

THE **MARL** REPORT

FALL WINTER 2021



MAKING IT HAPPEN

READ MORE ABOUT OUR COVER CAT 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

MAIN ENTRANCE AND ADOPTION CENTER PARKING LOT:

325 Martin Luther King Jr Blvd N
Pontiac, MI 48342

P: 248.335.9290 | **F:** 248.335.0261

E: info@marleague.org

www.marleague.org

OFFICE HOURS:

Tuesdays through Saturdays 12-5 PM

Appointments can be made for any day of the week between the hours of 9 AM and 7 PM



PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT: KITTEN TO-GO KITS

We are proud to announce one of MARL's new community engagement programs, Kitten To-Go Kits. These kits are provided to local citizens who have found abandoned newborn and infant kittens. These kits include basic supplies (kitten milk replacement, syringes for feeding, bottles, etc.), helpful information about kitten care, and contact information in case of an emergency. This program provides a life-saving solution for vulnerable kittens if a shelter or rescue option is not available.

IMPACT: OVER 100 KITTENS HAVE BENEFITTED FROM THIS PROGRAM SINCE ITS INCEPTION IN MAY OF 2021.

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Magee Humes

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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

Dallas is one of the hundreds of kittens that came through our doors during a very busy kitten season. We are happy to report that Dallas has been adopted and is living the good life in a forever home. We would also like to give special thanks to Monique Roehl. Monique is our official cat and kitten photographer, and she consistently volunteers her skills and time to take beautiful photos of our adoptable cats. Her generosity and ability to photograph even the finickiest of felines has helped hundreds of cats and kittens find their forever homes.





SHOUKO'S STORY

Shouko found herself in MARL's care in the summer of 2021. She was surrendered by her previous family due to housing issues. We immediately noticed that Shouko was incredibly loving and grateful to be in the hands of our team.

It was also apparent that Shouko was missing at least part of her vision. Upon further observation, we learned that she was completely blind. This was caused by a genetic birth defect, and our veterinary team believed that Shouko had lived her whole life visually impaired.

Shouko did not let her inability to see hold her back one bit! She quickly became the star of our outdoor yard, and no one could keep up with her once she got the "zoomies." Her bright personality always had people smiling, and her cuddles were just what everyone needed after a long day. She even became our designated office dog after winning over the hearts of MARL's office staff.

Once Shouko was ready for adoption, we began to search for a home just as special as she was. With her adorable face and sweet disposition, we knew that she would have no problem getting attention from potential adopters. Because of her circumstances, we wanted to make sure that we found her a special home that could accommodate all of her needs. We were delighted to meet a family that was a perfect match to give Shouko the home of her dreams! She is now living happily ever after with two humans, two dogs, and a house chicken. Way to go, Shouko!



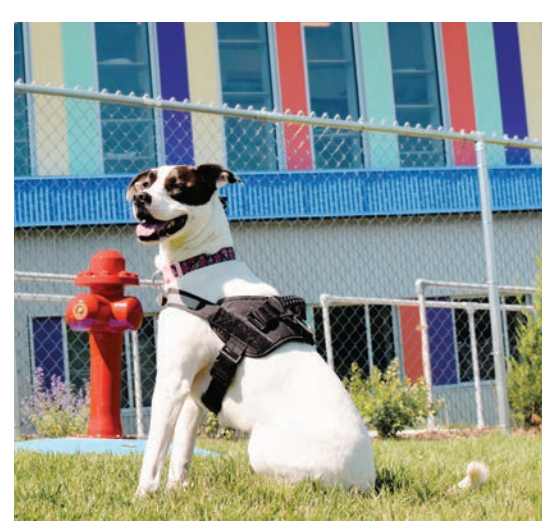
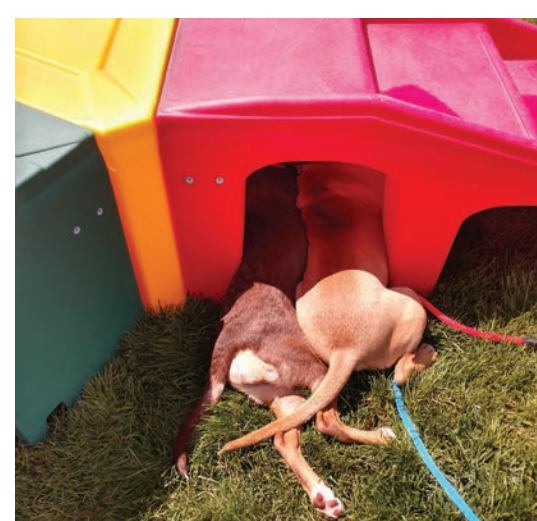
DOG DAYS OF SUMMER

The dogs in our care just enjoyed their first summer at MARL's new facility. To say that our canine residents had a blast would be an understatement!

