



It was a desperate situation; a laboratory closing at a college, with 100 lab animals needing homes or facing euthanasia. Although the Humane Society of South Central Michigan mostly houses dogs and cats, when the call came in, we knew we needed to help.

Degus, rodents native to Chile, are ideally suited as research animals. They are active during the day, and very smart. Degus also make good pets.

The initial request for assistance came on a Sunday. First thing Monday morning, we put the word out to our animal welfare network - who would be able to help us find homes for up to 100 degus? We didn't know a lot of the details, including how many we'd receive, if they would come in temporary cages, if they would come with supplies, or even when they would be arriving at our facility. Even without knowing all the details, phone calls started to come in by the dozens. Everyone wanted to help our Project: Degu Find-A-

Home! We received calls from all over - locally, regionally and we even received inquiries from California and Vermont.

The degus were delivered to our facility on Thursday. They arrived in cages slightly larger than shoe boxes, with multiple degus in each cage. They

were frightened, but certainly a car ride and a new environment with unusual smells and noises didn't help calm them down. We knew there would be an adjustment period for these degus in their new homes.

Ultimately, the Humane Society only received 32 degus - six males and 26 females. We received so many offers of assistance, we could have easily placed 200 degus! However, the rest of the original 100 lab animals were sent to another university to continue their work as research animals.

We've been happy to receive updates on our 32 degus, including their progress in their new homes. As we expected, it took some time for the degus to become comfortable in their new environment.

Robin took two of our male degus home. She had previously had two degus, but one had

recently passed away and the other was quite lonely. She writes, "Walt and Pepper are now happily at home in a 4-story degu house. Life in a tiny crowded cage was all they had ever known and adjusting to life outside the lab was difficult for them. Active and social in their native environment, Degus require lots of room to run, climb and interact with other degus. At first, Walt and Pepper didn't know how to do much of anything degus do, like take dust baths (an essential social event for degus), climb tree branches, build nests or run in a wheel. They didn't even like to eat raisins, a degu delicacy! Mostly, they hid for the first few days looking very stressed and frightened. Walt had the hardest time adjusting. He was listless and didn't eat for two days. I was very worried he wouldn't survive - until he discovered fresh hay. That was the turning point for Walt. He loves hay and has added carrots



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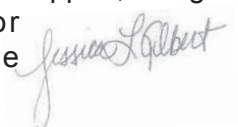
- All animal photos by
Ray Closson -

This past summer was quite busy at the Humane Society! We had a large number of adoptions, but we had an even greater number of kittens and puppies for which we needed to provide care. Our summer classes were full, and we were able to offer multiple sessions of both Puppy Kindergarten and Dog Obedience Classes. We also started our exciting Community Education Program, with dog and cat CPR/First Aid classes offered.

This summer was also full of challenges, from our broken front door to Project: Degu Find-A-Home and working with the victims of the

oil spill. We couldn't have met our challenges so successfully without the incredible support of our community! I know firsthand how much the people of South Central Michigan care about companion animals, and it touches my heart.

This fall, you'll see us in classrooms, teaching children about dog bite prevention and what it means to care for a companion animal. We're working to make a more pet-friendly community! We couldn't do it without your support, though. Thank you for thinking of the shelter pets.



Whisker Mixer - Bids for Barks!

The Humane Society of South Central Michigan invites you to the Whisker Mixer – Bids for Barks, the annual live and silent auction on Thursday, September 23, 2010 at 5:30pm at beautiful Southern Exposure Herb Farm. This event replaces Antiques for Animals.

Join with supporters of the shelter to raise funds to care for the animals,

while enjoying an enchanted atmosphere. Highlights will include Chef Elsie's fantastic hors d'oeuvres, a cash bar and entertainment. The evening's theme is Harvest Moonfest, as the 23rd is both the Harvest Moon and the Autumnal Equinox.

