



P.O. Box 1135, Midland, MI 48641
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www.sosanimalrescue.org

SOS Animal Rescue Newsletter • Volume 22, Issue 1 • March 1, 2022

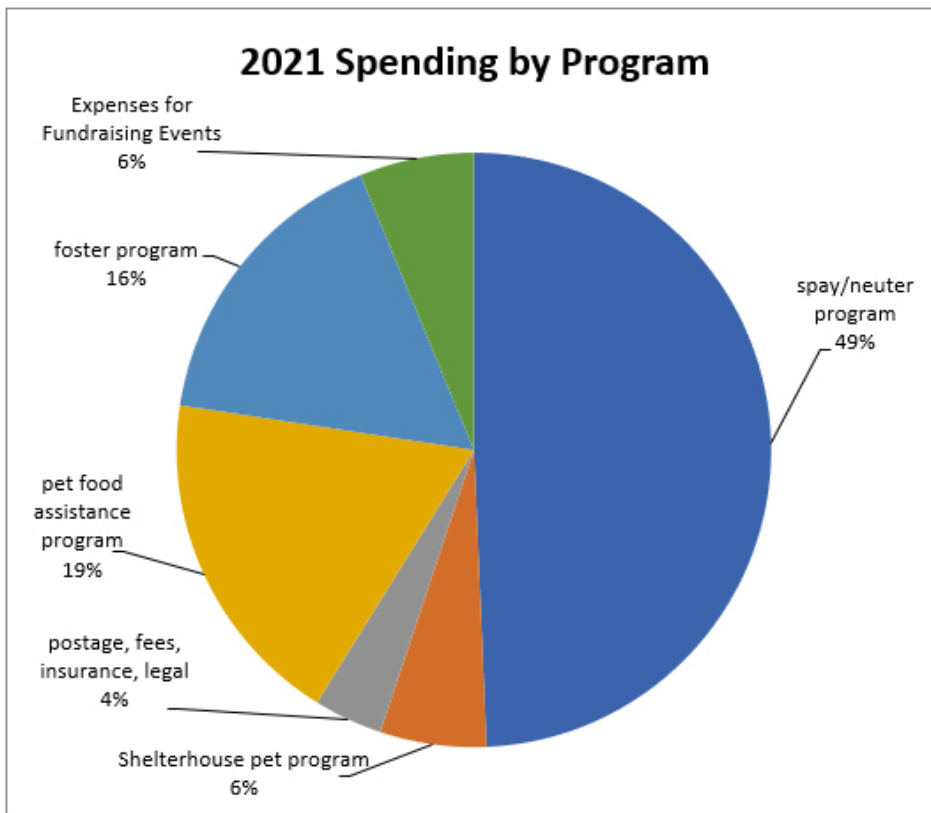
A Year in Review

What your donations made happen in 2021:

- 171 foster pets placed via our foster program
- 486 spay/neuter surgeries for pets in low income families
- 280 animals living with 112 families helped with pet food
- Shelterhouse donation

Our dedicated volunteers use your donations to make a difference to help the animals. Thank you for your support.

Joann Taylor
 SOS Animal Rescue President



SOS EVENTS

Give Local Midland

Tuesday, May 3

Rummage Sale

DONATION DROP-OFF

Tuesday, May 3

1:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, May 4

12:00 noon – 7:00 p.m.

SALE

Thursday, May 5

9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Friday, May 6

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

CLEAN-UP

Friday, May 6

12:00 noon – 2:00 p.m.

Board Meeting

June 16

November 17

6:00 p.m.

see website for details

Dirty Dog Trail Run

Saturday, August 27

Visit [petfinder.com](https://www.petfinder.com)
 to find pets available
 for adoption.

THANK YOU!

To everyone who donated to our shoe drive.

Special thanks to:

Aristocut

Davis and Davis Orthodontics

Soldan's Pet Supplies

Trailside Senior Center

for hosting collection boxes for the shoe drive.



To DeFi Creations
for a great fundraiser

THANK YOU!



To Grape Beginnings
for the wine fundraiser

THANK YOU!

