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SOS Animal Rescue Newsletter • Volume 12, Issue 1 • December 1, 2011



**Many thanks to Family Fare
for sponsoring the PAL Program in the Santa Parade!**



Dirty Dog Run Highlights

This year's Dirty Dog Run was another success. A total of 116 runners and walkers participated in the 10K and 5K runs and the walk. Many more came out to Midland City Forest to enjoy the action as spectators and to enjoy the absolutely fabulous weather.

We were especially proud that members of the Midland Amateur Radio Club (MARC) were there to provide communications and directions to the runners and to be on-hand in case of emergencies (which fortunately did not happen). Please visit our Facebook album to see the many wonderful photographs.

Thank You, Event Sponsors!

Coca-Cola
 Northern Animal Clinic
 Park Place Homes
 Prime Lending
 Superior Title & Settlement Agency



Congratulations, Winners of the 2011 Dirty Dog Run!

1st Place 10K Male Steve Adair
 2nd Place 10K Male John Billette
 3rd Place 10K Male Will Mapes

1st Place 10K Female Jennifer Ayers-Gould
 2nd Place 10K Female Aimee Reed
 3rd Place 10K Female Teresa Martin

1st Place 5K Male Brad Saenuk
 2nd Place 5K Male Kurtis Dupree
 3rd Place 5K Male Ian Montgomery

1st Place 5K Female Nicole Gotts
 2nd Place 5K Female Sheri Tausk
 3rd Place 5K Female Kelley Lualum

1st Place 5K Walker Terri Taglauer
 2nd Place 5K Walker Liz Schaff
 3rd Place 5K Walker Connie Sit

Thank You, Prize Sponsors!

Animal Pal • Auto Technicians • Coyer Candles Co.
 Design Within • Espresso Milano
 The Gourmet Cupcake Shoppe • HQ Bicycle
 Howl-A-Day • The Magpie Gallery • Maple Hill Nursery
 Mari's Hair Salon • Meier Camera Shop • Pizza Sam's
 Runners • Scrapbooks Galore & More • Shirlene's
 Small Critter Sitter • Soldan's • Texan • Valley Electric
 Wall & Webb Jewelers • Ways to Wellness



Choosing a Groomer

Imagine how you would look and feel if you never bathed, brushed your hair, or trimmed your nails. To be healthy and happy, your companion animal needs basic grooming too.

You can handle the brushing and other simple grooming procedures yourself. This type of regular grooming helps build a close bond between you and your pet, and keeps you informed of the condition of his fur, skin, teeth, nails, and ears.

In fact, it is not uncommon to discover lumps, infections, and other problems during a thorough grooming routine. Grooming may include bathing, combing, brushing, clipping nails, cutting or shaving mats, cleaning ears, and controlling external parasites.

Is This a Job for a Professional?

Should you take your pet to a professional groomer? The answer depends on the type of pet you have and your comfort level.

For example, many people feel comfortable grooming their short-haired cats, while owners of long-haired dogs prone to mats opt for professional grooming. You may not have the time, tools, experience, or physical ability to adequately groom your pet. Some animals (like poodles) have their fur groomed into particular styles that require a professional. Or a pet may require regular or seasonal clipping, medicated or flea baths, removal of skunk odors or harmful substances, or removal of matted fur.

Typically a trained professional can more safely and humanely handle tricky procedures and temperamental or frightened animals. (Removing severe mats should always be done by an experienced groomer to avoid accidental cuts.) Keep in mind, however, that professional groomers aren't miracle workers; it's up to you to stay on top of your pet's grooming needs.

Finding a Groomer

Start with a recommendation from a friend, veterinarian, boarding kennel, dog trainer, pet supply store, or animal shelter. Check online or in the Yellow Pages under "Pet Grooming." You can also contact the National Dog Groomers Association of America.