This year's live auction items include

- A week's stay in a Florida condo
- A behind-the-scenes Binder Park Zoo tour including time with the giraffes
- U of M football ticket package
- Two golfing packages
- A signature lobster dinner
- Symphony and dinner packages

certificate packages for restaurants, spas and family activities. Featured silent auction items include:

- A full-size, handmade quilt
- Basket of designer perfumes
- Original stained-glass artwork
- Great Harvest bread basket
- Framed photography
- Picnic and wine set
- Binder Park Zoo theme basket
- Jewelry handmade by local artists

This event provides an opportunity to get a head-start on your holiday shopping while supporting a good cause - the animals in the shelter!

Tickets are \$50 each; all proceeds go to prepare the animals for adoption (veterinary check, spay/neuter surgery, FIV/Felv/heartworm testing, full vaccinations and microchipping).

To register or learn how to become an evening sponsor, please call 269.963.1796, ext. 19.

Silent auction items and baskets will appeal to a wide variety of individuals, and include original artwork, animal themed baskets and numerous gift

Lenny is my Name, and Being Adopted is My Game!

--Carrie Bammer, Animal Care Manager

Lenny arrived at the shelter as a three month old puppy in October of 2009. He was adopted quickly after being neutered, to a very nice family with one other dog. We did the dog-to-dog match as usual to test for compatibility and it seemed to go very well. We were so pleased that puppy Lenny had a new best friend and a loving forever home! However, sometimes that forever home is not meant to be.

About a week later, I walked into the lobby area of the shelter, and there was Lenny and his new family with worried expressions on their faces. Apparently the change had been too much for their current dog; he did not have any intentions to share his family with someone new. The family was afraid that something would happen to Lenny so they returned him to us as required in the adoption contract. As we were saddened that Lenny's first experience of being in a home was not that pleasant, we were glad to have him back safe with us!

Lenny didn't miss a beat; he was right back into the routine. He was such a good puppy with a lot of promise. We were determined to find him his forever home.

Often we have first-time dog owners who come in to the Humane Society. They have big hearts, and they want their first

dog to be a rescue dog. What loving people they are! However, it's really important for us to explain fully what it means to take in a rescue animal, and discuss thoroughly any adjustment period we believe may be warranted. We handle those special adopters very carefully, because we not only want to adopt out our animals, but for it to be a good fit for all those involved!

In less than a week since his return to the shelter, a family came in to meet Lenny. This family had two younger children and Lenny was going to be their first family pet. We introduced them to Lenny and they could see right away how special he was. Our adoption counselor explained

everything thing we knew about Lenny as well as what goes into having a puppy (puppies take a whole lot of work!).

Lenny went to his new home that very afternoon. We did follow-up calls to see how things were going. The family had no complaints, and Lenny had really found his forever home... Or so we thought.