Canister Hosts

Auto Technicians

Bicycle HQ

Cohoon's Elevator

Countryside Animal Health Center

Eastman Animal Hospital

The Gourmet Cupcake Shoppe

Higher Standard Automotive

Howl-A-Day

Larkin Food Center

Lodge Party Store

M-20 Animal Hospital

Max's Place

Midland Liquor

Nature's Niche

Northern Animal Clinic

Ray's Bike Shop on Eastman

Soldan's Pet Supplies

Wall & Webb Jewelers

Woodland Pet Resorts



To Soldan's Pet Supplies and all the
generous donors for another successful
Share Tree

and to Sharon Young for the donation
in memory of her mother Sally



In Memory of Betty White

Anonymous

Jon Athey

Phyllis Beehr

Cathy Bradley

Susan Erhardt

Gabriele Golombeski

Margaret Harding

Barbara Hillgruber

Susie Lewis

Lynette Miller

Linda Mitchell

Karen Morrison

Sally Reynolds

Kristen Scheibert-Mizell

Kelly Sible

Jeffrey Smith

THANK YOU!

THANK YOU!

THANK YOU!

Platinum Sponsors

M-20 Animal Hospital
Northern Animal Clinic
Park Place Homes
PetSmart
Precious Cat
River Rock Animal Hospital
Superior Title and Settlement
Surrey Veterinary Clinic
Target

Gold Sponsors

Highway 107.7 radio
leuter Insurance Group / Auto Owners
Insurance
Kroger
Larkin Food Center
Legacy Wealth Management –
Benjamin F. Edwards & Co.
Morley Portraiture
Pet Pals
Sunny 97.7 1490 WMPX
Vetmed of Midland

Silver Sponsors

Animal Medical Center
Beauchamp's Heating and Cooling LLC
Bushey's Automotive
DeFi Creations
Eastman Party Store
The Gourmet Cupcake Shoppe
Meijer
Member's First Credit Union
Midland Physical Therapy
Soldan's Pet Supplies
Spherion
Wildfire Credit Union

Bronze Sponsors

Bone and Bailey Insurance
Family Fare
Garber Chevrolet
Hugs for Homeless Animals
Lowe's
Max's Place
Midland Amateur Radio Club
Midland Animal Clinic
Muddy Pups
Nature's Gift Organic Market
Poochie's Pit Stop
Quilts for Cages
Runners Athletic Company
Shay Water Company
Shine
Tractor Supply Company
Zach's Dog Groomery

Lori Ackerman
Barbara Anderson
Mary Bain
Mike Bartos
Susan Berghoff
Merry Blades
Thomas Brodhagen
Kevin Budd and Sandy Cripps
Eleanor Butcher
Marilyn Butcher
Paul and Lily Cheng
Robert Christensen
Amy Falkowski
Deb Fugate
Cynthia Fuhs and Cheri Thompson
Gabriele Golombeski
Stanley Halpin
Carol Hunbyrd
Jon Hughes and Sarah Yonder
Virginia Hughes
Isabella Jansen
Marlene Juhasz
Dr. Anne Kelly-Rowley
Sandy Kelly
Diane Legner
Rebecca Malkin
Mike and Joy Marchione
Elizabeth Marshall
Barbara McGregor
Julie, John, and J.R. Nosal
Brian Nylander
Michael O'Brien
Leslie Rector
Sally Reynolds
Tom Rohde

Kathleen Russell
Madeline Sasse
Judith Scheuffele
Terry Shell
Jeffrey Smith
Hitoshi Takahashi
Pia Tucker
Anne and Sten Wallin
Lewis Webster
Sarah Wiley

Sharon Young
in memory of Sally Young
for her love of dog and cats

Marry Blades
in memory of Michele James

In memory of Gary and Lilly
by an anonymous donor

Deb Fugate
in memory of Nancy Fugate

Scott Fugate
in memory of Nancy Fugate

Sally Siferd
in memory of Mindy Stephenson

Kathie Black
in honor of James (aka Captain),
a special needs older cat
adopted by Michael & Diana Dalton

**To Morley
Portraiture
for another
great
fundraiser**





ANNUAL RUMMAGE SALE!

