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SOS Animal Rescue Newsletter • Volume 12, Issue 3 • July 15, 2012

## FOURTH ANNUAL



# SOS Dirty Dog Trail Run

**10K Run • 5K Run • 5K Walk  
1 Mile Children's Walk**

**Saturday, October 13**

**Midland City Forest**

**Registration Opens at 8:00 a.m.**



## SOS EVENTS

**Sundays • 12:00 – 5:00 p.m.**  
**Wednesdays • 4:00 – 8:00 p.m.**  
Adopt-athon at Midland PetSmart

**Fridays & Saturdays  
12:00 – 5:00 p.m.**  
Adopt-athon at Saginaw PetSmart

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

**2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays  
July & August  
6:30–8:00 p.m.**  
Bark in the Park  
  
**Monday, July 16  
6:30–7:30 p.m.**  
SOS Meeting at GAD Library Room B

**Monday, September 17  
6:30–7:30 p.m.**  
SOS Meeting at GAD Library Room B

**Saturday, September 29  
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**  
Howl-A-Day Pet Expo

**Saturday, October 13**  
Dirty Dog Run

# Parade Your Pet

May 12 Highlights



See more  
Parade  
Your Pet  
photos  
on our  
facebook  
page!







**Congratulations to  
Paige Herber & Jane Castillo,  
winners of our dog and cat baskets  
at Parade Your Pet.**







It is getting warmer out there and we are ready for our seasonal Bark in the Park. These are great little events where you have the chance to meet other dog owners and let your dog romp around. Come on out the Chippewassee Park across the Tridge near the dog run on the second and fourth Wednesdays during July and August from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Participate in free drawings for prizes at the end of every evening! *We've been having a hot summer so please consider your pet's comfort when deciding whether to come to the park.*

### July 11 • Pupcakes in the Park

Free pupcakes for all canines and cupcakes for people, courtesy of The Gourmet Cupcake Shoppe while supplies last.

### July 25 • Cool Canines & Companions

Cool treats for all dogs and people while supplies last.

### August 8 • Animal Rescue Night

Animal rescues from the area are invited to join us at the park.

### August 22 • Doggy Olympics

Longest sit, treat toss, dress for success, and more.

Fun, games, and prizes for you and your dog.



Choosing a prize from the free drawing at Bark in the Park on a June evening (above).



## Morley Portraiture Photo Fund-Raiser

Morley Portraiture has graciously volunteered to host another photo fund-raiser for SOS Animal Rescue. This is a great opportunity to get a fabulous photo of your dog with a gorgeous background by a top notch photographer. Timing is tentatively set for mid-November. Check our website for more details in mid-September.

## Top 4 Reasons for Adopting a Black Pet

1. The color black is always in style. What doesn't look good with black? Surely you will!
2. A dog's black hair or a cat's black fur will not show up on your dark-colored clothing. How often do you see people with white cat hair on their black pants? Pets of other colors are just as awesome as black pets, but it is an advantage to having pets with black hair.
3. Black dogs and cats take the longest to find homes, and they need you the most.
4. Love knows no color! At the end of the day aesthetics don't matter all that much. It's the inside that counts, and black pets are just as golden on the inside as all other animals.

Anyone in rescue can attest to the difficulty in finding a home for a pet with black fur. Black cats and dogs seem to be the last one looked at and adopted. Please don't overlook them when you consider adopting a new pet.

*Reprinted from adoptapet.com.*



## Honoring Animal Lover Esther Bennett

Many years ago, before SOS Animal Rescue even existed, one of our community members was already doing the work we strive to do today. Esther Bennett has always been a great animal lover. Esther would frequently travel to Animal Control and rescue the cats and kittens, get them spayed/neutered and take them to her barns to be cared for. She was a true humanitarian and animal lover, and when asked why she continued to do this, her response was, "Well, the alternative is to let them die." She would have nothing of that.

Even though Esther is no longer able to rescue the beloved cats, she rescued them in her own way by graciously donating the use of one of her open buildings for this year's annual rummage sale. A BIG thank you goes to Esther for helping us to continue her legacy of saving the animals of Midland County.



## Spay/Neuter Statistics

Since January 2004, SOS has spayed/neutered 1495 cats and dogs.

