups	9
Distance Healing	15
Belly Dancer Raises Funds	16
Keep Your Pet Healthy for Free	20



West Michigan Ferret
Connection
Pages 4 & 7

Cats and Dogs

PO Box 996, Jenison, MI 49429-0996

616-777-0645

catsanddogsmagazine@comcast.net

www.catsanddogsmagazine.com

Cats and Dogs, founded in 2006, is a free publication supported by advertisers. Magazines are distributed throughout Kent, Ottawa, Muskegon and surrounding counties. We are not responsible for services and products advertised. All rights reserved. No part of this magazine may be reproduced without permission from the publisher.

Publisher: Janet Vormittag
Owner: JLV Enterprises LLC

Deadlines

Spring: Feb. 10 - Summer: May 10
Fall: August 10 - Winter: Nov. 10

Home delivery of *Cats and Dogs* is \$16 per year. Make your check payable to Cats and Dogs and mail to:

Cats and Dogs, P.O. Box 996, Jenison, MI 49429-0996

Advertising information:

616-777-0645 - catsanddogsmagazine@comcast.net

Rescue Tidbits



West Michigan Ferret Connection:

Did you know ferrets were depicted in Egyptian artwork, which may date from as early as early as 1400 to 1200 BC?

The Lady with an Ermine is a portrait painting widely attributed to the Italian Renaissance artist Leonardo da Vinci. Dated to c. 1489–1491. Queen Victoria (1891-1901) purportedly gave ferrets as gifts to visiting heads of state.

The West Michigan Ferret Connection is a 501c3 non-profit charity and donations are appreciated. Visit our website at www.westmichiganferretconnection.com or email at wmfc201@att.net. Visit the West Michigan Ferret Connection on Facebook.

Pleasant Hearts Pet Food Pantry: FREE MICROCHIP CLINICS! Open to all—clients and our community! Microchips will be no-cost to the pet owner. Donations of any amount are appreciated but absolutely not necessary. This clinic is first come, first served for two hours: 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. No appointment needed.

May 19 — Microchip Clinic at Vista Charter Academy, 711 32nd St SE, Wyoming

July 21 — Microchip Clinic at Rapid Fire Protection Inc.'s old location/Fence Consultants of West Michigan's parking lot - 1000 Muskegon Ave NW, Grand Rapids

Sept. 15 — Microchip Clinic at Rapid Fire Protection's new location, 8274 Alpine Ave NW, Sparta

Want to SPONSOR A CHIP? Your donation of \$5 covers one pet to be microchipped. These clinics are NOT for breeders or rescues. We reserve the right to turn away or accept any pets. www.pleasantheartspetfoodpantry.org



Pet Tales Rescue: Meet Kitty! She is a loving, affectionate 5-year-old cat. She is a perfect mix of independent and friendly. She is the perfect one-on-one cat and thoroughly enjoys being the center of attention. Any visitor that comes over is immediately greeted by Kitty with purrs, asking to be held, and meowing for attention. As

you are working from home or watching TV, Kitty will be within a few feet of you sleeping and enjoying your presence. After her fill of attention, she will be found lounging in a sun beam or sleeping in a comfy spot. Contact us at PetTalesRescueBoard@gmail.com or www.PetTalesRescue.com.

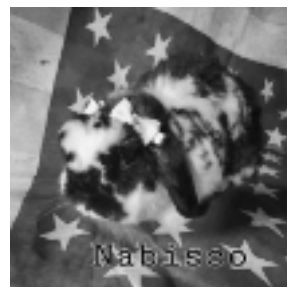
BestPals Animal Rescue Center: A great start in 2024! We received a generous grant from MDARD for spay/neuter. These funds will help us take in more cats and dogs. BestPals received the Holland Community Choice Award for the best non-profit organization for the 8th straight year. Thanks to our community for making

this happen! Crazy Horse Steakhouse honored BestPals for a Fundraiser on April 30. It was a huge success. Thanks to the Crazy Horse staff and our friends who came to our event. View our Facebook page and website. Hops on 84 East in Holland will support us in June for their Community Pizza month!

C-SNIP: Summer is here and C-SNIP wants to remind pet families that now is the time to schedule your pets for their annual vaccinations and wellness visits. Make sure your furry family members are up to date on their vaccines, heart worm tests, preventatives, and have been spayed/neutered. You can get more information about our services and request your pet's appointment at our website, www.csnip.org If you don't need our veterinary services, you can help someone who does by making a donation at our website to support our nonprofit veterinary care.

Scarlett's Cat Sanctuary & Furry Friends Pet Recovery has embarked on a transformative mission within our community. We recently rescued and relocated over 110 cats and kittens from a sudden hoarding situation, many of whom were in poor health. We urgently treated over 10 cats for medical and dental issues, each costing \$1,500+. Through trap-neuter-return (TNR) initiatives, we're ensuring a better future while tackling overpopulation. However, our rescues are full, emphasizing the critical need for spaying and neutering services. Your support can prevent further suffering. Join us in shaping a brighter tomorrow for these furry companions. Donate via Venmo @ScarlettsCatSanctuary or PayPal scarlettscatsanctuary@gmail.com.

Faithful to Felines: Looking to add a feline companion to your home? Look no further. We have them in all color varieties and personalities. Are you looking for a cat that minds its own business or one that is up in your business? Shy, outgoing, or somewhere in between, your new best friend is here waiting for you. www.faithful2felines.com — Info@faithful2felines.com — 231-773-3030.



Bunnies-R-Us: Summer is approaching fast. Everyone wants to adopt a bunny but then summer is here and now it's time for a vacation. As a rescue we do offer boarding. We will take care of your precious baby while you are away. Don't let that stop you from adopting a rescue who needs a home. So many

bunnies go to the streets because life gets in the way and you don't know how to care for them while you are away. We offer more than adopting. We provide boarding, nail and teeth trimming, we have items for sale all the time and we do help re-home your bunny if that is your last resort. Contact us for details, we can help in more ways than a normal rescue. bunniesrusrabbitry.com

Dick And Penny

By Lisa Clark

I was honored when Janet asked me to write a synopsis of Dick and Penny Mercer but also thought, "Where do I start?"

So, I'll begin by saying that sadly Dick Mercer, an animal advocate, passed away in June of 2006. He's been sorely missed by many since then. His wife Penny Mercer also had a passion for animal rights/welfare and she left this earth in January of 2023. They both wanted their estate to help animals. This includes sponsoring two local rescue groups in six issues of the *Cats and Dogs Magazine*.

One of my early memories of Dick is when he bought software for Kentwood Public Schools to save frogs from dissection. He'd attend school board meetings to try and convince them to quit wasting his tax dollars on buying frogs. They agreed and the new software was put to use.

I first met Dick in the early-to-mid '90s. I had become a member of the Board of Directors of the Humane Society of Kent County and his name came up often. I was their corresponding secretary. This meant each month I wrote seven or eight letters about the plight of animals. They often focused on various pending legislation and trying to get animal protection laws passed. Among the many issues covered could be outlawing puppy mills, fur farms, animal testing, and live traps that a domestic animal could get caught in and cause great pain.