All proceeds benefit the animals!

Thursday, May 5
9 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Friday, May 6
9 a.m. – 12 noon

Midland Curling Center
2009 South Jefferson Street, Midland
Next to Midland Community Center

DONATION DROP-OFF
Tuesday, May 3 • 1–7 p.m. & Wednesday, May 4 • 12–7 p.m.
Or call for pick-up. No adult clothing please. All donations are tax deductible.

CLEAN-UP
Friday, May 6 • 12–2 p.m. • Items free to non-profits.



Dog Toys: How To Pick the Best and Safest

For dogs and other pets, toys are not a luxury, but a necessity. Toys are important to your dog's well-being. Toys help fight boredom when you have to leave your dog at home, and provide comfort when they're feeling nervous. Toys can even help prevent your dog from developing certain problem behaviors. Although cats can be pretty picky about toys, dogs are often more than willing to play with any object they can get their paws on. That means you'll need to be particularly careful when monitoring your dog's playtime to prevent any "unscheduled" activities.

Ensure Safety

Many factors contribute to the safety or danger of a toy, and a number of them depend upon your dog's size, activity level, and preferences. Another thing to consider is the environment where your dog spends their time. Although we can't guarantee the safety of any specific toy, we can offer the following guidelines.

The things that are usually most attractive to dogs are often the very things that are the most dangerous. Dog-proof your home by removing string, ribbon, rubber bands, children's toys, pantyhose, and other inedible items that could be swallowed. Be sure to buy toys of appropriate size for your dog. Toys that are too small can easily be swallowed or become lodged in your dog's throat.

Supervise your dog's play with squeaky toys. Your dog may feel that they must find and destroy the source of the squeaking, which means they could ingest it if left unwatched.

Avoid or alter any toys that aren't "dog-proof" by removing ribbons, strings, eyes, or other parts that could be chewed off and ingested. Discard toys when they start to break into pieces or are torn. Check labels on stuffed toys to see that they are labeled

as safe for children under three years of age and that they don't contain any dangerous fillings. Problem fillings include nutshells and polystyrene beads, but even "safe" stuffings aren't truly digestible. Remember that soft toys are not indestructible, but some are sturdier than others. Soft toys should be machine washable.

A Note About Rawhide

If you're thinking about giving your dog rawhide chew toys, be sure to check with your veterinarian about which ones are safe and appropriate for your dog. These toys may pose choking hazards, so give them to your dog only when you can supervise them. Many rawhides are byproducts of the cruel international fur trade. For a humane alternative, consider toys made of very hard rubber, which are safer and last longer.

Active Toys

Hard rubber toys come in many shapes and sizes and are fun for chewing and carrying around. For dogs that like tug-of-war and chewing on interesting textures, rope and woven toys are usually available in a bone shape with knotted ends. Tennis balls make great dog toys for fetching but don't stand up to chewing very well. Discard any tennis balls that have been chewed through, as they can pose a choking hazard to your pet.

Distraction Toys

Kong®-type toys, especially when filled with broken-up treats, can keep a puppy or dog busy for hours. (If your veterinarian says your dog can eat peanut butter, make sure it is not sweetened with xylitol—which is toxic to dogs—and add some to the crushed-up treats for a tastier, and busier, snack!) "Busy-box" or "feeder" toys are large rubber shapes that can be filled with treats. By moving the cube around with their nose, mouth and paws, your dog can get to the goodies. Many dogs who tend to eat their food

too quickly benefit from being fed through a feeder-style toy.

Comfort Toys

Soft, stuffed toys are good for several purposes but are not appropriate for all dogs. If your dog sees their toy as a companion, pick one that's small enough to carry. Some want to shake or "kill" their toys, so choose one that's large enough to prevent accidental swallowing and sturdy enough to withstand attacks. Dirty laundry, such as an old t-shirt, pillowcase, towel, or blanket, can be very comforting to a dog, especially if the item smells like you. Be forewarned that the item could be destroyed by industrious fluffing, carrying, and nosing.

