

# ANIMALS BEST FRIEND Fund, Inc.

Since 1981

*Prevention Not Destruction*

ANIMALS BEST FRIEND FUND, INC. NEWSLETTER

JULY-AUGUST 2018

Number of cats and dogs spayed/neutered year to date.....	791
Spay/neuter expenses year to date .....	50,970.50
Administrative expenses year to date .....	1,734.10
Donations received year to date.....	38,523.56

The above totals are through 6/30/18.

Thanks to everyone who donated during the month of May we were able to raise the \$15,000 that we needed to raise to receive the match. That money will be used to pay our June and July neutering bills.

#### 4<sup>TH</sup> OF JULY WARNING

Please keep your pets at home during the 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebrations so they don't run off and become lost trying to escape the noise from fireworks. Make sure you have current ID tags on your pets in case they become separated from you. The days following the Fourth are the busiest at our local shelters because of all the dogs that become separated from their owners during the fireworks shows. Their ticket home is proper ID including tags, a collar with owner contact information and/or a microchip.

#### UPCOMING FUNDRAISING EVENTS

July 21- Please note that we will NOT be participating in Paw Paw Days this year.

August 3-4- Garage sale at 310 N. John St. in Decatur, MI. Hours are 9:00-4:00 on Friday and 9:00-3:00 on Saturday.

September 15- Bake sale at Pet Supplies Plus Portage from 9-3.

October 27- Halloween bake sale at Pet Supplies Plus Portage.

December 15- Christmas bake sale at Pet Supplies Plus Portage.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Thanks to Vickie Brinks for donating baking supplies. To Gail Ross for donating catnip mice. To Ben & Claudia Johnson for donating postage stamps. To Betsy & Melinda Ryba, Vivian Spiech and Phyllis Martens for donating garage sale items. To Opulent Blends for donating proceeds from our online party. To Kelly Ross for hosting a garage sale during the month of May. To Taylor's Florist, Gifts and Décor in Paw Paw for selling candy bars for us.

MEMORIAL DONATIONS RECEIVED

<u>From</u>	<u>In Memory Of</u>
Ray & Jerre Ihrcke	Harold Stangle
Diane Karlis	Gracie

We received donations in memory of Herbert E. White from Gibbons/Neuman; Laurie A. White; Florence Finkey; Charles & Susan Hefner; Paul & Theresa Snow; Shirley Townsend and JoAnn Brinker.

<u>From</u>	<u>In Honor Of</u>
Christine Ballard	Frank Jamison
Linda Crawford	Julie Kelley
Lexi Truscott	Ray & Jerre Ihrcke
Marianne Abbott	Nanna Hagard's 90 <sup>th</sup> Birthday
Linda Yost	the ABF volunteers
Barb Loney	Alexander David Loney

The following people donated to our feral cat program: Ray & Jerre Ihrcke; Kim Dimock; Christine McGrew; Michele Mullen & Mike Williams; Ben & Claudia Johnson; Nancy Dolan.

Thanks to Mike Williams; Michele Mullen; Karen Dixon; Rodney Reid; Abigale Douglas; and Mary Johnson for working at our Mother's Day bake sale. To Mary Johnson; Teresa Rakowsky; Diane Karlis; Phyllis Martens; Jessica Hren; Betsy & Melinda Ryba; the Baldwin Family; Karen Dixon; Lorraine Haring; Kathy Eckstein; Patricia Haas; Kathy Slocum; Peggy Marcelletti; and Claudia Johnson for donating baked goods. To Pet Supplies Plus Westnedge for providing the location for our bake sales. We made \$2,356.00 at this sale.

Thanks to Michele Mullen; Mike Williams and Mary Johnson for working at our Father's Day bake sale. To Mary Johnson; Teresa Rakowsky; Phyllis Martens; Lorraine Haring; Jessica Hren; Diane Karlis; Amazing Taste Amazing Grace; Betsy & Melinda Ryba; & Claudia Johnson for donating bake goods. To

Karen Dixon and Laura Darr for donating crafts for us to sell. To Pet Supplies Plus for providing the location for our bake sales. We made \$1,360.75 at this sale.

