

Winter 2023

Pet Gazette

Little Traverse Bay Humane Society Magazine

Exclusive Donor Publication





Douglas Shantz serves as Director of Philanthropy for Little Traverse Bay Humane Society. He's pictured with rescue dog, Theo.

Welcome

A letter from Douglas Shantz, LTBHS Director of Philanthropy

It is with great pleasure that I introduce myself as the new Director of Philanthropy for Little Traverse Bay Humane Society. I come to this position from a background in sales, management, and leadership roles in the commercial architectural and design industry.

Throughout my career, I have developed a passion

for developing and enhancing relationships while creating long-term partnerships. This passion led me to volunteer with LTBHS, where I served as Chairperson for the Putts Fore Paws event at Birchwood Farms Golf and Country Club last summer. Previously, I lived in southern Michigan, but over the past few years I fell in love with the area, and I am excited to now be a full-time Harbor Springs resident.

One of the things that attracted me to LTBHS is the incredible work that the organization does to help shelter animals find their forever homes. I have had the good fortune of adopting some incredible rescue animals over

the years, and I am proud to be dog dad to Theo, a nine-year-old rescue pup.

As Director of Philanthropy, I will be a direct connection to our donors, membership constituents, and the Emmet County community. I'm very excited to focus and expand upon our annual fundraising events including Rock Out for Rescue, Putts Fore Paws Golf Tournament, and Howl at the Moon.

I am excited to continue the vital work that LTBHS does to support animals in need and to get to know more of the amazing donors who make this lifesaving work possible.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions, concerns, or just want to say hello. I can be reached at dshantz@ltbhs.com.

Thank you for your continued support of Little Traverse Bay Humane Society.

Sincerely,

Douglas Shantz
Director of Philanthropy

Providing a helping hand to shelters in need

In the world of animal rescue, no shelter should ever feel alone. Working together for the larger purpose of helping more animals is a goal that every animal welfare organization should be striving for. When groups collaborate, everyone wins, especially the animals.

Little Traverse Bay Humane Society recently took in 18 cats from Big Lake Humane Society in Muskegon after their organization was forced to close due to a distemper outbreak caused by ill dogs that were rescued from another shelter. Distemper is a potentially deadly disease that can affect the lungs, nose, eyes, and brain of the animal. In order to keep other animals safe and care for those who were sick, Big Lake Humane Society temporarily closed. Upon hearing this news, LTBHS reached out to provide assistance with the situation. With their closure, Big Lake was unable to do any adoptions, which included cats as well. Instead of holding on to their population of shelter cats until they were able to re-open, Big Lake Humane Society made the decision to transport them to LTBHS for the chance to find homes.

In total, we took in 18 cats from Big Lake Humane Society. Despite the fact that the addition of these kitties



LTBHS staff members stand with Big Lake Humane Society staff in front of their transport vehicle after transporting 18 cats to northern Michigan.

filled our cat rooms to the brim, we knew that helping out another shelter in need was the absolutely right decision. Supporting our friends at other shelters not only helps more animals find homes, but also provides assistance to the amazing individuals who are working so hard to make a difference.



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A new mission and vision

For the past year as part of our strategic planning, we've been working to recreate our mission to reflect where the organization is today and establish one that will continue to be relevant years into the future. To guide us for the next five years, we crafted a Vision Statement. Lastly, we put pen to paper to articulate our values and the ideals we hold dear to us as an organization.

MISSION

Sustainably and respectfully serving pets and the people who love them with compassionate, comprehensive, and exemplary care.

VISION

To create an inclusive and sustainable model that ensures access to a full spectrum of animal care in partnership with our community and subsidiaries by 2027.

VALUES



We are resilient and never give up



We are guided by integrity and challenge ourselves to always do the right thing



We meet pets and people where they are without judgment



We find innovative ways to keep people and their pets together



We find solutions



We succeed because we are a team

Staff Spotlight: Meet Derek Smith



Derek Smith serves as the LTBHS Training and Behavior Specialist.

Derek Smith joined the team in 2022 and serves as Training and Behavior Specialist. He brings a wealth of knowledge and passion to his position at LTBHS. Derek offers training services to the public and tutor sessions to boarding and daycare clients.

Q: How did you get started in training?

A: It all started the day I brought my German Shepherd, Sirius, home as a puppy. I saw how much energy he had which was initially a little overwhelming. That's when I realized that he would benefit from socialization and training in order to have the best life possible. I began seeking out local training resources and struggled to find help. This is when I started to educate myself on training and decided to learn everything I could about it. I started watching training videos and listening to podcasts at night. By doing this, and working with Sirius regularly, I realized that training made me a better dog dad to him and overall, a better person in general.

Q: What do you enjoy most about training?

A: Getting a dog to play! Dogs who are stressed or anxious won't normally engage in play, so when I can get a dog to interact and begin playing with me, that's the best feeling. In regard to training, I frequently remind myself that I still have a lot to learn, and I hope to remain a lifelong student. I think that when you take on that attitude with anything, life becomes a lot more fun and interesting! I hope to never stop learning and finding more ways to help dogs and their families.

