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SOS Animal Rescue Newsletter • Volume 08, Issue 1 • January 15, 2008

Love for Cats Runs in the Family

Young Zoe had adopted a cat, Shadow, from Critter Corners when older sister Gigi realized that she wanted one of her own. So Gigi and her mom looked at an SOS litter and decided to give one of the little black kittens a good home, naming her Bella. After a few days, Mom wanted to be sure another black kitten from that same litter had a good home too, so they adopted Bear. Gigi gave SOS all the savings from her piggy bank to help other foster kitties. And for her birthday, her aunt donated money to SOS in lieu of presents. Thank you for giving these wonderful kittens such a good home!

SOS EVENTS

Sunday, January 6

Noon – 3:00 p.m.

Adopt-a-Thon at PetSmart

Saturday, January 19

10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Kids' Day at Midland Mall

Sunday, January 20

Noon – 3:00 p.m.

Adopt-a-Thon at PetSmart

Sunday, February 3

Noon – 3:00 p.m.

Adopt-a-Thon at PetSmart

Sunday, February 17

Noon – 3:00 p.m.

Adopt-a-Thon at PetSmart

Sunday, March 2

Noon – 3:00 p.m.

Adopt-a-Thon at PetSmart

Sunday, March 16

Noon – 3:00 p.m.

Adopt-a-Thon at PetSmart

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

Snoopy's Pet Party

Midland Center for the Arts recently sponsored "Snoopy's Pet Party" with all proceeds benefiting SOS Animal Rescue. This fun-filled day provided another opportunity to spread the word about our low-income spay/neuter program. Below, Sidney Smith, 7, hugs her Pomeranian, Foxy, as she waits for the start of the pet parade along with Ian Meinema, 4, right, and his older brother Lee, 6, left. "She always gets carried like an angel because she's just a little spoiled brat," Smith said of Foxy. (Picture reprinted from the *Midland Daily News*.)



Laura Mier Named VolunTEEN of the Week

Congratulations go to Laura Mier who was named VolunTEEN of the Week by the United Way Volunteer Center of Midland County. Laura has volunteered with many organizations, including fostering cats and dogs for SOS Animal Rescue. Without volunteers like Laura, we wouldn't be able to help as many homeless pets.



Great day for a parade! Thanks go to all the walkers and thanks to Midland Center for the Arts for sponsoring the float.

DO YOU FEED YOUR DOGS PURINA PRODUCTS?

Save those weight circles and drop them in the SOS donation canister at Soldan's or mail them to SOS Animal Rescue, P.O. Box 1135, Midland, MI 48641. Just another simple way to help the animals!

Things to Learn from a Dog

- Never pass up the opportunity to go for a joyride.
- Allow the experience of fresh air and the wind in your face to be pure ecstasy.
- When loved ones come home, always run to greet them.
- When it's in your best interest, practice obedience.
- Let others know when they've invaded your territory.
- Take naps and stretch before rising.
- Run, romp, and play daily.
- Eat with gusto and enthusiasm.
- Be loyal.
- Never pretend to be something you're not.
- When you're happy, dance around and wag your entire body.
- When someone is having a bad day, be silent, sit close by and nuzzle him or her gently.
- Thrive on attention and let people touch you.
- Avoid biting when a simple growl will do.
- On hot days, drink lots of water and lie under a shady tree.
- No matter how often you're scolded, don't buy into the guilt thing and pout; run right back and make friends.
- Delight in the simple joys of a long walk

Reprinted from Senior Sampler.



Cat Facts

- The first cat museum opened to the public was Katzenmuseum in Riehen, Switzerland on June 12, 1982.
- The only live animal allowed in ancient Roman temples was the cat.
- A group of cats, when not a litter, is called a *clowder*. A group of such kittens is called a *kyndyl*.
- An anatomical curiosity of white cats is that if they have blue eyes, they probably cannot hear.
- At least one cat helped in the building of Grand Coulee Dam in 1930. A string was tied to its tail, and it walked through drain pipes, connecting ropes to cables.
- If a pair of cats can produce two litters of three kittens per year, how many cats will they and their offspring produce in 10 years? The answer is 80 million. Have your pets spayed or neutered!

Spay/Neuter Statistics

From 2005 to November 2007, SOS Animal rescue has spayed/neutered 623 cats and dogs (see charts at right).

2007

Female Cats	90
Male Cats	60
Female Dogs	23
Male Dogs	39
Total	212

2006

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

2005

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

THANK YOU!

THANK YOU!

THANK YOU!



Santa and Moxie share a moment by the Giving Tree at Soldan's.

Soldan's Pet Supply Store for hosting the Giving Tree. We received much needed food, kitty litter, training treats, chew toys, and other items for pets in need.