Dick was a true force to be reckoned with. He avidly followed the news and any animal cruelty case that was covered in the media he soon followed on his radar and would report to me. (In case I missed it.)

For example, one case was regarding a cruelty charge of a horse being left to starve because the owner neglected to feed the poor animal. I would often get phone calls from Dick and he would keep me apprised of these situations. These calls occurred at least weekly. I was always thankful he was out there fighting the good fight.

He not only did that but would attend the hearing, if held, and possibly also write a letter to the judge encouraging a stiff sentence to deter others. I agreed with his philosophy wholeheartedly and we became great pals.

I'd write a letter on behalf of the humane society and they would begin with, "I am writing on behalf of the Humane Society of Kent County and we have approximately 10,000 supporters."

Another area that Dick was active in was picketing events. This included rodeos, circuses and anti-fur events. Dick more than once told me, "I feel sorry for you, you're young, and getting into the animal rights movement is like stepping into quicksand, it's never ending; it will affect your whole life."

He certainly was right.

Penny, too, was involved in the picketing events, but she kept a quieter tone and would often have to rein Dick in at these demonstrations. He'd tell a circus attendee that the circus should have gone out with the outhouse! He was right. The literature that we distributed would highlight the awful traveling conditions endured by the



Dick and Penny Mercer

animals, the lack of food and water along the way, the chained confinement in heat and cold. Too much to even imagine. But as long as people attended and bought tickets this deplorable form of entertainment would continue.

Dick and Penny were also part of the group who founded C-SNIP, a low-cost spay/neuter clinic in West Michigan.

Another major interest of Penny's was recycling. She was passionate about this right up to the end. At Heather Hills she would collect small cups and plates and make sure someone took them to be recycled. She educated others on the importance of recycling. She was like Dick, not afraid to speak up.

Some people are just born with a passion for helping animals. They care about people and their human frailties, too. To be an advocate for animals does not preclude one from caring about the human condition. I've often heard this argument through the years, that if you care about animals you don't care about people. In fact, the opposite is true. If you care about animals you most certainly care about people and the planet. Dick and Penny cared about all of it.

Their memory lives on in the distribution of their estate and its many causes. They fought the good fight together.

Lisa Clark, MA, LLP (formerly Lisa Lamancusa) has been an animal advocate for more than three decades. She is a licensed psychotherapist in the Grand Rapids area and has been working in the therapy field for more than 20 years. She specializes in working with adults who have suffered from childhood trauma. She can be reached at llamancusa@pivotalgr.com.

**Only the BEST
for your best friends!**



nutrition focused foods
house baked dog treats
unique toys & accessories
wellness supplements
grooming supplies
knowledgeable staff






 @YourPetsNaturallyGR
 ypnGR.com




6439 28th Street in Cascade (by D&W)
VOTED GRAND RAPIDS' #1 PET STORE!

It's not easy saying goodbye.

NOAH'S
Pet Cemetery & Crematory

At Noah's Pet Cemetery & Pet Crematory we strive to honor you and your pet with the most personal, compassionate, and courteous service available.

2727 Orange Ave. S.E. Grand Rapids | 616-949-1390 | www.noahspetcrematory.com



Laketown
Cat Hospital



*“Compassionate Care
for all Cats.”*

Dedicated and compassionate care for your furry family member is our top priority. In a quiet and feline friendly environment we provide:

- * Internal medicine
- * Ultrasound and X-ray
- * Dentistry and oral surgery
- * Ophthalmologic surgery
- * Feline boarding
- * Routine vaccinations and examinations
- * Behavioral consultation
- * In-house and reference blood work and more

**Stop in and visit us at 3604 64th St., Saugatuck, Michigan or
call us at 269-455-5056 to schedule an appointment.**

www.laketowncathospital.com



SUMMERTIME TIP FOR FERRET OWNERS

Ferrets are burrowing animals and they like their surroundings cool and dark. Ferrets cannot sweat and their body is not designed to cool itself down. They can dehydrate quickly and develop heat stroke in temps over 80 degrees. Keep this in mind this summer. Signs of heatstroke: lying on the floor, drooling, vomiting, excessive panting, open mouth, salivation, wet mouth, mucus from the nose, lethargy, red footpads, seizures. Dipping your ferret in water is a bad idea. Use a cool wet washcloth (not cold) and apply to the body, starting with the tail area and footpads.

(source: www.ferretproblems.com)



Advocating for ferrets in Michigan since 2001.
Facebook: West Michigan Ferret Connection
Website: www.westmichiganferretconnection.com
Email: wmfc2001@att.net
Phone: 616-447-2978



INTERESTED IN ADOPTING?

Efforts to select a potential owner committed to providing a permanent home is the highest priority and taken very seriously. The West Michigan Ferret Connection retains the right to refuse adoption to anyone for any reason.

The WMFC does not adopt to anyone under the age of 21.

The WMFC does not adopt to renters.

The WMFC does not adopt to households with children under 12 years of age.

A special thanks to Noah's Pet Cemetery & Crematory for sponsoring our page.

Cremation With Dignity and Compassion

Private Cremation • Semi-Private Cremation • Communal Cremation • Equine Cremation

PRIVATE BURIAL • NATURAL BURIAL • CREMATION BURIAL



Bowing West Michigan
After Hours Service Available

616-949-1390 or 800-748-0184



~ Established in 1978 ~

2727 Orange Ave. S.E. | Grand Rapids, MI 49546 | www.noahspetcemetery.com | noahspc@comcast.net



SUMMER NEWSLETTER

Cannonsville Critters
Adoption For
Kitties & Cats
2024



The Critters have purchased a corn crib and assembly is in process for a playful cat crib patio Mr H is working hard to get this assembled.



Stay tuned this is what the crib will look like put together ...



Thank you to everyone who voted for us !

We could not do what we do without your support and we appreciate all of you.

Greenville Daily News

BEST NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION



RCA WINNER



Cannonsville Critters



The corn crib patio will have part of a tree inside it.



The tree will be shortened and there will be a tunnel from the rescue building..



Cannonsville Critters
PO Box 94, Stanton, MI 48888
cannonsvillecritters@yahoo.com

Made with PosterMyWall.com

Non Profit Organization - Pet Adoption Service 989-287-2553

The Alchemy of Animal Companion Loss Grief Support Groups

By Rev. Ginny Mikita, Animal Chaplain

Last night I met again with five weary souls, all of whom are grieving the loss of a beloved animal companion, just as I have done every month for almost 13 years.

Three were grieving the loss of two dogs within a short span of time. Two were grieving the loss of a cat—one who died six months ago and one who died over one year ago.

After hugging each person upon arrival (with permission), I invited them to find a seat in the cozy room designed by my dear friend, Laurie Brush, DVM, and her husband for just this reason. Framed by barn beams, there is a comfy couch with pillows, other chairs, a coffee table, even a fireplace, the room ensconced with candle groupings.

