



Phone: (269) 226-8570

## *KAR Friends - May 2019*

Dear Reader;

It's May . . . and maybe just a bit damp, and still a bit chilly—but we know that summer is just around the corner, right? (And then, if you're like me, you'll begin to grumble about the heat and humidity. Oh well!)

Even though it's almost summertime, and therefore time for a little rest and relaxation, in this issue of *KAR Friends* we're actually concentrating on work—at least on the work that can be and is being done by our canine and feline friends. Karren Jensen reminds us of all the wonderful things our beloved dogs can do in addition to brightening our lives (and leaving dog toys all over the house) and yours truly speaks up for the working cats of the world.

***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

### *In This Issue*

- [Doggie Den](#)
- [Cat's Corner](#)
- [Special Thanks](#)



### **Pets of the Month**



Read [Alice's](#) Story

## **Doggie Den**

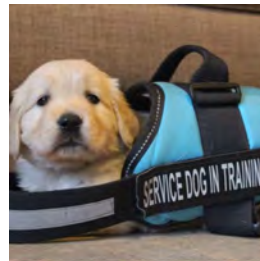
### *Dogs With A Mission*



By Karren Jensen

Dogs are wonderful companions and friends but their relationships with humans include much more than simply companionship.

**Many special roles can be filled by trained canines, giving their unselfish assistance in a variety of ways.** Here are a few examples of how a dog can bring the gift of a better life to her or his human.



- **Canine Assistance/Service Dogs:** We have all seen working dogs with vests announcing that they are assisting their accompanying human in a specific way. These highly trained canines are allowed in stores and other public places where an ordinary pet would not be welcomed. For a visually impaired person a guide dog restores a measure of independent living. Whether the pair are crossing a busy street or negotiating some other activity requiring sight, the dog's eyes and senses stand in for the human's missing visual ability. Similarly, a well-trained dog can assist a paralyzed person to find independence while he or she is confined to a wheelchair.
- **Seizure Dogs:** Special training is needed for a dog to recognize the signs of an impending seizure in humans but dogs are capable of excelling at this task. A well-trained dog can give warning of an



Read [Mario's Story](#)

### Upcoming Events

- May 25, **Chowhound**  
Westnedge Ave.

- June 1, **Petco**  
Westnedge Ave.

- June 8, **Chowhound**  
Drake Rd.

- June 15, **PetSmart**  
W. Main St.

*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!](#)

### Newsletter Team

- Pat Hollahan, Editor
- Lynn Bolhuis
- Kim Bourner
- Kara Harmsen
- Karren Jensen

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

### Contact Us

Kalamazoo Animal Rescue  
P.O. Box 3295  
Kalamazoo, MI 49003  
(269) 226-8570



impending seizure to ensure that the potential danger is recognized and dealt with quickly. The seizure sufferer can have confidence that an event will not take him or her unaware with disastrous consequences.

- **Military Service Dogs:** Not all members of the military wear a uniform. As soldiers in fur, military dogs use their unique senses and self-sacrificing nature to assist their fellows-in-arms by sniffing out danger and even facing direct threats. These canine heroes are much appreciated in a battle zone and on routine patrols.
- **Police/Security Dogs:** Just as military dogs provide help in dangerous war zones, so police and security dogs defend and protect law enforcement officers in hazardous areas. These canine officers have been cited many times for bravery. As sniffer dogs working for the TSA at an airport, these exceptional canines even protect you and me from potential acts of terrorism.
- **Therapy Dogs:** Not every life-altering human medical condition has easy-to-recognize symptoms. Psychological challenges, especially, can be debilitating, although the sufferer may appear to be healthy. In cases of PTSD, anxiety disorders, or other serious mental health issues, a therapy dog can be just what is needed to restore confidence and balance to the individual in need of help. During times of stress, the emotional support provided by a special canine friend can be more effective than drug therapy without the side-effects caused by many pharmaceuticals.

Do you love dogs and want to help train a special puppy to prepare for a life of service to a person in need? Many service dog organizations look for volunteers to socialize and raise puppies through their early months of life before they enter a special training program.

Whether a dog is a highly trained working animal or an ordinary household pet, each one has love to give and is special to the human in his/her life. We want to salute all the dogs who give of themselves every day, bringing joy to their human family members. At KAR we're happy to do our part in giving a second chance to many pets every year, placing them in loving homes where they can carry out their mission of love and companionship.

### Additional Resources:

- [Raising a service dog](#)
- [How dogs help wounded vets](#)
- [Service dogs for autistic children](#)

## Cat's Corner

### Cats At Work



By Pat Hollahan

### Cats are (to hear them tell it) the unsung heroes of the rescue world.

Without taking anything away from those bouncy puppies in their Service Dog vests, kitties would like to remind us all that they do their part too, without the need for special apparel.



Unless you want to find yourself (or your farmer or your birdseed shop) like the thief who is cursed in an Irish song—"may the rats eat his meal [grain]"—you'll be grateful for the barn and business cats who work diligently and enthusiastically to provide poison-free rodent control. Since not all cats are eager to spend their lives indoors,

many rescues, KAR included, are happy to match cats with business owners and farmers who can offer them food and safety in return for a pest-free barn or business.

Cats are also coming into their own as therapy animals who can provide comfort and emotional support for humans facing illnesses, addictions, and the effects of aging. Therapy cats are trained for specific situations, including behavioral problems and emotional distress in humans, and can be fully certified as such. Just don't expect them to wear a vest.

**Additional Resources:**

[Cats for barns or businesses](#)

[Barn cats](#)

[Finding or training a therapy cat](#)

---

## Special Thanks



Kalamazoo Animal Rescue would like to thank all the volunteers, donors, and friends who've participated in the following events: the **Bissell Empty-the-Shelters Adoption Event**, the **Kalamazoo Humane Society Dog Walk**, and **KAR's annual Garage Sale Fundraiser**. Huge thanks to you all!



---

## 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!



*Copyright © 2019 Kalamazoo Animal Rescue, All rights reserved.*

Want to change how you receive these emails?  
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#)

