



Friends For The
Dearborn Animal Shelter
Take Us to Heart!

Paw Prints

Puppies' plea: Help stop 'littering'

Hi! Our names are Gigi, Ginny, and Gumdrop, and we have a big favor to ask: Please help the Friends For the Dearborn Animal Shelter spread the word about how important it is for people to "stop littering" by spaying or neutering their pets!

According to Spay USA (our editor checks our stats), approximately 70,000 puppies and kittens are born every day in the U.S., and there are simply not enough homes for all of us. We know that firsthand! We were only 11 weeks old when our breeder dropped us off at the shelter in late February. Sadly, we weren't the only puppies bred for sale and then left at the shelter when buyers didn't want us.

We were slightly skinny but pretty healthy. Another litter of pups wasn't so lucky. A Staffordshire Terrier, who appeared to have given birth multiple times, found refuge here with her six puppies just before Christmas. They had lots of health problems, including severe skin conditions. The shelter provided medical treatment and worked hard to find them homes. Two of the pups, Emily and Wilbur, were still looking for families as of March.



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Oh, did we mention all the kittens? Carriers filled with baby cats were coming through the shelter doors almost every other day between December 2010 and early 2011. The staff called it an "abnormal influx." (We know some big words!)

To address the issue, and before we were happily adopted, we starred in a Friends' public service announcement on the need to "stop littering" ([watch it here](#)). It's a message we think is worth repeating: Friends Don't Let Friends Have Litters!

—Gigi, Ginny, & Gumdrop

Spring 2011 eNewsletter

How You Can Help

Adopt

- ▶ Off-site adoptions

Volunteer

- ▶ Time & talent
- ▶ Foster

Support an event

- ▶ Strut
- ▶ Golf
- ▶ Bowl

Donate

- ▶ Planned giving
- ▶ Wish list

Shop

- ▶ "Green" totes

Shelter & Friends News

- ▶ Elaine's Corner
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ELAINE'S CORNER

The best 'recycling center' around



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Elaine with Cornelius, one of several shelter mascots

As we enter the second quarter of 2011, it's a good time to recall the first few days of the new year—when everything felt shiny and new, and almost anything seemed possible. We're trying to hold on to those feelings here at the Dearborn Animal Shelter: refreshed in our outlook, reinvigorated by our mission, and rejoicing in the continued outpouring of generosity from our community of Friends.

Refreshed. Reinvigorated. Rejoicing. How appropriate that these words begin with *re*—a prefix meaning “anew”—because for 2011, we have renewed our commitment to recycling, sustainability, and thinking locally. Actually, we've always been about recycling. For the past 18 years, we've been receiving unwanted animals, rejuvenating their health, and renewing their lives by placing them in loving family environments.

This year we are looking at all areas of our operations and finding additional ways to be green. Small changes can make big differences, so we are examining everything from the purchase of supplies and disposal of trash to the promotion and execution of our events. [Our new website](#) is a great paperless way to communicate, and some of the interactive features in the Adopt and Store sections are streamlining processes, saving time, and reducing use of paper, gas, and other resources. We will continue to find ways to reduce our carbon footprint, because it is our responsibility to take care of our environment as well as the animals in it.

We strive to be the best “recycling center” around and hope that you will join us in this effort. Nothing reenergizes and revitalizes us like teaming up with a Friend for a worthy cause.

Here's to a greener future together!

—*Elaine Greene, Shelter Executive Director*

Adoptable animals out on the town

Can't make it to the shelter? No problem! Our adoptable cats and dogs are showcased off-site every month. Meet us at Petco in Allen Park (Outer Drive and Southfield) on the second Saturday of the month. We also regularly schedule appearances at the Friends Pet Training Center, next to Pet Supplies Plus in Dearborn (Telegraph at Oxford), and at events in the community. View specifics on our [online calendar](#) or call us at 313.943.2697. See you soon!

VOLUNTEERING

Celebrate Volunteer Week with us

April 10–16 is National Volunteer Week. If you've been looking for a way to give back to the community, come volunteer with the Friends! Visit the [Volunteer section of our website](#) to find out how. If you're already devoting time to the animals, you have our sincere thanks!

Give a little kitty comfort

The cats and kittens at the Dearborn Animal Shelter are looking for comforters—cozy beds for their cages that will help make their stay at the shelter a little more, well, comfortable!