Making Toys Last

Rotate your dog's toys weekly by making only a few toys available at a time. Keep a variety of types easily accessible. If your dog has a favorite, like a soft comfort toy, you may want to leave it out all the time. Provide toys that serve a variety of purposes; offer at least one toy to carry, one to shake, one to roll, and one for comfort.

"Found" toys are often much more attractive than toys that are obviously introduced. A game of finding toys or treats is a good rainy-day activity for

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your dog, using up energy without the need for a lot of space.

Many of your dog's toys should be interactive, which is very important for your dog because they need active "people time" to enhance your bond. Try balls, flying disks, and other toys that help foster the bond between person and pet.

By focusing on a specific task such as repeatedly returning a toy or playing hide-and-seek with treats or toys, your dog can expend pent-up mental and physical energy from boredom in a limited amount of time and space. For young, high-energy and untrained dogs, interactive play also offers an opportunity for socialization and helps them learn about appropriate and inappropriate behavior, such as jumping up or being mouthy.

Reprinted from www.humanesociety.org.



Give where you live!

**Tuesday,
May 3**

**24 hours
50 non-profits**



Choose our rescue as your charity via Amazon Smile and help raise money for the animals!

**In 2021
Amazon Smile donated \$508
for a total of \$1334 to date!**



Support us with your Kroger purchases! Community Rewards Number: HN771

**In 2021
Kroger donated \$95
for a total of \$1784 to date!**

Pet Food Assistance Program		Thru 2020	2021	Total
	Families Helped	1085	112	1197
	Dogs	1226	95	1321
	Cats	1971	185	2156
	Other animals	23	6	29
	Pounds Dog Food Delivered	39,021	2809	43,830
	Pounds Cat Food Delivered	20,966	1884	22,850

Spay/Neuter Statistics			thru 2020	2021	Total
Thanks to your donations and support, we are able to provide more help each year. If each spay/neuter surgery prevents two litters of unwanted puppies or kittens from being born the program has saved over 40,000 from a life of hunger, cruelty, and disease.	Spay/Neuter				
	Female Cats		2086	244	2330
	Male Cats		1725	182	1907
	Female Dogs		678	26	704
	Male Dogs		536	34	570
	Total		5025	486	5511

YOUR DONATIONS HELP THESE ANIMALS RECEIVE MEDICAL CARE

Petra: Upper respiratory infection
Pickle: Needed a dental and two teeth pulled
Poker: Upper respiratory infection
Porpoise: Injured foot
Alex: Underweight
Darth Vader: Upper respiratory infection
Pansy: Needed a dental and four teeth pulled

Petra



Alex

Adopted!



Porpoise



Pansy

Adopted!



Darth Vader
returned home



Poker

Adopted!

Pickle



Seven Tips on Canine Body Language

Dogs communicate with one another and with us using their own elegant, non-verbal language. These tips focus on seven important aspects of a dog's body: eyes, ears, mouth, tail, sweat, and overall body posture/movement. Staff and volunteers can use this information to interpret what an animal is feeling.

Eyes

When looking at a dog's eyes, pay attention to the white part of the eye (sclera) and consider the focus and intensity of the dog's gaze. When a dog is feeling tense, his eyes may appear rounder than normal or they may show a lot of white around the outside ("whale eye"). Dilated pupils can also be a sign of fear or arousal. These can make the eyes look "glassy," indicating that a dog is feeling threatened, stressed, or frightened. A relaxed dog will often squint so that his eyes become almond-shaped with no white showing at all.

Mouth

A relaxed dog will likely have his mouth open and may be panting, with no facial or mouth tension. The corners of his mouth may be turned upward slightly. A fearful or tense dog will generally keep his mouth closed and may pull his lips back at the corners ("long lip"). He may also be panting rapidly. A panting dog who suddenly closes his mouth in response to something in the environment may also be indicating increased stress. Drooling when no food is present can also be a sign of extreme fear or stress.

