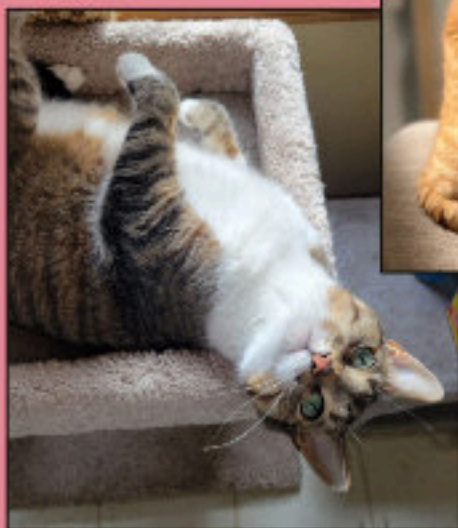


Cats and Dogs

A MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO COMPANION ANIMALS

Farewell Issue



Trixie and Pippin need homes
Reuben's Room Cat Rescue - Page 14



Furry Philosophy - Page 19

Winter 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.....	5
Community Cat Crew	7
Cannonsville Critters	8
Pet Tales Rescue	11
Big Lake Humane Society	12
Second Chance Cats	13
Reuben's Room Cat Rescue	14

Almost Every Month

Business Card Directory.....	15
Mewsings	16
Furry Philosophy	19
Community Resource Guide	21

Features

Saying Goodbye	4
Cat detective advice	9
You want a cat but have allergies	15
C-SNIP moves and expands services	18
Over-the-counter treatment for pets	20
Gratitude	22



C-SNIP moves and expands services - Page 18



Kim Freeman
Cat detective advice - Page 9

Cats and Dogs

PO Box 996, Jenison, MI 49429-0996

616-777-0645

catsanddogsmagazine@comcast.net

www.catsanddogsmagazine.com

Publisher: Janet Vormittag
JLV Enterprises LLC

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.

Saying Good-bye

Dear friends,

After 18 years of devoting my life to *Cats and Dogs*, it's time for me to move on.

It's a bittersweet moment.

The decision wasn't easy, but it was a long time coming. I've been thinking about stopping for years. When I missed an issue during the Covid Pandemic, I seriously thought that would be the end. But two advertisers convinced me to continue. Last year I almost stopped, but two more people offered to help subsidize the magazine so it could continue one more year. It's never been about the money, but money is necessary to pay the expenses.

I spent the summer of 2006 preparing to launch this passion project. The first issue was released in December of that year. I can still recall the giddiness I felt when I drove to the printer in Greenville to pick up 5,000 copies of that first issue. Holding my dream in my hands was an unforgettable moment.

Until 2018, *Cats and Dogs* was a monthly publication. Looking back, I don't know how I did it. As soon as I finished delivering one issue, I had to start the next. For the last six years, the magazine has been published quarterly, which gave me much appreciated free time.

So many people have helped me over the years—from advising to writing articles to delivering magazines to buying ads and so much more. We all had one thing in common; we cared about animals.

Through the years I've meet countless amazing people. I've enjoyed interviewing and their sharing stories.

As a journalism student at Grand Valley State University in 1993, I wrote an article for the school paper about the high number of unwanted pets. A photographer accompanied me to the Kent County Animal Shelter when I interviewed the director, Betsy Pullen. We were taken to a back room and shown the pile of animals that had just been euthanized. Unbelievable.

In 1992, 10,025 cats and dogs were euthanized in Kent County.

I eventually became a correspondent for The Grand Rapids Press. My favorite stories to write were about animals. In 1994, I wrote a piece titled "Born to Die" about a silent vigil the Humane Society of Kent County was holding to remember the pets who had been euthanized. Staff made a paper chain with each link bearing the name of animal killed by lethal injection.

The paper chain had 9,762 links.

For 90 minutes staff and volunteers held the chain as they stood quietly on the northeast corner of the East Beltline and 28th Street.

It still brings tears to my eyes.

Over the years, low-cost spay/neuter clinics have helped reduce the numbers of animals being euthanized. Numerous rescues have also helped by promoting spay/neuter and fostering pets until homes were found.

Unfortunately, the number of cats and dogs in need of help remains too high.

As this chapter of my life closes, I'm looking forward to what comes next. I know I will spend some of my free

time writing books. Of course, my books have always been about animals, mostly cats. See page 23.

You can follow my writing career on my website (janetvormittag.com)— a website that desperately needs updating. Soon I'll have the time to do that.

Forever an animal advocate,
Janet Vormittag



Articles I wrote about pet overpopulation. Top: GVSU's student paper. Below: The Grand Rapids Press.





**Be a Secret Santa for the ferrets at the
WEST MICHIGAN FERRET CONNECTON**

The Ferret Giving Tree was started in 1998 with the goal of giving shelter ferrets a chance for some special Christmas gifts as well as help shelter operators with needed funds and supplies. The WMFC has 20 ferrets on the Ferret Giving Tree (Trees 8 & 9).



www.FerretGivingTree.com

Select West Michigan Ferret Connection from the dropdown menu. Or look on Trees 8 and 9 for photos of WMFC's ferrets who need Santas.

West Michigan Ferret Connection

Email Us: wmfc2001@att.net

Website: www.westmichiganferretconnection.com

PayPal Donations: ddmgage@att.net

Amazon Wish List: yes



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

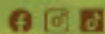
Dick and Penny Mercer were lifelong animal welfare advocates. Dick was a founding member of CSNIP, which strives to prevent pet overpopulation and improve the quality of life for dogs, cats, and their caregivers with accessible, high-quality, reduced-cost veterinary care.