Some groomers are registered or certified by a grooming school or professional association, but no government agency regulates or licenses pet groomers. Check with your local Better Business Bureau to see if any complaints have been lodged against a grooming facility. Then after

narrowing your search, call groomers to ask about services, costs, and hours of operation. Also request the names of a few current clients to interview.

Evaluate a Grooming Facility

Before selecting a groomer, tour the facility.

Here are some factors to consider during your evaluation:

- Is the facility well lit?
- Does it look and smell clean?
- Does the staff appear knowledgeable and caring? Do they handle pets gently?
- Are cages adequately sized? Are dogs and cats caged in separate areas?
- Are pets monitored regularly to prevent overheating during blow-drying?
- Does the groomer keep complete pet records (including grooming, medical, vaccination, and emergency contact information)?

How Much Does Grooming Cost?

Grooming costs vary depending on where you live, your pet's species and size, the severity of matting, and the simplicity or difficulty of the cut. Fees for a shampoo and brushing and/or cut can range between \$40 to \$60, depending on those factors. More extensive grooming services cost more. Expect to pay more for mobile grooming services that come to your home.

How to Ease Your Pet's Fears

It's important for your pet to tolerate being groomed, regardless of how often you take him to a professional. To train your pet, groom him briefly when you're both relaxed. For example, begin by gently massaging his coat each morning as you feed him. Gradually introduce a brush or comb. Each day, increase the grooming time and work on different areas. Reward your pet for cooperating. The more comfortable your pet feels with home grooming and around strangers, the better he'll tolerate professional grooming.

Preparing for the First Visit

For the health and safety of both your pet and the groomer, make sure your pet is up-to-date on veterinary treatment, including vaccines and sterilization. Spayed and neutered pets are generally calmer, and sterilized dogs are less likely



Continued on Page 5

Choosing a Groomer *continued from Page 4*

to bite. (Sterilized pets also enjoy many health benefits and do not contribute to pet overpopulation.)

A pet who is particularly nervous or difficult to handle makes the grooming process stressful for both your pet and the groomer. If this sounds like your pet, work with an animal behavior specialist or dog trainer.

Give Them the 411

When making the appointment, inform the groomer about your pet's needs. To provide special handling, the groomer must know in advance whether your pet is geriatric or has a

chronic health condition. Also warn the groomer about any habits that could interfere with safe and successful grooming. Keep in mind that groomers are not licensed to dispense tranquilizers; if your pet needs sedation to be groomed, find a veterinarian who employs a groomer.

Short and Sweet Good-byes

When you drop your pet off at the groomer, bid your pet good-bye quickly; emotional departures will increase your pet's stress level. When you pick up your pet, both of you will enjoy that clean, mat-free coat that makes pets—and their people—more comfortable.

Reprinted from www.humanesociety.org, the Humane Society of the United States.

Thank you, Family Fare, for hosting our Halloween costume contest & providing prizes for winners!

Cat Basket Winner

Riley as a Princess
Owner Diane Shank &
daughter Shelby Archer



First Place Costume Winner

winner was dressed as a Hippie
Bumblebee was the partner in this dynamic duo
(we regret not obtaining owner's & winner's names)

Second Place Costume Winner

Tucker as Devil Dog
Owner Shelby Cross

Third Place Costume Winner

Kramer as a Hot Dog
Owner Kristin Westenzorf



THANK YOU!

PLATINUM

Alpine Mobile Home Village
 Family Fare
 Morley's Portraiture
 Park Place Homes
 Midland VetMed

GOLD

Coca-Cola
 The Home Depot
 Northern Animal Clinic
 Prime Lending
 Soldan's

SILVER

Garber Automotive Group
 The Gourmet Cupcake Shoppe
 Larkin Food Center
 PetSmart
 Superior Title & Settlement Agency
 Tractor Supply Company

BRONZE

AT Frank
 J. Marjorie Bower
 Grandma's Pumpkin Patch
 Lowe's
 Moore Orchards
 Roger's Hobby Center
 7-11