Several years ago, Laurie saw a need to provide in-home hospice and euthanasia service to animal companions and birthed Heaven at Home. Euthanasia derives from the Greek words “eu” (good) and “thanatos” (death). The Grief Group is part of Heaven at Home’s Aftercare Program. And while many who attend the Group used the services of Heaven at Home, the Group is open to anyone in the community who is grieving the loss of an animal companion.

As I do each month, I introduced myself and how I came to be facilitating this gathering in this place at this time. While all five attendees last night had RSVP’d, the door is open to anyone who arrives—with or without notice. I ask for RSVPs to provide an approximate number to the gracious staff at Heaven at Home who prepare the room. Those who show up are meant to be together. Last night three individuals had lost two dogs, the gap between each loss being almost identical. This is part of the alchemy.

We began with a centering moment—deep breaths, gently landing in this time and space—followed by a reading. I bookend our time together with poetry, blessings, short prose and other readings. Last night I read a blessing from Kate Bowler’s new book, “Have a Beautiful Terrible Day!” entitled “when you are in pain.”

This is a secular gathering, but faith and the afterlife often come up in conversation. I am an interfaith, interspecies minister and my particular faith as an expansive Christian grounds me (something I share with each Group). If I am reading a blessing that names God, I generally refer to God as Love.

Next, I ask if there is anyone who would be willing to share about for whom and why they came. The sharings often include photographs (last night, someone brought a calendar she had made using special photos of her beloved cat of 18 years), when someone’s animal companion graced their lives, the origins of their animals’ names, a funny remembrance and when and how their beloved died.

Sharing details surrounding the deaths I have found are a critical component to grappling with the reality of

and subsequent anguish. There are usually questions and, more often than not, those questions are framed by guilt. Why didn’t I notice signs or get a second opinion? Did I euthanize my animal too soon or wait too long?

When each person has had an opportunity to share, I invite further conversation among participants. As an aside, I have had people tell me they will not be able to speak (this has never happened) or provide support to anyone else. The Group’s care and nurture creates a safe space into which words of even those who do not feel they can, do. Bearing witness or with-ness as author Sharon Brous writes is, in many ways, the most healing support we can offer one another.

Last month, I began an on-line Group. It is open to anyone, anywhere. The first two gatherings included people from Oregon to New York, Michigan to Mississippi. If you or someone you know would prefer the on-line meeting, the link can be found by searching Ginny Mikita at findanimalchaplain.com.

Both the in-person and on-line Groups are free; however, donations are much appreciated.

I believe in the alchemy—the sacred power—of support groups. I bear witness to it each month, year after year, and am eternally grateful to those you trust their souls to one another.

Please contact me for more information about either group at ginnymikita64@gmail.com.



Rev. Ginny Mikita, JD
(she/her)

www.animalblessings.love

gabby@animalblessings.love

Facilitator

West Michigan Companion Animal
Loss Grief Support Group

2nd Tuesday of each month, 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Heaven at Home

1530 Monroe NW, Grand Rapids, MI

Please RSVP, text or call 616.460.0737
before noon on the day of the gathering.

Mewsings

A Last Chapter Without You

By Kristina VanOss



My veterinarian and I recently had a discussion regarding euthanasia. He told me he was at peace with providing freedom from suffering, but that it was extremely hard to euthanize an animal who might otherwise be healed or rehomed. Those requests often came from a dying owner.

That conversation came only days before I headed to North Carolina where I would end up spending a month providing care and companionship to a dear friend dying of cancer. Nancy lived alone except for her 13-year-old Labrador, Zane. Even before her diagnosis the 80-pound hulk had been fiercely protective of her, but the illness had magnified his behavior to a level that was downright obnoxious to anyone visiting the home, even me.

Zane barked at everything that moved, inside or outside within his view from the couch on which he spent most of his days snuggled up next to my friend. He was reluctant to go outside for potty breaks. He stalked guests and nursing staff, often growling and blocking them from approaching her.

I knew he was only doing his job as he saw it. Though even during better times, I was never confident that he wouldn't bite me if he thought I deserved it. Nancy swore he was a really sweet dog, but it would take me almost to Nancy's death to see it.

My friend had asked me years ago if I would be her animals' guardian. I agreed, even though at the time she had three large dogs and a cat. It was a promise I never imagined I would need to follow through on. After all, Nancy was healthy at the time and only a few years older than me. I expected she would outlive every one of her pets.

In that last month of Nancy's life, we had many heartfelt conversations. Zane was her biggest dilemma. He showed his age. Overweight and sedentary, he often moved stiffly and, like most elderly creatures, he was set in his ways.

What scared her most was that she was Zane's entire universe. The idea of her beloved dog being lost without her made Nancy contemplate euthanizing Zane while she still had the strength to sit beside him and be the last thing he saw in life. I understood, but I was more concerned about her mental well-being if she had to experience her own end without him. I talked her out of it.

Fortunately, my friend's brother, David, in Michigan offered to take Zane if I could bring him back with me. The option came with some concerns, namely a young St. Bernard in the home who had substantial bulk and boundless energy. Zane had never met his prospective new owner and he was already suspicious of men. It would be a big adjustment for an old dog. I reached out to friends for a back-up plan if we needed one.

Despite Nancy's wish to die at home, it became medically necessary for her to be moved to a facility the last two weeks of her life. This meant her loyal dog was left alone in the house most of the time. Very abruptly they would never see each other again.

The change in that old dog was almost immediate. Yes, I could see that he was bewildered, but to my surprise he did not seem depressed. He stopped his incessant barking and defensive behavior. He actually acted glad to see me. I know the dog loved my friend desperately. Yet, I think Zane was relieved that his work was done. The dog, like so many human caregivers, was burned out and tired. He had given Nancy all he had left to give during her arduous three-year battle.

Nancy lived just long enough to receive the news that Zane was acclimating well to his new home. It gave her the peace she needed to let go.

I continue to receive occasional updates from David in the form of pictures and videos. Zane has an amazing new life that exceeds everyone's expectations. With his new young companion, he is experiencing a second puppyhood that defies his real age. He is in shape and experiencing unbridled joy for the first time in a long time. My guess is that he has stopped missing Nancy. I wish I could say the same.

When it comes to your end-of-life plans, include a better plan for your pet. Euthanasia should be the last option, not the first. While not all transitions may go as smoothly as this one did, every pet deserves a chance for a last chapter without you. It might even be a great one.

Kristina VanOss is an artist, writer and life-long animal lover and advocate. Her latest endeavors include chronicling her adventures in cat rescue in an upcoming book due to be released later this year.

**Need more
customers, clients or volunteers?**

Advertise in

Cats and Dogs

A Magazine Devoted to Companion Animals

**Reach more than 10,000 people
who care about pets.**

Contact us at:

catsanddogsmagazine@comcast.net

616-777-0645



All Fore The Animals!

