

T.A.I.L.S. TALK

A Publication of The Animals' Island League Shelter, Stewards of Grosse Ile Animal Shelter

Shelter Wish List:

- Small pet carriers
- Sausages & Pupperoni treats for dogs
- Clay-based kitty litter
- Liquid laundry detergent
- Bleach & Disinfecting cleaner
- Any canned KITTEN food
- Iams dry cat food

Volunteers Needed:

One day a week (summer):

- Maintain Stevie's garden and front flower beds

Once a Month:

- Straighten & inventory sales items (t-shirts, mugs, etc.)

Once every 3-4 months:

- Help with folding & labeling the newsletter

Whenever & Always:

- Knitters & crocheters to make Snuggles for the kitties.

If you can help us with any of these needs, please call the Shelter, 692-9688, and leave a message for Sandy.

HAVE YOU SEEN THE SHELTER SHOW?

Our thanks to Kerry Kelly, co-host and creator of the new cable series, "The Shelter Show." Kerry and his cameramen have done an excellent job putting together an informational and educational show for local cable subscribers.

The Shelter Show runs periodically on GI-TV (Ch. 12) and highlights our adoptable pets by giving a live preview and information about each animal to viewers. ACO Lora Schaller also provides current animal advice and assistance.

Tune in and see for yourself!

THE UNALTERED SIGNS OF SPRING

It's been a busy spring at our Shelter and it looks like there's still more to come -- 54 stray cats and 13 dogs have been picked up by the Animal Control Officer and have made our Shelter their home until they could be adopted. Since the majority of these unwanted cats and dogs are not altered (spayed or neutered,) their irresponsible owners are the people we most often think of as the main reason for "pet over-population." But, in truth, they are only part of this nationwide problem. Sadly, there are some well-meaning and responsible pet owners living among us who are the other part of the problem. They are our relatives, friends and neighbors who say they love animals but, who, for one reason or another, fail to have their own pets spayed or neutered. And, because we've seen that these people really do care for their animals, it's hard for us to understand why they don't do their part to help end this animal crisis.

The statistics on companion animal overpopulation should make any pet owner take action to do his part to control this problem.

- An estimated 4 to 6 million cats and dogs are killed in shelters each year. Millions more are abandoned, only to suffer from illness or injury before dying. (*The Humane Society of the United States, Pet Overpopulation Facts, 1999*)
- Over **56% of dogs and puppies** entering shelters are killed. Approximately **71% of cats and kittens** entering shelters are killed. (*based on reports from over 1,055 facilities, National Council on Pet Population Study and Policy, Shelter Statistics Survey*)
- It costs U.S. taxpayers an estimated \$2 billion each year to round up, house, kill, and dispose of homeless animals. (*USA Today, June 23, 1998, pg. 1*)

Day in and day out, we see the sad results of pet owner complacency...stray cats, abandoned dogs, and unwanted litters of kittens. Our Shelter does an outstanding job of finding homes for these animals due the support of the community and to the fine facility we now have. We know that among Downriver shelters, we are now the exception, not the rule. But, we also know that it wasn't so many years ago when we were in the same position as our neighboring communities...we had more animals than we had space and were forced to take part in contributing to the statistics.

Grosse Ile Animal Shelter doesn't ever want to be in that position again and we ask your help in stopping the tragedy of "euthanizing" the nation's pet overpopulation. **Please** have your pet spayed or neutered. If your pet is already altered, thank you, but don't stop there! Spread the word on the benefits of spay/neuter. It's as vital to a pet's health and happiness as routine veterinary care, good nutrition, grooming, playtime and love.

Zero pet-population growth is our goal!



Grosse Ile Animal Shelter

Located on Centennial Farm, 3rd & Bellevue, Grosse Ile, MI, 48138

734-692-9688 (e-mail: acoschaller@hotmail.com)

Open Monday-Friday, 10-11 AAAM & 2-3 PM, Saturdays 10 AM-2 PM or by appointment

HAPPY ENDINGS!



Wilma,
(formerly
Ladybug.)
is now on
the payroll
at Milkins
Jewelers!



Tracer, enjoys the good life with the Gladish family.



Tony, (formerly Smootchie) relaxes on his own pillow in the home of Diane Batch

And, a bittersweet ending...



Joy, a senior-aged cat, adopted 2 years ago by Geri Heskett, recently went on to the Rainbow Bridge. But, happily, she spent many mornings during her last years curled up in a spot of sunshine.

A Message from the President...