Through the Friends Cat Comforter Program, volunteers sew, quilt, tie, or knit cozy little beds (at least 18 x 24 inches). The comforters reduce stress for our homeless felines and help ease the transition when the kitties are adopted because their beds go with them to their new homes.

Here's how you can help:

- **Download** instructions for sew and no-sew comforters.

- **Drop** completed comforters (or donations of materials) at the shelter.
- **Donate** \$5 to help us purchase materials.
- **Spread** the word to anyone who may wish to help, including community groups such as Brownie/Girl Scout troops, seniors groups, or quilters guilds.

Need more info? Email akuentz@DearbornAnimals.org. Thank you for helping!

Put your professional foot forward

Are you spreadsheet savvy, a Web wizard, a fearless public speaker, a seasoned videographer? We have many volunteer opportunities for professionals to put their skills to work. Whether you commit to one project or volunteer regularly, you will make a real difference. Take the first step now and email akuentz@DearbornAnimals.org to get yourself or your company involved.



Madeline cozies up to her handmade kitty comforter.

Be kind to animals

In recognition of Be Kind to Animals Week (May 1–7), do something special for your pet—or for a shelter animal: volunteer for an hour, [make a donation](#), [adopt a furry friend](#), or simply pass along this issue of *Paw Prints* to help the shelter animals make more Friends! ♥

The animals are wishing for...

A NatureMill Plus XE Compost Bin!

This is one green machine: It can compost pet waste, kitty litter, and cage bedding. It retails for \$299 at naturemill.com/plus, and it will help us in our recycling efforts. If you would like to donate a NatureMill Plus XE Compost Bin, please call the shelter at 313.943.2697. To view other items that will help the shelter dogs and cats, check out their [wish list](#).

VOLUNTEERING

Foster Friends to the rescue

Many animals arrive at the Dearborn Animal Shelter ill or injured, too young for adoption, or just unable to cope with life at the shelter. Without special care, they might not have the chance to find a loving home.

Enter our Home Away From Home Foster Care volunteers. They take in these animals, make them members of their families, and provide love and care until the animals are able to return to the shelter or are adopted.

Foster care is an integral part of the Friends' efforts to ensure that all adoptable animals find loving permanent homes. Foster volunteers can often provide valuable information about the animals, such as temperament, that can help the staff place the animal in just the right home.

The shelter supports foster volunteers by supplying:

Fox 2 shines spotlight on foster mom Anne Enright

Check out this touching video on YouTube, showcasing foster volunteer Anne Enright. Anne and her family have fostered 21 dogs and 15 cats in the past two years! Fox 2 News reporter Andrea Isom tours the shelter and interviews Anne as well as Friends spokeswoman Sandy Boulton and Shelter Manager Heather Mehi. Thank you, Anne, for opening your heart and home to our rescues—and inspiring others to do the same!

- Dishes, food, litter, litter boxes, and crates as needed.
- Vaccinations, medications, and other veterinary care.
- Contact info for after-hour inquiries and emergencies.
- Training/consultation.

Foster volunteers provide:

- Proper facilities to house the animal.
- The physical care and attention the animal needs.
- Transportation to the shelter and/or a veterinarian.

Volunteers who have their own pets must ensure that their pet is current on appropriate vaccinations and pre-

ventive treatments and is spayed or neutered. Isolating the foster animal from personal pets is recommended, at least initially.

Fostering also offers the opportunity to “try out” pet ownership without the lifetime commitment, or to try a cat with your dog or vice versa.

Help save lives by bringing a foster animal into your home. Call the shelter at 313.943.2697 for more information. ♥



Happy Tails Dr. Indiana “Indy” Jones

We were searching for a companion for our Daisy Mae, a Jack Russell from Kentucky Russell Rescue, when we found Indy at the Dearborn Animal Shelter. Even though his previous owners had said “no kids, no other dogs, and no cats,” the shelter let us do play time there with our daughters Lucy and Maggie, and with Daisy. We decided to foster Indy for a couple of weeks, and the first night he trounced up the stairs and slept with Lucy (age 11). He won our hearts with his first snorky bark (must be the Chihuahua in him). He loves snuggling in a blanket, chewing up rope toys and tennis balls, and play-fighting with Daisy. We love our Indy boy and are glad to have him every day.

