



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

SOS Animal Rescue Newsletter • Volume 13, Issue 3 • July 15, 2013

Hello! My name is Bubsey. I am a four-year-old female who has been in rescue for a long time. My original owner couldn't keep me any more so I am looking for a new home. I am good with cats, kids, and dogs. I am sweet and loving. I don't know why anyone won't adopt me. Maybe they think I am too old but I'm not. I have many good years of love and companionship to give.



## ***Can I join your family?***

Hi! My name is Cheez It. I am an older male cat and was rescued from a kill shelter where I did not stand a chance. I am super friendly and while I don't like to be picked up, I love all the petting and attention you can give me. I have had a hard life and am so looking forward to my forever home. I prefer a quieter home without young children. Is there anyone out there who can give me a home to spend the rest of my years?



## **SOS EVENTS**

**Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays**  
**12:00 noon – 6:00 p.m.**

Adopt-athon  
Saginaw PetSmart

**July 24**  
**6:30 – 8:00 p.m.**

Bark in the Park  
Frosty Paws: Free cool treats  
for dogs while supplies last.

**August 14**  
**6:30 – 8:00 p.m.**

Bark in the Park  
Great Costume Give-Away:  
Free pet costumes given  
away while supplies last.

**August 28**  
**6:30 – 8:00 p.m.**

Bark in the Park  
Doggy Olympics: Fun, games,  
and prizes for everyone.

**September 7**  
Plymouth Pool Dog Swim

**September 16**  
**6:30 p.m.**

SOS Meeting  
Grace A. Dow Library

**September 21**  
Tentative Fall Rummage Sale

**October 5**  
**9:00 a.m.**  
Dirty Dog Trail Run  
Midland City Forest



**Thank you, Tyler Snyder, for donating the location for our rummage sale!**



**Thanks to everyone  
for another successful  
rummage sale!**



**Thank you, Olive Garden, for donating food to our hungry workers.**





# THANK YOU!

Flo & Julie Filary

Robin Glenn  
in memory of Hunter, beloved pet of  
Kent Woodburn & Janet Sherwood

Gabriele Golombeski  
in memory of Timber

Glenda Gross

Wilma Lee & Bob Cook  
in memory of  
granddaughter's Corgi Nigel

Joy Marchione

Rena Marx  
in memory of  
Steve Birnbaum's sister

Rena Marx  
in memory of  
Judy Geese's husband

Rena Marx  
in memory of  
the father of Ed & Carol Heinz

Rena Marx  
in memory of  
Dick & Chrissa Redifer's daughter

Connie Palmer & Ron Cliff  
and sons Chris & Dave  
in memory of  
Joseph Ostahowski

Adam Paveggio

Reushan Russian  
in honor of  
Debby Michalak's birthday

Leslie Russell

Madeline Sasse

Betty Shangle

The Sharma Family

Jeffrey Smith

The Stuber Family

Lori Tabor

Big Rick's  
1st Annual Charity Bike Run  
They rode to Sporty's, Castaways, and  
Petro Rocks in memory of Big Rick.  
Many, many people donated their  
time and money to this event.  
Thanks to Big Rick's family, Richard  
Bouliew, and Jackie Bouliew for  
organizing the event.



Thank you, Julia, for  
celebrating your  
birthday by giving to  
the animals!

## PLATINUM SPONSORS

ASPCA  
Coastal Pet Products  
Coffee News  
Morley Portraiture  
Park Place Homes  
PetSmart  
Precious Cat  
Purdue Pharma  
Surrey Veterinary Clinic  
Vetmed of Midland

## GOLD SPONSORS

Arm and Hammer  
Larkin Food Center  
Northern Animal Clinic  
Prime Lending  
Soldan's

## SILVER SPONSORS

Animal Pal  
Bioderm  
Furminator  
Garber Automotive Group  
Members First Credit Union  
Papa John's  
Quilts for Cages  
Superior Title

