



# Paw Prints

The Newsletter of Harbor Humane Society  
A non-profit 501(c) (3) Corporation  
Volume 52, Issue 2



June 2009

## By Helping Animals, You're Helping People

*By Jill DeJager  
HHS Board President*

Dear Friends,

I've been asked many times recently why I work so hard for an animal welfare organization, why I devote countless hours to this cause. I've been asked why this particular cause is so important to me when there are obviously so many others out there that need help.

With Michigan's economy getting worse by the day, with the jobless

rate soaring and home foreclosures at a record high, I understand why my work is questioned. People need help. People are having problems. People also have pets.

Never once have I answered the telephone at the animal shelter and heard, "Hello, my name is Fido and I'm lost, I'm homeless." Max didn't come ask me for food, he didn't tell me he was chained to a fence and was starving and cold.

Yet they came, Fido and Fluffy, Max and Mabel. They arrived on the doorstep of Harbor Humane

Society, brought in by people; people who have been forced to give up a beloved pet due to job loss or home foreclosure.

Sometimes they arrived in an Ottawa County Animal Control truck, because people treated them poorly, because people didn't care enough. The animals come and keep coming. They are voiceless, they are weary, they are scared. They need people. They need help.

Americans spend over \$1 billion

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## Meet Our Medical Director: Dr. Maureen Good

**Q: Dr. Good, how long have you been the Medical Director at Harbor Humane Society?**

**A:** Seven years.

**Q: What does the job entail?**

**A:** The job entails many things, including but not limited to animal health care, husbandry, emergency care, surgery, infectious disease treatment and control, euthanasia, staff education and prevention medicine -- just to name a few!

**Q: Is it typical for a humane society to have an on-site veterinarian or is this unique?**

**A:** Most humane societies strive

to have either a veterinarian on staff or a veterinarian (or clinic) on call. Most animal control facilities do not have a veterinarian on staff. HHS, being both, is unique.

**Q: What is the most rewarding part of the job?**

**A:** Being able to help save the lives of animals, and the friends and colleagues you meet along the way. Animals can sometimes come in

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**Dr. Maureen Good, D.V.M., first treated Remington as a stray at the Humane Society. He's since been adopted.**

# Lend a Helping Hand! Be a Volunteer!

Lend a helping hand! Harbor Humane Society is always in need of dedicated volunteers who are passionate about animals. There are a variety of volunteer opportunities available. For a complete description, log onto [www.harborhumane.org](http://www.harborhumane.org).

Have you already made the decision to become an HHS volunteer? There are a few steps you need to take before you can volunteer at the shelter.

Log on to [www.harborhumane.org](http://www.harborhumane.org) and download the Volunteer Application. You can submit your application online (preferred method), send it in the mail, by fax or drop it off in person.

Mark your calendars for Orientations & Trainings. It is very important that you take part in one group Volunteer Orientation and

## Summer Orientation & Training Dates:

### Orientation - Pick one

June 2 & June 18  
July 7 & July 9  
August 4 & August 13

All orientations take place at 5:30 pm and last approximately 1½ hours.

### Training - Pick one

June 6 - 11 am - 3 pm  
June 9 - 12 pm - 5pm  
July 14 - 12 pm - 5 pm  
July 18 - 11 am - 3 pm  
August 11 - 12 pm - 5 pm  
August 15 - 11 am - 3 pm

Training sessions are scheduled every hour.

one Volunteer Training session.

After review of your application, HHS Volunteer Staff will contact you with schedule information. A non-refundable \$15 fee will be required at the time of scheduling. This covers your volunteer t-shirt and training materials.

Volunteers are asked to make a commitment of five hours per month, with a six-month commitment. You will be asked to sign up for scheduled shifts and find a replacement if you are not able to make your shift.

## Volunteers Needed for Summer Events!

Now that the warm weather is here, we get many requests to participate in many special events. Volunteers are needed and greatly appreciated! If you are able to help at any of these events, please email [volunteers@harborhumane.org](mailto:volunteers@harborhumane.org).

