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SOS Animal Rescue Newsletter • Volume 06, Issue 1 • January 15, 2006

Richard L. Pagel Leaves Legacy

A friend to the animals, Mr. Richard L. Pagel passed away on November 27. His wife, Jody, wrote that they were “both dog lovers and interested in helping those without the loving homes our two Golden Retrievers have.” Mr. Pagel’s family asked that his friends consider SOS Animal Rescue as a memorial, and we have received almost \$600 from his very generous friends. We extend a very warm thank you to the Pagel family and their friends.

Pet Night with Santa

Each year the Midland Mall allows pet owners to have their cat’s or dog’s picture with Santa Claus each Sunday through the holiday season. At the same time, SOS Animal Rescue is there to take any donations, such as pet supplies, pet food, or money, and to meet and greet all of the pets waiting to have their holiday pictures with Santa.

SOS Animal Rescue would like to thank all of you who visited us at the mall for this event that occurred on December 4, 11, and 18. We also thank you for the pet supply and food donations, along with the monetary donations. We hope you had a chance to take any of our free educational brochures and enter in our gift basket drawings. The following individuals were the winners of our cat and dog gift baskets. Congratulations to Paula Jurado, winner of the cat gift basket, and Joan Monahan, winner of the dog gift basket. Remember to visit us next year at the Midland Mall for Pet Night with Santa Event.



Quarterly Fun Facts

January 14 is National Dress Up Your Pet Day and January 29 is Seeing Eye Guide Dog Birthday (1929). February is Responsible Pet Owners Month and National Cat Health Month. February 15 is the birthday of Clifford the Big Red Dog (1963), February 21 is Love Your Pet Day, and February 23 is International Dog Biscuit Appreciation Day. March 2 is Cat in the Hat Day and Dr. Seuss’s Birthday (1904).

SOS EVENTS

Monday, January 16
5:45 p.m.

Monthly SOS Meeting
Conference Room B at the Grace
A. Dow Library

Saturday, January 7
Saturday, January 21
Noon – 3:00 p.m.

Adopt-A-Thon at Petco

Saturday, January 28
(10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.)
for our booth)

Kid’s Day at Midland Mall

Saturday, February 4
Noon – 3:00 p.m.

Adopt-A-Thon at Petco

Monday, February 13
5:45 p.m.

Monthly SOS Meeting
Conference Room B at the Grace
A. Dow Library

Saturday, February 18
Noon – 3:00 p.m.

Adopt-A-Thon at Petco

Saturday, March 4
Noon – 3:00 p.m.

Adopt-A-Thon at Petco

Monday, March 13
5:45 p.m.

Monthly SOS Meeting
Conference Room B at the Grace
A. Dow Library

Saturday, March 18
Noon – 3:00 p.m.

Adopt-A-Thon at Petco

THANK YOU!

Pet Photo Night at Soldan's

We would like to thank Soldan's for hosting our pet photo night in November. We raised some money, had a lot of fun, and took great pictures. Check our website for our next pet photo night, which will be in the spring. Special thanks go to Norman (dressed as a pig) and Chloe (dressed as Mae West) for providing extra fun that night.



Giving Tree at Soldan's

During November and December, Soldan's allowed us to set up a Giving Tree in their store. The Giving Tree was a program similar to the sharing tree program in Midland; however, the focus was on dogs and cats in need.

The program was a huge success and we would like to thank everyone who donated items. We received much-needed cat and dog food, kitty litter, food bowls, treats, and gift certificates to Soldan's and Vet Med. We are grateful to the generous donors for these items. We especially want to thank Soldan's for allowing us to set up the tree in their store.

Petco

Petco donated \$521 for their "Round Up/Spay Today" fund-raiser.

Marsha Bradley

Thank you, Marsha Bradley, for donating a gift of money.

LB and Omni

SOS Animal Rescue would like to thank the employees of LB and Omni for their generous donation of 625 pounds of cat and dog food. It will be put to good use helping pets in need. This is the largest food donation the rescue has ever received, and we deeply appreciate their generosity.

Debra Saide

Thank you, Debra Saide, for donating a gift of money in memory of Isabel Orwig.

Brownie Troop 385

Brownie Troop 385 from Plymouth Elementary generously donated food and other items to our rescue group. There are many pets in need and the donation will go toward giving them a better life.

THANK YOU!

Ms. Hower's Class

We received a generous donation of food, toys, litter, etc. from Ms. Hower's class at Eastlawn Elementary School.

George C. & Melanie Rae Zimmerman

During the pet photo night at Independence Village, George C. and Melanie Rae Zimmerman donated a gift of money.

Independence Village

Thank you, residents and staff of Independence Village, for hosting pet photos with Santa and donating the proceeds to us.