T.A.I.L.S. is wagging in to the summer and is looking forward to all those fun and warm dog days. On June 24th, T.A.I.L.S. cordially invites you to one of the fundraisers which helps fund our animal shelter throughout the year. The event will be held at the recreational building at the Centennial Farm from 5 PM to 9 PM. You and your family will be able to eat some great dogs, with all the fixings, see police dogs in action, visit with celebrity dogs, hear great music, visit the shelter, and help fund your shelter. Please take part in this great event — not only will you be able to aid the Island's homeless dogs and cats, but you will get to attend a casual fundraiser (no ties or dresses) while at the same time treating yourself and your family to a great summer meal.

Thank you to all our members and incredible volunteers for all their support throughout the year. If you haven't already done so, please consider sponsoring a kennel for this year — the cost of \$100 is tax deductible and helps maintain the shelter which houses our wonderful animals. Additionally, please contact me if you are interested in becoming a T.A.I.L.S. Board Member; we need more people to take a more active role in the caring and stewarding of all animals and shelter.

I look forward to seeing you at the 2001 Wild Dog Jamboree — your stomach will surely not be growling after you attend this event.



Kurt M. Kobilljak, Esq.
T.A.I.L.S. Board of Directors President

T.A.I.L.S. T-SHIRTS & SWEATSHIRTS



T.A.I.L.S. logo on sleeve.
In youth and adult sizes.
T-shirts - \$10
Sweatshirts - \$20
Available at the Shelter
OR

At WILD DOG FAMILY NIGHT

Thank You For Your Support...

For the homeless animals from...

*Dottie Wendell
Barbara Brough
Jerry & Rose Siepierski
Ray & Elizabeth Mahalak
Luanne Ruta
Robbie Meyer
Peter & Lynn Pearce
Lisa Damstetter
Cathy Klarr
Kathy Lozon
Sue Szyszka
Michele Borgosz
Carol Schafer*

In a study of relinquishment of cats and dogs in 12 U.S. animal shelters, 55% of the surrendered dogs and 47% of the surrendered cats were unaltered.

From the Journal of Applied Animal Welfare Science, 1998, Vol. 1, No. 3.

CAN YOU SPONSOR MY KENNEL?



Annual Kennel Sponsors Wanted

You, your family or your business can be a proud sponsor a dog kennel at Grosse Ile Animal Shelter for our 2001-02 "animal" year. Each kennel will bear a special plaque engraved with the sponsor's name and year of sponsorship. If you can help, please be sure to checkmark the Kennel Sponsorship block on your membership form (enclosed with this newsletter.) Many thanks to the generous members and friends of T.A.I.L.S. who have made our Kennel Sponsorship program a success for the past 4 years.

ANIMAL ADVICE

Lora Schaller, Animal Control Officer
e-mail: acoschaller@hotmail.com

Kittens are perhaps the cutest and most playful creatures you can find at the Shelter. The volunteers and I love to watch them interact and romp around the cat room. They puff up to challenge the big cats and then run to hide when they get too close. After hours of fun, they always lie in a big kitten pile in the middle of the room and sleep, unaware we are even there. It can be hours of enjoyment for us.

My office often turns into the nursery when a litter of kittens is first born, allowing mom and her new family a secluded quiet place for the first couple of weeks of rearing. There is nothing more relaxing than watching a mother cat cuddling her babies while nursing.

But, if we never saw another litter, we would be overjoyed. In spite of the fact that we enjoy them, they are an ever reminder of reality...pet owners are not sterilizing their animals. (This **does** include neutering your male pet. It takes two to create a litter.)

Many behavior problems in our pets are directly related to mature intact behaviors. The biggest concern of adopters at our Shelter is whether or not our male cats will "spray." Neutering a young male cat prior to maturity eliminates the spraying of male hormones to mark his territory to keep other boys away and let the girls know he's around. If you have ever smelled it, you know what I mean. Female cats also show their hormonal behaviors by rolling around and calling loudly when they are in heat. A female cat can go in to heat while still nursing a litter (yes, you can get pregnant when nursing) and will continue to go in to season until she is caught by a male. Some female cats can have 3 or 4 litters a year.

Dog owners also face behavior problems when failing to sterilize their pets. Intact male dogs tend to be roamers and fence jumpers, seeking out eligible females. They also mark their territory which can totally disrupt an entire neighborhood and all the "good dogs" who remain in their own yards.

Ask your veterinarian about the medical benefits of sterilizing your pet. It can extend life expectancy, prevent cancer and prevent injuries, to just name a few.

Our Shelter spays and neuters all adult animals before they leave the Shelter. We don't want to take any chances. If an animal is under 4 months of age, the adopter must sign an agreement and leave a deposit, guaranteeing they will sterilize their new pet. If they don't, they can be fined \$100 and the animal taken back to the Shelter.

The bottom line is this...**BE RESPONSIBLE.** The cost is minimal compared to the future costs of feeding unwanted babies at the shelter.

We hope we never see another litter.