—Shannon Clements & David Watts,
Dearborn

WHAT'S IN STORE

Reduce your carbon footprint while showing off our paw print



Who needs paper or plastic bags when you can have these colorful, reusable carriers featuring the Friends logo? The large shopping tote and insulated lunch totes are made of 600 denier polyester, with 50% recycled. Wipe with a damp cloth. *Please note that the shopping tote is not insulated.*

Order yours today: Find both products in the EcoFriendly section of our [online Store](#), or call 313.943.2697.

Special offer for our Paw Prints readers: Order online by April 30, 2011, and save 20%! Simply enter code PPS11 at checkout.



Shopping tote: \$15

18 x 16 x 4.5 inches. Available in hot pink, purple, turquoise, orange, and bright yellow. *This bag is not insulated.*



Insulated lunch tote: \$10

9 x 7.5 x 5 inches. Available in purple, hot pink, white, and royal blue.

Golf for Megan's Dreams and benefit our rescues

Tee up for the fifth annual Megan's Dreams Golf Outing on Friday, June 10 at Dearborn Hills, a four-star public golf course. Golfer registration is \$125, with a noon shotgun start. Proceeds go to the Friends and help underwrite Michigan State University veterinary scholarships. www.megansdreams.com or megansdreams@comcast.net

Critter Invitational canceled

After careful examination of our fundraising efforts, the Friends have decided not to hold the Critter Invitational golf outing in 2011. Quite simply, the event has become too cost prohibitive for the return on investment. Many thanks to all who supported Critter during its 17-year run. It's possible that the event will return in the future, if we can make it a viable venture. We're sure you'll agree that it all comes down to making the best financial decisions for the rescues who depend on us!

GIVING

2011 Big Heart Award goes to...

Michelle Mullen and Aleta Sill, pro bowlers, coaches, and owners of YourBowlingCoach.com and Aleta Sill's Bowling World, a fully stocked pro shop inside Country Lanes in Farmington Hills.

The Friends Big Heart Award is given annually to the supporter who best exemplifies three criteria: providing loving care and sanctuary to animals; supporting the humane treatment of animals; and consistently lending support to further the cause of animal welfare.

Michelle and Aleta have eight rescued animals between them: dogs Sisco, Princess, George, and Bobby Michael, and cats Macy Gray, Zeebs, Tigger, and Pooh.

In 2006, the duo created the now-annual Bowl-4-Animal Rescue, hosted by Aleta Sill's Bowling World and held at Country Lanes. All proceeds—\$62,000 to date—benefit the Friends and the Michigan Animal Adoption Network.

Michelle and Aleta participate in our Cool Cat Casino Night, Mutt Strut & Pet Expo, and canister donation program. They also promote animal rescue through a link to our website from theirs, and via [Michelle's blog](#).



BIG HEARTS: Aleta Sill (left) and Michelle Mullen have eight rescues between them, including Bobby Michael (left), Macy Gray, and George.

They aim to draw big crowds to the sixth annual Bowl-4-Animal Rescue on Saturday, August 6. "We hope to break our own record of \$17,700 at last year's event, and it will take a lot of us to do it," says Michelle.

"We feel so privileged not only to give back to bowling, but to help animals in need as well." ♥

Come bowl for the animals

Join us at the sixth annual Bowl-4-Animal Rescue fundraiser on Saturday, August 6. Sponsored by Aleta Sill's Bowling World and professional bowlers Aleta Sill and Michelle Mullen, Bowl-4-Animal Rescue benefits the Friends as well as the Michigan Animal Adoption Network. 9-pin "No Tap" (knock down 9 pins for a strike!), food, raffles, music, karaoke, and more! Country Lanes (30250 W. 9 Mile Rd., Farmington Hills). 7 p.m. DearbornAnimals.org or YourBowlingCoach.com

Chi-wow-hua!

Chihuahua adopters unite! Make that “reunite,” in the case of those who attended our Chihuahua Reunion at the 2010 Mutt Strut & Pet Expo last May. The Friends are so pleased that all 105 Chihuahuas rescued from a hoarding situation in Dearborn in 2009 have since found permanent loving homes. Pictured here are some of the many happy adopters and adoptees who gathered for the reunion. Don’t miss the Chihuahua Reunion at [this year’s Mutt Strut](#): Sunday, May 15 at 1 p.m.



PHOTOS: PETPARAZI.COM



Come Join Us!