Barbara Anderson
 Vicki Martin Anderson
 Anne Applegath
 Kristina Arbury
 Mike Bartos
 Jan Baumgras
 Deb Boots
 Terri Chambers

Mona Cline

Tamara Coppins

Leslie Foote

Deb Fugate

Richard Heiny
 in memory of William Fagley

Melinda Hall

in loving memory of Grace Anderson
 who loved animals

Beverly Holtham

Isabella Jansen
 in memory of Dante

Teresa Jaure

Deb Lambesis

David & Brenda Letts

Joann Lightfoot

Barbara McGregor

Joan Monahan

Toni Nelson

Theresa & Scott O'Dell

Lyuba Pace

in loving memory of beloved cat Manya

Teresa L. Pennington

Paul & Cathleen Price

Bernice Rahn

Donna Simmons

Sandra Simmons

Peggy Richard Smith

Kathy Tangney

Joann Taylor

Isaac Teller

Arlene Thompson

Paul & Pam Vammer

Irene Wallace

for cat food for the Foster Care Program
 on behalf of May and her four kittens
 rescued from the salvage yard

Sarah Wiley

Diana Yarmuth

for formula and bottle kits for the care
 of the foster kittens and
 for her assistance with the process of
 bottle-feeding the Basket of Kittens at
 the SOS Adopt-athon at PetSmart

Good Dog

Here is a list of just some of the things
 I must remember to be a good dog:

1. I will not eat the cat's food before he eats it or after he throws it up.
2. I will not roll on dead seagulls, fish, crabs, etc., just because I like the way they smell.
3. The litter box is not a cookie jar.
4. The sofa is not a face towel.
5. The garbage collector is not stealing our stuff.
6. I don't need to suddenly stand straight up when I'm under the coffee table.
7. I must shake the rainwater out of my fur before entering the house, not after.
8. The cat is not a squeaky toy, so when I play with him and he makes that noise, it's usually not a good thing.



To date,
PAL
 has helped
56 dogs
149 cats
6 birds
4 rabbits
1 horse

Spay/Neuter Statistics

From January 2004 to November 2011, SOS has spayed/neutered 1384 cats and dogs. If each surgery prevents one unwanted litter, the spay/neuter program has reduced the number of unwanted pets by over 450 in 2011 and 5500 since 2004.

SPAY/NEUTER	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Female Cats	41	90	93	109	90	64	74	48
Male Cats	26	64	57	70	49	32	42	20
Female Dogs	14	31	32	30	44	28	39	26
Male Dogs	13	17	30	41	20	6	21	23
TOTAL	94	202	212	250	203	130	176	117



Connie Coy, winner of Tractor Supply raffle.

Pet Photos with Santa

\$10 for 8x10

**Saturday, December 3
12:00 noon – 3:00 p.m.
Soldan's in Midland**

**Saturday, December 10
12:00 noon – 3:00 p.m.
Soldan's in Bay City**



One Blue Tick Hound and Seven Baby Kittens

Seven one-day-old kittens with no mother in sight. One Blue Tick Hound with no owner in sight. Whom will you choose to help? The dog? The kittens?

There are any numbers of reasons why the problem of unwanted cats and dogs still exists in today's society. They include not being able to provide basic essentials like food, shelter, and veterinary care. Or an unspayed pet has a litter of unwanted puppies or kittens. Or sometimes the family simply doesn't want the pet any more. The end results are the same. The pets need to leave the only home they have ever known.

This is where SOS Animal Rescue foster homes step up to help the unfortunate animals in Midland County whose lives have been turned upside down through no fault of their own. Through foster care, the animal experiences a positive, loving environment until a permanent home can be found for them.

