Volunteers really make a difference

Volunteers have a large impact on the animals at our shelter and they find great satisfaction in knowing that they make life much happier and less lonely for the pets in our care. It is also a great chance to meet new people who share your interests. There are plans to significantly expand our volunteer program and utilize our volunteer's enthusiasm and energies in new ways in 2006.

Our animals love to get as much attention as possible. The volunteers help us in this capacity by walking dogs and socializing cats. Come by the shelter and fill out a volunteer application if you are interested or fill it out on the web at [www.ingham.org/ac/home.htm](http://www.ingham.org/ac/home.htm) an orientation program is held the first Wednesday of each month at 6pm at the shelter as part of your training.

Are you just purrfect in the way you handle a comb or brush? Then you'd make a great kitty comb or doggie brusher.

Maybe you've got a great lap and would make an excellent kitty comforter?

Whatever your interest we're sure to have a task to fulfill it.

The Ingham County Animal Shelter warmly welcomes those who would like to help us in our mission. Volunteers provide us with opportunities to enhance many of our programs and services. Volunteers are so vital to our organization that some of our programs would cease to exist without volunteers and our fundraising events would be impossible. Whether you'd like to offer three hours a week in our shelter, forty hours for one event a year or somewhere in-between, we can probably find a job for you!

Here are the requirements to be a volunteer:

A serious concern for the welfare of animals;

An enjoyment of working with people and the ability to get along with people;

An understanding and support of the Shelter's mission, principles and policies.

We offer a variety of job opportunities to suit a wide range of interests. There's something here for everyone!

Shelter volunteers must be 16 or older. Those under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian at all times.

**DOG TIP**

No Joy Ride

Did you know it is against Michigan State Law to allow your dog to ride unsecured in the back of an open pick-up. Even well behaved dogs can be thrown from a pickup if the driver needs to make a sudden stop.

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**Upcoming Events**

1. **April 1st** Soldan's Pet Store in Okemos from 10-3pm
2. **April 13th** the First Annual Humanitarian Awards Banquet and Silent Auction held at the Brookshire Inn Williamston from 6-9pm
   - Tickets are $20.00 and seating is limited.
   - The keynote speaker is Dr. Valerie Chadwick, DVM. Please send in your reservation no later than April 6, 2006
3. **May 6th** is Be Kind To Animals ADOPT-A-THON, DOG AND CAT SHOW. It includes Pet demonstrations and competitions at the shelter from 10-4pm.
4. **May 13** at Delhi Chiropractic 2600 Eaton Rapids Hwy (on MLK between Waverly & Bishop) from 10-3pm
5. **July 15th** Information Animal Art Booth Art Festival on the River in Williamston
6. **August 1-6th** Ingham County Fair Booth at the Fairgrounds
7. **June 17th** Downtown Stockbridge Mobile Adoption Event.
8. **June 24th** Red Cedar Jubilee in Williamston 10-4 pm.

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**Shelter hours:**

11am-6pm Tuesday-Friday
11am-4pm Saturday
Excluding All County Holidays

**Enforcement hours:**

8am-11pm Monday-Friday
8am-4pm Saturday.
Excluding all County Holidays
except Columbus Day
Phone: 517-676-8370

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**“Ashley Moul Teen Shelter Volunteer of the Year”**
Join Our Foster Team - Be A Foster Parent

What Can I Expect?

You can expect a lot of work, as fostering is not an easy job. We feel there is no job as rewarding as this one. It comes with unlimited benefits in the form of kisses, cuddles and purrs! You and your family can expect to fall in love with your fosterlings, and you might have a hard time letting them go. Remember, our goal in this program is to get these pets out of their foster homes and into permanent loving homes. Without foster parents, this wouldn't be possible. We encourage you not to adopt your fosterlings and to remain in the Foster Care Program. Fosterlings may remain in their foster home anywhere from 1 to 8 weeks.

What Are My Responsibilities?

Fostering requires paying for food and supplies. You can limit these costs by using homemade toys and bedding. Your daily responsibilities require that you provide a clean and safe environment, with lots of “TLC”. It is important that fosterlings receive positive human contact, so that they develop a love and trust for humans.

Here are the requirements to be a Foster Parent:
1. You are 18 years of age or older.
2. Completion of our application and interview process.
3. Provide proof that your established pets are current on vaccinations.
4. Have an understanding and support of the Ingham County Animal Shelter's mission principles and policies.

With each fosterling that goes on to a loving home, you will be helping us get one step closer to our goal - ending the euthanasia of adoptable pets. Fill out our ICAS Foster Care Program Application online! A Foster Care Coordinator will contact you.

Why we do what we do.
'Great Dogs”
By Jamie McAlloon Lampman
Director Ingham County Animal Control

If you ask any staff member or volunteer why they do what they do for the animals at the shelter they will almost always convey a heart rendering story of a beloved pet in their own lives. I, to am one of those people.

I was blessed to be raised with one of the most devoted dogs I've ever known for 14 years of my childhood. And doubly blessed to have shared my life with another “Great Dog” in my adulthood. Dogs who touch our lives, forever changing us for the better are “Great Dogs“. If we meet one in our lifetime we're fortunate.

