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SOS Animal Rescue Newsletter • Volume 12, Issue 4 • October 1, 2012



***Bark in the Park
ends the summer
season with a wag***



SOS EVENTS

Sundays

12:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Adopt-a-thon
at Midland PetSmart

Fridays & Saturdays

12:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Adopt-a-thon
at Saginaw PetSmart

Monday, October 15

6:30–7:30 p.m.

SOS Meeting at
GAD Library Room B

Saturday, October 13

Dirty Dog Run

Thursday, October 18

Downtown Midland's
Annual Pumpkin Festival

Wednesday, November 14

Thursday, November 15

Morley Portraiture
Photo Fund-Raiser

Monday, November 19

SOS Meeting at
GAD Library Room B
SOS Board Elections

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

Blueprint to Giving

Joy and Mike Marchione, cat fanciers, always head to the PetSmart cat condos when shopping. During an adopt-a-thon, Joy became acquainted with Julie Smith, SOS Animal Rescue foster caregiver. Joy was able to learn more about the foster-adoption program. Aware of the huge need and importance of foster and adoption, she wanted to help. Since Joy and Mike themselves were not able to foster, raising funds would be the next best thing. Joy and Julie met for lunch to discuss how she might be able to accomplish that goal.



Upon retiring, Joy treated herself to a new super sewing machine with intentions of rekindling her love of quilt making and sewing. With that in mind, she made crate quilts for Julie's foster charges, which are always needed. Upon hearing how one of Julie's kittens had a pre-rescue injury that required therapeutic warmth for healing, Joy made arthritic rice bags that can be heated for the foster animals. However, this did not address the issue of raising funds. With Julie's blessing, Joy set out to have a rummage sale at her house for SOSAR where she could sell treasured items and also her sewn items. Her enthusiasm spilled onto a few of Joy's friends who contributed by donating fabric or making quilts. She also went as far as contacting her neighbors that were having rummage sales, asking for their excess unsold items to sell at her SOSAR sale. Friends and neighbors were eager to help. Joy thought that baked goods could be included. She again recruited the neighborhood to participate by baking some of their favorite homemade goodies.

Julie, Joy, and Mike spent hours preparing for the September 7-8 event. On sale day, Julie brought some of her adoptable cats and kittens. Four kittens, too young for adoption, were also brought along. They had to be with Julie 24-7, requiring bottle-feeding every few hours. These tiny kittens did not lack for kitten formula or loving surrogate mothers. Neighbors and friends took turns feeding and gently cuddling these little waifs to sleep.

The quilts, arthritic rice bags, and catnip mice made by Joy's 'Quilts for Cages' were not price fixed but left up to the individual the amount they wanted to donate for their selections. Some customers had a difficult time choosing because they were all so wonderfully made. Even though pricing was left up to the customer, all were generous donations.

The two-day sale was a huge success, raising over \$800 for the foster program. Julie also was able to find three cats-kittens their loving forever homes. SOS Animal Rescue members took the opportunity to educate shoppers about the SOSAR spay/neuter program for low-income Midland County residents and the foster program.

Joy and Mike Marchione, retired Dow Corning employees and long-time Midland residents, enjoy their spare time golfing and enjoying the nature that surrounds them in their beautiful garden in the middle of the city. They share their home with two lovely cat brothers, Max and Sam, both rescues. Joy continues to make her rice bags, catnip mice, and quilts.

SOS Animal Rescue would like to extend a huge thank you to Joy and Mike and all of their friends and neighbors who devoted their time and money to help make Joy's mission of giving a success.



Joy & Mike Marchione



Kitties & Quilts

THANK YOU!

Through the month of July, the Venture Klub from Midland Kinder-Kare (D.B.A. Michigan Child Care Centers) took in donations for SOS Animal Rescue for cats.

Pictured are Alice Baker, Noah Wittbrodt, and Madison Wittbrodt. Thanks for helping our cats!



September's Dog Swim at Plymouth Park Pool was a great time for all.