Seven one-day-old kittens and one hound were saved because SOS Animal Rescue and A Few Steps From Home partnered to rescue all of them. SOS Animal Rescue was at an adopt-athon at Soldan's when an owner released their Blue Tick Hound to our organization. A Few Steps From Home was shopping for supplies and had just rescued seven baby kittens. A wonderful trade was arranged that benefited all the animals involved. A Few Steps From Home is now providing the Blue Tick Hound with a safe, secure home where she is able to run, play, and receive the necessary food and veterinary care. SOS Animal Rescue is serving as mama kitty for the next four weeks, bottle feeding the litter every three to four hours.

Foster care moms Julie and Sheri correspond daily and help each other as needed for the betterment of the animals. Only by working together can we provide what is best for all. That's what a win-win scenario is all about.

Update: All seven kittens are thriving and will soon be ready for adoption. Watch them grow on facebook at www.facebook.com/sosanimalrescue.

Destructive Scratching

Some people think a cat's scratching behavior is a reflection of his dislike of your favorite piece of furniture or an attempt to get even. Cats actually scratch objects in their environment for many reasons.

For instance, cats scratch to remove the dead outer layer of their claws, mark their territory by leaving both a visual mark and a scent (they have scent glands on their paws), and to stretch their bodies and flex their feet and claws. Scratching is a normal, instinctive behavior, one that you don't want to discourage completely. Instead, the goal is to get your cat to scratch acceptable objects (herein referred to as "posts"). Train your cat to scratch what you want.

Step 1: Watch and Learn

What do cats scratch? Anything with a nubby, coarse, or textured surface, something they can really sink their claws into.

When do they scratch? When they wake up from a nap, when they want to mark their territory, or when they're excited about something, like you coming home from work.

How do they scratch? Some cats like to stand up against a vertical surface; others get horizontal and stick their butts up in the air for a good stretch. Some cats enjoy both angles.

Step 2: Don't Scratch Here

Once you've figured out your cat's preferences, you're halfway to the finish line:

- Cats are all about texture, so cover the "naughty" spots with things yours will find unappealing on her paws, like aluminum foil, a plastic carpet runner with the pointy side up, double-sided sticky tape, or sheets of sandpaper.

- Many cats don't like the odor of citrus or menthol. Try attaching cotton balls soaked in cologne or a muscle rub to the "bad" patches.



- You may have to keep these items in place until your cat is using the scratching posts consistently, which could take weeks or months. Then remove them one at a time.

There are many things that can satisfy your cat's need to scratch:

- A sturdy rope-covered upright post, a flat scratch pad of corrugated cardboard, the back side of a square of carpet, even a small log with the bark still on (be sure it hasn't been treated with chemicals before bringing it inside.)
- A scratching object can be free-standing, lie on the floor, or hang from a doorknob, whatever your cat desires. Some cats don't care, just as long as they can scratch, so why not have a variety?
- Rub a little catnip into the post or attach a toy to the top to make it even more attractive.
- Praise your cat for using the post or any other object that is acceptable to scratch.

CAT SCRATCH POSTS ARE AVAILABLE FROM PAL. CONTACT US IF YOU CANNOT AFFORD ONE. WE'LL DELIVER WHILE SUPPLIES LAST.

Step 3: Location, Location, Location

Put the posts where your cat wants them—next to her sleeping spot for a quick stretch after a nap or by the front door for a really intense session after she greets you. Put a post on each level of the house so she doesn't have to go far to indulge. Once your cat is regularly using her post, you can move it little by little to where you'd like it. But, really, why tempt fate? Better to put it in her favorite spot so she leaves your favorite things alone.

Scratching posts and pads are available in all shapes, sizes, and materials at pet stores, animal shelter, and online. If you're industrious and want to make it yourself, you can find building plans online.

Scolding your cat only works if you catch her scratching off-limits. If you correct her after the fact, she won't know what she's done wrong and could learn to be afraid of you. Never yell at or hit her as punishment; she may start to avoid you altogether. If you do catch your cat shredding a "naughty spot," interrupt her by making a loud noise (clap your hands, shake a can of pennies or pebbles, slap the wall) and redirect her scratching to one of the acceptable items. Do this consistently to teach her "sofa bad, post good."