### ADOPT-A-THONS

**June 13, 12 pm - 4 pm, Petco, Holland.** Two volunteers are needed to help unload pets and take dogs out to potty, load up after event.

**June 15, 5 - 8 pm, Culvers, Grand Haven.** Culvers Kid's Night. Two volunteers are needed to help unload pets and take dogs out to potty, load up after event.

**June 17, 5:30 - 8:30 pm, Mill Point Park, Spring Lake.** Part of the annual Spring Lake Heritage Festival, HHS Adopt-a-thon. Four volunteers are needed to help unload pets and take dogs out to potty, load up after event.

**June 20, 10 am - 4 pm, American Red Cross Pet Disaster Squad Fundraiser, Ottawa County Fair-**

**grounds.** Six volunteers are needed to staff an informational table, transport dogs/cats, unload and take dogs out to potty and load up after event.

### MICROCHIPPING CLINICS

Volunteers are needed periodically to help with paperwork at microchipping clinics. Call our office for details.

### SPECIAL EVENTS

**June 16, 5 - 8:30 pm, Spring Lake Heritage Festival Dog Walk, Central Park, Spring Lake.** Ten volunteers are needed to help register walkers and staff an informational table at Central Park & Old Boys Brewhouse, walk the route, transport walkers from Old Boys Brewhouse back to Central Park following walk.

**June 25, 7 am - 4 pm, 2nd Annual Putts for Paws Golf Outing, Grand Haven Golf Club.** Ten volunteers are needed to register golfers, work silent auction, drive beverage cart, set up and tear down, help potty dogs for adoption.

# HHS Depends Completely on Donations from the Public to Operate and Care for Stray, Abused and Unwanted Animals

Dr. Good, from Page 1



from the worst of circumstances and in the worst of shape, but they always seem so grateful for a second chance. It may take months of recovery and rehabilitation, and then more time to find that ideal home. The reward is then seeing that same animal that you've cared for and come to know thriving in its new home. Working together with staff, volunteers and others toward this common goal is also rewarding.

**Q: What's the most challenging part of the job?**

**A:** The most difficult aspect of shelter medicine is witnessing the "disposable" attitude toward pets in today's society, and, of course, the daily reality of euthanasia. Owning an animal should be a life-time commitment, yet I have seen animals surrendered because they "meow too loudly," "shed too much," or "no longer match the color scheme of the house." These are all actual reasons that have been given by an owner surrendering a pet cat or dog to the shelter!

**Q: HHS certainly plays an important role in Ottawa County, providing care and shelter to abused and unwanted animals, trying to adopt pets into new homes, and educating the public through community outreach**

**programs like low-cost spay and neuter. Why is it important for the community to support HHS?**

**A:** The animals have no voice without the humane society. Throwing the cat out the window or kicking the dog because you are mad at your significant other is not tolerable. Allowing your pet to have litter after litter of offspring every year, contributing to the tremendous pet overpopulation problem, is not acceptable. Watching animals suffer from hypothermia, malnutrition or from treatable parasite infestations is not agreeable. These are all problem areas in which the humane society focuses its efforts to help resolve.

**Q: Where do you see the humane society five years from now?**

**A:** Harbor Humane Society is completely dependent on donations from the public in order to operate and provide care for the stray, abused and/or unwanted animals of Ottawa County. The current building is at capacity every single day, with more and more animals in need coming through the doors every day. The humane society will need to work toward expanding the current building, as well as staff, in order to meet the growing needs of the county. I would also like to see all humane societies strive toward becoming high-adoption and placement facilities. As always, euthanasia is not the solution to dealing with the tremendous surplus of cats and dogs. We must strive toward ending the overpopulation problem through spaying and neutering of companion animals, as well as educating the public on the wonderful pets available for adoption at all shelters.

**Q: You also work as a veterinarian at a private practice. How do you juggle both jobs?**

**A:** It has been very hard at times to juggle both jobs. The running joke at the shelter is that the position is part-time with full-time hours! The small animal clinic I work at part-time has also been very understanding and accommodating, especially for those emergencies that arise as the weather turns warmer.