A dog displaying a physical warning may wrinkle the top of his muzzle, often next pulling his lips up vertically to display his front teeth ("offensive pucker"). The muzzle is wrinkled and the corner of the mouth is short and forms a C-shape. This warning often comes with a tense forehead, hard eyes. The dog may also growl—all very clear warnings to anyone approaching.

Some dogs display a "submissive grin" or "smile." This is also a gesture where a dog shows his front teeth, but a smiling dog is doing just that. He usually shows a lowered head, wagging tail, flattened ears, a soft body posture, and soft, squinty eyes along with those teeth. Teeth don't always mean aggression. It is important to consider the whole body and the context to understand what a dog is saying. Yawning and lip licking may be an early sign of stress, particularly when accompanied by a tight mouth and often a whining sound.

Ears

Dogs have a wide variety of ear types. Although it may be easier for us to see the position in dogs with erect ears, even floppy-eared dogs like Basset hounds can move the base of their ears forward and back to show different emotions; just look at the direction of the base of the ear. When a dog is relaxed, his ears may be slightly back or out to the sides. As a dog becomes more aroused, the ears move forward, pointing toward a subject of interest. When their ears are most forward, their foreheads often wrinkle.

Tail

When observing a dog's tail, consider the position of the base of the tail and how the tail is moving. A relaxed dog holds his tail in a neutral position, extending out from the spine or maybe below spine level. As the dog becomes more excited, his tail usually rises above spine level. The tail movement may be a loose wag from side to side or sweeping circular motion. As the dog becomes more excited or aroused, his tail usually rises above spine level. He may also move his tail side to side in short, rapid movements as he becomes more excited. A fearful dog will tuck his tail between his rear legs. The tail may also be held rigid against the belly or wag stiffly.

Hair

Much like your own goose bumps, the hair can raise along a dog's back when upset or aroused. This is also known as piloerection or "raised hackles" and can occur across the shoulders, down the spine, and above the tail. Hackles don't always mean aggression is imminent, but they are an indicator that the dog is excited or upset about something. A frightened or stressed dog may also shed more than usual.

Sweat

Dogs pant to cool themselves, but panting can also be a sign of stress, particularly rapid panting accompanied by a tight mouth with stress wrinkles around it. Dogs also have the ability to sweat through their paws. You may notice a dog leaving wet footprints on the floor if he is particularly upset.

Overall Body Posture and Body Movement

When initiating play, dogs often start with a play bow and generally follow up with exaggerated movements. A playful dog's body movement will be loose and wiggly, with lots of moving and brief pauses during play. A dog that seems stiff, moves slowly, or keeps moving away may not be interested in social interaction with this playful dog. Looking away, sniffing, scratching, lying down, or other avoidance behaviors may also indicate that the play session is over.

A fearful dog may lean away, lean back, tremble, crouch, lower his body or head, or roll onto his side or back. Often his eyes will often be fully open with large pupils, his forehead will be wrinkled and his tail will be lowered or tucked. An extremely fearful dog may freeze completely or frantically try to escape, and he may urinate or defecate when approached.

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13th Annual

Dirty Dog

Trail Run

The race will be held while following COVID-19 guidelines as required on race day. We are not exactly sure what that looks like this far in advance so please be flexible. More information will be shared as the time gets closer.

Saturday, August 27, 2022 • Midland City Forest
10K & 5K Races Start at 9 AM

REGISTER AT [ITSYOURRACE.COM](https://itsyourrace.com)

REASON FOR THE RACE: To provide funding to Shelterhouse to ensure victims of domestic violence can provide a safe haven for their pets. SOS Animal Rescue provides funding for animals in need through their foster, pet food, and spay/neuter assistance programs.

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A dog displaying aggressive body language will look large, standing with his head raised above his shoulders. His body will be tense, with weight either centered or over all four feet or leaning slightly forward onto the front legs. A dog displaying aggressive behavior may also have a wrinkled muzzle, a short lip, and a hard eye.

