

THE **MARL** REPORT

SPRING SUMMER 2020



THE POWER OF POSITIVITY

READ MORE ABOUT OUR COVER DOG INSIDE



ABOUT MARL

The Michigan Animal Rescue League (MARL) is one of southeast Michigan's most established shelters, serving the animals and community since 1953.

MARL is a private, 501(c)(3) organization and our work is supported solely by private contributions, which are tax-deductible. Federal Tax ID: 38-1557622



CONTACT

790 Featherstone | Pontiac, MI 48342

DURING CONSTRUCTION, MARL IS TEMPORARILY OPERATING OUT OF

1624 N. Perry Street
Pontiac, MI 48340

P: 248.335.9290 | **F:** 248.335.0261

E: info@marleague.org

www.marleague.org

VISITING HOURS:

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday,
Saturday 12-5 PM

Open Late Thursdays
12-7 PM

MARL BOARD

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Magee Humes

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Honorable Barry Howard
Deanna Malczewski
Susan Murphy
Ken Whipple
Lori Yankel



LET'S GET SOCIAL!



Be sure to **LIKE** the Michigan Animal Rescue League Facebook page for the latest shelter news and updates, including adoptable animals, recent adoptions, upcoming events and more!



Can't get enough of our adorable, adoptable cats and dogs? Follow **@mar_league** on Instagram!

ON THE COVER

Prancer was brought to MARL in December of 2019. This pup was a kind, genuine, and all-around good girl who loved playing in the MARL ball pit! As soon as you took one look at those beautiful brown eyes, you could feel her loving and kind personality radiating out – we know her adopters certainly could! It didn't take Prancer long at all to find her perfect new family and go home in January 2020.



When the MARL Report was ready to print in early March, there was no mention at all of COVID-19 in the original issue. At that time, MARL was not impacted by the coronavirus. As with everything in the state and the world, that changed harshly and suddenly.

While we are all grappling with the short-and long-term impact of COVID-19, there is one constant where MARL is concerned. **We are here – as steady as ever – for the animals.** We took significant precautions to keep everyone safe and do our part to mitigate the spread of this virus. **But because the needs of the animals never went away, neither did MARL.** We never closed our doors and we do not plan on abandoning the animals or people in the community who need us. Things might look different. We have had to adjust, make difficult choices, and take precautions, but we are here providing essential services to the animals and the community that we are proud to serve.

Team MARL is here, boots on the ground, as they say, prepared to get the animals through this time of great uncertainty. However, we can't do it without your help. Your support is what has gotten us to this point – able to remain effective when the going gets tough. We need you more than ever to help us continue to do what we do best – respond to the needs of the dogs and cats who have nowhere else to turn.

These are indeed challenging times. We continue to take in abandoned and at-risk animals, and we have had to adjust our fundraising plans for the year due to social distancing. For the health and safety of our staff and supporters, we have made the difficult decision to cancel our popular Yappy Hour, requiring us to raise an additional \$150,000 this year to meet our operating needs.

Just as we will do all that we can for the animals who need us most, we ask that you continue to support MARL. You will see several ways you can help and support MARL within this newsletter. I hope you are moved to do what you can.

There is a steadfast team who will always be here at MARL, along with countless numbers of dogs and cats who are relying on your support.

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR





TUBA'S STORY

Tuba found his way to MARL in November of 2019 after being transferred from another shelter. At first he appeared to be in perfect health, but what we didn't know yet was that Tuba had a long road ahead of him before finding his forever family.

Everyone who met Tuba was instantly charmed. This cute comedian would bounce around the room chasing toys, sleep upside down, and wave his paw in the air when asked to sit. However, just a few days after his arrival, Tuba suddenly became lethargic and had trouble breathing. MARL staff rushed him to the emergency vet where he was diagnosed with a bad case of pneumonia and a lifelong heart murmur.

Tuba went home with a special foster mom who took care of him for weeks until he finally started feeling better. He wasn't back at MARL for long, though, before he developed painful bumps between his toes! Tuba was reluctant to go back to the vet to get them removed, but while he was there, they also gave him a little "nose job" to help him breathe easier and improve his heart over the years.

