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SOS Animal Rescue Newsletter • Volume 15, Issue 1 • January 31, 2015

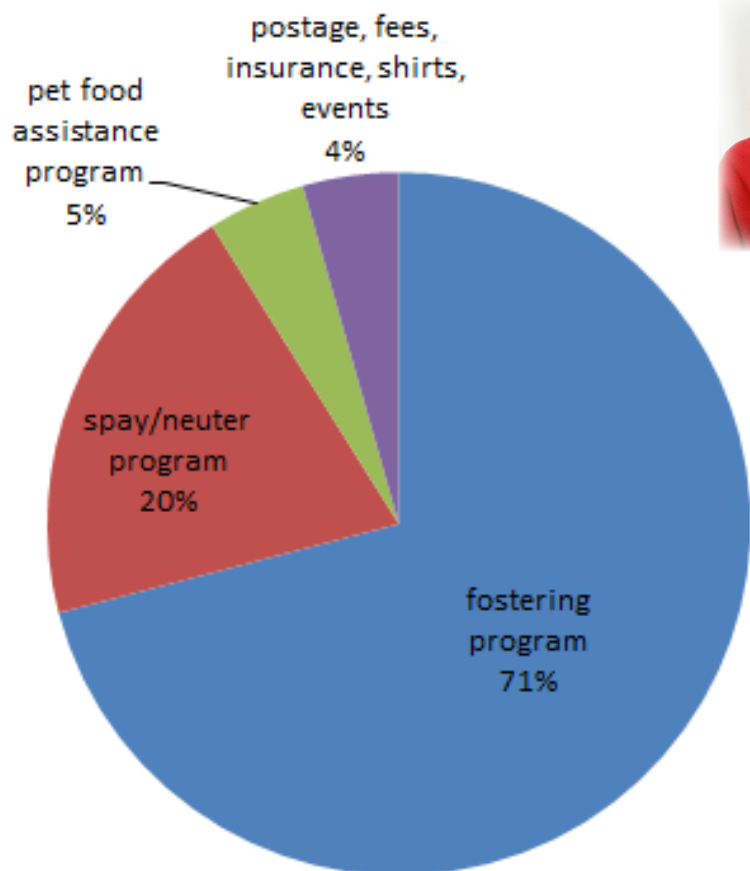
A Year in Review

what your donations made happen in 2014

- 297 cats and dogs adopted to new families
- 375 spay/neuter surgeries on pets in low income families
- 272 animals living with 87 families helped with pet food

Your donations make a difference and go directly to help the animals. The three programs above account for 96 percent of our budget. We have no paid staff, no building, no utility bills, and no wasted supplies. What we do have are very dedicated volunteers, fantastic veterinarians, and a great support network. None of this would be possible without you. Thank you!

Joann Taylor
President
SOS Animal Rescue



% of Budget Spent by Program

SOS EVENTS

Adopt-athon

PetSmart

Saturdays • 12:00–5:00

Sundays • 12:00–4:00

January is Walk Your Pet Month

Monthly Meeting

Grace A. Dow Library
Conference Room B

January 19 • 6:00 p.m.

Give Local Midland

May 5

Neuter Palooza

February 12

Monthly Meeting

Grace A. Dow Library
Conference Room B

February 16 • 6:00 p.m.

