



P.O. Box 1135, Midland, MI 48641
989-689-6198
www.sosar@charter.net
www.sosanimalrescue.org

SOS Animal Rescue Newsletter • Volume 08, Issue 3 • July 31, 2008

An Adoption Love Story

We would like to thank you for allowing us to adopt Mac in November 2007 and Molly-Ann in April 2008. Both dogs have brought our family much joy and love.

Dan's parents were both admitted to a nursing home with Alzheimer's disease. Mac, a German short hair, has completed obedience school and has been visiting the nursing home weekly with us since January 2008. The second week that we visited with Mac, the nursing staff started bringing residents to him. He loves to visit and comfort them. He stops at every wheelchair going down the hallways and is called into rooms by residents and their families. Mac has learned four tricks: sing a song, shake hands, speak, and roll over. He enjoys performing these tricks to residents and staff.

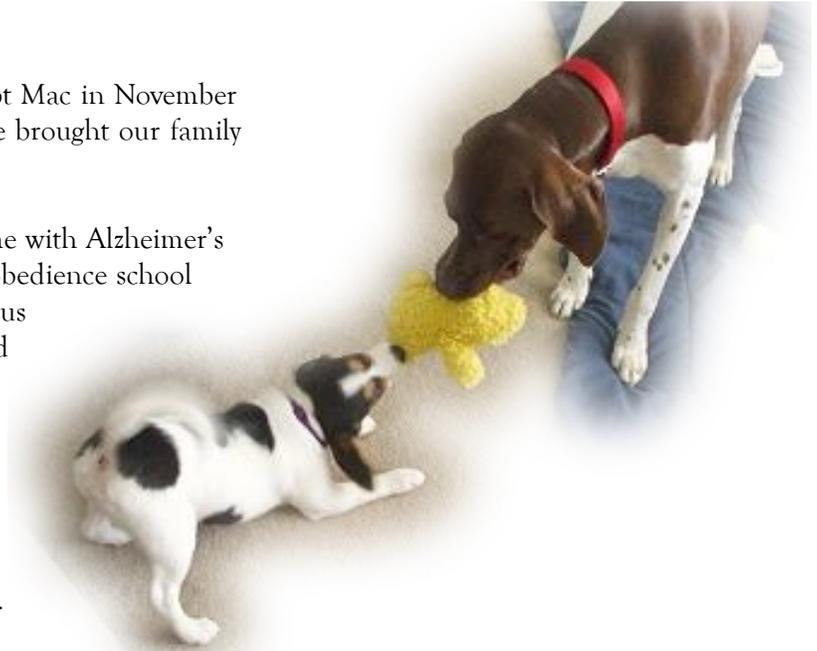
One particular resident, a teenager who is very ill and paralyzed from the neck down, was unresponsive for weeks.

His nurse Sharon asked if Mac could visit him. Dan held Mac up over the bed next to the young man so he could see Mac. Then Mac sang a song for him and the he smiled for the first time. His mother was overcome with gratitude. Mac visited him each time we went until he was moved to another facility close to his home on Lake Michigan.

We consider ourselves very lucky to have Mac. We love him dearly. At home, Mac enjoys playing with us, going on walks, and running and playing in our yard. He has played with dogs from our family and friends, but since we adopted Molly-Ann (Garmin) in April, he doesn't have to wait for a playdate to have that kind of special fun.

Even though there is a considerable size difference at this time, Mac and Molly-Ann have bonded. They eat

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SOS EVENTS

Friday, August 1
4:00 – 7:00 p.m.

"Fashion for a Fix" at Couture

Sunday, August 3
Noon – 3:00 p.m.

Adopt-a-Thon at PetSmart

Wednesday, August 13
6:30 – 8:00 p.m.
Bark in the Park

Sunday, August 17
Noon – 3:00 p.m.
Adopt-a-Thon at PetSmart

Friday, August 22
5:00 – 8:00 p.m.

MCC Annual Dog Swim

Wednesday, August 27
6:30 – 8:00 p.m.
Bark in the Park

Sunday, September 7
Noon – 3:00 p.m.
Adopt-a-Thon at PetSmart

Sunday, September 21
Noon – 3:00 p.m.
Adopt-a-Thon at PetSmart

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



"An Adoption Love Story" continued from previous page

together, take naps together, and play inside and outside together. Molly-Ann copies Mac and is already learning to sit when asked. They are special to us and to each other. Mac is Molly-Ann's guardian. We have caught him holding her while napping and putting his dry food on the floor for her to nibble. They love playing with each other. It has been a really special experience for us to watch them adopt each other.

Molly-Ann has a warm, loving personality, but she can get sassy when playing with Mac. She doesn't take any gruff from him and can hold her own. We will take Molly-Ann to the nursing home when she is ready. She loves to cuddle, and the residents will enjoy her.



A special thank you goes to Sara, Tracy, and Ann G. for rescuing these two dogs for us to love. Thank you, Ann G., for allowing us to adopt Mac who has started us on a new and unexpected chapter in our lives. And to all the SOS members, thank you so much for all the work you do with your animal rescue efforts.