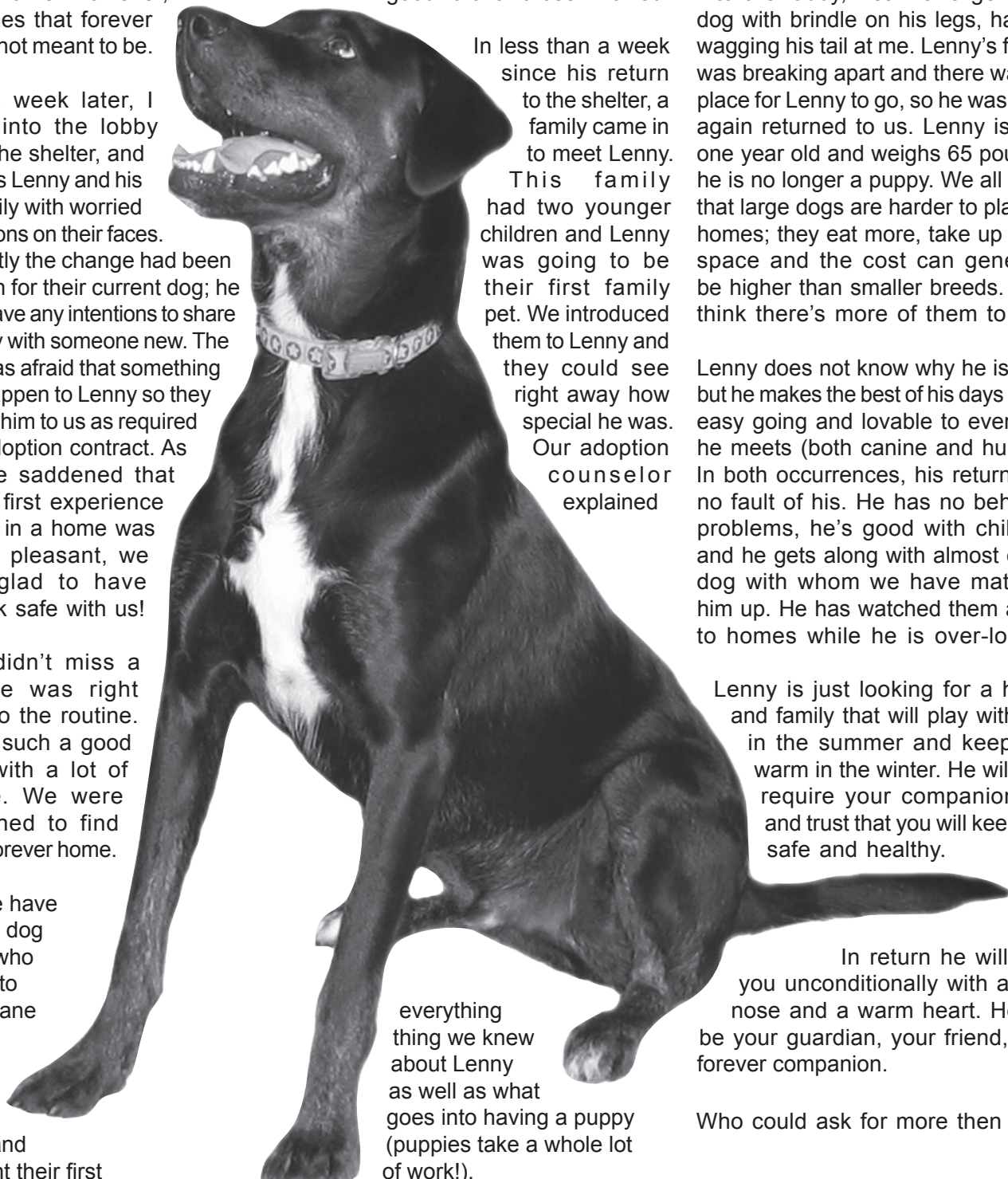
One day this past May, I was called up to the front desk. When I walked into the lobby, I saw a large black dog with brindle on his legs, happily wagging his tail at me. Lenny's family was breaking apart and there was no place for Lenny to go, so he was once again returned to us. Lenny is now one year old and weighs 65 pounds - he is no longer a puppy. We all know that large dogs are harder to place in homes; they eat more, take up more space and the cost can generally be higher than smaller breeds. I just think there's more of them to love.

Lenny does not know why he is here but he makes the best of his days being easy going and lovable to everyone he meets (both canine and human). In both occurrences, his return was no fault of his. He has no behavior problems, he's good with children, and he gets along with almost every dog with whom we have matched him up. He has watched them all go to homes while he is over-looked.

Lenny is just looking for a home and family that will play with him in the summer and keep him warm in the winter. He will only require your companionship and trust that you will keep him safe and healthy.

In return he will love you unconditionally with a cold nose and a warm heart. He will be your guardian, your friend, your forever companion.

Who could ask for more then that?



Ask the Behaviorist

TRICK OR TREAT!

As you all know by now, positive training focuses on rewarding Fido for the behaviors you want him to repeat and positive trainers can be called “foodies” because we use treats as the rewards. There are a myriad of treats on the market but as we approach the Holiday Season (starting with Halloween) and as there are more and more pet food recalls...why not try making some treats? You'll know what goes in them, you can have fun with the kids in the kitchen and you might have some gift ideas for family and friends' pets! Today's column will include a few of my (and my dogs') favorite recipes.

