

T.A.I.L.S. TALK

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

Shelter Wish List:

- * Iams dry cat food
- * Any canned KITTEN food
- * Clay-based kitty litter
- * Liquid laundry detergent
- * Bleach & Disinfecting cleaner
- * Paper Towels
- * Plastic Grocery Bags
- * Tabletop water fountain

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

Weekly:

Afternoon volunteers to spend time with the cats (cuddling, brushing, playing with them.)

Quarterly:

Helper - newsletterfolding/labeling.

One-Time:

Crafter or seamstress to make hammocks for the cat cages.

Painter to wirebrush and spray paint some of the cat cages.

Knitters and Crocheters to make Snuggles for the cats (see page 3).

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



Shelter Celebrates 3rd Anniversary of New Facility

Three years ago, in December 1997, Grosse Ile Animal Shelter opened the doors to its new facility at Centennial Farm. The first Christmas Open House was a result of the vision, planning, and financial resources of both T.A.I.L.S. and Grosse Ile Township. They successfully took an old building that once housed horses and converted it to a modern and much needed shelter for the homeless animals of the community.

The new facility was a tremendous improvement over the building that had been shared with the Trenton/Woodhaven shelter, located on South Jefferson in Trenton. The new Grosse Ile Animal Shelter boasted eight individual dog kennels instead of one common "bullpen," and almost limitless cages for cats compared to the six cages at the old shelter.

Adoptions from the new shelter quickly outnumbered adoptions from the old shelter by at least 10 to 1. The first dog to be adopted from the new Shelter was a Brittany Spaniel named Max who went to live in Southgate. He was followed by the first cat, a Siamese named Silver, who went off to reside in Lincoln Park. And, adoptions have been increasing with each passing year. In 1999, there were 245 pet adoptions. For this year, that number was passed up by the beginning of November.

A variety of animals have been housed at the Shelter over the past 3 years, including rabbits, hamsters, gerbils, ducks, finches, congers, and cockatiels. However, the usual residents are dogs and cats. The dog kennels have never been filled up but came close with 7 dogs one week; the average 1-2. The cat room had 34 cats one week in September but has seen as few as 2, although it usually averages a dozen.

Each year, through the generosity of our supporters and the Township of Grosse Ile, improvements have been made to the Shelter. Two years ago, outside dog kennels were built and a cat-walk was added around the perimeter of the cat room. Last year, the cat room and laundry room floors were tiled. This year, we have added an outdoor storage shed and a new gravel parking area as well as Stevie's Garden.

As the Shelter has grown, our needs have grown and our dreams of improvements for the next few years are on a larger scale. We hope to expand our small animal area by finishing the attic of the Shelter into a useable, heated room.

A vestibule at the front door would act as a second barrier to animals anxious to get outdoors as well as provide protection from the weather. And, the cats have told us they would love a screened in outdoor patio!

Thanks to you, the members and friends of T.A.I.L.S. and the Grosse Ile Animal Shelter, we are fast becoming one of the finest shelter facilities in the Downriver area.




CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

*Grosse Ile
Animal Shelter*

Saturday, Dec. 2nd

**Visit loving
dogs & cats
in need of homes
for Christmas.**

Refreshments and
festivities from
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Grosse Ile Animal Shelter

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

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

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

Happy Endings!



LOUIS was adopted by Ilene Bray of Wyandotte. She writes that he loves his new kitten friend and is best friends with a collie and a lab.



PEANUT BUTTER is happily living with Christie of Newport.



LUCY was kindly taken by Wyandotte Animal Group who was able to place her in a foster home prior to adoption.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT:

I have said this many times yet I feel the need to share this revelation again: the homeless animals on Grosse Ile are by far some of the luckiest animals alive. I realize that being homeless never equates to being lucky, however, this is a special situation. The animals that so wearily enter the doors of the Animal Shelter are loved, supported and cared for like no other place in the world. The tireless efforts of our wonderful volunteers and your continued support help keep the homeless animals of Grosse Ile warm, happy, and full-bellied as they await their new homes.