SPAY/NEUTER	thru 2011	2012
Female Cats	619	30
Male Cats	369	15
Female Dogs	251	23
Male Dogs	175	13
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>1414</b>	<b>81</b>

## PET FOOD ASSISTANCE

**This year, 45 cats and 45 dogs  
from 25 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.**



# THANK YOU!

## PLATINUM

Midland VetMed  
Morley's Portraiture  
Park Place Homes  
Precious Cat

## GOLD

Bioderm  
Coastal Pet Products  
Coca-Cola  
Northern Animal Clinic  
PetSmart  
Prime Lending  
Soldan's

## SILVER

Furminator  
Garber Automotive Group  
Kan'd Ham Art  
Larkin Food Center  
Quilts for Cages  
Superior Title & Settlement Agency  
Tractor Supply Company

## BRONZE

Best Shot Pet Products Intl.  
Ideafactory  
Kong  
Marshall Pet Product  
Material Mart  
MiracleCorp  
Naeir  
Newell Rubbermaid  
Oil-Dri Corporation of America  
Park Bench Quilt Shop  
Rugs for Homeless Animals  
Solvit  
Supreme Floor Covering  
T.F.H. Publications, Inc.



Thanks to Dr. Elsey's Precious Cat for donating much needed cat litter.

Katy Bishop's animal friends

In memory of Peggy Brewer  
by Michael & Diana Dalton  
& Ruth Swope

Chad Gohm

Gabriele Golombeski

Marsha Gottesman  
in memory of Shadow, Max, & Candy

Great Lakes Pet Emergencies

Janice Hawrelak

Mr. & Mrs. Richard Heiny  
Hugs for Homeless Animals

Joy Marchione

Leslie Russell

Debra Smith

Luane Steckley

Tracy Williams



Thanks to Pat's Food Center in Freeland for hosting an adoption event in June during their anniversary days. We had a great time and two cats found new homes.



Thanks to everyone who helped make our annual rummage sale a huge success!



# Dirty Dog

## Trail Run

### REGISTRATION FORM

Return to: Shelley Park. 1007 E. Wackerly St. Midland, MI 48642

First Name Last Name

Address City State Zip

E-Mail Home Phone Work/Cell Phone

☐ Male ☐ Female

Date of Birth

I will be running with a dog: Y / N

**Event:** ☐ 5K Walk ☐ 5K Run ☐ 10K Run ☐ 1 Mile Children's Walk

### FEES

5K Run/Walk: \$20

10K Run: \$20

1 Mile Children's Walk: \$10

*\$5 added after September 21, 2012.*

### WHO DO YOU RUN FOR?

Has a special pet touched your life or the life of someone you love? If so, consider making a tax-deductible donation and participate in the their honor!

☐ Help someone in need spay or neuter their pet with an additional donation of \$40.

☐ Help offset the cost of a spay/neuter for someone in need with an additional donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_

☐ Give a \$5 donation to help SOS continue their mission.

*SOS Animal Rescue is a 501(c)3 non profit group. All donations are tax deductible.*

### PAYMENT

Registration fee: \_\_\_\_\_

Charity Donation made in honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of honoree as you would like it to appear in printed materials

TOTAL DUE: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Check Enclosed (payable to SOS Animal Rescue)

Please accept my entry in the SOS Dirty Dog Trail Run. I state that I am physically fit for the event I entered. I waive any rights I may have against SOS Animal Rescue, it's volunteers, directors, or sponsors for damage or injuries occasioned by my participation in any SOS Dirty Dog event. I also authorize SOS Animal Rescue to utilize any photographs, personal narrative, interviews, or audio and video recording of my participation for any and all purposes.

Signature Date

(Parent/Guardian Signature Required if Participant is under 18)

Emergency Contact Person & Phone Number

*All net proceeds from the event are for SOS Animal Rescue's Spay/Neuter Assistance Fund. The Fund is used to help offset the cost of spaying/neutering a loved pet for low or fixed income residents of Midland county.*

## CAT CONDOS AT PETSMART!

Come to visit our foster cats in the cat condos at PetSmart. You can see a few of our cats up for adoption any time the store is open.



## 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

## Howl-A-Day Pet Expo

**Saturday, September 29  
10 a.m. – 3 p.m.**

***with a pet food drive  
benefitting all local pantries***



**She wishes  
you could  
afford to  
have her  
spayed too.**



photo copyright Puppy Rescue 911

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

**Contact SOS Animal Rescue • 989-492-0042 • [www.sosanimalrescue.org](http://www.sosanimalrescue.org)**



# How to Fly Your Cat or Dog

By Diane Schmidt. Reprinted from About.com.

Our pets have moved several times and usually the moves are across the country or even to a new country. This means we normally fly them and have, over the years, come up with some tips on how to ensure they arrive safely.