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.

Only the BEST
for your best friends!



nutrition focused foods
unique toys & accessories
wellness supplements
grooming supplies
dog bakery
knowledgeable staff



@YourPetsNaturallyGR
ypnGR.com



STOP BY & MENTION THIS AD FOR A FREE TREAT!
6439 28th Street in Cascade (by D&W)

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.noahspetcemetery.com



*“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

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

COMMUNITY CAT CREW ADOPTION CENTER

Adoptable Adults

Little Free Library -

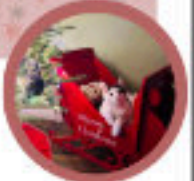
Bring a Book, Take a Book
Read a Book with a Cat



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!



Smitten with the Cats & Kittens Of The Mitten

GET INVOLVED

ONGOING NEEDS

Adopt

Volunteer:
Adoption Center
Pawsome
Creators Shop

Foster

Follow Us Online

Unscented
Clumping
Litter

Kitten Wet &
Dry Food

Adult Wet &
Dry Food

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



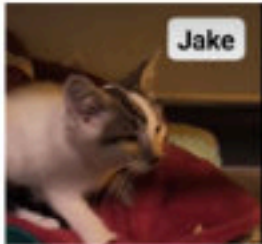
Serving West Michigan
After Hours Service Available

616-949-1390 or 800-748-0184



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

Cannonsville Critters Newsletter Winter 2024



Jake

Fleas dead, ears cleaned, antibiotics started, some food and a nice warm incubator No cold night for him tonight!



AVAILABLE FOR ADOPTION



Available for Adoption



Anna



The Totals are in from our September charity auction, and thanks to your incredible support for Cannonsville Critters, we raised \$2,948. !!! Thank you all
But wait - we have another amazing auction coming up in November. We will share the details with you soon.

Here's a before and after picture of Mr Bojangles - documenting the true mission of Cannonsville Critters. He's proof positive what a difference Michelle makes on the lives of the kittens. Pic on left was from April 23 and today's picture.



Check out our Facebook Page !!



Made with PosterMyWall.com



Cat Detective ***Advice on*** ***How to Find a LOST CAT***

By Kim Freeman, Lost Cat Finder

Why is it so hard to find a lost cat?

For one reason, only 3% of cats at shelters are reclaimed by their owners. Part of that is that less than 1% of cats in this country are microchipped. Many owners assume if their cat is indoor-only, they feel sure she will never get out. When they do, owners tend to panic and do all the wrong things.

Even worse for cats, the internet is filled with damaging superstitions and advice on finding missing cats, such as the old myth about putting dirty cat litter outside.

What are some new methods to find a lost cat?

Here are a few basics from the Lost Cat Finder search guides:

Make your own flyers and lost cat posters rather than using the branded templates with elements and logos that waste valuable space on the page. For the headline, instead of the typical vague REWARD LOST CAT, offer a specific amount. "\$50 Reward for confirmed photo" gets proof of a sighting so you're not wasting time on the wrong cat. The photo should be the largest element on the flyer: ideally a standing side-view silhouetted-out to remove all distracting background.

Make mini versions of your flyer, four to a page. Distribute to landscapers who often flush a cat out of hiding, local pet stores, vets, mailmen, and FedEx/UPS drivers.

Post online: your local NextDoor.com and lost.petcolove.org; local lost & found Facebook groups and any HOA or neighborhood message boards.

Include a request that neighbors check around their homes/garages. Cats may have entered an open garage/shed/basement and are now unable or too scared to escape.

Use large, bright posters: one for your yard, and at the first five intersections within a 500-foot radius of your home (or point last seen).

Ask neighbors who may have security cameras to review their footage. The cat's movement may trigger their camera, especially at night.

Physically search for your cat, but do not call your cat unless you are within 100 feet of home or you see them. Search only in the daytime, lure at night.

Do not put out kitty litter or food that will draw unwanted wildlife and bully cats. Instead, open windows to use the scent of home as a beacon.

Contact your local humane society or community cat organization to rent/borrow a trap made for cats so you can set it once you have a sighting.

Call your vet and microchip company. Report your cat lost and confirm your contact info is current.

Check lostcatfinder.com for recommended search gear or to download the complete lost cat search guide.

Keep up the search at least three weeks! Unless you have found a body, do not give up hope. Many cats take weeks to come out of hiding. Giving up hope is a coping mechanism to relieve the grief, but cats can be recovered after weeks, months and even years.

Do you work in cat rescue?

Ensure you have a Resources page on your website or a Lost & Found Cats page with quality information on what to do when someone has lost or found a cat.

Add a link to the comprehensive Lost Cat Guide from the Lost Cat Finder for a professional, respected service dedicated to educating owners on tested, scientific methods to recover missing cats.

LOST CAT PREVENTION

Cats are harder to recover than dogs and require special techniques beyond flyers on posts and a visit to the shelter. Would you know what to do if a pet sitter or visitor left a door open and your cat escaped?

This emergency can happen to even the best and most careful owners.

If you move, make sure to keep your cat in for at least two weeks no matter how much they may protest. After that time, you can let them out but go with them as a chaperone and take note on which way they go out the door, how they behave, where they seek cover, and what direction they are most likely to take.