Saturday & Sunday, May 14 & 15, 2011 • 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Ford Field in Dearborn, Michigan



6th annual pledge-driven dog walk and community-wide animal celebration!

Two days of fun and en-fur-tainment!

Saturday: Leash up your dog and walk with us

All weekend: Enjoy fun, food, and awesome pet & people activities

Milt Wilcox & His Ultimate Air Dogs • Doggie De Lure • Doggie Health Zone
Shopping at the Pet Expo • Detroit Lions Meet-and-Greets • Dog Training
Adopted Dog Birthday "Paw-ty" • Chihuahua Reunion • Bowser's Bistro
Dog Games & Contests • And much, much more!

Go to www.DearbornMuttStrut.com to:

- View complete event details
- Custom-build your pledge page
- Support a Mutt Strutter

PRESENTING SPONSOR



EVENT PARTNERS



GIVING

Remembering a best Friend

“Getting old is not for sissies.”

That is just one of the many wise axioms that Alberta Muirhead shared with me five years ago when we first met. Being new to Dearborn, and having just joined the animal shelter staff, I was more than a little daunted when faced with the prospect of visiting the “first lady of Dearborn” in her home.

Alberta, however, quickly put me at ease. She was incredibly gracious, and she made a lifelong friend of my dog Betsy by giving her a treat from the biscuit jar kept especially for doggie visitors. I wasn’t lucky enough to meet Alberta’s dog, Blackout, that day, but I vividly remember how her eyes twinkled when she described him.

That twinkle remained throughout our visit as she shared with me why she



TOM LAUNDRON

Alberta Muirhead received the Friends’ highest honor, the Big Heart Award, at Black Tie & Tails in 2006.

loved animals, and dogs in particular. “Dogs understand what we say,” she said. “They are like our children.”

In 2006, the Friends formally recognized Alberta’s lifelong devotion to animals and her invaluable support of the Friends by bestowing on her our highest honor, the Big Heart Award, presented at our annual Black Tie & Tails benefit. Just before Black Tie, Alberta was in the hospital, but a bout with pneumonia was not going to prevent her from attending.

On January 14, 2011, Alberta passed away at the age of 91. We will miss one of our most dedicated advocates and one of our best Friends. In addition, we humbly share that she left a legacy for our rescues in the amount of \$25,000. Her gift echoes a phrase she frequently expressed to me and countless others: “Just let me know what I can do.”

—Kelle Sisung, Development Director

The best footprint: Leaving a lasting legacy

Alberta Muirhead left a philanthropic footprint as a member of our Circle of Friends. The Circle honors donors who have formally notified us that they have included the Friends in their will, or that they have established a planned gift to benefit our nonprofit.

There are many options for planned giving. Some may provide you with tax benefits. You also may be able to increase your current income or provide additional retirement income, while reducing income tax and estate taxes. It is important to explore your options so that both you and our rescues receive the full benefit of any potential gift.

Estate planning affords you peace of mind and security as you provide for yourself, your loved ones, and your charitable interests. Including the Friends For the Dearborn Animal Shelter in your planned giving allows you to make a meaningful contribution now or in the future to help homeless animals. For more information, contact Development Director Kelle Sisung at 313.303.1770 or ksisung@DearbornAnimals.org.

IN MEMORIAM

Foster mom gave heart and soul

Volunteer Gerry Simcik's dedication to our shelter animals was so strong that she once turned her own bedroom in her Dearborn home into a temporary foster area for cats and kittens.

"That got a little bad," she said in a recent interview. "But we do what we need to do."

Gerry, a longtime Friends volunteer and foster mom, passed away in early March at the age of 67. In December, the Friends recognized Gerry's commitment to the animals by presenting her with our 2010 Heart and Soul Award, so named because recipients give their all—time, talent, and energy.

Gerry was a familiar face at the shelter, having been a volunteer for about nine years and a foster mom for five. She took in hundreds of cats in that time, many of whom were considered to be at-risk. "She



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Gerry Simcik's gentle touch helped hundreds of at-risk foster felines in recent years.

brought home moms with babies who were sometimes just days old," says Heather Mehi, shelter manager. "Sometimes they needed to be force-fed or needed round-the-clock care, and Gerry was always there."

Gerry acknowledged that fostering could be heartwarming and heart-breaking (not all of the animals survive), but said she did it because "I figure that's what I can do for the animals. They need love, attention, and care."