Thank you, Midland Parks & Rec, for sponsoring the event.

Peder & Amy Danielson

Tricia Eidsmoe

Marcia Horan

Hugs for Homeless Animals for quilted blankets

Joy & Mike Marchione for hosting a rummage sale

Rona Marx

Sali Reynolds

Leslie Russell

Mary Smith for sponsoring Wendy

PLATINUM

Midland VetMed

Morley's Portraiture

Park Place Homes

Precious Cat

GOLD

Arm & Hammer for clumping litter

Bioderm

Coastal Pet Products

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

Papa John's

Park Bench Quilt Shop

Rugs for Homeless Animals

Solvit

Supreme Floor Covering

Syds Fabric

T.F.H. Publications, Inc.

Membership Drive

October is membership drive month. Expect to see our renewal cards in your mailbox very soon.

United Way Designation

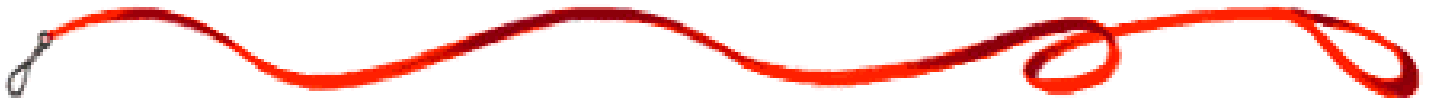
United Way campaigns have begun. Remember that you can designate your donations to SOS Animal Rescue by writing our name in on the donation form. Our tax ID number is 38-3562588. Thank you!

Elections

Elections for the SOS Animal Rescue board will be held on November 19. The open positions are Vice president, treasurer, and director. If you are interested in running for a position, please drop us a line at info@sosar.org.

The criteria for elected positions is listed in our bylaws:




- Section 1. Membership into SOSAR will be open to the public. Annual membership dues shall be determined by the board. Dues must be paid in order to be a member in good standing and eligible to vote.
- Section 2. All of the officers of the Board of Directors shall be members of SOSAR.
- Section 3. All directors and officers shall have been members of SOSAR for six months prior to their election. No person convicted of cruelty to animals or who engages or has engaged in blood sports involving animals may be a director.



Morley Portraiture Photo Fund-Raiser

Morley Portraiture has graciously volunteered to host another photo fund-raiser for SOS Animal Rescue on Wednesday, November 14 and Thursday, November 15. This is a great opportunity to get a fabulous photo of your dog with a gorgeous background by a top notch photographer.



	A Dog Gone Great Deal Drop into the studio with your loyal friend (no reservations) on either Wed, Nov. 14, 10 am - 7 pm or Thurs, Nov. 15, 12 noon - 7 pm Bring a bag of dog food or a minimum donation of at least \$10 for S.O.S. Animal Rescue www.sosanimalrescue.org
Morley Portraiture 1511 W. Saint Andrews Rd., Midland 989-839-9180 Our background this year is an original painting by Michelle Courier as featured in the Northwood Gallery, Midland, MI.	
	We will photograph your dog and provide you with an 8x10 portrait mounted, lacquered & textured to pawstive perfection PLUS 8 wallets in time for Christmas for just \$55. (a savings of over 60%) For more information, visit our website: www.morleyportrait.com

Positive Reinforcement Dog Training

Positive reinforcement dog training works by using praise and positive actions or rewards, rather than punishment or correctional actions, to teach your dog right from wrong. The key with this type of training is to determine what it is that motivates your dog and use that motivator as a reward upon correct performance. In positive reinforcement dog training, you can use treats, toys, physical affection, verbal praise, or a combination of these to reward your dog for correct behavior.