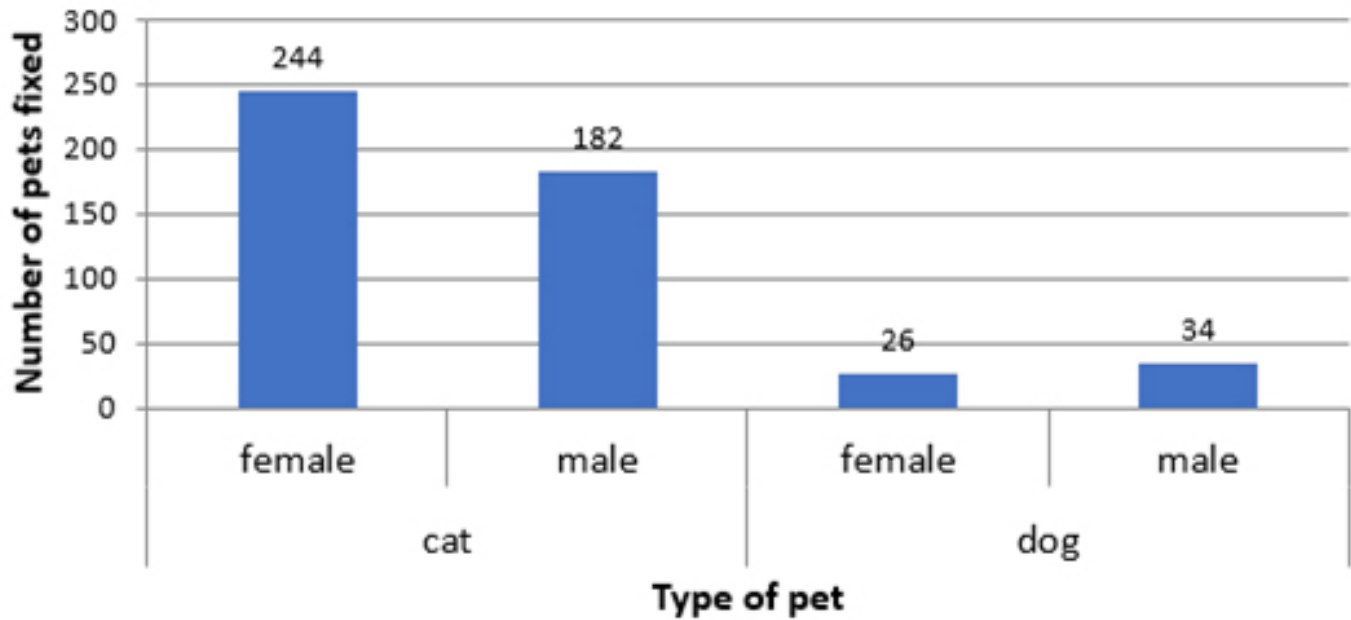
Reprinted from www.aspcapro.org.

“Free Kittens”

Now is the time females are getting pregnant. Babies will arrive starting in early April then the free kittens signs start showing up. Help us stop the cycle. If you know anyone who needs help getting mom fixed, let us know.