We cannot imagine our lives without these two little ones you've given us.

from Dan & Susan Darland



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	50
	Male Cats	24
	Female Dogs	24
	Male Dogs	19
	Total	117

From January 2004 to July 2008, SOS Animal Rescue has spayed/neutered 872 cats and dogs (see charts).

Finding a Lost Pet

When your beloved dog or cat strays from home, it can be a traumatic experience for both of you. Here are some tips that we hope will help you find your pet.

Contact local animal shelters and animal control agencies. File a lost pet report with every shelter within a 60-mile radius of your home and visit the nearest shelters daily, if possible. If there is no shelter in your community, contact the police. Provide these agencies with an accurate description and a recent photograph of your pet. Notify the police if you believe your pet was stolen.

Search the neighborhood. Walk or drive through your neighborhood several times each day. Ask neighbors, letter carriers, and delivery people if they have seen your pet. Hand out a recent photograph of your pet and information on how you can be reached if your pet is found.

Advertise. Post notices at grocery stores, community centers, veterinary offices, traffic intersections, online at www.pets911.com and www.findtoto.com, pet supply stores, and other locations. Also place ads in newspapers and with

radio stations. Include your pet's sex, age, weight, breed, color, and any special markings. When describing your pet, leave out one identifying characteristic and ask the person who finds your pet to describe it.

Be wary of pet-recovery scams. When talking to a stranger who claims to have found your pet, ask him to describe the pet thoroughly before you offer any information. If he does not include the identifying characteristic you left out of the advertisements, he may not really have your pet. Be particularly wary of people who insist that you give or wire them money for the return of your pet.

Don't give up your search. Animals who have been lost for months have been reunited with their owners.

A pet, even an indoor pet, has a better chance of being returned if she always wears a collar and an ID tag with your name, address, and telephone number. Ask your local animal shelter or veterinarian if permanent methods of identification (such as microchips) are available in your area.

Reprinted from The Humane Society of the United States.

Fashionable Fund-Raiser

SOS and Couture invite you to "Fashion for a Fix." On Friday, August 1 from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. at Couture (132 E. Main St., Downtown Midland), 20 percent of all sales will be donated to the SOS spay/neuter fund. Everyone wins with a free 10-minute wardrobe consultation. Enter for a chance to win a full wardrobe consultation, Couture gift certificate, and discount toward a future purchase at Couture. Join us for this fashionable fund-raiser.

THANK YOU!

AMSA, Inc.
in memory of
Jonathon Bryce Walter

Danielle Bessemer

Meaghan Duly

Leslie Foote

Tom & Beverly Holtham

**Abigail Jewkes &
Sally Shepherdson**
in memory of **Kody Bangert**

Deb Lambesis

**food, bins, blankets, dishes,
collars, leashes, toys, and
medicine in memory of
our beloved dogs
Phoebe & Madison Nichols**

John Rothaar

Leslie & Thor Russell

Shelterhouse Staff
in memory of
Kelly Moldovan's dog Coby

Sandra Simmons

Dolores Sinke

May Alice Smiley

Rev. Jane Thickstun

Pam Vammer

Sally Young

Bennigan's, Big Boy, and all of their employees
for sponsoring **SOS Animal Rescue night in their restaurants!**

PetSmart, Soldan's, and our veterinarians
for distributing flyers for this event.

Community support such as this enables us to continue our spay/neuter program in Midland County. We have doubled our requests since last year and hope to continue to grow and assist more animals. We are rapidly approaching the 1000th pet to be spayed or neutered through this program.



Gray 4-H Group
for making **cat scratch posts.**

The posts will be used in our foster homes. The posts are also given to families who are nearly ready to get rid of their cat for destroying their furniture.

Providing the cat with an appropriate place to scratch prevents another pet from becoming homeless due to unacceptable behaviors.

Cook Elementary School
for hosting **fund-raiser and donating money.**

Generous donations like this allow us to purchase educational information for distribution in the community, provide food and medical care for homeless pets, and provide spay/neuter assistance to low income families. Your thoughtfulness is appreciated and many cats and dogs will benefit from your donation.

E-News

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.

Comments

We want to hear from you! Send comments or interesting rescue stories to darandrews@gmail.com.

4th Annual Dog Swim



A glance at
Dog Swim 2007

August 22, 2008

Dogs under 50 LBS. 5-6 PM

Dogs over 50 LBS. 6-8 PM

Current vaccinations are required.

\$5 members

\$7 non-members

All proceeds benefit
SOS Animal Rescue

Register @ the Welcome Center
All dogs must be pre-registered!

#4101A - under 50 lbs.

#4101B - over 50 lbs.



**MIDLAND
COMMUNITY
CENTER**



P.O. Box 1135, Midland, MI 48641-1135
989-689-6198
sosar@charter.net
www.sosanimalrescue.org

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

Newsletter Editor

Sheryl Billmeier Hnizda

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS!



**MIDLAND
ANIMAL CLINIC**

PETSMART®