One of the dog's favorite places this summer was the "Dog Play Park." Throughout the day, dogs could be seen playing fetch, climbing the playscape, crawling through tunnels, jumping over agility equipment, relaxing in the sun, and much more. The treat "search and find" game was also a favorite yard activity for many of the dogs and provided them with plenty of physical and mental enrichment during the dog days of summer at MARL.

In true "Different Breed of Shelter" fashion, we also unveiled our doggy splash pad, bone-shaped swimming pool and sprinkler! The dogs loved running through the water with their canine friends and retrieving toys from the pool. The "Cindy and Barry Howard Wagging Tails Walking Trail" was also a busy spot this summer with dogs enjoying plenty of walks with volunteers while smelling every tree and shrub along the way.

The first summer at our new facility was one for the books. We look forward to many more pool parties and fun in the sun with the dogs at MARL for years to come!





MEET SNOWY

While waiting for adoption, Snowy has been living in MARL executive director, Magee Humes' office. We caught up with Magee to learn a little more about Snowy.

QUESTION:

How long has Snowy been living in your office?

MAGEE:

Snowy moved into my office about 6 months ago. I'm always excited to meet a new office cat. But in this case, everyone who was familiar with Snowy kept wishing me luck in a suspicious kind of way so I was apprehensive at first.

QUESTION:

Were you and Snowy immediate friends?

MAGEE:

Not at all. Snowy didn't seem to have much interest in being friendly with me. She would act like she wanted to be friends and then suddenly bat at me with her big paws. She also messed up the papers on my desk, walked across my keyboard, which resulted in unintentionally sent emails, knocked pens right out of my hand, licked my lunches, and stood in front of the camera during video calls.

QUESTION:

Are you and Snowy friends now?

MAGEE:

We are best friends. In time, Snowy began to trust me. And I began to understand her. It may have taken months, but it was time well spent. Snowy is like a hilarious, furry best friend. We have inside jokes and she gently paws at my face a few times a day. Sometimes it feels like she is thanking me for just letting her be herself. I adore her and her companionship and her unapologetic confidence in the rascal that she is. The best place for her is in a home and whoever is lucky enough to adopt her will be getting a remarkably fun and interesting cat. They just have to persevere through the first few months to allow Snowy to get comfortable. Patience is definitely rewarded when it comes to Snowy.

QUESTION:

What is the craziest thing Snowy has ever done?

MAGEE:

"Snowy's Big Adventure" was crazy but that's probably a story for another time. It was pretty funny when she stole sausages from someone else's office and I found her snacking on them in my desk drawer.





THE GIFT OF LOVE

A gift to MARL is a thoughtful way to honor or memorialize someone you care about and make a meaningful contribution to the lives of the homeless cats and dogs in southeast Michigan. Listed below are gifts made in honor or in memory of a loved one in the amount of \$20 or more. These gifts were received between March 1st, 2021 - August 30th, 2021.

IN HONOR OF

3 grand dogs | Laurel Vine
Alexander Kilgman | Anna Kilgman
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IN MEMORY OF

Abby | Peter Berg and Don Spivak
Abby | Leslee and Terry Staffield
Abby Azzouz | Laila Azzouz, Cindy and Barry Howard
Alan Del Nero | Carol Wyman
All my cats | Mary Szymula
Annie and Hershel | Jill Annette Smith
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Artemis | Dennis Lakomy and Darlene Frederick
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Samantha "Sammy" Mier | Amy Logan
Sami | Dennis Lakomy and Darlene Frederick