#### HOW YOU CAN HELP ANIMALS

One of our donors recently passed away and her son is desperately looking for a home for her cats as he cannot keep them. It is two adult female cats that need a new home. They are between 3-5 years old, spayed and are indoor/outdoor cats. They are a little skittish to people and they tolerate dogs. If you can give these cats a home call Cary Johnson at 269/359-8199.

Please consider naming Animals Best Friend in your will and for memorial donations.

We need someone to enter D&W and Family Fare receipts into a spreadsheet and place the receipts into bundles totaling \$15,000 each. If you can help with this project please call Karen and let her know (269/808-0064).

Please continue to save Purina weight circles for us. The deadline to send these weight circles to us is July 15. After that date we will no longer be participating due to changes in the program.

We are looking for people who would be interested in a board member position with Animals Best Friend. We are looking for an individual with knowledge about cats and dogs and the importance of having your pets spayed or neutered. Must be a team player and accessible for phone conversations. Need to have computer experience to possibly work on our newsletter and website. If you're interested in this board position call Karen at 269/808-0064.

We need volunteers to find locations where we can have our donation canisters and volunteers to monitor the cans on a regular basis. If you can help with this project call Karen at 269/808-0064.

Please continue saving receipts for us from your purchases at SpartanNash stores (D&W and Family Fare). This is an on-going project.

You can sponsor the spaying or neutering of a cat for \$60.00 or a dog for \$80.00. You can also sponsor one month's neutering at an area veterinary clinic for \$500.00 and you can specify whether the surgeries are done at a veterinary clinic in Kalamazoo or Van Buren county. This is an excellent way to honor or memorialize a loved one.

Please consider making a tax deductible donation to Animals Best Friend today. Our funds are severely depleted and we need your support more than ever. So far this year we have spayed/neutered over 791 cats and dogs and we need your support to continue our spay/neuter programs.

We need barn homes for feral and semi feral cats. If you can provide a barn home for a cat or two contact Marcie at 269/655-1813.

How is your pet coping with the heat? During these hot summer months it is important to remember that your pet can be adversely affected by the heat. The following tips can help your pet stay comfortable, and even save it's life!

Make sure your pet has plenty of fresh water available at all times.

If possible walk your dog in the early morning or late evening when it's cooler. If this isn't possible, a shorter walk may be in order, especially on hot summer days.

Remember not to walk your pet on asphalt on hot days. Doing so can result in severe burns to the pads of your pets feet.

Pets that live outdoors should always have plenty of shade and fresh water.

Never leave your pet in your vehicle unattended. Temperatures can reach over 100 degrees in a closed up vehicle in just a few minutes.

Don't forget to use flea and tick control and administer heartworm preventative to your dogs and cats on a monthly basis.

Choosing healthy pet food:

There are many choices in pet foods available at pet specialty and other retail stores. Buying the best possible food that you can afford is important. As with humans, cats and dogs are healthier if they eat good quality food. Always check with your vet before switching your pet's food and find out what your vet recommends based on the animals individual conditions and needs. Always read the ingredient labels! Things to avoid are food coloring, excessive artificial flavorings and preservatives, and too much corn and soy. Ingredients are listed by quantity so if the first ingredient listed is corn, or corn meal, that is probably not the best food for your animal. Many food manufacturers are using the catch phrase "all natural". This can be misleading and really is not regulated or held to any standard. Look instead for certified organic ingredients and non-GMO labeling. You are what you eat and so are our companion animals. Feeding them good quality food keeps them healthier and may result in fewer trips to the vet for skin conditions and gastrointestinal problems. Avoid food with cheap "filler" ingredients means your pet does not to eat as much (always follow package feeding directions) so the higher price per pound that you'll pay for nutrient dense food may be the best value and could keep that much loved animal in your life a few years longer!

Animals Best Friend is an all volunteer animal welfare group dedicated to reducing cat and dog overpopulation in Kalamazoo and Van Buren counties. Donations to Animals Best Friend are tax deductible and can be sent to us at P.O. Box 443, Oshtemo, MI 49077, or made on our website [www.animalsbestfriendfund.org](http://www.animalsbestfriendfund.org). Our policy is to spend 10% or less of donations we receive on administrative expenses, which means that at least 90% of your donation funds spay/neuter surgeries for cats and dogs. Since Animals Best Friend was founded in 1981 we have helped spay/neuter over 53,015 cats and dogs.