**S. Babcock
Kim Bruce
Mark & Kathie Green
Mark & Reva Langeneker
Bud & Sandy Martin
Tom, Kerri, Breeanna, & Samantha Ohlrich
in memory of Frederick Niemeyer**

Merry Blades

**Deborah Boots
in honor of Chris Brosier**

**Deborah Boots
in memory of Patches**

Marsha Bradley

**Gigi Dauphinee
who emptied her piggy bank to help the animals**

Leslie Foote

Sally Holmes

Alex Iwanow

Michelle McCormick

**Midland Public Schools OTP Committee
in honor of Nina McCormick's retirement**

Joan Monahan

**Nouvel Catholic Central High School
Freshmen Class**

Teresa Pennington

Edward & Julia Ricks

Catherine Bieri Ryan

Sandra Simmons

**Mark & Gerry Sonnenschein
in honor of Robbie the dog**

June Rummage Sale

Start saving your stuff for the annual SOS rummage sale at St. John's. Set-up will take place on Thursday, June 19. The sale will be held on Friday, June 20 and Saturday, June 21.

8 Reasons Not to Surprise with a Pet

1. Pets are a 10- to 20-year commitment. They are not toys that can put in the corner when the thrill is gone. They are living creatures who just want to be loved. Living creatures all have needs – to be loved, fed, watered, and well cared for.
2. Holidays are hectic for humans. Relatives come and go. Family members spend more time away from home. Strange decorations fill the home. This is not a good time to introduce a new family member to your household. The new pet will need lots of attention – something most people don't have to spare. Your new little pet has no idea where she is now living. Where should they go potty? Who are these strange people? What am I allowed to do?
3. Pets cost money to upkeep. When you buy a shirt for someone, there's not a lot of added expense. Pets need food, toys, vet appointments, grooming, etc. Maybe Grandma is living on a limited income and can't afford the added expense.
4. Pets are individuals. Just like people, pets have their own personalities. You may pick a dog that requires lots of exercise but your Uncle Joe's family consists of all couch potatoes. All members of a family – two-legged and four-legged – should meet a new pet before a decision is made.
5. Consider allergies, asthma, and other medical conditions. Many pets are returned because little Susie or Dad have severe allergies to pets. You may not be aware of health issues relating to having a pet. Or, for older adults, smaller pets may get under their feet and trip them.
6. You may love pets, but not everyone else does. Or, perhaps they love pets but aren't educated enough about being a responsible pet owner. You may want to consider giving them a book on this topic.
7. Not all animal lovers want puppies or kittens. You may find them adorable, but a more mature pet may be a better fit.
8. Many puppies and kittens given as gifts end up in shelters for adoption or are euthanized for "behavior issues." Most of these returns could be avoided with adequate training, attention to the pet, and the proper initial selection of the pet.

Please do encourage pet adoptions for gifts. Provide a gift card or gift certificate for a family member or friend to purchase a pet instead. Go along with all the members of the household for the selection process. Then, have a great time with the new family member!

Source: Pets911



*Thank you, Soldan's Pet Supply Store
for hosting Pet Photo night with Santa.*





Santa had a wonderful time taking photos with your special family pets.



Signs of Aging in Cats

An older cat may exhibit the following signs of aging:

- Meows more frequently.
- Avoids favorite resting place (and finds places to hide instead).
- Misses or doesn't use litter box.
- Doesn't come when called.
- Changes sleeping or eating patterns.
- Any change in behavior or health, acute or gradual, warrants a visit to your veterinarian without delay.

We Want to Hear from You

If you would like to send us comments or have an interesting story on a rescue, please direct these to Darlene Andrews at darandrews@gmail.com.

Summer Schedule for Bark in the Park

Mark your calendars for this summer's Bark in the Park. Tentative dates are the second and fourth Wednesdays of June, July, and August 2008. The event is held at the Chippawassee Dog Park, west of the Tridge.

**No matter how little money and
how few possessions you own,
having a dog makes you rich.**

- Louis Sabin

Save Money

Help us to save more money for the animals by allowing us to e-mail our newsletter to you instead of traditional mailing. Drop a note to sosar@charter.net and we'll add you to the e-mail distribution list.

Welcome Our New Sponsor

Gourmet Cupcake Shoppe celebrated its grand opening on November 17 and is located at 6829 Eastman Avenue, across from the Midland Mall. A portion of their proceeds is donated to SOS. We welcome them as our newest sponsor.





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Officers

Heather Kettelhohn, President
Adam Paveglio, Vice President
Darlene Andrews, 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

Chris Erskine
Shelley Park

Newsletter Editor

Sheryl Billmeier Hnizda

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS!



**MIDLAND
ANIMAL CLINIC**

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