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SOS Animal Rescue Newsletter • Volume 08, Issue 4 • October 31, 2008

Bark at the Moon Pug Ball

On the third Sunday of every month, numerous pugs and their people get together for a fun play time put together by Amy and Andrew Gross of Coleman. For October, Amy decided that the Midmichigan Pug Play Group would become a pug ball and Halloween party on October 19 that would raise money for SOS Animal Rescue. Fifteen costumed pugs came with their families. Sara Willick from Howl-A-Day Resort demonstrated how to use a "Furminator" brush and also offered nail trims. A mini hay ride was available for anyone wanting to enjoy the beautiful fall weather. Mickey and Vivian were crowned Prince and Princess of the ball for the best dressed/costumed contest. The play group collected \$70 in donations which was presented to an SOS volunteer that evening. A big "THANKS" goes to Amy and Andrew for putting so much time and effort into this event and for caring so much about the foster animals. Any pug people interested in joining the play group can visit the website Midmichiganpugplay.homestead.com.



SOS EVENTS

Sunday, November 2
Noon – 3:00 p.m.

Adopt-a-Thon at PetSmart

Sunday, November 16
Noon – 3:00 p.m.

Adopt-a-Thon at PetSmart

Sunday, December 7
Noon – 3:00 p.m.

Adopt-a-Thon at PetSmart

Sunday, December 21
Noon – 3:00 p.m.

Adopt-a-Thon at PetSmart

Saturday, November 22
10:00 a.m.
Santa Parade

*Adopt-a-Thons may be cancelled if no
pets are available for adoption.*

SPAY/NEUTER STATISTICS

2004

Female Cats	41
Male Cats	26
Female Dogs	14
Male Dogs	13
Total	94

2005

Female Cats	90
Male Cats	64
Female Dogs	31
Male Dogs	17
Total	202

2006

Female Cats	90
Male Cats	57
Female Dogs	32
Male Dogs	30
Total	209

2007

Female Cats	109
Male Cats	70
Female Dogs	30
Male Dogs	41
Total	250

2008

Female Cats	71
Male Cats	35
Female Dogs	39
Male Dogs	20
Total	165

From January 2004 to October 2008, SOS Animal Rescue has spayed/neutered 920 cats and dogs (see charts).

THANK YOU!

Mathew Adams & J.R. Nosal for running a lemonade stand and giving all proceeds to SOS. We greatly appreciate their hard work and support. Also thanks to Mr. & Mrs. Nosal for their assistance.

AMSA Inc.

Gayle Blues

Deborah H. Bodner & David Lush

Mr. & Mrs. E. Hannum
Ann Norris

Dr. P. & Sharon Oriel
Mr. & Mrs. David Potts

Mrs. Dorothy Yates
in memory of Jonathon Walters

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Braddock

Mr. & Mrs. John Copp

Mr. & Mrs. S.A. Feher

David & Pamela Goodman
in memory of Fern Clerc

Richard Heiny
in memory of
Mrs. Mykung-Ok Choo

Sally Holmes

Alexander Iwanow

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Jones

Sharon Kilgar

T.J. & P.J. McMann

Harriette Miller

Thomas Moran

Mr. & Mrs. Carl Mortenson

Mrs. Joyce Navarre

Lyuba Pace

Betty Pope Memorial

Mr. Richard Potter
in memory of Lawrence Potter

Thor Russell
for SOS donations in lieu of
12th birthday presents

Cheryl Siegal
Adoption/A. Gulau

Mary Alice Smiley

Mr. & Mrs. Donald Wilson

Mr. & Mrs. S. Young



Thank you to the Midland Community Center for hosting and donating to the annual dog swim!





Pet Lessons

A lot of adults could learn from ten-year-old J.R. Nosal (pictured above) and nine-year-old Matthew Adams. J.R.'s love for animals prompted him to do something to help. With SOS Animal Rescue in mind, J.R. and his friend Matthew set up a lemonade stand in August to raise money for their furry friends. The lemonade stand also featured prized possessions the boys had collected to assist in their fund-raising: Webkinz, Webkinz trading cards, homemade zucchini bread, and many other miscellaneous items.

"I thought I would raise about \$50," said J.R. when asked what his goal was. Instead, the boys raised about \$125. They were surprised at how many people came out, with many donations being cash. Because of the success, they hope to make this a yearly event and are already saving items for next year's fund-raiser.

Why SOS Animal Rescue? "I really love animals. I want to be a veterinarian," he says. (Later J.R. showed me his Halloween costume, a veterinarian uniform.) He also believes that all animals should have a good home and if you cannot afford an animal, then don't buy one. Truer words were never spoken.

SOS and Vetmed Partner for Pets

Dr. Blasko of Vetmed in Midland has volunteered to partner with SOS Animal Rescue to provide low-cost cat neuter surgeries for the Midland County Spay Neuter program. The goal of the program is to reduce the number of unwanted litters of kittens in the Midland area.