When he was finally ready for adoption, this charismatic guy could not be contained to his kennel. Tuba lived in the office where he became the official greeter for everyone walking through. His joyful personality and dashing good looks got the attention of adopters in February. After a long and challenging journey Tuba finally went home with the loving family he always deserved!

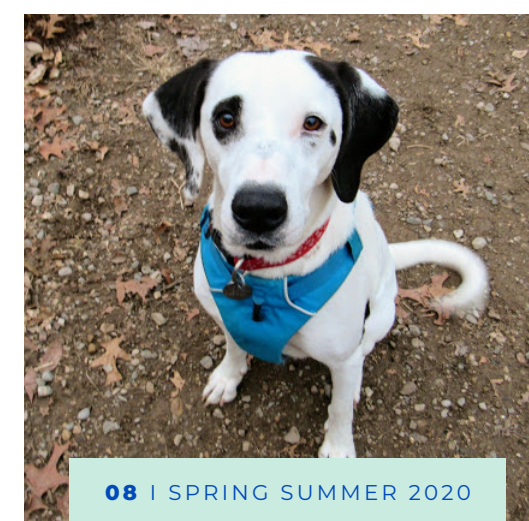
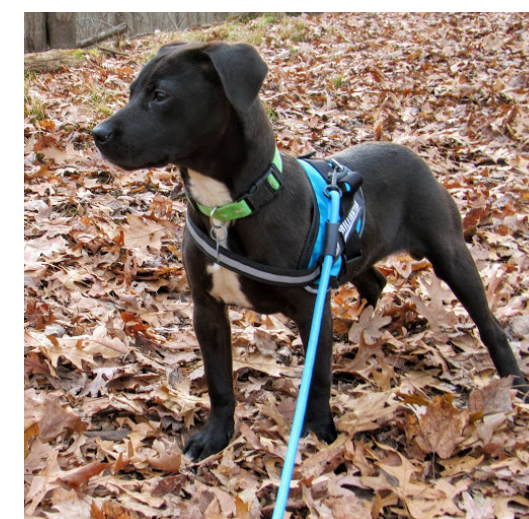
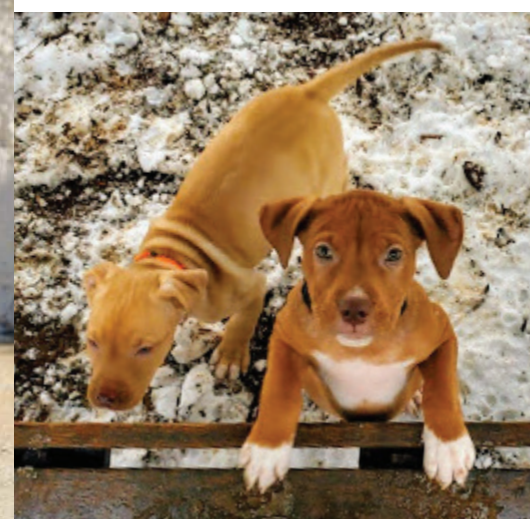
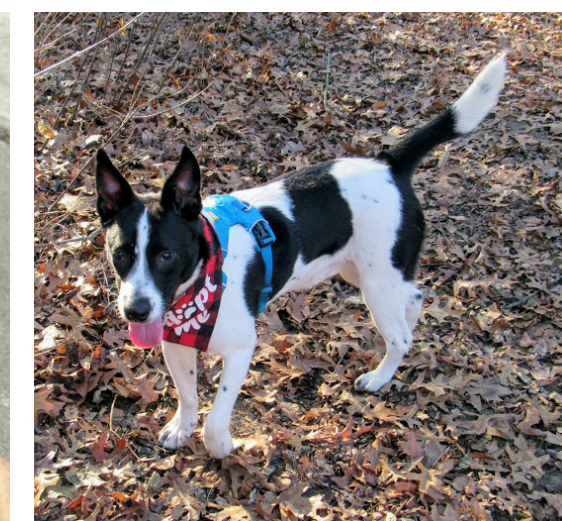
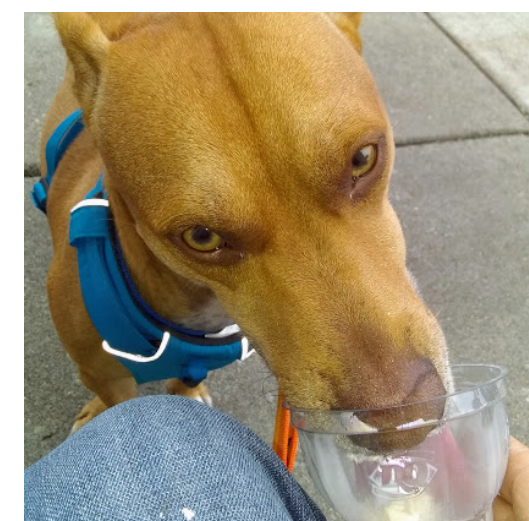


