



Homeward Bound Animal Shelter Newsletter Fourth Quarter, 2020

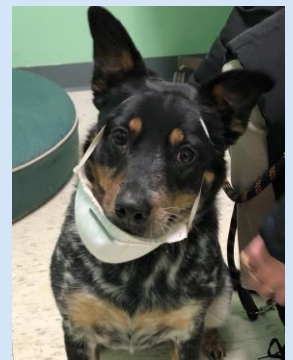
From the Shelter by Shareen Edmondson, Shelter Mgr.

It's been another busy quarter for the shelter. Kittens have been at center stage at the shelter with one litter after another. Thankfully, adoptions for our kittens and cats have been steady and they are quickly finding their forever homes. Another focus is keeping the shelter clean; we are working especially hard to prevent the spread of COVID and have implemented many changes (see below). Thanks to all our supporters and volunteers for keeping the shelter going especially during these unprecedented times.

COVID Changes at the Shelter

Visiting the shelter... REQUIRES:

- Calling and making an appointment: 231-723-7387.
- Masks are required for all entering the building - *children included*.
- Groups will need to be by appointment and limited to 5 or less people.
- Volunteering - please make an appointment as those who have will take precedent
- We will not provide masks to the public but will sell a disposable mask for \$1 if currently in stock.
- When making an appointment and upon approval at the shelter, a few questions will be asked:
 1. Are you currently under quarantine for exposure to COVID?
 2. Are you aware of being exposed to the virus?
 3. Have you recently traveled?
 4. Do you have any of the known symptoms of the virus?





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A Cautionary and Hopeful Tale by Mary Tebbenhoff, board member

I will never forget August 4th, 2020. It was the day my 12-year old rescue beagle, Gracie, walked into my fire pit and severely burned all four paws. The fire had been out for ten hours, but hot coals remained under a blanket of cold ash. I had never really thought about the dangers of a fire pit to my pets until then. Douse any fire with water to extinguish the coals and ensure they are cool before leaving it untended!

The pad material on the paws of our four-footed friends, both wild and domestic, are highly specialized cells. The tough pads provide protection much as shoes protect our feet. Once this material is lost, the health of the animal's feet is in jeopardy. And so begins Gracie's journey.

Gracie's feet were cleaned and bandaged by the veterinary staff at Parkdale Animal Hospital. After five days of the bandages in place, Dr. Laura Betts recommended laser treatments to help heal the tissue. After five days of daily bandage changes and laser treatment, the plan was to put Gracie under anesthesia and debride the wounds. As they were putting Gracie under, she went into respiratory distress and had to be brought immediately back from under anesthesia. Her trachea had collapsed. This complicated her options.

Dr. Betts had done some research into a procedure using fish skin grafts on burns. The technique had been used to successfully rehabilitate bears and cougars burned by the wildfires out west. The technique was successful with wildlife but there is not much experience for use on paw burns in domestic veterinary medicine. Fish skin grafts have also been used to treat human burns and diabetic wounds. Fish skin is high in Omega-3 fatty acids, bonds well, and speeds healing.

Dr. Betts consulted with a specialist surgeon, Dr. Amanda Conklin, at Blue Pearl Veterinary Partners-Grand Rapids. Dr. Conklin agreed to try the fish skin technique and two weeks after the accident, Gracie checked into Blue Pearl and received the Icelandic Cod fish skin grafts. The results were astoundingly positive. Within eleven days the grafts had incorporated, her paws had gone from raw red to the pink of a new puppy. By the end of September, she was able to go from full paw bandages to wearing socks. Over the following three weeks she no longer wears socks in the house or on soft grass outside. I cried real tears of joy the first time we took the socks off in the house and she rested on her favorite bed and stretched out her legs and spread her toes. It was almost as if I could hear a contented sigh and see a beautiful smile. Now hoping the cone of shame can come off soon!

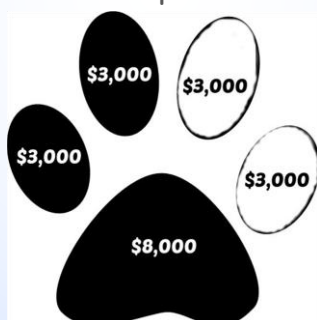
We will slowly work up to harder surfaces outside to build durability in her pads. For now, we put baby socks and baggies on her feet to go longer walks around the block. She is a tough little beagle with a real zest for life. She is a trooper.



Save the Paws

Due to COVID-19, many of our fundraisers have been cancelled. These fundraisers help fund and provide food, shelter, medical care, and a fur-ever home for our sheltered animals. This year we started Save the Paws campaign to raise the funds in place of our cancelled fundraisers. The response has been wonderful to say the least. We are so close to our goal.

Won't you help us by donating to our Save the Paw fundraising drive and fill the paw?