World Spay Day

February 24

Neuter Palooza

February 26

Monthly Meeting

Grace A. Dow Library
Conference Room B

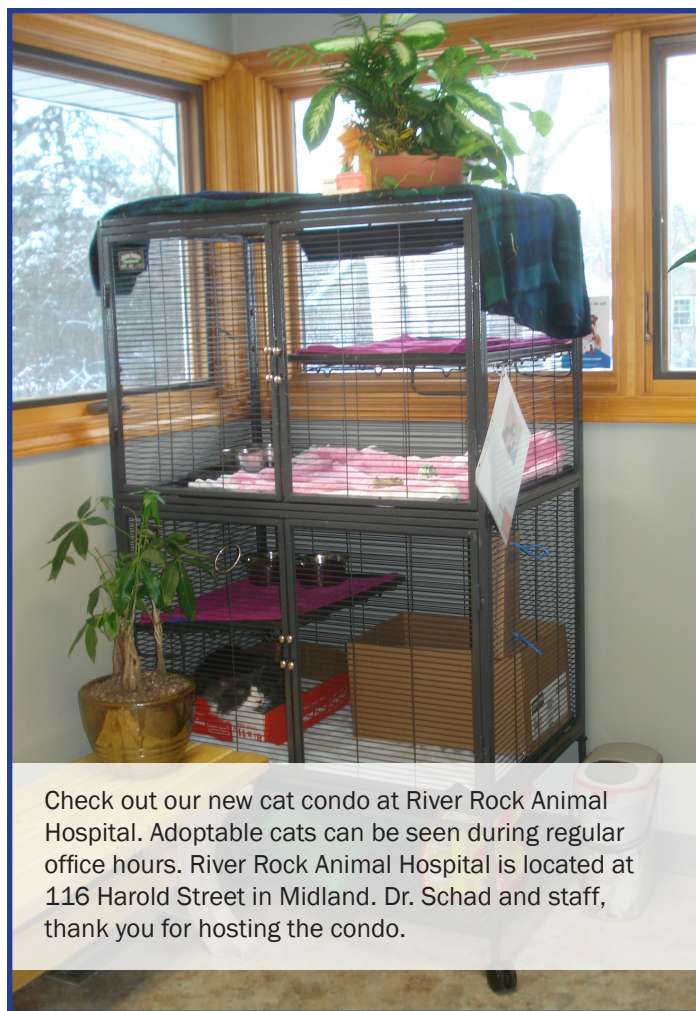
March 16 • 6:00 p.m.

Bark For Life

June 13

Dirty Dog Trail Run

October 3



Is it Healthy for Your Pet to Sleep in Your Bed?

More and more pet owners are choosing to share their beds with their four-legged companions. According to a recent survey, almost half of dog owners and over 60 percent of cat owners allow their pets to sleep in their beds. Cuddling up to your furry best friend may be common, but is it safe?

The answer depends on the person. People suffering from asthma or certain allergies are probably better off sleeping apart from their pets. In fact, for this particular group of people, pets should probably not be allowed in the bedroom at all.

The other issue sometimes associated with pets in the bed is sleep disruption. Not getting enough sleep can contribute to a variety of health problems in people, so if Fido's scratching or bed hogging is keeping you up, it's probably a good time to invest in a dog bed.

However, for some people, sleeping with a pet actually reduces anxiety and can help contribute to a restful night's sleep. A pet's rhythmic breathing can sometimes induce a feeling of calm that helps people fall asleep faster.

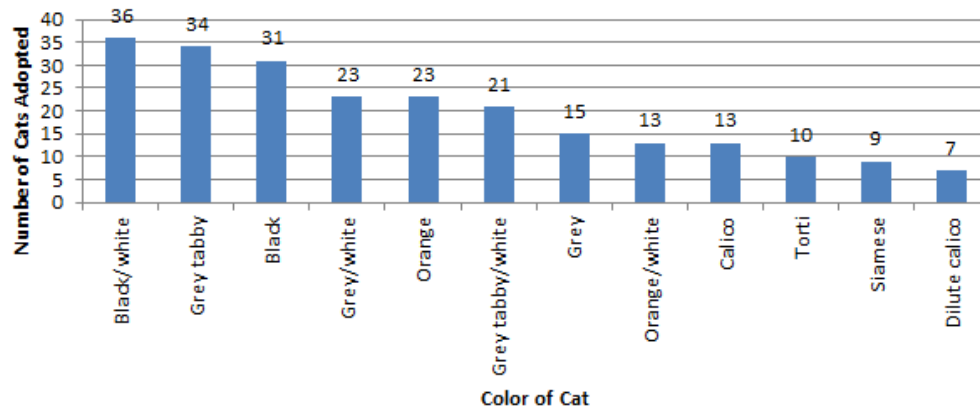
Long story short, if you feel calm and comfortable with your pet sleeping by your side, and you don't suffer from any of the above mentioned health conditions, there's not really any reason to stop.