**Q: What companion animals do you own yourself?**

**A:** I have owned everything from cats, dogs, rats, birds, snakes, guinea pigs, rabbits, ferrets and hamsters! I have never owned a pot-bellied pig, hedgehog or lizard. One day I hope to be in a position to afford a horse and llama!

**Q: Is there anything else you want readers to know?**

**A:** I would like readers to know that everything they do to support the humane society is truly appreciated! Helping the animals is a collective, community effort and we are so grateful for our supporters. I would also like the public to know that giving a homeless animal a second chance is one of the most rewarding, fulfilling things you can do. By adopting from Harbor Humane Society, you lift up the spirits of the staff tremendously and allow us to help the next animal in need. While some adopted animals may come with "baggage," by patiently working through issues and appreciating the journey that animal has taken, I believe you can not only bond tightly, but also uncover a true diamond in the rough!

# ***Intentions are Good, But Funding is Depleted*** **Won't You Make a Donation to our H.E.R.O. Fund?**

The message is getting through about how important it is to spay and neuter your pets. If owners took responsibility to spay and neuter their pets, it would help with pet overpopulation and the sky-high number of pets that then have to be euthanized in shelters every year.

Harbor Humane Society is currently receiving about 50 calls a week about the H.E.R.O. (Help Everyone Reduce Overpopulation) Project. This is the program that provides vouchers to low-income families to have their pets spayed or neutered. These individuals want to do the right thing. The problem is that the program is running low on funds.

Since its inception in 2005, the H.E.R.O Project has spayed or neutered more than 650 animals. Harbor Humane Society is now in desperate need of donations to this fund. With the project depleted of funds, HHS is currently unable to honor requests for vouchers.

The H.E.R.O. Project was established to increase the number of spayed and neutered pets in Ottawa County. Anyone whose income is at or below the poverty level can apply for a spay/neuter voucher for their pet. The voucher is for the full cost of the procedure.

In today's tough economy, the H.E.R.O. Project becomes even more important. Good pet owners are being forced to decide between surgical sterilization for their pets or household needs. A \$50 donation can cover the costs of one surgery and prevent the

birth of hundreds of unwanted animals.

For every human infant birth in the United States, 45 kittens and 15 puppies are also born. Many end up in animal shelters or euthanized. In 2008, more than 4,000 animals from Ottawa County alone came into Harbor Humane Society and almost half were euthanized due to pet overpopulation.

You can make a difference in the lives of countless animals by contributing to the H.E.R.O. Project. Tax-deductible donations can be sent directly to Harbor Humane Society at 14345 Bagley Street, West Olive, MI 49460 or made online at [www.harborhumane.org](http://www.harborhumane.org). Please note on your check that your donation is specifically for the H.E.R.O. Project.



## **Economy Puts Strain on HHS Budget**

**HHS is currently caring for more than 400 animals per month, many who come in sick, injured or abused. With the economy, we expect this number to continue to rise. We are in need of donations to our General Fund. Can you help? Call us at 616.399.2119 ext. 111 or visit us online at [www.harborhumane.org](http://www.harborhumane.org).**

**SAVE THE DATE**

**TAILS ON TRAILS**



A BENEFIT FOR HARBOR HUMANE SOCIETY

**September 26, 2009**

**Kirk Park**

Join in the fun of the Tails on Trails Dog Walk to benefit Harbor Humane Society!

## **Pack Leaders Needed!**

What a fun way to work together with family, friends or co-workers to support Harbor Humane Society. A Pack is a group of walkers who join together to raise \$1,000 or more to help animals!

Be a Pack Leader and recruit your family, friends or co-workers today.

For more information and to register your pack, contact Abbei Monroe at (616) 399-2119, ext. 111 or [marketing@harborhumane.org](mailto:marketing@harborhumane.org).

## Girls on the Run Select Harbor Humane for Charitable Donations



A big thank you to the Grand Haven Council of Girls on the Run, who once again raised donations for the Harbor Humane Society.