Meet the Volunteers



Dave Lixey, a retired history teacher, has been volunteering at the shelter for the past 2 years. He started out as a dog walker and has become an expert at giving cat rubdowns and kitten cuddles! Dave has 2 dogs and 3 cats who love to have him practice his skills on them.

Helen Duranko, has been a member of T.A.I.L.S. since it began and has served on the Board of Directors for the past 3 years. Helen began her shelter volunteer work while we were still sharing our facility with Trenton and is always ready to lend a hand for Shelter events. She has one dog, Toby, and 2 cats, Sasha and Wow.



MYTHS & FACTS

MYTH: Male dogs and cats don't give birth so we don't need to neuter them.

FACT: The old saying "it takes two to tango" is as true for animals as it is for humans. And, while a female cat or dog can only have one litter at a time, male animals can impregnate many females each day.

(From a publication of the Doris Day Animal Foundation)

STILL WAITING FOR A HAPPY ENDING...



PAM, a young adult female, sweet and sincere.



ZEKE, a young, adult male, lively and lovable.



BO, an adult male 'coon hound, sweet and sensitive.



PATCHES, an adult female, serene and affectionate.

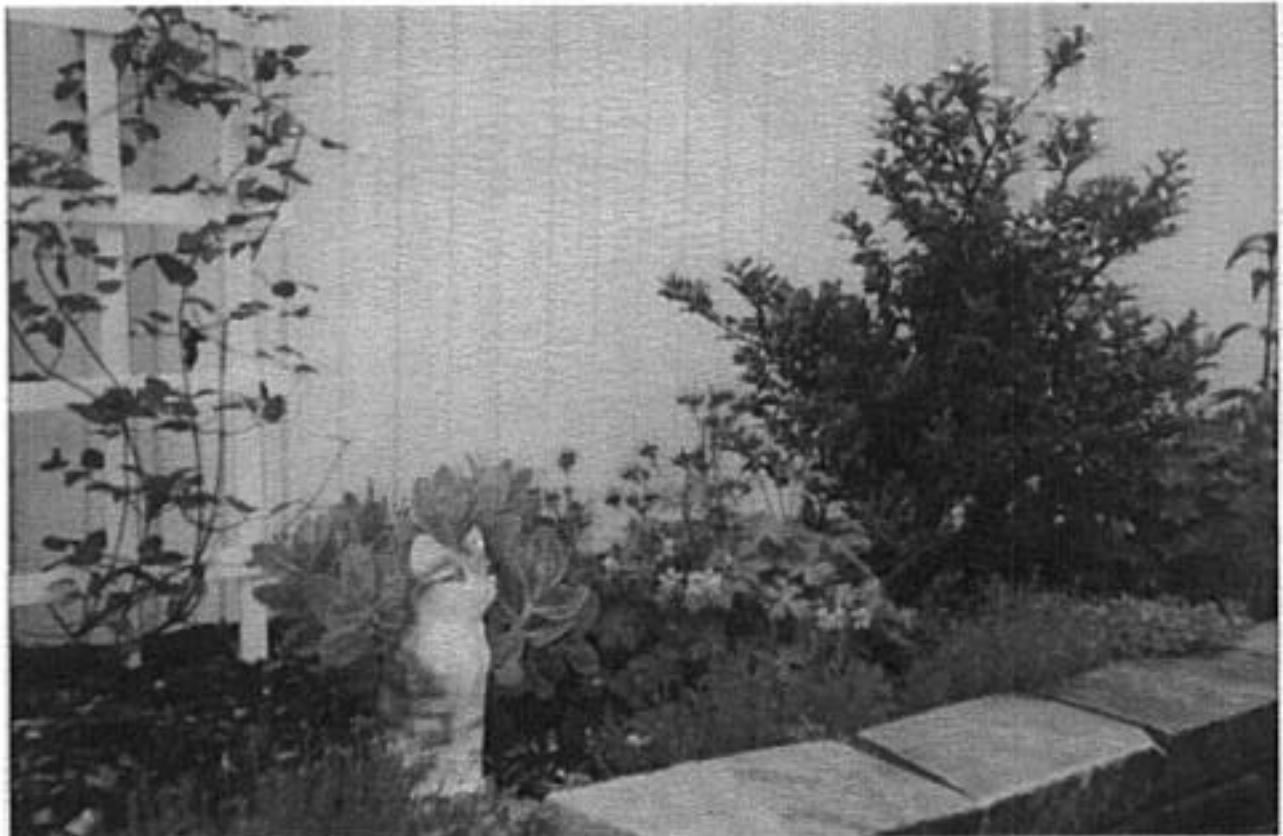


MANGO, an adult male, very lovable and inquisitive.



T.A.I.L.S.
P.O. Box 396
Grosse Ile, MI 48138

Address Correction Requested



Stevie's Garden, a place for remembering the innocent animals who put their trust in humans.