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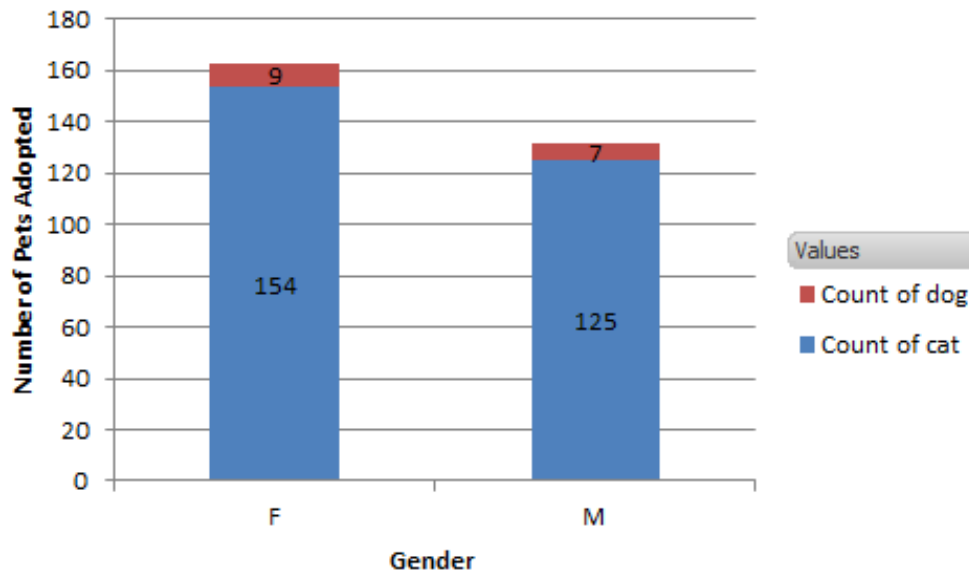


FUN FACTS ABOUT ADOPTIONS IN 2014

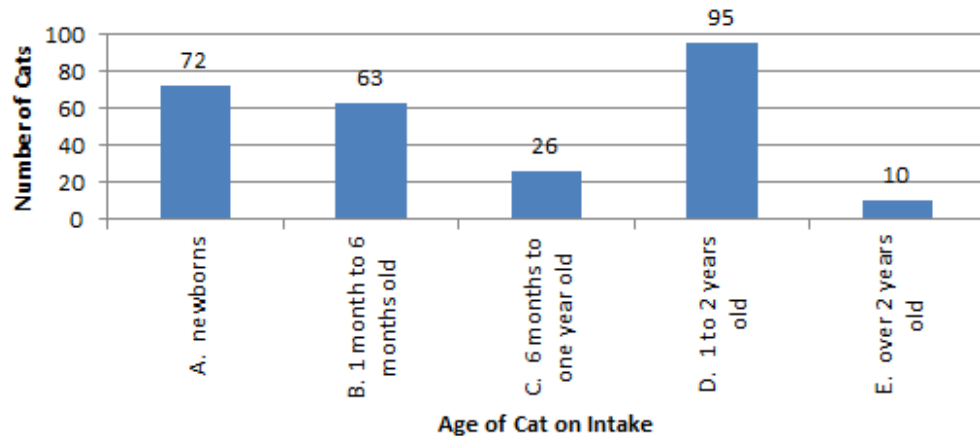
Color of Cats Adopted in 2014



Adoptions by Gender in 2014



Number of Cats Taken in by Age





How about some extra incentive for YOU to walk your dog?

Did you know that there's an app that earns donations for your favorite animal group while you walk? Walk for a Dog is a smartphone app that allows you to designate your favorite animal charity, and SOS Animal Rescue is one of the choices. Once you download the app, it will ask which group you want to support, and you can select SOS Animal Rescue. Get more info at our website and start walking today!

sosanimalrescue.org/walk-for-a-dog



MidMichigan Limousine, thank you for sponsoring us in the Santa Parade!

Pet Food Assistance Program	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Families helped	50	40	77	138	87
Dogs		56	121	180	104
Cats		149	159	210	167
Other animals		11	2	6	1
Pounds dog food out			2458	6386	3603
Pounds cat food out			1627	2824	1769
Families helped with pet flea products					15

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
M-20 Animal Hospital
Northern Animal Clinic
Soldan's
Surrey Vet Clinic
Wall & Webb

PetSmart, thank you for the pet food drive this month. We received many generous donations for the animals.