SKY'S COOKIES

½ cup whole wheat flour
⅓ cup grated Parmesan
½ cup quick oats
⅓ cup finely diced ham (or chicken, turkey)
2 tablespoons oat bran
⅓ cup water
2 eggs

Preheat oven to 350. Line a baking

sheet with parchment paper. Mix all ingredients to make smooth dough and let rest for 30 minutes. On floured surface, roll dough out to ½ inch thickness. Cut into 1x2 inch rectangles. Place on baking sheet and bake for 25 minutes. Turn off the heat and let cookies harden in the oven for another two

hours. Stored in a paper bag, the cookies will last for about a month.

CHICKEN LIVER BROWNIES

1 lb. chicken livers
1 cup flour
1 egg
2 cloves garlic
½ cup quick oats
⅓ cup cornmeal
Pinch salt
2 tablespoons powdered milk

Preheat oven to 350. Spray a 10x14 inch baking sheet with non-stick stuff. Process liver, garlic and egg in a food processor (or blender) until smooth. Combine flour, salt, cornmeal and dry milk in large bowl. Add liver slurry. Stir until well mixed. Mixture will be thick like a batter (if too thick, add a little water). Spread mixture in pan to evenly distribute. Bake for 20-25 minutes, until all the pink is gone. Cool, cut into small squares. Refrigerate or freeze until needed.

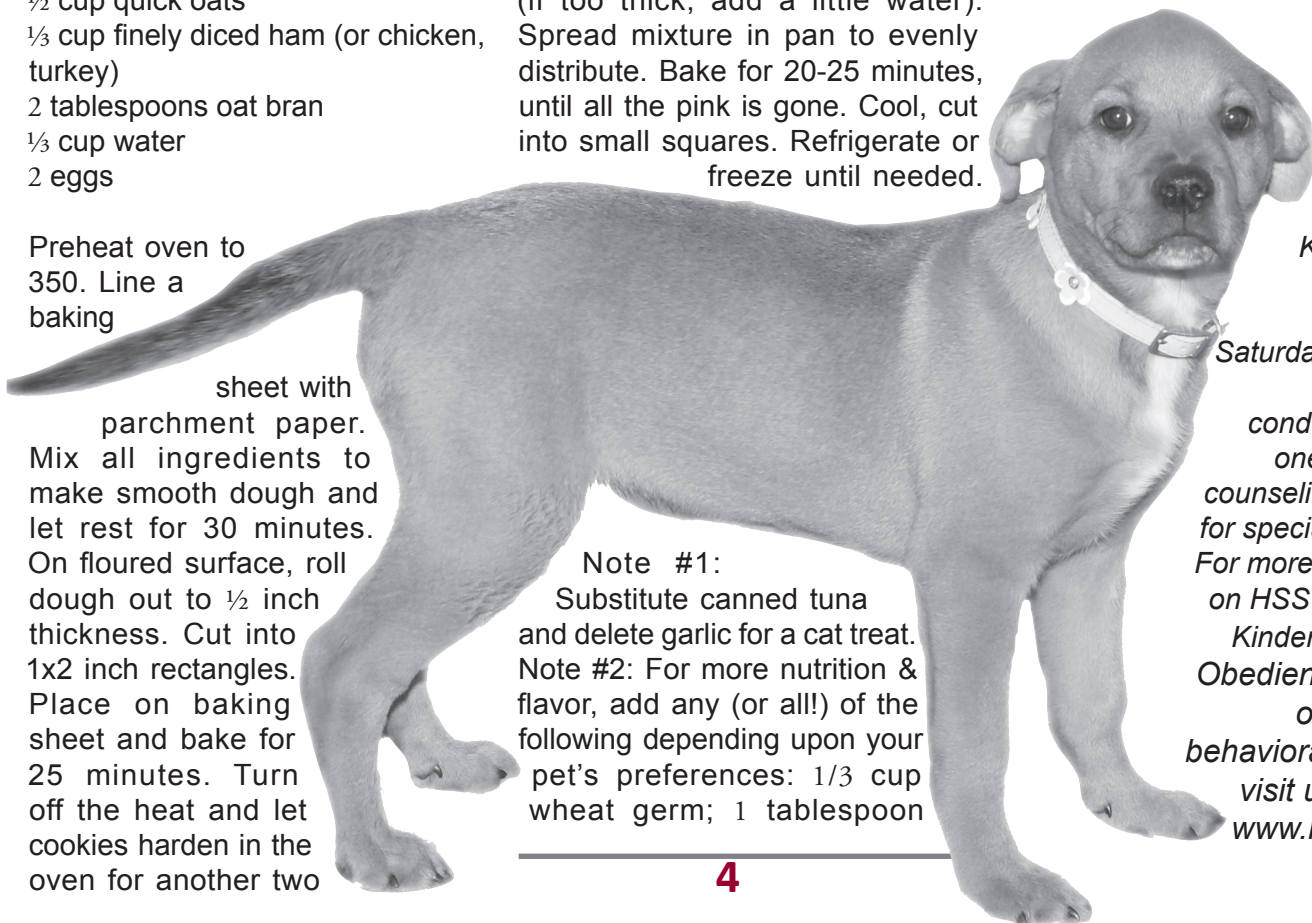
Note #1:
Substitute canned tuna and delete garlic for a cat treat.
Note #2: For more nutrition & flavor, add any (or all!) of the following depending upon your pet's preferences: 1/3 cup wheat germ; 1 tablespoon