HAVE THE SEARCH ZONE READY

If you have an indoor-only cat, be ready with a map of where to search. With indoor cats who escape, they are most often hiding within a 250-foot radius of the escape point. Outdoor access cats have a larger territory, so they are going to be usually within a 500-foot radius. Use this mapping tool to outline your home area and search circle so you are ready if they get out.

SAFE TRANSPORT

A cat inside a car can escape when involved in a traffic accident, or jump out prematurely when a door is opened (see the case of this cat slipping out at gas station at night). Cat carriers have been known to break open

Continued on page 10

during traffic accidents, in vet parking lots, and on conveyor belts at airports. No matter how crabby your cat becomes with confinement, make sure you transport him/her in a secure carrier.

HAVE PHOTOS READY

Take a photo now of your cat in a standing or walking side view pose showing their face and body markings in case you need the ideal photo for a lost cat flyer and poster. Shoot for a plain white background without clutter. You want an image of your cat as it will be seen out in the world, running across the trees or walking past someone's doorbell camera.

PREPARE A LOST CAT KIT

Store photos, microchip number and a mock-up lost cat flyer where they're easy to access. Should you ever need them, this kit will save you precious time and stress. The best preparation is to skim "How to Find a Lost Cat" so you can swing into action immediately and know the appropriate steps for your situation and the common mistakes to avoid (like putting out food or cat litter).

COLLAR & MICROCHIP

Even if you never let your cat out, you never know when an emergency will happen, and your cat is lost. A visitor may leave the door open; cat carriers can break, a visitor could leave a window open, or a burglar could break into your home, leaving the door open for your cat to escape outside.

We've even seen pets ejected from cars in traffic accidents. Most people never think these events will happen to them. But even indoor-only cats should wear a collar, tag and microchip because if they escape outside, they're at risk of ultimately ending up in an animal shelter long after you have stopped searching.

Use a breakaway collar or a stretchy cat collar with Velcro that a cat can back out of if it becomes snagged.

Microchips are not GPS trackers: they are for identification, detectable with a microchip scanner used by shelters, veterinarians, and rescue groups. Make sure your cat is micro-chipped and especially make sure that chip is registered to YOU at your CURRENT address and phone number.

PROOF OF OWNERSHIP

Be able to demonstrate proof that you own your cat, as there is no guarantee the person who finds your pet will be willing to give it back to you. You will need to have something to show an officer to prove that this animal belongs to you.

HOLIDAY PREP

Thanksgiving, Christmas and July 4th are the main days of the year when your cat is especially at risk of escaping. Put your cat in a safe room with all creature comforts and lots of places to hide and blankets to drown out noise and keep them feeling safe from the sounds of fireworks parties and strangers.

BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR

If your cat routinely roams and stalks birds or poops on your neighbor's property, make sure you have preempted any complaints by asking neighbors to let you know if your cat is a problem for them in any way. Be a responsible cat owner.

For more details or a consultation on your case, visit the Cat Detective website at <https://www.lostcatfinder.com/>

#<http://www.lostcatfinder.com/%23!how-to-find-a-lost-cat-tips/ciyva>

Best wishes and may your cat never go missing.



As a professional lost cat finder, Kim Freeman has hundreds of tips, discoveries, and inspiring reunion stories to share.

She's been deemed the world expert in lost cat recovery, solving cases in 48 states and 23 countries worldwide. She combines animal tracking with the science of lost cat behavior, using new techniques tailored to feline psychology.

Her mission is getting cats found before they end up in shelters. She's created a "Lost Cat Kit" in English and Spanish on how to do it.

Next time you hear about a lost cat, mention the online Lost Cat Kit to the owner or shelter. It's a simple way you can help cats get back home while increasing chance of a happy reunion.

More about Kim and the Lost Cat Kit at lostcatfinder.com.

Enjoy highlights from her years of happy reunions stories and videos at [Facebook/Lost Cat Finder](https://www.facebook.com/LostCatFinder).



As kitten-season tends to do—it came at us quick and hard this year. Kitten fosters tend to embrace this time with a sense of joy, excitement, and of course trepidation (we always want to save more).

As usual though, we found the rescue full to the brim of black cats and tabbies! One thing these two types of cats have in common is they are often overlooked. They can come off as unimpressive, run of the mill, not shiny or flashy—and pictures often just don't do these kittens justice. They need you to meet them in person! Feel their energy, connect with their uniqueness, and take some time to make that connection that will feed your soul for a lifetime. Here's your chance to admire and appreciate these often-overlooked kitties and see the potential in their eyes.

Please visit www.PetTalesRescue.com to view and apply for our available pets!

**WHERE: ARROWHEAD
GOLF COURSE**



**WHEN: SUNDAY,
AUGUST 3RD AT 9AM
(SHOTGUN START)**



**ALL
FORE
THE ANIMALS!**



**CHARITY
GOLF
SCRAMBLE
TO BENEFIT PET
TALES RESCUE**



**TO RESERVE YOUR
FOURSOME PLEASE EMAIL:
PetTalesRescueBoard
@gmail.com**

\$65 PER PLAYER

INCLUDES:

- 18 HOLES W/CART**
- LUNCH**
- 1ST & 2ND PLACE PRIZES**
- RAFFLE TICKETS
AVAILABLE**

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 over population and improve the quality of life for dogs, cats, and their care givers 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**
 Saving animals. Serving community.

BECOME A SUBSCRIBED MONTHLY SUPPORTER: A LIFELINE FOR ANIMALS IN NEED!