Top 10 Pet Owner Mistakes

Pet parents usually have good intentions when it comes to raising their feline and canine companions, but sometimes mistakes are made. Be sure to avoid these ten common pet care pitfalls:

1. Adopting a pet on a whim: Pets are a long-term commitment that require care, time, and money. The decision to adopt a new pet should be discussed with everyone in the household and preparations should be made before bringing a new animal home.
2. Not properly socializing young pets: Puppies and kittens need to be exposed to a variety of people and situations to build trust and social skills. Not providing proper socialization opportunities can translate into problem behaviors later in life.
3. Yelling at your dog for an accident: Housebreaking can be a trying time for any pet owner, but if you come home to a mess, scolding won't help. Your pet won't be able to associate your anger with the accident that likely happened much earlier in the day. Instead, offer plenty of praise when your pup does his business outside.
4. Skipping flea and tick medication: Parasites are a serious threat to dogs and cats. Opting to not protect your pet from fleas and ticks puts them at risk for an infestation and serious disease. Stick to a regular flea and tick control regimen to keep these harmful pests away.
5. Refilling the food bowl: Your intentions may be good, but always keeping your pet's food bowl full is a big mistake. Overweight and obese animals are at a greater risk for heart disease, arthritis, and other serious medical issues. Discuss the proper amount of food for your pet with a vet and stick to it.
6. Letting your dog walk you: Basic training makes for a more well-adjusted dog and a happier owner. Also, taking a poorly trained large dog for a walk is a dangerous situation that can result in injury.
7. Giving pets too much alone time: Long periods of time without human interaction can lead to separation anxiety, which can cause undesirable behaviors like barking, digging, clawing, chewing, and inappropriate soiling. This is especially true with dogs. Look for other options while you're gone during the day, including a pet-sitter visit, doggie day care, or a regular dog walker.
8. Failing to set rules: Dog and cats don't instinctively know that the couch is off-limits or that clawing at the carpet is bad. Use positive reinforcement to set firm and consistent rules from the beginning. Failing to set consistent boundaries will confuse pets and make training much more difficult later on.
9. Not properly supervising pets and kids: Children should be taught how to appropriately handle pets and should always be under the supervision of an adult. Sometimes a child's enthusiasm can be misinterpreted by an animal, which can lead to a dangerous situation.
10. Skipping vet checkups: Regular veterinary visits ensure pets are always up-to-date on vaccinations and make it more likely that symptoms of serious illnesses are caught early on. Keep your four-legged best friend healthy by committing to annual checkups.

Reprinted from VETDEPOT.

Spay/Neuter Statistics

If each spay/neuter surgery prevents two litters of unwanted puppies or kittens from being born the program has saved over 16,000 from a life of hunger, cruelty and disease. Thank you for making a difference in the lives of so many.

Spay/Neuter	thru 2013	2014	Total
female cats	806	142	948
male cats	491	152	643
female dogs	388	40	428
male dogs	267	41	308
total	1952	375	2327



Your donations help these animals receive medical care.

They are either still in treatment or waiting for their forever homes.



Feloney – Loss of hair and hole in his side.



Schwinn – Both eyes removed due to very bad infections.
See his video story at www.youtube.com/sosanimalrescue1.



Tiger – Chronic Rhinitis. This sweet guy will need to go to a non-smoking home. He loves to sit in your lap, purrs like a jet engine, and is a real kneading machine.

Dasher – Severe eye infections that required removal of both eyes.



Comet – Ulcer on his eye.



Dancer – Third eyelid fused to cornea. Surgically repaired and ready for a new home.



Rachel – Mild case of Cerebellar Hypoplasia. She walks a little wobbly but that doesn't stop her from playing with her toys.





presents

“Beat the Heat”

**Get your
female cat
fixed for
only \$20!**

**Spay her now
before she goes
into heat and
has a litter.**

**Limited availability.
Special price good for
February in recognition
of National Spay Day.**

Must mention “Beat the Heat” when calling for an application. Surgeries are intended for feral, wild, or free-roaming cats or cats living with families that cannot afford the spay surgery. Midland County residents only. If your application is approved, you will be notified by mail and will need to set up an appointment with the veterinarian.