SOS Success Story: Bentley Meets Sosumi

by Mary Watts

On April 7, SOS received a call from a woman who rescued a small, eight-week-old kitten she found on the road. The woman could not keep the kitten due to severe allergies. I already had several foster cats and kittens, but what was one more, I thought, so I took her in.

The rescuer made a donation to the veterinarian for some preliminary veterinary work, and we discovered this tiny eight-week-old kitten was actually six months old. She had all her adult teeth, she was skin and bone, and she had a bent neck which caused her to walk in circles. The bent neck could have resulted from a birth defect, or perhaps she was thrown when she was young and survived the injury. (Unfortunately, it is not uncommon for people to get rid of kittens by throwing them in hopes of killing them.)

I took her in and had to keep her in a small area until she learned to eat and use a litter box. Somehow this little girl weighing 1.6 pounds had a will to survive for six months in the wild. By her second veterinarian appointment, she weighed 2.2 pounds. When so many healthy kittens are available, I wondered why I was wasting my time on this handicapped kitten. She got plenty of tender loving care and special food.

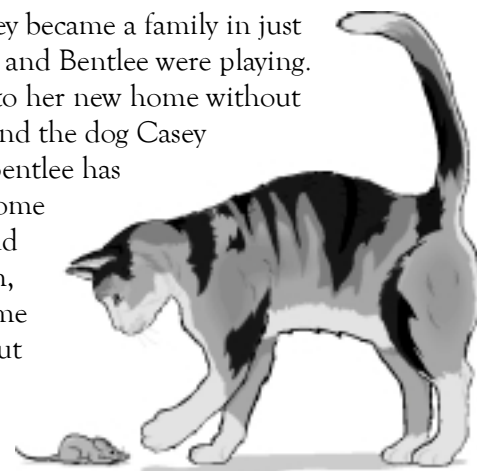
By her third appointment two months later, she weighed only 2.6 pounds. There was something special to me about this little girl, now named Bentley (for her bent neck), that made me work with her to survive.

After five months, she weighed four pounds, and the veterinarian was able to spay her. By now Bentley had

been playing with the other cats and dogs at my house. There were times she galloped through the house as if she were screaming "I survived!". She loved to be held like a baby in my arms and have her head rubbed. If she couldn't find me, she would cry - not meow like a normal cat - so I would come looking for her. She had some cute things about her, but I was thinking about who would adopt Bentley.

After her photograph and information were posted on the SOS website, she didn't receive any inquiries. Then at SOS's annual dog walk, one of our supporters asked about Bentley. This woman had adopted Sosumi (a.k.a. Yasmine) last year and felt that the cat needed a playmate. (Our January 2004 newsletter featured a story on Yasmine/Sosumi and her limp leg). The adopter recognized that not everyone is going to adopt handicapped animals but that they deserve a chance too, so she was considering adopting Bentley.

After meeting, they became a family in just 24 hours. Sosumi and Bentley were playing. Bentley adjusted to her new home without any difficulties. And the dog Casey fits right in too. Bentley has found a forever home with playmates and a loving new mom, who laughs with me when we talk about Bentley's funny traits that make her so unique.





Freeland Middle School Food Drive Nets Generous Donations

Freeland Middle School held a food drive, and Mr. Schwedler's/ Mr. Hileman's homeroom and Ms. Phillips/Ms. Spalding's homeroom sponsored SOS Animal Rescue. (Students are pictured at left). Together they donated six bags of dog food, ten small bags of cat food, ten cans of dog food, ten cans of cat food, ten boxes of dog treats, three bags of cat treats, several dog and cat toys, a jug of kitty litter, flea products, a ream of computer paper, several blankets for use in crates, and a \$100 gift certificate for Soldan's.

Midland County Spay Neuter Program

In February 2004, SOS Animal Rescue launched the Midland County spay/neuter program in order to take on the task of reducing the number of euthanized dogs and cats in Midland County. Despite these efforts to prevent unwanted litters of puppies and kittens, over 1600 animals were euthanized at Midland County Animal Control this year.

The program offers a voucher to help off-set the cost of sterilization and is intended to service limited income homes, senior citizens on a fixed income, and other hardship cases. Spaying and neutering all pets is an integral part of any effort aimed at reducing the number of animals destroyed each year. Our program provides assistance to owners who cannot take this important step due to lack of funds.

We need financial assistance to continue the program and are asking the community for support. If you would like to donate to the Midland County spay neuter program, fill out the contribution card below. Please join us and by making a tax-deductible donation and be a part of the solution.

Spay/Neuter statistics for January through November 2005 are 67 female cats, 47 male cats, 22 female dogs, and 14 male dogs.