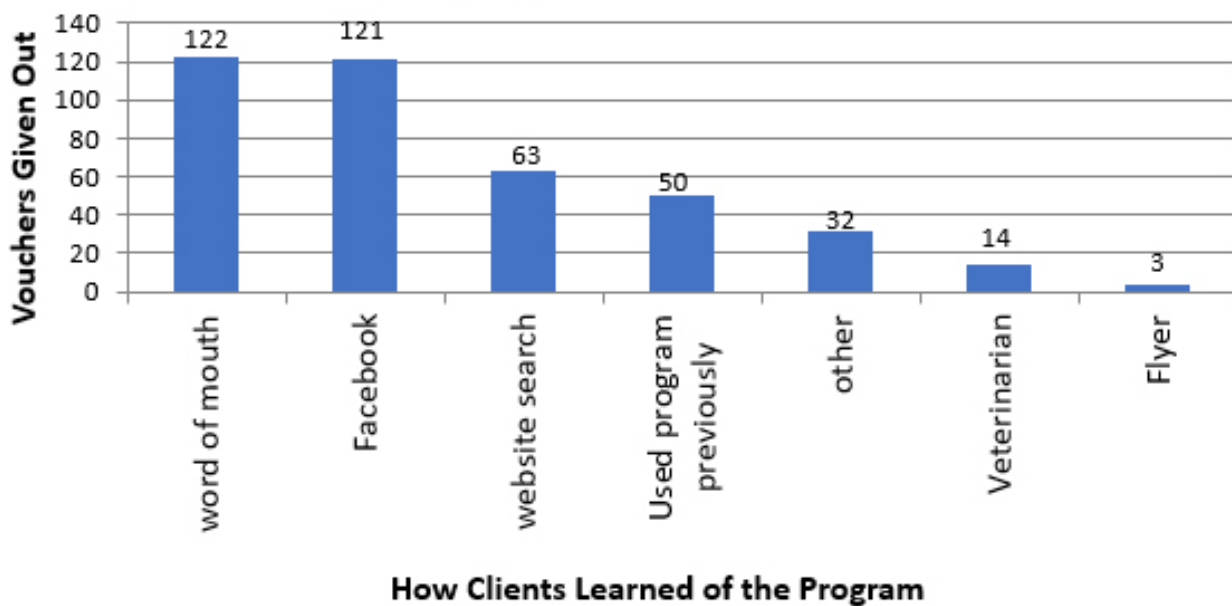


Pets fixed by Spay/neuter assistance program in 2021

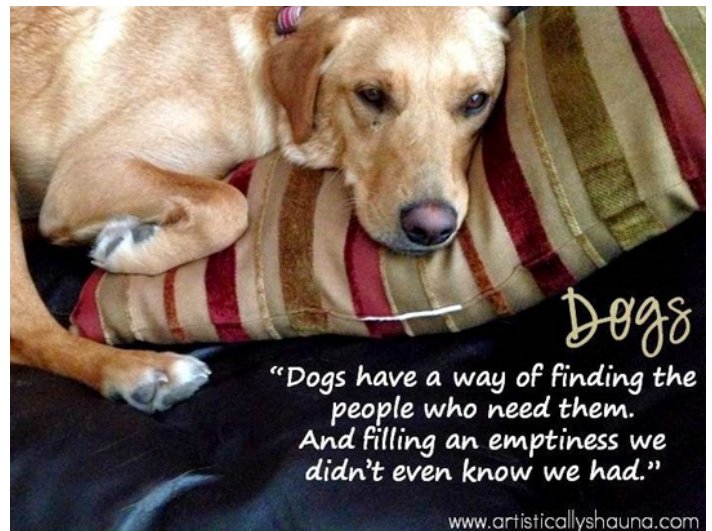
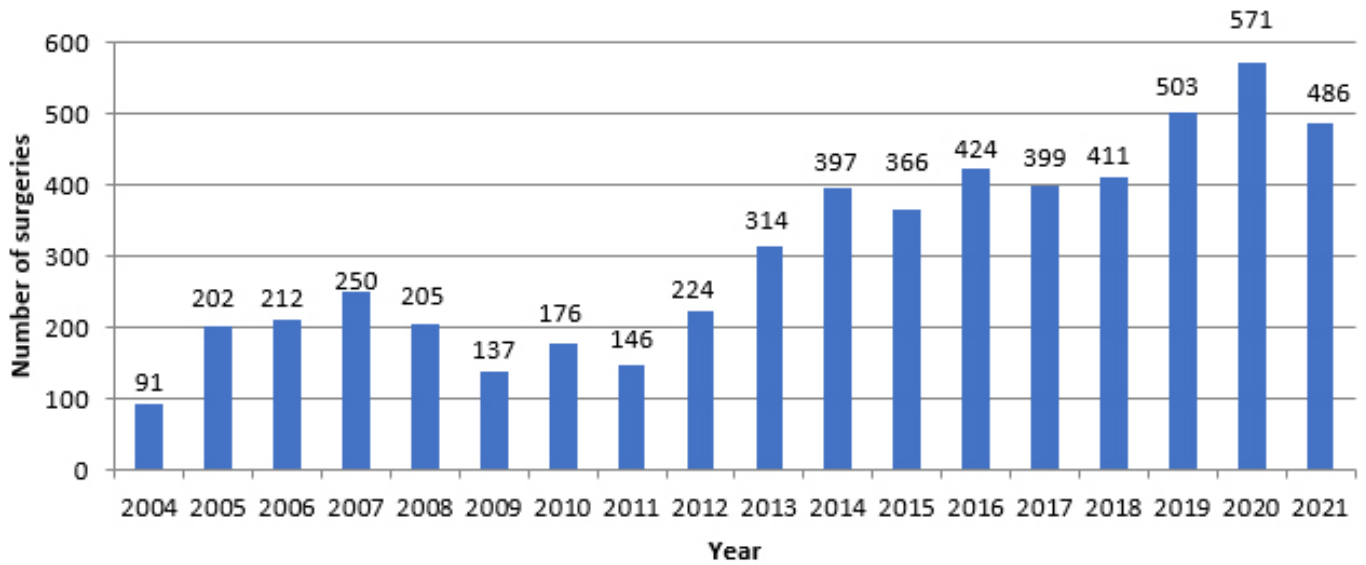


