



Phone: (269) 226-8570

KAR Friends ~ March 2019

Dear Reader;

It's spring (according to the calendar—and the birds)! And spring means . . . sunny one minute, cloudy the next, a blizzard waiting around the corner . . . you get the picture! Spring also means that free-ranging cats and dogs are (as we used to say in my youth) "feeling their oats." Translation: kitten and puppy season is just around the corner.

Now, we all know that nothing is cuter than a puppy or a kitten, but it's important to keep in mind that the little ones do grow up and that training and behavior modification (our behavior as well as that of our pets!) takes some work, but a calm and happy household is well worth the effort. So if there's a corner of your house and your heart that wants to be filled by a little four-footed friend, do we have some tips for you!

Please feel free to share this issue with friends and family. We appreciate your continued support of KAR's mission to help homeless, stray, and abandoned cats and dogs. Together we make a difference!

Sincerely,

Pat Hollahan
KAR Friends Editor

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Pets of the Month



Read [Alice's](#) Story

Doggie Den

Puppy Adoption



By Kim Bourner

Puppy love! The term may have come from the fact that most people find puppies adorable, lovable, and entralling. They are so furry and soft, and they smell good.



Are you considering falling in love with a puppy? If so, here are a few steps to help you to begin a lifelong furry love story:

- There are numerous rescue organizations to help you select a puppy. A responsible rescue will accept the puppy back if it doesn't work out. Research the rescue before proceeding with an option. [This article may help: Is This Rescue for Real?](#)
- Check out the breeds of puppies available on the rescue sites. Which breeds would be a good fit for your home? With rescues, it can be difficult to tell for sure what breed a dog is, but they can make an educated guess. Do you wish for a small or large dog when fully grown? Lots of walks or one that lies around a bit? Short or long hair? Barky or not so barky? [Animal Planet provides a dog breed selection questionnaire.](#)
- No matter how healthy your pet may be, you will need a veterinarian. Who to pick? How to pick? Is it important to have the vet close to home? Do your friends have recommendations? Unless you already have a veterinarian you trust, [you may need to do some research.](#)



Read [Bunny's Story](#)

Upcoming Events

- Mar. 23, **PetSmart**
West Main St.

- Mar. 30, **Chow Hound**
Westnedge Ave.

For details on these and other upcoming events, please [see our Events page](#) on the KAR website.

KAR Links

- [VOLUNTEER](#)
- [Become a Foster Family](#)
- [Adoptable Dogs](#)
- [Adoptable Cats](#)
- [Adoptable Kittens](#)
- [Special Needs Pets](#)
- [Senior Cat Companions](#)
- [KAR Website](#)
- [Donate Today!](#)

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[Email us](#) with any newsletter suggestions or questions!

Contact Us

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- Is your home ready for a new family member? Do you have all of the supplies you need? Is your home puppy safe? Who will have primary care for this new responsibility? Do you have puppy care if you go out of town? [Read up on a number of considerations to make your home and family ready for a new roommate.](#)
- The first year or two with your new fur friend involves a lot of education. Basically, you're taking this pooch from preschool to junior high within two years. You may wish for some guidance along the way. Potty training alone can be quite the adventure. [Hill's Pet Food company offers sage advice.](#)

No responsible rescue organization wants you to just have that glorious time of falling head over heels for a puppy; we all want that to be a "fur-ever" relationship that starts off on the right paw. So please use these tools to get you started on your search for your new best four-footed buddy!

Cat's Corner

A Kitten Stole My Heart – What's Next?



By Karren Jensen

It happens almost before you know it: a tiny kitten looks up at you with innocent trusting eyes, gives a little purr, and you're smitten. **Although a kitten is one of the most**



endearing creatures in the world, adopting a baby cat on a whim is definitely not in the best interest of either the little one or the adopter. Your sweet new fur-baby is likely to live for 15 or more years and needs your full commitment to have a long and happy life. Remember that this adorable baby needs training and care to become a well-adjusted adult. **Here are a few things to consider before adopting a kitten:**

- **Are you ready to make a lifelong commitment?** Your precious new kitten will grow quickly from a toddler to an adult but will be just as loving and need just as much care after kittenhood ends. If you only want to enjoy a baby for a while and don't want to keep this new feline family member for life, please reconsider your motives. You can easily get your "kitten fix" by volunteering at a shelter where numerous furry small-fry need attention, socialization and love. In some cases, people have the heartbreaking habit of taking in a kitten for a few months and then discarding it when it ages out of kittenhood. These abandoned young cats are at risk for a short and dangerous existence and only a few lucky ones find a new home.
- **Are you financially ready for a new pet?** On average, a cat costs about \$600 per year, including food, litter, routine vet care, and other expenses. Responsible pet ownership includes making sure your kitten receives nutritious food, loving attention, and adequate health care. It is also important to break the cycle of unwanted births by always spaying/neutering your new pet.
- **Are you willing to train your kitten to be a well-behaved family member?** Kittens do not grow into happy and well-adjusted adults by accident. Although kittens can be trained to scratch appropriately on scratching posts instead of furniture and to abide by "house rules" for their daily routines, they will need to be taught what is acceptable and what is not. Declawing is not an

easy shortcut to acceptable claw etiquette and is likely to result in other behavioral problems, some of which lead to declawed cats being surrendered to shelters. If you don't want to be bothered with training a kitten, working through any issues which may arise, then you would probably be better off adopting an adult cat whose personality and behavior is already known.

- **Are you willing to protect your kitten and to provide a safe indoor home?** By and large, house pets belong inside your home. Although supervised outdoor activities can be safe, letting your kitten run loose outdoors is very risky. Some dangers include cars, wild animals, and vicious humans. We often hear somebody say "my cat/kitten ran away" when what they really mean is that they let the animal run loose outdoors and it never came home. The likelihood is that this pet has met with an unfortunate end, of which the owner remains unaware.

If you are prepared to adopt a kitten, you can expect to enjoy years with a loving family member who will add delight to your existence. From infancy to old age, a cat is a wonderful, intelligent creature who can put a smile on your face each day. Some preparation and care in choosing your new kitty will give you both your "happily ever after."

Additional Resources:

- [Bringing a cat home](#)
- [Before you get a kitten](#)
- [Taking care of your kitten](#)

About Us

Kalamazoo Animal Rescue is an all-volunteer, federally recognized 501(c)(3) charitable organization that was founded in 1991 and is funded entirely through donations from the public.

KAR is dedicated to providing refuge to homeless, stray and abandoned cats and dogs in Kalamazoo and the surrounding communities.

Our volunteers give their time and energy to the efforts of rescuing animals and helping them to find permanent, committed and life-long homes.

Visit our website [here](#) for more KAR information!



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