Girls on the Run is an organization that helps girls build self-esteem and enhance their lives and the lives of others.

The group selected HHS as the charity for their recent project and came through with flying colors. The project does culminate in a run to help girls learn about self-respect and healthy lifestyles, but the run is not competitive.

## First Fur Ball Full of Furry Fun



Thanks so much to all who supported the very first Fur Ball! One hundred guests enjoyed dinner, dancing and a whole lot of furry fun!

A little more than \$8,000 was raised to help the animals at HHS! Special thanks to Jayne Austin, Jane Johnson and Nancy Van Eeneman for helping to put the event together. These ladies did a fabulous job recruiting auction items and attendees. Look for the Second Annual Fur Ball in March 2010!

## Shelby's Place Turns Four With a Bang

*By Colleen Hnot,  
Store Manager*

Can you believe that Shelby's Place is already four years old? We've already been at the new location for a whole year! So many things have changed in these last years. People and businesses have been so generous that we've been able to make the store look unique and stay neater. I can't begin to tell you how grateful we are!!

To celebrate this awesome occasion, we will be having an Anniversary **Open House and Adopt-a-thon on June 26 and 27**. There will be free giveaways, free popcorn and cake, drawings for prizes, great sales specials, and more.

The animals for the adopt-a-thon will only be here on Saturday, the 27 and we will have special adoption rates. We will also be having microchipping from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. on Saturday for only \$10!

Come visit us during our celebration and see how we've changed and grown. Enjoy the animals, the prices, and the festive atmosphere, as we enjoy our wonderful customers!



**The ONLY thrift store in Holland going to the dogs!**

# We Need Your Help!

Helping, From Page 1

dollars every year on pet toys alone. Americans also spend \$2 billion dollars each year on homeless, unwanted, abused and discarded pets every year.

Harbor Humane Society is appealing to the people of Ottawa County to harvest that love so many of you have for your pets and help the animals that need it the most. Currently, our financial status is grim. We are consistently taking in animals, and owners are unable to pay the small surrender fees. Often these animals haven't received routine vet care or come to us sick and in need of immediate medical care. This is taxing our already tight budget.

Harbor Humane Society has been the only animal care facility in Ottawa County for more than 50 years. We do not receive taxpayer dollars or government support. We have a contract with Ottawa County Animal Control to provide a service for the animals they collect. Our main source of financial support is you, the general public.

Quite simply, I diligently support an animal welfare organization because millions of years ago, people domesticated cats and dogs, and now, these domesticated animals need help from people. I know I can help them and I now ask the same of you. I ask you to consider making a contribution of \$25, \$50, \$100 or any amount you can afford to the Harbor Humane Society's general fund and know that by helping animals, you are also helping people.

## "Dog Whisperer" Will Train You, Your Dog



Harbor Humane Society is teaming up with West Michigan's very own "dog whisperer" Al Casimiro, who you read about in the last issue of Paw Prints, to offer dog obedience classes to the public.



Al Casimiro of K-9 Specialist, along with two assistant trainers, will conduct five weeks of basic obedience classes beginning June 1, 2009. Twenty percent of all class fees will be donated to Harbor Humane Society.

Obedience classes will run nightly, Monday through Friday. Participants will choose one night per week, from 7- 8:30 p.m. Classes will be held at Harbor Humane Society, 14345 Bagley Street, West Olive. The class fee is \$175.



Class size is limited; pre-registration is required. All human participants must be at least 16 years old and all dogs must be older than 10 weeks. Dogs must be current on all vaccinations and both human- and dog-friendly. All dog breeds welcome.

For more information, please log on to [www.k9specialist.net](http://www.k9specialist.net) or contact Al Casimiro at 616-212-3054.



## Birthday Girl Fills Shelter's Wishes

Instead of getting gifts for her birthday, one of our young supporters asked her friends and family to give to the Humane Society instead. How about trying this fund-raising technique at your next party?

# Take Your Dog to Work June 26 ... If Your Employer Says OK!

Here's a fun way to help Harbor Humane Society. Participate in the annual Take Your Dog to Work Day (as long as your employer says OK) and use the day to raise awareness and funds for the shelter.