Q: Tell us about your furry friends at home

A: I have one dog, Sirius, and two cats, Tucker and Maverick. I live with my girlfriend and our two-year-old son. The relationship between the animals--and people--in the home is phenomenal. Everyone gets along really well. I truly believe that the energy we put into the world is what we get back. When working with dogs, I think it's important that we interact with them in a positive way. I believe that my own energy affects everyone else in my family including my pets, so I try to be very conscious about what I put into that environment. By consciously working to bring this positive energy into my home myself, I feel that my pets—and son, too—engage and play more together which is so rewarding.

Q: What do you hope to bring to your position as Training and Behavior Specialist?

A: I think about the close relationship that I have with my own dog, much of it enhanced through our training together. One of my goals as a trainer is to do the same for others and help families and their pets to improve their relationship with each other. I'm grateful for the opportunity to be here, not only to improve my own training education, but to have the chance to make a positive impact in the lives of pets and their families.



Putts for Paws Golf Tournament

SAVE THE DATE-BECOME A SPONSOR

Thursday, June 21, 2023

Birchwood Farms Golf and Country Club

Registration at 8 a.m. Shotgun start at 9 a.m.

Join us at Birchwood Farms Golf and Country Club for a fundraiser in support of the animals at Little Traverse Bay Humane Society. This will be a fun day of golf with a four person scramble, exciting awards, and a hole-in-one contest followed by a delicious lunch from Birchwood Farms Golf and Country Club. We have several sponsorship opportunities for yourself or business.

Contact us at 231-622-6356 or tchaney@ltbhs.com for more details about sponsorship opportunities.



Finally **FREE**

One group of courageous dogs receives redemption and the opportunity for a life of love through the collaborative efforts of animal welfare groups



Dogs imprisoned in tiny backyards tied to impossibly heavy, tow-style chains with minimal protection from the elements. Little to no medical care, nutritious food, or warm, snuggly bed to lay in. No love, treats, or squishy toys. A far cry from this, in fact. Dogs living in fear, forced to fight—often until the death—all for the sake of their owner’s financial gain.

Dogs literally fighting for their lives.

It may be hard to imagine, but this is the unthinkable reality for dogs imprisoned in a life of dogfighting. This isn’t what they choose or want; no dogs are inherently bad or are born to fight. It’s a life they’re forced into at the hands of the people who are supposed to love and care for them: their owners.

Essentially, dogfighting involves individuals baiting dogs against each other to fight until one of the dogs can no longer go on which often results in extreme injuries and often, death. Dogs often spend their lives on short, heavy chains or in a tiny, enclosed space cut off from other animals and never knowing love. It’s difficult to think about, but the sad reality is that dogfighting remains a prevalent underground sport in cities and rural communities across the country even though it’s illegal. Dogfighting is also associated with other forms of criminal activity including possession of illegal drugs and gambling. Sadly, each year, thousands of dogs are forced to fight and suffer.

But this story is one of hope. One of rescue and redemption. Of freedom. Of collaboration between groups helping to ensure a bright future for dogs who previously had none.

In February, Little Traverse Bay Humane Society (LTBHS) took in 15 dogs seized from suspected dogfighting operations from multiple locations in the Detroit area. Prior to this, Detroit-based partner group, Bark Nation, assisted local, state, and federal law enforcement officers in what is believed to be the largest operation to combat dogfighting in Michigan with the removal of 133 dogs. The majority of these dogs were found tethered to heavy chains living outdoors with little to no shelter and most requiring immediate medical care for a variety of injuries and illnesses.

Bark Nation Shelter Manager and Placement Coordinator, Jenna Hudy, said their agency is often contacted by authorities when it comes to cases associated with organized crime involving dogfighting. Bark Nation specializes in working to end cruelty and organized dogfighting by removing animals from their situation and placing them with rescue groups with the goal of adoption.

“When we first got to these dogs, it was snowing, the ground

was muddy, and many of them were cold and caked in mud,” Hudy explained. “Some of them had open wounds, and as soon as we removed them, they were seen by a veterinarian right away. Whether these dogs were left outside to the elements or had continued to live a life of dogfighting, the prognosis for them was not good.”

The case and the 133 dogs received quite the outpouring of support as animal lovers learned of their rescue online. Dubbed ‘The Free 133’ or #thefree133 in social media hashtags, had animal advocates across the state and beyond rooting for them and for good reason. The dogs had been through so much and had yet somehow come out on the other side. The best part? Many of the dogs were friendly and wanted nothing more than love from their rescuers despite the fact that it had been humans who had put them in this situation in the first place.

Soon after removing the dogs, they were seen and treated by veterinarians. Shortly after, 50 of them were cleared to be transferred out to partner shelters. The remainder were held as evidence and will likely be transferred to shelters eventually.

Of the 50 dogs cleared for transport, 15 adult dogs and puppies made the trip up north to Little Traverse Bay Humane Society. The others were transported to other rescue groups. All of the dogs have been medically evaluated and many have already been adopted. Several more are still looking for homes.

It’s not uncommon for potential adopters to shy away from dogs who have been involved in suspected dogfighting. However, Hudy noted that just because an animal has been in this environment, it doesn’t necessarily mean that they will have issues going forward, and in many cases, they can even find homes with other dogs.