CHARITY GOLF

Scramble

TO BENEFIT PET TALES RESCUE



AUGUST 4TH, 2024



9:00 AM SHOTGUN START



\$65
per
player

INCLUDES

18 HOLES W/CART | LUNCH

1ST & 2ND PLACE PRIZES | RAFFLE TICKETS AVAILABLE

TO RESERVE YOUR FOURSOME : pettalesrescueboard@gmail.com

📍 ARROWHEAD GOLF COURSE

This page is sponsored in the memory of Dick and Penny Mercer.



Dick and Penny Mercer were lifelong animal welfare advocates. Dick was a founding member of CSNIP, which strives to prevent pet overpopulation and improve the quality of life for dogs, cats, and their caregivers with accessible, high-quality, reduced-cost veterinary care.

Both Dick and Penny spent many volunteer hours working with animals in need. It was their wish to keep their legacy alive by supporting animals, long after they were gone.

BIG LAKE

HUMANE SOCIETY & COMMUNITY ANIMAL CLINIC



Your Support Matters!

Community support, encompassing donations, volunteers, adopters, and fundraiser event attendance, forms the lifeblood of Big Lake Humane Society's mission to rescue and safeguard the lives of animals in need. Through the generosity of individuals and businesses alike, vital resources are provided, enabling the organization to offer shelter, medical care, and rehabilitation to animals facing adversity.

Together,

this unwavering community support transforms the lives of countless animals, offering them a second chance and a brighter future!

Join us for a sunset cruise fundraiser aboard the Aquastar

SETTING SAIL
AUGUST 6TH | 7PM

Cruise for Rescues

DUE TO SHIP CAPACITY, LIMITED TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE, RESERVE YOUR BOARDING PASS NOW!



Shop

Our new merch store now!



OUR LINKTREE ALLOWS YOU TO NAVIGATE ALL THE WAYS TO SUPPORT US IN ONE PLACE!
BIGLAKEHUMANE.ORG



Losing a true friend is never easy.

If your pet passes away, please call us.

231-722-3721
1409 Peck Street
Muskegon, MI 49441
clocktimepets.com



THANK YOU TO OUR PAGE SPONSOR!



big lake & love petco

VACCINATED & LOVED WALK-IN CLINIC

**FREE PET
VACCINES**

THANKS TO



freepetvaccines.org



BIG LAKE COMMUNITY ANIMAL CLINIC IS HOSTING ANOTHER WALK-IN VACCINE CLINIC BUT THIS TIME, PETCO LOVE FOUNDATION IS SUPPORTING THE EVENT WITH FREE CANINE DHPP AND FELINE HCP VACCINES!

WE ASK THAT YOU KEEP YOUR PETS IN YOUR CAR WHILE YOU CHECK IN AND THEN WE WILL COME GET THEM WHEN READY.

CANINE WALK-IN PRICES

RABIES VACCINE- \$30 (OVER 16 WEEKS OLD)

BORDETELLA VACCINE - \$20

DHPP VACCINE - FREE THANKS TO PETCO!

LYME VACCINE - \$35

LEPTO VACCINE - \$30

HEARTWORM TEST - \$30

4DX HEARTWORM TEST - \$40

(HEARTWORM, LYME, ANAPLASMA AND EHRLICHIA)

FELINE WALK-IN PRICES

RABIES - \$30 (OVER 16 WEEKS OLD)

FELINE FIV/FELV TEST - \$40

HCP VACCINE - FREE THANKS TO PETCO!

CANINE AND FELINE SERVICES

FI MICROCHIP PLACEMENT - \$10

FECAL (MUST BE BROUGHT WITH CLIENT) - \$35



SATURDAY, JUNE 15TH | 10AM-2PM

1827 W. SHERMAN BLVD. MUSKEGON 49441

Reuben's Room Cat Rescue

A 501(c)(3) non-profit, all volunteer, no kill cat rescue.

www.reubensroom.org

catrescuereubensroom@gmail.com

PO Box 140201, Grand Rapids, MI 49514-0201

We have bonded pairs and some single cats waiting to join your loving home!



Trixie & Twinkie - bonded
6 yr. old sister & brother



Bing & Amadeus - bonded
8 yr. old front declawed boys



Penny (top) & Tuff (bottom)
14 yr. old bonded front
declawed sister & brother



Cookie & Cream - bonded
1 yr. old sisters



Akorn – 14 yr. old
front declawed boy



Above: Gabby-4 yr. old girl
Below: Ucey-13 yr. old girl



Lilly–9 yr. old girl

FOSTERS NEEDED
We provide all food, litter,
and vet care. You get the
companionship and the
rewards of knowing you
are helping a cat in need.
Email us today to help!



Distance Healing

By Wendy Coon, LMT

Forget packing your fur baby in the car or battling veterinarian waiting rooms. Imagine soothing your pet's anxieties and easing their aches—all from the comfort of your own home.

While practicing healing techniques with her own pets, Distance Healer Christine Ford, LMT, found she could sense their energy fields even when physically apart. This sparked curiosity, leading her to expand her practice with sending healing energy across distances.

Please note that the effectiveness of distance healing can vary depending on the individual animal and their specific needs. Christine makes no guarantees of any specific outcomes and encourages clients to work with their veterinarian for any diagnosed conditions.

"A lot of this healing work comes with our intuition," Christine says. "The first thing that most people who come to me say is, 'I have this feeling.' That's their intuition telling them to call me."

Christine said that some people make 'well visits' just to confirm that everything is okay.

Olivia

Just as in Olivia's case, a 15-pound senior pup. As Christine began her usual virtual well-visit scan, tuning into Olivia's energy field, she felt restrictions in her left shoulder and minor bumps along Olivia's spine and hips. Her owner confirmed old injuries. At the end of the session, Christine reported that Olivia's body systems were in harmony.

However, just after the call ended, it popped into Christine's head *I forgot the ears*, so she returned to Olivia's energy field. She expected a continued clean bill of health, instead, she found a deep infection that was brewing in Olivia's right ear.

"Olivia's case was a prime example of how distance healing can reveal hidden issues," Christine explains. "While connecting with her energy field, I sensed a blockage—a hot spot of discomfort emanating from her right ear area, even though I had no prior knowledge of her physical condition."

Hesitantly, she redialed and asked Olivia's owner, "Can you lift and smell her right ear?"

The confirmation came in a gasp, "It's awful!"

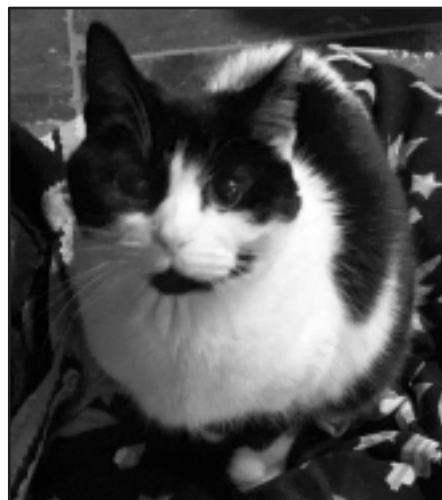
This wasn't a simple case for holistic remedies. With the infection's depth revealed, Christine knew Olivia needed veterinary intervention.

