

Working to achieve the best quality of life for Michigan's companion animals



Makin' Pawsitive Change, March 2023

Over the next few months, into spring and throughout the summer, we are going to tell you more and more about the 2023 One Voice Conference & Expo, taking place in September in Grand Rapids. The theme is Better Together and the workshops will focus on how we accomplish more in animal welfare when we collaborate.

In the conference sessions, participants will learn what's new and what's next to take our industry to the next level in lifesaving. The One Voice Conference & Expo is for animal shelters, rescues, animal control officers, outreach organizations, nonprofits, veterinarians, volunteers and everyone who wants to play a role in saving the lives of companion animals.

More details, including speakers, tracks and session descriptions, to come. Conference discounts will be available to MPA members. [Join now](#) to enjoy the benefits and bonuses for MPA members at this year's conference.

If you would like to donate gift baskets, items or services to Michigan Pet Alliance for use in the conference raffles or as prizes, please email colleen_whitehead@msn.com. Donations are tax-deductible and all donors will receive recognition in conference marketing materials and event signage.

2023 Michigan Pet Alliance One Voice Conference and Expo

Mark your calendar for the **2023 Michigan Pet Alliance One Voice Conference and Expo, September 21 – 22, 2023**, at the Sheraton Airport Hotel and Conference Center in Grand Rapids.

SEPTEMBER						
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Member Spotlight



At Adopt-A-Pet in Fenton, enrichment and learning are such key activities for the dogs and cats there, training sessions are as regular an activity in their lives as eating and sleeping.

“We hold ourselves to a high standard, one which looks out for both the physical and mental well-being of the animals in our care,” said Director Jody Maddock.

The shelter's certified trainer and vet tech has been working with the dogs for the past four years, as well as training staffers and volunteers who want to participate.

Every dog is given a training session every day.

Adopt-A-Pet's spacious eight-acre grounds include wading pools, four fenced play yards and an agility course. This summer, Maddock is planning an outdoor "Zen Den" with different smells and textures to provide even more enrichment.

To assure that staff, volunteers, and dogs are safe when walking or enjoying enrichment activities, the shelter has developed a coding system. Dogs with green collars are good to go. Blue collars mean volunteers need to check with staff before taking the dog out. Purple collars denote medical restrictions, such as heartworm positive or having just been spayed or neutered. Volunteers must have additional training to be able to work with a purple-collar dog. A red collar indicates a resident who might be a possible bite risk or one who is fearful or has behavior issues. Only staff members are allowed to take red-collar dogs out of their kennels.

"Volunteers truly are our lifeline," said Maddock, who noted that she has about 85 active volunteers. "We are fortunate to have so many. Some start their day with us at 8 a.m. Nighttime volunteers tuck the animals in at 9 p.m."

The Adopt-A-Pet facility was formerly a college fraternity house, one that now provides separate facilities for cats and dogs. The main building houses cats and a medical suite. It has six open cat rooms, three catios and can accommodate as many as 49 cats. The dog building has 14 rooms, four of which are puppy litter rooms. The floors are heated and some dog kennels have small outside patios.

Televisions are set up to help entertain animals who are in recovery. The three dog quarantine rooms all have televisions as well. Staff report that the puppies seem to enjoy watching movies such as "Baby Einstein" and "Moana."

The cats have five television sets and seem to be partial to Cat TV videos.

In addition to its onsite training and enrichment work, Adopt-a-Pet takes on other challenges as well.

"We are known for taking on difficult medical cases," Maddock said. "Police and area veterinarians frequently contact us, and we are happy to assist them."

"Genesee County Sheriff Chris Swanson helps with many cases in Genesee County and has even volunteered as the auctioneer for our biggest annual fundraiser."

Like many shelters, Adopt-a-Pet receives no public funding and, instead, relies on donations and fundraisers to keep the lights on. Its popular annual fundraiser, The Howling Haunted Trail, features a spooky trail through the deep woods of the shelter's own property, complete with a beverage tent and a food truck. Last year, more than 3,000 people took part in the Halloween fun while helping raise \$80,000 for the shelter.

In addition to the glitzier fundraisers, Adopt-a-Pet runs an ongoing campaign collecting returnable cans and bottles. A group of volunteers dubbed the "Bottle Warriors" takes them to stores and redeems them for cash. This bottle and can drive has raised more than \$50,000 since the beginning of the pandemic.

In 2022, Adopt A-Pet has lived up to its name and reputation by adopting out 1,197 dogs, a live release rate of 99.3%.

Their story has now become a part of Michigan Pet Alliance's story. "We joined MPA because things are constantly changing in sheltering," said Director Maddock. "I felt this was a great way to stay on top of the changes."



Upcoming Events

Upcoming Webinar

March 13, noon to 1 p.m.: “Playtime and Enrichment for ALL Cats”

In this webinar, cat owners, in-shelter caregivers and foster parents will learn how to ease common behavior problems by keeping a cat engaged in play and mentally stimulated. Cat behavior expert Jess Vankoningsveld will cover proper play techniques designed to encourage a natural progression of behaviors, allowing playtime to be as effective as possible, whether in a home or in the shelter environment.

