

VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER

Joining Hands Saving Lives



February 2017 | Issue 244

SPCA of Southwest Michigan

Pet Rescue & Adoption Center
6955 West KL Avenue
Kalamazoo, MI 49009
269.344.1474
www.spcaswmich.org

The SPCA is a non-profit animal rescue group based in SW Michigan. Thanks to volunteers like you, we have rescued over 16,000 dogs, cats, puppies & kittens since we started in 2002!

Our Mission

We are here to rescue, rehabilitate, and find responsible homes for the forgotten pets from area Michigan pounds. We save adoptable pets and make families complete.

Current Events Calendar

<http://www.spcaswmich.org/eventstosupport.html>

Volunteer Bulletin Board

<http://www.spcaswmich.org/volunteer/whatvolunteersdo.html>

Check us out on Facebook & Twitter!



FOREVER HOMES FOUND IN 2016



DOGS: 977

CATS: 564

Special thanks to everyone who made 2016 another great year!

UPCOMING EVENTS!



February 23, all day, is SPCA day at Kalamazoo Beer Exchange! KBE will donate a percentage of the days sales to the SPCA.



April 1-2: the SPCA will be at the 12th Annual West Michigan Pet Expo at the Delta Plex in Grand Rapids.

Save the date! **DOGGIE DASH** will be **September 16!**



HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT DOG TRAINING AND BEHAVIOR???

Dogs are very smart animals, so how do we get them to do what we want? Or, not do what we don't want them to do? We asked our friend Stacy Engebretson to give us a few dog training pointers. What does Stacy say is the most important thing when training? Patience.

“[Patience] is the most important and hardest thing about training. It is hard enough to have patience in a single session, but it is just as important to have patience in reaching your training goal. Write down concrete, measurable units of the dog's performance (8/10 sits, 5 min to stop barking, etc) and make a progress chart when training. If you get caught up in single-session improvements or day to day improvement, it can be too slow to notice change. The risk is that the owner or trainer loses confidence in the training and stops. Also, just as people have different learning speeds, so do dogs! One may learn how to jump through a hoop and balance on its front paws in the same amount of time it takes another dog to learn how to lie down. Don't get discouraged if yours is the later.

Patience, compassion, and a good sense of

humor will go a long way. You may know all the techniques, theories, rules, and gadgets; without patience, compassion, and a sense of humor you'll never go from a “good” trainer to a “great” one.”

This is important whether you are training your dog or working with one of the dogs at the shelter. If you want to learn more, check out Stacy's webpage at www.muttswithoutmanners.com



WE ARE LOOKING FOR QUALIFIED VOLUNTEERS



Most volunteers start out as dog walkers or cat petting enthusiasts but there are many other things volunteers can help with. Here are a few of the positions we are looking for someone to help out with:

Photo/Bio/Video Coordinator: this is a high level position where a volunteer will be asked to work with other volunteers in posting info that makes up the web page about our adoptable pets. This would require a regular commitment and the ability to load, edit, and manage image uploads.



Writer for Newsletter: the hardest part about a newsletter is the stories. We need someone to help come up with and write story pieces that will be featured in the newsletters. We would like original stories on a monthly basis.



Follow up phone calls: This would be a couple hour commitment every week or every other week. You would call recent adopters and see how everything is going. We need someone with strong communication skills and professionalism on the phone.



If one of these interests you, email Alex at haase@spcaswmich.org.

THERE ARE SO MANY WAYS YOU CAN HELP!

Did you know that there are ways to contribute to the SPCA while you shop? And most are at no cost to you? Shop on amazon.com? Start using smile.amazon.com instead. Shop at a local Harding's? Sign up for their charity kickback program.

Learn more about all the ways you can give back while you shop, walk and search [here](#).



Happy Tails

submit your happy tail to happytails@spcaswmich.org

WHITCOMB

Submitted by: Tasha Corey



I just wanted to share that Whitcomb has gotten very comfortable and spoiled in his new home :) We absolutely love him and he has become so affectionate with us.





LUCKY

Submitted by: **Amy Kirby**

Last May on free adoption day we brought home our new family member, Lucky! He has brought us so much joy, comfort, and feeling of being safe. To be honest I'm not sure who the real lucky ones are? We were told he didn't get along with a cat when he was returned before, but our paper also states he came up on the welcome wagon from Tennessee. I would like to know more about his life as a pup, but he doesn't talk about it much hahaha. I do know he LOVES walks you can't even say the word or your expected to take him on one.

We just love him so much, and couldn't have asked for a better match :) Here are some pictures to show you how Lucky has been doing over the last 8 months.



