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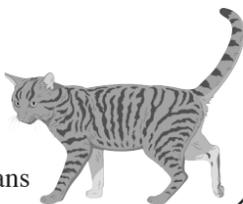
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6130 Airline Road
Fruitport

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- 2) Tell your friends about our non-profit services
- 3) Sponsor a spay or neuter for a disadvantaged owner

For information or an appointment
call 231 366-7067

Spay/Neuter Clinic Celebrates

By Janet Vormittag

Since they opened, the West Michigan Spay & Neuter Clinic has prevented the births of an estimated 672,000 puppies and kittens.

In late November the clinic "fixed" its 5,000th animal, a 7-year-old basset hound named Lady. Staff celebrated with balloons, cake, non-alcoholic champagne and goodie bags for the day's patients.

"It feels great, but I wish we could do more," said executive director/treasurer Anne Munford. "It breaks my heart to think of animals being euthanized."

Munford, one of the founders of the non-profit organization, is doing more. She has been busy applying for grants to help pet owners who can't afford the clinic's fees. They charge \$75 to spay or neuter any size dog, \$55 for a female cat and \$45 for a male cat.

To help celebrate their 5,000th surgery, Munford and volunteer Sue Stringer produced a You Tube video: Spay & Neuter Celebrate - West Michigan.

The video is a collection of photographs showing the evolution of the clinic from space in a vacant warehouse to its grand opening to milestone surgeries including its 5,000th.

The video begins with a quote from Margaret Mead: *Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.*

It's a quote close to Munford's heart, and the clinic is a perfect example of what a small group can accomplish. The clinic, which is debt free and self-sustaining, employs five people. It contracts with C-SNIP of Grand Rapids for surgical personnel.

Munford recently learned the clinic was awarded three grants from Petsmart Charities. "Our prices are low, but now we can reach out to people who can't even afford our prices," she said.

During February, in a repeat special from last year, the clinic will offer \$20 spay surgeries for female cats in a program called Beat the Heat. They have funds for 50 cats.

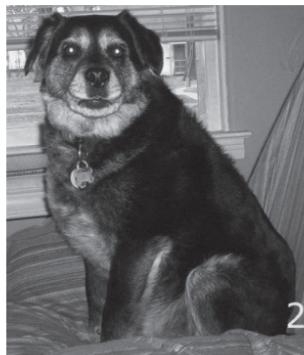
In June, the clinic will promote a Fix at Four campaign, which is intended to educate pet owners that

Could I be your PBF?

By Jonah with help from Mary Modderman and Mary Weimer

"I'm Jonah, a handsome, mature dude complete with the salt and pepper look and wisdom of doggy years well-lived. I know I can make you really happy. I've been waiting for quite a while, hoping for a home! My paperwork says that I'm a Lab/Cattle Dog mix...but shucks, I don't recall any cattle at all! I'm neutered, housetrained, and current on shots. PBF stands for Pound Buddies Foster...but I like to think of it as Possible Best Friend!

"I love to pose for pictures and go for car rides. You'll have to drive, though, as I really enjoy watching the scenery. I enjoy eating out, but for some reason I'm not able to go inside restaurants...sigh... they just don't understand how well mannered I am. My three small doggie brothers and I live with my foster mom. We get along fine and have a great time playing. I'm a good watchdog and make sure Mom knows if someone's around. My manners are impeccable — I'm respectful of cats and never pull on my leash when out for a walk because I



Clinic Assistant Melody Cassady comforts Lady on the recovery mat in the surgery room. Lady is just waking up and is wrapped in blankets to keep her warm. Lady is the clinic's 5,000th patient.

it's safe to spay/neuter puppies and kittens as young as four months old.

Thanks to a grant, the clinic will offer reduced prices for 45 4-month-old animals.

In August, a Primp Your Pit grant will allow the clinic to offer owners of pit bulls and pit bull mixes a reduced price for spay/neuter.

The grants include an advertising budget. Munford said advertising and other publicity raises awareness of the problem of pet overpopulation and of the clinic's existence. Last year they received phone calls for months after the Beat the Heat special.

