



**P.O. Box 1135, Midland, MI 48641**  
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**www.sosanimalrescue.org**

SOS Animal Rescue Newsletter • Volume 05, Issue 4 • October 15, 2005

## **Pet Night with Santa at the Midland Mall**

Before you know it, the snow will be falling and sleigh bells will be ringing. This also means you-know-who will be “coming to town.” Visit the SOS Animal Rescue booth next to the entrance of the Midland Mall’s Santa Land every Sunday in December for Pet Night with Santa. Enter the drawing to win a Christmas basket. Pick up free brochures on different topics to help you care for you dog or cat. And don’t forget to make a donation to your local animal rescue! Check our website or the Midland Mall website for the exact times of this event.

## **Farewell to Mary Watts, Dedicated SOS Volunteer**

*by Heather Kettelhohn*

At the end of the year, SOS Animal Rescue will be wishing a very dedicated volunteer, Mary Watts, “bon voyage” as she and her husband retire and head for warmer climates. With the group since early 2003, Mary has been an incredible source of inspiration and energy to everyone.

Whether it was returning phone calls, climbing through underbrush to save a litter of kittens, or dressing up as a cat to lead our annual dog walk, Mary was there. During her years with SOS, she has personally provided foster care and found homes for over 100 felines and canines of all sizes and shapes. She was especially dedicated to the many mom cats and abandoned kittens that were going to be destroyed. Bottle-feeding takes an extra level of dedication that not all are able to meet, but time and time again, Mary met the challenge.

Mary was also the driving force behind the creation of the SOS Spay/Neuter Program, a fund created to provide financial assistance for spaying or neutering a pet to those in need. The vision for a program like this had existed for many years, and Mary turned that dream into a reality. To date, almost 190 cats and dogs have been spayed or neutered with the assistance of this program.

Mary, thank you for all of your hard work and dedication.

## **Shop from Home**

Do you enjoy shopping on the internet? Would you like SOS Animal Rescue to benefit from your shopping? If so, check out [www.igive.com](http://www.igive.com). Choose from many online stores to shop at and a portion of your purchases will go to your favorite cause. All you have to do is sign up and name SOS Animal Rescue as your favorite cause. Happy shopping!

## **SOS EVENTS**

**Saturday, October 15**

**Saturday, November 5**

**Noon – 3:00 p.m.**

Adopt-A-Thon at Petco

**Monday, November 14**

**5:45 p.m.**

Annual SOS Animal Rescue  
Board Elections Meeting  
in Conference Room B  
at the Dow Library

**Thursday, November 17**

Pet Photo Night

at Soldans

*minimum \$5 donation to  
SOS Animal Rescue*

**Saturday, November 19**

**10:00 a.m.**

Midland Santa Parade

**Saturday, November 19**

**10:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.**

Time of Giving  
at the Midland Mall

**Saturday, November 19**

**December 3, 10 & 17**

**Noon – 3:00 p.m.**

Adopt-A-Thon at Petco

**Sundays in December**

Pet Night with Santa  
at the Midland Mall

*verify dates and times at  
the Midland Mall and  
SOS Animal Rescue websites*

## Homemade Pet Food

SOS Animal Rescue has compiled a cookbook filled with yummy recipes for feeding your cat, dog, bird, and gerbil/hamster. Pet health tips are also included. Proceeds from the sale of this \$5.00 cookbook benefit our group. Stop by any of our regular events and pick one up for your favorite furry companion. They make great holiday gifts, too.

Here's a recipe we'd like to share from the book. To make **Budda's Choice Broiled Cat Cookies**, knead four ounces of ground sirloin, three tablespoons of oatmeal, one egg, and one tablespoon of catnip and form into a round ball. Put on a cookie sheet and flatten but not too thin. Broil under 425° for 8 minutes (4 minutes each side) or until crisp. Let cool for 30 minutes then cut into bite-sized pieces for your cat.



## 8th Annual SOS Animal Rescue Dog Walk

*by Stephanie Nearman, Volunteer Coordinator*

On a beautiful Saturday morning, SOS volunteers were busy setting up for the Eighth Annual SOS Animal Rescue Dog Walk held on September 24, near the Tridge and Farmer's Market in downtown Midland. This year's event helped to raise over \$1300 for off-setting the vet costs on our foster animals and helping to fund some of our programs we do for the community, such as educational seminars, spay/neuter, etc.