Most organizations at this time of year must have to remind their members of the cold weather upon us and to keep their furry friends in mind. I do not, however, have to ask you to remember the animals at this time of year because you always do. Not only do you remember them now but, you think of them often all year round. It is in part because of this, and because of the great volunteers, that our animals at the Shelter can have visions of catnip and rawhides dancing in their heads.

So, from all of us at T.A.I.L.S., thank you for all you do. The animals thank you, too, for they realize that it is because of you that they are so lucky.

Kurt M. Kobiljak, Esq.

T.A.I.L.S. Board of Directors President

P.S. Don't forget to visit the Shelter on December 2, 2000, for our annual Open House.

T.A.I.L.S. Trot & Harvest Day Success Stories

Another beautiful day of sunshine and canines blessed us this past October 14th for our annual T.A.I.L.S. Trot. About 20 dogs showed up and were kind enough to bring their humans on leashes. They enthusiastically trotted around the course and helped raise money for their buddies inside the Shelter anxiously awaiting to adopt humans. Many thanks to everyone who participated and to Kurt & Kris Kobiljak for organizing this event once again.

Also helping to raise money for our furry friends was Super Volunteer Gail Jones with her many fundraising games, bake sale, and pumpkin painting as part of the Harvest Day events. All the dogs are curious to know when this wonderful human has time to sleep but they're happy she is so good to them. Thanks Gail.

The very best part of the day...the part that T.A.I.L.S. exists for...was the adoption of 4 cats and 2 dogs from our shelter!

We look forward to our next Trot and hope it is just as successful. Again, many thanks to everyone who came out to lend a hand for the shelter. Your time, talents, and financial support are greatly appreciated by all the residents of Grosse Ile Animal Shelter.

Thank You for your Support...

For the homeless animals, from...

Colleen Brainard
Mary Ann Fleming
Marian Chown
Deanna Ferguson
Kelly & Michael Boleski
Ellen Laurain
Michael Dudek
Lynnete Adkins
Amy Golan
Chris Melody
Jody Finazzo
The Carroll Family

Special thanks to...

Pet-N-On-The-Ritz for grooming services
W.A.G. for their help to find Lucy a foster home
Robert & Pat Taylor for painting in the kennel and lobby areas
Debra Luka for sewing kitty blankets

T.A.I.L.S. Founder's Society

The second set of Founder's Society plaques has been hung in the lobby of the Shelter. Our thanks to:

*Chris & Frank Mayther
Carol Quinsey
Burton & Barbara Matthews
Sam & Pam Piunti
John & Sue Engler
Roman & Sally Cibirica
Kurt & Maureen Korneffel
Gayle Mitchell
Leslie & Patricia Neal*

You can become a member of the Founder's Society on behalf of your beloved cat or dog for \$250. Please contact Kurt Kobiljak for more information.

It's License Time!

**Grosse Ile Township
Licenses for
Dogs, Cats & Ferrets**

From Dec. 1st - Jan. 31st:
\$6 for pets spayed/neutered
\$12 for pets not spayed/neutered

After Jan. 31st:
\$12 for pets spayed/neutered
\$24 for pets not spayed/neutered

Available from the Township Treasurer's Office. Please provide proof of current rabies vaccination and spay/neuter surgery.

ANIMAL ADVICE

Lora Schaller, Animal Control Officer
e-mail: acoschaller@hotmail.com



Why do we have pets? The question seems easy to answer by those of us who love them like family members.

Our lives would be empty

without them. At my house, my family consists of my sweet and funny daughter, Gwen, our silly and crazy brittany spaniel, Penny, our way-too-fat cat, Mickey, and the notorious cat, Wolfie (a.k.a. "The Wolf" on one of his good days!) We have also had Mr. Squeeks (the mouse that bites,) Smokey and Lucky the hamsters, our share of fish (all named but since "flushed,") and, our sweet dog, Shy Girl, who could never overcome her past and had to be put to sleep for biting.

