



A different breed of shelter.

790 FEATHERSTONE
PONTIAC / MICHIGAN
248.335.9290

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The MARL Report

Ready For Adoption



Symphony has an adorable personality and wants nothing more than to curl up in your lap! Though FIV positive, a virus that affects a cat's immune system, she can live a normal and happy life. She can be adopted into a home with other dogs, FIV positive cats, or no animals at all. Symphony is seven years old and is currently up for adoption at MARL!



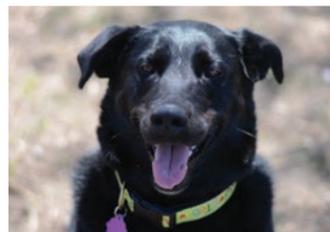
Sweet little Manny! If you hear a gruff little bark and see a furiously wagging tail, it's probably him. Manny is a perfect combination of playful and loving, and makes a great companion. He's a pretty easygoing guy and likes just about everyone he meets, including other dogs. Manny prefers to have lots of toys and to live an active lifestyle! Come meet this guy today and see if he could be your new little man!



Misty is one of the sweetest cats at MARL. She is extremely friendly and affectionate, so it's surprising that she's been at MARL for almost three years! She has a spunky side, loves to play with toys, and would do best in a home where she's the only cat. She's five years old, current on vaccinations, and patiently waiting for that special person to provide her with a forever home.



Spark is a young, lively dog with a love for everything FUN. He can be a tad bit shy and independent but he warms up quickly! He could chase a ball for hours and never get bored. He would need a home with a fenced yard, lots of room to run, and an energetic family that can keep up with him. He would do best in a home with no small children, due to his high energy. Spark is good with cats and some dogs.



Hershey is an extremely affectionate and loving girl! She is your typical lab who is outgoing and playful. She is sweet, kind, intelligent, and very well mannered with a good temperament! Hershey does have some medical conditions that will require attention in her future forever home!



Bug is very special. She is a unique orange tabby with the most beautiful dark orange stripes. She is five years old and was brought in by her family that was no longer able to care for her. Bug is working on feeling at ease but would really love the comfort of a home to call her own. You can visit sweet Bug at the PetSmart in Northville.



Charlie is a seven year old beagle. He is every bit as charming and adorable as he looks. He is playful but spends most of his day relaxing and seeking out belly rubs. Charlie is a loyal, fun-loving little guy and has lots of love to give.



Millie is sweet, playful, and just the tiniest bit sassy. She loves to lounge and puts herself in the craziest positions for her naps! Millie is super soft, and a really nice and beautiful gal!

Are you ready for Summer?

Michigan Animal Rescue League
Spring/Summer 2015

790 FEATHERSTONE
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ABOUT MARL

The Michigan Animal Rescue League (MARL) is one of southeast Michigan's most established shelters, serving the animals and community since 1953. It is MARL's mission to provide the highest quality of life to dogs and cats through rescue, medical care, short- and long-term sanctuary, adoption, and community outreach.

CONTACT

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Tuesday - Saturday / 10:45am - 4:30pm

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LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Making a difference is good, but making change is great. Making a difference is what we strive for each day, but it is the collective effort of many that will create change and truly transform the lives of animals. We see the power of a collective effort in our

recent cat room renovations. Becky and Gary Sakwa made a difference by offering to match donations up to \$10,000. Then 893 MARL donors made a difference by contributing in varying amounts. The result? \$89,824.57, which provided a life-altering change in the day-to-day lives of our cats. You can literally see the effects of the change in action, every day. Cats that were once stressed and overlooked by adopters are now comfortable and confident and winning over the hearts of visitors. Because many of us chose to make a difference, the result was change. And the change was great. This is true for all that we do at MARL, every bit truly helps. Every donation, every volunteer hour, every adoption, every social media share, every word-of-mouth recommendation. Every moment of making a difference will continue to propel this organization forward and the result will be the great change that we all want to see for the animals in our community. Thank you for the difference that you make and for being a valuable part of this powerful change that we are working towards.

- Magee Humes

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



On January 1, 2015, I assumed the role of President of MARL's Board of Directors. This is the first time in 22 years that a new Board President has been elected, and I am deeply honored by the Board's vote of confidence in entrusting me with this rare privilege.