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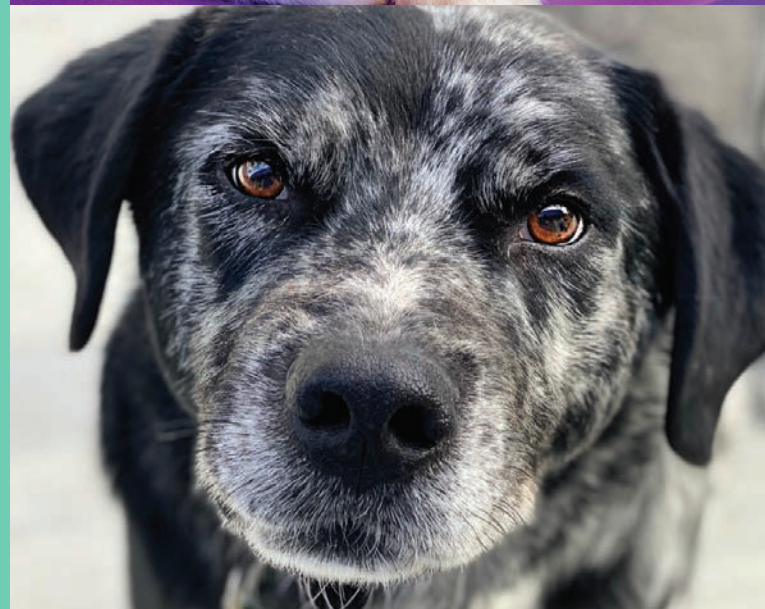
MARL GIVING CIRCLES

For our generous supporters committed to helping homeless animals in our care all year long, we welcome you to our newest program, the MARL Giving Circles.

As a member of MARL's Giving Circles, you help us provide vital care to the homeless animals we welcome into our shelter each year that require medical care, behavior support and more. Your investment gives these deserving animals a second chance for a healthy, happy life.

Each circle level includes benefits like special recognition in the MARL lobby, a certificate of membership, puppy and kitten play sessions, and even the opportunity to name an adoptable animal!

To learn more or to join The Giving Circles, visit Marleague.org or contact **Magee Humes** at 248-335-9290 or mhumes@marleague.org.



SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR CURRENT GIVING CIRCLE MEMBERS:

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LOYAL FRIEND CIRCLE

Stephen Bonkowski
Linda Kahn Gale
Jim & Lori Issner
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Jared Schultz
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Wizard

HERO CIRCLE

Sanford Sadow
Cindy & Barry Howard

ADVOCATE CIRCLE

Jennifer Adderley
Norm and Martha Ehlers
Carol Mann



This fall, the Michigan Animal Rescue League celebrated its 12th annual Yappy Hour — the only cocktail party in Metro Detroit where your dog is welcome! Guests enjoyed the opportunity to mingle with their best friend by their side while enjoying cocktails and delicious food, gourmet dog treats, a silent auction, red carpet photography, and so much more.

Yappy Hour has historically been a Springtime party, but this year we celebrated in September. We are thrilled to report that the response from our supporters and community was as great as ever. We were able to host a safe and successful in-person event while celebrating the animals and MARL's mission. **Over 550 guests attended and it was the most successful fundraising event in MARL's history.**



THANK YOU TO OUR 2021 SPONSORS!

GOLD GRAND CHAMPION

THE CAPLAN FAMILY OF RESCUES
JENNIFER & JEFFREY FARBER

BEST IN SHOW

HUNTINGTON BANK

TOP DOG

PATRICK & LAURA FENTON
KURTIS KITCHEN AND BATH
WRIGHT-HURLEY FAMILY

LOYAL FRIEND

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Eric & Sheena Fisher
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Sandy & Keith Kondos
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Lisa & Scott Wasserman

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* 2021 Board of Directors



CELEBRITY PET CONTEST

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Celebrity Pet of the Year contest and congratulations to our 2021 MARL Pet Ambassadors, Ellie Mae and Buddy White! These two received a prize package with celebrity perks for the rest of the year. They each brought in thousands of votes and helped raise awareness of MARL and our mission.

Every cent raised helped to provide lifesaving care to the dogs and cats waiting for their second chance.

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram to find out how to enter your pet in 2022!