Playtime & Enrichment for ALL Cats

A photograph showing two cats on a wooden floor. One cat is reaching out with its paw towards a collection of colorful toys, including blue and red plastic cups and tubes. The other cat is standing nearby, looking at the toys.

Webinar March 13th
Noon - 1 PM EST

The logo for the Michigan Pet Alliance, featuring a map of Michigan and the text "MICHIGAN PET ALLIANCE" with a paw print icon.

Register now at www.michiganpet.org/education-and-training/online-training/

Cost to non members: \$25

Free to all MPA members.

[Join MPA](#) and you can attend all webinars in 2023 for free.

Upcoming Virtual Roundtable

PROTECT MI PET:

Michigan Animal Abuse Registry
& Automatic Forfeiture Process

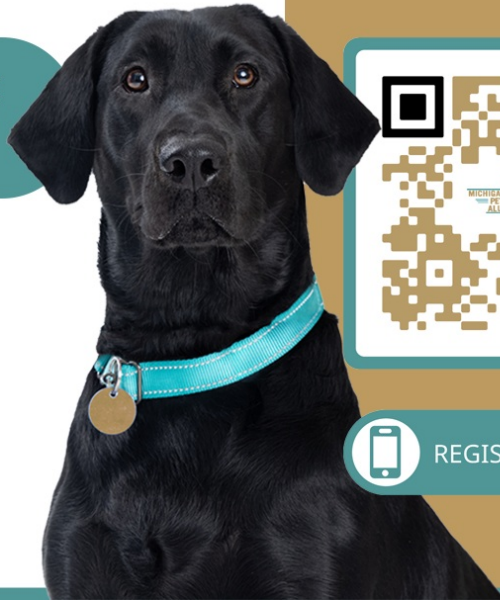
ONLINE ROUNDTABLE PANEL DISCUSSION

Date/Time:
March 20, 2023
6-7 p.m. ET

Everyone is welcome.
Admission is free.



REGISTER TODAY



March 20, 6 to 7 p.m.: “Protect Mi Pet: Michigan Animal Abuse Registry & Automatic Forfeiture Process” Panel Discussion

Get ready for an exhilarating conversation with animal welfare leaders and the Citizens for the Animal Abuse Registry as they discuss one of the greatest statewide initiatives to take on animal abusers in Michigan.

And, you can play a role. Everyone is welcome. Registration is free.

Right now, when animals are seized from suspected abusers, they are held at animal control shelters until the abuser signs over ownership or the court case is concluded. **THIS CAN TAKE YEARS UPON YEARS.**

Right now, someone convicted of animal abuse can go out and get another animal.

Research shows that those who mistreat animals will do so habitually and are likely to escalate their violence to include children, teens and adults.

Register today for this [free roundtable](#) and prepare to get excited about what's coming. If you're unable to participate in the roundtable live, please register so you can receive a link to watch the recording later.

FOMO Tip

Don't miss out on free training and educational videos. Subscribe to MPA's YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/@MichiganPetAlliance



Scratch-off Lotto Tickets

If you're looking for a simple way to help Michigan Pet Alliance, purchase a few Michigan scratch-off lotto tickets and mail them to us at MPA, 2210 Lancaster Road, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302. We're creating a bouquet for a lucky attendee to win at this year's conference.

March Member Events

A benefit of MPA membership is free promotion for the upcoming events and fundraisers of member organizations. Here are a few opportunities to support animal

welfare organizations this month:

March 1-14: [Paws for Life Draws for Life](#), Paws for Life Rescue

March 9-12: [1st Anniversary Online Auction](#), Fig and Friends Pet Rescue

March 11: [Rescue Reading](#), Humane Society of Huron Valley

March 11: [Sweetwaters Cafe Adoption Event](#), Humane Society of Macomb

March 12: [TNR - How to Care for Outdoor Cats](#), All About Animals

March 14: [Community Service Club](#), UPAWS

March 18: [1,000th Adoption Celebration](#), Karma Kat Cafe

March 18: [New Volunteer Orientation](#), Adopt-A-Pet – Fenton

March 22: [Dog Vaccine Clinic](#), Ingham County Animal Control and Shelter

March 25: [Low-cost Vaccine/Microchip Clinic](#), Eaton County Humane

About Michigan Pet Alliance

MPA Vision:

To achieve the best quality of life for Michigan's companion animals.

MPA Mission:

To work in collaboration and speak with a single voice to eliminate abuse and neglect of Michigan's companion animals and to save all healthy and treatable homeless companion animals through training, technical assistance, education, and advocacy.

For more information:
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michiganpet.org

Michigan Pet Alliance is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization as defined by the IRS (EIN 20-0399162) and is a Guidestar Exchange Platinum Participant.



Contributions are tax deductible.



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