OUT ON THE TOWN

MARL's enrichment program is just one of the many ways we strive to give our dogs the best "quality of the wait". Adjusting to shelter life can be hard and, even when staff and volunteers make every effort to make a dog's temporary home welcoming, it can still be a challenging transition for new residents. Enrichment is a fun way to keep dogs thinking and moving, and to ultimately keep them happy and healthy!

There's one activity that stands out from the rest - outings! Volunteers who are in the outing program can take a dog out for a day (or night) on the town. MARL dogs frequent local bark parks, ice cream shops, Home Depots, nature trails, and more. Sometimes they even get to have sleepovers with their favorite volunteers!

These outings are more than just fun though. Volunteers fill out a "report card" after each outing that helps our staff learn how each dog reacts to new experiences outside the shelter. Outings also help our dogs build confidence, reduce their stress, and help to get their energy out! We hope you enjoy these pictures of our dogs exploring the world outside of MARL.

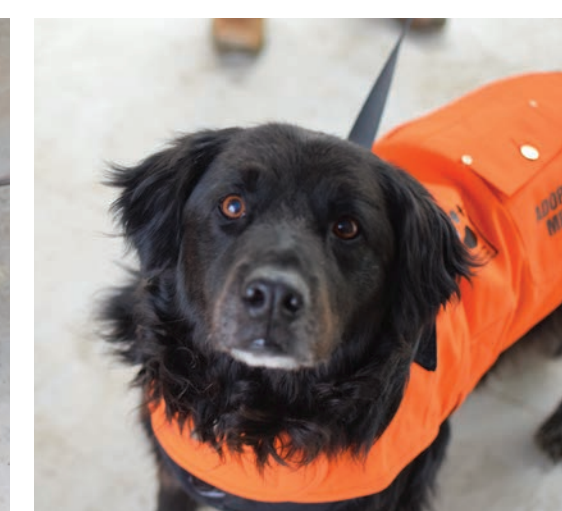
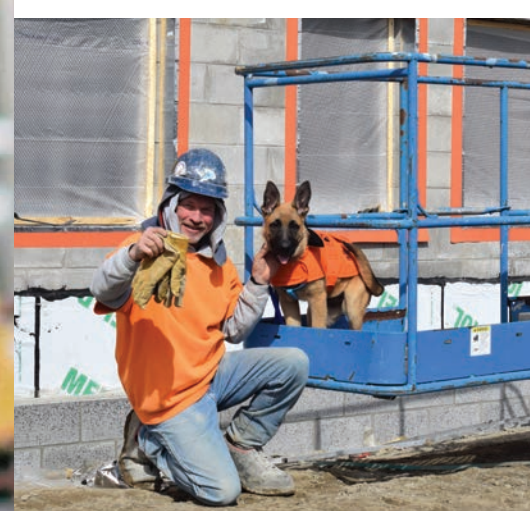


CONSTRUCTING MARL'S NEW HOME

MARL's new facility has been under construction for 10 months now, and we are anxiously awaiting the move into our incredible new building! The exterior structure was finished just in time for winter to hit, and over the following few months construction on the inside of the building moved along quickly. All the areas and rooms inside our new facility are already structurally complete! In the springtime we started on the windows, siding, and outdoor kennels. Up next will come interior finishes for floors, walls, cabinets, and equipment.