honey; 1 cup grated cheese (cheddar, Parmesan, etc.); grated carrot or apple; handful of chopped parsley.

SCOTTY'S CRACKERS

3 small zucchini, finely grated
1 egg
1 ½ cup cooked rice
1 cup whole wheat flour
8 oz. cream cheese, softened

Preheat oven to 400. Line cookie sheet with parchment paper. Mix all ingredients. On floured surface, roll out to ¾ inch thick. Cut into squares. Bake for 40 minutes. Turn off heat and let the crackers dry out in oven overnight. Stored in a paper bag, the crackers will keep for about 2 weeks.



Lois Phelps is the behaviorist at HSSCM; her Puppy Kindergarten classes are taught on Saturday mornings; she also conducts one-on-one behavioral counseling sessions for special situations. For more information on HSSCM's Puppy Kindergarten, Dog Obedience classes or individual behavioral sessions, visit us online at www.hs-scm.org

Continued from front page...
and sunflower seeds to his diet. Pepper adjusted more quickly and loves to eat just about anything. His first dust bath was very entertaining to watch and he is picking up speed running in the wheel. The wheel has become their favorite perch. They sit side-by-side while enjoying the view and summer breeze from an open window. Life can be good after all.”

The Humane Society of South Central Michigan is so much more than just a place to adopt a new family member! We work to help solve animal welfare problems in our community. In fact, the same week we were working through our Project: Degu Find-A-Home, the oil spill tragedy happened right here in Battle Creek. While we left the cleaning of the oil-covered animals to the experts, we were available to answer questions and direct inquiries on to the appropriate channels.

Often in the event of a community challenge, companion animals are involved. Between 30 and 50 homes were recommended for evacuation during the first days after the oil spill occurred. A Red Cross temporary shelter was set up, and individuals and families were moved into hotel rooms as well. In both of those situations, companion animals could not join their owners in the temporary housing, and it simply wasn't safe to leave the animals behind.

When we received the phone call from the Red Cross asking for help housing animals whose owners were living in temporary shelter, we had to think fast. Our shelter normally operates at full capacity, without additional kennels open. How would we take on more animals and provide the care required for up to a week? Staff members sat down to work out a strategy. The degus were slated to stay in the agency's surgery suite, and that was full. However, we've been fortunate over this past

summer to have very few illnesses, so our quarantine center was open. We had room for four dogs inside, approximately eleven dogs outside, and between our cat quarantine cages and floor space available to set up large crates for cats, we could house a total of 15 cats. Lodging was set...what was next?

We had no idea how many animals would need to stay with us temporarily. We put out the call for additional donations of food, and our community really came through for us! A special thanks to the generous individuals at the Federal Center for their incredible donations.

In the end, only one dog needed temporary housing, but more individuals needed food assistance and help while they stayed with friends and family. We are able to provide these services through the support of our generous donors - people like you!