With a recurring monthly gift, you will join an essential group of compassionate supporters who ensure our doors stay open and our animals remain safe. Your generosity will provide vital resources—food, medical care, and the comfort of a loving shelter. Each month, your gift helps us be prepared—no matter what—allowing us to act swiftly and provide every animal the chance they deserve.

If you pledge at least \$25 a month, you will join our Guardian Givers, they are the foundation of our mission, standing alongside us as we work toward a brighter future for animals in need. As a thank you, you will receive a special invitation to an annual event, where you will see the direct impact of your support.



- BECOME A GUARDIAN GIVER
- MAKE A ONE TIME DONATION
- VIEW ADOPTABLE PETS
- BECOME A VOLUNTEER
- SHOP OUR NEW MERCH STORE
- PURCHASE UPCOMING EVENT TICKETS
- VIEW OUR WISH LISTS AND WAYS TO SUPPORT
- SURRENDER AND PET TRAINING RESOURCES
- BIG LAKE ANIMAL CLINIC RESOURCES



SCAN

   @BIGLAKEHUMANE  @BIGLAKEANIMALCLINIC

ORDER YOUR BIG LAKE COLORING BOOK!



FOLLOW THE QR CODE OR SEARCH "BIG LAKE HUMANE SOCIETY" ON AMAZON!

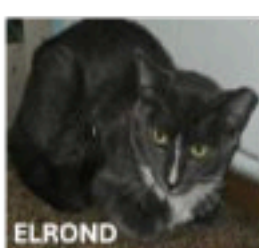


THANK YOU TO OUR PAGE SPONSOR!

Give Shy Cats a Chance

Part of our mission at Second Chance Cats is to bring cats in who are scared in a crowded municipal shelter and give them a chance to have more space, feel comfortable, learn to trust, and grow confident. We also take cats from TNR programs when they have been deemed adoptable. These cats may not have had consistent human contact or ever lived indoors.

Our volunteers work hard to socialize the shy cats and help them on their path to their forever home. It's difficult, however, to watch the shy, reserved, and 'untouchable' cats struggle to find adoptive homes, knowing they could be loving companions. Potential adopters sometimes can't see past their timid demeanors and evasive behaviors.



"When looking at cats in a shelter or rescue, it's important to remember that "what you see is not necessarily what you're gonna get", says Nancy Puro, volunteer and behavior programs manager at [Cat Adoption Team](#), the largest cat shelter in the Pacific Northwest. She explains that the behavior a cat is displaying at a shelter or rescue may not reflect what their personality will be like once they settle into a home.

"While it can take time and patience to help a shy cat build trust and confidence in their new environment and with their new owners, watching them blossom is incredibly rewarding," says Amanda Kowalski, vice president of behavior programs at San Diego Humane Society. "The first time they start to interact with you, like giving you a nose touch or rubbing against you, is so gratifying and worth the wait."



Follow us on social media!



1120 Knapp St. NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
info@sccatswm.org
www.sccatswm.org

Donate Here



Reuben's Room Cat Rescue

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

www.reubensroom.org

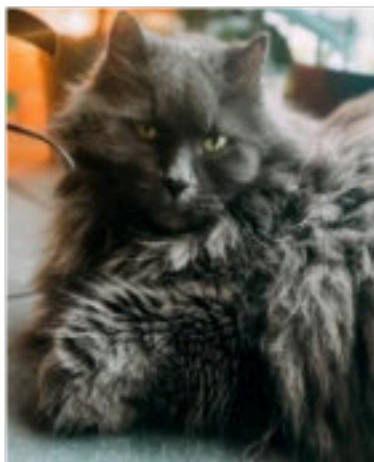
catrescuereubensroom@gmail.com

PO Box 140201, Grand Rapids, MI 49514-0201

Check out our great cats of many ages – bonded pairs and single cats too!



**Orson & Jarvis - bonded
5 yr. old brothers**



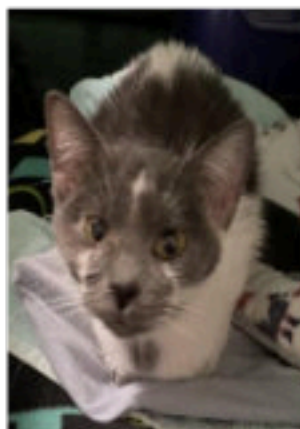
Smokey - 14 yr. old girl



Trixie – 6 yr. old female
Waiting for a new home for
7 months due to no fault of
her own. Can you help?



Pippin – 3 yr. old male



Beatrice – 10 mo. 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!



Bonded Boys:
**Mobi-3 yrs. DLH (front) &
Nemo-1 yr. DSH (back)**

Our Readers Write

You want a cat but have allergies

By Bess Ann Mckillop



What do you do if you love cats or kittens but you have allergies? And not just minor allergies, but near anaphylaxis reactions to felines?

Well, if you're me, you welcome five kittens into your home over the course of a year.

You may be wondering how?

She can't be that allergic if she has five of them living in her home, can she?

The answer to my allergies has been a kitten/cat food engineered by Purina called LiveClear; and yes it really works. It's a normal dry food that removes 40% of the protein in our feline friends' saliva which causes those nasty allergic reactions.

What's the catch? Well, the directions on the bag indicate a three-week period where you need to ween your cat/kitten off their current food and onto the LiveClear brand in order for it to work. Yes, it really does take that long.

For us, it was easy to have our first two live in the barn over the three-week period before bringing them indoors. It did get a little trickier when we had six more (yes, six) show up while we were on vacation. This time we knew what to do right away. We started feeding them the food right away, but this time we couldn't keep them in the barn for as long so they lived in my daughter's basement bedroom (with the door shut until their older brothers learned who they were). Luckily, we were able to rehome three of them but

you guessed it; we still have three from that litter plus two from earlier.

