



P.O. Box 1135, Midland, MI 48641
989-492-0042
info@sosar.org
www.sosanimalrescue.org

SOS Animal Rescue Newsletter • Volume 13, Issue 2 • April 15, 2013

2012 Year in Review

Our 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.

Placement

We placed 247 cats, 4 rabbits, 3 dogs, and 1 bird in new homes. We provided food and supplies to 77 families with 282 personal pets last year. All of the food donations were much appreciated by families that needed a little extra help for their pets. We have partnered with two stationary food pantries and plan to attend the mobile food pantries to help families in need. We help because keeping a pet in their current home is the easiest placement of all.

Public Education

We provided education information to the public at over 150 events and programs in 2012. Educating people on responsible pet ownership is a cornerstone for long-term success.

Spay/Neuter Assistance

We provided spay/neuter assistance to 224 pets in 2012. The program to date has helped 1672 pets. If each surgery prevents one unwanted litter we have saved over 900 puppies and kittens in 2012 and over 6600 since the program began in 2004. Due to generous donors and successful fund-raisers, the funding of this program is \$20,000 for 2013. Special thanks to Midland VetMed and our newest partner, M-20 Animal Hospital, which donate surgeries to the program.

Support for the Efforts of Local Animal Welfare Groups

In 2012 we invited animal groups to our Bark in the Park event and donated extra supplies to other rescues. We will continue to find ways to collaborate with local animal welfare groups as it will take all of us working together to address the needs in the community.

Many thanks go to donors and volunteers who helped this organization accomplish so much in 2012. We expect 2013 will be even better!



Joann Taylor
President, SOS
Animal Rescue

Check out our year-in-review video on our website!

SOS EVENTS

Fridays
Saturdays
Sundays

11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Adopt-athon
Saginaw PetSmart

Thursday, May 2
12:00 noon – 9:00 p.m.
Rummage Donation Drop-off

Friday, May 3
9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Saturday, May 4
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon
Annual Rummage Sale
104 W. Wackerly St.

Saturday, May 11
12:00 Noon Registration
Parade Your Pet

May 20
6:30 p.m.
SOS Meeting
Grace A. Dow Library

June 12
6:30 – 8:00 p.m.
Bark in the Park

June 17
6:30 p.m.
SOS Meeting
Grace A. Dow Library

June 26
6:30 – 8:00 p.m.
Bark in the Park

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

ANNUAL RUMMAGE SALE!

Friday, May 3 • 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 4 • 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

104 W. Wackerly St.

corner of Jefferson and Wackerly
next to Sylvan Learning Center



DONATION DROP-OFF: Thursday, May 2 • 12–9 p.m.
please no adult clothes or large exercise equipment
For possible donation pick-up, call 989-492-0042.

Dog Verbal Cues

The Howl

This is an attempt to locate someone, perhaps you or the dog down the street. When you leave for work, it's very possible your dog howls in an effort to get you back. When one dog starts howling in the neighborhood, usually many others join in; it's sort of like a conference call.

The Growl

This means "back off." You'll see a dog growl when another dog gets interested in his food. Your dog may growl at a stranger he doesn't like or he may growl at you when you try to take his toy away. It's actually a very effective way of communicating and actually signals that you can probably negotiate that toy away. When a dog is in an aggressive stance and silent, there is the most danger.

The Whimper

Dogs whimper when they're anxious or hurt. Sometimes they figure out that they get attention when they whimper and use this to their advantage.

The Grunt or Mutter

This is usually to indicate that your dog wants something. It's an interesting sound because it's almost manipulative; your dog knows if he barks, he'll get into trouble but the more subtle "grunt" might get him what he wants. It is also heard when dogs greet other dogs or humans.

The Bark

There are many different types of barks. A high pitched bark indicates excitement and happiness. A low pitched bark indicates aggression and is possibly a threat. Dogs bark to get attention, to respond to other dogs, to indicate that they're happy, and to alert their human to a problem. Unfortunately, your dog may detect a "problem" that you can't see or hear, such as a siren miles away or the neighbor's cat hiding in the tree outside the window.

The Whine

This indicates frustration. They are in a sense "complaining" about something.

Reprinted from www.dogster.com.

SOS ANIMAL RESCUE PERSONAL PET ASSISTANCE FUND

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.

Kevin & Susan Burns
Michael & Robin Glenn

THANK YOU!

