

ANIMAL'S BEST FRIEND Fund, Inc.

Since 1981

Prevention Not Destruction

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2021 NEWSLETTER

Number of cats/dogs neutered year to date.....	1,328
Spay/neuter expenses year to date.....	86,880.39
Administrative expenses year to date.....	1,430.48
Donations received year to date.....	98,272.75



We are excited to report that we have a new program to announce! We will be providing our neutering services to some of the cats and dogs that are available for adoption at Kalamazoo County Animal Services & Enforcement. This means that those animals will be already spayed or neutered when they are adopted, thus reducing their adoption fees and increasing the number of adoptions from there.

During the month of July we sponsored the neutering of 19 cats and 8 dogs from Kalamazoo Animal Services. You can help make it possible for us to sponsor the neutering of these animals by making a donation of \$50.00 for a cat spay or neuter and a \$100.00 donation will sponsor a dog spay or neuter. Help us keep this program going by sending a tax-deductible donation today!

Here are just a few of the long term residents at KCASE currently looking for homes:



Dibble



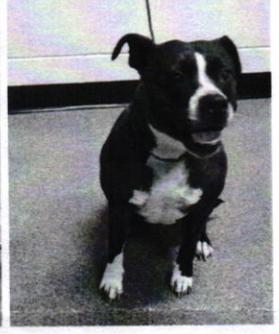
Momma Carol



Weaver



Midnight



Autumn

UPCOMING FUNDRAISING EVENTS

September 18- Our fall bake sale will be held from 9:00 am until 3:00 pm at Pet Supplies Plus Westnedge in Portage, MI (across from Meijer). We will need lots of bakers and buyers for this event. Along with lots of yummy baked goods we will have our new ABF t-shirts for sale. Stop by and make a purchase or a donation to help us reach our goal of raising \$1500 at this sale for our spay/neuter programs.

October 30- Halloween Bake Sale at Pet Supplies Plus Westnedge.

December 11- Christmas bake sale at Pet Supplies Plus Westnedge.

MEMORIAL DONATIONS

From

Roxie Sargent
Charlene Fleischman
Alice Asmus

In Memory Of

Stali
Sandy the Cat
John Girdley

From

Laurie White
Martha Cochran
Phyllis & John Martens

In Honor Of

Annie & Sarah Gerstner
Dasher
Matt Longjohn & Valerie Miller's 19th wedding anniversary

We received donations from the following people in memory of Dorothy Hoffman Shillito: Bobbi Alkhamis; Jamey June Renwick; Debra A. Baird; Bonnie J. Flora; Vicki Weiszer; Sherry Julian; Jan Shillito.

The following people donated to our feral cat program: Kelly Todd-Brewer; Rita Terpstra; Karen Imus.

HOW YOU CAN HELP ANIMALS

Don't forget to designate Animal's Best Friend Fund as your charity of choice on Amazon SMILE for all of your back to school and holiday shopping!

For the Parvo outbreak we are asking for donations of:

- 📦 Bottled drinking water
- 📦 Individually wrapped/shelf-stable snacks (human)
- 📦 Bleach and Gallons of water for diluting bleach
- 📦 Spray bottles for bleach solution
- 📦 Exam gloves (non-powdered), Tyvek suits, Shoe covers
- 📦 Dry and wet dog food
- 📦 Leashes, collars or other basic pet supplies
- 📦 Monetary gifts

Donations can be brought to:

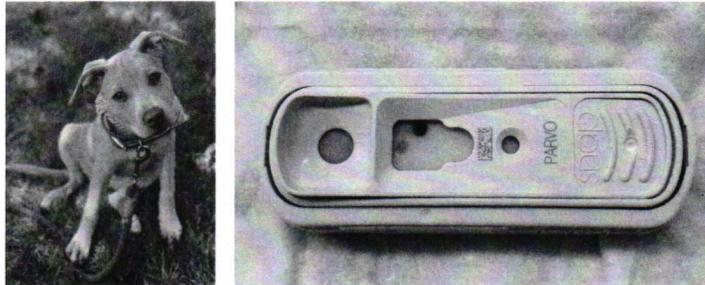
- 📍 SPCA of SW Michigan, 6955 W KL Ave, Kalamazoo, MI 49009
- 📍 Kalamazoo Humane Society Animal Care & Resource Center, 2272 River Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49048
- 📍 Pet Supplies Plus - Portage, 5230 S Westnedge Ave, Portage, MI 49002