Mickey, the fat cat, was a ten-day old, hand-raised orphan and has no cat manners. He bites you when he want to be loved and will follow you across the room at your calf. He was so mean in his first year, he had to be lifted with gloves and put in time out!

Penny joined us next. Housebreaking went slowly. She cried in her kennel for weeks at night until I surrendered and let her sleep in bed with me. She "talks" too much (the neighbor complained about her barking,) can never decide if she wants in or wants out (sometimes 2-3 times a night,) and has been know to raid the trash can.

Wolfie was my friend's cat. He came to stay with us while my friend was recovering from cancer. In her recovery, she made a deal with daughter; Gwen would own the front half and I would own the back half. So, Gwen feeds him...I clean the litter box. That was four years ago...Wolfie never left.

We have our share of hairballs (stepped on, of course, in bare feet,) pet hair on anything it can stick to, litter box problems (we have 7 boxes but not to worry... the dog cleans them for us,) and animal surgeries (Mickey swallowed a needle, Penny has tumors.) We also have 2 A.M. cat wrestling, trimming of hamster teeth that don't line up and grow like wooly mammoth tusks and, the ever popular poop-scooping in the back yard. I could continue to list the "problems" that pets bring to us. We all know what they are ...

But, when Penny is looking out the window, waiting for us to come home and then tell us everything the boys did while we were away, and Wolfie gently reaches out his paw to touch my face as I drink my morning coffee, and Mickey purrs so loudly on my lap that I can't hear the TV, the answer is simple...our lives would be empty without them.

Pets take our time, our tolerance, our patience, our money and, most importantly, our love. Please see through the problems and accept the benefits. You will not regret one "pet" pat when they are no longer with you.

Meet the Volunteers:



ROBIN BENSON has been helping out with dogs and cats for the last 2 years; her specialty seems to be kittens! Robin has a great dog named Boomer and lots of kitties, including Gloves and Mittens who were born behind Krogers and rescued by Robin.



DOTTIE WENDELL has also been here for about 2 years. She has adopted her pet friends, Taco the dog and Kit the cat from our shelter. She and her husband often share Sunday morning duty at the Shelter in addition to her regular Tuesday shift.

T.A.I.L.S. T-SHIRTS & SWEATSHIRTS

GREAT
GIFT!



T.A.I.L.S. logo on Sleeve.
In Sizes M, L, XL

T-shirts - \$10
Sweatshirts - \$20

Available at the Shelter.

Still Waiting... for a Happy Ending



CUBBY



LADYBUG



CHIP



KATIE



P.T. CRUISER and his buddy, MIKE

What is a Snuggie?

Snugglies, also known as Purr-pads, are mini-afghans made for all the cats & kittens that come to our shelter. We also include a Snuggie in the adoption kit for each cat. If you knit or crochet and have a little time (or know someone who does,) we need your help making these.



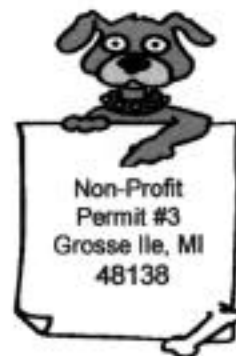
Shadow enjoys her Snuggie.

A Snuggie measures roughly 12" x 18", is thick enough for snuggling, and can be laundered. Any favorite pattern can be used in making these. A simple way is to use 3/4" knitting needles, 4 strands of yarn and a box pattern — k4, p4 for 4 rows then reverse to p4, k4. Finish with a single crochet around the edges. Any color(s) of yarn are gratefully accepted. Please stop by the Shelter to see a Snuggie and if you can help, please call Sandy at the Shelter.



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

Address Correction Requested



CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE
Sat., December 2nd

Please send any name or address corrections to Grosse Ile Animal Shelter, 25799 Third St., Grosse Ile, MI., 48138

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CARD SALE

Choose one or all — \$12/box
(12 cards per box)

Cards available at the Shelter or call Kurt, 675-6288.



It's a wonderful life!
Happy Holidays



Have a Merry
Little Christmas!



'Tis the season!
Happy Holidays