Sharon Brady and Bentlee

John Curtis

Nancy Daniels

Melissa Diffenderfer

Michelle Dittenber

Dana Fey

Deb Fugate

Alice Gafner

in memory of Robert Tugaw

Barbara Goodrich

Terry & Linda Graf

in memory of Jenny Marshall

Mary Haley-Whisman

Richard Heiny

For Journey and Peanut:

Lester Auten

Patricia Baker

Michael & Lynn Brode

Kelly Burke

Olivia R. Caton

Michelle Cook

Gabriele Golombeski

Rachel Kelly

Katheryn Kirchmeir

Michelle Schwarck

Kelsey Thuis

Debarah Kerby

Katheryn Kirchmeir

in memory of Jon Kirchmeir

Elaine Kirkpatrick

in honor of Jane Davidson

Elaine Kirkpatrick

in honor of Greg & Lou Ann Groholski

Diane Legner

Rick Madlem

Rena Marx

in memory of Mr. & Mrs.

Zachary Birnbaum's father

Rena Marx

in memory of Mrs. Rveda

Linda Mathieu

Chris McClymont

In Memory of David Michalak:

Shari & Warren Draves

Steven & Jen Jaworski

Gordon & Jean Joslin

Bruce & Carol McClintick

Dan & Peggy Skinner

Lynn Skocelas

Marie Murawski

Barbara Nead-Nylander

Gary & Suzanne Paveglio

Jene' Redman, The Animal Pal

Leslie Russell

Charles Russian

Betty Shangle

Ann Sigsby

Kyle & Mandi Stevenson

in memory of Jenny Marshall

PLATINUM

ASPCA

Coastal Pet Products

Morley's Portraiture

Park Place Homes

PetSmart

Precious Cat by Dr. Elsey

Purdue

Surrey Vet Clinic

VetMed of Midland

GOLD

Arm & Hammer

Do-All, Inc.

Larkin Food Center

Northern Animal Clinic

Prime Lending

Soldan's

SILVER

Animal Pal

Bioderm

Furminator

Garber Automotive Group

Members First Credit Union

Papa John's

Quilts for Cages

Superior Title and Settlement

BRONZE

Best Shot Pet Products

Bainfield and Vicki Shaddeau

Cat's Pride

Design Within

Eukanaba

The Gourmet Cupcake Shoppe

Great Lakes Pet Emergencies

Hartz Mountain Corp

Hugs for Homeless animals

Idea Factory

Jake's Grill

Kan'd Ham Art

Kong

Lowe's

M-20 Animal Hospital

Marshall Pet Product

Miracle Corp.

Naair

Nature's Organics

Newell Rubbermaid

Oil Dri Corporation of America

Park Bench Quilt Shop

Pat's Food Center

Pet Plus

Pet Rage Us

Pizza Hut

Runners

Scrapbooks Galore & More

Shelley's Bed and Biscuit

Shop Vac

Small Critter Sitter

Soaring Eagle Water Park

Solvit

Studio Fido Photography

Syd's Fabric

Target

TFH Publications, Nylabone

TNT Dog Center

Many thanks for the Precious Cat litter that arrived: 49 forty-pound Ultra Litter bags and 100 twenty-pound Cat Attract bags.





National Spay Day Update

SOS Animal Rescue and Midland VetMed partnered in recognition of National Spay Day on February 26 to promote the lifesaving benefits of spay/neuter. We'd like to thank Dr. Kim Blasko and her team for making this event possible. Pictured from left to right are Noma Defever, Amy Rappuhn, and Dr. Blasko.

May 2
SOS Animal Rescue

Community Organization of the Night at Loons Stadium




6:30 – 8:00 p.m.
Wednesdays:

June 12 • Meet & Greet

June 26 • Pupcakes in the Park
Free pupcakes for dogs while supplies last.

July 10 • Volunteers Rock
Volunteer opportunities for you and your pet.

July 24 • Frosty Paws
Free cool treats for dogs while supplies last.

August 14 • Great Costume Give-Away
Free pet costumes given away while supplies last.

August 28 • Doggy Olympics
Fun, games, and prizes for everyone.



She wishes you could afford to have her spayed too.

Payment assistance for spaying/neutering your pet cat is available to Midland County residents!