## BRONZE

Bainfield and Vicki Shaddeau  
Best Shot Pet Products  
Build-A-Bear  
Cat's Pride  
Design Within  
Eukanaba  
The Gourmet Cupcake Shoppe  
Great Lakes Pet Emergencies  
Hartz Mountain Corp  
Hugs for Homeless animals  
Jake's Grill  
Kan'd Ham Art  
Kong  
M-20 Animal Hospital  
Nature's Organics  
Park Bench Quilt Shop  
Pat's Food Center  
Pizza Hut  
Runners  
Scrapbooks Galore & More  
Shelley's Bed and Biscuit  
Small Critter Sitter  
Soaring Eagle Water Park  
Studio Fido Photography  
Syd's Fabric  
Target  
TFH Publications, Nylabone  
TNT Dog Center



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

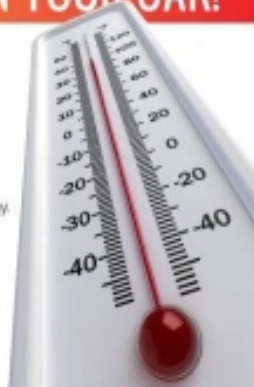


***Payment assistance for spaying/neutering your pet cat  
is available to Midland County residents!***

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

## NEVER LEAVE A DOG IN YOUR CAR!

- A car's temperature will rise **approximately 40°F** in an hour even on a relatively cool, 72°F day\*
- Most of that temperature increase is **within the first 30 minutes.**\*
- **Cracking your windows doesn't stop the heat from rising.**\*
- Cars can reach **120°F in a matter of minutes** on a hot day.
- Dogs can succumb to **heatstroke even when the car is in the shade.**
- Leaving the **air conditioning on and the car running doesn't guarantee your dog's safety.**
- **Leave your dog at home** on hot days or find alternate ways to run your errands.



\*Source: Pediatrics Vol. 116 No. 1 July 1, 2005 "Heat Stress from Enclosed Vehicles"

**6:30 – 8:00 p.m.  
Wednesdays:**

**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.*

**Petfinder  
SUMMER Pet  
Safety**

To learn more, visit [petfinder.com/SummerPetSafety](http://petfinder.com/SummerPetSafety)

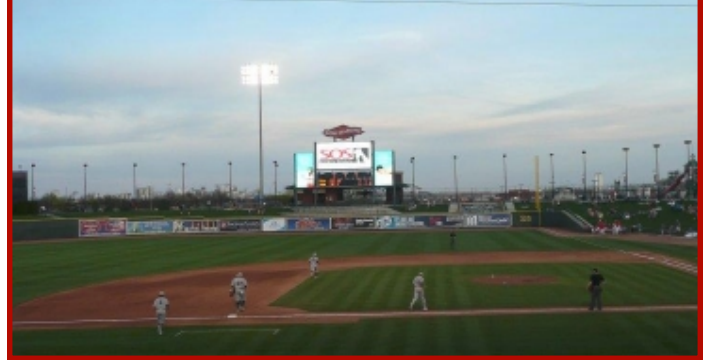




This great photo was taken at last year's Morley Portraiture fundraiser for SOS Animal Rescue. Check our website as November approaches for the specific dates for 2013. You won't want to miss it!



***Thanks to the Loons  
for letting us be the community organization  
of the night at the May 11 ball game.***



**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](http://www.sosanimalrescue.org)**

**Thanks to The Gourmet Cupcake Shoppe  
for donating the treats for our June 26  
Bark in the Park event.**



## Spay/Neuter Statistics

To date, SOS has spayed/neutered 1739 cats and dogs.

SPAY/NEUTER	thru 2012	2013
Female Cats	704	41
Male Cats	415	18
Female Dogs	306	26
Male Dogs	213	16
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>1638</b>	<b>101</b>

## RESCUE IS A TEAM EFFORT!

[www.funds4furfriends.com](http://www.funds4furfriends.com)



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

## PET FOOD ASSISTANCE

This year, 64 cats, 82 dogs, and 5 other types of pets from 63 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 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  
Mike's Country Store  
Northern Animal Clinic  
Service Express Cellular  
Soldan's  
Surrey Vet Clinic  
Tractor Supply  
Wall & Webb

## 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.

**LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!**

[www.facebook.com/sosanimalrescue](http://www.facebook.com/sosanimalrescue)



## SOS Dog Dirty Trail Run

SIGN UP ONLINE:

[https://runsignup.com/Race/MI/Midland/  
SOSAnimalRescueDirtyDogTrailRun](https://runsignup.com/Race/MI/Midland/SOSAnimalRescueDirtyDogTrailRun)