This year's dog walk had many highlights and the first one was the gorgeous fall day we had for this event. It helped to make the dogs and dog owners enjoy this walk. After registration of participants was completed, walkers lined up and followed Pluto the Dog and Sylvester the Cat thru the marked dog walk trail. When they returned, they enjoyed refreshments and treats, participated in games and activities for their dogs or children, visited with local vendors, and socialized among other dogs and their owners.

We would like to give a big THANK YOU to Sharon Brady, who raised the most money at \$300, and Deb Digsby, who raised over \$250. These ladies did an awesome job in earning this money for our animal rescue. SOS would also like to thank Soldans and Petco for donating gift cards for our top two fundraisers. We also had several winners for our games. Congratulations to our winners:



**THANK YOU!**

**Northern Animal Clinic and  
Midland Community Center  
for the Dog Swim  
\$338**

**United Way  
\$283.05**

**Sandra Simmons  
for a generous donation**

**Barbara Rothaar  
for a generous donation**

## United Way Time for Giving

The annual giving campaign for the United Way has started throughout many Tri-City companies. Please keep the SOS Animal Rescue of Midland County in mind as one of the non-profit organizations that you can contribute to through the United Way. Thank you!

- Longest Sit-Down: Deb Digsby and her collie
- Musical Sit-Down: Deb Digsby and her collie
- Tail Wagging: Melissa Lile and her dog Lola
- Longest Treat Catch: Michelle Taylor and her Paws for a Cause dog Linus
- First Place for Best Costume: the Bassets as farm animals
- Second Place for Best Costume: Tinker Bell as a ballerina
- Third Place for Best Costume: Deb Digsby's collie as a Hawaiian hula dog

I would like to thank all of those who volunteered to help out with our dog walk this year. We thank each and every participant for raising money for our animal rescue. We hope you keep us in mind and look for our dog walk next year.

## October is SOS Membership Drive Month

October is the month to start or renew your SOS Animal Rescue membership. With this affordable membership, you will be helping stray or stranded animals find new homes, and you will also receive our quarterly newsletter to keep up on our progress, local events, educational articles, and memorials and donations for a special person or pet.

- Single Membership, \$15 annually
- Senior Membership, \$10 annually
  
- Mail newsletter to address at right
- E-mail newsletter to \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to  
SOS Animal Rescue  
P.O. Box 1135  
Midland, MI 48641-1135

## Midland County Spay Neuter Program

In February 2004, SOS Animal Rescue launched the Midland Country spay/neuter program in order 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 off-set 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 prohibits 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 spay or neuter over 201 animals in the past year. SOS Animal Rescue is a non-profit, volunteer organization, and 100 percent of your donations go the program and are tax deductible.

We believe the Midland Country 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.

## THANK YOU FOR DONATING TO THE SPAY/NEUTER PROGRAM!

**Luis and Stephanie Cirihal**

**family and friends of  
Ken Dubiel  
in loving memory of him**

**Sally Holmes**

**Katherine Weaver**

**Karen Gustafson**

**Sally and Arnold Young**

**Elizabeth Marshall**

Midland County Spay Neuter Program  
**Contribution Card**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Contribution Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to  
Midland County Spay Neuter Program  
P.O. Box 1135  
Midland, MI 48641-1135

This is gift in honor of \_\_\_\_\_

This is gift in memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Please notify the following of this honor/memory gift:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

# Do I Go Home Today?

*by Sandi Thompson*

My family brought me home  
cradled in their arms.  
They cuddled me and smiled at me,  
and said I was full of charm.

They played with me and laughed with me  
and showered me with toys.  
I sure do love my family,  
especially the girls and boys.

The children loved to feed me,  
they gave me special treats.  
They even let me sleep with them,  
all snuggled in their sheets.

I used to go for walks,  
often several times a day.  
They even fought to hold the leash,  
I'm very proud to say.

They used to laugh and praise me,  
when I played with that old shoe.  
But I didn't know the difference  
between the old one and the new.

The kids and I would grab a rag,  
and for hours we would tug.  
So I thought I did the right thing  
when I chewed the bathroom rug.

They said that I was out of control,  
and would have to live outside.  
This I did not understand,  
although I tried and tried.

The walks stopped, one by one;  
they said they hadn't the time.  
I wish that I could change things,  
I wish I knew my crime.