Contact SOS Animal Rescue • 989-492-0042 • www.sosanimalrescue.org



photo copyright: Puppy Rescue 911

10 Spring Cleaning Tips for Cat Lovers

As humans are packing away their winter coats and sweaters, cats are preparing for warmer weather by shedding. This can really derail your cleaning plans – and if you are one of the estimated 10 percent of the population with pet allergies it can signal the beginning of sneezing, watery eyes and a runny nose.

Get out those mops and put on your rubber gloves because spring is here and it's time to clean house! Many pet owners are getting ready to tackle their to-do lists and spruce up their home. As you make plans to sweep and dust, consider including a few activities to make the next few weeks easier on you and your cat.

Here are some tips to help you with your spring cleaning:

Brush: A thorough brushing several times a week goes a long way towards curbing shedding. Some grooming tools remove loose fur and dander in the undercoat, further reducing the amount of stray fur to clean up. Breeds with long coats sometimes require the use of a de-matting tool.

Bathe: If your cat will tolerate it, finish off the grooming experience with a bath using pet shampoo; some formulas are designed to further reduce shedding in cats. A good waterless shampoo may be best if your cat dislikes baths.

Vacuum: To take care of fur that's already on your carpet or furniture, special pet hair vacuum attachments make short work of the task.

Tape: In a pinch, packing tape can be used to remove particularly difficult stuck-on hair. Just press the sticky side to the area, then pull off the tape and throw it away.

Wash: Wash any blankets or pillows that your cat frequents in a gentle detergent to remove fur and dander that might have collected over the winter. Don't forget your pet's bed! Many have removable covers that can be machine-washed.

Mud: Spring is synonymous with "mud season" and it only takes one good romp through the puddles to undo hours of cleaning. Until the front yard looks less like a scene from Woodstock, you can focus your efforts on making sure mud doesn't get tracked inside. If your cat goes outside, an old towel kept near the front door is handy for wiping down muddy paws and fur.

Slipcovers: Removable slipcovers can protect your couches and chairs from shedding and dirt. Just take them off and throw them in the wash.

Labels: When you're furiously scrubbing and sweeping,

don't lose sight of your pet's safety. The ASPCA notes an increased number of medical emergency calls during temperate weather. Before using any cleaning product, check the label for any warnings and use only as directed. Bear in mind that some animals, such as birds and reptiles, are more sensitive to chemicals than mammals. These animals should be removed from any area where chemicals are used and returned when the room has been thoroughly aired out. Always ensure that all screens are secure before opening windows and doors for fresh air.

**Having trouble
affording pet food?**

**SOS can help Midland
County families with
short-term pet food
assistance.**



**SOS Animal Rescue of Midland County
989-492-0042 • www.sosanimalrescue.org**

Odors: A clean home doesn't just look clean – it smells clean, too. Pet odors can be difficult to treat, especially litter box odor and cat urine. Don't just spray a "cover-up" scent to mask the odor. Use a good odor control product that specially is made to remove these odors.

Allergies: Finally, watch your pet for any symptoms of allergies such as scratching, biting, irritated eyes or a runny nose. Just like humans, pets can experience allergic reactions to materials in their environment. Cleaning can stir up mold spores or dust that might irritate their respiratory system. Take care to properly dispose of old cleaners, medications, and any other hazardous materials that might pose a danger to your cat. Keep your vet's number handy and do not hesitate to call if you notice any unusual behaviors or symptoms.

Without a doubt, spring is a great time to spruce up your house or start that home improvement project you've been putting off. Just a few extra minutes of preparation can also help reduce shedding and make your home smell fresh and clean. Keep your pet's safety in mind while cleaning, and it won't be long until you're basking in the glow of a clean home and pet.

Written by Tracy M. Hall. Reprinted from www.petplace.com.

Spay/Neuter Statistics

To date, SOS has spayed/neutered 1672 cats and dogs.

SPAY/NEUTER	thru 2012	2013
Female Cats	704	13
Male Cats	415	8
Female Dogs	306	10
Male Dogs	213	3
TOTALS	1638	34

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

RESCUE IS A TEAM EFFORT!

www.funds4furfriends.com



It's NOT about ...who has more money or
more followers and who did what.
IT'S ABOUT SAVING LIVES!

Poison Help Line 1-888-426-4435

The Animal Poison Control Center is a unique emergency hot-line providing 24-hour-a-day, 7-day-a-week telephone assistance to veterinarians and animal owners. The \$50 consultation fee is paid by the animal owner, veterinarian, or product manufacturer.