**Saturday, October 5  
9:00 a.m.**

## Pooches at the Pool

Plymouth Pool is going to the dogs! Midland Parks and Recreation is delighted to announce the third annual Pooches at Plymouth Pool Dog Swim on Saturday, September 7! Owners will have the opportunity to fetch their Fido and take a swim before the pool closes for the season. Plymouth Pool features a zero-depth entry and a deep well, perfect for any pooch! Each dog will get 30 minutes in the pool (with their owner age 18 and older). Owners are responsible for providing proof of vaccinations on the day of the event. Local canine organizations will be on hand to showcase their services and to provide volunteer assistance. Cost is \$6.00 per dog and pre-registration is required. Proceeds from this event will go toward improvements at the Midland Dog Park!

Preregistration and prepayment is necessary. Registrations will not be taken on the day of the event. Registration begins on Monday, August 5 and ends when all spots are full. Contact Midland Parks and Recreation at 989-837-6930 or visit [www.midland-mi.org/recreation](http://www.midland-mi.org/recreation) for more information and to register. It's a dog eat dog world, so register early! This event fills quickly!

*Reprinted from City of Midland, Midland Parks and Recreation,  
[www.midland-mi.org](http://www.midland-mi.org).*

**TENTATIVE FALL RUMMAGE SALE: SEPTEMBER 21**  
*Check our website for more details as the date approaches.*

## Vets Corner: We Love Cats!

Here at M-20 Animal Hospital, we see a lot of dogs. In fact, we see a lot of dog and cat owners that only bring in the family dog. Why is this?

We know cats don't always like the car, or anywhere that's not their comfortable pad. Here are some suggestions to make your cat's visit to the vet a smooth one.

Some cats prefer soft carriers over hard ones. The theories are out there: the soft carriers don't echo and they may slouch down more, making the cat feel like they are in a secure area. We aren't really sure why, but it's worth a try if you have trouble putting your cat into a carrier.

Also, most cats feel safer if they are hiding, so help them out by placing a towel over three sides of the carrier, leaving one side with good ventilation. You may also make a tube out of a towel to place in the carrier as another "safe zone."

Also popular are pheromone products such as Feliway to help reduce anxiety. Pheromones are chemicals released by the body that effect behavior. Feliway and other pheromone products aid in calming cats during travel when it is placed in carriers about ten minutes prior to departure.

We know that there are many cats

that would benefit from a health exam. Is your cat losing weight? Vomiting? Drinking more water? Having a lot of hairballs (which, by the way, may not be normal)? We want to be there to help you keep your cat living its full nine lives. We want you to think of your vet when you have any questions regarding the health or your pet. Please call for an appointment as soon as you notice changes in your aging cat.

If you have more questions that have not been answered, contact us at 989-631-7170 or [websiteforms@m-20animalhospital.com](mailto:websiteforms@m-20animalhospital.com).

*By Dr. Hilary Busch, M-20 Animal Hospital*

## How to Say Goodbye

Last week, while I was performing euthanasia for a critically ill patient, the pet's owner looked at me and said, "I bet this is the hardest part of your job." That gave me pause.

For me, putting animals to sleep is not one of the hardest parts of being a veterinarian. That's because euthanasia is often a blessing and gift to a suffering animal. In my experience, the hardest part of being a veterinarian is telling owners that their beloved pet has a terminal illness and will soon be leaving this world. The emotions that pass across their faces, even if they have suspected the worst for some time, are heart-wrenching.

### It's Never Easy

I still remember the first person I had to share this terrible news with. He was a nice, middle-aged man with two small children and an eight-year-old Rottweiler named Stone. Stone was a member of the family, and when he started to limp, his owner brought him straight in to be checked out. Stone was a wonderful dog at home, but he was not a fan of the vet clinic. My best dog treats did nothing to warm his heart, and when I manipulated his painful left shoulder, well...that ended our chances of being best friends.

Even though Stone was not an admirer of mine, I liked him, and I really liked his owner. That made it so much harder to discuss his diagnosis: osteosarcoma, a painful bone tumor that responds poorly to treatment. In some cases, treatments involving limb amputation and/or radiation therapy can be beneficial. In Stone's case, these options were not feasible.

Together, Stone's owner and I decided to provide him with the best palliative care we could, and we promised each other that we would not let Stone suffer. When the time came, we would do the right, if tough, thing and put him to sleep rather than allow him to live in increasing pain.

