

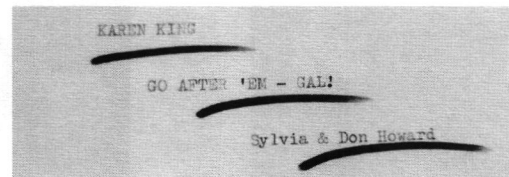
ANIMAL'S BEST FRIEND Fund, Inc.

Prevention Not Destruction Since 1981

IT'S OUR ANNIVERSARY — ANIMAL'S BEST FRIEND IS 40 YEARS OLD!



(Karen with Panther 1981)



Forty years ago a new spay/neuter program was founded for cats and dogs in Kalamazoo County to reduce the number of unwanted kittens and puppies that were being born in our area. Over the years we have worked in Kalamazoo, Van Buren, Cass and Allegan counties as money was available and for the last several years we have limited our neutering services to Kalamazoo and Van Buren counties. About 15 years ago we added a feral cat TNR (trap/neuter/return) program to the services that we provide. Our volunteers go door to door in area trailer parks offering our neutering services to those who need it most, if not for their efforts most of these animals would never see the inside of a veterinary office.

Animals Best Friend was founded because of my concern about the misuse of donations from some of the larger animal groups that I was donating to and we have made it our policy to spend 10% or less of the donations we receive on administrative expenses. This means that at least 90% of your donation funds spay/neuter surgeries in Kalamazoo and Van Buren counties. We have had over 58,000 cats and dogs spayed or neutered since we were founded in 1981. We could not have done this without our donors, volunteers and the veterinary clinics that perform the surgeries.

Our first project for 2021 will be to assist with the spaying and neutering of 30 dogs and 7 cats from Kalamazoo County. This will cost us approximately \$3,000 for the neutering costs alone. Many of these animals have emergency medical needs that have to be addressed as well. If you would like to donate toward this project you can donate on our website www.animalsbestfriendfund.org or by sending a donation to us at P.O. Box 443, Oshtemo, MI 49077. Please tag your check with "Vicksburg Project" in the memo line. A donation of \$40 sponsors the spay or neuter for one cat, \$80 sponsors the spay or neuter for one dog.

P.O. Box 443 • Oshtemo, Michigan 49077 • (269) 624-1090

1980's ... 1990's

Great start in '82

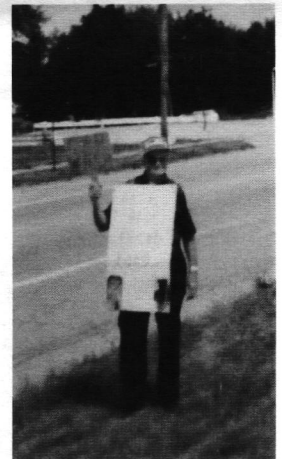
To the Editor:

We at Animal's Best Friend have started off 1982 by having 55 animals neutered during January. We are promoting pet neutering more than ever and are continually looking for new ways to raise money so that we can provide this service. Numerous cat owners have been calling us because their female cats are in heat, and are happy to learn that the cat can be spayed even if she is in heat.

It appears that requests for neutering will be high during the next few months. We hope that those of you who can afford it will help us reach our 1982 goal of neutering 600 animals. If we don't receive this support it is the animals that will suffer: the offspring of animals that are allowed to breed will be put to death at the county's animal control department. Those of you who are concerned about animal overpopulation can send your donations to Animal's Best Friend, 9433 Organdy, Portage, MI 49081. WILSON DOUGLAS, Paw Paw Route 6.

ANIMAL'S BEST FRIEND Fund, Inc.

Since 1981



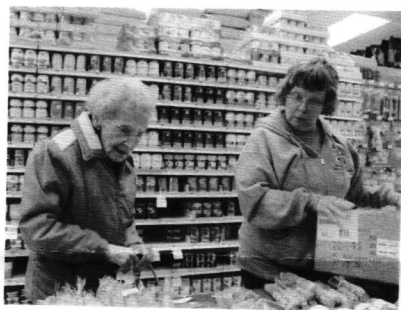
Number of cats/dogs neutered in 2020.....	2,262
Neutering expenses for 2020.....	\$144,458.44
Administrative expenses for 2020.....	\$3,265.12
Donations received in 2020.....	\$118,337.53

The year of 2020 was a challenging year for us as our donations were down and demand for our services was up due to so many people being out of work due to the COVID-19 pandemic and also because of all the litters and puppies that were born due to neutering being deemed unessential and veterinary clinics being unable to perform the surgeries for several months. It is still a challenge to get neutering appointments as the veterinary clinics are still struggling to catch up. Despite the challenges we still managed to have 2,262 cats and dogs spayed or neutered during a year that was like no other.

UPCOMING FUNDRAISING EVENTS

February 13- Our Valentine's bake sale will be held from 9-3 at Pet Supplies Plus Westnedge (across from Meijer in Portage, MI). We need lots of bakers and buyers for this event to help us reach our goal of raising \$1,500 at this sale. Please check our Facebook page a week before the sale to make sure the sale is still on due to ongoing COVID-19 restrictions.