PET FOOD ASSISTANCE

This year, 33 cats and 45 dogs from 33 families have been helped by our pet food assistance program.

We are here to aid any Midland County family that needs short-term assistance with pet food. If you know of anyone who needs assistance, please ask them to contact us at 492-0042.



Dirty Dog Run

SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday, October 5



On January 16, SOS was on hand at the Midland Ice Arena to help 10 families with pet food and hand out spay/neuter assistance applications.



Dog Body Language/Facial “Expressions”

Confident and Relaxed

- Stance - erect
- Tail - wagging slowly
- Ears - pricked up but with a relaxed look
- Eyes - small pupils
- Mouth - closed or slight parting of lips

Fearful or Anxious

- Stance - lowered
- Tail - tucked under
- Ears - down
- Eyes - a wide-eyed look with the whites showing
- Mouth - panting

Fear-Aggressive

- Stance - dog is pulled into himself
- Tail - tucked completely under
- Ears - lying down
- Eyes - wide-eyed and trouble focusing
- Mouth - lips pulled back slightly or heavy panting

Aggressive

- Stance - rigid
- Tail - straight up or out behind, very rigid
- Ears - pricked up
- Eyes - intense, focused stare
- Mouth - lips are pulled back and some teeth show
- Hackles - this is a line of hair that starts at the base of the neck and runs down the shoulders. It is raised if a dog is feeling aggressive and lowered if he is relaxed.

Relaxed

- Stance - lying down or standing without any alertness
- Tail - up and wagging or lying naturally
- Ears - at their normal state, depending on the breed (A Terrier’s would be up but relaxed, a Hound’s would be down)
- Eyes - normal pupil dilation, focused but not staring

- Mouth - open and lightly panting or closed

Reprinted from www.dogster.com.



Crate Training

“Private room with a view. Ideal for traveling dogs or for those who just want a secure, quiet place to hang out at home.” That’s how your dog might describe his crate. It’s his own personal den where he can find comfort and solitude while you know he’s safe and secure – and not shredding your house while you’re out running errands.

Crating philosophy

Crate training uses a dog’s natural instincts as a den animal. A wild dog’s den is his home, a place to sleep, hide from danger, and raise a family. The crate becomes your dog’s den, an ideal spot to snooze or take refuge during a storm.

The primary use for a crate is house-training. Dogs don’t like to soil their dens. The crate can limit access to the rest of the house while he learns other rules, like not to chew on furniture. Crates are a safe way to transport your dog in the car.

Crating caution!

A crate isn’t a magical solution. If not used correctly, a dog can feel trapped and frustrated. Never use the crate as a punishment. Your dog will come to fear it and refuse to enter it.

Don’t leave your dog in the crate too long. A dog that’s crated day and night doesn’t get enough exercise or human interaction and can become depressed or anxious. You may have to change your schedule, hire a pet sitter, or take your dog to a doggie daycare facility to reduce the amount of time he must spend in his crate every day.

Puppies under six months of age shouldn’t stay in a crate for more than three or four hours at a time. They can’t control their bladders and bowels for that long. The same goes for adult dogs that are being house-trained. Physically, they can hold it, but they don’t know they’re supposed to.

Crate him only until you can trust him not to destroy the house. After that, it should be a place he goes voluntarily.

Selecting a crate

Several types of crates are available: plastic (often called “flight kennels”); fabric on a collapsible, rigid frame; and collapsible, metal pens.

Crates come in different sizes and can be purchased at most pet supply stores or pet supply catalogs. Your dog’s crate should be just large enough for him to stand up and turn around in. If your dog is still growing, choose a crate size that will accommodate his adult size. Block off the excess crate space so your dog can’t eliminate at one end and retreat to the other. Your local animal shelter may rent out

crates. By renting, you can trade up to the appropriate size for your puppy until he’s reached his adult size, when you can invest in a permanent crate.

The crate training process

Crate training can take days or weeks, depending on your dog’s age, temperament, and past experiences. It’s important to keep two things in mind while crate training: the crate should always be associated with something pleasant, and training should take place in a series of small steps. Don’t go too fast.