“The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated.” – Mahatma Gandhi

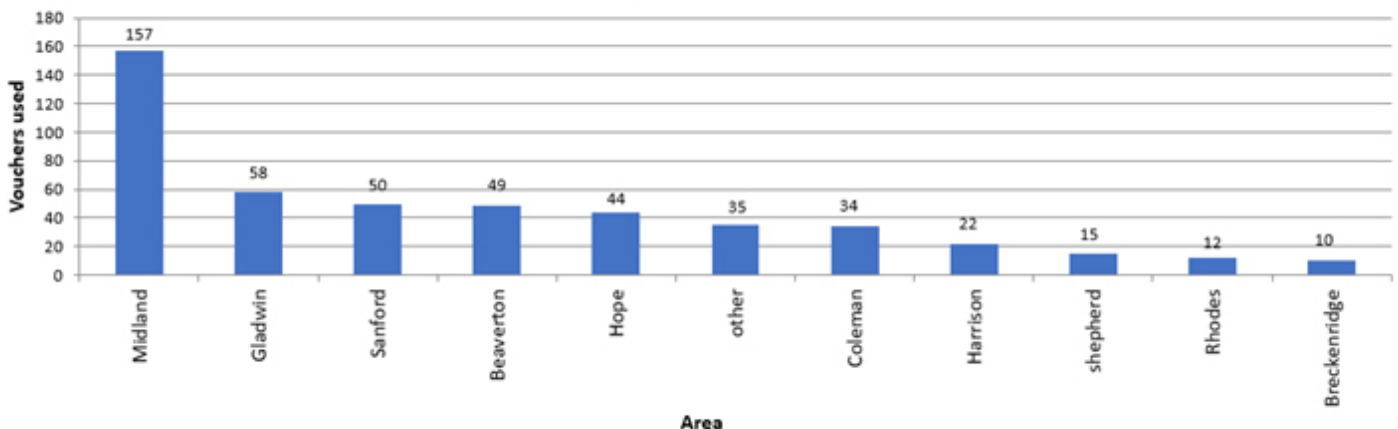
How clients learned about our spay/neuter program in 2021



Number of pets spayed/neutered by year



Number of Vouchers used by Area in 2021



We had some funding provided to help in Gladwin and Clare Counties in 2021. This was a special grant that is not expected to be available in 2022.



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

989-492-0042

info@sosar.org

www.sosanimalrescue.org

www.facebook.com/sosanimalrescue



Dirty Dog Run
Saturday, August 27, 2022
Midland City Forest

Officers

Joann Taylor, President
Shelley Park, Vice President
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.

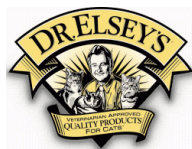
Directors

Isabella Jansen

Newsletter Editor

Sheryl Billmeier Hnizda

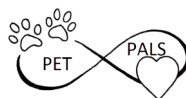
THANKS TO OUR PLATINUM & GOLD SPONSORS!



Surrey Veterinary Clinic



Midland VetMED



Morley Portraiture