Now all five of them live happily in the house even though I am still allergic to cats; all *other* cats that is. The packaging does warn you will still be allergic to other people's cats so don't expect to be able to hold and pet your friends' felines. Also, for me, I have other indoor allergies so I take an allergy pill; that might be another silver lining for anyone who tries the food but might still have the occasional itchy nose or watery eyes. But then again, the food may be all you need.

One last comment. Purina LiveClear is a little pricey but if you're like me you won't care. Cats don't eat that much so we don't go through it that fast. And if you buy it on Amazon or Chewy you can get the autoship discount as well. So good luck adopting your first kitty or maybe your fifth.

BUSINESS CARD DIRECTORY



NOAH'S
Pet Cemetery & Crematory

616-949-1390

www.noahspetcrematory.com

noahspc@comcast.net

PARADIGM DOG SCHOOL LLC.

Professional dog training and doggy daycare

Office: 616-796-BARK (2275)

www.paradigmdogschool.com

paradigmds@gmail.com

Mewsings

Leave Your Politics at the Door

By Kristina VanOss



It feels like our country is on fire and we are divided into two groups who can't seem to agree on much. Opinions differ on so many issues, from war and the economy to body autonomy, electric cars, and the price of eggs. Meanwhile, our system is failing us because we have been led, and often misled, to believe that some of our fellow Americans are the enemy within and not to be trusted, much less worked with, to solve our multitudes of problems. Compromise and decorum have fallen by the wayside.

Can no one see that the way things are going, we are all losing?

The current picture of America is not unlike the dysfunctional undercurrent that has often plagued nonprofits that started with the best of intentions. I cannot speak for all grassroots organizations, but I have been privy to the inner workings of more than a few animal rescues over the past three decades.

Of course, not all organizations are so problematic but there shouldn't be any. After all, we are on the same team. Yet, I have seen firsthand how egos sometimes get in the way of the mission to save animals. In the race to be the best facility with the best numbers, the best outcome, or the most outrageous rescue effort that will make for great publicity, the toes of other rescues get stepped on. When one rescue holds practices that another disagrees with, there is seldom cooperation, often public criticism...and private backstabbing as rumors abound and reputations are ruined.

As if it weren't bad enough that this happens between rescues, I have seen disastrous dissension within the ranks of a single organization. Board members have the power to oust the founding director, and sometimes do so over petty differences or misconstrued facts. All it takes is one strong personality to sway the other board members and the single, self-sacrificing passion of one wonderful individual can be dismantled without recourse. Solid, successful, much-needed, irreplaceable rescues have crumbled under such drama. Egos are damaged, the lives of rescuers are changed, and spirits are destroyed. But it is the animals everyone intended to save who lose the most.

This is a conversation I have been meaning to address for years.

Never has it been more urgent than now, in light of the recent presidential election. That fight was fierce, and it elicited so much hate that it left many, me included, stunned.

I find myself needing a break from the news and social media. I have done some cocooning, contemplating, and downright worrying about what will come next. Those around me echo my feelings. If anything, we feel more divided than we were before the election.

The timing simply could not be worse.

The year 2024 has been a record-breaker in the history of animal rescue. Shelters and small rescues are full and overflowing. Phone lines and email accounts are jammed with requests to surrender pets and take in strays, many of whom will be turned away for lack of space and resources. Rescuers are bending over backward to make space in their own homes for these needy animals, often spending their own money on food and medical care.

And yet, there is this backlash from the public who do not seem to grasp the severity of the situation. Shelter workers are being treated rudely and with hostility just for telling the truth. Their suggestions for other courses of action are angrily disregarded with hurtful accusations of them being uncaring and uncommitted, which is so far from reality.

The result is that many cats, dogs, and other pets are falling through the cracks.

Owners are abandoning their pets in record numbers.

Some pets get found in time and many do not, which weighs heavily on the hearts of the rescue community.

Animals are dying.

We need more people to do their part to stem the tide. More importantly, we need to reach across the aisle to collaborate with people who have different political perspectives, lifestyles, or spiritual practices. None of those things matter to the abundance of animals who need us right now.

We need to do better.

And we will do better if we ignore the differences and focus only on the task at hand.

Ask what you can do for any rescue or shelter. I guarantee you will be welcomed.

Do what you can.

Do what you think you can't.

Do it anyway.

The animals are in trouble.

They need us right now.

Helping them may be one of the few satisfying things we can have control over as our politicians muddle through the mess they have made.

And when you do go to help, be a team player by leaving your ego and your politics at the door.



Celebrating 23 years advocating for ferrets in Michigan

The West Michigan Ferret Connection does not believe ferrets (or any other animal) should be Christmas presents; therefore, adoptions have been suspended until after January 8, 2025. If anyone is interested in supporting the WMFC this holiday season, please visit The Ferret Giving Tree 2024 on the Internet. We have 20 ferrets who need Santas on Trees 8 & 9.

www.ferretgivingtree.com



Pet Portraits

Righan K Wallace
Fine Art Prints
righan.com
artist@righan.com

"You provide the photograph, I'll turn it into art."



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 source 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

Itch Gone



Great for Pets and People

Maximum strength



Jewelweed tincture is used externally. It works beautifully to alleviate itching from insect bites, poison ivy, eczema, bee stings, psoriasis and other skin irritations.

