



Makin' Pawsitive Change, March 2024

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Ask the Trainer (*This article is reprinted with permission from Little Traverse Bay Humane Society*)

Did you know that a dog's sense of smell is more than 100,000 times better than that of a human? Dogs use their nose to interpret the world around them. It acts as a direct link to their memories, and allowing your dog to smell increases their ability to learn and self-soothe. Simply giving your dog the opportunity to sniff out their food in a pile of crunchy leaves, search for the hidden KONG toys throughout the house, or enjoy a leisurely shuffle around the hiking path on a loose lease allows them to use their instincts to hunt for smells and information. It also gives us the added benefit of having a tired pooch to cuddle up on the couch with after!

Recently, the shelter received a wonderful opportunity to work with Certified Professional Dog Trainer and Canine Coach, Laurie Horn. Laurie is the owner of Sniffing Out Solutions and the author of *Scent 4 Shelter Dogs*, a book which aims to increase the enrichment opportunities within animal shelters through educating on the benefits of scent work. This was a gift granted to LTBHS by Michigan Pet Alliance, a non-profit organization that strives to provide continuous education and training to achieve best practices and standards of care for companion animals. This gift included our staff completing a free course in scent work along with one-on-one time to practice with Laurie, giving us the ability to enhance the lives of the dogs and cats in our care.

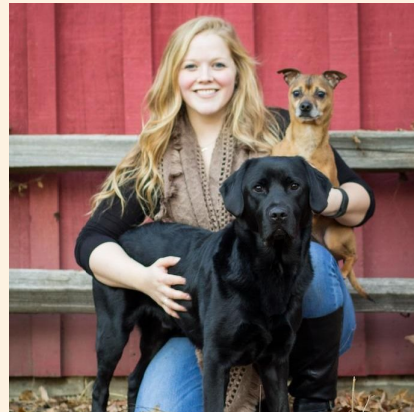
With the colder weather upon us, now is a great time to challenge yourself to try scent work with your pet. Even just a few items from around the house can lead to a big impact on your pet's daily enrichment. Hiding their treats, or kibble in leftover Chewy or Amazon boxes, using an old muffin tin and tennis balls to hide snacks, or making a DIY snuffle mat for your pet to search through are all great ways to achieve this. The possibilities are endless and because sniffing releases feel good hormones, even just 15 minutes of scent work is equivalent to an hour of running around for your pet. Studies have shown that partaking in scent work exercises helps increase confidence and adaptability in pets and slows cognitive decline over time.

For more information about Laurie Horn, Sniffing Out Solutions, or Scent 4 Shelter Dogs, please visit www.sniffingoutsolutions.com and the Michigan Pet Alliance at www.michiganpet.org. If you're interested in giving scent work a try in your own home or helping us at the shelter, I'd be happy to help you get off on the right path!

Happy sniffing!



Shelter dog, Jackson, participates in some scent work activities by searching for treats in a muffin tin with tennis balls. Jackson is still looking for his forever home.



Sarah Schertel serves as the organization's Director of Operations and is also a certified dog trainer and behaviorist.

March MPA 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 16:

- [UPAWS 2024 Party for the Pets](#), UPAWS, Marquette
- [Meet and Greet](#), Figs and Friends Pet Rescue, Grand Rapids
- [Feeling Lucky Adoption Event](#), Greater Hillsdale Humane Society, Osseo

March 17:

- [Trap Neuter Return Best Practices Online Training - Free](#) , All About Animals
- [Pet Photos with the Easter Bunny](#) , Copper Country Humane Society, Houghton

March 21: [Read to Your Shelter Pet](#) , UPAWS, Gwinn

March 23:

- [Rescue Ale Lunch](#) , Little Traverse Bay Humane Society, Petoskey
- [Port Huron Twp Shot Clinic for Cats and Dogs - open to all](#) , All About Animals

March 28: [Cat Vaccine Clinic at Ingham County Animal Shelter](#) , Mason

March 29: [Rock your Paws Off](#) , Harbor Humane, Holland

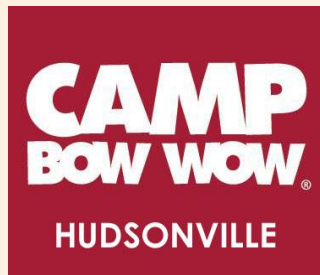
March 30: [Egg My House Fundraiser](#) , Little Traverse Bay Humane Society, Harbor Springs

March 31: [Meet and Greet](#) , Figs and Friends Pet Rescue, Grand Rapids

Enjoy the benefits of membership and [join](#) Michigan Pet Alliance today!

MPA Corporate Members

A special thanks to our corporate members. We encourage you to support companies that support animal welfare. Your business can [become a corporate member](#), too.



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.

313-731-2244

info@michiganpet.org

michiganpet.org

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



Contributions are tax deductible.



Michigan Pet Alliance | 2210 Lancaster, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302

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