During all this construction, a few lucky MARL dogs were invited to come out and get a sneak peek! They loved sniffing around the new shelter building and meeting all the hardworking people that are making it happen.

The COVID-19 shutdowns have paused work at the construction site. While we are expecting some delays, our fantastic team of Frank Rewold & Sons and Ply+ Design & Architecture is working on strategies to recover lost time. We are optimistic and anticipate the project to complete by this fall.





MARL'S FIRST-EVER COMPREHENSIVE CAMPAIGN: HOME. HEART. FUREVER. IS IN FULL SWING.

This campaign is a pivotal moment in MARL's history – one that will not only enable us to build a new home for MARL, but also allow us to elevate our level and impact of care, expand our programs, and ensure that we will still be here saving lives well into the future.

While we are still in the beginning stages of our multi-year campaign, we are proud to announce that we have raised over \$9,000,000 (excluding planned gift pledges) towards our \$12 million overall goal. But there is still much work to be done.

OUR CAMPAIGN GOAL IS AMBITIOUS FOR TWO REASONS:

1. The need for this type of facility in our area is great. This is truly "A Different Breed of Shelter" and it will function as a safe haven for countless animals for years to come.
2. The programs that we can execute within this new, proper facility will not only save twice as many lives, but will reach more animals in the community and provide a lifeline to owners who are struggling to keep their dog or cat as part of their family. The success of this campaign will allow MARL to have a tremendous and direct impact on the dogs and cats whose lives and well-being are at risk.

The goal is big because the need of the animals is big.

We invite you to join us in making this "Different Breed of Shelter" a reality.

A number of exciting naming opportunities are currently available for all gifts and multi-year pledges of \$25,000 or more! Naming an area in the building is a meaningful way to honor your commitment to the animals in perpetuity.

HOME. HEART. FUREVER. HOME. HEART. FUREVER. HOME. HEART. FUREVER. HOME. HEART. FUREVER. HOME. HEART. FUREVER. HOME. HEART. FUREVER. HOME. HEART. FUREVER. HOME. HEART. FUREVER. HOME. HEART. FUREVER.

WHAT IS A MULTI-YEAR PLEDGE?

A multi-year pledge allows a donor to make annual payments towards a commitment at a comfortable pace. For example, a \$25,000 pledge commitment towards MARL's HOME. HEART. FUREVER. campaign allows a donor to significantly impact the dogs and cats, select from a list of naming opportunities within the new building, have their gift matched dollar for dollar, AND it can be paid over a period of five years.



CAN I SECURE A NAMING OPPORTUNITY WITH AN ESTATE/ PLANNED GIFT?

Yes! During the course of the campaign, donors of documented estate/planned gifts can qualify for naming opportunities in the new building. You can designate your gift to a specific need at MARL or it may be unrestricted and used where needed most at the shelter. Please contact us for additional information on how best to document your gift.



"My grandkids will see our family name on this room and know that we were a part of something significant. They will know that philanthropy and kindness are important."

- MARL CAMPAIGN DONOR



CONTACT US

To find out more about how to document your gift please contact Executive Director, Magee Humes, at mhumes@marleague.org or 248-778-5351 or visit marleague.org.



YAPPY WEEK | JUNE 1-7

Grab a cocktail and your furry sidekicks, snuggle in on the couch, and join us for MARL's first-ever virtual Yappy Week! This one-of-a-kind pet party will be completely online and celebrate all the super heroes that make MARL a different breed of shelter.

Although we had to make the difficult decision not to gather in person because of COVID-19, there are still plenty of ways you can join in on the fun and support animals in need! Yappy Week will feature the cutest behind-the-scenes videos from the shelter, stories of our most unforgettable adoptions, and so much more. But you don't have to wait until June 1st to be part of the action!