DESMOND

Submitted by: Regina & Steve Gorham

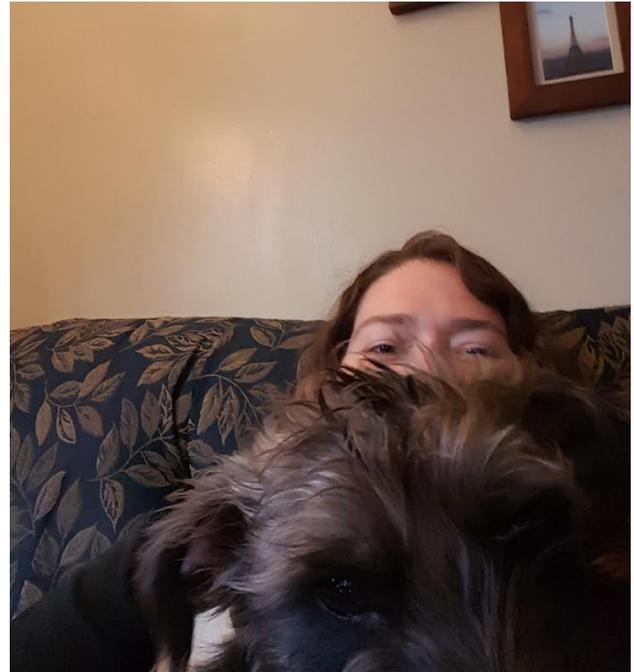


I wanted to send in some pictures of Howie (formerly Desmond) in his new home. We're getting along

great, and he's been spending plenty of time exploring out in the yard. We've met some of the neighbors' dogs and friends' dogs and that's gone pretty well, and we were good at the vet even though a bit hesitant with all the smells going on.

Howie has been a joy and we're so happy to have him in our home!

Regina & Steve
(adopted Howie 1/12/17)





MEME

**Submitted
by: Beth,
Chad & Mimi
Williamson**

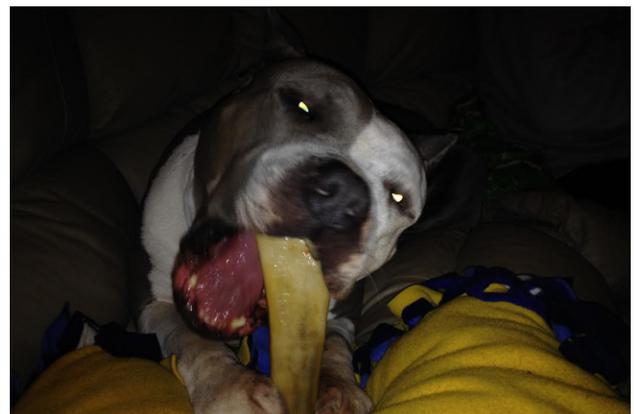
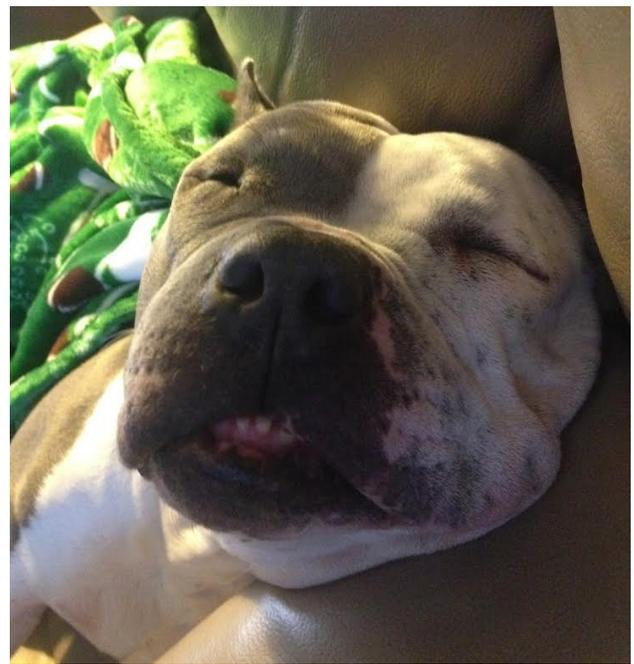
Chad and I wanted to make good on our promise to send pics and give you an update on our girl. But first, let me say that we LOVE her! She was great in the car and once we were home she spent a good amount of time running through the house checking everything out. Once she calmed we got Winnie (aka...the Jerk) out and they both seemed very happy to see each other. For about an hour. Which is when Winnie realized Mimi was here to stay and got a touch surly. Mimi however has been great! And lest you worry, there has been progress made. Just last night both girls decided to sit on the couch with me and while doing so Mimi gave Winnie a bath. Progress!

I had thought that we were not going to have her on the furniture but my husband made short work of my grand plans as you will see from the pics. Sigh. :) So, I have some random pics of Mimi chewing a bone, fighting to wake up in the a.m. when I get up at 5:00 a.m., snoring, etc.