Donate today - check out our website:

www.HomewardboundManistee.org



Holiday tips for you and your pets:

- 1.) Take care when setting out nuts, candy, snack mix, and cookies. Curious pets can have airway blockage from human treats such as these.
- 2.) Table scraps, such as meat trimmings and bones, can cause stomach upset and blockages as well.
- 3.) Holiday plants such as Holly berries and leaves, mistletoe, and Christmas tree needles are irritating and could prove toxic. Poinsettias are **NOT** toxic, but cause irritations.
- 4.) Ribbons, bows, and baubles make for nice decorations on boxes but pets can ingest them and intestinal damage may occur.
- 5.) Holiday lights and extension cords are tempting chew toys that could provide a shocking experience.
- 6.) Holiday candles and potpourri oil pots make the house smell nice but make tempting items to investigate. Burnt noses may result as well as burnt pads, paws, and tails. Open flames are a fire hazards when a wagging tail hits them over.
- 7.) Holiday visitors are enjoyed by all but some pets may need to "get away" from all the commotion and activities. Remember to provide a safe haven for your pets to escape to when the holidays get a bit overwhelming for them.
- 8.) Carve out a bit of special time each day for you and your pet. Not only will this assure your pet of their place in your world but will provide a stress reduction from the holiday chaos and merriment.



Levi is a 3 yr old lab Mix hoping Santa will bring him a new loving family.





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ADOPTION UPDATES:

Finding our Fur-Ever homes!

Cats and kittens:

January – March: 51

March – May: 56

June – September: 62

Total adoptions: 169

(In October, 30 cats
found fur-ever homes.)

Dogs:

January – March: 17

March – May: 7

June – September: 9

Total adoptions: 33

WANT TO HELP? If

you cannot adopt a pet, you are welcome to sponsor a pet by helping to offset the adoption fee. Check out our website for more information on pet sponsorship:

<https://homewardboundmanistee.org/programs>



Appreciative of Grants Received

Grants are a wonderful funding opportunity for organizations such as ours. It allows us to purchase items that we are otherwise unable to budget for and other grants help reimburse necessary costs. We are very grateful that three of our grants applied for in 2020 were funded.

The Michigan Department of Agriculture offers a reimbursement grant for an organization's spay and neuter costs. The Dept of Ag grant is able to offer these grants through funds raised when you donate \$1 on your Michigan tax return. We applied for and received funds to help offset some of our costs incurred in 2020 for spay and neutering.

The shelter also received a grant from Two Seven Oh which allowed us to purchase enrichment equipment for our animals and personal protective equipment for the staff. The dog yards received play tunnels and tables and the cat rooms received climbing towers and beds. Our animals have been enjoying their new equipment which helps to reduce stress and boredom.





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(Grants continued) ...

Through the Manistee County Community Foundation we received \$1,367 in grant funds to purchase picnic tables, chairs and supplies for our senior to senior program. The picnic tables are used in the yards by volunteers and staff to enjoy while spending quality time with the dogs. The chairs have offered more seating for volunteers and visitors that are also easily cleaned and hold up well with the animals. The senior to senior program helps to match senior citizens with the senior cats or cats that have been at the shelter over a year. The senior program waives the adoption fee and the adoption comes with a litter box, a scooper, a small bag of litter and food. The grant helped us to purchase the supplies for this program.

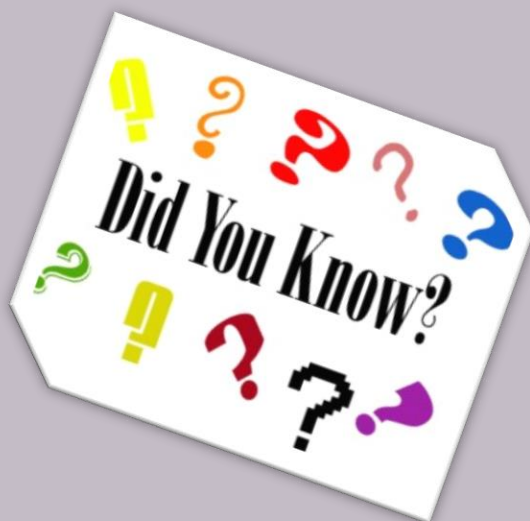
We are so grateful for these organizations and the opportunity to apply for their grants. Not all applications are funded so we are especially appreciative to be able to improve our services to our animals and community.

A HUGE THANK YOU!

Thank you to Scotty Mac and the Little River Casino Resort for the support they have provided and their continued support in highlighting our pet of the week on All Pets Bulletin. Be sure to listen every Tuesday morning to Eagle 101.5 to hear about our the current highlighted pet.