“Dogfighting is an underground sport that takes place every day, everywhere.”

-Jenna Hudy, Bark Nation



“These dogs can be conditioned and trained for these activities, but there are no dogfighting genes—each is an individual,” she said. “These dogs deserve the same chance as every other dog, and we’ve found that the majority of them go on to live fantastic lives in their new homes.”

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According to Hudy, dogfighting is something that most individuals don't like to think about, and in many instances, aren't even aware of. It is an issue that knows no socioeconomic boundaries and is not limited to any specific ethnicity.

"Dogfighting is an underground sport that takes place every day, everywhere," Hudy explained. "It's something that all types of people participate in, even those who you wouldn't suspect. Doctors, lawyers, teachers, the guy down the street working his blue-collar job every day...all levels of the population take part in this unfortunately."

LTBHS Director of Operations Elise Ramsey has dealt with her fair share of dogfighting operations when she worked as a certified animal cruelty investigator in Detroit prior to her position here. She said has seen countless dogs involved in dogfighting operations go on to live long, happy lives with loving families.

"They're dogs just like any others and should be treated as such," Ramsey said. "I want people to know that none of these dogs want to fight, they do it because it's what they're trained to do. Humans took the best qualities in these dogs—loyalty, eagerness to please, and love for their people—and turned it against them and into a violent pastime. Pit bulls can be some of the best dogs for families—they're the original nanny dogs. These are good dogs who just need a second chance."

Second chances are exactly what more dogs are getting thanks to new initiatives LTBHS is taking to increase the

"This is not a Detroit problem. It's an everybody problem. We have the capacity to help, and we will."

-Elise Ramsey, LTBHS Director of Operations

number of lives saved. This winter, Blossom's Adoption Readiness Center opened which allows the organization to pull more dogs from at-risk situations. The Readiness Center houses new arrivals while they quarantine for a short period and are made ready for adoption prior to being moved over to the main building. It also mitigates the risk of disease since new arrivals are temporarily housed in a building apart from other shelter residents. The building was generously funded by an anonymous donor, the BISSELL Pet Foundation, and the Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation.

This winter also saw the formal establishment of the Moving On Up Program, an initiative between LTBHS and southern Michigan partner groups to transport vulnerable dogs north and place them into new homes. This includes those who are heartworm positive, senior animals, and others with extenuating medical conditions. Currently, LTBHS works with six partner groups located in and around Detroit. This

LTBHS staff takes in dogs from suspected dogfighting operations from partner group, Bark Nation. Pictured: LTBHS Training and Behavior Specialist, Derek Smith, Bark Nation Shelter Manager/Placement Coordinator, Jenna Hudy, Shelter and Behavior Manager, Sarah Schertel, Foster Coordinator, Shannon Graves, Shelter Administrator, Sonya Gerathy, and Bark Nation volunteer, Janice Fultz.



YOU HAD ME AT
WOOF



LTBHS Shelter and Community Medicine Veterinary Technician, Morgan Fox holds a puppy, Don, rescued from suspected dogfighting operations in Detroit. Don has found a forever home.

partnership is directly helping to save the lives of dogs who were at risk of euthanasia elsewhere.

“These groups in Detroit are working for these dogs and we know they need help,” Ramsey said. “This is not a Detroit problem. It’s an everybody problem. We have the capacity to help, and we will.”

Kari Martin, who serves as Director and Board Member of Detroit-based group, Dog Aide, said collaboration between groups is essential to being able to pull the dogs and have a secure, safe location for them to go. The organization is comprised entirely of unpaid volunteers who, between them, dedicate over a hundred hours each week helping dogs in the city. In the past year, LTBHS has taken 18 dogs from Dog Aide.

“The need for help in Detroit is high,” Martin said. “It’s non-stop and never ending. It’s amazing to be able to work together to make things happen for the animals.”

“We are always looking for solutions, and collaboration truly makes a huge difference in the animal welfare community.”

-Kari Martin, Dog Aide



Dog Aide’s mission is to keep people and pets together. It facilitates this by providing families with pet food, supplies, and daily care items. Several times per year, in collaboration with Bark Nation, they also host free spay/neuter clinics to reduce the number of unwanted litters in the city. Additionally, their advocacy and outreach aims to educate pet owners on the importance of proper pet housing, animal health through vaccination, and compliance with city dog laws. They do not have a physical shelter, nor do they have foster homes, so when it’s in the best interest of an animal to be removed from a situation, Dog Aide relies on their partner groups.

“We’ve had situations where we find a dog that is nothing but skin and bones at the end of a chain. We

know that we need to remove the dog right then and there even if we don’t know where it will go. We don’t have a choice,” Martin said.

“When there’s a situation like that, we know that it’s important to make sure the dog goes somewhere safe,” Martin continued. “We’re extremely grateful for all the help that Little Traverse Bay Humane Society has given us—we don’t know what we’d do without it. We are always looking for solutions, and collaboration truly makes a huge difference in the animal welfare community.”