The program offers reduced rates for cat neuter surgeries to qualifying households. To receive an application, send a request to SOS Animal Rescue, P.O. Box 2323, Midland, MI 48641. Dr. Blasko and her staff's dedication to the SOS Animal Rescue Spay Neuter Program is greatly appreciated.

PET PHOTOS WITH SANTA

Soldan's Midland
Thursday, December 4 • 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Soldan's Bay City
Thursday, December 11 • 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Soldan's Mt. Pleasant
Thursday, December 18 • 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

Santa Parade

Join us for the Annual Midland Santa Parade on Saturday, November 22 at 10:00 a.m. The parade starts at the Midland High School parking lot, and we line up at 9:30 a.m.

Bring your friends and their dogs to walk with us. Wear something colored red. (Remember that a parade environment is filled with lots of noises, people, and action. If your pet stresses in those conditions please be kind and leave them at home.) Visit Downtown Midland's website at downtownmidland.com for more parade information.

Membership Renewal

We will begin our membership renewal mailing shortly, so be on the look out for the postcard.

Sharing Tree

Soldan's has once again graciously volunteered to partner with us on the annual sharing tree project. The tree will go up around November 1. So stop in, pick a tag, and remember those less fortunate pets this holiday season.



Puppies as Presents

Christmas puppies may sound good, but rarely pan out. For me the holiday season starts with the first letter from a parent asking for advice on a Christmas puppy. This year a new record: late September, about the same time as I spotted the first Christmas decorations being unpacked in a shop.

I have to give those early parents points for thinking ahead, because a pet should never be an impulse purchase. But year after year, I still have to advise that a Christmas puppy is rarely the best of ideas. Who doesn't love a puppy, and who wouldn't want to delight a child? But there are reasons why shelters, rescue groups and responsible breeders are uniform in their advice to think twice about a Christmas puppy.

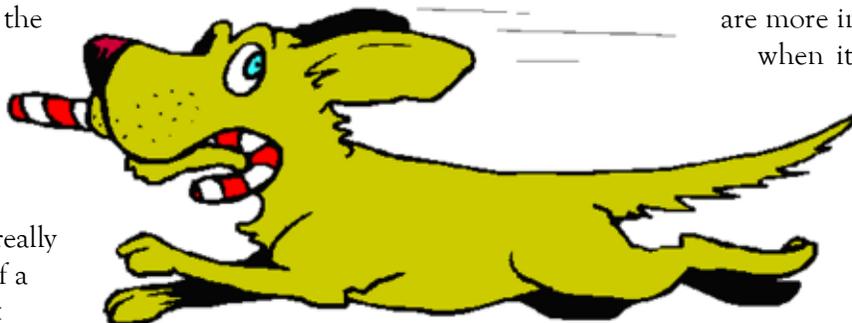
What's the problem? The reasons against a Christmas puppy break down into these categories:

- Holiday stress. Puppies are animals that need a lot of attention. Who has time for a pup during the holidays? With a houseful of guests and a holiday dinner to prepare, who will make sure the puppy isn't being mauled by overly enthusiastic children and guests? Who has time to get house-training started right? Most people I know already are working at maximum stress levels during the holidays. To get a puppy off to the right start, the animal needs to be No. 1 on the family priority list.
- Bad timing. Try house-training a puppy when it's cold and stormy. Are you really so keen on the idea of a Christmas puppy that

you want to be out on winter nights, shivering while a puppy carefully contemplates whether he'd rather sniff or pee?

- What about the rest of the training? The first few months of a dog's life are crucial: Bad habits are far easier to prevent than they are to break later, and ongoing socialization is critical. Dogs who grow up non-house-trained, non-mannered and non-socialized too often never get a chance to grow up much at all. From summer to fall, I get dozens and dozens of letters from people who are tearing out their hair over their now adolescent Christmas puppy.
- Poor selection. Many reputable breeders and shelters flat-out won't cooperate with your Christmas puppy lust. That means if you're looking for a puppy, you may be choosing from sellers who don't know or care enough to offer healthy, well-socialized puppies. With purebred dogs and the new trendy crossbreeds, this can be a real problem because congenital defects such as hip dysplasia turn up frequently in animals from sellers who don't certify their breeding dogs are free of congenital defects.

It's difficult to pass on that lovely Christmas morning moment, but if your goal is a healthy, well-socialized pet for years to come, wait until the odds are more in your family's favor when it comes to getting the right puppy off to a great start.



*By Gina Spadafori.
Reprinted from The
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November 2005.*



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Officers

Heather Kettelhohn, President
Shelley Park, Vice President
Darlene Andrews, Secretary
Karla Oldenburg, 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

Dawn Carsten
Liz Shook

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THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS!



at RE/MAX of Midland



**MIDLAND
ANIMAL CLINIC**



Midland Vetmed