Step 1: Introduce your dog to the crate

Place the crate in an area of your house where the family spends a lot of time, such as the family room. Put a soft blanket or towel in the crate. Take the door off and let the dog explore the crate at his leisure. Some dogs will be naturally curious and start sleeping in the crate right away. If yours isn’t one of them:

Bring him over to the crate, and talk to him in a happy tone of voice. Make sure the crate door is open and secured so that it won’t hit your dog and frighten him.

Encourage your dog to enter the crate by dropping some small food treats nearby, then just inside the door, and finally, all the way inside the crate. If he refuses to go all the way in at first, that’s okay; don’t force him to enter.

Continue tossing treats into the crate until your dog will walk calmly all the way into the crate to get the food. If he isn’t interested in treats, try tossing in a favorite toy. This step may take a few minutes or as long as several days.

Step 2: Feed your dog his meals in the crate

After introducing your dog to the crate, begin feeding him his regular meals near the crate. This will create a pleasant association with the crate.

If your dog is readily entering the crate when you begin Step 2, place the food dish all the way at the back of the crate.

If he remains reluctant to enter the crate, put the dish only as far inside as he will readily go without becoming fearful or anxious. Each time you feed him, place the dish a little further back in the crate.

Once your dog is standing comfortably in the crate to eat his meal, you can close the door while he’s eating. The first time you do this, open the door as soon as he finishes his

Continued on Page 9

meal. With each successive feeding, leave the door closed a few minutes longer, until he's staying in the crate for ten minutes or so after eating.

If he begins to whine to be let out, you may have increased the length of time too quickly. Next time, try leaving him in the crate for a shorter time period. If he does whine or cry in the crate, don't let him out until he stops. Otherwise, he'll learn that the way to get out of the crate is to whine, so he'll keep doing it.

Step 3: Lengthen the crating periods

After your dog is eating his regular meals in the crate with no sign of fear or anxiety, you can confine him there for short time periods while you're home.

Call him over to the crate and give him a treat. Give him a command to enter, such as "kennel." Encourage him by pointing to the inside of the crate with a treat in your hand. After your dog enters the crate, praise him, give him the treat, and close the door. Sit quietly near the crate for five to ten minutes, and then go into another room for a few minutes. Return, sit quietly again for a short time, and then let him out of the crate. Repeat this process several times a day, gradually increasing the length of time you leave him in the crate and the length of time you're out of his sight.

Once your dog will stay quietly in the crate for about 30 minutes with you mostly out of sight, you can begin leaving him crated when you're gone for short time periods and/or letting him sleep there at night. This may take several days or several weeks.

Step 4, Part A: Crate your dog when you leave

After your dog can spend about 30 minutes in the crate without becoming anxious or afraid, you can begin crating him for short periods when you leave the house. Put him in the crate using your regular command, a treat, and a few safe toys. Vary at what point in your "getting ready to leave" routine you put your dog in the crate. Although he shouldn't be crated for a long time before you leave, you can crate him from 5 to 20 minutes prior to leaving.

Don't make your departures emotional and prolonged; they should be matter-of-fact. Praise your dog briefly, give him a treat for entering the crate, and then leave quietly. When you return home, don't reward your dog for excited behavior by responding to him in an excited, enthusiastic way. Keep arrivals low key to avoid increasing his anxiety over when you will return. Continue to crate your dog for

short periods from time to time when you're home so he doesn't associate crating with being left alone.

Step 4, Part B: Crate your dog at night

Put your dog in the crate using your regular command and a treat. Initially, it may be a good idea to put the crate in your bedroom or nearby in a hallway, especially if you have a puppy. Puppies often need to go outside to eliminate during the night, and you'll want to be able to hear your puppy when he whines to be let outside. Older dogs, too, should initially be kept nearby so they don't associate the crate with social isolation.

Once your dog is sleeping comfortably through the night with his crate near you, begin to gradually move it to the location you prefer, although time spent with your dog – even sleep time – is a chance to strengthen the bond between you and your pet.

Potential problems

Whining. If your dog whines or cries while in the crate at night, it may be difficult to decide whether he's whining to be let out of the crate, or whether he needs to be let outside to eliminate. If you've followed the training procedures outlined above, then your dog hasn't been rewarded for whining in the past by being released from his crate. If that is the case, try to ignore the whining. If your dog is just testing you, he'll probably stop whining soon. Yelling at him or pounding on the crate will only make things worse.

