

## Featured Pets

### Vinny and Hazel

#### Vinny

Vinny has been with the group since he was 3 months old. This handsome guy is



more like a dog than a cat. He loves to play and interact with his family. He follows his foster mom around the house and has to know everything that she is doing. He teases the family dog when he is in the mood to play. He is so much fun to have around! He also has a very snuggly side that loves to curl up on your lap and give kisses. Vinny would love a

home with other cats (as long as they like to play), or dogs, or kids that would play with feathers and toys all day. Please consider giving this very deserving guy a home!

#### Hazel

Hazel (named for the color of her eyes) is a beautiful short hair, tiger female. She belonged to a family that was going through hard times and no longer able to care for her. She was ready to deliver babies when she was rescued. She gave birth



to 5 kittens, all of which have gone to wonderful new homes. Now Hazel is looking for a home of her own. She is a sweet, quiet cat-doesn't meow. She loves to be held and will be by you whenever you want. She gets along with everyone and everything, including other cats, dogs and kids. She loves to play. If you are looking for a great companion and friend, please consider Hazel.

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"In order to keep a true perspective of one's importance, everyone should have a dog that will worship him and a cat that will ignore him."

--Dereke Bruce

## SOS Animal Rescue Would Like to Thank the Children of our Community

Thank you to Madeline, who selflessly asked her friends to bring pet supplies, instead of birthday gifts to her party, so that food could be donated to animals in need. Thank you for your generosity and caring, Madeline!! Happy Birthday from SOS!

Thank You Girl Scout Troop

# 557 For earning, their Pet Care Badges by collecting, making and donating pet supplies and food. They made blankets and pads for foster animal cages to help earn their Sew Simple badge. Thanks to JoAnn Taylor for working with these girls.

Thank you to Brownie Troops 365 & 369 and to Girl Scout

Troop # 319 for collecting donations of cat and dog food, blankets and towels and making dog and cat treats for the rescue animals. Thanks to Shelly Park and Stephanie Nearman for presenting an Education Program to these troops

Keep up the good work!!!

A big Thank you to Mrs. Kathleen Howey's 2<sup>ND</sup> Grade Class at Eastlawn Elementary. Instead of doing their usual gift exchange for Christmas, the class decided to bring in cat and dog food, supplies and toys for rescue animals. Thank you to all of the students for their generous and big hearts!!!!!!



### SOS SUCCESS STORY Freddy's Story

by Liz Shook



**Freddy the truck driving dog.**

On January 14, Liz retrieved a message from the SOS Animal Rescue voice mail to place a dog. A woman, Bridgett, was no longer able to care for and exercise her dog, Freddy. Freddy is a Dachshund/Terrier Mix. Bridgett had become disabled and was unable to properly care for Freddy. She was heart broken and worried about finding Freddy a new home. Unfortunately, all of the SOS foster homes were full. Liz assured Bridgett that SOS would do everything possible to help her find a new home for Freddy.

Liz also gave the woman a list of things that can be done to find a home for an animal:

- Place an ad in the paper
- Use [www.Petfinder.com](http://www.Petfinder.com)
- Ask co-workers, friends and family members to be on the lookout for anyone looking for a small dog.
- Place an a note at a vet's office.
- Place a sign at Petco.

The following day, Liz contacted Kirsten, another SOS Volunteer.

Kirsten retrieves messages from the SOS voice mail on Monday. Liz wondered if any calls had come in from someone looking for a small dog. Ironically enough, Kirsten had retrieved a voice mail from a man named Bill, looking for a small dog.

Liz contacted Bill in hopes of finding Freddy a good home. Bill, a truck driver, had recently lost his traveling companion of many years. Traveling the US without his companion was getting very lonely for Bill. Bill is based out of Midland, and travels all over the continental US. He was really excited to hear about Freddy, but he wanted to make sure that Freddy was the right companion. Bill made arrangements with Liz to contact her when he returned to Midland.

In the meantime, Liz contacted Bridgett about a possible interest for Freddy. Bridgett was more than delighted. Bill sounded perfect for Freddy. Bridgett said, "All Freddy

wants to do is go for rides." Bridgett just couldn't believe that Bill traveled the US as a truck driver.

Upon arriving back in the Midland Area, Bill contacted Liz who made arrangements for Bill and Bridgett to meet.

After the meeting, Bridgett called Liz. She said, "It was love at first sight for the two guys. Bill was drawn to Freddy and Freddy was overjoyed with Bill!"

Bill took Freddy as his new riding companion and thanked Bridgett profusely.



Soon after Bill's adoption of Freddy, Liz received a phone call. Bill called while he was traveling across Utah. He told her that Freddy had settled right in on the passenger seat with his blankie! There was so much emotion in Bill's voice that after Liz got off the phone, a tear of joy came to her eye. Liz said, "It is these types of connections that make rescue work worthwhile".

Never trust a dog to watch your food.