Even at the end of the day, all the collaboration in the world won’t change the fact that there are too many animals and not enough homes for them all. But individuals and groups working together to spay/neuter, educate, vaccinate, keep animals in their homes, and re-home those in need—all this together is a very good start.

And what of The Free 133? This incredible group of dogs has seen and experienced things most cannot imagine. Any person who went through the same wouldn’t likely have the ability to trust again. Yet these dogs’ capacity to love and accept love in return is astounding. Their tenacious spirit and incredible willingness to forgive should serve as a lesson to everyone.

“We can’t rescue our way out of this problem, and the reality is that we need to continue to seek out new, sustainable ways to make sure we’re continuing to help more animals in need,” Ramsey said. “At the end of the day, all of us in animal welfare need to align together to save lives and do it because we care about the animals. We can’t get anywhere if we don’t work together. Collaboration is the only solution.”



Howl at the Moon

SAVE THE DATE:

Thursday, August 17, 2023

Walstrom Marine Boat Warehouse
Hoyt Street, Harbor Springs

We're thrilled to announce Howl at the Moon is back at the Walstrom Marine Boat Warehouse in Harbor Springs on August 17 this year! We have a fabulous menu lined up from Chef Bob Vala from the Crow's Nest Restaurant and Catering in addition to open bar, fantastic online silent auction and a lively live auction.

For over 20 years, Howl at the Moon has been the premier party of the summer to celebrate the animals we love and raise funds for those who need care. Funds from Howl at the Moon help us impact the lives of thousands of animals each year.

Please join us this year as we celebrate another Howl at the Moon!

Early bird tickets are \$175 and will go on sale May 1, 2023.

**Purchase tickets at www.ltbhs.com or
PH: 231-347-2396**

Early bird tickets are available through May 31.
After May 31, tickets are \$200 each.

Become a Sponsor

Howl at the Moon Sponsors are essential in helping us to continue our mission to provide nutritious food, a warm bed, and essential medical care to every animal who enters our shelter. As a Howl at the Moon Sponsor, you'll receive a number of invaluable benefits for you or your business, including tickets to Howl at the Moon. We are extremely thankful to all of our event Sponsors who help make the event a success.

Best in Show Sponsor: \$10,000

16 Event Tickets and 2 Reserved Tables for 8
Strolling dinner by Chef Bob Vala and Open Bar
Opportunity to include a branded item in swag bag
Logo with click through or pet's photo listed on website
Logo or pet's photo listed in the event program
Recognition in the Pet Gazette magazine
Shout out on social media to over 22,000 followers
Logo or name listed on event invitation
and other promotional materials
Facebook Live opportunity leading up to the event
Recognition of sponsorship from the stage at the event
Mentions in media coverage (e.g. press releases, advertising, radio)



Leader of the Pack Sponsor: \$5,000

8 Event Tickets and Reserved Table for 8
Strolling dinner and Open Bar
Opportunity to include a branded item in swag bag
Logo with click through or pet's photo listed on website
Logo or pet's photo listed in the event program
Recognition in the Pet Gazette magazine
Shout out on social media to over 22,000 followers
Logo or name listed on event invitation and other promotional materials
Facebook Live opportunity leading up to the event



Top Cat Sponsor: \$2,500

4 Event Tickets and Reserved Seating for 4
Strolling dinner and Open Bar
Opportunity to include a branded item in swag bag
Logo or pet's photo listed on website
Logo or name listed in the event program
Recognition in the Pet Gazette magazine
Shout out on social media to over 22,000 followers



Furry Friend Sponsor: \$1,000

2 Event Tickets and Reserved Seating for 2
Strolling dinner and Open Bar
Opportunity to include a branded item in swag bag
Logo or pet's photo listed on website
Logo or name listed in the event program
Recognition in the Pet Gazette magazine

Questions about becoming a Howl at the Moon Sponsor?

Contact Events Coordinator, Teresa Chaney, at 231-622-6356 or tchaney@ltbhs.com.

*In lieu of using a business logo or pet's name/photo, sponsors may list their own name as well for recognition.

Rocking Out once again!

Rock Out for Rescue returned in-person for the first time since 2020

It was a wonderful evening full of delicious food, drinks, dancing, and live music provided by Main Street Dueling Pianos of Grand Rapids. Special thanks to all of our incredible sponsors including: Presenting Sponsor, Angelfish and Jester, Lite 96.3 FM, Dave Kring Chevrolet, Monarch Garden & Floral, Hill's Pet Nutrition, Tip of the Mitt Orthodontics, Firman Irrigation & Firman Tree Service, Bearcub Outfitters, The Illes Schropp Group, Susan J.S. Malone, DDS, PC/Devin F. Hueston, DDS and James Stoflinsky. We'd also like to thank our generous business community for donations to the silent auction and to our event volunteers. Thank you to Main Street Dueling Pianos for a great night of entertainment and for the generous donation of tips from the evening!



Pictured (bottom left, l-r): Damon Graham, Megan Malone, Roger Tallman, Brynne Frederixoy Coy-Burt, Dr. Devin Hueston, Brook Barney, Rose Barney, Susan Malone, and Michael Malone. Top photo: LTBS Staff and Board Members enjoy the event. Main Street Dueling Pianos owner and musician, Jo Laureano, entertains the crowd, and the group enjoyed lots of dancing the evening of Rock Out for Rescue.