If the whining continues after you've ignored him for several minutes, use the phrase he associates with going outside to eliminate. If he responds and becomes excited, take him outside. This should be a trip with a purpose, not play time. If you're convinced that your dog doesn't need to eliminate, the best response is to ignore him until he stops whining. Don't give in; if you do, you'll teach your dog to whine loud and long to get what he wants. If you've progressed gradually through the training steps and haven't done too much too fast, you'll be less likely to encounter this problem. If the problem becomes unmanageable, you may need to start the crate training process over again.

Separation Anxiety. Attempting to use the crate as a remedy for separation anxiety won't solve the problem. A crate may prevent your dog from being destructive, but he may injure himself in an attempt to escape from the crate. Separation anxiety problems can only be resolved with counter-conditioning and desensitization procedures. You may want to consult a professional animal-behavior specialist for help.

Reprinted from www.humanesociety.org.

BOOK REVIEW BY CHRIS ERSKINE

The Deliverance of Dancing Bears **By Elizabeth Stanley**

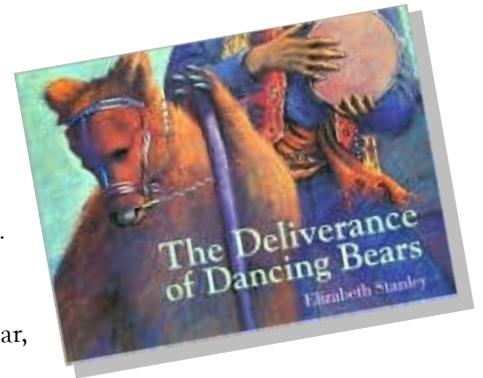
Ages 4-8

The Deliverance of Dancing Bears is a beautifully illustrated, contemporary fable that introduces children to a real worldwide problem concerning captive bears. It is written in such a manner that is sensitive to young readers.

The story? Simply, an old man living on the outskirts of a village, a dancing bear, and her cruel caretaker and how one old man changed the bear's life. More importantly, it is a story of kindness, persuasion, perseverance, and hope.

In 1979 the author had traveled to Greece where she saw her first "dancing bears." Their plight left memories that stayed with her. By 1993 her story had been written but lacked illustrations. For that reason, she felt it necessary to return in order to get inspiration. Ms. Stanley traveled to Turkey, a region that she knew bears had been extensively exploited and hunted. As she describes in the author postscript, she needed to "lay the ghost" and finish her book.

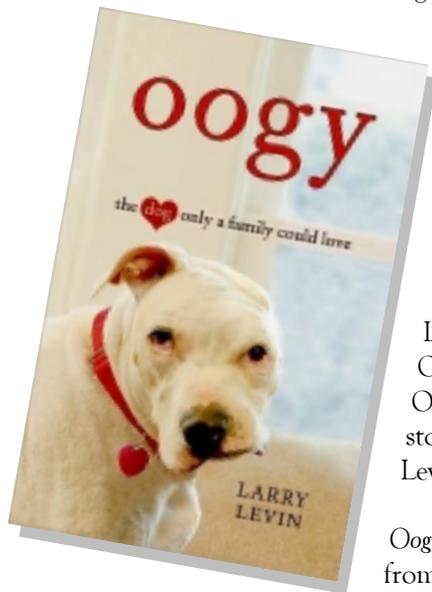
The World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) endorses *The Deliverance of Dancing Bears*. Lions, tigers, and bears all over the world are inhumanely exploited for entertainment, whether it is a circus, roadside exhibit, local fairs, or photo session with humans. By gently approaching this issue, our children could grow up to make positive and humane changes for all creatures, everywhere.



Oogy: The Dog Only a Family Could Love **By Larry Levin**

I finally sat down to read *Oogy*. It had been sitting on the shelf for months. I read it from cover to cover in one sitting – could not stop myself!

Oogy: The Dog Only a Family Could Love is a wonderful true story of a puppy confiscated during a dog-fighting raid, used as a bait dog. The cruelty left him with one ear and half of his face and jaw so injured that the left side of his head was almost unrecognizable. The veterinarian's educated guess was that Oogy's horrific injuries occurred seven days prior to the police raid. He had been left in a tiny cage to suffer and die. It was a miracle that he was still alive.



Whatever you may call it, the events that played out beginning with Oogy's seizure, might be considered fate, luck, or destiny. Then Levin walked into the veterinarian's office with their beloved cat just at the same time Oogy happened to be out of his hospital cage. The vet tech introduced Levin to Oogy. That first introduction was a connection between man and dog that could not be broken.