If you haven't decided yet on how best to move your pets, I usually think about which situation will be less stressful. Keep in mind that when you fly pets and are not flying with them, that is they won't be on the same flight as you, your pets must be checked in at cargo at least three hours before departure time. Add this time to the flight time, plus another hour at the destination to have them released from cargo. Sometimes it is less time for your pets to drive them rather than fly. Also, check with your vet to see if flying is safe for your pet. In our situation, one of our cats has a heart condition and our vet does not recommend flying due to the stress involved and the change in air pressure (altitude).

If you are planning on moving your cats by flying them to your new home, be aware that most airlines will insist you use an IATA (International Air Transport Association) approved carrier to transport your pet. An IATA approved carrier requirements are based on a species needs and animal size. The IATA Live Animals Regulations describe minimum standards for carrier construction for all types of animals, ranging from insects to elephants.

Also, space for your animal should be booked a minimum of 48 hours in advance. Most airlines have restrictions on the number of animals they will carry per flight.

Only small dogs and cats can travel in the cabin with you; or if the airline will not allow this due to space limitations, your pet will be sent as special baggage in a heated and ventilated hold. The hold provides a quiet and darkened area, which can be less stressful than a noisy cabin.

## Important Questions to Ask the Airline

- I prefer to have my pet travel in the hold instead of in the baggage area. Do you have space available for the flight I need?
- If there isn't any room in the hold, what is the temperature in the cargo/baggage area? Critical Note: When booking our pets with an airline company, I never thought to ask this question, until my vet mentioned it. I immediately called the airlines and found out that the baggage area where our pets would be was not heated, and since they were flying in February from San Francisco through Minneapolis to Toronto, they probably would not have survived. Make sure you ask!
- Will you provide appropriate stickers and labels for the pet carrier?
- What if the flight is rerouted? What happens to my pet?
- Where do I go to check in my pet?
- How far in advance does my pet need to be at the airport?
- What is the cost to fly my pet?
- Which papers should accompany my pet?
- Which papers do I bring to pick up my pet?
- Will my pet check through customs here or upon arrival?
- Do you have any weight restrictions?



## Quilts for Cages

Joy Marchione has started a small group called Quilts for Cages. She is interested in people who would like to help on her mission to "sew a little love for charity." Anyone who is interested in making crate blankets can contact Joy at 989-708-0164 or [j.l.marchi@att.net](mailto:j.l.marchi@att.net). Many thanks go to Joy for donating a crate blanket for our foster cats. Due to her generosity, each cat goes to their new home with a blanket they can call their own.

*Happy travelling to you and your pets!*

## Should You Shave Your Pet for Summer?

***Why shaving your dog or cat this summer may not be such a great idea***

Summer arrives in a blaze of heat and sun and most of us shed clothes until we're down to shorts or swimsuits. If less is more for us when temperatures spike, shouldn't it be good for our pets, too? Though it may seem like a no-brainer to shave your dog or cat when summer comes, does it really keep pets cooler? Generally, most experts recommend against shaving most pets, though there are exceptions. Veterinarians often advise against shaving cats and dogs for a simple reason: Your pet's hair isn't like yours. To learn more, WebMD talked to veterinarians and groomers for their opinions on this hairy subject.

### **Shaving Cats for Summer: Should You?**

A pet's coat is designed by nature to keep it cool during the summer and warm in the winter. By shaving your pet you usually interfere with this built-in temperature regulation. Cats, in particular, are very good at regulating body temperature and "really get no benefit from being shaved," says Mark J. Stickney, DVM, clinical associate professor and director of general surgery services at Texas A&M University's veterinary medical teaching hospital. Because cats are "so much smaller relative to their exposed surface area, they're just better at getting rid of extra body heat," Stickney tells WebMD. Cats are also almost always more mobile than dogs, so they can simply move to a shadier spot when temperatures rise.

### **Shaving Dogs**

Over time, humans have bred some pets, specifically dogs, to have thicker coats than others and these breeds can

sometimes use a little help cooling off during summer's heat, says Jean Sonnenfield, DVM, a veterinarian with Georgia Veterinary Specialists in Atlanta.

If you have a dog that has been bred for very cold climates, think breeds like Great Pyrenees, St. Bernards, Malamutes, or Huskies, consider shaving them when the mercury rises, the pros suggest. Resist shaving other breeds because not only will dogs like labs and retrievers simply get no benefit from it, they run the risk of sunburn once shaved, says Stickney, who is also a WebMD pet health expert. Actually, any dog can suffer sunburn, so if you do shave your thick-coated dog, be sure to leave at least an inch of hair to protect your pet from the sun's rays.