Scotty Mac ~ scottymac@eagle1015.net



➤ In the State of MI –

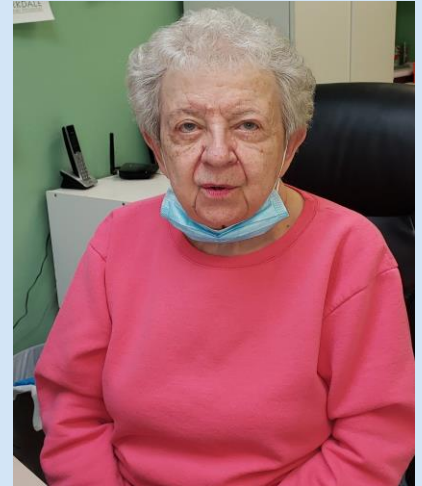
- Under the dog law, it is unlawful for any person to own a dog six months or older unless the dog is licensed. MCL Sec. 287.262.
- It is also unlawful for a person to own a dog six months or older that does not wear a collar and tag at all times, except when engaged in hunting activities accompanied by his or her owner. MCL Sec. 287.262.
- A female dog that is in heat may not go beyond her owner's premises unless properly held on a leash under this section.



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Valuable Volunteer: *Pat Fragomeli*

When Pat and her husband moved to the Manistee area, Pat decided to continue her volunteer work by donating her time to Homeward Bound. Volunteering is quite easy for Pat as the shelter is only one mile away from her home. Pat started out cleaning at the shelter and within a short period of time moved to "working" behind the desk in the front lobby where she has been welcoming visitors and socializing the lobby cats. Pat enjoys working with the folks at the shelter - she believes that the animals come first with everyone who works and volunteers there. Interacting with the community when adopting a pet; interacting with the shelter animals; and even the paperwork - makes the shelter her favorite place to be. Pat especially likes meeting with potential adopters and enjoys watching them meet the pet they are adopting and finds the process a very gratifying experience all around. Pat believes that volunteering at the shelter is a rewarding experience as it allows folks to experience the love of animals, and to work with great people.



Recently, Pat adopted a new companion from the shelter - a little Yorkie. It started out as a foster, but she quickly realized that the pup was there to stay. Her new companion is a senior dog weighing only 6 lbs. Pat acknowledges not everyone wants a senior dog, however, she finds they bring just as much joy as a puppy. Pat feels the joy in her voice lets him know that he is special and loved. Pat says "Come out and 'take a dog for a walk - get some fresh air' or 'comb a cat - it is soothing'."

GREAT PARTNERSHIPS

The shelter works closely with Manistee County Animal Control which results in wonderful benefits for the community. Through the efforts of Animal Control (AC), the lives of many dogs running loose throughout the county have been saved. Officers help the dogs off the street and provide them safe harbor from being hurt by cars, animals, and other unsafe situations. The shelter working with AC has reunited many dogs back with their owners as well as helped many find their new fur-ever homes. Through Sept. 2020 the shelter has posted 27 AC dogs on our social media which were eventually reunited with their families. Another 22 dogs were transferred from AC to Homeward Bound and ultimately found a new family. The efforts by the dedicated AC Officer and other officers throughout the county has helped many dogs survive and thrive. The committed relationship between Animal Control and Homeward Bound is strong and lifesaving for our homeless dogs.



Shout Out

- ❖ **Mr. Shrinkwrap!** This company wraps the front fences of the dog kennel areas - both the front and back kennels. Shrink wrap helps reduce the frigid winds in the winter in the kennel area. While our staff and volunteers are cleaning the inside kennels, the dogs have to be in the outside area which can get very cold for them. It also helps the staff and volunteers keep the snow and ice out of the kennel area. This helps reduce slipping, falling, and extra work of snow and ice removal. Such a benefit for both our animals and people.

Pet Health Information

What is Vestibular Syndrome?

Vestibular syndrome is a group of diseases that affect the balance system. Common signs of vestibular syndrome in dogs and cats include:

- Loss of balance and/or general wobbliness
- Falling or rolling over
- Abnormal flickering of the eyes,
- droopiness of the muscles in the face, loss of hearing
- Vomiting or sickness, seizures, weakness, loss of vision, difficulty eating and drinking

Vestibular syndrome in dogs and cats can be caused by a disease affecting any part of the system (sensors within the ear, the nerve connecting the ear and brain, or the control center in the brain. Common causes of vestibular syndrome are:

- Deep ear infections, ear polyps
- Inflammation (either to the nerve or brain), stroke, head trauma, vitamin deficiency, cysts
- In older dogs and cats, this is known as Idiopathic Vestibular Syndrome

If an underlying cause can be identified and treated, the disease should get better. A lingering head tilt and/or an intermittent loss of balance may persist if permanent damage to the vestibular system has occurred.



One common sign in dogs is that they will tilt their heads and their eyes will rapidly move back and forth.

Special Adoptions – quite often the shelter will take in a bonded pair of pets and we try desperately to adopt them together. Currently we have several pairs of bonded pets that we are looking to find families for who think two are better than one. Here are two pairs of our bonded pets.



These two are 8 year old sisters who only had one previous family. They are super sweet, love kids, other dogs and cats. They are well behaved and listen well.



Sam and Dean are 3 year old male stripe tabbies. They have been at the shelter since they were kittens. They are playful, like other cats and kittens but can be shy around people which has made them hard to adopt. If you like independent felines, check these handsome boys out as they will come around in time.