Here's how the method works: First you must determine a set of cue words, which will prompt your dog to perform specific actions. Some of the most basic and common cue words for dog training include:

- Sit
- Stay
- Off (when you want the dog to get off of the furniture or after having jumped on someone)
- Down (when you want the dog to lie down)
- Come
- Stand

In positive reinforcement dog training, it is important to reward the dog immediately upon responding correctly to the cue. For example, if you cue your dog to sit and he does so, you need to immediately let him know that he did a good thing by telling him "yes", or "good". Then you proceed by promptly giving him the reward. Remember, the reward must be something that your dog gets some pleasure from. If your dog loves food, then reward him with a small treat. If he really likes to play with a certain toy, then reward him by throwing the toy so that he can fetch it. If perhaps he is most motivated by physical affection, then you can reward him with a belly rub or a nice ear scratch. Do not however wait too long to reward him for the action, otherwise it may end up just confusing him. For example, if you asked your dog to sit and then waited until he stood back up again before rewarding him, then he will associate the sit command with the action of standing up. After all, that is what you rewarded him for.

During the time in which you are training your dog to respond to new cues, you will want to reward him every time the correct action is performed. However, once he has successfully mastered the cue and is performing consistently without hesitation it will no longer be necessary to provide rewards each time he performs the specific action. Simply reinforce to him verbally that he was correct by telling him "yes", or "good".

The two key issues with positive reinforcement dog training are consistency and timing. Be consistent in your training methods, ensuring that you use the same cue words each and every time and, make sure that your timing in terms of rewarding correct behavior is bang on. Above all, this should be fun for both you and your dog. If either of you are not having fun, you're doing something wrong. Accept the fact that training your dog will take time and patience but eventually your consistency and persistence will pay off.



- Don't lean over the dog and stick your hand in his face.
- Don't Lean over the dog and put your hand on top of his head.
- Don't grab or hug him.
- Don't stare him in the eye. (This is an adversarial posture.)
- Don't squeal or shout in his face.
- Don't grab his head and kiss it. (This is an invasion of space.)

Doing these things to a dog who doesn't know you is like a perfect stranger giving you a great big hug and kiss in an elevator.

THE CORRECT WAY TO GREET A DOG:

- No eye contact.
- Let the dog approach you in his own time.
- Keep either your side or back towards the dog (non-threatening posture).
- Pet or stroke him on the SIDE of his face or body.

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.



**THANK YOU,
GOLD SPONSORS!!!**



**Park Place
Homes**



**THANK YOU,
BRONZE SPONSOR!!!**

Animal Pal

**THANK YOU,
PRIZE SPONSORS!!!**

Animal Pal

Design Within

The Gourmet Cupcake Shoppe

Nature's Gift Organics

Scrapbooks Galore & More

Small Critter Sitter

Soldan's



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.

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

Special Pet Days

Adopt-a-Dog Month: October
National Feral Cat Day: October 16
National Cat Day: October 29
Senior Pet Month: November
Nat'l Animal Shelter Appreciation Week: Nov. 5-11
National Mutt Day: December 2



Adopt-A-Less-Adoptable-Pet



Don't hate me because
I'm less adoptable

Adopt me because...



Spay/Neuter Statistics

To date, SOS has spayed/neutered 1537 cats and dogs.

SPAY/NEUTER	thru 2011	2012
Female Cats	619	47
Male Cats	369	16
Female Dogs	251	36
Male Dogs	175	24
TOTALS	1414	123

Be sure to visit SOS at

**Downtown Midland's
Annual Pumpkin Festival
Thursday, October 18
6:00-7:30 p.m.**

Bean Bag Toss!

Candy for Kids!

Treats for Dogs!



PET FOOD ASSISTANCE

This year, 70 cats and 55 dogs
from 34 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.