- Buy a ticket today to have your pet's photo featured on the Guest List!
- Purchase a luminary to be displayed at MARL's building construction site during Yappy Week
- Follow MARL's social media for special surprises and fun giveaways!
- Yappy Week is a dream for Team Cat – join now and show the dogs who's boss!

Visit www.marleague.org now for more information and a sneak peek at Yappy Week!

For questions please contact MARL's Event Coordinator, Megan Garrison at: mgarrison@marleague.org or (248) 330-6809

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- *Laura Fenton

CANINE CO-CHAIRS

- Connor Davidson
- Hank Fenton

HONORARY CO-CHAIRS

- *Cindy & Hon. Barry Howard
- Cara & Brian Krupa

HOST COMMITTEE

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- Betsy Barnes
- Tracie Berry
- Hon. Jim & Janet Blanchard
- *Ralph Caplan
- Jennifer Falcinelli
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- *Jenny Heinrich
- Connie Hogan
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- Ann Wiacek
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- Lori Yankel

* 2020 Board of Directors

AN EXTRA SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR 2020 SUPER HERO SPONSORS

GOLD GRAND CHAMPION SPONSORS

IN MEMORY OF SAM FROM RALPH & RUBY

BEST IN SHOW SPONSORS

KARMANOS CANCER INSTITUTE AND MCLAREN HEALTH CARE



TOP DOG SPONSORS

PATRICK & LAURA FENTON

LOYAL FRIEND SPONSORS

John M. Bashur in Memory of Peggy Bashur
Sandy & Keith Kondos
Christine & David Provost
Lisa & Scott Wasserman
Kimberly & Kenneth Whipple
Wright-Hurley Family

BEST BUDDY SPONSORS

A. Alfred Taubman Foundation
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Dennis & Tina Mirku
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GOOD DOG SPONSORS

Advanced Animal Chiropractic
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PARTY ANIMAL SPONSORS

East Street Pilates
Edward A Eickhoff & Michael Hisala
In Loving Memory of Joan & Myron Benner
Jennifer Falcinelli
The Urban Dog

ADOPTED

OLLIE

Ollie was brought to MARL in February of 2020. This senior girl had nails so long they were curling into her paw pads, and at her vet visit they discovered she had several large, painful bladder stones! It took a lot of love and TLC, but Ollie eventually started to feel much better. Ollie lived in the office at MARL, where you could usually find her hanging out under chairs, snoring up a storm, or alerting us to any "intruders" going by! It didn't take long for Ollie to find her perfect new mom. Now they are living happily ever after together!



RECENTLY



BOBBY

Bobby came to MARL in January of 2020 after he was found in an abandoned house. As soon as we met him, we noticed Bobby was very wobbly and kept falling over when he tried to walk. We rushed him to a neurologist who diagnosed him with cerebellar hypoplasia – a neurological issue that affected his coordination and balance. Despite his diagnosis, Bobby was still a healthy, happy cat! He could pull himself around the room, climb in and out of the litterbox, and loved being pet. Bobby eventually made his way into the heart of a very special volunteer who couldn't resist taking him home!



THANK YOU

GENEROUS KIDS DOING GOOD IN THEIR COMMUNITY:

CARSON MARTIN donated supplies from his 10th birthday

NORUP INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL (MR. RUPLE'S 5TH GRADE) raised \$40 from the Penny Challenge

ELLIE & ANNE COOK raised \$301 from their lemonade stand

KENDALL GRAY collected items for her 7th birthday

BRADY BUCZEK had a hot chocolate stand and raised \$20

ST. HUGO OF THE HILLS BROWNIE TROOP 76587 donated \$376 from a troop fundraiser

BRENT AND JACK ARMSTRONG collected supplies in lieu of gifts for their birthdays

ISABELLA BURG made handmade cat toys and blankets

OLYVIA MORGAN raised over \$85 at her lemonade stand

WOLFE MIDDLE SCHOOL (MR. MARTINES) ADVANCED BUILDING AND DESIGN CLASS made paw print ornaments to sell to benefit the animals and raised \$126