Indoor cats don't wear down their claws as quickly as outdoors ones do, so they can overgrow. Untrimmed, claws can grow into the cat's pads, leading to infection, pain, and difficulty walking and using the litter box. Check your cat's claws every couple of weeks to see if they need to be clipped.

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Thank You, Midland Montessori School!

Children of Room 1 Summer Program
Midland Montessori School
5709 Eastman Ave.
Midland, MI 48640

To SOS Animal Rescue of Midland:

I was a preschool teacher for the summer at Midland Montessori. During June, July, and August, nine children in my class and myself developed a love of animals. It began with our pet rabbit, Floppy. The children loved Floppy and would take him out and play with him daily. That interest soon grew into what became our animal house project.

After playing with Floppy for several days, one child had an idea. He wanted to build Floppy a house. After several discussions about what type of house a rabbit would like, what materials should we use etc., a blueprint for a rabbit house was made. The talk of building a rabbit house also sparked some other ideas for houses for animals that the other children love. At the end we had a rabbit house, a dog house, a turtle house, and a cat house. Each one was unique and specific to that animal.

Starting from pencil and paper blueprints, to making a list of materials, to asking parents for donations of materials, to using a lot of hot glue, our animal houses started to come together. The children worked on their animals houses for seven weeks over the summer months. And when they were very close to being finished, we had a discussion about what to do with our houses.

"We want to sell them," a child suggested, and it was quickly agreed upon by the class.

"What should we do with the money we raise?" I asked. This took a few days to discuss and to research. Once I presented my research about SOS to the children, they immediately said that the money they raise should go to SOS so they can help all the animals in Midland. So we sold all of our houses and raised \$81 for SOS. We hope that this money will help provide animals with a safe and more comfortable place to live.

Animal Lover and Teacher,
Nicole Sootsman



Holiday Pet Threats

Common items can be harmful to dogs, cats and other animals. RedRover recently issued tips for keeping pets safe and avoiding veterinary emergencies this winter, especially during the holidays. RedRover advises all pet owners to keep their animals away from the following items this season:

- Alcohol
- Aluminum foil
- Anti-freeze
- Avocado
- Candles/open flames
- Cellophane
- Chocolate
- Christmas tree water
- Coffee
- Cooked bones
- Electrical cords
- Fatty foods
- Glass ornaments
- Grapes and raisins
- Holly berries
- Ice-melting chemicals
- Lilies
- Macadamia nuts
- Mistletoe
- Nicotine
- Onions
- Poinsettias
- Ribbons
- Tinsel
- Yeast dough

“Items that seem harmless to us can cause serious illness or injury to our pets,” said RedRover President and CEO Nicole Forsyth. “For example, tinsel, ribbons and cellophane wrappers, if swallowed, can create intestinal obstructions that could require surgery to treat.”

Reprinted from RedRover.



THANK YOU!

Thank You for Displaying SOS Donation Canisters!

Auto Technicians • B-Xtreme Cycle & Sport
Countryside Vet Clinic • Eastman Animal Clinic • Elvira's
The Gourmet Cupcake Shoppe • HQ Bicycle • Larkin Food Store
Northern Animal Clinic • Service Express Cellular • Soldan's
Surrey Vet Clinic • Tractor Supply • Wall & Webb

Personal Pet Assistance Fund

An endowed fund was created at the Midland Community Foundation with a purpose: to provide grants to benefit residents of Midland County who cannot afford the cost of providing primary care for their family pet. Primary care includes but is not limited to spay/neuter surgery, routine or emergency veterinary care, food, and supplies.



SOS Animal Rescue will administer grants from money generated by the principle of the fund. We are very excited to add this fund to our options for helping pets of families in need in our community. We especially want to thank the generous donor for entrusting SOS Animal Rescue with administering grants from the fund and creating a lasting legacy in the community.