SOS Animal Rescue of Midland County is a 501c3 non-profit organization.



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Morley Portraiture, thank you for a great fund-raiser and gorgeous portraits!

Clockwise from top left, Tango's third year at the event and looking as good as ever. Bentley was an SOS Animal Rescue foster kitty from ten years ago! Teddy waits anxiously for his turn to be photographed. Congratulations to Glitter and Maggie, winners of a 16x20 portrait.



Why Do Cats Rub their Faces on Everything?

If you've ever witnessed your cat rubbing his or her face on you, the furniture, or other objects, you might be wondering what this behavior is all about. Below are three possible reasons:

1. **Territory Marking:** Cats often rub their faces on objects to leave their scent behind (this is called bunting). This is done through small scent glands around the mouth, chin, face, ears, and neck. Bunting is seen more frequently in male cats than in female cats. Bunting is often done to cover up scents left behind by other felines.
2. **Anxiety Relief:** Spreading their scent around can make cats feel more comfortable if they're in an unfamiliar environment.
3. **Affection:** Cats not only rub their faces to leave their scent behind, they also sometimes do it to pick up other scents. They might greet their owner this way as a sign of affection.

Reprinted from VETDEPOT.

THANK YOU!

Cindy Baiardi
 Patricia Baker
 Mike Bartos
 Marty Beach and Lois Ruszalz
 Susan Berghoff
 Merry Blades
 Lily Cheng
 Robert Christensen
 Mona Cline
 Michelle Dittenber
 Bob and Nancy Emmert
 Christina Erskine
 Sheryl Feusse
 Food Center - Sanford
 for donation of dog food
 Deb Fugate
 In honor of Jock and Sue
 McDonnell by Jeanne Genovese
 Gabriele Golombeski
 David and Pamela Goodman

Jessica Hill
 Pamela Holbrook
 Beverly Holtham
 Michele James
 In memory of Nicholas Oppermann
 by Catherine Konn
 Margaret LaFeldt
 Diane Legner
 Michael and Joy Marchione
 Elizabeth Marshall
 Barb McGregor
 Susan Meade
 Barbara Nead-Nylander
 John, Julie, and J.R. Nosal
 Connie Palmer
 Adam Pavegio
 Chris and Nancy Peeler
 Paul and Cathy Price
 Robert Reiling
 Jeff and Sherry Rogers
 Madeline Sasse
 Judy Scheuffele

Dr. Sandra J. Simmons
 Tricia Sommer
 Hitoshi Takahashi
 Kathy Tangney
 Isaac Teller
 Angela Tewksbury
 Paul and Pam Vammer
 Amy Yarocho
 Arnold and Sally Young
 Chris Ziemba-Landon

In memory of Fern Thompson by
 Barbara McGregor
 From Rena Marx, In loving memory of:
 Mark and Donna Scott's dog, Fern
 Mr. and Mrs. Justin Carnes grandfather
 Mr. and Mrs. Harold J Hein's dad
 Jeff Marko's Grandpa
 Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Rabidoux' brother
 Dairia Ray's father

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*Soldan's, thank you for hosting
 the Share Tree this year.*

Five Cold Weather Safety Tips for Pets

When temperatures drop, pet care needs change. Don't miss these five winter pet safety tips:

1. **Keep pets indoors:** If it's too cold outside for you, it's too cold for your pet. Severe cold puts pets at risk for frostbite and hypothermia. If for some reason a dog must be left outside during the day, proper shelter should be provided that protects your dog from the elements. Pets are happiest and safest during the winter months when they're indoors with their families.
2. **Consider a sweater:** If your dog is sick, frail, or getting older, a sweater or a jacket can sometimes be helpful with keeping in body heat when venturing outdoors for a walk. Just be sure the sweater fits well and there aren't any dangling pieces that could be choking hazards.
3. **Wipe down your dog's paws after walks:** Pets are at risk for picking up ice, rock salt, antifreeze, and other chemicals on their footpads. It's important to wipe off paws after walks to prevent ingestion of chemicals and to ensure footpads don't become raw or chapped.
4. **Keep a lookout for neighborhood cats:** Your kitty is hopefully being kept safe and warm inside, but other cats in the neighborhood may not be so lucky. Cats often seek warmth under the hoods of cars or in wheel wells. Knock on the hood of your car before starting it to make sure no neighborhood felines are in danger.
5. **Make arthritic pets comfortable:** Cold temperatures can worsen joint pain for pets with arthritis. Make an appointment with your pet's vet to discuss arthritis supplements or prescription medications for worsening pain. Also, make sure your pet has a comfortable and warm place to rest indoors, protected from any drafts.