In addition to fostering, Gerry volunteered at the shelter most days every week.

"We will miss Gerry so much," Heather says. "She was an amazing volunteer, a great lady, and a real friend to the animals." ♥



Thank you to our top 2010 volunteers!

The following volunteers earned recognition for their outstanding contributions in 2010:

Heart and Soul Award

Gerry Simcik

Most Hours Overall

Sandra Alviani

Most In-Shelter Hours

Sue Barna

Home Away From Home (foster)

Anne Enright

Most Student Volunteer Hours

Molly Goudeseune

Best New Friendraiser Event

Jo Navarre

View [a list of all 2010 volunteers](#) on our website.

TAILS FROM THE FRONT

Loyal staffers make us proud



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Heather with her dog Splash

“We strive to maintain an environment that not only benefits the animals in our care, but keeps our staff healthy and happy too.”

Working at an animal shelter is an emotional job, so it’s not surprising that employee turnover in our business is typically pretty high. At the Dearborn Animal Shelter, we do our best to buck that trend. We’re proud that more than half of our 20 full- and part-time staffers have been with us for more than three years, given the daily challenges we face.

Like most shelters, ours is filled with dogs and cats who desperately need our services—animals that are lost, abandoned, abused, injured, ill. In addition to caring for these precious lives every day, we’re often tested by extraordinary circumstances. Consider the back-to-back hoarding rescues in 2009, when we took in 45 cats, then 105 Chihuahuas, then 24 more cats. Or the—ick!—rat infestation in 2010 that forced us to move to temporary quarters for more weeks than we would have liked.

Through it all, we strive to maintain an environment that not only benefits the animals in our care, but keeps our staff healthy and happy too.

It helps that we are a fairly small staff. We do a good job of communicating policies, especially on euthanasia. Issues associated with euthanasia affect both job satisfaction and personal well-being of animal caregivers. Our procedures and the fact that we euthanize very few animals help our staff cope with this heart-wrenching part of the job.

We try to involve everyone in processes and decision making. We give staffers the opportunity to accomplish goals without micro-managing, which helps each person feel more connected to and satisfied with the work.

Despite our limited budget, we give perks where we can. We celebrate birthdays and holidays, and offer flexibility to accommodate school schedules and personal issues.

We’re fortunate to have great people on staff who really love the work. I’m proud to be part of this amazing group. As a Friend, you can be too.

—*Heather Mehi, Shelter Manager*



Paws for applause

Woofs and purrs to those Dearborn Animal Shelter employees who have been on staff for 3 or more years:

15 years

- Elaine Greene, executive director
- Heather Mehi, shelter manager

10 years

- Courtney Evans, LVT, evaluator

6 years

- Danielle Leonard, office manager
- Kelle Sisung, development director

5 years

- Cheryl Szkutnicki, evaluator assistant
- Ken Gablow, kennel manager

4 years

- Will Gibala, associate
- Suzanne Johnson, accounting manager
- Linda Thomas, LVT/CPDT, dog trainer/behavior evaluator

3 years

- Brandi Maddox, office assistant

STAFF PROFILE

License to heal

In a field where **employee turnover** is typically high, the Dearborn Animal Shelter has a number of longtime employees. One of them is evaluator Courtney Evans, who started as a kennel assistant 10 years ago and became a licensed veterinary technician (LVT) last year. Courtney graduated from Wayne County Community College District's veterinary technology program in June 2010 and went on to pass the state LVT examination in July and the national exam in November. *Paw Prints* caught up with Courtney to find out what she does, why she loves her job, and what motivated her to become an LVT.

Q: Tell us about your job as shelter animal evaluator.

I'm responsible for the health and maintenance of our entire animal population. When animals come in, my job is to make sure we correctly identify their sex and age, give them their initial and follow-up vaccines, do deworming and fecal tests, and treat any wounds, fleas, or ear mites. Basically I take care of everything health-wise.

Q: What prompted you to become an LVT?

When I graduated from high school in 1999, I wanted to go to vet school, but I didn't think I could get in. Over the years I watched other shelter staffers go through LVT programs, graduate, and then leave us to work as vet techs. I did it [LVT] so I could get more knowledge for us, for our organization.

There are always new medications, new treatments, new **more** ▶



“There are always new medications, new treatments, new research to keep up on. I hope to use the knowledge I've gained to improve protocols for our animals.”