Save the Date

LTBS Annual Meeting, Wednesday, June 28

Join us for the LTBS Annual Member Meeting on Wednesday, June 28 at the LTBS Community Center. This is the perfect opportunity to learn more about what we've been up to the past year, in addition to the exciting plans we have moving forward. This meeting is open to any and all current members of Little Traverse Bay Humane Society. If you are a current member, you'll receive an invitation in the mail in addition to an email invitation as well. We hope you'll join us!

What: LTBS Annual Meeting

When: Wednesday, June 28, 2023

Time: 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Where: LTBS Community Center

8580 Commerce Ct., Harbor Springs



Ask the Trainer

LTBHS Shelter and Behavior Manager, Sarah Schertel, explains the importance and benefits of training your pet, no matter their age. Need help with training? Contact us at 231-347-2384 or training@ltbhs.com.



Sarah Schertel serves as the organization's Shelter and Behavior Manager.

Q: Why is training important?

A: Even if you are not looking for an obedience competitor or a circus performer, basic training can help improve your pet's quality of life and the relationship that you have with them. Training your pet can help to build positive associations with other people, animals, or even places. Allowing your dog to experience new things though training can help them be more social towards others and understand how to best respond to new situations which might make them excited or uncomfortable. Establishing a training routine, regardless of your pet's age, can help your pet understand your expectations, whether it's inside the house, meeting new friends, or even appropriate manners in public. Training helps to give them a positive outlet for stress or anxiety so they can avoid destructive or troublesome behaviors. Most importantly, positive reinforcement training helps increase the bond between you and your pet. It establishes trust within the family group and helps to develop a relationship where your pet wants to work for you and enjoys making you happy.

Q: What if my pet is an adult, can I still train them?

A: Yes, of course! Whether you've just adopted an adult or senior pet, or simply didn't have time to train while they were a young, you can absolutely teach an old dog (or cat!) new tricks. Of course, older pets might be more comfortable in the ways they choose to do things, but this should not be a deterrent for pet guardians who are interested in training. Just as I am always striving to learn more information, our pets have this desire to continue learning throughout life as well, but it may take a bit of extra incentive.

Q: What type of training is available at LTBHS?

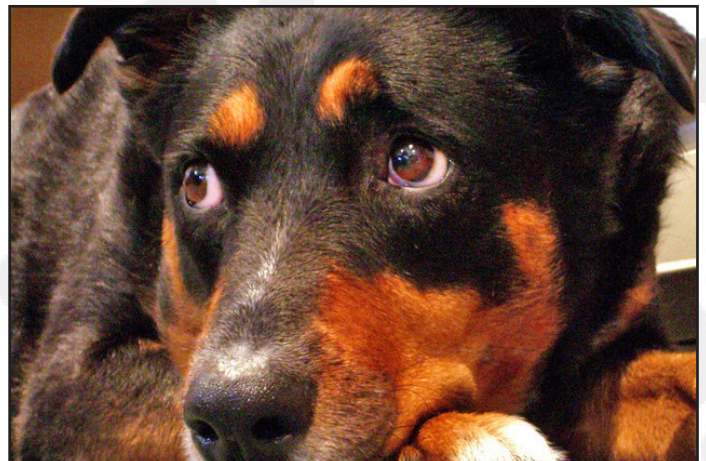
A: At LTBHS, we use positive reinforcement techniques, utilizing various motivators like food, toys, or praise depending on the individual needs of each client. It is important to us that individuals understand the process that is taking place when training their pet and that all participants feel safe in the learning environment. We offer private training and behavior consultations in the client's home, off-site, on our campus, or virtually. Opportunities are always evolving, and we would encourage you to reach out to training@ltbhs.com if you are interested in a service. Current services and pricing are listed on our website at www.ltbhs.com/training but as always, make sure to "like" and "follow" us on social media to get all the latest updates on training opportunities and other LTBHS happenings!

No fleas, please!

Fleas are one of the most common problems for your pet, and tend to be a pesky problem each year if steps are not taken to prevent them. Even if there's still snow on the ground, preventive measures should be taken to reduce the likelihood of getting fleas. Fleas are a tiny wingless parasite that lives exclusively on blood from their host—unfortunately for pet owners, this means on their dog or cat. However, they aren't picky and will get a meal wherever they can find one!

Aside from being irritating, fleas can cause numerous problems in pets. Constant itching by flea bites can cause skin to break open and become infected. Some animals even have severe flea allergies which can cause welts and fur loss. Another major problem occurs when an animal ingests a flea. Fleas carry tapeworm, which, once inside your pet, can grow to 12 inches long and can lead to weight loss and an itchy bottom. Some pets (especially the very young) can become anemic from a severe flea infestation which causes their red blood cell count to decrease. This can be fatal if left untreated.

