



Phone: (269) 226-8570

*KAR Friends* - November 2019

Dear Reader;

In November ("damp, drizzly November"—thank you so much, Herman Melville!) in my house we pause to give thanks: for the harvest, for family and friends, for the lovely flowers that we'll see again next summer. I try to give thanks for the peace and quiet of winter, but I'm still working on that.

At KAR, we're also thankful for our special friends – the four-footed, the winged, and the ones who work and donate to keep our rescue going! So a very special nod, this Thanksgiving issue, to all those who made the annual KAR Dinner Auction such a success. None of this could happen without 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

*In This Issue***Pets of the Month**Read [Buffy's](#) StoryRead [Shevi's](#) Story**A Time For Thanks and Giving**

By Karren Jensen

As we enter the holiday season and remind ourselves how much we have to be thankful for, **we want to celebrate the happiness which our pets bring into our lives each and every day.** Whether

your fur-baby is canine or feline, or you have one (or more) of each, these precious four-legged family members bring joy to us each day and love us unconditionally. Their presence in our lives enriches our existence in so many ways:

- **Our pets need love and attention to stay healthy, keeping us healthier in the process.** Your dog or puppy needs to walk regularly, no matter what the weather, so (s)he rescues his/her owner from the temptation to become a couch potato when the weather outside heads toward the autumn and winter doldrums. Your own physical health will benefit tremendously through regular outdoor adventures with your energetic buddy and you can't be lethargic while accompanying a furry being who never loses that sense of adventure when exploring the outdoors.
- **If your beloved fur-person is feline rather than canine, (s)he needs plenty of exercise and attention indoors, keeping you engaged during even the darkest and gloomiest winter day.** A warm purring cat can soothe even the most stressful situation, bringing quiet joy even in a



### Upcoming Events

- Nov. 23, **MVPets**  
Westnedge Ave.
- Nov. 30, **Paver Pet Supply**  
Portage Road
- Dec. 7, **Petco**  
West 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

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

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difficult time. Regular sessions of fur therapy are better for your mental health than any anti-depressant concoction.

- **The widespread sense of loneliness and isolation suffered by many people during the holidays is kept at bay by having the daily love and acceptance of a furry companion.** While many human friends and family members may fail to be supportive, your cat or dog will never criticize your appearance or fail to listen sympathetically to your problems. Your pet's warm and cheering presence and quiet emotional support can bring sunshine to your day.
- **Although our pets need to have their physical needs cared for, the cost of this care is modest compared with the way their presence enriches our lives.** Therapy/emotional support animals are associated with special human needs but every pet actually fulfills this vital function for their human family members. Your loving furry family member(s) changes your house into a home where you can feel nurtured and loved.

**If you find the holidays challenging, stop and consider how much your dog or cat blesses your life every day with their faithful and steadfast love.**

Your friends at KAR believe that each animal who comes into our shelter has the potential to give the gift of happiness to their adoptive family. Every life matters and we want to wish you a wonderful holiday season as you give thanks for your family and friends, including the pets who enrich your life's journey.

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## Thanksgiving Tips and Cautions



By Kim Bourner

Thanksgiving is a time for eating wonderful holiday foods, watching football games, and spending quality time with family and friends.

**Our pets love Thanksgiving too, so here are some thoughts and cautions about how to make the holiday fun for everyone:**



- **Pets do look forward to a small bite of turkey.** Oh, the scent of it baking in the oven has been sweet torture. They are confident you wouldn't give them any part that is too fatty or any bones, be it turkey, ham, or ribs.
- **Don't let them eat cake!** Raw dough is very hard on our four-footed friends, and baked isn't much better. Some pets (my cats for sure) like to sample bread, cake, or other desserts. And they will if I don't keep our human foods in plastic containers, up high out of reach, or in the fridge. Explain that this is for their own good and because you love them. Stick to your rules even if they roll their eyes and walk away pouting.
- **Plan ahead and have small pet-friendly treats available** while you're making dinner and afterwards. Perhaps a tidbit of turkey, sweet potatoes without sugar, or a tiny bit of stuffing (without onions or garlic). You may consider putting treats into a food puzzle toy for your buddies as their own entertainment. Some pets enjoy the challenge, while others will not deign to dig for their food now that they are domesticated, but it's worth

a try to find out if these toys might bring joy to your pet's life.

- **No garbage diving!** I have a cat who loves to get into our garbage, because it still has tasty scents on food packaging (to them, not always to human noses). We had to buy a garbage can with a push peddle and a secure lid to keep her out of there. Her feelings were hurt, but she mostly accepts her fate of not picking through our garbage.
- If your pet is a scaredy cat (or dog or hamster or ferret), **provide a safe space** with lots of their favorite toys, a comfy bed, plenty to snack on, and fresh water. We do this all year round, but for the holidays we check our cats into their safe haven in advance, in case company arrives early or we can't keep them from trying to jump into the oven to overtake that turkey with their killer instincts.
- If your pets are people-friendly and mingle with company, please **remind your guests of the house rules regarding the noble status of the fur people**. After all, the pets reside here as royalty and any visitors have now joined their list of servants. This entails not feeding them from the table, ensuring they don't go outside unless they are on a safe leash or in a fenced area, and not attempting to pet or hold them unless their furry highness's permit.

Once you've gotten through this list, sit back and enjoy the holiday with all of your loved ones, especially the furry ones.

#### Additional Resources

- [Thanksgiving safety tips](#)
- [Thanksgiving pet safety](#)
- [Dog safety tips](#)

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## Special Thanks



We'd like to thank the sponsors, volunteers, donors, and friends who made our annual Dinner Auction such a wonderful event. Very special thanks go to our gold sponsors, **Blue Ox Credit Union** and **Black Rock Bar and Grill**, and to our Master of Ceremonies, **Keith Thompson**.



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## 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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