Stone's owner was the first person I ever had an end-of-life discussion with, and he was also the first person to ask me a question I have heard hundreds of times since: "How will I know when it's time?"

The most recent person to ask me this question was my own mother. Her Miniature Schnauzer has battled long-term health problems and was recently diagnosed with diabetes. Unfortunately, she initially responded poorly to treatment. She lost her love of food, began soiling her bed and was generally acting pitiful.

### How to Decide

Over the past few years, I've heard a lot of veterinarians

give wonderful advice to people who are wondering when it is time to give their pets the gift of a peaceful passing. Here are four of the best pieces of advice I've heard, and they are the same ones I passed on to my own mother for her consideration.

Every pet, illness and situation is different. There is no single rule that can be followed for when it is time to help your best friend "cross the rainbow bridge." Getting input from your veterinarian on the specific medical conditions that your loved one may face is vital for doing what is best for your pet. You may also benefit from having a caring friend who is not as emotionally involved in the situation as you are to help you gain perspective and really "see" what is happening with your pet.

Remember that pets live in the moment. One of the most wonderful things about animals is how they embrace the present. Every time I walk into my house, my faithful Vizsla throws a one-dog ticker tape parade. The fact that I have entered the house thousands of times before, or that I will leave again in a few hours, means nothing. All that matters to him is the joy that he feels right now.

When our pets are suffering, they don't reflect on all the great days they have had before, or ponder what the future will bring. All they know is how they feel today. By considering this perspective, we can see the world more clearly through their eyes. And their eyes are what matter.

Ask yourself important questions. Sometimes, articulating or writing down your thoughts can make the right path more apparent. Some questions that help pet owners struggling with this decision include:

- Why do I think it might be time to euthanize?
- What are my fears and concerns about euthanizing?
- Whose interests, besides those of my pet, am I taking into account?
- What are the concerns of the people around me?
- Am I making this decision because it is best for my pet, or it is best for me because I'm not ready to let go?

Measure their quality of life. This is no more than trying to determine how good or bad our pet's life is at this moment. Trying to assess this can be difficult, but there are some ways you can try and evaluate it. Let's take a look at a few of my favorites in the next section.

### Is Life a Joy or a Drag?

Our pets may not be able to talk to us and tell us how

*continued on Page 9*



they are doing, but if we pay close attention, there are many clues that can help us answer that question.

**The Rule of “Five Good Things”:** Pick the top five things that your pet loves to do. Write them down. When he or she can no longer do three or more of them, quality of life has been impacted to a level where many veterinarians would recommend euthanasia.

**Good Days vs. Bad:** When pets have “good days and bad days,” it can be difficult to see how their condition is progressing over time. Actually tracking the days when your pet is feeling good as well as the days when he or she is not feeling well can be helpful. A check mark for good days and an X for bad days on your calendar can help you determine when a loved one is having more bad days than good.

**HHHHHMM:** Dr. Alice Villalobos is a well-known veterinary oncologist. Her “HHHHHMM” Quality of Life Scale is another useful tool. The five H’s and two M’s are: Hurt, Hunger, Hydration, Happiness, Hygiene (the ability to keep the pet clean from bodily waste), Mobility and More (as in, more good days than bad). Dr. Villalobos recommends grading each category on a scale of 1-10 (with 1 being poorest quality of life and 10 being best). If the

majority of categories are ranked as 5 or above, continuing with supportive care is acceptable.

**Pet Hospice Journal:** Keeping a journal of your pet’s condition, behavior, appetite, etc., can be extremely valuable in evaluating quality of life over time.

### **A Tale of Two “Endings”**

Thankfully, my mother’s Schnauzer, Zoe, eventually responded to her therapy. As a perpetual optimist, I like to think that she may be with us for some time to come. Still, the reality of having older pets is that we must be vigilant in their care and aware that every day is a gift.

In the case of my long-ago patient, Stone, with whom I first walked this path, I am glad to say that he did not suffer unnecessarily with osteosarcoma. His owner made a good decision, and Stone crossed the rainbow bridge while in the loving arms of his people. He was remembered by them as a strong, loving protector of the children in his family, and I will always remember his owner for having the strength and wisdom I hope we’ll all have when the time comes to say that final goodbye.