1ST PLACE

ELLIE MAE

(formerly Jamie) was adopted from MARL in 2019. She's two years old and loves to show off her tricks for treats.

"We rescued our Ellie after having to put two of our beloved dogs down less than 3 weeks apart. One was 13 and the other 16. Ellie captured our hearts from the moment we laid our eyes on her. She rescued us from the pain of losing two furry family members and continues to make us smile every chance she gets."



1ST PLACE

BUDDY WHITE

(formerly Autumn) was adopted from MARL in 2018. He is now two years old and loves to cuddle.

2ND PLACE

FINNIGAN

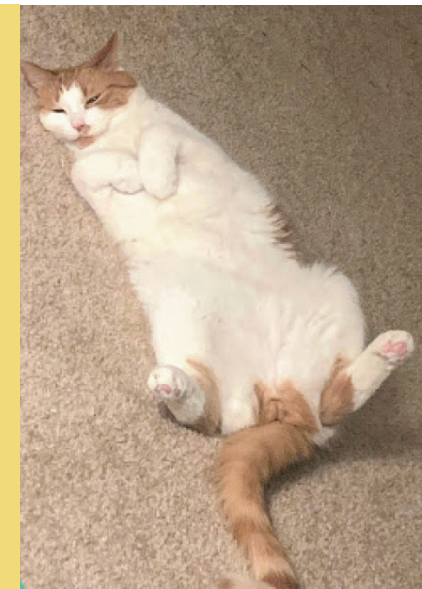
2020 MARL Alumn



2ND PLACE

JASPER

2021 MARL Alumn



2ND PLACE

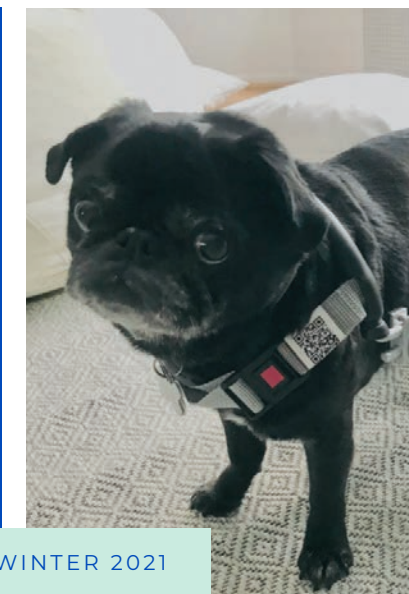
SQUIRT

2018 MARL Alumn



3RD PLACE

STELLA





Looking for the perfect gift idea this holiday season? How about a gift that gives back! Warm the hearts of your family and friends with these special ideas that directly benefit the animals at MARL.

NEW HOLIDAY HOPE CATALOG

The holidays are a time for hope, cheer, and thoughtful giving. While cats and dogs in homes are getting lots of treats and toys, we ask you to think of the MARL residents too! Enjoy feel-good shopping with symbolic gifts you can donate to the animals at MARL. Every donation will help us spoil them the way they deserve! If you make a purchase as a gift, you will have the option to download a card you can print and fill out to give to your recipient.

GIVE THE GIFT OF LOVE

This holiday season, give the gift of love by sponsoring an animal in honor of someone special! A gift of \$20 or more includes a link to download and print a holiday-themed card that you can give to your recipient. Get started by visiting **Animal Sponsorships** under the **Donate** tab on marleague.org.

BETTER THAN FRUITCAKE

When your guests arrive for this season's holiday party, request that they bring supplies from MARL's wish list or even a monetary donation! Adding this fun twist to your holiday event is a great opportunity for your guests to do good while making your festivities feel twice as special. You can find our wish list under the **Ways to Help** tab on marleague.org.

GIVE BACK WITH YOUR AMAZON SHOPPING

Help MARL by doing your regular holiday shopping on smile.amazon.com. Amazon Smile offers all the same products at the same prices as Amazon, but .5% of the purchase price of eligible products is donated to charities! Just select the Michigan Animal Rescue League as your charity of choice. Don't forget to check out MARL's Amazon Wish List under **Ways to Help** on marleague.org.