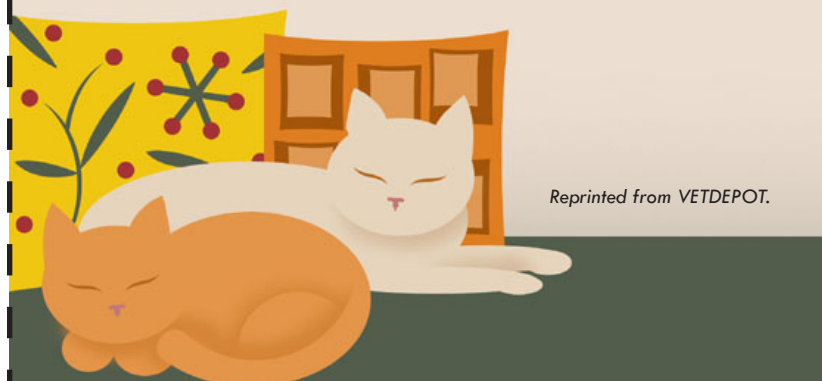
Reprinted from VETDEPOT.

Easy Tuna Treat Recipe for Cats

Does your cat deserve a special homemade treat? This simple recipe uses only a few ingredients and is a big hit with the felines!

6 ounce can of tuna (including water)
3 teaspoons cooked egg whites
1/2 cup flour
1/4 cup cornmeal

Start by preheating the oven to 350 degrees and cooking up the egg whites. Transfer the egg whites to a bowl and combine them with the can of tuna. Add the flour (white or whole wheat will do!) and cornmeal and blend the ingredients until dough is formed. Knead the dough and roll it out to a 1/4 inch thickness. You can use a small cookie cutter or simply cut the dough into bite-sized pieces using a knife. Bake for 20 minutes. Be sure to let the treats cool completely before your cat digs in.



Why Do Some Dogs React to Images on TV?

If you're a dog owner, you may have witnessed something on TV catching your dog's attention. Studies have shown that dogs can, in fact, see images on the television and even decipher between canines and other animals on the screen. Some dogs watch intently, some bark, some run behind the television in search of the furry creature, and others don't react at all. So, why does the reaction vary so much from dog to dog?

First off, it could have something to do with quality of your television set. Dogs register sights a lot quicker than humans do, so images on older TVs might look like they're flickering like an old movie. This might not be as enticing to a dog as a fast-moving image on a newer TV screen.

Whether a dog reacts to the TV or not also has a lot to do with his or her individual personality. Some canines are highly territorial, making them more likely to go after an image on TV than dogs with more aloof personalities. Lastly, breeds that heavily rely on their sense of smell, like blood hounds, might not be as interested in visual images on a screen as terriers and other breeds more stimulated by sight.

Reprinted from VETDEPOT.

T-SHIRTS • TANK TOPS • SWEATSHIRTS • HOODIES

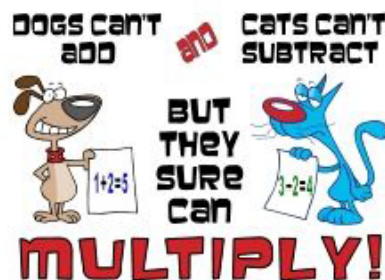
Here are a few of the apparel designs, and check out more at

www.lacroixtees.com/animal-rescue/SOSAnimalRescue.

Up to 33% of proceeds goes to SOS Animal Rescue!



**PEACE
LOVE
ADPT**
SHELTER PETS ROCK!





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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.

Directors

Liz Shook

Newsletter Editor

Sheryl Billmeier Hnizda

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