If you are interested in taking advantage of the unique tax credits this fund offers you can make a donation via the web site at www.midlandfoundation.org/fund.htm?id=555 or contact the Midland Community Foundation at 989-839-9661. When you, your family, or business make a gift to an existing community foundation endowed fund, your dollars go farther through a Michigan Community Foundation tax credit. The tax credit is available only for donations through December 31, 2011. Check with your tax accountant for details regarding your situation.

PAL PROGRAM

BUSIEST GROCERY DAY OF THE YEAR*!

(*according to Family Fare Store Manager Paul Conn)

Friday, December 23 • 2:00 – 7:00 p.m.
at Family Fare in the Lobby

**Be watching for more information on a Bingo event
and craft shows at Alpine throughout the winter.**



Many thanks go to Morley Portraiture for the photo fund-raiser. Clients received an 8x10 portrait and eight wallet photos of their pet in a beautiful fall setting. The background was an original painting by Michelle Courier that is featured at Northwood Gallery. Check out the video that will be on line shortly at www.morleyportraiture.com.

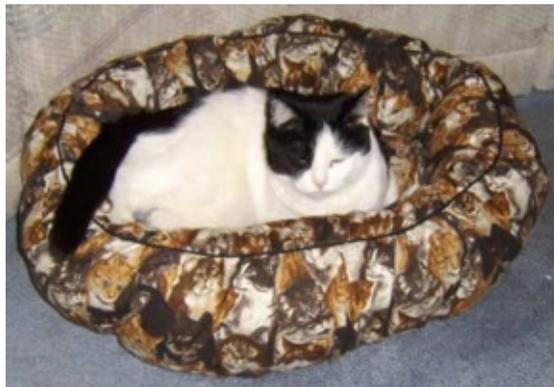
Pictured are volunteers Holly Jozwiak, Kathy Morley, Cayden Royce, Chance, Marissa Mason, and Alexandra Smith.

Free Pattern to Sew a Small Pet Bed

To create a perfect cat or small dog pet bed, visit <http://sewing.about.com/od/freeprojects/ss/Free-Pattern-To-Sew-A-Small-Pet-Bed-A-Perfect-Cat-Or-Small-Dog-Pet-Bed.htm> for complete (and FREE) directions.

Materials:

- 2 yards of 45" wide fabric
- Stiff interfacing for bottom
- Stuffing
- 59" of piping
- Thread
- 14" circle template (an embroidery hoop works well for this and for fabric bowls)
- Patterns for bottom of bed (find free directions to draw the pattern pieces at this website)



By Debbie Colgrove, About.com Guide. Reprinted from sewing.about.com.

SOS EVENTS

**Every Thursday and Sunday
12:00 Noon – 6:00 p.m.**

Adopt-athon
PetSmart

**REMINDER:
NO December SOS Meeting**

**Saturday, December 3
12:00 noon – 3:00 p.m.**

Pet Photos with Santa
Soldan's in Midland

**Saturday, December 10
12:00 noon – 3:00 p.m.**

Pet Photos with Santa
Soldan's in Bay City

**Friday, December 23
2:00 – 7:00 p.m.**

Stuff the Truck
Family Fare

**Monday, January 16
6:30–7:30 p.m.**

SOS Meeting
GAD Library Room B

**National Spay Day
February 2012**

*stay tuned for more details
on our participation*

**Monday, February 20
6:30–7:30 p.m.**

SOS Meeting
GAD Library Room B

**Monday, March 19
6:30–7:30 p.m.**

SOS Meeting
GAD Library Room B

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



P.O. Box 1135, Midland, MI 48641-1135

989-492-0042

info@sosar.org

www.sosanimalrescue.org

www.facebook.com/sosanimalrescue

Officers

Joann Taylor, 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 the Midland area through placement, public education, spay/neuter assistance programs, and support for the efforts of local animal welfare groups.

Board of Directors

Dawn Carsten
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