

POUND BUDDIES ANIMAL SHELTER & ADOPTION CENTER

"PUTTING PEOPLE & PETS TOGETHER"

1300 EAST KEATING MUSKEGON MI
http://www.poundbuddies.petfinder.com

231.767.0921

Open: Tues. & Thurs. 12 – 2 p.m.
Wed. Evenings 5:30 – 7 p.m.
Sat. 11 a.m.–1:30 p.m

BOARD MEMBER POSITION OPEN

for

West Michigan Spay & Neuter Clinic
501c3

Business management experience helpful

Send resumé or list of experiences
to the clinic at:

**6130 Airline Road
Fruitport, MI 49415**

*For additional information,
call Ron Cooper at 231-865-3135.*

Critter Café Rescue

5818 Airline Rd.

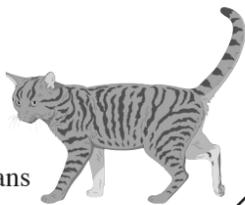
(across from Fruitport #1 Fire Station)

865-6021

*Rescuing cats & kittens,
all breeds of bunnies, guinea pigs, ratties,
hamsters, birds, and all pocket pets.*

Have needs for:

Cat Litter
Carefresh Bedding
Wood Pellets
Food, Greens, Alfalfa
Crates
Volunteers
Pet Sponsors
Returnable bottles & cans



Thanks to BISSELL Blocktail Party grant, WM Spay & Neuter Clinic reaches 7,000 surgeries

Congratulations to the West Michigan Spay & Neuter Clinic on performing its 7,000th spay/neuter last week! The clinic, located in Fruitport, opened its doors in October, 2010.



Jessie, a kitten found in a dumpster, became West Michigan Spay & Neuter Clinic's 7,000th patient thanks to a grant from the BISSELL Pet Foundation.

The lucky No. 7,000 was a kitten named Jessie. Anne Munford, director of WMSNC, said Jessie and a littermate were found in a dumpster. The family that adopted Jessie brought her in to be spayed.

Munford was pleased to announce that Jessie's surgery was only \$25, thanks to a grant from the BISSELL Pet Foundation. BPF recently awarded its grants from the proceeds of its wildly popular BISSELL Blocktail Party, held each June.

The West Michigan Spay & Neuter Clinic received a \$12,000 grant from BPF, allowing the clinic to continue offering affordable spay and neuter services.

BPF awarded grants to 16 West Michigan organizations to help fund programs that align with its four focus areas of adoption, spay/neuter, microchipping and foster care. This year's Blocktail Party set a record with nearly \$250,000 raised and 800 guests, many of whom brought along their dogs. Pet Supplies Plus, which publishes our Dogs Unleashed magazine, was proud to join forces with BPF as a sponsor for this year's Blocktail Party.

Reprinted from Dogs Unleashed Magazine

The longevity of dogs

By Dr. E. Kirsten Peters

It's just a fact: most of us outlive our dogs. Indeed, for people who are dog owners throughout their lives, a lot of grieving is guaranteed. Fido #1 dies, is replaced by Fido #2 who also dies, and so on down the long line of dogs in our households.

I was reminded of how short a dog's life is compared to ours when I read Ted Kerasote's book, *Pukka's Promise*. Kerasote is the best-selling author of *Merle's Door*, a book about the relationship he had with a mixed breed dog named Merle. At the end of that book, Merle died of cancer. After an interval of a few years, Kerasote got a purebred puppy he named Pukka.

As Kerasote explains, dogs don't live for a long time because they are basically wolves, and wolves are short-lived. In the wild, wolves tend to live only three or four years because they prey on animals that can injure and kill them. Because of the difficult conditions of their lives, wolves breed earlier than animals like grizzly bears, and they have more offspring each year.

The domestic dog, which is a wolf in friendlier clothing, follows this same pattern, reaching sexual maturity rapidly and having litters of squirming puppies that may number eight or ten. What works as a survival strategy for wolves as a species guarantees us dog lovers that we will grieve for the death of our canine companions at multiple times during our much longer lives.

But not all dogs are created the same. Different breeds of dogs have different longevity. In general, the giant breeds like the Great Dane live shorter lives than smaller dogs. And because they avoid certain genetic problems, mixed breed dogs (the honest mutts that fill dog pounds from coast to coast) tend to live longer than their purebred counterparts of the same weight.

So far, so good. But can we say more about specific expectations of canine life spans? Enter Dr. Kelly Cassidy, the curator of Washington State University's Conner Vertebrate Museum. In her free time and as a hobby, Cassidy has considered the longevity issues of dogs. She made a study of sources that list how long different breeds live versus what breeder surveys report about their own dogs. Surveys like that aren't the hardest of scientific evidence,

but they do give some data for us dog lovers to look at.

Cassidy's work suggests that quite a number of dog breeds don't appear to live as long as people like to believe. For example, German Shepherds are often said to live about 13 years. But Cassidy's reading of breeder surveys indicated a more realistic number might be a bit less than ten years.

"That's really quite a difference," Cassidy said. Selective memory and wishful thinking may result in the difference between expectations of a dog's life and what actually is likely to unfold for Fido.

In any event, the wolf heritage of dogs guarantees they won't live as long as we'd like. That's the basic fact we all know, and it's the bottom line I take away from Kerasote's book and from talking with Cassidy.

Dr. E. Kirsten Peters, a native of the rural Northwest, was trained as a geologist at Princeton and Harvard. This column is a service of the College of Agricultural, Human and Natural Resource Sciences at Washington State University.

Holiday ornament features the Lyman M. Davis schooner

(Submitted by the Lakeshore Museum Center)

The Lyman M. Davis was known as one of the fastest schooners on the Great Lakes. She carried lumber from Muskegon to Chicago from 1873 until 1912. Built by J. P. Arnold from the choicest white oak, the schooner featured two high masts and was 123 feet long. In her later years, the Lyman M. Davis transported coal across Lake Ontario.

The ornament is now available for purchase in the Muskegon Mercantile and in our satellite store at the Hackley and Hume Historic Site. Our stores are also full of jewelry, books and videos on local history, Michigan-themed items and more. For the children, there are plenty of games, puzzles, plush toys, and books to choose from.

Museum members receive a 10 percent discount on their purchases. Not a member? Visit our website, www.lakeshoremuseum.org and become one today.

Page 28 • October 2013 • Fruitport Area News



**West Michigan
Spay and Neuter**

501c3
6130 Airline Road
Fruitport

CURRENT PRICES ARE:

Male or Female Cat...\$50

Male or Female Dog...\$90

Available with spay or neuter, add:

Rabies Shot...\$10

Microchip...\$15

**Each year in West Michigan
1000's of pets are killed because
there are not enough people who
want them.**

**We are responding to this
problem by providing high quality,
low cost spay and neutering in
Fruitport using
C-Snip Veterinary Staff.**

Please help us achieve our mission:

- 1) Have your pets spayed and neutered
- 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**