Aside from all the medical problems associated with fleas, they are just plain irritating to have in your home. Once a home is infested, it's usually recommended that home owners seek help such as a professional exterminator. Fortunately, there's an easy way to prevent fleas from coming home with your pet in the first place. Preventative monthly medication comes in many forms and can be purchased from your local veterinarian. To protect your animal against fleas (and tapeworm!) contact Little Traverse Bay Veterinary Clinic at 231-622-6363.



Ask the Doctor

Little Traverse Bay Veterinary Clinic veterinarian, Dr. Deborah Andreen, provides pet owners with essential advice on how to keep their pets happy and healthy. Dr. Andreen shares the best ways for pet owners to care for their pet's oral health and issues to watch out for.



Dr. Deborah Andreen

Q: Why is it important to keep on top of your pet's dental health and as a pet owner, what can I do to make sure my pet's teeth and gums stay healthy?

A: Most dogs and cats will have some form of periodontal or dental disease by the age of three, and this will only worsen if effective preventive measures aren't taken. Left untreated, dental disease isn't only bad for your pet's teeth, it can damage internal organs, including the heart, liver, and kidneys. Your pet's teeth should be checked at least once a year by your veterinarian. Routine dental cleanings can help prevent periodontal disease and can detect any hidden health problems. Just like us, pets require comprehensive dental examinations and cleanings to maintain good oral health throughout their lifetime.

Q: What are some red flags that pet owners should pay attention to regarding their pet's oral health?

A: Any of the following conditions should be brought to the attention of your veterinarian which include: Bad breath, broken or loose teeth, extra teeth or retained baby teeth, teeth that are discolored or covered in tartar, abnormal chewing, drooling or dropping food from the mouth, reduced appetite or refusal to eat, bleeding from the mouth, or swelling in the areas surrounding the mouth. If you notice any of these issues in your pet, make an appointment with your veterinarian as soon as possible.

Q: Is it important for pet owners to brush their pet's teeth often or are there other ways to keep their mouth healthy?

A: Regularly brushing your pet's teeth is the single most effective thing you can do to keep their teeth and gums healthy between dental cleanings, and it may reduce the need for frequent cleanings. Daily brushing is best but even three times per week can have significant benefits. Ask your veterinarian for additional recommended dental products, treats or dental-specific diets that can help your pet's teeth and gums stay as healthy as possible.



A new way to treat patients

Veterinary laser therapy, also known as Photobiomodulation, is an innovative treatment option to manage pain in animals and utilizes light waves in order to help repair tissue at the cellular level in the body. It can help to decrease inflammation and pain, encourage wound healing, and decrease the likelihood of infection. Laser therapy is particularly helpful for animals who cannot take medication or are not good candidates for surgery.

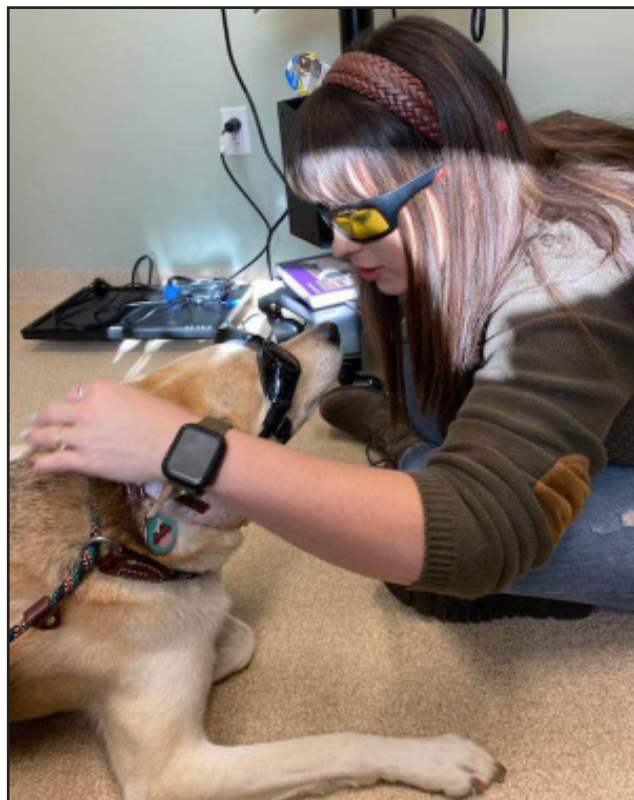
We are very excited to report that Little Traverse Veterinary Clinic now offers this innovative treatment to patients!

"Many acute and chronic conditions can benefit from laser therapy," said Little Traverse Bay Veterinary Clinic Veterinarian, Dr. Katie Zubricky. "Laser therapy can be beneficial for a number of conditions including bite wounds, chronic arthritis, fractures, skin infections, and more. We are very excited to have this technology available to our patients."

Treatment sessions take around 20 minutes and cost \$30 per session. Little Traverse Bay Veterinary Clinic also offers laser treatment packages for those who plan to do multiple sessions for their pet.

So far, many clients are experiencing positive results from laser therapy, and we are thrilled that is now available to offer clients in need of non-invasive pain management.

Learn if laser therapy is right for your pet by making an appointment at Little Traverse Bay Veterinary Clinic at 231-622-6363.



Little Traverse Bay Veterinary Clinic Lead Veterinarian, Dr. Zubricky, spends time with Fran who receives laser treatment.