*By Dr. Andy Roark. Reprinted from [www.vetstreet.com](http://www.vetstreet.com).*



*At Trinity Lutheran and Blessed Sacrament recent mobile food pantries, we gave out spay/neuter and pet food assistance applications. We are close to last year’s numbers for helping families. The next mobile food pantries are August 22 at North Midland Family Center, September 18 at West Midland Family Center, and October 16 at United Steelworkers Hall.*



## Experts Warn Canine Lyme Disease is Spreading

A new report from the Companion Animal Parasite Council (CAPC), a nonprofit organization of veterinary parasitologists and scientists, warns “the threat of Lyme disease for dogs will be extremely high this year.”

The increasing risk includes areas where the disease is already common, such as the Northeast and North-Central U.S., as well as the states below, where Lyme disease is now expanding: Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, North Carolina, Ohio, Virginia, and West Virginia. View the Lyme disease risk-level map on [LymeInfo.com](http://LymeInfo.com). The map is just one of many helpful tools for educating clients and colleagues; share it with yours today.

*Reprinted from AVMA SmartBrief.*



### Awards Recognition

We were recognized for partnering with Saginaw ISD Transitions Center School at their breakfast awards banquet. We should be the ones thanking them for all the help they provide us. This is a true win-win partnership. Those are the only kind that work over the long haul and we cherish them when we find them.

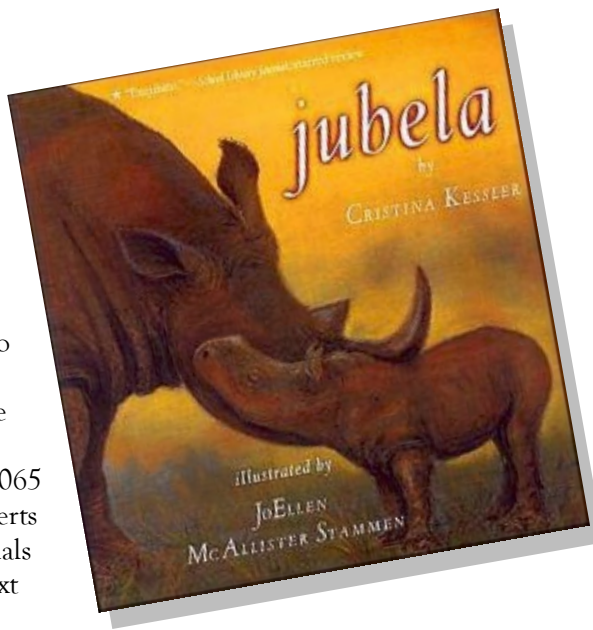
## BOOK REVIEW BY CHRIS ERSKINE

### *Jubela*

By Cristina Kessler

Ages 5–8

Excerpt from epilogue: “Over the last thirty years, 97 percent of the world’s rhino population has been lost to poachers. The International Rhino Foundation Fact Sheet reports that in 1999, the total Africa rhino population was only 11,065 rhinos. Some rhino experts have predicted the animals will be extinct in the next few years. But with an increased awareness and dedication to protecting these ancient animals, progress is being made in the fight against poachers. This is a direct result of a world concerned about the well being of all of its creatures.”



*Jubela* is a little story of an African baby rhino and his mother. With young readers in mind, Ms. Kessler uses a smart and sensitive approach when writing about the mother’s death at the hand of poachers and the little orphaned baby rhino’s journey to survive. Ultimately, it is a story of hope.

Each and every page is covered with lovely and vivid pastel illustrations, a visual treasure that captures the Africa of the rhinos. Combined with a wonderful story and writing style, this book gets five stars.

NOTE: For those that may not know, rhino horns are actually made of keratin, which is found in human hair. Rhino horns are used in Chinese medicine. Modern research has shown that it has no medicinal value. These illegal horns are sold on the black market and can fetch as much per ounce as gold, many times higher. One horn is worth thousands of dollars. Example of how rampant rhino poaching has become, in 2012, South Africa reported 688 rhinos killed at the hands of poachers. When you consider the other African countries that are fighting rhino poaching, the numbers are staggering.