You may also want to shave a dog that stays outside all the time, has a matted coat, and is likely to be wet often. In these circumstances, a dog can develop an unpleasant condition called myiasis, maggots in the fur. If your dog is prone to hot spots, a summer shave may be helpful, but discuss this with your vet first.

### **If You Shave Your Pet**

If your dog is one of the heavy-coated, cold-weather breeds and you plan on shaving your pooch for summer, groomers and vets offer these simple tips for shaving your pet:

*continued on Page 11*



*Betcher was adopted out as a kitten to be Sydney's best buddy. Sydney stopped by to visit us so we could see what a handsome companion her cat grew up to be.*

## **Larkin Food Center Supports SOS Animal Rescue**

One of the many ways we raise funds for SOS Animal Rescue is by placing canisters in local businesses. Larkin Food Center has achieved silver sponsor status by hosting our canisters. We hope you will stop in and let them know you appreciate their support for SOS Animal Rescue. They have great pizza and ice cream, and you can purchase those last-minute items needed for the weekend cookout. Thanks, Larkin Food Center.



Think about hiring a pro. Most of us have little experience grooming our dogs, and many pets can be skittish, raising the potential for painful accidents. It's a lot cheaper to take your pet to a groomer, Sonnenfield tells WebMD, than "to have to pay for a laceration repair."

Keep clippers cool. All it takes is a few minutes of use for clipper blades to get hot enough to burn your dog. "Take frequent breaks to let those clippers cool down," Stickney says, "and use the lubricant that often comes with them" to help clippers stay cool.

Leave an inch of hair. Leave at least one inch of hair when shaving your pet. This gives your pet enough coat to protect from sunburn and chilly summer nights.

No close shaves. Resist the temptation to shave your dog close to the skin. Not only do you raise the risk of painful sunburn, but a close shave can leave guard hair imbedded under the skin. "New hair won't grow until these ends fall out, causing irregular growth and often skin problems," says Linda Easton, an international certified master groomer.

#### 4 Tips to Keep Pets Cool in the Summer

The best thing you can do for your pets when summer comes is help them keep themselves cool. To do that:

Never leave your pet in a parked car — for any length of time. It gets very hot, very fast inside a parked vehicle, and that can be deadly. Just don't do it, even for a short time.

Offer clean, cool water. Be sure cats and dogs always have plenty of water. On really hot days, try putting ice cubes in your pet's water bowl. Some pets really enjoy it.

Shelter them from the sun. The prime way dogs cool themselves is through panting. "That works best if the air around them is cooler than their body temperature," Stickney says. So be sure your pooch (and kitty) have a shady place to get out of the sun.

Keep pets inside when it's really hot. Your pet's normal body temperature can range between 100-103 degrees Fahrenheit. When it's that hot or hotter outside, it can be hard for pets to keep cool through panting. So on really hot days, bring cats and dogs indoors.

Brush your pet. Brushing your pet removes dead undercoat, helping air to circulate near the skin, keeping pets cooler. An additional benefit: "In summer months, pets can get bitten by insects and end up with moist dermatitis, a skin infection," Stickney says, but removing dead, matted hair by brushing helps skin stay drier. If you have the time and energy, brush daily.

If your pet does overheat, act fast. Get your pet to a veterinarian right away — it could save your pet's life.

Signs that your pet may be overheated include problems breathing, excessive panting, drooling, weakness, stupor, and an elevated heart rate. Symptoms can also include seizures, vomiting, a temperature over 104 degrees Fahrenheit, and bloody diarrhea.

*By Wendy C. Fries. Reprinted from WebMD Pet Health Feature.  
Reviewed by Elizabeth A. Martinez, DVM.*

Dear SOS Animal Rescue,

We adopted our cat from you in October, and we don't know how we even survived before he came into our lives! You called him Aki but we renamed him Rabbit because of his huge back paws. He started out needing some love and care and now he is a spoiled little man! I just wanted to say "thank you" for bringing us together. We truly love our new member of our family! Thank you!

Janelle, John, Alaina, & Joey





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#### Officers

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Shelley Park, Vice President  
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Karla Oldenburg, Treasurer

#### Mission Statement

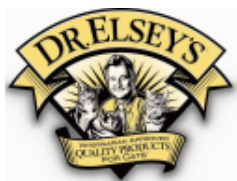
SOS Animal Rescue is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization whose mission is to reduce the number of unwanted pets in the Midland area through placement, public education, spay/neuter assistance programs, and support for the efforts of local animal welfare groups.

#### Board of Directors

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## THANKS TO OUR SILVER, GOLD, & PLATINUM SPONSORS!



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Quilts for Cages