**THANK YOU FOR
DONATING TO THE
SPAY/NEUTER
PROGRAM!**

**Consumers Energy
in honor of
Stephanie Nearman's
volunteer efforts**

Deb Lambesis

Ardith Arbury

Herbert and Junia Doan

**Friends of
John & Mary Watts
(Enjoy your retirement!)**

Express Mart

Midland County Spay Neuter Program

Contribution Card

Name _____

Address _____

City, State ZIP _____

Contribution Amount \$ _____

Please make check payable to
Midland County Spay Neuter Program
P.O. Box 2323
Midland, MI 48641-2323

This is gift in honor of _____

This is gift in memory of _____

Please notify the following of this honor/memory gift:

Name _____

Address _____

City, State ZIP _____

Foods Your Dog Shouldn't Eat

from www.pedigree.com

Dogs chew almost anything. Hey, if it's on the floor, it's fair game, right? Unfortunately, certain foods and everyday substances that are perfectly fine for people can be toxic for dogs. Even a small quantity of the following substances can put your dog's health at risk.

- Alcoholic beverages. Because alcohol can be fatal to dogs, no amount of alcoholic beverage is safe. Yes, even beer is off limits.
 - Chocolate is toxic to canines. The darker the chocolate, the more harmful. The methylxanthines (caffeine and theobromine) in chocolate can cause a dog to vomit, have diarrhea, experience rapid, irregular heart beat, have increased urination, and experience muscle tremors and seizures. The effects can be serious. Death from chocolate toxicity can occur within 24 hours.
 - Coffee, tea, and cola are people food. They contain caffeine, a methylxanthine also found in chocolate. The signs of toxicity include rapid heart beat, hyperexcitability, tremors, and seizures.
 - Macadamia nuts can temporarily cause muscle weakness, often in the hind legs. Other signs include vomiting, fever, and abdominal
- pain. The mechanism of the toxicity is unknown. Affected dogs recover with no treatment and no long-term effects.
- Onions and garlic have a chemical that damages red blood cells in dogs and can cause anemia. Even one small whole onion can cause death. So be particularly careful when disposing of left-overs that contain a significant amount of onions, such as pizza or Chinese take-out. The small amounts of onion and garlic powder used in pet foods are safe and well below the toxic levels.
 - Raisins and grapes seem like fun toys to a dog. But they can cause vomiting, diarrhea, and kidney failure. The minimum safe amount is not known, so keep these foods well out of reach of curious muzzles.
 - Sugarless gums and candies are certainly sweet, but the sugar substitute xylitol can cause a rapid drop in your dog's blood sugar.
 - Moldy or spoiled food and garbage should stay safely in the trash. They can contain multiple toxins causing vomiting, diarrhea, and damage to internal organs.
- Yeast dough, like the kind used in making bread or desserts, is designed to expand. If swallowed by an unsuspecting canine, it can expand and produce gas in the digestive system, causing pain and possibly rupture of the stomach or intestines.
 - Medications such as Ibuprofen, Tylenol, and Naproxen may give you some relief, but painkillers and other common medications can be deadly to your dog. Keep all prescription and over-the-counter drugs - including painkillers, anti-inflammatory drugs, cold medicines, diet pills, antidepressants, anti-cancer drugs, and vitamins - in closed cabinets out of your pets' reach. Never give your dog medication unless directed by a vet.
 - Plants are pretty but possibly deadly for your dog. Many common yard and houseplants can be poisonous, including lily, daffodil, oleander, rhododendron, azalea, yew, foxglove, rhubarb leaves, and cycads.

According to the ASPCA, thousands of dogs needlessly suffer (and many die) each year by ingesting these common household foods and substances. If you suspect that your pet has eaten any of them, seek emergency help right away.

Shop from Home

Do you enjoy shopping on the internet? Would you like SOS Animal Rescue to benefit from your shopping? If so, check out www.igive.com. Choose from many online stores to shop at, and a portion of your purchases will go to your favorite cause. All you have to do is sign up and name SOS Animal Rescue as your favorite cause.

Pet Food Cookbook

SOS Animal Rescue has compiled a cookbook filled with yummy recipes for feeding your cat, dog, bird, and gerbil/hamster. Pet health tips are also included. Proceeds from the sale of this \$5.00 cookbook benefit our group. Stop by any of our regular events and pick one up for your favorite furry companion. They make great gifts.



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Officers

Heather Kettelhohn, President
Joann Taylor, Vice President
Darlene Andrews, Secretary
Carol Arnosky, Treasurer

Mission Statement

SOS Animal Rescue is a non-profit
501(c)3 organization whose mission is
to reduce the number of unwanted pets
in Midland County through placement
and public education.

Board of Directors

Lis Larsen
Stephanie Nearman
Shelly Park

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS!



MIDLAND ANIMAL CLINIC