When people think of the Humane Society, they often think of adopting an animal from our shelter. However, our shelter operations are only a portion of all the programs and services we offer. Our vision is a society where every pet is a wanted pet. To meet that ideal, we offer Low Income Spay and Neuter and Food Bank Programs to help individuals and families struggling at the poverty level keep their pets until their situation stabilizes. We offer help for individuals entering into Hospice or domestic violence shelters to care for their pets during an incredibly traumatic time. We take dogs to nursing homes for our Pet Therapy Program, sharing joy. And yes, we're here to help in community emergencies and to make a difference in the lives of unwanted laboratory animals. We do all these things because of your support. You are making South Central Michigan a better place to live by helping to create a pet-friendly community. Thank you!

Community Education

My name is Diane Sly and I am the new Education Coordinator/ Receptionist at HSSCM. My objective in this position is to provide an educational resource from within the facility utilizing our new Binda Education and Training facility as well as reaching out to the community by educating our youngest community members.

In the next few months I will be coordinating visits to area schools, stepping into the classrooms and giving presentations on topics such as 'Basic Pet Care' and 'How to be a Good Pet Neighbor.' If you are a day care provider, teacher or staff member at a local school or know someone that is, please feel free to contact me and arrange for a visit to your facility.

Our new Binda Education and Training facility is a wonderful resource for us to provide education for the community right here in the building. Our goal is to schedule one community-wide education program per month and open our doors to the pet-friendly community. We have already held canine and feline CPR/First Aid courses and are working on scheduling more classes in the upcoming months. If you have an interest in a particular topic, please feel free to contact me.

Coming up in October:
How to Integrate Multiple Pets into a New Family
Date: Wednesday, October 20
Time: 6:00-7:00
Cost: Free!

I can be reached by email at dsly@hs-scm.org, by phone at 269.963.1796 or feel free to stop by HSSCM and pay me a visit!

Multiple Cat Integrations...Success!

When we have visitors at the Humane Society's communal cat room, we sometimes hear remarks on how well they all get along. We have up to 60 cats and kittens in a fairly small space, and for the most part, there are few squabbles or incidences of fur-flying (at least while we're open to the public). Our situation is a little different, though. The cats on our adoptable cat floor absolutely must get along, and there are often squabbles in the morning as we're cleaning or during the night. Additionally, we work really hard to eliminate evidence of urine marking, but you can be assured, it happens. You may notice that all our surfaces in the room can be, and are, scrubbed down daily and disinfected to eliminate inappropriate urination resulting from cats being chased from the litterbox or put in stressful situations.

Your own home is probably a bit more difficult to fully scrub down and disinfect. Past *Critter Chronicles* articles have covered inappropriate elimination, which sometimes happens when cats are stressed. One of the most stressful situations for your kitty, and ultimately for you, is the introduction of a new cat into your happy household. Like many people, you might love cats so much, you can't imagine only having one! And especially with kittens, two are often so much better than one because they can keep each other company. A proper introduction with your current cat and new cats you bring into the home can make the difference between best friends and eternal enemies.

A Healthy Cat is a Happy Cat

Make sure that your cat is up to date on all the vaccinations your veterinarian recommends, and that your prospective cat has also been checked out and vaccinated. If you are taking in a stray, it is imperative to separate the animal from your pets until it has been FIV/Felv tested and vaccinated!