—Courtney Evans, LVT

research to keep up on. I hope to use the knowledge I've gained to improve protocols for our animals, and to make the public more comfortable knowing that our animals are getting what they need by a licensed veterinary technician.

Q: What have you learned, and how has it benefited the shelter?

Before, when animals would come down with upper respiratory infections, we'd put them on [the antibiotic] amoxicillin, and they'd stay on it sometimes for months. I learned that animals can become immune to the meds, so working with Dr. Cheryl Good, the shelter's medical director, we came up with a new protocol. Now we put the animals on amoxicillin for two weeks, and then change to a stronger antibiotic for two weeks, and then if needed progress to something stronger yet for two weeks. This change is helping the animals fight off disease, instead of wallowing in a cycle of sickness.

A lot of times, cats with upper respiratory infections won't eat, and they can actually starve. I've learned that supportive care such as force-feeding and fluid therapy can help. We started doing that here and it's saving lives—the cats start to eat on their own, and we can rehabilitate them.

Upper respiratory infections and kennel cough are two main things we fight here, so it was important to get protocols in place to better deal with them. There's only so much room in our isolation ward, and too many animals

were getting sick and sitting in there not getting better. We don't want to be known as "the place with all the sick animals." We still have sickness, of course, but it's way down. Being here for a decade, I've seen lots of positive changes. Our animals are healthier, and we want the public to know it.

Q: The shelter is always busy. How did you manage to work here and go to school?

It was kind of crazy. Something had to go and it was sleep! I finished my prerequisites in one year and then spent two years in the core program, which covered everything— anesthesiology, radiology, surgical assisting, pharmacology—for all kinds of animals, from mice and rats to cats, dogs, horses, cows, and sheep.

Elaine [Greene, shelter executive director] and Heather [Mehi, shelter manager] were really supportive of me. They and the staff picked up the slack so I could go to school and take time not only for the required stuff but also some voluntary things. I took advantage of everything the program had to offer and got some of the coolest experiences I've ever had—llama shearing, X-raying horses, vaccinating cows, ponies, and sheep. It was exhausting but totally rewarding!

My work experience here at the shelter gave me an advantage in school. When I took the state board exam in Lansing in July, I knew I'd nailed it. This is what I was meant to do in life.

more 



“Being here for a decade, I've seen lots of positive changes. Our animals are healthier, and we want the public to know it.”

Q: It's clear you love what you do, but working in any shelter environment is stressful. How do you handle it?

I've always loved animals. When I was 5, I wanted to be a veterinarian when I grew up. I started here when I was 19. I was looking for a job and saw an ad for a shelter kennel assistant and thought it would be fun to play with animals all day. I didn't realize how hard it was going to be; it is lot of fun, but so much needs to be done work-wise. Once I realized what was actually involved, I was willing to step up to the plate to do it.

I started as a kennel assistant and then became an evaluator assistant. The evaluator taught me the job, and when she ended up leaving because the stress was too much for her, I took over (that was 8 years ago).

Unlike other jobs I've had, in retail and food service, you get so emotionally attached here. You put a lot into it, and it is very emotional. I have to take a moment and break down, and then move on.

Our staff is very close—it's like a family. We rally around each other and are really supportive of each other. Euthanasia is the hardest part. These animals have no owners, no one to be responsible for them, and we take on all that responsibility. I've learned that it's impossible to save them all, but the ones you do save help you get through the ones you can't.

Q: Do you have animals at home?

I have five cats—one is a foster but will probably stay—and six dogs—one is an older Chihuahua I'm fostering to help her get better socialized with other animals. She may stay too. All of them are from our shelter and started out as fosters. I bought my own house when I was 20 because my parents wouldn't let me foster. I got my own house and filled it with animals. I've fostered hundreds, so I haven't kept them all!

Q: What's next for you?

I'm entertaining the idea of starting vet school—I would love to be the shelter vet!

I am really hoping that when we get the long-awaited, much-needed new shelter, we will have an in-house clinic. Right now we don't do any surgery in-house, but I would love to assist with that in our own clinic.

I'm really proud of everything I've done here, and I'm so grateful to Elaine, Heather, and the staff for helping me accomplish so much. I've found my calling—does that sound too corny? When you find the place that you feel in your heart you're supposed to be, it's not like work. I love it! ♥



“These animals have no owners, no one to be responsible for them, and we take on all that responsibility.”