As we embrace the dawn of a new era at MARL, so too are we facing new challenges. Animal cruelty and neglect never cease, and many animals are now arriving to our safe haven in alarming states of distress and need, placing new demands upon our 62-year-old physical structure. We are hard at work improving upon the usage of our limited space, and exploring opportunities for further renovation and expansion. Simultaneously, new procedures and programs are being initiated to address the changing needs of animals in our care.

I am grateful to you - our supporters - for demonstrating your commitment to MARL and our mission, time and again and in so many ways. We would truly be unable to do what we do without you. And we are counting on you to be our partners as we do our part to continue to make the world a better place for animals. We have a lot of work ahead of us, but the Board of Directors and Staff of MARL are energized and up to the task!

If you haven't visited the shelter in a while, please drop by to view the results of the first stages of our transformation. I think you'll like what you see!

- Cindy Howard

Tabby Town Goes Freestyle!

We would like to extend our gratitude to Gary and Becky Sakwa, who generously offered to match donations up to \$10,000 to meet the needs of our shelter animals. Thank you to our supporters who overwhelmingly responded to the challenge, raising a staggering \$89,824.57. With these contributions, MARL was able to upgrade our cat housing system, giving them a more comfortable lifestyle within the shelter. The clear cubicles and open-roaming room allow for more mobility to stretch, play, climb, hide, claw, and even drink from a fountain. Visitors are welcome to hang out in the room to play with and pet the residents.

Upgraded cages in our holding areas provide a less stressful environment for our animals as they make their initial adjustment into the shelter. These renovations have made an outstanding and positive impact on our animals' quality of life. We are extremely thankful to the Sakwas, and everyone who joined their efforts, for their unwavering support of MARL and our mission.

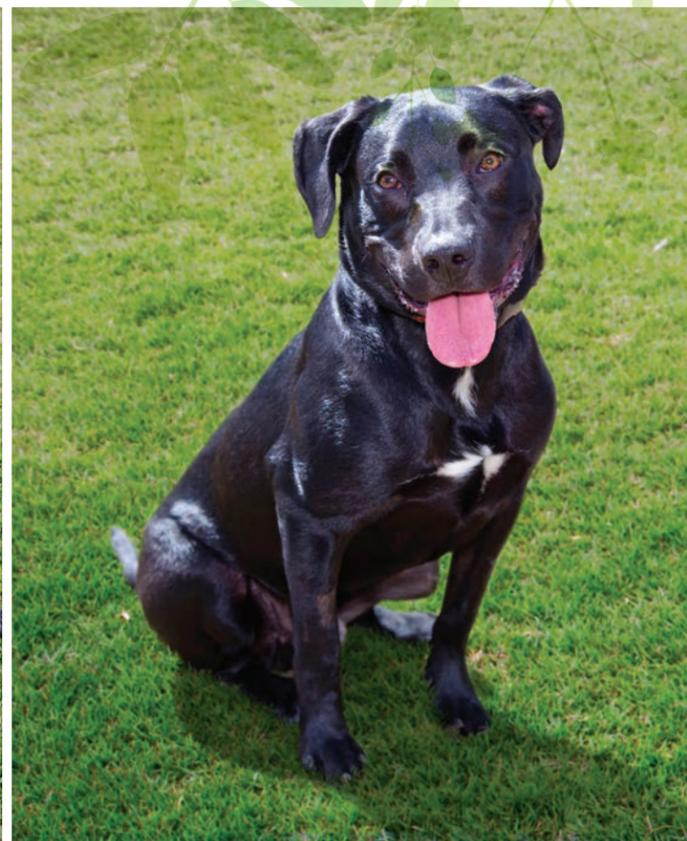
STRETCH, PLAY, CLIMB, HIDE, CLAW.



Raúl's Story

MARL's mission to provide long-term sanctuary for the dogs and cats in our shelter is one we hold extremely close to our hearts. We believe that though the road might not always be easy, it is worth it. This is the case for Raúl, a six-month-old Pitbull/Labrador mix that came to us on the morning of January 16th. It was another frigid day, and a local citizen found Raúl hobbling on the side of the road, barely able to use his left hind leg. We immediately took him to Advanced Animal Hospital for X-rays where the vet had discovered that Raúl had a completely torn and shredded anterior cruciate ligament (ACL), as well as arthritis in his knee. This meant that he would require an extensive and expensive surgery. Though some may argue that it wouldn't be worth our time and money, we are passionate and dedicated to giving our animals a second chance, regardless of time span. On March 10th Raúl went into surgery, and though his path to recovery was expected to take up to six months, our staff was prepared to help him through each and every stage. Raúl is recovering beautifully and is now available for adoption. We are confident that he will make a delightful companion to a lucky adopter. Maybe it's you!