Slow and Steady Wins the Race

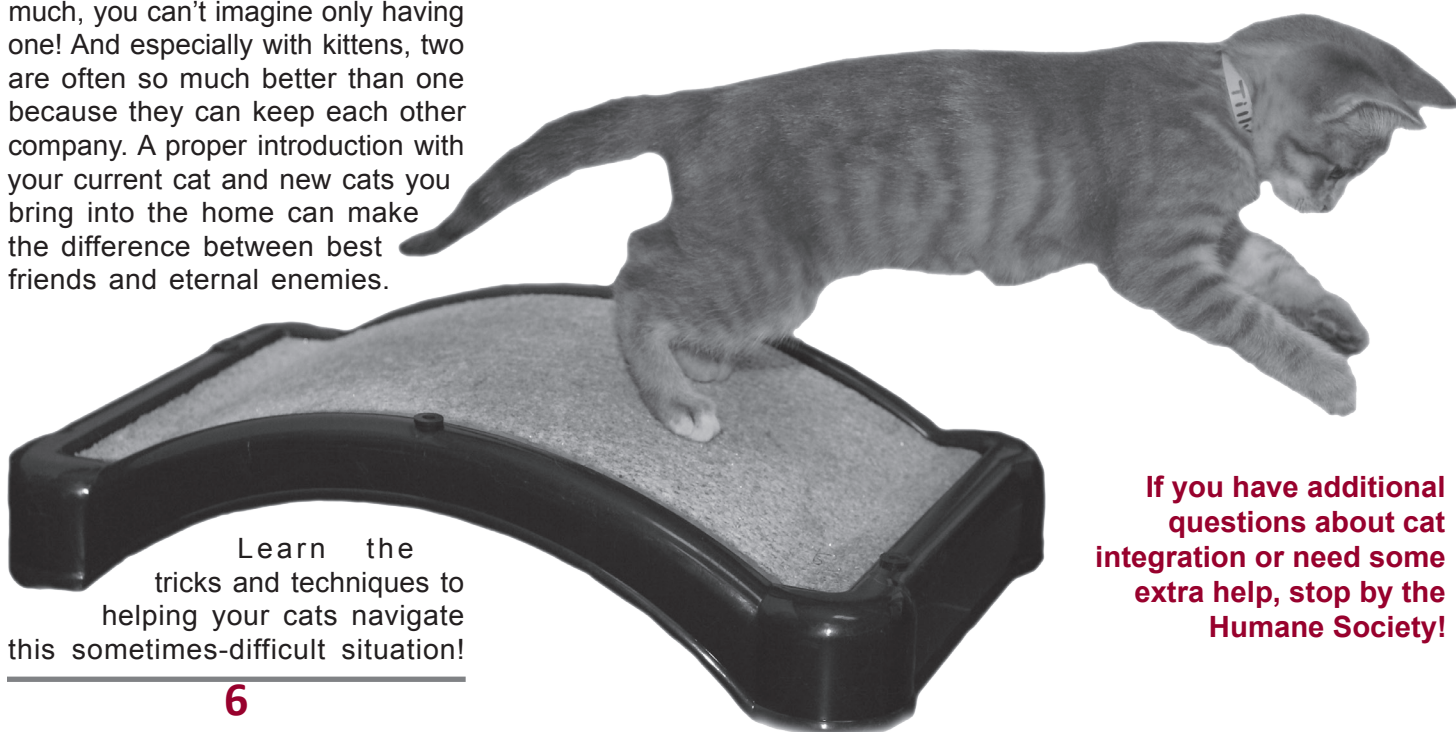
No question about it, while some cats can be thrown directly into a room with other unknown cats, most cats need a slow introduction. It's ideal to have a "safe room" where your new kitty can become accustomed to your house and you, while your current kitty has free run on the rest of the house. The two cats will get to know each other through the door, hopefully even playing paws with each other. You may wish to take a towel, rub it on new kitty, and then place the towel where your cat can smell it. Give your kitty treats while she smells the towel, so she associates the smell of your new cat with good things! Rub your current kitty with another towel and place that next to the new kitty's food bowl for another good association.

After a few days, have the cats switch places. Again provide lots of treats and calming words while they check each other's spaces out. Soon, you'll be able to do a series of short meetings with the two cats. Perhaps they would both enjoy eating their own bowls of wet food together. If it looks like either is stressing out, put them both back in their safe spaces and try it again another day. Don't leave the cats alone together if you're not certain they are comfortable.

Time is On Your Side

It may take time - a lot of time - for your cats to become friends. Especially with an older cat introduction, three to six months isn't unusual. If at any time you notice more than a small squabble, you may need to separate and try the reintroduction process again. In time, hopefully your cats will become best friends!

In some cases though, the most you can hope for is a calm cohabitation and that's okay, too. A little extra time should reward you with a less stressful situation in the long run, and that is well worth the trouble.