2010 ANNUAL REPORT

Moving forward in a challenging year

Despite challenging economic conditions, 2010 was a successful year for the Friends. Although Southeast Michigan seemed to experience some economic improvements, we continued to see people making difficult decisions for their families and pets. Last year 2,353 animals came through our doors. While we did not have the hoarding issues of 2009, we did have a never-ending supply of puppies and kittens. During July, our feline population swelled to 264, with more than 75 kittens coming in during a two-week period.

Among our successes in 2010:

- **A collaboration** with Advanced Technology Academy (ATA), a Michigan public charter school in Dearborn. The partnership will tap the expertise of both organizations to develop a learning curriculum that supports and advances animal-related education for underserved students as well as continuous care improvements for at-risk animals.
- **Successful negotiations** with Dearborn City Council to adopt tethering

A number of successes

In 2010 we counted:

- **12,846** visitors to the shelter
- **1,700-plus** animals microchipped
- **595** animals spayed/neutered through our low-cost sterilization program
- **270** active volunteers, who donated more than 64,000 hours
- **160** dogs and owners participating in our [training classes](#)

and dangerous/vicious dog ordinances rather than Breed Specific Legislation.

- **Participation** in nearly 200 events, including off-site adoptions, fund-and friend-raisers, and community and education outreach. We are particularly proud of the growth of our two signature events: Mutt Strut and Black Tie & Tails. Both exceeded revenue expectations and continue to attract attendees from well beyond Dearborn's borders.
- **Social media advances:** Developed an excellent [new website](#), and increased our presence on [Facebook](#) and our followers on [Twitter](#).

Our biggest challenge continues to be the limitations of our outdated facility—overcrowded conditions and insufficient space for staff, volunteers, and visitors. The shelter team, however, demonstrated tenacity and teamwork during a rat infestation last summer when they had to evacuate the animals (and themselves) to a temporary facility. The repairs and extermination activities took several weeks, during which they had to endure significant heat, cramped conditions, and even a flood. It was a difficult experience, but Elaine and her team of staff and volunteers once again showed their personal passion for the animals and commitment to our mission.

Our continued accomplishments and progress toward our goals of outstanding animal care and a new shelter are possible because of our staff, volunteers, and donors like you. From the dollars you donate to the time that you give, we thank you. We know that we can count on you again this year.

—*Mary Ann Wright, Board Chair,*
Friends For the Dearborn Animal Shelter



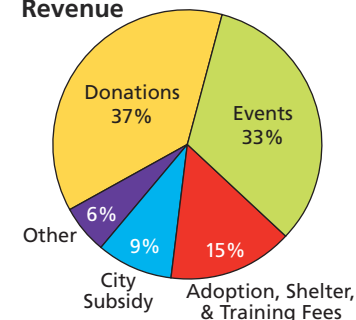
Thank you, 2010 supporters!

We're pleased to recognize those Friends who so generously supported the animals in 2010. View a [complete list](#) on our website.

2010 fiscal report

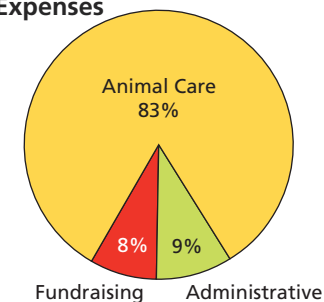
These are preliminary projections based on unaudited figures.

Revenue



"Other" includes merchandise sales and interest income.

Expenses



Contact us

Come see us!

Dearborn Animal Shelter

2661 Greenfield Road, Dearborn, MI 48120

313.943.2697 | fax 313.943.2262

friends@DearbornAnimals.org | www.DearbornAnimals.org

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Tuesday, Thursday 11 a.m. – 7 p.m.

Saturday 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Closed Sundays

The Dearborn Animal Shelter is located about one mile south of Michigan Avenue (½ mile south of Rotunda) on the west side of Greenfield. [Map](#).

Board of directors

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President Laurie Buhr

Treasurer & Financial Director Sophie Bozek

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Take Us to Heart!



Happy Tails | Good Karma: Adoption inspires dog park

Karma (formerly Butterscotch) has earned her new name: Adopter Steve Rowe worked with the city of Hamilton, Ontario, to create a dog park in honor of his new best friend. Karma Hill opened in November 2010, about a year after Steve and his family adopted Karma from our shelter. Read Steve's letter [here](#).