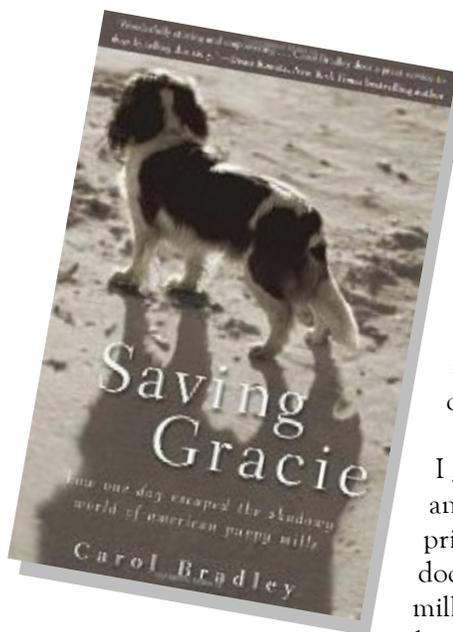
Levin has an easy writing style. I was chuckling on many a page. By weaving his pre-Oogy life into the mix, Levin was able to give the reader an understanding as to why Oogy became such an integral part of Levin and his family's lives. It is not just a story about Oogy and his rescue, but also a story of family. Of all the dogs that the Levins could have adopted, Oogy was the perfect fit.

Oogy is an enjoyable book containing life lessons that we could all be reminded of from time to time. I wholeheartedly recommend. Read it and pass it on.

BOOK REVIEW BY CHRIS ERSKINE

***Saving Gracie: How One Dog Escaped the Shadowy World of American Puppy Mills* By Carol Bradley**

Once I got into this fascinating book, I had a hard time putting it down. Mostly hidden from the general public, puppy mills are commercial breeding grounds that force dogs to live in horrific conditions, churning out hundreds of thousands of puppies for sale each year to puppy brokers, dog auctions (Missouri dog auctions sold an estimated 18,000 dogs in 2007), pet stores, online purchases, and direct to the public. They are in every state in our country, although some states are bestowed the title “puppy mill state.” Since many mills & backyard breeders are not licensed by flying under the radar (and if selling over the internet, not required), the Humane Society of the United States has taken all that data and suggests that conservatively, 2,479,976 puppies are born yearly into these mills. Remember that many of the puppies die within the first couple of weeks of life due to neglect, poor mothers’ nutrition, no veterinary care, cruel and unsanitary living conditions, genetic diseases-conditions, and so on. The adult breeding dogs spend up to six or seven years confined in small cages having litter upon litter, some not even able to stand erect due to cage size. When she is no longer able to generate puppies, most times she will be killed, thrown away.



Saving Gracie is not just a true chronicle of one sickly Cavalier King Charles Spaniel rescued from Pennsylvania’s largest puppy mill raid. It also carefully peels back the layers that allow mills and backyard breeders to consistently buck the system, dodging the laws by utilizing loopholes to their advantage and relying on the government’s inability to efficiently enforce the bare minimal requirements. We are also given a bird’s eye view of what it takes to shut down one of the largest mills in Pennsylvania. We are taken on the journey with law enforcement, the judicial system, and the animal rescues that diligently worked to save each and every dog and puppy from the life they were condemned to. The author weaves in and out in a manner that is easy to read and understand even though this was a complicated venture with many real life characters.

I give *Saving Gracie* five stars! A personal note: What this boils down to is supply and demand. If we continue not to ask questions and do our research and legwork prior to purchasing that new family member and demanding appropriate documentation, continue to buy from pet stores (most store puppies come from mills and/or backyard breeders), continue to take everything we read and view on these puppy websites as truth, continue to turn our eyes and hope someone else will fix it, this cruel profit-at-any-cost industry will be allowed to thrive.

Like Us on Facebook!

In order to have a donation made for veterinary work for our SOS foster animals, we need 5000 likes of this photo on www.facebook.com/sosanimalrescue.





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
Liz Shook
Newsletter Editor
Sheryl Billmeier Hnizda

THANKS TO OUR PLATINUM, GOLD, & SILVER SPONSORS!



Morley Portraiture



ASPCA



Shelley Park



Animal Pal



Midland VetMED



Surrey Veterinary Clinic



Quilts for Cages

