



ANIMALS BEST FRIEND FUND, INC. NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2012

YEAR END REPORT

Number of cats & dogs spayed/neutered during 2011.....	1,513
Spay/neuter expenses for 2011.....	\$64,197.47
2011 Administrative expenses	2,244.87
2011 Donations.....	57,342.41

Thanks to the support of our donors and volunteers we were able to help neuter 1,513 cats and dogs during 2011. This was a hard year for us as the demand for our services far outweighed the funding we had to be able to offer reduced cost spay/neuter surgeries for the animals of our community. As you can see from the above totals for 2011 we were able to make good use of your donations due to being an all volunteer group. We have no paid employees and keep administrative expenses to a bare minimum, ensuring that at least 90% of your donation goes to pay the spaying and neutering costs of needy cats and dogs in Kalamazoo and Van Buren counties.

FERAL CAT PROGRAM UPDATE

During 2011 our volunteers trapped/neutered/released 864 cats and kittens. In some cases the kittens were able to be tamed and found new homes. Our dedicated trappers work many hours on these projects and do the best they can to help the feral cats in our community. Those of you who believe (like I do) that these cats deserve to live better lives can help by sending a donation to us that is specified "feral" in the memo line of your check so we can be there when the cats need us. We have recently learned of a 60 feral cat colony that we will begin work on in the near future so please make a donation to the feral fund today!

UPCOMING FUNDRAISING EVENTS

We have bake sales planned on February 11 (Valentine's Day sale), March 17 (St. Patrick's Day sale) and April 7 (Easter sake) at Pet Supplies Plus on Westnedge in Portage. All of these sales will be from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. Please have your baked goods to us by 10:00 a.m. so we can have all day to sell the items you donate. Baked goods (such as cookies) sell best if they are on paper plates and covered in clear plastic wrap or a clear baggie. Items that are wrapped in colored plastic wrap or foil generally don't sell well. It is also helpful if you label the items as to what they are (i.e. what type of bread or cookie, and indicate whether or not they have nuts in them due to food allergies). If you can't bake for this event please stop by and support our bake sale!

The following people donated to our Kalamazoo County feral fund: Teresa Hoyt; Carol Beckius; Karen Macklom; Lois Bates; Jackie Bullard; Lynn Bricker; Faith Haley-Caro; Carolyn Woodward; Theresa Noppen; Helen Page Dolan; Jan Rachor.

The following people donated to our Van Buren County feral fund: Ben & Claudia Johnson; Coreen Perkins; Jack DeYoung; Sara Ehlke-Bejcek.

We received a donation from Anne Pancella for the Van Buren County feral cat fund in honor of Vickie Brinks.

Thanks to Ben & Claudia Johnson, John Jacobs and Laurie White for donating postage stamps.

The following people donated to our “donate \$30.00 to help neuter one cat or dog” program: Nancy LaLiberte; Norman & Doreen Emmerich; Barbara Himebaugh; Wanda Eichaker; James & Dorothy Shillito; Kathy Beeman; Christine Wilkins; Wilma Heerlyn; Diane Skiba; Marilyn Jacobs; Helen Page Dolan; Beth Bourdo; Norma Logan; Laurie White.

We received a donation from Donna Schlarman in honor of Carole Watson’s birthday. We also received a donation from Marsha Meyer in honor of Phyllis Martens, and Margaret Reusch sent a donation in memory/honor of her 5 Scottish terriers.

FROM

IN MEMORY OF

Chris & Mollie Gillette
Peggy Spencer
Kathy Eckstein
Martha Cochran
Linda Hasso
Judy & Don Vanderslik
Vivian Spiech
Constance Mohney
Chuck & Lorraine Haring
Kelly Brewer
Vivian Spiech
Uncle Bill & Aunt Karen
Gene & Vivian Wood
Barb Loney
John & Phyllis Martens

Edna Gillette
Kay Gemrich
Casey
Norma Buskirk
Rosie
Tom Vanderslik
Tiki
Buddy
Jenny & Shadow
Andrea Armstead
Prancer
Prancer
Prancer
Bill & Bev Matthes
Rosie

Thanks to Family Pet Health Center in Mattawan for donating the proceeds from their Santa Pictures to us. To Renee McCurdie for donating crafts. To Cheri and her friends from Professional Hair Designs for donating cat & dog items.