--Patrick age 10 Advice from Kids

### Gift Basket Winners

The KID'S DAY event at the Midland Mall on January, 29, 2005 was a great Success! We would like to thank everyone for making this day a wonderful experience.

Congratulations to the those who won one of our many gift baskets from our booth at the Kid's Day Event at the Midland Mall.



#### GIFT BASKET WINNERS:

Hannah Wakeman- Beanie Baby Basket

Emily Resmer- Beanie Baby Basket

Sarah Pagan- Cat Supplies Basket

Special Thanks from Volunteer Joann Taylor.

Joann would like to thank Dog-toys.com, based in Pennsylvania, for sending SOS Animal Rescue a large box of toys, treats, and miscellaneous items from their organization. They are a website that donates to various non- profit groups. Thank you for your kindness!!!!

Big Thanks from ALL of US to Reva Varner.

Thank you for making the vests for our animals to wear during the parade. The vests are wonderful! Our animals will look great in them.



### Midland County Spay Neuter Program

In February 2004, SOS Animal Rescue launched the Midland County spay/neuter program. This program was to take on the task of reducing the number of euthanized dogs and cats in Midland Country. Despite these effort to prevent unwanted litters of puppies and kittens, over 1600 animals were euthanized at Midland Country Animal Control last year.

The program offers a voucher to help offset the cost of sterilization, and is intended to service limited income homes, senior citizens on a fixed income and other hardship cases. Spaying and neutering all pets is an integral part of any effort aimed at reducing the number of animals destroyed each year. Unfortunately, the cost of spay/neuter surgery pro-

hibits many owners from taking this important step.

Vouchers are distributed on a first come, first serve basis as funds become available. Through the generous support of the community we have been able to help 115 animals get spayed or neutered in the past year. Since SOS is a volunteer organization, 100% of your donations go the program, and are tax deductible.

We believe the Midland County spay/neuter program will make a difference. We need financial assistance to make this program a success and we are asking the community for support. If you would like to donate to the Midland Country spay neuter program, fill out the contribution card below. Please

join us and be a part of the solution.

We gratefully acknowledge those who helped launch the program financially for 2005. Without your contributions, we would not be able to provide such a wonderful program.

- Mary Degg
- Alexander Dunnan
- Kari and Derek Fisher
- Sharon Kilgore
- Deborah Lambesis
- Stephanie Nearman
- Sandra Simmons
- Pamela Vammer
- Zenas and Bernadette Van Slych

### Midland County Animal Control 2004 Statistics

|                      |      |
|----------------------|------|
| Animals Euthanized   | 1685 |
| Puppies Adopted      | 99   |
| Kittens Adopted      | 68   |
| Adult Dogs Adopted * | 110  |
| Adult Cats Adopted   | 42   |
| Reclaimed by Owners  | 301  |
|                      | 2305 |

\* Adult refers to an animal greater than 4 months of age

### Cookbook Fundraising Drive— your help needed

SOS is creating a pet treat cookbook. The money raised from cookbook sales will be used to fund the spay/neuter program. The program is in desperate need of funds.



We need your help to make this effort a success. Please send us your recipes. We want to include your name in the book and free a line or two about your favorite pet.



Please submit

recipes by May 1 so the books will be ready to sell at the Midland Kennel Club show on May 14. Submit to [www.sosar@charter.net](mailto:www.sosar@charter.net) or PO Box 1135 Midland, MI 48641-1135 Attn: Recipe

Properly trained, a man can be dog's best friend. ~Corey Ford, American writer

Contribution Card

**SOS Animal Rescue  
Midland County Spay Neuter Program**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Contribution Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to: SOS Animal Rescue— spay neuter fund PO Box 2323, Midland, MI 48641



## Bringing Home a New Baby

by Heather Kettlehojn

Bringing home a new addition to the family can be a very stressful time for everyone, including your pet. There will be a lot of changes to your life and to the life of your pet. Companion animals are happiest when they follow a routine. To ease the stress on your pet, introduce the new routine and establish changes several weeks before the new arrival. Let your pet know when it is time to eat, sleep, and walk.

A new baby often results in lots of visitors to your home. Brush up on your dog's basic "company" manners in the months prior to the baby's arrival. Practice such basic commands as "sit", "down" and "stay". Have family members take turns ringing the doorbell and work on your dog's greetings. If your dog barks or jumps, be sure to have a leash on him before the doorbell rings. Require a "sit" and "stay" prior to opening the door. Reward

good behavior with treats. Require the dog to stay in a "sit" or "down" until he is calm. Provide treats and encouragement throughout.

If you plan to allow your pet to have access to the nursery after the baby arrives, allow them to inspect the room prior to baby's arrival. They will be curious and need to familiarize themselves with the sounds and smells of the room. While your pet is in the nursery, reward calm behavior with praise and treats, but remember to stay calm. If you will not allow your pet to enter the nursery, they need to get used to the idea prior to baby's arrival. While you are in the nursery, block the entry with a baby gate. Again, reward calm behavior with treats and praise.