If you are interested in adopting Raúl, please contact our shelter at (248)-335-9290 or fill out an application at marleague.org.



*WE BELIEVE THAT
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EASY, IT IS WORTH IT.*

Pepper's Story

Robin Wright and Kim Hurley, a long-standing MARL adoptive family, shares their fostering experience of opening their home and hearts.

M: How did you become involved/hear about MARL?

R&K: We started adopting dogs from MARL 20 years ago and have been dedicated supporters for the last 10 years. We started a tradition of gathering donations and making a trip to MARL twice a year and fell in love with our rescued Pitbull, Ivey, a 2007 MARL rescue. We began volunteering as part of the animal socialization program and that's when we took on our first foster pet, Pepper.

M: How did you hear about Pepper? What drew you to want to help?

R&K: We talked to MARL staff members about what we could offer, and asked for their suggestions on which dogs needed our help. At the time, they needed help with some dogs with special medical needs, and that is when we met Pepper.

M: Tell us about Pepper - what has the experience been like?

R&K: Pepper is an active Jack Russell/Poodle mix who was heartworm positive. He loves people, walks, car rides, and snuggling in his bed for long naps. We were a little apprehensive about his heartworm condition at first because we have another dog but learned that although serious, it is very treatable and not contagious. We set up a "condo" for him with his own special chair, and kept him in the dining room to prevent him from running around during his treatment.

M: What has been your favorite part of fostering?

R&K: Taking care of a dog that really needs us.

M: What has been the hardest part of fostering?

R&K: As time passes, you can forget that the goal is to help get your foster pet more ready for their forever home. Every once in a while, you remember that your foster pet isn't meant to be with you forever. It makes you sad for a moment, and then you remember how much better off they are because you helped.

M: Would you recommend fostering?

R&K: Absolutely! It is one of the best pet experiences we've had.

M: Do you feel that fostering has made Pepper's life easier?

R&K: Oh, for sure. We actually think we'll have to send his chair along when his future family finds him. Now that we volunteer at MARL, we recognize that some of the dogs just need dedicated care in a calm home environment.

M: What is your one piece of advice?

R&K: Fostering is all about the pet you are taking in; you're doing it for them. It takes patience, commitment, and some flexibility, but it's worth it!

Interested in fostering? Fill out an application at marleague.org.

*FOSTERING IS ALL
ABOUT THE PET YOU
ARE TAKING IN;
YOU'RE DOING IT
FOR THEM.*



Pepper was recently adopted into a family. He now enjoys the loving, forever home he so richly deserves.



MARL's Socialization Program



Through MARL's Socialization Program, Lucy was transformed into a very sweet, cuddly companion.

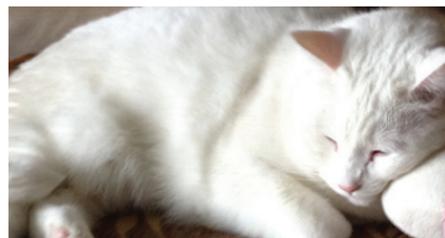
All animals adjust to shelter life differently. Some arrive at MARL only knowing life in a home where they received lots of attention. Some have endured neglect and difficult pasts and are scared and untrusting. Still others adjust quickly, seeming appreciative of care and attention.

MARL's Socialization, Training and Enrichment Program, under the direction of John Versteeg, is crucial to an animal's adjustment and quality of life while at the shelter. For many dogs, the program provides them with proper socialization, which results in a more confident and secure dog. A well-adjusted and less stressed dog is happier and more likely to be adopted, as well as transition smoothly into a new home.

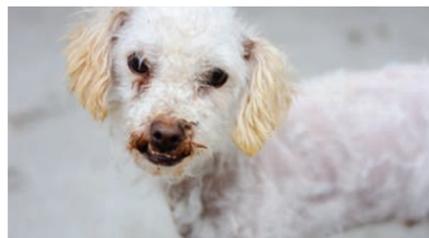
John and his team work with each dog from arrival to adoption. With a program tailored to each animal, they receive the help they need, from learning basic commands, understanding how to walk on a leash, enjoying play and mental stimulation to benefiting from simple human interactions like belly rubs.