Saving Sadie

When eight-year-old Sadie Lou first arrived at our shelter, she had problems. Lots of problems, in fact. She had food allergies, bad skin, broken teeth, mammary tumors covering her stomach and she was heartworm positive. She was frightened and didn't feel well. What issue should be addressed first? The heartworm disease? The tumors? The skin? It was hard to say, but staff knew they needed to take immediate action to get her the help she deserved.

As the person who handles the communication and marketing for the organization, including writing and putting together this publication, I don't typically write much in first person, however, Sadie's story is part of my own.

Following not one, but TWO surgeries to remove the tumors on her belly, shelter staff knew Sadie would benefit from being placed into foster care. When my co-worker, Sonya Gerathy, approached me about fostering Sadie, who was definitely "my type" as she put it, I was uncertain about the whole situation.

Our family had recently lost our beloved 14-year-old dog, Layla, a few months prior and hadn't planned on getting another dog right away. I had never fostered in the nearly 10 years I'd been working at LTBHS (I know, crazy, right?), and honestly, I wasn't sure I wanted to. My husband and I have two young daughters, 3 and 6, in addition to two cats and a very busy schedule. Did we have time for a foster animal? Would this dog be ok with our kids? Eat our cats?

Turns out, all it took was one glance at Sadie in her kennel to make that decision. As I peeked in her kennel she sat slumped over, staring blankly at the wall, a portrait of sadness. It was right there that I decided I couldn't leave her in that kennel and proceeded to call my husband. We took her home the next day with the intent to JUST foster. Well, you can probably figure out how that went. By the end of the first week, despite reaching out to others trying to find her a permanent home, I knew I was attached. Attached to this painfully shy, sick dog who wouldn't move off our couch she was so scared by everything.

For the next three months we cared for Sadie as our own, making sure she didn't pull out her stitches from her mammary surgery. That she took all of her medication for heartworm and that she only ate her prescription food. Everything seemed to be going well with her heartworm treatment and she was doing great. Until she wasn't. One evening I looked up from doing dishes to see her collapse before me and start convulsing on the floor. I'll spare the additional details, but it wasn't pretty, and I'd go as far as to say it was downright terrifying. In that moment, I was

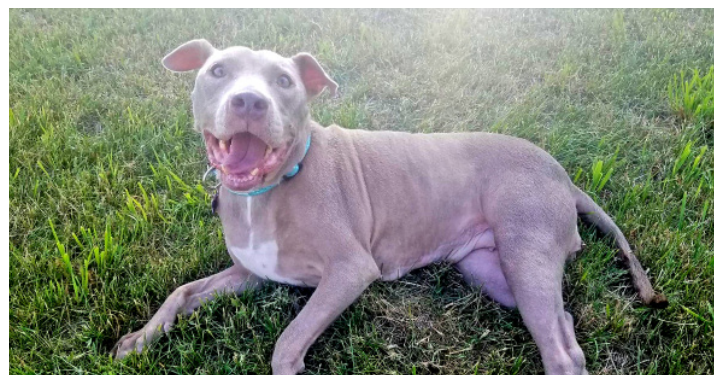
certain we would lose her. My husband rushed her down to Traverse City to receive emergency treatment, and by some miracle, the next afternoon she was stable. It was unclear what complications arose related to the dye-off of the heartworms and one likely got into her bloodstream. After the incident, we brought her home and simply hoped for the best.

Amazingly, she finished her treatment with flying colors (no more scary collapsing/convulsing) and we officially adopted her in late June, four months after we began fostering. Despite completing heartworm treatment, we knew we'd have to wait nearly nine more months before we could re-test to see if she was in the clear. No more heartworm—that was the goal. Fingers crossed.

Recently we received the most amazing news ever—a negative heartworm test! Hearing that after the past year was incredible, and I had to hold back tears as I heard the good news. It's been quite the journey with this girl, and I'm so happy for this victory. I'm thankful that she came to a shelter that valued her life and was determined to do everything in their power to save her even if that meant putting a lot of time and resources into an older, ill pit bull. She may not have had the same opportunities if she had ended up somewhere else. I'm eternally grateful to our amazing staff who helped care for Sadie in addition to the incredible crew at Little Traverse Bay Veterinary Clinic for saving our sweet girl and giving her a second chance.



Pictured above: Sadie and LTBHS Communication and Marketing Coordinator, Jessica Evans. Sadie was adopted by Jessica and her family in 2022.



Happy Tails

Read below as we share some of the 'Happy Tails' of our past Little Traverse Bay Humane Society shelter residents. These lucky pets have gone on to find forever homes, and we are thrilled that they now have families to call their own.



Daisy (formerly Muffin)

My husband and I decided to adopt a dog because we were newly married, and we wanted to add a furry friend into our life. We're both huge dog lovers and we really wanted to make life more fun. I also wanted to start walking more and get more active! We chose Daisy because as soon as we saw her on the website we knew she was going to be the sweetest dog. It was all in her eyes and big smile. When we got to the shelter, she was the only dog that was calm, and she never barked once. My husband and I plan to someday have children, so we wanted a dog that wouldn't be too loud or crazy. When Daisy came into the visiting room, she jumped into our arms and wanted pets right away- we immediately fell in love with how friendly she was! She has been great with other dogs that we have introduced her to and plays so well with them. Her favorite activity lately has been walking with mama or tug a war with dad with her new toys. I would recommend adopting to anyone. Not only does it make you feel good to give an animal a home, but the LTBHS staff gives the dogs lots of training which it makes it easier when you bring your pet home.

