

T.A.I.L.S. TALK

A Publication of The Animals' Island League Shelter, Stewards of Grosse Ile Animal Shelter

Shelter Wish List:

- Clay-based kitty litter
- Dog treats
- Liquid laundry detergent
- Bleach & Disinfecting cleaner
- Any canned KITTEN food
- Iams low activity dry cat food

"Volunteer" HELP WANTED

IslandFest Helpers:

- See Page 2 for more information on Game Booth helpers needed!

Newsletter Help:

- Folding & labeling for mailing. (once every 3-4 months.)

Painters:

- The walls of our cat room and utility area need paint. It hasn't been done for years!

Gardeners:

- Weeding and plant care in Stevie's Garden and around "Harry's Tree" (once every couple of weeks.)

Knitters & Crocheters:

- Make 15" square "Snuggles" to be given with cat and puppy adoptions.

If you can help us with any of these needs, please call the Shelter, 692-9688, and leave a message for Sandy.

Thank you!

TOUGH DECISIONS

By Lora Schaller, Animal Control Officer

The decisions we make for our animals are often difficult ones. Sometimes they have to be made with our heads, not with our hearts. Two different but difficult decisions made recently will show you what I mean.

A little over a year ago, a very funny and friendly black Great Dane named Trace came to our shelter. He was rescued from a very bad situation and was very much under weight and in poor condition. After about a week at the shelter, I realized that Danes are not for everyone and decided to look for a contact at Great Dane Rescue to help us. I knew of only one family on Grosse Ile who had a great dane and stopped by their house one day to see if they knew anyone at Dane Rescue.

I was taken back when the man I spoke to became very emotional as I told him the story of Trace. Then he told me why he was upset; that very day would have been their Dane's birthday but they recently had to put him to sleep. I felt very bad; I really did not know they had lost their dog. Well, as you can guess, about two weeks later Trace joined their family! Over the year, they changed vacation plans to include him, fattened him up, went to obedience school so they could walk the new 145 pound sweetie without pulling out their shoulders and loved him dearly.

About two months ago, they noticed him limping on his front leg. Shortly after that he was diagnosed with bone cancer. Only a year after adopting him, they had to make the heart breaking decision to end his life when he began to suffer. When I was called and told it was the right time, I found Trace laying in the living room of their home, on pillows and blankets, with toys all around. They had been hand feeding him so he would not have to stand on his enlarged front leg.

Their lives had been very much committed to him but they knew when to let him go. They say they were blessed to have him. I say he was blessed to have found them.

If you have ever stopped by the shelter, you may have met our mascot and friend Flip, a too fat gray tabby cat that came to us as a five-week-old kitten with a severely broken leg. He had been thrown out of a moving car and rescued from the side of the road by someone who could not have lived with herself if she would have driven by. When she called, I told her that I was not sure we could do anything, but to bring him in. She arrived about four hours later with the kitten and a donation...money which she had collected from just about everyone at her office to help with the kitten's medical bills.

The kitten was just an ordinary kitten, nothing special in most people's eyes. I looked at him and knew that was not the case. We had lost our beloved blind shelter cat Stevie and, for some reason, I knew this kitten needed us. He had no name but he was repaired by surgery and quickly became our little Flip, because he had been flipped out of a car window and now flipped over every time he tried to walk because of his cast. His limp never stopped him and he grew up to be a very silly fat boy who then flipped over for belly rubs.

He became my buddy at work, invaded all my office space and ran the attic for fun but I knew in my heart he deserved a real home. Flip loved the kids who came to the shelter and enjoyed going with me to career day at the schools. When an 11-year-old girl "flipped" for him, I let him go. He now has a family and even a cat friend. It was a very hard thing for me to do, but I knew it was the best for him.

We often have to break our own hearts to do what is right for our beloved animal friends.

Grosse Ile Animal Shelter

Located on Centennial Farm, 3rd & Bellevue, Grosse Ile, MI, 48138

734-692-9688 (e-mail: acoschaller@hotmail.com)

Open Monday-Friday, 10-11 AM & 2-3 PM, Saturdays 10 AM-2 PM or by appointment

Visit our website at www.grosseileanimalshelter.com.

HAPPY ENDINGS!



"That's the way, (un huh, uh huh) I like it."

"ROSCOE"

Adopted by Bill & Nancy Stanto



"Okay, I'll share - but not with anything that bites!"

"LEONARDO"

Adopted by the Cote's.



"Mine, mine, mine...it's all mine!"

"SABRINA"

Adopted by the Richard's.



"Princess of the Pillows"

"HOBBS" (Frosty)

Adopted by the VanBrimmer's.

Did you adopt a pet from Grosse Ile Animal Shelter? We'd love to hear from you. Send letters and pictures to:
Grosse Ile Animal Shelter
25799 Third Street
Grosse Ile MI, 48138 or
E-mail acoschaller@hotmail.com

Thank You For your Support...

For the homeless animals, from...

Barbara Brough
Jeffrey & Roberta Carevic
Debra Corless
The Haener-Maghran Family
Doug & Jodi Hura
Keith & Valerie Johnson
David & Linda Johns
Leona Lorenz
Ray & Elizabeth Mahalak
Mrs. Marcus
Chris Maytner
Anne Moise
Jessica Ann Mullins
David O'Donnell
Pauline Ouellette
Roger St. Culver
Bob & Dottie Wendell

IslandFest Helpers Needed For Children's Game Booths

Can you spare 2 hours?

We need helpers to fill 2-hour shifts throughout Friday evening, Saturday & Sunday.