Lucy is a great example of the effectiveness of this program. Lucy was a difficult dog to manage when she arrived at the shelter. She would jump on people and grab whatever she could get in her mouth. Weighing 50 pounds and having bad manners deterred many potential adopters from considering Lucy for their home. MARL staff and volunteers worked to train and socialize Lucy. She learned to sit politely if she wanted to be petted. She learned to walk on a leash without chewing it and she learned not to jump on people when they walked in a room. During her training, Lucy caught the eye of volunteers Mark and Kristen, who fell in love and adopted her. Lucy is now living happily ever after. All she needed was a chance.

Recently Adopted



A sweet woman named Mildred adopted Jackie in December. At 86, Mildred wanted a little friend to keep her company. Her daughters helped her pick out the large, white cat that had been with MARL for a while. Jackie is playful, gentle, sleeps with Mildred and is a perfect companion. She was such a welcome addition to her new home that Jackie received presents when she arrived! Mildred says she loves Jackie very much and is glad she has someone waiting for her when she comes home.



Tangled, matted, and nearly starved, Jingles came to MARL as a stray on a blustery December day. We gave him a bath, a fresh haircut, a cozy bed, and provided him with plenty of food and much-needed TLC. It wasn't long before he was feeling much better! The wait for Jingles' forever home only lasted a few short months. Thank you to Heather and Ian Kerr for opening their hearts and home to this sweet dog!



Monique Roehl was hoping to adopt a cat that had been often overlooked by potential adopters. Crackers was a MARL resident for nearly a year-and-a-half. The match couldn't have been better. Despite Crackers, now named Roxy, hissing and growling as she left the shelter, she became a completely different cat when she arrived at her new home. She's a playful snuggler who's comfortable and flourishing in her new home. All it took was for someone to give her a chance.



Pet Safety Tips

SPRING AND SUMMER

Sunnier skies and warmer weather have arrived! Just like us, our furry friends are eager to get outside. While you're out there soaking up everything spring and summer have to offer, please keep these pet safety tips in mind.

A buzzing or jumping insect can easily pique the curiosity of cats and dogs. If your pet is stung by a bee or bitten by a bug, it's a good idea to put a call in to your vet. Just like us, animals can experience an allergic reaction.

It's not out of the ordinary for your pet to munch on grass or other plants. Be mindful of any vegetation that is poisonous or that can cause intense gastrointestinal tract effects. Rhododendron, Sago Palm, Azaleas, and various types of daisies are just a few to be aware of. Ask your vet for a complete list of plants that are dangerous to your pet.

Never, ever leave your pet in a hot car. Even on a 75 degree day with the windows cracked, the inside temperature of the vehicle can soar to 100 degrees in 10 minutes.

Always make sure your pet has access to shade and a limitless supply of clean water.

When going for walks, avoid the hottest parts of the day and be sure to keep tender paw pads off scorching pavement. Don't forget the sunblock! Animals can get burned, too. Apply at least SPF 15 non zinc oxide on tender areas such as ears and nose.

Mallory is a beautiful Shepherd/Collie mix and is available for adoption.



Tips For Adding A Pet To Your Home

As much as the MARL staff and volunteers work to find permanent homes for our shelter guests, we want even more for them to go to families that are ready to provide the ideal care for them. It's not a decision to take lightly or spontaneously, as there are several important factors to consider in addition to the costs of food, grooming and medical care, prior to adopting a dog or cat.

Dogs:

- What type of dog would be a good fit in your household?
- Do you have a fenced-in yard and is each family member willing to help walk your dog?
- If adopting a puppy, be aware of his approximate adult size and weight.
- Be aware of the type of attention he'll require, how energetic he'll be, and what type of environment works best for him.
- Owning a dog is a time-consuming and responsible commitment. Understanding that it will affect your schedule and lifestyle is key to a mutually beneficial relationship with your new pet.

Cats:

- Where will the litter box be kept?
- Are there other cats or pets in the home already?
- Does anyone in the home have cat allergies? Though considered allergenic, certain types produce less feline allergens than others.
- Be aware of the amount of hair that cats shed, as brushing and furniture/clothing will require additional hair removal.
- Be aware that cats will climb on almost anything and love to "claim" territory from other cats in the house.

All dogs and cats love to play and be scratched and petted. A little of your time and attention will go a long way with them. Please feel free to discuss any of your questions or concerns with the MARL staff prior to your pet adoption as we can help you make the best decision for you and your new fur-ever friend!