Friday, June 26, 2009 is the 10th Anniversary of the National Take Your Dog to Work Day. It's a day when animal shelters, pet sitters and businesses of all sizes come together to promote the value of pets.

Pet Sitters International offers these steps for unleashing the joy in your company and community.

## Step 1

**Organize an event.** Go to [www.takeyourdog.com](http://www.takeyourdog.com) for lots of great ideas on hosting an event. You'll want to assure the boss that pets will be kept on leash or in workstations and won't interfere with work.

If you are unable to have dogs in the workplace, consider alternate celebrations like having employees bring photos of their pets or ask your company to host a fundraiser for the animal shelter in your community.

## Step 2

**Give them the facts.** Tell management that one in five companies in the United States currently allows pets in the workplace. A recent survey showed:

\* 55 million Americans believe having pets in the workplace leads to a more creative environment.

\* 53 million believe having pets in the workplace decreases absenteeism.

\* 38 million believe having pets in the workplace creates a more productive environment.

## Step 3

**Ask your local shelter or favorite rescue group to join your event.**

Invite them to bring adoptable pets or information about adoption opportunities, and consider holding a fundraiser to benefit that shelter.

## Step 4

**Get publicity for your event.** Be sure to tell your local newspaper and radio and TV stations about your event either through a phone call or by issuing a press release.

## Step 5

**Have fun!** Dog lovers already know how great it would be to have their furry companions at work with them all day. Recruit your co-workers to meet and greet all the dogs, help with the event, consider volunteering at their local shelter or make a financial donation.

Have questions or need help planning your event? Contact Marketing Director Abbei Monroe at (616) 299-3119, ext. 111.



## It's Kitten Season! Foster Homes Needed!

Spring brings many new faces to Harbor Humane Society.

Mommy cats along with litters of kittens are brought to the shelter on an almost daily basis.

Foster homes are desperately needed to house mommies and babies until kittens are old enough to be put up for adoption. Dedicated foster parents are also needed to foster young orphaned kittens.

If you can help, please contact Lindsey Klomprens at (616) 399-2119, ext. 119.

## New Faces, Familiar Faces in New Jobs

Lindsey Klomprens is now handling adoption counseling, dog temperament testing and foster care coordination.

Abbei Monroe has become the Marketing & Volunteer Director.

Molly Klont is in animal admitting, coordinating rescues and intake.

HHS also welcomes Andrea Bruce to the team. She can be found in animal admitting.

Did you know . . .

Take Your Dog to Work Day was created in 1999 to celebrate the great companions dogs make and to encourage their adoption from humane societies, animal shelters and breed rescue clubs.

# GOIN' GREEN IS GOIN' TO THE DOGS!

Harbor Humane Society is joining the Go Green movement. In an effort to better utilize funds and save a few trees, Paw Prints will soon be delivered electronically only.

We want to be able to keep you informed about exciting HHS

events, great adoption stories and other news. Please email [volunteers@harborhumane.org](mailto:volunteers@harborhumane.org) with your current email address, along with your first and last name.

HHS does not sell or lend mailing lists. Your information will be used for shelter purposes only.

## Save June 25 for Annual Golf Outing



We are currently seeking event sponsors, auction donations and golfers for the second annual Putts for Paws Golf Outing, to be held June 25 at the Grand Haven Golf Club, 8 a.m. shotgun start. Contact Abbei Monroe at (616) 399-2119, ext. 111 for more information.

### Landscaping Your Yard? Avoid Cocoa Mulch!

Beware cocoa mulch if you own a pet! Cocoa mulch, commonly sold at landscaping and home repair stores, contains the same ingredients that make chocolate toxic to dogs. Low doses cause gastrointestinal upset, but high doses may lead to rapid heartbeat, seizures and even death, according to the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

Address Service Requested

Visit our website at: [www.harborhumane.org](http://www.harborhumane.org)

E-mail: [office@harborhumane.org](mailto:office@harborhumane.org)

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Harbor Humane Society



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