Contact Gail Jones at 671-5661 or gbjones@Comcast.net to get the time slot you want!

Sign-up sheets are also at the Shelter.

Proceeds from the games we operate will benefit T.A.I.L.S. and Grosse Ile Animal Shelter.



"Wumpus" Schaller



"R.J." Hinson

Christmas Past!

Many of our special friends returned last December to have their pictures taken with Santa and to thank him for granting their Christmas wish for... a new home!

Thanks to all who helped with our "Pictures with Santa" and "Christmas Open House." And, a *very special thanks* to our Santas -- Jim Benson, George Voulemenous and Lora Schaller. It was another great day for the animals of Grosse Ile.



"Chippy" Gratz



"Bruno" & "Snoopy" Clinton

T.A.I.L.S. Gift Shop

All Items Available at the Shelter!

T-SHIRTS & SWEATSHIRTS



In Gray with blue lettering or Navy with white lettering.
Sizes S - XXL
T-shirts - \$10
Sweatshirts - \$20

New Items!



Homemade Dog & Cat Treats in Etched Glass Containers \$6-\$10



"Bless the Beasts..." Chef or Gardner Aprons \$12-\$20

ANIMAL ADVICE

Lora Schaller, Animal Control Officer

E-mail: acoschaller@hotmail.com

One of the most important things your donations do for the shelter is to allow us to test all cats coming into the shelter for FeLV (Feline Leukemia) and FIV (Feline Immunodeficiency Virus).

In 2001, we had five stray cats test positive for FIV. Compared to the number of strays we have taken in, that number may seem small. As animal control officer, I know that this number is actually an indicator that FIV is very much a concern on Grosse Ile.

There is no vaccine for FIV. Many strays are never turned in and tested. We also have no way of guessing how many of the feral (wild) cats are carriers. The virus is spread blood to blood, therefore; it can be spread not only by mating, re-enforcing the need to spay/neuter, but also by cat play biting.

Please keep your cats indoors. They do not need to be outside. Roaming cats are a violation of township ordinance, but my concern is more for their well being and good health.

Raven and her Puppies!

Raven arrived as a stray at our shelter at the beginning of April. On April 11th she gave birth to eight adorable puppies. Mother and pups are a Black Lab mix and will be available for adoption around June 10th (call for more information.) Until then, they'll be spoiled with lots of love and kisses from Shelter staff and visitors!



Shane, Melissa and Lora help Raven and her eight 4-week old puppies pose for their first official family portrait.

What is Feline AIDS?

By Helena Woodward-Ryan, DVM

Island Animal Clinic

This is a disease caused by a virus very similar to HIV or the AIDS virus found in humans. There has not been a vaccine formulated to prevent this infection in cats. There is no successful treatment for cats that have this disease. We do know how to prevent this fatal disease from infecting our cats.

The FIV virus is very similar to the HIV virus but is not identical to it. The FIV virus does not infect humans. There is no danger that a person could catch AIDS from a cat or vice versa.

There is a reliable blood test that a veterinarian can perform to see if a cat is infected with FIV. A cat that is "FIV positive" may not become sick for months or years. When a cat does develop illness, the body's natural defense against disease is broken down. No one specific symptom is typical. We can do our best to control the other infections these cats may acquire but we cannot cure them of the FIV infection. It is fatal.

The FIV virus only affects cats. A cat catches the virus through contact with another cat that is infected. The FIV virus cannot survive outside of a cat's body so it cannot be transmitted through the air or on a person's hands or clothing.

The most common method of transmission of the FIV virus from cat to cat is through a bite wound. Mother cats that are infected can transmit the virus to their kittens but not through the uterus. The transmission probably occurs during nursing. The majority of kittens nursing from FIV positive mothers do not get the disease. Once a cat is infected with FIV it remains infected for the rest of its life. Two unusual and confusing situations occur. If a kitten is born to an FIV positive mother, the antibodies from the mother may be detectable even though the kitten is not infected. So, a positive FIV test in a kitten must be interpreted carefully. The second situation is when a very recently infected cat is tested for FIV and is negative; the cat may not have yet developed the antibodies to the FIV virus. It takes a few weeks for a cat to develop antibodies to the FIV virus once infected. In either case, another test run several weeks later will clear the confusion.

To prevent FIV infections, test any new kitten or cat before bringing it home. Try to keep stray cats away from your cat. Stray cats can carry FIV.

Meet the Volunteers:

Elsbeth Kerr is one of the regular Tuesday and Thursday crew. She loves cats and makes sure that everyone in the cat room is well taken care of. She has two feline friends of her own - Max and Zoe.



Bob Buckley is at the Shelter many afternoons walking one of the dogs or enticing a cat to play. But, Bob's greatest contribution to our Shelter is as our Webmaster. He designed and maintains our site through his own company, 808 Design.

72% of pet owners say that they first greet their pet when they return home:
13% greet their spouse or significant other first..

American Animal Hospital Assoc. Survey



T.A.I.L.S.
P.O. Box 396
Grosse Ile, MI 48138



Address Correction Requested

Grosse Ile Animal Shelter Spring Open House

Saturday, May 18th

10 am to 2 pm

Raffles

Meet Raven and her Puppies!

The Grosse Ile Herb Society
will be sponsoring a

Herb Plant Sale

English Garden Display,
Herbal Tastings,
Bake Goods Sale,
Herbal Garden Gifts,
Children's Garden Events,
and More.

Fabulous Felines
Available for
Adoption!

T.A.I.L.S.
Gift Shop

University of Findlay
Equestrian Center
Open House

Fun for the Entire Family