Learn the tricks and techniques to helping your cats navigate this sometimes-difficult situation!

If you have additional questions about cat integration or need some extra help, stop by the Humane Society!

Special Thanks...

to the all the individuals in our community who came together to provide help after our front door was damaged. We were so impressed with the quick response from the Battle Creek Police Department and the thoroughness of the officers who completed the investigation. Thank you to Chris from B&E Security for helping us retrieve the footage from the DVR, and for B&E's amazing security service. Thanks to WWMT Channel 3 and the Enquirer who reported on the story; because of that coverage, we have received donations which will fully pay for the door replacement. Thank you especially to everyone who expressed concern and contributed to help us fix the door. Due to the combined support of all who care, not a single dollar was taken from animal care.

to all of the supporters of HSSCM's

first annual *Strut for the Strays* 5K event. The vibe was a whole lot of fun on that beautiful Saturday morning. The revenue generated from the event will cover some of the high cost of heartworm and flea preventative for our current shelter animals. This helps us to be confident we are adopting out healthy wonderful animals from our shelter. This was a great start and we plan on doing it all over again next year. If you joined us and had fun please think of us again next year to do it again and bring a few friends, family members or co-workers. If you didn't but would like to contact Melissa at the shelter and she will make sure you get the information as soon as the planning begins. We would like to conclude with a final thank you to some wonderful supporters that were a huge help. Alexis Fidelman, artwork for the shirts; Chuck Belote, timer; Best

Buy-Battle Creek; Spherion Staffing, Dr. Steven Nesbitt; Allegra Print and Imaging; Historic Family Physician; Gazelle Sports and some pretty special volunteers, Linda Green, Jean Bremer and Leslie Hartom. Thank you all; we never could have pulled it off without your help. We will be contacting you again in the spring!

to Don Klepper for all his extracurricular efforts to bring in donations for the Humane Society.

to Kevin Hershock and his daughter Abby Hershock for hosting two donation canisters at the Battle Creek and Marshall Hungry Howies locations, as well as donating all the pizza for our special Volunteer Recognition party.

to Nancy Etheridge for joining our Pet Therapy team.

Employee Spotlight: Lori Lamkin

Lori, aka the Cat Lady, has been a dedicated member of the Humane Society team since 2003. She is our bottle feeding expert, caring for not just kittens and puppies, but also rabbits, raccoons and a fox! Especially in the springtime,

the Humane Society receives a large number of requests to care for abandoned kittens, and Lori never hesitates to take them on.

Bottle feeding kittens is a lot of work! Not only do you have to feed them, but you have to clean them and stimulate them to use the bathroom. It's a lot of sleepless nights and load after load of soiled blankets, but Lori says it's worth it when you first hear them purr, or the way they nuzzle up to your chin.

Lori has completed and received her Veterinary Assistant Certificate, Euthanasia Technician Certificate and countless seminars

on animal behaviors. She is one of the reasons our cats in the stray and adoptable areas are so well nurtured with stimulating toys and suitable structures to lie in and on. Lori has pride in her work, not just as a kennel technician but a cat behaviorist and a veterinarian's assistant. She supervises during temperament testing with dogs, doing adoption counseling and helping others with daily/weekly tasks.



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Hours of Operation

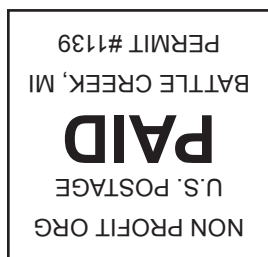
Tuesday - Friday noon to 6:00pm
Saturday - 11:00am to 4:00pm
Closed Sunday and Monday

Phone: 269.963.1796

Fax: 269.963.3365

www.hs-scm.org

The Humane Society is always in need of dog, puppy, cat and kitten food without red dye, kitty litter, cleaning supplies, laundry detergent, bleach, paper towel, collars and bedding for the animals. Looking for a gift for an animal lover? Come visit our gift shop – we have just what you're looking for, including gift items, gently used carriers, new collars, leashes and toys!



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of South Central Michigan
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