THE MARL SHOP

There's something for everyone at the MARL Shop! Support homeless animals with t-shirts, cozy hoodies, mugs, children's attire, and more. These make perfect gifts for all the animal lovers in your life! Just visit marleague.org/marl-shop to browse the shop. 100% of proceeds benefit the Michigan Animal Rescue League!

For additional giving opportunities, please visit marleague.org.

THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU

ORGANIZATIONS & COMPANIES:

- LIMBACH COMPANY LLC** – Raised money for MARL and donated supplies
- WICKED JEEPS** – Picked MARL as their receiving charity for 2021, collecting over \$1,300
- CHARLIE'S STILL ON MAIN** – Donated 10% of their Doggy Menu sales to benefit MARL
- LAKE ORION & BLOOMFIELD HILLS MENARDS** – Collected supplies during their pet drive
- BLACK DOG CANDLE COMPANY** – Donated 10% of candle sales to benefit MARL
- AUCH CONSTRUCTION** – Raised \$250 from Casual for a Cause Friday
- NORTH OAKLAND COUNTY BOARD OF REALTORS** – Collected monetary donations and supplies
- HOLY NAME CHURCH** – Raised over \$800 from their Dress Down Day
- WALT'S DIGGITY DOG, LLC.** – Collects donations for MARL every week resulting in hundreds of dollars for the animals
- MIKE SAVOIE CHEVROLET** – Raised \$2,500 from Pickup for Paws 2021
- BROWNDOG CREAMERY** – Raised over \$700 during their 2021 Pints for Progress event
- DR. RICK TULLY AND HIS TEAM OF VOLUNTEERS** – Built and installed MARL's new dog play equipment

KIDS DOING GOOD IN THEIR COMMUNITY:

- WEBBER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL** – Collected donations for MARL during their "Positivity Project Community Project Day"
- HOLY NAME CATHOLIC SCHOOL** – Raised money from their "Animal Themed Dress Down Day"
- WALLED LAKE WESTERN HIGH SCHOOL** – Made dog toys during their Week of Compassion
- VLADIMIR AND BRANISLAV STOJANOVSKI** – Raised \$250 from their Boy Scout benefit garage sale

THESE ARE JUST A FEW OF THE GENEROUS PEOPLE AND COMPANIES WHO SUPPORT MARL! THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO HELPS OUR DOGS AND CATS.



MARL'S WISH LIST

Help the dogs and cats at MARL by donating these much-needed items to the shelter!

To drop off donations, please ring the doorbell at 790 Featherstone, Pontiac, MI 48342 or call our front desk at 248-335-9290 between the hours of 12-5 Tuesdays through Saturdays.

WISH LIST:

- Wet dog food | All brands
- Wet cat food | All brands
- Dry kitten food | Purina
- Dry dog and puppy food | Purina One SmartBlend (red bag)
- Cat toys | All brands
- Clorox disinfecting wipes
- Paper towels
- Unscented clumping cat litter
- Gently used or new harnesses, leashes, and collars | All sizes
- Treat puzzles
- Fleece blankets

Send supplies directly to the shelter with our Amazon and Chewy wish lists! Visit marleague.org to learn more.

Please note that we do not accept the following: Open bags of food, pillows, newspaper, large comforters, fitted sheets, animal clothes, wire dog crates, and used grooming supplies. Keep in mind that dropping off things that we cannot use means that our staff has less time to spend with the animals due to the sorting and re-donating of these items.





790 FEATHERSTONE
PONTIAC, MICHIGAN
248.335.9290

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GUARDIAN SOCIETY

By including MARL in your estate plans, you are leaving a legacy of kindness to animals and joining a special group, The Guardian Society.

Those who notify MARL of inclusion in their estate plans, at any level, are eligible to become a member of The Guardian Society. Members receive special benefits including invitations to special MARL events, recognition as a special friend, and the opportunity to enroll in the pet guardianship program.

It is surprisingly easy to make the gift of a lifetime. Planned gifts include but are not limited to:

- Bequests included in wills
- Living trusts
- Charitable gift annuities
- Life insurance policies
- Retirement plan assets

Consult with your financial advisor, attorney or trust officer to determine the best option for you.

To learn more, visit marleague.org or contact **Magee Humes** at **248-335-9290** or mhumes@marleague.org.