-Grace Way Sharrow



Peaches (formerly Noodles)

I chose to adopt because I wanted to give a cat a second chance of a loving home. I chose Peaches because she was so sweet when I went to visit the cats at shelter. I remember her coming up to the side of her kennel and rubbing her face against my hand. What I would say to others who are considering adoption is that you are giving a pet a second chance and they will be forever grateful for the love and attention you give to them. Nothing is more rewarding than watching your new pet realize that they now have a home.

-Allyson Waldron



Ducky

Ducky is doing great! He loves everything about his new home, and it feels like we've had him forever. We are so happy that our home is now his forever home. Thank you so much.

-Roberta Taylor



Bear (formerly Bubba)

Bear is doing very well! He is hyper, playful and so silly. He absolutely loves going outside. Since he has been introduced to the outdoors he actually lets us know when he needs to use the bathroom or just wants to go out and play. Bear is a little snuggle bug, and he loves napping by our legs when in the living room. It was such an amazing decision to adopt Bear and bring him home. Thank you so much!!

-Jacob Roznowski

Five Star Favorites

Some shelter residents are adopted quickly while others wait longer to find a home. No matter how long it takes, every animal has a temporary home with us until they find a permanent one of their own. Read about some of our long-term shelter residents who are still waiting to find a forever family.

Justin

It may sound cliché, but they say appearances can be deceiving. I think that's true in my case. I admit, I've had a bit of a rough life and I think it probably shows. When people look at me, they see a dog with scars covering his body and missing ears. I wish I didn't look this way. I think it scares people off which makes me sad. I would like you to know that I didn't choose to look this way—it's a sad product of my past life unfortunately. The good news is that I'm now here with a fresh start and hope that I'll become someone's best boy ever! I just realized I haven't even told you anything about myself, so here goes. My name is Justin, and I'm about seven-year-old. I am very eager to please and I will do just about anything for food, scratches, or peanut butter! I am not reactive to other dogs through my kennel but I'd really like the chance to meet any future roommates before moving in with them. Also, I really love kids. There have been some fun groups of them who have visited the shelter and guess what? I got to hang out and play with them! It was a blast. I can be a bit jumpy and energetic so perhaps a home without super little ones would work better (I may knock them over even though I wouldn't mean to). I'm not sure how I feel about those feline critters just yet, I just haven't had enough experience with them. I like to keep my food and toys to myself but I'd be happy to play fetch with you if we can trade multiple toys back and forth and work for every last bit of kibble. So there, now you know a bit more about me. I've been at the shelter now for quite some time and I really hope I can find the right family for me. My paws are crossed that someone might be able to look beyond my scars and funny ears and see what a kind, loving boy I really am. Until then, I'll be waiting. Love, Justin.



Thelma

Hello, my name is Thelma, and I'm a two-year-old SweetTart of a cat. What I mean by that is that I have a very sweet personality with an unexpected twist! I'm a girl with an attitude, or as some like to say, I have a feisty side. For the most part I'm a very friendly cat that loves to play, but when I've had my fill of attention, I will definitely let you know. Trust me on that one. I also have some pet peeves—I sure do love that word—and they are as follows: I don't like to be picked up, I'm not very fond of small children, and barking dogs annoy me. On the plus side, however, I'm okay with other cats as long as I can have my own personal space for privacy when I get tired of their company. I'm also very good at entertaining myself should you be gone for the day. I love playing with my kitty toys, and if you'd like to play with me, I wouldn't object. So, if you're looking for a cat with character, then I'm the girl for you.

Betsy-In Foster

Hey, I'm Betsy, the big and the beautiful! I'm six-years-old and as sweet as cats come and will love you for life if you rub my belly and give me a good brushing. I was very loved in my previous home but unfortunately had to be surrendered to Little Traverse Bay Humane Society. I'm very hopeful that I will find a new family soon. Right now, I've been residing in a foster home, which has been great. As you can tell, I am quite a bit overweight, but I want you to know that I am working on dropping a some pounds in order to be the healthiest version of myself! The fabulous staff here created a feeding plan for me which I'm determined to stick to. I'm certain I can do it with the help of my new family. Anyway, I may always be a little bit of a larger sized girl, but I don't really see an issue—just more to love, am I right? If you think you need a lovely, big girl like me in your life—and lap—then I hope you'll inquire further. Until then, love Betsy.



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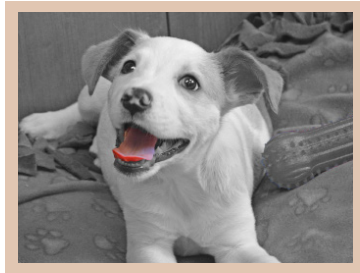


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