"Later, Olivia's owner told me she had enough antibiotics and Olivia stopped all signs of her ear infection," Christine beamed.

Earl Grey

Earl Grey, an orphaned kitten, had found himself in a new home, but he wouldn't come out from hiding to eat or play if his new humans were around. A couple of days after this behavior Christine was called in.

"The kitten didn't have any trauma to his physical body, just his emotions," Christine revealed.



Distance healing helped Kate's owner figure out second-hand smoke was bothering her.

After one session he was coming out and eating with his new family in the room. He still wouldn't let anyone touch him. After two sessions, he began coming up to his owners as if he wanted to be petted.

"We were absolutely thrilled at the results in just two short sessions," Earl Grey's owners happily told Christine.

Kate

Christine knew something was wrong when a regular client's text simply said, "Kate isn't herself." Stepping into the cat's energy field, she felt a discordant hum, especially around the right eye.

A quick call confirmed her suspicion—they had recent guests who smoked in the house. Environmental stress, both emotional and physical, was making Kate's eye weep excessively. Kate was miserable. So, Christine started her distance healing that included a gentle energy cleansing, harmonizing chakras and clearing meridians.

Her owner was relieved. "She's playing again, and her eye is almost clear. I had no idea how much the smoke affected her!"

Christine also helps with end of life transitions, assisting with the emotions of the animals and their human companions.

Next time your fur baby seems a little off, or you want a 'well check' remember Olivia, Earl Grey and Kate's stories. Trust your gut, listen to your intuition, and contact Christine Ford for distance healing. She is ready with her healing tools and finely tuned intuition for all things furry and fabulous.

Distance Healer Christine Ford, LMT, began her journey in 1978 with Shiatsu, evolving into a multifaceted practitioner with expertise in myofascial techniques, lymphatic systems, Jin Shin Do®, cranial sacral, and pendulum work. energyalignmenthealing.com

Wendy Coon is an entrepreneur, author, speaker and guide. Her businesses are Goddess Healing Room and Global Goddess Network. Her formal education is Clinical Licensed Massage Therapist (2000) and a BS from Grand Valley State University in Hospitality Tourism Management (1992). She is the co-author of *BOD-E-NOMICS; Your Body is Your Business* and *YOU are CEO*. goddesshealingroom.com

Belly Dancer Raises Funds for Local Animal Rescue Groups

By Amy Venlos

Lisa Lanae Edwards Lohman is an animal advocate and a belly dancer. She teaches the art of belly dancing and her group, The Secret Bellydancers, meet three days a week at her store, Lanae's Intimate Apparel, 2376 S Getty St., Muskegon. Part of Lisa's business is a wig shop, and she sells on eBay (under the name *Lisa Lanaes*). Ten percent of her eBay income is donated to the Humane Society of the United States.

In fact, Lisa donates a lot. For several years, she has organized, hosted and participated in three annual fundraisers for animal shelters.

The first annual fundraiser, which was held May 11, was Lisa's 12th annual charity event as part of World Belly Dance Day, when belly dancers come together for a good cause. Her group of dancers used their dancing skills to raise funds for Heaven Can Wait Animal Haven and Faithful to Felines cat shelter. This was held in the brewing room of the Pigeon Hill Brewing Co.

The second annual fundraiser is Pinups for Pups, where participants dress in 1940s and 1950s fashions for a meet and greet in support of Pound Buddies. Anyone can join this event, which will be held at The Dirty Dog Bar and Grille on August 4. A car show is included, which Lisa also organizes. This fundraiser has been going on since 2019. Anyone can enter their car, and people vote with their dollar bills for the best cars in the show. The Dirty Dog's owner donates a trophy for the winner. There are also donated door prizes and a 50/50 raffle that people can win.

The third annual fundraiser is the oldest of Lisa's philanthropic ventures. The 15th Annual Pound Buddies' Dance for Dogs will be held Sept. 14 at The Dirty Dog. This fundraiser returns Lisa and her dancing team to their roots, belly dancing. While all her fund appeals are close to her heart, Lisa counts Pound Buddies as the origin of her animal charitable efforts. She and her husband, Jeff, have volunteered with Pound Buddies since 2004, and they continue to foster and adopt from Pound Buddies.

With three dogs, including an elderly dog, Lisa and Jeff's home is full of canine companionship, so they cannot currently foster more dogs. When they can, they take in Pound Buddies' harder cases. Their old girl, Solar, had been surrendered to Pound Buddies, then was adopted, then returned. Jeff and Lisa's place was her fourth home. Lisa's second dog came from another bad situation. Ducky is black, male, a pit bull, heart worm positive and nervous. He was at Pound Buddies for eight months before Lisa and Jeff brought him home. He's been with them six years and is now an obsessive lover, licking Lisa throughout my interview. Her third dog, Quinn, is heart worm positive. She's a cattle dog, so she tries to herd her people. She had been adopted but it didn't work out with that adopter.

As if all that isn't enough, Lisa participated in some neighborhood TNR, where strays are trapped, neutered or spayed, then returned to their territory. Working with neighbors, and helped by her friend Melody Cassidy, she had a friendly male, a house kitten and a momma and her two kittens all spayed/neutered at C-SNIP. Afterward, Jeff built a cat house for the momma and her kittens. This may be another new venture for Lisa.



Top: Lisa at pinups for pups.

Middle: Lisa and Jeff with their dogs.

Bottom: Lisa and her troupe.

Coming Soon!



**AFFORDABLE
VETERINARY SERVICES**

affordableveterinaryservices1@gmail.com

Coming Soon!

the
**Veterinary
Group**

529 N. Lafayette
Greenville, Michigan 48838

Coming Soon!



**MERCY
VETERINARY COALITION**

mercyveterinarycoalition@gmail.com

BUSINESS CARD DIRECTORY

PARADIGM DOG SCHOOL LLC.
Professional dog training and doggy daycare

Office: 616-796-BARK (2275)
www.paradigmdogschool.com
paradigmnds@gmail.com



NOAH'S
Pet Cemetery & Crematory

616-949-1390

www.noahspetcemetery.com

noahspc@comcast.net

Delivered to your door on Tuesdays



Pet Grass tray

Extra large
5" x 7"
Tray

- Fiber helps stimulate your pets digestive system
- It's a detoxifier that helps to flush toxins
- Contains chlorophyll and folic acid, which assist in the production of hemoglobin, the protein that moves oxygen through their blood.
- It's a great course of vitamins A, E, B3 and B12
- The two tray system that stays fresh for weeks

1st Micro Greenery is West Michigan premier supplier of organic wheatgrass.