MARL's Outreach Program



MARL is providing a record amount of dog food, cat food, and bags of straw to low-income households throughout the community. We are dedicated to efficiently supporting these dogs and cats for one reason...they might go without otherwise. We do require that these animals be spayed or neutered to ensure that we are not contributing to the overpopulation problem. Those who provide proof of spay and neutering are eligible to receive food and straw twice a month under our program. MARL provides additional support by helping to facilitate low or no-cost spay and neuter services as well. Providing this assistance to struggling families can have a large financial impact on MARL. Your continued support not only helps our long-term residents and adoptable animals, but also those animals in the community who are in desperate need of our support.

Volunteering at MARL



The life-saving work that we do at MARL would not be possible without the dedication of our volunteers. Here are a few ways you can help:

Cat Care Program – We need help cleaning, feeding, and socializing kittens and cats. We ask for a minimum commitment of five hours per month.

Dog Walking – Available to committed volunteers who undergo a required basic training. Dog walkers must be 21 years old.

Fundraising – Fundraisers, community events and off-site adoption events rely on support from volunteers. Everything from assembling invitations, to handing out promotional materials and even working the events.

Third Party Events – Volunteers can create unique events to raise funds. From pajama parties at school to bowling and block parties, your event can be as creative and fun as you make it.

Fostering – We are in need of foster parents who can bottle feed kittens and care for litters for six to eight weeks in the spring. We also need foster homes for puppies, special needs dogs and cats and those recovering from surgery.



Thank You!



Mrs. Lescoe's 2nd grade class at Lakewood Elementary in White Lake, marked the 100th day of school by trying to raise \$100 for the animals of MARL. They exceeded their goal and donated a total of \$156. Thank you to Lakewood Elementary and all of the students for choosing MARL! You rock!

VERY SPECIAL THANKS TO...

Pet People for donations, promoting MARL at their Photos with Santa and Valentine's Day events and for use of their community room for MARL meetings and adoption events throughout 2014.

Orchard Mall for donating retail space for MARL's weekend adoption events throughout 2014.

Atomic Dawg for donating 10% of their sales at the grand opening event in October.

Urban Dog for having us at their Halloween party for an adoption event and donating a portion of their sales.

West Hills Middle School Students in Bloomfield Hills raised \$172.

Holly Vauter donated 10% of her sales from a MARL Jamberry Nails Party.

Rachel, Seth, Ari, Paige, Hannah, Maya, Jordan, and Arianna of Hillel Day School raised \$140 at their lemonade stand!

Girl Scout Troop 72435 from Glengary Elementary in Walled Lake donated \$150 in honor of the girls moving on to Middle School. Good Luck Girls!

Charae' Shipp donated handmade bows for the female dogs of MARL.

Julia Russo and Sophia Schneider ran a bottle drive in their neighborhood and raised \$171! They found a donor to double their donation for a total donation of \$343!



Gift Giving

Legacy (Planned) Giving is a very meaningful and generous way to support the animals in your community via the Michigan Animal Rescue League. Your legacy gift allows you to carry on your love of animals for many years to come.

www.MichiganAnimalRescueLeague.org currently offers ways you can make your unique legacy happen. The MARL website will keep you updated on our Legacy Society which will debut in summer, 2015, and will offer benefits available only to members of this special society.

Monthly gifting to MARL made easy! You are now able to make a meaningful (and budget conscious) monthly donation to MARL with just a couple of clicks of the mouse. Forget writing that check every month. A Monthly Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) will allow you to make your gift monthly via your credit card without ever having to pick up a pen. It's simple, easy, and safe! For more details, see the Donate to MARL page at marleague.org.



2015 Yappy Hour

Save the date for the 6th annual Yappy Hour event to benefit the Michigan Animal Rescue League! Yappy Hour is a Hollywood-themed cocktail party at the historic and elegant rock garden at Meadow Brook Hall. There will be no shortage of fun with a silent auction, dog-friendly photo session, and other activities for you and your four-legged friend to enjoy! We will be celebrating four MARL dogs that overcame extraordinary obstacles to find their perfect home. They will be awarded with an honorary Yappy award. Be sure to come meet these special K9s and hear all about their unique and heartwarming stories!

When: Thursday, June 4, 2015/6:30 – 9:00pm

Tickets: \$80 per person

For sponsor information please contact Kathryn Hurley at: (734)776-4428 or khurley@marleague.org

More of a cat person? Join the ranks of TEAM CAT! Cats and cat people are coming together to show the dogs who the real stars are! Check out TEAM CAT at MichiganAnimalRescueLeague.org to join!