Melody Cassady has worked at the clinic for five months and fosters dogs for Pound Buddies Rescue. She sees such clinics as the wave of the future, but said it will be a long haul unless the entire community gets behind spay/neuter. "It is hard to see progress considering the number of animals still coming in, but you have to think how many more would there be if we hadn't spayed/neutered 5,000 animals."

West Michigan Spay and Neuter Clinic
6130 Airline Road, Fruitport, Mich.
www.wmspayandneuter.org - 231-366-7067
(Taken from Dogs & Cats Magazine)

wouldn't want to spoil this wonderful fun. I will also let you know when I need to go outside."

Senior dogs come with lots of perks -- no housebreaking or obedience classes to deal with, neutering done, shorter commitment — only a grateful heart for your caring enough to offer a home!

"If this doggy tale appeals to you, let's meet each other and see if it can work."

Jonah's adoption fee is a very special price to the right home. Please contact Pound Buddies at (231) 724-6500 to make arrangements to meet Jonah, as he is in a foster home. Or stop by Pound Buddies. Our hours are mentioned at this same number and posted online at www.PoundBuddies.org. You can check out available dogs and learn more about our rescue and

its activities. There are always hopeful hearts available to fill your home with the kind of love and laughter that only canines and felines can deliver! Volunteers and donations are never turned away if you have a few hours, dollars, or even pet-related items you want to share. •

Local group purchases area Pet Supplies Plus stores

(Submitted by U.S. Retail)

U.S. Retail, a West-Michigan based ownership group, has purchased six Pet Supplies Plus stores in the Grand Rapids/Holland area. Completion of the sale was announced last month.

The Muskegon-based group is led by CEO Steve Adams, with partners Chad Bush and Aaron Young.

"We are excited to add to our company the West Michigan Pet Supplies Plus stores," Adams said. "We believe that we will be able to successfully grow these stores as we invest in expertise and customer engagement training that has defined our culture in our other stores around the country."

Store locations include: 3593 Alpine Avenue, N.W.; 3110 28th Street, S.E.; 4920 Wilson Avenue in Grandville; 6159 Kalamazoo Avenue, S.E.; 2033 28th Street in Wyoming; 12579 Felch Road, Holland.

The ownership group now operates 20 Pet Supplies Plus stores with plans to open two new stores in the Dallas/Fort Worth area next year.

The group began operations with their first store in Appleton, Wisconsin in 1996. Other stores are located in Texas and Alabama. With this latest acquisition, the company employs about 400 people and is the largest franchisee in the Detroit-based Pet Supplies Plus franchise system.

Adams, Bush and Young reside in West Michigan and have prior careers in banking and commercial real estate in Grand Rapids and along the lakeshore.

In all, there are 260 Pet Supplies Plus stores across the country, of which 145 are franchised and 115 corporate owned. •

Johnson and Olympic gymnast announce new license plate

(Submitted by the Michigan Secretary of State)

Michigan residents who cheered local athletes as they competed at the 2012 Olympic Games can now purchase a new license plate to show their support for Team USA.

Secretary of State Ruth Johnson has announced the availability of the plate with the assistance of Olympic gold medalist Jordyn Wieber, who tweeted an image of the new plate to her half million followers on Twitter. The redesigned plate features bolder USA lettering and the phrase "Go Team USA" along the bottom.

For each sale of the \$35 plate, \$25 benefits student athletes training at the U.S. Olympic Education Center (USOEC) at Northern Michigan University in Marquette. When the plates are renewed, the additional \$10 goes entirely to the USOEC.

The new plate replaces Michigan's existing Olympic design that was introduced in 1995.

Michigan is one of 11 states to currently offer a license plate benefiting the U.S. Olympic program.

An order form for the Olympic plate is available at <http://goo.gl/KtMTy>. Plates can be purchased by mail, fax, or at any Secretary of State Office and will be mailed to customers. Olympic plates may also be personalized using Plate It Your Way. For more information, visit the Secretary of State website at www.michigan.gov/sos. •