**1st Micro
Greenery**
Fresh Living Greens

433 Broadway NW Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Community Cat Crew is a 501c3 Non-Profit Cat Rescue dedicated to TNVR (Trap-Neuter-Vaccinate-Return). CCC focuses on taking in vulnerable cats and kittens to get them adoption ready, while educating the community on the importance of vaccinating and sterilizing.



Admin@CommunityCatCrew.Org CommunityCatCrew.Org 616-885-0831

Pawesome Creators LLC
 3901 Chicago Drive
 Grandville MI Suite 107

A shop where vendors and small businesses sell their own handmade merchandise and give back to Community Cat Crew!

- ★ Community Cat Crew Adoption Room
- ★ Leave a book-Take a book library for kids
- ★ Events with cats!



**UPCOMING
EVENTS**

June 1st - Lowell Pride
 @ Lowell River walk 10:30a-5p

June 9th - Art at the Market
 @ Fulton St. Market 11a-4p

June 21st - Beer Tent
 Food Truck Fridays
 @ North Riverside Park 5p-9p

July 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th
 Food Truck Friday Merchant Village
 @ North Riverside Park 5p-9p

July 14th - Art at the Market
 @ Fulton St. Market 11a-4p

August 11th - Art at the Market
 @ Fulton St. Market 11a-4p

HELP OUR KITTENS GROW!
 FOSTER. ADOPT.
 DONATE. VOLUNTEER.



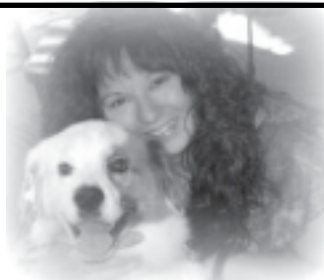
This page is sponsored in the memory of Dick and Penny Mercer.



Dick and Penny Mercer were lifelong animal welfare advocates. Dick was a founding member of CSNIP, which strives to prevent pet overpopulation and improve the quality of life for dogs, cats, and their caregivers with accessible, high-quality, reduced-cost veterinary care.

Both Dick and Penny spent many volunteer hours working with animals in need. It was their wish to keep their legacy alive by supporting animals, long after they were gone.

Furry Philosophy



By Jodi Jarvis -Therrian CPDT-KA CTDI
Certified Pet First-Aid & CPR Instructor
AKC CGC Evaluator

The Sun'll Come Out Tomorrow. ~ Little Orphan Annie

My dog Olaf's sun came out just like Annie's did. He had heart problems when he was transferred from Louisiana where he resided in a poor outdoor shelter to Big Lake Humane in Muskegon. He now lives happily ever after and finds himself in a production of *Annie*. My sweet, amazing rescue has taught me yet another lesson, a rescue dog once discarded can achieve greatness.

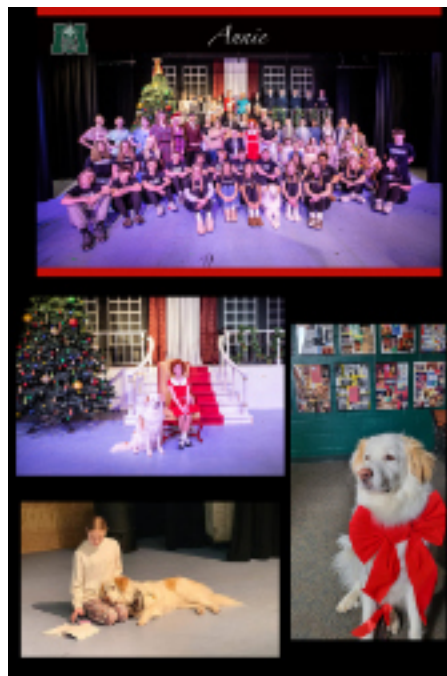
I was very happy when Olaf was asked to play the part of Sandy in the Catholic Central production of *Annie*. This was an amazing experience for both of us. I actually think he went through withdrawals after the play was over, he missed his friends and all the lovin' so much.

When we were approached about doing the play, I wanted to make sure first and foremost that Olaf was comfortable. I thought he would be because I have taken him out to dinner, where bands have been playing, and he rolls on his back with all four feet in the air and falls asleep.

When he was introduced to Lyla, who played Annie in the play, it was an instant friendship. As much as he adored her and put his head on her lap contently, I still had to help Olaf learn how to take cues from someone else besides me. He was used to my body language and it took practice. Was there a time when Olaf saw me peeking in at the back of the theater during a practice, that he took off and ran off stage, down the hall to come say "hi" to his mom? Yes, of course, there were comical times. We celebrated him trying no matter what, everyone was so supportive and kind to him. He loved all those kids! I realized I had to show Annie how to do what I call body blocking. This was to help Olaf realize he was working with Annie right now and to focus on her and he could come see me later. He taught all of us things and we taught him things, as well. I watched him from the monitor backstage to make sure there was no chance of him finding me in the audience and coming to visit. I will admit when he did his first spin successfully, I cried. I was so proud of that boy, who was very timid when I first rescued him, for doing his spin on stage and being such a good boy with the whole cast. Just by being loved and taught with patience he achieved greatness while wagging his tail. The dedicated volunteers backstage were so supportive and celebrated him doing his spins with me. With love, patience and a lot of liver treats, he did amazing.

The support from friends coming to the show warmed our hearts!

There was some special magic happening backstage that can only be described as a sprinkle of love. The seniors in high school were supportive and encouraging to the younger children in the play. The cast and crew were patient, loving and fun, and worked together like a well-



oiled machine. I can only attribute it to the love that is put into it. I never imagined how much work, choreography and dedication went into a production like this. The volunteers, mothers, and the wonderful people I met are so dedicated to making this production amazing. I got goosebumps even watching the DVD.

Olaf became a voice for the rescues, his newscast and articles talking about him from "Shelter to Stage" made it across the country, into Arizona, Virginia, California and more.

My heart smiled that he could spread the message about how amazing shelter dogs can be.

Annie and Olaf's story had many similarities. Annie, an orphan, became the daughter of a very wealthy man who loved her very much. She had many hardships in her youth just like Olaf did. He also lived happily ever after, ended up rich in love and up on-stage doing spins with Annie, wagging his tail and living his best life. A wonderful lesson for everyone. If you truly love, believe and add determination you can achieve anything.



Keep your pet healthy—for free!

By Amy Pietras, DVM

In March 2023, the *Forbes Advisor* put the average cost of a vet visit for a single vet to be \$57.65 in Michigan. <https://www.forbes.com/advisor/pet-insurance/pet-care/how-much-does-vet-visit-cost/>

It also puts the cost of a dog's core vaccine, DAPP, at \$34.87, and the cat's core vaccine, 3 in 1, at \$29.29.

According to the 2020 AAHA guidelines, cats and dogs should be getting these vaccines every two to four weeks starting as early as five weeks of age and continuing until at least 16 weeks of age, with a minimum of two rounds of shots required.