**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

When You Have a Lapsed User of the Cat Litterbox

One in every 10 cats will have a litterbox lapse in his or her lifetime. The 20 most common reasons are:

1. The cat is suffering from a medical problem involving the urinary tract.
2. The cat experiences a bout of geriatric constipation.
3. The caretaker does not keep the box as clean as the cat wants it to be.
4. The owner changes the brand or type of litter.
5. The owner changes the location of the litterbox.
6. The owner switches to deodorized or perfumed litter.
7. The owner buys a new box and throws out the old one.
8. The owner cleans the litterbox with too harsh a cleaning product.
9. The location of the litterbox is too busy or not private enough for the cat.
10. The home is too large for just one litterbox.
11. The cat inadvertently gets locked out of reach of the litterbox.
12. The cat is kept from using the litterbox by another animal in the house.
13. There are too many cats and not enough litterboxes.
14. There are too many cats and not enough territory.
15. Stray cats can be seen/smelled near the cat's territory.
16. The unneutered male cat has come of age and is marking his territory.
17. The unspayed female is in heat and advertising for suitors.
18. Over time, the cat has developed an aversion to the texture of the litter.
19. The cat was never properly trained to use the litterbox in the first place.
20. The cat is stressed by a change in routine or environment, including a new baby, new furniture, work schedule changes, vacations, overnight guests, or a move.

Did You Know?

Many scoopable cat litters are processed in such a way to remove as much of the fine dust as possible. If you find that you or your cat is particularly sensitive to airborne dust particles, you may wish to consider using an alternate form of litter.

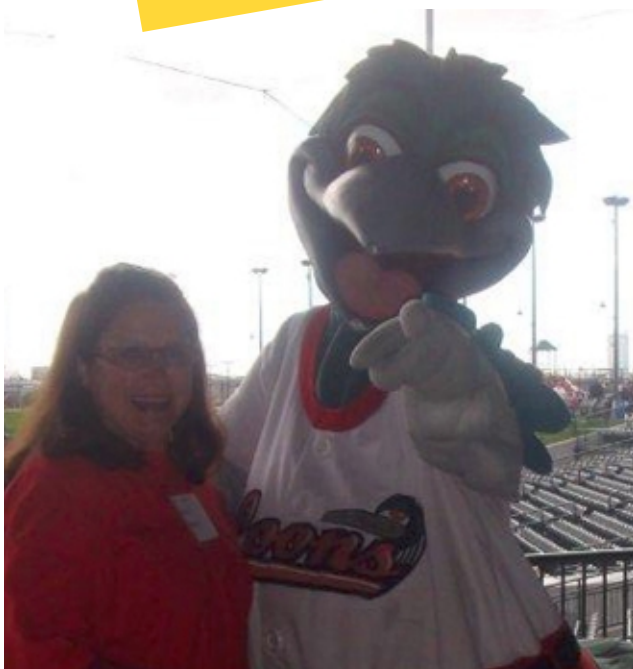
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A Brand New Season Food Giveaway

By Darlene Andrews

"A Brand New Season" food distribution event was held at the Loon's Stadium on Saturday, September 22. The response was excellent with over 975 families participating. Food donations were given along with 40 different local agencies available with information. Isabella Jansen and I represented SOS Animal Rescue and used this opportunity as an educational event. There was a constant flow of people stopping to inquire about what we did, or to tell us they adopted a dog or cat from us in the past or that we helped them spay or neuter their pets. This opened the discussion around the need to spay neuter and proper nutrition for their four legged family members. We received over 30 spay/neuter requests and food donations requests, and we handed out information for people to share with other Midland County residents who need assistance. Along with helping others, Isabella and I felt blessed ourselves that we could assist those in need. It certainly was an experience I shall not forget.



**Having trouble
affording pet food?**

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



SOS Animal Rescue of Midland County

989-492-0042

www.sosanimalrescue.org

And please contact us if you have pet food to donate!



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www.facebook.com/sosanimalrescue

Officers

Joann Taylor, President
Shelley Park, Vice President
Darlene Andrews, Secretary
Karla Oldenburg, Treasurer

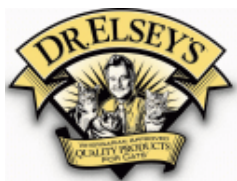
Mission Statement

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 SILVER, GOLD, & PLATINUM SPONSORS!



Midland VetMED



Shelley Park
Park Place Homes



Morley Portraiture



Kan'd Ham Art



Quilts for Cages