Jewelweed contains the compound lawsone that has proven to have anti-histamine and anti-inflammatory properties.

1st Micro Greenery
Fresh Living Greens

Contents:
Wild foraged Jewelweed,
food grade alcohol
Topical use only

The name you can trust

C-SNIP is expanding and consolidating their services

On Dec. 9, C-SNIP will be closing its doors.

In early January, the nonprofit will reopen at 1300 Walker Village Dr. in Walker.

"We have used every inch of space in our existing locations. Our community impact has increased, and we have run out of room, limiting our capacity to meet growing demand," said C-SNIP Executive Director Sharon Caldwell-Newton.

In 2001 a handful of animal advocates had an idea—to start a low-cost spay/neuter clinic. It began with the realization that spay/neuter was the solution to the large number of cats and dogs being euthanized at shelters across the country including here in West Michigan. Adoption was heartwarming, but it wasn't a long-term solution. It was clear there weren't enough homes for all the cats and dogs being born.

Spay/neuter was the answer.

That was the beginning of the Community Spay Neuter Initiative Partnership (C-SNIP). The non-profit started as a mobile clinic. The need for their services was so great that people drove miles for the affordable surgeries. Why be mobile if people traveled for their services? The decision was made for the clinic to find a building—more surgeries could be performed in a stationary location.

C-SNIP has continued to evolve over the years. They opened a wellness clinic for cats and dogs, which operated across the street from the spay/neuter facility in Kentwood. They also took over the West Michigan Spay/Neuter Clinic in Fruitport.

"It was all with the vision to one day bring them all under one roof," Caldwell-Newton said. "By bringing all our services under one roof, we are improving and expanding service delivery and organizational efficiencies to benefit our clients, their pets and our communities."

In 2022, the search started for C-SNIP's new home. They found what they were looking in Walker, near the intersection of Leonard Street and Remembrance Road. A 12,000 square foot strip mall, which had once been home to Pop's Restaurant and a few other small businesses.

"Understanding the significance of this transition, especially for our lakeshore community members, we have been mindful in selecting a new location with proximity to major highways, ensuring equitable access for West Michigan pet families," Caldwell-Newton explained.

Renovations of the structure began in early 2024.

The new C-SNIP clinic will include a larger, more welcoming reception and patient check-in area, six wellness and treatment exam rooms, expanded dog and cat kennel space, a surgical suite with space for 10 operating tables and two dental stations – doubling its current capacity. Additionally, the new veterinary clinic will include a mix-use training and conference space for community seminars and staff training.

Services to be offered at the new C-SNIP clinic will include spay and neuter surgery, wellness exams, microchip implants, vaccinations and preventatives, soft tissue surgery, skin, ear and eye treatments, surgical tooth extractions, dental cleaning and diagnostic x-rays.



In November, workers painted C-SNIP's new lobby and completed other final details of the nonprofit's new facility. Below: Rendering of the new facility.



Their target market are pet owners who can't afford a traditional veterinarian.

Even with the additional services, spay/neuter will remain a primary focus. "We're not taking our foot off the pedal with spay/neuter," Caldwell-Newton said.

The new veterinary clinic and headquarters will also provide space to accommodate future growth.

Since its inception in 2001, C-SNIP has benefited more than 255,000 dogs, cats and pet families throughout West Michigan, serving nearly 24,000 pets in 2023 alone.

The expansion of facilities and services will also enhance the established partnership between C-SNIP and Michigan State University College of Veterinary Medicine. C-SNIP teaches surgical skills to approximately 50 senior veterinary students annually.

Earlier this year, C-SNIP launched the public phase of its Community Pet Project capital campaign to raise the remaining \$565,704 of the project's \$3.6 million budget.

The Community Pet Project campaign is anchored by significant funding milestones, including a \$1 million grant from the Kent County Board of Commissioners through the American Rescue Plan Act and a transformative grant from PetSmart Charities as part of a national accelerator program.

Close to \$200,00 is still needed. "We're not done yet," Caldwell-Newton said. "The generous investments thus far underscore the community's confidence in our mission to make veterinary care accessible to all pet owners, regardless of their financial standing."

Furry Philosophy



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

Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened". - Dr. Suess

It is hard for me to believe this is my last article for *Cats and Dogs* magazine.

I would like to sincerely thank Janet Vormittag for the opportunity to write for this wonderful magazine for approximately 13 years. Janet has dedicated so much of her life to saving lives, helping furry friends find homes and to educate. Her dedication and commitment should be commended. I am extremely grateful to Janet, her talent, which inspired me to keep writing.

If you followed me over the years, I want to thank you so much! I appreciate YOU.

"Furry Philosophy" is life lessons my animals have taught me. Education, combined with experiences compelled to share these guidelines to hopefully help more animals live their best lives.

In this last article I combine what I feel are some of the most important lessons (like Cliff Notes) that I hope you keep tucked away to help you.

Remember to think like the animals, be in the moment, don't judge or hate and love unconditionally.

Keep training fun. Your dogs will anticipate it with joy instead of dread. Please train with patience, love and understanding. Force loses trust and can cause pain. If you're frustrated, please feel free to reach out to a fear-free certified professional dog trainer like myself.

Remember, we are what we eat. Learning something new every day can result in wonderful things. Research how good whole food can extend your dog's life immensely. Your pet's eyes will shine a little brighter and they will show you how much better they feel.

"Blessed is the person who earns the love of an old dog" is a quote by Sydney Jeanne Seward.