And the base immunization level for pets is not achieved until a booster shot one year later. After that time, research shows it is possible further immunization may only be needed every three years. This schedule only applies to the above-mentioned vaccines.

Why is the DAPP so important for dogs?

It protects against several viruses, including the very deadly parvovirus. Parvo can be treated successfully but it can cost up to \$7,000 to do it.

Cats can contract a similar virus, panleukopenia, which the 3 in 1 vaccine protects against. Research shows that if kittens do not receive booster shots past the age of 12 weeks, the disease is 51 percent fatal—and also comes with a high hospitalization cost.

Feline herpesvirus-1 is another very important upper respiratory virus to protect against. It is expected that almost all cats will be exposed to this during their lifetimes. Typical signs include sneezing, congestion, conjunctivitis and ocular and nasal discharge. Ocular symptoms left untreated often lead to ulcers, corneal perforation, and are the leading cause of enucleation in cats.

So, how can you prevent against these diseases for free?

For over two years, PetcoLove had provided free DAPP and 3 in 1 vaccines to nonprofits to administer to the community.

Quick Fix Veterinary Clinic is proud to be one of their vaccine partners. We offer these vaccines on all of our surgery days. Sign up on our website, quickfixvet.com.

Other area nonprofits regularly hold vaccine clinics on weekends as well.

In 2023, Quick Fix Veterinary Clinic:

Fixed 2,257 female and 1,759 male cats, of which 284 were ferals. They fixed 379 dogs, administered 6,568 vaccines, did more than 20 eye surgeries and more than 100 dentals.



www.quickfixvet.com

Schedule your appointment online

We are a team of professionals dedicated to providing quality affordable vet care for those who are under served or need it the most.

Our mission continues to evolve and our services continue to expand as the needs of the community change.

Overall we spend the most time on spay/neuter for cats and affordable dental care for cats and dogs.

Due to escalating costs of urgent veterinary care, we have opened Michigan Pet Surgery and Dentistry Clinic to address the needs of urgent surgical procedures.

www.michiganpetsurgery.com



Quick Fix Veterinary Clinic

Community Resource Guide

Cemeteries

Clock Timeless Pets

1469 Peck St., Muskegon, MI 49441
231-722-3721 - www.clocktimelesspets.com

Noah's Pet Cemetery & Crematory

2727 Orange Ave. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546
616-949-1390 – noahspc@comcast.net
www.noahspetcemetery.com

Trusted Journey Pet Memorial

2755 64th St. SW, Byron Center, MI 49315
616-538-6050 – www.trustedjourney.com

Feral Cat Support Services

A Feral Haven

Supporting feral/community cats in Ottawa and Allegan Counties by loaning live traps, and providing spay/neuter vouchers and food.

<http://www.aferalhavenmi.org> – 616-377-4783
a.feral.haven.mi@gmail.com

Humane Societies/Shelters

Allegan County Animal Shelter

2293 33rd Street, Allegan, MI 49010
269-686-5112 - www.petfinder.com/shelters/MI299.html

Harbor Humane Society

14345 Bagley Street (at US 31), West Olive, MI 49460
616-399-2119 - www.harborhumane.org

Humane Society of West Michigan

3077 Wilson Drive NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49534
616-453-8900 - www.hswestmi.org

Ionia County Animal Shelter

3853 Sparrow Drive, Ionia, MI 48846
616-527-9040 - www.petfinder.com/shelters/MI342.html

Kent County Animal Shelter

740 Fuller Ave. NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503
616-632-7300 - www.accesskent.com/kcas

Pound Buddies Animal Shelter & Adoption Center

3279 E Laketon Ave., Muskegon, MI 49442
231-724-6500 - www.poundbuddies.org

Pet In-Home Hospice

Heaven at Home Pet Hospice — In-home pet hospice, palliative pet care and euthanasia for companion animals

616-498-1316 – doc@pethospicevet.com
www.pethospicevet.com

Pet Services

Pleasant Hearts Pet Food Pantry

705 11th St NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49504
info@pleasanthearspetfoodpantry.org
www.pleasanthearspetfoodpantry.org
Distribution is every other Saturday, email with any questions

Pet Training

Paradigm Dog School, LLC

Professional dog training and doggie daycare
616-796-2275 – paradigmds@gmail.com
www.paradigmdogschool.com

Rescue Groups

Bellwether Harbor Animal Shelter and Training Center

PO Box 475 - 7645 W. 48th St. Fremont MI, 49412
Call for an appointment 231-924-9230
www.bellwetherharbor.org

BestPals Animal Rescue Center

13888 Blair St., Holland, MI 49424
Call for appointment, 616-212-3368
www.bestpalsarc.wix.com – bestpalsarc@gmail.com

Big Lake Humane Society - a no kill, non-profit shelter

Formerly Muskegon Humane Society
2640 Marquette Ave., Muskegon, MI 49442
231-773-8689 - www.muskegonhumanesociety.org

Bunny Adoption & Rescue Services

www.bunniesrusrabbitry.com
Bunniesrusrabbitry@hotmail.com
Owner/Founder Diane Dykema

Cannonsville Critters

Michelle Hocking — Helping cats in Montcalm County
989-287-2553 – www.cannonsvillecritters.org

Faithful to Felines

Adult Cat Companionship
www.faithful2felines.com
Info@faithful2felines.com
231-773-3030

Fig and Friends Pet Rescue

Every pet deserves a chance
[Facebook.com/figandfriendspetrescue](https://www.facebook.com/figandfriendspetrescue)
616-320-2400 — figandfriendspetrescue@gmail.com
www.figandfriendspetrescue.org

Pet Tales Rescue

A non-profit, volunteer, foster-based, all-breed dog/cat rescue.
Kathy Brown, P.O. Box 88084, Kentwood, MI 49518
616-446-1591 – pettalesrescueboard@gmail.com
www.pettalesrescue.com – www.facebook.com/pettalesrescue

Reuben's Room Cat Rescue

Jeanine Buckner
A no-kill, non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization
www.reubensroom.org
catrescuereubensroom@gmail.com

Community Resource Guide

Scarlett's Cat Sanctuary & Furry Friends Pet Recovery

A non-profit 501c3 in-home based cat and kitten rescue
Recovering lost pets & finding homes for the homeless
<https://www.facebook.com/furryfriendspetrecovery>
scarlettscatsanctuary@gmail.com

West Michigan Ferret Connection

Rescue - Adoption - Boarding - Education
Dee Gage, 616-447-2978 - wmfc2001@att.net
www.westmichiganferretconnection.com
LIKE West Michigan Ferret Connection on Facebook

Spay/Neuter

C-SNIP

Reduced cost, high-quality, non-profit veterinary services
Spay/neuter, vaccinations, wellness and basic treatments
For appointment and more information visit www.csnip.org
or call 616-455-8220

Quick Fix Veterinary Clinic

www.quickfixvet.com
Affordable routine care, dental cleanings, spay/neuter and more.