To Michele Mullen; Barb Loney and Sandy Ormanovich for working at our Christmas bake sale at Pet Supplies Plus. To Pet Supplies Plus Westnedge for providing the location for our bake sales and for selling catnip toys & mats for us. To Kathy Eckstein; Sandy Ormanovich; Phyllis Martens; Michele Mullen; Ginnie Bowling; Kathy Mason; Great Harvest Bread; Amy Derhamer; Donna Schlarman; Julie Jacox; Karen Macklom; Kathy Slocum; Claudia Johnson; Tina Ruitter; Jennifer Chudy; Theresa Noppen & Faith Haley-Caro for donating baked goods. We made \$1183.25 at that sale.

Thanks to our sewing team who work tirelessly on our catnip projects: Carolyn Woodward; Lorraine Haring, Rhoda Green; Jean Florian; Lois Boeskool; Melissa Mann; & Mike & Vivian Spiech. The proceeds from the sale of our catnip toys and mats enabled us to have 864 cats and kittens neutered in 2011.

A special thanks to Pet Supplies Plus Westnedge; Mattawan Pet Supplies; Mattawan Animal Hospital; Paw Paw Veterinary Clinic; Red Arrow Animal Clinic; Bangor Veterinary Clinic; Gobles Veterinary Clinic; Lawton Animal Hospital; KL Cat Hospital; Milwood Animal Clinic; Sprinkle Road Veterinary Clinic; and the Lasting Impressions Gift Shoppe in Shipshewana, IN for selling our catnip toys and/or mats.

HOW YOU CAN HELP ANIMALS

We need people to help sew our catnip toys and mats. If you have a few hours a month or a few hours as a one time project to spare and would be interested in helping to sew our catnip toys or mats give Karen a call at 269/808-0064. The proceeds from the sales of our catnip toys and mats fund our feral cat program.

Please continue to save Spartan UPC's and weight circles from Purina dry cat and dog food. We recently submitted 3,000 Spartan UPC's and will be receiving a check from Spartan Stores for \$60.00 for the UPC's that were submitted during 2011. The UPC's and weight circles can be dropped off at the Red Arrow Animal Clinic in Paw Paw; sent to our post office box; or you can bring them to us at our bake sales.

We need donations of Forever postage stamps.

Please remember Animals Best Friend in your will and for memorial gifts.

If you have pets that live outdoors be sure to provide shelter away from the wind and make sure they have fresh drinking water at all times. Outdoor animals also need extra calories during the cold winter months to make body heat.

If you know of a cat or dog that needs to be spayed or neutered and the animals owner needs financial help having the pet neutered we may be able to help. Have them call us at 269/624-1090 for details.

In case of emergency make sure you know the telephone number of your local veterinary hospital or contact the ASPCA's Animal Poison Control Center at 888/426-4435. There is a charge for a call to this number.

A donation of \$30.00 helps us spay or neuter one cat or dog. A donation of \$500.00 sponsors spay/neuter surgeries of cats and dogs at one veterinary clinic for one month and you can specify whether you want your donation used in Kalamazoo or Van Buren county. This is an excellent way to honor or memorialize a loved one. A donation to our feral fund helps the neediest of the animals in our community by preventing the births of feral kittens who are often born to lives of hunger and little protection from the elements. Spaying of the mother cats can help them have healthier lives by stopping the cycle of them having endless litters of kittens.

We have Animals Best Friend t-shirts for sale in adult sizes. They are \$12.00 each for short sleeved t-shirts in sizes small-XL and \$15.00 each for 2X. These t-shirts are available for sale at our bake sales.

Before turning on your clothes dryer make sure your cat hasn't crawled inside.

During these cold winter months make sure to clean up antifreeze spills immediately. Even a small amount of antifreeze can kill your pet so if you suspect he has ingested antifreeze get him to your veterinary clinic immediately.

Never administer medications to your pet except under the direction of your veterinarian. What's good for you may be harmful to your pet.

Items to keep on hand in case your dog ingests a toxic substance: syrup of Ipecac, hydrogen peroxide, a bottle of activatec charcoal (ask your pharmacist) and cotton. Should the need arise the poison control center will instruct you how to use them (888/426-4435).

Animals Best Friend is an all volunteer animal welfare group dedicated to reducing animal overpopulation in Kalamazoo and Van Buren counties. Spay/neuter is our only function. Donations to Animals Best Friend are tax deductible and can be sent to us at P.O. Box 443, Oshtemo, MI 49077. Our policy is to spend 10% or less of donations we receive on administrative expenses, which means that at least 90% of your donation funds spay/neuter surgeries for cats and dogs. Since Animals Best Friend was founded in 1981 we have helped to spay/neuter over 40,853 cats and dogs.