Senior pets love us their whole life unconditionally and giving them the extra time and consideration is what they deserve. Consider a wagon or a dog stroller to let them enjoy their golden years, sniffing fresh air. Please read my blogs for articles to help your senior pet. Food and supplements can ease them into their golden years with grace. 28,000 dogs die a year from cognitive disease. Alternately engage those minds young and old. They are amazing sentient beings that can sniff out disease, bombs and find missing people. They live for jobs. Take that walk, fill their interactive toys, have them work for food, keep those tails wagging.

I know we all want our furry friends with us as long as possible. Prevention is key and know what to do in case of emergency. I share many ways to prevent accidents and free tips weekly with you on the "Dog Blessed" show on the Muskegonchannel.com (also on Roku and Firestick TV) You can search past episodes and see the categories.



When you're working with your dog and children please remember to teach children about responsibility, kindness and empathy. Those are valuable skills for our future leaders.

I truly believe it is my mission to learn and share knowledge to help our furry friends remain in their homes and out of shelters.

Look at the **WHOLE** dog, body and mind to find a solution. Behavior problems in pets can be a health issue or pain. There are many factors. We

need to be our pet's advocates, because they cannot speak for themselves. Keep your eyes and heart open for signs and silent messages our furry friends are trying to convey to us. They also have much to teach us and only want to please us.

Please remember our rescue friends. Donations, even small donations, such as paper towels are so helpful. Volunteering, sharing on social media and kindness doesn't cost a dime. Our animals always give us unconditional love, don't they deserve the same?

"Saving one dog will not change the world, but surely for that one dog, the world will change forever." - Karen Davison

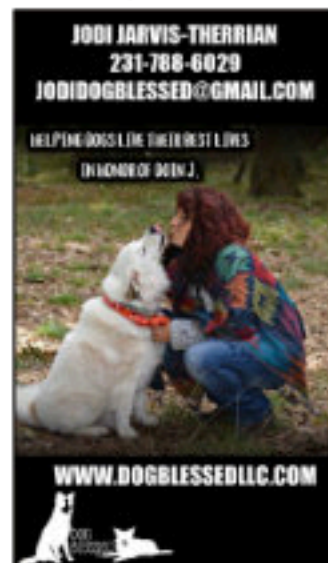
Sending love and tail wags to all my readers!

Please stay in touch, I love furry friend photos.

Follow my blog here: <https://furryphilosophy.blogspot.com/>

www.dogblessedllc.com Find us also on Facebook Dog Blessed LLC and follow our Dog Blessed Dog Walking Club (free local fun walks)

Follow me on Instagram @Jodi.dogblessed.



Over-the-counter treatments for pets

By Amy Pietras, DVM

We see several hundred animals a week, and the most common "error" we see is owners trying to treat their pets' conditions with over the counter treatments—many of which do not work.

Here is our best advice on safe and effective over-the-counter (OTC) treatments for common conditions:

1) Never use any product made by Hartz. Their products have a long and deadly history.

2) Never use a dog product on a cat. One common ingredient in dog flea/tick medications is a death sentence to cats.

3) The only OTC flea/tick collar that is effective is the Seresto collar.

4) Praziquantel is the only treatment for tapeworms. Pyrantel is the historical treatment for roundworms, hookworms, etc., but resistance to it has increased and while it is an OTC product, it is not the most effective treatment and up to three courses of it two to three weeks apart may be necessary.

5) Capstar/Nitenpyram starts killing adult fleas within 30 minutes. HOWEVER, only five percent of the flea burden of an animal is in the adult phase. Frontline is a good OTC flea treatment but it is not perfect. For dogs, we recommend Frontline, along with adding Capstar at least once a week, for recurring infestations. For cats, we recommend Catego.

6) It traditionally takes THREE MONTHS of treatment to eradicate fleas. The environment needs to be treated as well as the animals. Flea bombs do not work. The ONLY environmental flea treatment that works (in our experience) is Virbac Knockout-ES. Anything that can't be steam cleaned or put in the washing machine (cat trees, furniture, mattresses) gets sprayed according to the instructions.

7) Untreated ear mites can lead to infection, inflammation, ear hematomas and lifelong damage and thickening of the ear canal resulting in chronic pain.

There is no OTC ear mite treatment formulated for cats that works. None. OTC ivermectin made for cattle DOES work. The treatment is to thoroughly clean your cats' ears then put ONE DROP down each ear canal and massage the outside of the cat's ear to help rub it in. For cats over eight pounds you can give TWO DROPS. Always weigh your cat before doing this. This can be done once every three weeks up to a maximum of three times.

Best wishes,
Dr. Amy



Quick Fix Veterinary Clinic

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/Crematories

Clock Timeless Pets

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

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

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

Grand Rapids, MI 49504
info@pleasantheartspetfoodpantry.org
www.pleasantheartspetfoodpantry.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 - paradigmdds@gmail.com
www.paradigmdogschooll.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

Continued on page 22

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

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

Gratitude

By Rev. Ginny Mikita, JD

"Living a minimally acceptable ethical life involves using a substantial part of our spare resources to make the world a better place. Living a fully ethical life involves doing the most good we can." - Peter Singer, author of *Animal Liberation*

When Janet Vormittag, founder and publisher of this publication, asked me years ago if I'd like to write a column about animal companion loss and the grief we as their human companions experience, I readily agreed. When she asked me if I'd like to write a column for this, the last issue, somewhat ironically, a wave of grief washed over me imagining its ending followed by a larger wave of gratitude for Janet.