March 12- St. Patrick's bake sale at Pet Supplies Plus Westnedge from 9-3. The information for this sale is the same as our Valentine's sale.



Animal's Best Friend hits a milestone after 36 years

October 28, 2016

Karen King, of Lawton, is proud of herself.

And she should be. The founder of the local non-profit organization, Animal's Best Friend, last week brought in the 50,000th animal to be neutered.

When King and her husband, Bill, started the program in 1981, their intent was to reduce overpopulation of cats and dogs in Van Buren and Kalamazoo counties by spaying and neutering. Over the course of the last 36 years, the Kings have established a core group of volunteers and a long list of veterinarians who help with their efforts.

The organization operates two programs. The first is a subsidized spay/neuter program in which Animal's Best Friend pays \$40 towards spaying and neutering cats, and \$80 towards the same procedures for dogs. The owner will need to pay any additional veterinary clinic costs.

The second program involves trapping feral and free-roaming cats, having them spayed or neutered, and then returning them to their colonies. An added feature of this TNR program is a possible rescue. Cats or kittens that are tameable may be taken by one of the Kings' partner res-

cue groups, if there is room, or fostered by volunteers until a home can be found. There is currently a need for "barn homes" for some of the cats.

King noted that, assisted by their own fundraising and grants from large contributors, like PetSmart, Animal's Best Friend spayed/neutered 2,300 cats and 351 dogs in 2015. "So far this year, we have spayed/neutered 1,503 cats and dogs," she added.

"We contract with 11 veterinary clinics to perform the surgeries for us," she said. Some procedures have been done at reduced or no cost, but not all.

According to the Animal's Best Friend recent newsletter, the organization's spay/neutering costs and other medical expenses for this year total more than \$73,000. Fundraising, which includes bake sales, drives for personal donations and contributions, and grant money, has covered about \$57,300 of those expenses.

For more information on Animal's Best Friend, to volunteer, or to make a donation, visit the ABF website at www.animalsbestfriendfund.org, or call Karen King at (269) 808-0064.



MEMORIAL DONATIONS

We received donations in memory of Richard Gerstner (Sarah's father) from Holly Bishop; Cameron & Sarah Mertel; Christy Winkle; Lindsey Neal; Bill & Karen King; Douglas & Janice Terpstra; Laurie White; Diane Karlis; Local 135-C Recreation & Education Fund.

We received a donation in honor of Sarah Gerstner and in memory of Richard Gerstner from Gwen & Gary Hamilton.

We received a donation in honor of Bill & Karen King from Gene & Vivian Wood.

From

Barbara J. Hughey

Charlie & Betsie Scott

Maggie

From

Teresa Malynowsky-Rakowsky

Michele Cudahy & David DeBack

Karan Finch

Connie Plucienik

In Memory Of

Previous pets now with Angel Wings

Jon Scott

Ruckus

In Honor Of

Marybeth Smith's retirement

Barb DeBack

Donna Ramesh

the Animals Best Friend volunteers

December 31, 2020...ready to take on 2021 and beyond!



SPECIAL RECOGNITION

The following people donated to our feral cat program: Susan Friedlander; Charlene Fleischman; Rita Terpstra; Ben & Claudia Johnson; Linda Yost; Kathy Eckstein.

Thanks to Mike Williams; Kelly Ross-Hoadley; Barb Loney; Mary Johnson for working at our Christmas bake sale. To Peggy Marcelletti; Betsy & Melinda Ryba; Teresa Rakowsky; Phyllis Martens; Lorraine Haring; Diane Karlis; Claudia Johnson; Kelly Ross-Hoadley; and Kathy Slocum for donating baked goods. To Pat Rose for donating crafts. To Gail Ross for donating catnip mice and catnip. To our Pet Supplies Plus Westnedge friends for providing the location for our bake sales. We made \$2,060.47 at our Christmas bake sale.

To Ben & Claudia Johnson and Vonnice Ross for donating postage stamps. To Agrestal Hygienics, LLC for donating the proceeds from the sale of their bar soap.

HOW YOU CAN HELP ANIMALS

Please continue to save Family Fare and D&W receipts for us. We need to collect another \$30,000 in receipts to be eligible for a \$1,000 donation from SpartanNash. The receipts can be sent to us at P.O. Box 443, Oshtemo, MI 49077 or brought to our bake sales.

Gifts of Appreciated Securities can be sent to our account at Sanford Financial at any time of the year, not just transferred to us at the end of the year. Qualified Charitable Distributions from IRA's (if you are over 70 ½ years old). An individual can gift up to \$100,000/year TAX FREE as long as the check is paid directly to Animals Best Friend from the IRA or securities transferred directly into our account.

We need to raise \$2400 to help with the spaying and neutering of a 30 dog project in Kalamazoo County. The person who contacted us about this project is working with the owner of the dogs to get her to surrender some of the dogs and they need to be neutered before going to their new home.

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 59,721 cats and dogs.