Specialty Businesses

1st Micro Greenery

Fresh living micro greens
433 Broadway NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49504
huntoon@1stmicrogreenery.com
www.1stmicrogreenery.com

Wishbone House Thrift Store and Cat Adoption Center

Household items, pet items and more
165 Blue Star Hwy, Douglas, MI 49406
269-455-5247

Veterinarians

Laketown Cat Hospital

3604 64th Street, Saugatuck, MI 49453
(269)455-5056 mail@laketowncathospital.com
www.laketowncathospital.com

Mercy Veterinary Coalition (The Veterinary Group)

Stacie Kreiser
529 N Lafayette, Greenville, MI 48838
mercyveterinarycoalition@gmail.com
Like Mercy Veterinary Coalition on Facebook

Michigan Pet Surgery & Dentistry Clinic

Quality care — Affordable prices
www.michiganpetsurgery.com
(616) 232-6005
By appointment only

Quick Fix Veterinary Clinic

www.quickfixvet.com
Affordable routine care, dental cleanings, spay/neuter and more.

Wildlife

West Michigan Wildlife Center

Call 616-361-6109 or text 616-606-5805
www.westmichiganwildlife.org
westmichiganwildlifecenter@gmail.com

Training Tips

How long should I train my dog?

By Robert Crough

Once an appropriate training program has been created, one of the most common questions I get from clients is, "How long should I train my dog before I stop?"

The answer to this question may vary depending on your goals and how you approach solving your dog's behavior problem. For example, most dog training group classes last an hour, and the dog has no choice but to stay and train for the entire hour. Other situations like teaching the trick "shake" at home may consist of short interactions when we have the spare time in our day.

Training classes should be fun and never be perceived as a burden for the dog or owners. Here are a few tips on training times and breaks to help you keep your training at home, in public, or in groups fun and enjoyable for both you and your dog.

During group classes or training your dog in public places, trainers should try to keep the flow going for about 10 minutes at a time, then give the dog a break and then continue. This process may vary slightly depending on the age of the dog and the behavior being addressed. Never push the dog to the point of disinterest before taking a break.

At home, your dog is very good at knowing what time of day rituals are supposed to happen. For example, if you skip your dog's meal, most dogs will pester the owner as if to say, "YOU FORGOT TO FEED ME HUMAN!"

When you approach training with your dog, try to not let the dog know what time of day training takes place. Training your dog at home should be intermittent real-life interactions consisting of small five-minute sessions that begin the moment you wake up until the moment you go to sleep.

You should try to do at least a half dozen five-minute training interactions every day. Always end training interactions on a positive note. When you end a training interaction your dog should be eager for more and excited when you begin again.

This will give your dog 30 minutes per day of mental exercise. Along with the daily recommended 30 minutes of physical exercise, this will give your dog one hour of both physical and mental exercise that will help your furry friend live a very happy fulfilled life they deserve.

Robert Crough

Owner/Professional Trainer/Paradigm Dog School Llc.
www.paradigmdogschool.com
Paradigmds@gmail.com

The Truth about FIV in Cats



What is FIV (Feline Immunodeficiency Virus)?

FIV (Feline Immunodeficiency Virus) is a slow-progressing virus that can compromise a cat's immune system, making it more difficult to fight off illness. Because of its slow-progressing nature, the virus may never affect a cat diagnosed with it. Because of this, most cats with FIV live long, healthy, happy lives!

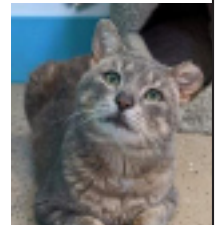


Can a cat “catch” FIV if living with an FIV+ cat?

FIV is transmitted through deep, penetrating bites where the virus gets directly into the bloodstream of a non-FIV+ cat. These bites are extremely rare. FIV is NOT transmitted through sneezes, open wounds, sharing food or water, grooming, sharing a litter box, scratches, or cuddling/playing. Because of this, FIV+ and non-FIV+ cats can live together with no issues! It is also NOT transmittable to humans or other animals.

Can FIV cats live with other cats?

Yes, FIV+ cats can live with both FIV+ and non-FIV+ cats without spreading the virus, if all are nonaggressive. This is usually a matter of introducing cats SLOWLY. Any time a new cat is added to a household, there should be a slow introductory period whether cats are FIV+ or Non-FIV+.



How do you detect and treat FIV?

There is a blood test that detects FIV. Kittens are tested twice since the first test may still contain the mother's antibodies. Adult cats are only tested once. There is not a cure for FIV; the best treatment is to keep up with annual vet visits, maintain a healthy diet, and keep cats indoors, just as you would with non-FIV+ cats.



Do FIV cats need special care?

FIV+ cats have the same needs as non-FIV+ cats. ALL cats should be neutered, live only with other nonaggressive cats, and be kept as healthy as possible- being given a safe indoor environment, a quality diet (the best you can afford), regular vet exams, and treating any health problems when they arise.

FIVFactsSheet-
190920.pdf, FIVCatRescue.org

With a heavy heart, we share the passing of SCCWM's resident cat, Hudson. Despite our best efforts to resolve his health issues, his body was tired, and he was ready to move on. He passed peacefully over the rainbow bridge on April 30 with favorite human, our director Laura Moody, by his side.

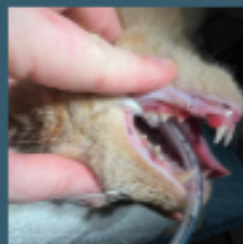
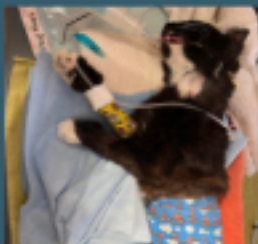
Hudson embodied everything that SCCWM stands for. He was adopted out by another shelter 7 years ago, and returned because the adopters didn't keep up with his medical needs. He was taken in by Laura, and eventually became the resident cat at SCCWM.

His health issues over the years ranged from diabetes to rotten teeth, skin allergies, IBD, and FIV+. But through it all, our volunteers worked with patience and care to keep him healthy! He LOVED food and would always beg for more! He'd help with paperwork on our desks, follow us around to monitor our daily tasks, and give little toothless love nibbles on our hands when he wanted pets or treats. He will be missed by everyone who met him, but his legacy will continue!





Michigan Pet Surgery and Dentistry Clinic



High Quality Low-Cost Surgery and Dentistry

michiganpetsurgery.com

Some of the common procedures we offer:

- Enucleation
- Bladder stone removal
- Mass removals
- Emergency pyometra surgery
- Foreign body removals

We're here to help your family gain access to quality care at an affordable price. We don't want finances to keep your pet from receiving high-quality surgery and dental care. We are a part-time clinic. We have top of the line equipment and supplies to perform surgery and dentistry services. We are able to offer lower prices than many hospitals by minimizing overhead costs.

If your pet has breathing difficulty, trauma, blood loss. etc., or cannot wait at least 24 hours before needing surgery, you should seek treatment at an ER.