Janet has spent her life advocating for animals. She earned her bachelor's degree in journalism from Grand Valley State University and was a correspondent for more than ten years for The Grand Rapids Press and The Muskegon Chronicle. In 2006, she began publishing *Cats and Dogs, a Magazine Devoted to Companion Animals*, a free publication distributed in West Michigan dedicated to finding homes for rescue animals, promoting spay/neuter and celebrating the people who work and volunteer in animal rescue.

The impact of Janet's work over the years cannot be overstated. Robert Emerson once wrote, "to know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived. This is to have succeeded." So many lives - animals and humans alike - have breathed easier because of Janet.

It is challenging to keep doing the work when so many animals are suffering. There is a tale of a girl walking down the beach throwing a starfish into the ocean. A man asks her, "Why bother, given the hundreds of starfish on the beach?" to which she replies, "It matters to that one." Over the years, despite the continuing reality of the number of animals, suffering and without homes, Janet has persevered. It has mattered to each one of the animals whose path has crossed hers.

Janet is a model for us of what it means to live a fully ethical life doing the most good she can. Be like Janet.



Rev. Ginny Mikita, JD
(she/her)

www.animalblessings.love

ginny@animalblessings.love

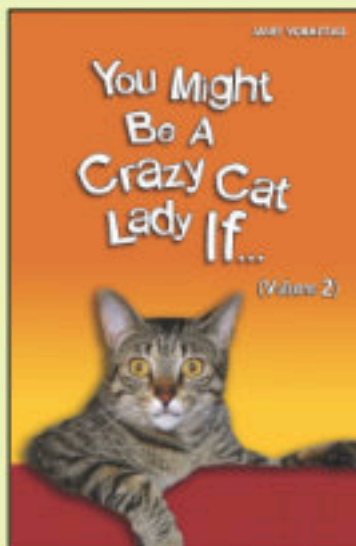
Facilitator

West Michigan Companion Animal
Loss Grief Support Group

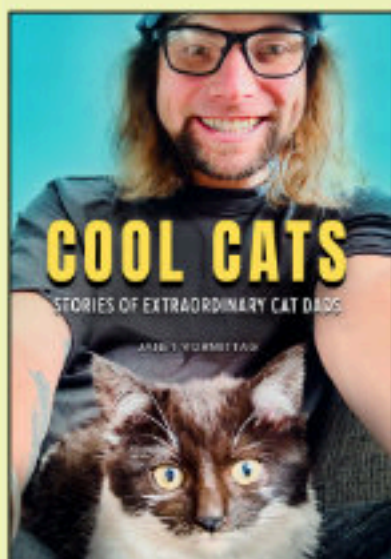
2nd Tuesday of each month, 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

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.



Both volumes of *You Might be a Crazy Cat Lady if...* are collections of short stories with photographs about Janet's life with cats. Read about her concerns of becoming a crazy cat lady.



Who knew so many men liked cat?

In *Cool Cats*, you'll meet 20 guys, plus a couple grade-schoolers, who are as crazy about cats as most crazy cat ladies.

Books are available at:

2024 Holiday Market

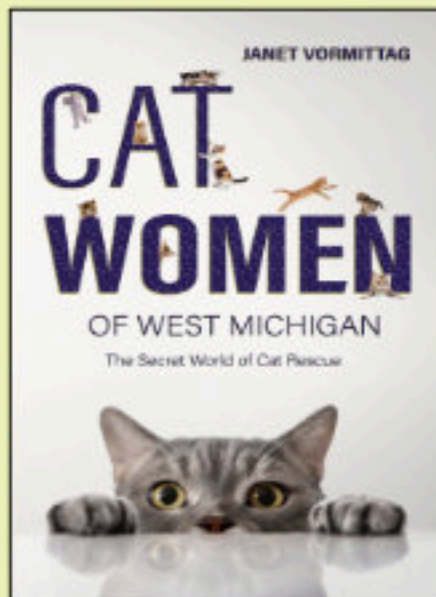
Kellogg Manor House
3700 East Gull Lake Drive,
Hickory Corners, MI 49060
Check www.conference@kbs.msu.edu for dates and times.

Maggies Gourmet Foods & Gifts

4851 Harvey St.
Norton Shores, MI 49444
www.maggiesgourmet.com

Amazon.com

(search Janet Vormittag)



There is an underground network of women dedicated to rescuing cats in West Michigan. Meet a few of them in *Cat Women of West Michigan*. Maybe their inspiring stories will convince you to lend a hand.

Books by Janet Vormittag

Upcoming Events

(to meet the author)

Christmas at Wings Arts & Craft Show

Wings Event Center
3600 Vanrick Dr., Kalamazoo, MI 49001
Saturday, Dec. 7, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 8, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Winter Arts and Crafts Market

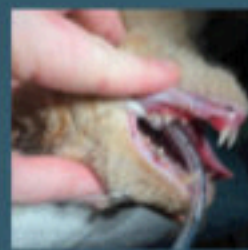
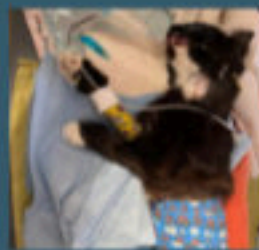
Holland Fish and Game Club
10840 Chicago Dr.
Zeeland, MI 49464
Saturday, Dec. 21, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

West Michigan Women's Expo 2025

Devos Place
303 Monroe Ave. NW, Grand Rapids, MI
March 7-9, 2025
For times and details; www.kohlerexpo.com



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.