My life became so lonely,  
in the backyard on a chain.  
I barked and barked all day long,  
to keep from going insane.

So they brought me to the shelter,  
but were embarrassed to say why.  
They said I caused an allergy,  
and then kissed me good-bye.

If only I'd had some classes,  
as a little pup.  
I wouldn't have been so hard to handle  
when I was all grown up.

"You only have one day left",  
I heard the worker say.  
Does this mean a second chance?  
Do I go home today?

## Dog Flu: Widespread But Treatable

by Amanda Spake, U.S. News & World Report, September 27, 2005

A new canine influenza has sickened dogs at greyhound racing tracks, boarding kennels, and animal shelters in as many as 11 states, killing some animals, causing respiratory infections in others, and striking fear in the hearts of pet owners nationwide. From January to May 2005, reports of outbreaks of a new, respiratory disease primarily in racing dogs came into the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention from Florida, Texas, Arkansas, Arizona, West Virginia, Kansas, Iowa, Colorado, Rhode Island, and Massachusetts. Not all of these are confirmed cases of canine influenza. However, since this spring, scientists say they've confirmed cases of dog flu in pets in Florida, New York, and Massachusetts, and calls are coming in from veterinarians, shelters, and kennels elsewhere.

First identified in 22 racing greyhounds at a Florida racetrack in January 2004, the dog flu is caused by an influenza A virus known as H3N8, previously seen only in horses. Scientists believe that the virus made this unprecedented jump from horses to dogs by a process called "reassortment," where two virus strains simultaneously infect one animal and a new, hybrid strain emerges. Since dogs appear to have no resistance to this new hybrid strain, "Nearly all dogs are susceptible," explains Cynda Crawford, a professor at the University of Florida's School of



Veterinary Medicine and one of the scientists who identified the new virus.

About 80 percent of the dogs infected with the virus will suffer only a mild form of the disease, says Crawford, a short-term cough and respiratory illness. But in some dogs, the flu results in complications, such as pneumonia, that can lead to hemorrhage in the respiratory tract and death.

"Despite the rumors on the Internet and elsewhere, this disease is not as deadly as some have made it seem," says Crawford. "We don't have all the answers yet, but we are looking at a mortality rate on the order of 5 to 8 percent of dogs that become infected."

*The dog flu mimics kennel cough, an illness animals sometimes pick up when*

*they're boarded in kennels with other dogs. But kennel cough is usually caused by a bacteria called Bordetella bronchiseptica and can be prevented with a vaccination. "It's important for dog owners to keep up with their bordetella vaccinations so if their dog becomes ill, they know it's not caused by that particular bacteria."*

Canine influenza is different from kennel cough in that fever often accompanies a dog's cough, as does a runny nose and sneezing—which is apparently how the virus is passed from dog to dog, just as influenza is passed among humans. Humans do not seem to be susceptible to the H3N8 virus. It has been common in horses for some 40 years, but has never been transmitted to humans. However, whether or not a dog lover's close proximity to their pet might increase the risk of human infection is unclear. "The bottom line is we don't know," says Ruben O. Donis, a researcher at the CDC.

Work is underway to develop a vaccine against canine influenza. But in the meantime, veterinarians urge dog owners to use common sense.

"Dog owners who have dogs with a respiratory infection should keep their dogs at home," says Florida's Crawford. "As far as the average dog owner, they should continue to walk their dog on the street."



## October is National Adopt-a-Shelter-Dog Month

Usually we have a pretty good guess about the breeds of our foster dogs; however, Maggie has completely stumped us. We don't know what she is, but we do love her! Maggie is six months old and was rescued from the local shelter. She is a very happy, lovable girl. She will crawl onto your lap and cuddle the minute you sit down. She also enjoys laying in beanbag chairs and chasing bits of string. Maggie is working on crate training and basic obedience like "sit" and "come." Her house-training is also going very well. She is a smart girl and very eager to please. She is a great dog to grow with a family. Please contact us if you are interested in meeting Maggie.



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#### **Officers**

Heather Kettelhohn, President  
Joann Taylor, Vice President  
Liz Shook, Secretary  
Carol Arnosky, Treasurer

#### **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.

#### **Board of Directors**

Lis Larsen  
Stephanie Nearman  
Shelly Park  
Mary Watts

## **THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS!**



**MIDLAND ANIMAL CLINIC**