🚫 Please do not bring donations directly to the encampment. 🚫

Please note that funding for the above items are coming from the community and people who want to help the animals and humans of the encampment, NOT ABF funding meant for spay/neuter

PARVO

On Friday August 20th at about 9:30 pm, our volunteer Sarah received a call regarding a sick puppy at the homeless encampment in Kalamazoo. The residents thought that dogs were being poisoned, Sarah investigated further and all symptoms pointed to Parvo. We reached out to rescue partners and were able to get the puppy to an emergency veterinarian but it was too late. Sweet Charlie had already passed. They did confirm it was Parvo. Obviously this was concerning given how Parvo spreads quickly through feces and loves the heat and humidity. We were quick to act on the situation alerting the public of the potential concern.



It was a crazy week to follow but our animal welfare organizations came together to formulate a plan with the full support of the city. It was an amazing display of comradery and togetherness for one cause. On Friday August 27th, our community organizations came together to support the animals and humans of the homeless encampment! 100+ lunches were made and served by Kalamazoo Mobile Closet as well as clothing, shoes and hygiene products distributed, Kalamazoo Humane Society provided informational handouts about Parvo and delivered donations, Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety checked in to make sure that everything was happening peacefully and safely, Kalamazoo County Animal Services & Enforcement stopped by to again offer their support and assistance, SPCA of Southwest Michigan provided onsite vaccines for approximately around 20 dogs and even one cat, Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes provided food and we provided cold water, human treat bags, Animal's Best Friend Fund t-shirts, spay/neuter information and bleach with spray bottles, our friends at Theo & Stacy's Downtown provided ice which was a life saver in this heat. Together, Friday was a success! We will continue to work together to make sure all of the animals belonging to our homeless friends receive vaccinations and spay/neuter services.



The best information regarding Parvo signs and symptoms come directly from your licensed veterinarian!

Please DO NOT get your information from social media!

A link to the American Veterinary Association can be found on our facebook which is a fantastic pet owner resource.

What symptoms does your dog have?

- Fever** (Intestinal Symptom)
- Severe bloody diarrhea** (Intestinal Symptom)
- Stops nursing** (Cardiac Symptom)
- Severe weight loss** (Intestinal Symptom)
- Lethargy & Depression** (Intestinal/Cardiac Symptom)
- Vomiting** (Intestinal Symptom)
- Difficulty breathing or gasping for air** (Cardiac Symptom)
- Lack of appetite & anorexia** (Intestinal Symptom)

Parvo Dog

SPECIAL FACES

Along the way we met some very special dogs.

Meet Spike, he is 10, already neutered but his owner was never able to afford vaccinations. When he heard of the Parvo outbreak he chose to sleep under a tarp draped over his bike outside the encampment area to keep Spike safe instead of going into a dry tent with friends. Since meeting Spike and his owner on Sunday during our initial outreach, we have been able to provide them with food, a tent of their own, clothing and new shoes for Spike's owner, even a bike cart so Spike doesn't have to walk on the hot pavement or keep up with his dad in this heat. The most important thing, we were able to get Spike vaccinated! Spike loves Barrett's smoked beef bones.



Chaos was living right next door to a dog who had to be humanely euthanized on Sunday after a Parvo positive test and rapid decline. He played with her regularly. His owners were distraught at the thought of losing him. Upon talking to them further, they said that they had bought vaccines at Tractor Supply and administered them themselves. After consulting a licensed veterinarian, he was Parvo tested. He was negative! We were then able to safely give him a booster. Because his owner prioritized the health and wellness of their dog, he survived. Without those cheap vaccines from TSC as a tiny puppy, we wouldn't be sharing this happy ending. ABF will be neutering him soon!

Sophia is a senior with a large mass that needs to be examined by a veterinarian and then best course of treatment determined. Prior to the Parvo outbreak, we met Sophia and were working on getting her into the vet. This has become even more of a priority now. If you would like to donate directly towards her care, please make sure that you indicate that on your donation. We will be delivering her and her owner a new bike cart this week so this sweet senior can also have a smooth ride.



Animals Best Friend is an all volunteer animal welfare group dedicated to reducing cat and dog overpopulation in Kalamazoo and Van Buren counties. Donations to Animals Best Friend are tax deductible and can be sent to us at P.O. Box 443, Oshtemo, MI 49077, or made on our website www.animalsbestfriendfund.org. 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 in Kalamazoo and Van Buren counties. Since Animals Best Friend was founded in 1981 we have helped spay/neuter over 61,049 cats and dogs.