If your pet has not had exposure to small children or babies, try to stimulate the new situation. Play re-

corded sounds a babies crying. Reward the dog when he ignores the sounds and remains calm. Carry a bundle in your arms and train the dog not to jump up on you. Set out the baby's accessories like the swing and playpen and let your dog get used to them.

When the big day finally arrives, try to introduce your pet to the baby's smell prior to actually bringing the baby home. Have a friend or family member bring home a blanket with the babies smell. This will help your pet get to know the newest member of their family. When you arrive home, try to have someone else carry the baby so you can greet your pet. It is important to remain calm during the greeting. Keep your voice low and level. When you are ready to introduce your pet and the new baby be sure to have your pet under

control. If your pet is anxious or nervous, postpone the meeting. Never scold your pet for being nervous and never force a meeting. This will only create problems. Again, it is important to reward calm behavior.

Try to help your pet associate the baby with positive things in their lives. Don't ignore your pet when the baby is present. Instead, praise your pet and give them treats when they are calm around the baby. Let them know that with the baby come good things.

Finally, never leave your baby and pets alone together. If you have any problems with the introductions consult your veterinarian or an animal behaviorist.

## An SOS Success Story: Miss Kitty

By Stephanie Nearman

On a warm fall day in 2004, my grandmother noticed a stray grey/white long-haired cat around her home. Over several weeks, my grandmother brought the cat into her home since winter was ready to set in. During this time, flyers were put up all around, ads placed in the paper and area animal controls called but no one was looking for a lost white female cat.

My mother or grandmother

did not want the cat taken to animal. So, they decided to have a vet check her out, update her on all shots and gave her a name, Miss Kitty. After a clean bill of health, finding out she was about 1.5 years old and already spayed, Miss Kitty became a



**Miss Kitty**

foster cat for SOS Animal Rescue.

After months of fostering, Miss Kitty found her perfect home. A gentleman was looking for a cat that was older and was good alone.

This kind man had just lost his cat and was looking for a new companion. He had looked at Miss

Kitty's picture in the pet book at Petco in Midland. He read her description and thought this would be a good match. A meeting was scheduled for him to meet Miss Kitty. It turned out great. She warmed right up to him and he loved her. Now, Miss Kitty has a new forever home and he has a new friend. From what we hear, she already took over his chair for her cat naps and loves her new home!!!!



### Planning your Companion's Future

There are literally hundred's of animals left without homes due to an owner who has passed away or for one reason or another is unable to provide for them. Planning for your animal's future is an important part of accepting an animal into your family. You should make plans for both a temporary and permanent home for your pets in the event of an emergency.

When choosing a temporary caregiver, consider someone who lives close to your residence. The person should be someone that is generally

home during the day while you are at work or has easy access to your home. A set of keys should be given to this trusted individual. This may work well with a neighbor who has pets of their own.

When choosing a permanent caregiver, consider people who have met your pet and have successfully cared for animals in the past. Be sure to discuss your expectations at length with a permanent caregiver, so he or she understands the responsibility of caring for your pet.

Additionally, you may want to provide a trust for your pet's financial future. A trust provides for your pet immediately, and can apply not only if you die, but if you become disabled. You may designate a trustee, to distribute funds for your pet's care.

Don't let your beloved companion become an unwanted statistic. Make a resolution this week to plan for your pet's future.

### Upcoming Events

- **Adopt a Thons at Petco in Midland: 12pm to 3pm**  
**April 2,3 & 16**  
**May 7 & 21**  
**June 4 & 18**
- **June 18th 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual SOS Animal Rescue Rummage Sale- Check our website or call for details**
- **Bay County Humane Society Dog Walk in Bay City- June 4**
- **Midland Kennel Club Dog Show- May 15 & 16**
- **Regional Adoption Weekend at the Midland Fairgrounds- May 21 & 22**
- **Dog Days of Summer at Imerman Park in Saginaw- Check website for Upcoming Events for dates on this**

There is no snooze button on a cat who wants breakfast.

--Unknown



**NENA:** I am a beautiful blonde senior, girl. My owner was unable to care for me. Unfortunately I ended up in animal control where there was not much hope for me. It is terrible to not have your family anymore and then end up frightened in a cage. I was lucky and taken in by a wonderful rescue. I lived happily in rescue for the next 8 months. I passed away just this morning. I had a very happy day and fell peacefully asleep.

Remember me and make plans for your companion's future. Seniors like me, need a quiet place to sleep and be loved.

Peke A Tzu Rescue

White Cloud, MI

pekeatzurescue@ncats.net



Ronie came into rescue when her owner had to go into a nursing home.

Golden Retriever  
Rescue of Michigan  
248-988-0154



PO Box 1135 Midland, MI 48641-1135  
(989)689-6198  
www.sosar@charter.net

MISSION STATEMENT:

*SOS Animal Rescue is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization whose mission is to reduce the number of unwanted pets in Midland County through placement and public education.*

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