She saw the vet yesterday and was given a clean bill of health for the most part. She has bad teeth. At least five so far but we'll know more once she goes in to have them removed. All in all, a small price to pay for such a lovely dog.

We are so very grateful to have found her. Some people Pinterest, others look at real estate. I look at dogs. However, when I saw Mimi I told my husband that I thought I had found a dog for us. It wasn't even on his radar but my husband is the kind of guy that knows that if I have a feeling, well, I'm not going to let either of us ignore it. And yet I waited and right after Christmas some weeks later, I looked again. When she was still there I told Chad we absolutely had to go see her or I would never be able to let it go. The rest is history! Happy history. Thank you so much for the good work you all do. We are eternally grateful for her. I so missed having a canine companion. She definitely fits the bill and then some.



KITTY

Submitted by: Elizabeth Hawkins



I wanted to give you guys an update about my cat that I adopted a few years ago, Odin (he has some scarring on his right eye, so we named him after Thor's one-eyed father, Odin). This cat is the definition of spoiled and has brought so much joy to everyone he meets! We call him a "starter cat" because as soon as he meets someone, they are converted into a cat person because of him.

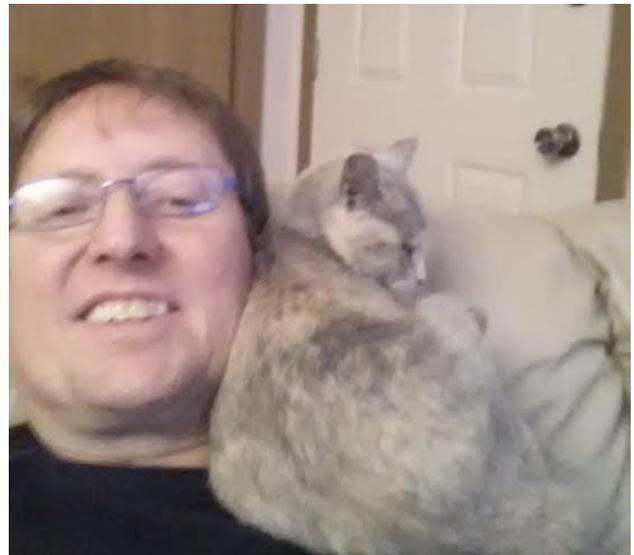
Odin is so playful and loving, we couldn't have asked for a better pet. He follows us around from room to room, needs constant physical affection, and just generally loves to be around people. He now has three brothers (all SPCA rescues, of course!) and we hope to adopt a few more :)

Thank you for bringing us together. I can honestly say my life is so much better thanks to this cat :)



HANNAH

Submitted by: Troy McNeas



It seems Hannah has already adjusted to her new home and is loving it just like I am.





ADOPTIONS - THANKS TO YOU!

CATS: Agda, Alvar, Anja, Ansgar, Babette, Baylie, Berneen, Bernyce, Bertrand, Bianca, Brette, Burkette, Cassie, Cleo, Clooney, Cooper, Cosmo, Cupcake, Evie, Forest, Foster, Gracie, Harry, Hermione2, Joker, Katara, Kenny, Lee, Lilli Anne, Lincoln, Lobo, Madonna, Meewchacho, Merry Kent, Nala, Ollie, Petey, Precious, Ramona, Ron, Sassy, Simi, Sprocket, Tommy, Wade, Waldo, Walker, Wallace, Wanda, Webb, Wendell, Wendy, Wesley, Whisper, Whitcomb, Whitney, Wilbur, Windy, Winnie, Winter, Wynonna

DOGS: Abilene, Amarillo, Angelina, Annie1 SC, Beasley, Bella Blue, Bella Fariss, Bernice, Bud D. Jackson, Buggy OK, Burroughs SC, Chunk, Cocoa Lab, Daale, Daniel Kzoo, Darcy, Deena, Desmond, Deuce, Dexter JC, Dillon, Dobbs, Dogo Joe, Duke SC, Ellie Mae, El's Alexander, El's Bailey, El's Izzy, El's Lexi, Elwood, Emmie MS, Eugene LA, Faye, FeeFee SC, Foxee SC, Gapsy, Griffin, Jack Kzoo, Jankie, Jessie, Kevin MS, Leigh SC, Madison, Malala, Manny, Mazie, Meme LA, Neptune, Olly Kzoo, Paris Hound, Penny Lane, Pitbull the Havanese, Pudge, Queenie SC, Reggie SC, Rey, Ruger SC, Rusty, Sadie SC, Sally SC, Sammy SC, Sammy SC, Sandy SC, Sarah SC, Sherry SC, Sir Dudley, Stetson SC, Susie SC, Turbo IN

Thank you for opening your hearts and your homes to these animals! See all our adoptable dogs, cats, puppies & kittens at www.spcaswmich.org.

Please send Volunteer Newsletter submissions to Jess Baker @ newsletter@spcaswmich.org.