*Jubela* offers an opportunity to read and discuss with your child the plight of the rhino and the importance of protecting, respecting and preserving all of earth’s wildlife, big and small, whether it be loss of habitat or over hunting and poaching. When the ecosystem is tilted, if any animal faces extinction in the wild, we all lose.

## Kroger Community Rewards Program

Supporters of SOS Animal Rescue may enroll in the Kroger Community Rewards Program now. Those who enrolled before April 1, 2013, must re-enroll in order to continue earning funds for SOS during 2013-2014. It's easy: visit [www.krogercommunityrewards.com](http://www.krogercommunityrewards.com), click on "Michigan," and click on "Enroll." Participants must have a valid online account at Kroger.com and sign up online to participate. SOSAR's Kroger number is 91497.

### BOOK REVIEW BY CHRIS ERSKINE

#### **Two Bobbies: A True Story of Hurricane Katrina, Friendship, and Survival**

**By Kirby Larson & Jean Cassels**

*Grades K-3*

When Hurricane Katrina pounded the gulf coast in 2005, it caused unbelievable devastation to not only property and people, but also the pets that were left behind to endure the storm. This is a true story of a dog and a cat, both with bobtails, both caught up in Katrina's fury.

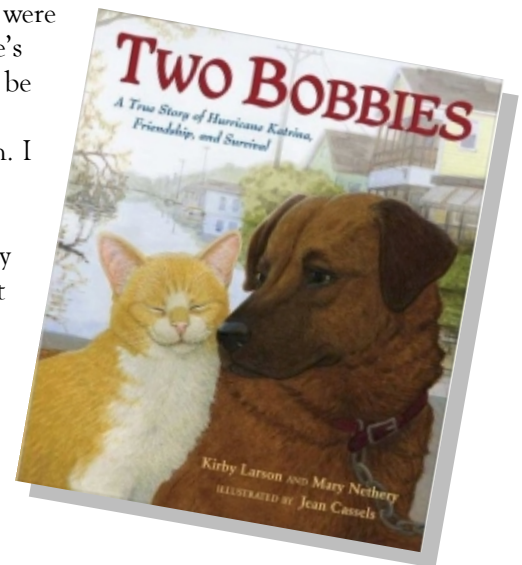
There was no way to know the back story of these two friends left to ride the storm out; to have to fend for themselves, together, in New Orleans. Obviously how they survived for four months on the streets is speculative, and whether they were friends prior to the storm, nobody knows. The two Bobbies were finally rescued. Rescuers immediately noticed that their bond was strong and undeniable, an inseparable duo. As if protecting Bob Cat, Bobbi dog would growl whenever someone got too near his companion, and Bob Cat would always closely follow Bobbi dog. Their story of friendship was so touching that the two Bobbies made a satellite television appearance on CNN's Anderson Cooper 360.

The authors take the reader down the path that these two Bobbies could have traveled for over four months, from the onslaught of the storm and aftermath and the obstacles they probably faced just trying to stay alive. In addition, Jean Cassel's colorful and large illustrations make a wonderful children's book even better by detailing the city's perils that the two Bobbies had to navigate through.

*Two Bobbies* is an endearing book that demonstrates true kinship and the strong bonds that animals can form towards each other. It is a book that eventually has a truly happy ending. There is also a surprise towards the end that I did not see coming; I will not divulge. I whole-heartedly recommend this book.

NOTE: After Hurricane Katrina, we viewed on television the animals that were left behind due to human miscalculation of the storm's intensity or people's inability to leave. I am sure that a select few may not have cared enough to be concerned with their pets' safety. We also learned that pets were not taken into consideration at 'people' shelter facilities or evacuation transportation. I am still haunted by an incident on CNN. A noticeably upset woman was forced on an evacuation bus without her little white dog. She had to leave her dog on the ground outside the bus. The poor little thing was absolutely frantic that her guardian was leaving him/her behind. I can only hope that there was a happy outcome for this little guy.

Since Katrina, some federal and state emergency plans vaguely incorporated pets. However, people with pets were denied access at some shelters during Hurricane Sandy. In the event of a forthcoming disaster, we are responsible to make sure that our pets, regardless of species, are included in our emergency plans.







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

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[www.sosanimalrescue.org](http://www.sosanimalrescue.org)

[www.facebook.com/sosanimalrescue](https://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



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Animal Pal

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Surrey Veterinary Clinic



Coffee News



Quilts for Cages

