



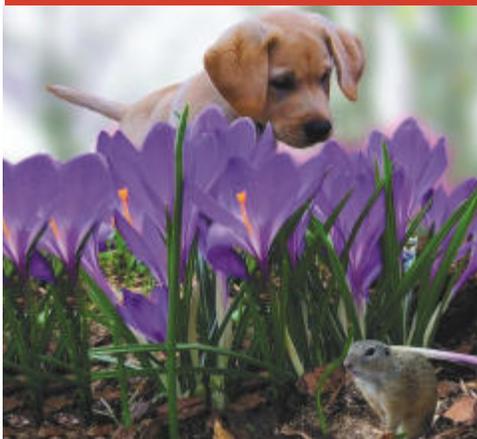
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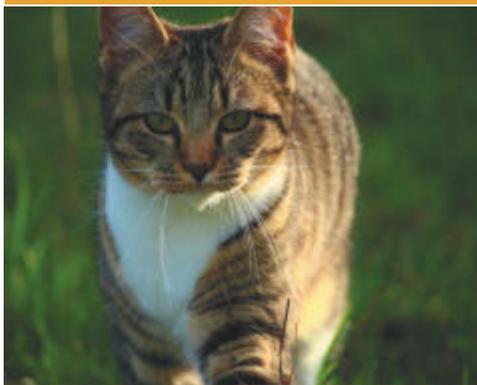
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March / April 2021



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Dear Friends of Animals,

We are finally into 2021 and we hope it is a much better year for all.

This pandemic has changed the lives of many. Missaukee Humane Society continues its mission to rescue and re-home homeless animals throughout our area and beyond. As many of you are aware, we network with shelters across Michigan and in Texas. We are expanding our reach and helping homeless animals in the shelter systems in Texas, Tennessee and Louisiana currently. However, this could not be possible without the generosity of supporters, like you.

As you read in our last newsletter, MHS assisted Michigan State Police and Gladwin County Animal Control with a cruelty case involving over 100 animals. That case is hopefully coming to an end and we can finally get the animals in loving homes.

Since our last newsletter, we have been busy on behalf of animals. Along with normal intakes of stray and unwanted pets, we assisted Missaukee County Sheriff's Department in January with a case involving two dogs, chickens, and a Pig, who later became known as "Walter." It is a cruelty case and while we cannot share much of the details, MHS transported "Walter" to MSU for veterinary care. Many thanks to Lucky Day Animal Rescue & Farm Sanctuary in Grand Blanc, Michigan who stepped up to become the primary caretaker of "Walter." As you can see on the next page, "Walter" was injured and needed urgent veterinary care. After weeks of antibiotics and surgically treating damaged skin tissue, he has improved tremendously with the help and care of Lucky Day Animal Rescue and MSU veterinarians. We thank them all for their help!

Caring for animals is a daily responsibility. The staff at MHS is devoted and dedicated to care for the animals in our care until a forever home is found!

We appreciate all the support and donations that we receive from you.

You help make this all possible.

Many thanks,

Kyle Musselman

MHS Director / NL Editor

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How some animals arrive to us...

In January, MHS assisted Missaukee County Sheriff's Department to help two dogs, a cat, chickens, and one pig. When we arrived, we noticed the pig seriously needed veterinary care. We networked with Lucky Day Animal Rescue & Farm Sanctuary to become his primary caretaker. Here are photos taken onsite when we picked Walter up and throughout his care after MHS transported him to Michigan State University Vet Clinic.



Top Left: Walter before being rescued.

Top Center: Ear wound

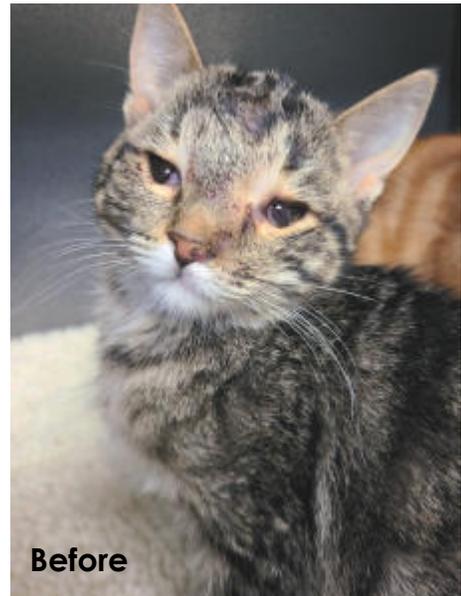
Left: One of the dogs rescued from same location.

Right: "Walter" after being discharged from MSU!

This sweet little kitten arrived to us with a severe nasal cavity infection. After several surgeries we are starting to see improvement. We call her Janet.



After



Before

APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE

Services provided include, but not limited to:

Spaying & Neutering

Low-cost microchipping (includes registration)

Preventative Care

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We welcome you as a client!