WOLFE MIDDLE SCHOOL (MS. TORRES'S 7TH GRADE) STUDENTS held a bake sale for the animals and raised \$135

A FEW OF THE PEOPLE, COMPANIES, EMPLOYEES AND ORGANIZATIONS WHO HAVE RAISED MONEY AND/OR COLLECTED SUPPLIES FOR MARL:

NATIONAL CONSUMER PANEL'S NCP CARES granted MARL a \$5,000 award

PYP VENTURES LLC donated 6 Purrfect Fence catios

TIM MCALLISTER AND HEIDI DOVER brought in a truck load of food from their 4th annual Halloween party benefiting MARL

DANIEL AND NANCY CLIFFORD held their annual Boxing Day Party to benefit MARL

KENDRA SCOTT JEWELRY (Novi Twelve Oaks Mall) raised funds for MARL at their store event

CHRISTIAN FINANCIAL CREDIT UNION chose MARL as their quarterly charity to benefit

KRYSTI MURPHY held a yoga event where proceeds were donated to MARL

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF BIRMINGHAM held special collection at their rummage sale to benefit the MARL animals

PADGETT BUSINESS SERVICES, CONCORDE TENANTS AND EMPLOYEES collected funds and donated much needed supplies, food and toys

OAKLAND COUNTY LEGAL RESOURCE CENTER collected donations for causal Friday

12 STEP YOGA 4 UNITY holds special classes benefiting MARL

UNIVERSITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH held a PetPalooza event benefiting MARL

TROY'S WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION raised funds at the annual after Thanksgiving Craft Show.



WISH LIST AND NEEDS

- Wet dog food | all brands
- Wet cat food | all brands
- Dry kitten food | Purina Kitten Chow (orange bag)
- Dry dog and puppy food | Purina One SmartBlend (red bag)
- Cat toys | all types
- Clorox disinfecting wipes
- HE laundry detergent
- Bleach
- Paper towels
- Clay clumping cat litter
- Gently used or new harnesses, leashes and collars | all sizes
- Dog toys and chews | all types
- Copy paper
- HP Ink | 952 or 952XL Black/Color

At this time we are not accepting donations of bedding, towels, dog or cat beds, or blankets.

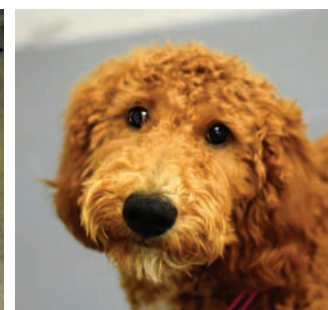
Visit our website for a link to our Amazon wish list where you can send much-needed items directly to our shelter.



LOKI
Adopted
February 2020



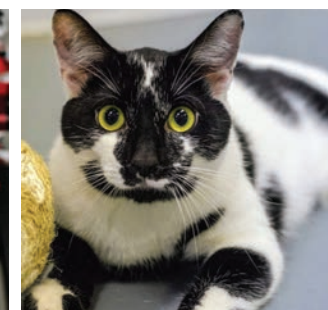
BELLA & BENNY
Adopted
March 2020



SADIE
Adopted
March 2020



BIZZY
Adopted
February 2020



PEPPY
Adopted
February 2020



790 FEATHERSTONE
PONTIAC, MICHIGAN
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COVID-19: HOW YOU CAN HELP

One of the best things you can do to help MARL through this tough time is donate! Donating will help us buy supplies as we need them and provide important medical care to the animals. You can also bring donations of supplies to the shelter. Right now, we are especially in need of wet and dry dog and cat food, bleach, paper towels, and dog treats! You can also buy supplies through our Amazon Wish List (available at marleague.org) and have them shipped directly to the shelter.

To learn more about dropping off donations and MARL's policies during COVID-19, please contact our office at **248-335-9290**.