The most famous of my “Great Dogs” would be my current companion of 12 years. His name is “Shotgun”, a one-eyed yellow Labrador who walks with a limp and who is as ornery as he is fat. He's grumpy, stubborn, conniving and most certainly one of the most expensive dogs I've ever owned. In his early years Shotgun's damage expenses were well into the thousands of dollars. He had a taste for interior car doors and seat belts and thought the patio deck was one big chew toy, not to mention his habit of flying threw windows on a single-bound while on squirrel patrol.

Shotgun was abandoned on a school playground in Norman, Oklahoma. He had been shot, leaving him seriously injured from a shotgun blast to his face. The blast tore away his eye, portions of his nose, jaw and lips. At the time I worked for an animal sanctuary and was first to respond to the call. That was 12 years ago. He recovered from his wounds and came home with my family. He still bares the scars and one stubborn pellet under his left ear. He's been the guardian of my children, a devoted companion through thick and thin, a constant traveler and soul mate for the last 12 years.

Shotgun's growing older now. We're not sure exactly how old, but the Vet's best guess is 15 years or so. Now a senior, I watch as each day he moves slower, takes a bit longer to get up off his bed, he doesn't jump up when I get home, instead, he thumps his tail loud enough so I'll come find him. He doesn't chase the ball much any more and instead of charging the door when strangers knock, he just lets out one of his famous deep barrel-chested bellows that still rattles the windows and then he goes back to sleep.

I know his time with me is limited and his life has been a good one, but it doesn't lessen the heartache I will never in one lifetime be able to repay him for the affection, good times and devotion he's bestowed upon me and my family during his brief time on earth.

And that's why I do what I do. I'm paying a debt that can never be paid back enough for all the “Great Dogs” (Jamie has three cats in her family in addition to three Labradors. All animals were adopted from animal shelters.)

CAT TIP

The Litterbox Blues

Did you know that there can be several reasons why your cat is not using his/her litterbox:

- Litterbox is on a flooring your cat does not care for (such as carpet or tile), try moving the litterbox.
- Your cat may be sick, try taking him/her to the vet.
- You might need to clean the litterbox more often, cats don't like a dirty bathroom just like you!
- If you have more than one cat, try more than one litterbox.
Senior Program

Our program includes a reduction of half off the adoption fee and a complimentary microchip. The cost to a senior citizen is a $45.00 charge for a dog or $30 for a cat. Our pets are conveniently listed on our new website, [http://www.ingham.org/ac/home.htm](http://www.ingham.org/ac/home.htm) with photographs and biographies of all of the current animals at the shelter. We still suggest a personal visit however, to the shelter so that the individual temperaments and personalities of the prospective owner and pet can be better matched! Hopefully, with our program and considering all of our fantastic animals, we will make it easier for our senior citizens to enjoy all of the benefits inherent in pet ownership. After all, the Animal Shelter of Ingham County exists as a service to YOU as well as the animals! Call 676-8370 with questions.

Dog Licensing - Protect Your Pet

Dog licenses are required for all dogs over five months of age and are available year round. New licenses must be purchased within thirty days in order to qualify for the regular price. Licenses are considered non-delinquent in the following circumstances:

- Newly purchased or acquired dogs.
- Those pups just attaining four months of age and licensed within 30 days.
- Those dogs just becoming a Michigan resident.
- Those owners renewing their dog’s license prior to the end of the month of the current rabies vaccination on record.

Licenses are available through the mail. You must submit your check or money order, rabies vaccination certificate, proof of sterilization (if applicable) and prepared application (if previously licensed) to:

**Eric Schertzing**
Ingham County Treasurer
P.O. Box 215
Mason, MI 48854

Licenses expire at the end of the month in which the rabies vaccination was given. Check your license to determine the expiration month and year.

A current rabies vaccination certificate signed by a veterinarian is required to purchase a license and a recent 3 year vaccine is required for a 3 year license.

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www.helpmefindmypet.com The “Amber Alert” for Pets

There is a growing need in the community to help pet owners find lost pets. Last year over 6 million pets were lost. Less than 7% of those lost animals were returned to their homes. Most people are not informed or ready to deal with a lost pet. Pet I.D tags and microchips are helpful, but many people are hesitant to approach a strange animal. HelpmefindMYPET.com was created in response to these staggering statistics. “We want to help in building a community of animal lovers who will assist each other in locating and returning lost or stolen pets and be ambassadors of responsible pet ownership” says Nick Acosta, president of HelpmefindMYPET. “As part of this community, it’s our responsibility to educate people on how to keep our pets safe.

HelpmefindMYPET.com was conceived as a way to take a proactive approach to locating and returning lost pets. Imagine a scenario in which hundreds, perhaps thousands of local pet owners, shelters, rescues, vets, and pet related businesses were alerted the moment you lost your pet. This is exactly what happens every time a pet owner contacts HelpmefindMYPET.com to report their pet missing. To protect your pet with a free HelpmefindMYPET membership, contact your local shelter or rescue and request a free membership today. For a list of participating shelters and rescues in your area contact HelpmefindMYPET.com at 1-866-699-FIND.
Lost & Found

More than 5000 lost and stray pets were received by our shelter last year. By maintaining a “Lost and Found” pet file, pet reports are checked daily to reunite families with their pets. Call 517-676-8370, stop by the shelter or check the web at http://www.ingham.org/ac/home.htm

10 months old, Lab mix, female
#238513, Brokar

Two year old, female calico
#237191 “Trinka”