MHS has offered veterinary services such as spaying and neutering to the public since 2014. As a result, over 2,500 community pets have been spayed or neutered.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

I am pleased to share with you that the MHS Veterinary Clinic will soon be expanding their hours of operation from one day a week to three days a week. The demand for our services continues to grow.

We are currently open on Wednesdays, excluding the first Wednesday of each month. We will soon be open Monday through Wednesday with Dr. Whitney.

The clinic provides high quality care at a reduced price. It is open to the public; so, you do not need to be from the Missaukee County area to utilize the clinic.

To schedule an appointment all you need to do is call the office at 231-839-3800.

I would like to thank Dr. Whitney for increasing her availability to care for your pets. We are very fortunate to have the skill set, experience and expertise that she brings to our clinic.

We look forward to serving you and your beloved pets.

Mary Jo Binkley

MHS President—Board of Directors



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Some of the new faces we have recently transferred into our shelter.





Dog on run for almost 1 year comes to MHS for care

“Ghost” as everyone was calling her had braved the outside elements for almost one year before finally being live trapped. Many thanks to one local resident who left food out twice daily for her and to Beth Householder Moore of Moore’s Lost K9 Search & Recovery for her expertise.

Ghost arrived at MHS and was checked over by MHS veterinary staff. After being held for stray hold—she was adopted to a forever home!

Left—“Ghost” with property owner. Right—“Ghost” and her new family!

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Senior Care Tips for Dogs and Cats

Dr. Jessica Christensen, DVM / MHS Vice President—Board of Directors

A major problem in aging pets is mobility. Pets who are unable to move their body in a natural way may have difficulty urinating, having bowel movements, and interacting with family and housemates.

Below are some basic things you can do to make sure your pet is comfortable not only physically but emotionally:

- 1. Provide good traction:** Tile or wood floors can be a huge obstacle for your pet. Use rug runners, bath mats or yoga mats to give them a nice ‘runway’ to walk on. Use something that is easy to move (but doesn't slide) and easy to clean.
- 2. Grooming:** Many ‘furry’ dogs get a lot of hair between their toes, and in essence they are wearing furry socks, which causes an increased risk of slipping and falling. By using a beard clipper for people, you can clip all the hair around their pads and toes to help expose their pads to increase traction.
- 3. Water/Food Bowls:** Make sure your pet's water and food bowl are in a location that they can get to easily. Multiple water bowls around the house will help your pet make shorter trips to get a drink. Dehydration is very common and dangerous in older pets. Easy access to water is essential.
- 4. Stairs:** Stairs may be very scary to a dog that has arthritis. Try to make the bottom level their ‘home’ so that they don't have to go up the stairs too often. If they do, make sure there is good traction (see ideas above) or you assist them.
- 5. Harnesses:** There are great harnesses that you can purchase that give your dog a little bit of assistance. Or you can use a beach towel under their abdomen as a sling. You will be surprised how much they appreciate the relief.
- 6. More times outside or a “Port-O-John” in the home:** When a dog becomes arthritic, going to the bathroom outside becomes a painful chore. This discomfort may cause your pet to hold their bowel movements and urine for longer periods. Or when they do ‘go’ outside – they don't go as much as they should. Then when they are back in the house – they need to go unexpectedly. Make an effort to let your dog go outside more often and provide an area that is ‘ok’ for them to use in the home in case of an emergency. This will not only help them physically but also emotionally – because they KNOW they aren't supposed to potty indoors. Puppy Pads near the door or artificial turf made for this purpose are excellent choices. As frustrating as accidents may be, do not punish your pet if it happens. Your dog is naturally opposed to making a mess in his “den.” He will be as upset about it as you are.
- 7. Lower the Litter Box:** Some litter boxes have very high sides and your cat may need to ‘jump’ into it – purchasing a litter box that is lower will help them comfortably get into their bathroom. Double check that the litter isn't too deep for your cat. Older cats may struggle with sinking into the sandy surface. A thinner layer of litter can help them feel more stable.
- 8. Lower your cat's food bowl:** Many people feed their cats on a higher surface – especially when they have dogs in the house that like to steal their cat's food. Place the cat's food bowl on the floor – but barricade the dog! Most cats do not show signs of arthritis – so if you see your cat's appetite decrease, try to make the food bowl more accessible in case that is the issue.

9. Provide Additional Light:

As pets age they are prone to cataracts or older age changes to their lens which impairs vision, especially at night! Adding a light source outside or a nightlight in locations where your pet travels, eats or uses the litter box will help aid vision when it's dark.

10. Pain Medication and Anti-Inflammatory Drugs:

See your regular veterinarian if you feel your pet would benefit from some medications that relieve inflammation and pain. Too many people do not see their veterinarian during their pet's senior years because they do not think there is anything that can be done - however - there are many safe medications that allow pets to live more comfortably!



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