

An honest plea Letter to the Editor

I am writing to express heartfelt concern about all species of animals, wild and domestic, in our community of Fruitport.

My rescue, "Critter Café Rescue" at 5818 Airline Road, is the only rescue in all of western Michigan and possibly all of Michigan, that takes in ALL SPECIES of animals to rehab, care for, vet them (including spay and neuter), vaccines, wormings and flea meds, too. I transport the wild ones to where they need to go for the best care and outcome, and pay to have our vet care for them as needed, too.

When an animal comes in that is injured, the cost jumps up considerably. I run a no-kill facility and am committed to continuing in this manner.

Critter Café Rescue has been bombarded with animals in 2011. There were about 125 animals that people in this community dropped off here (without my knowledge) in addition to the ones that I rescued. I paid to spay/neuter them (\$50 - \$90 each), as well as to vaccinate them (\$12 per shot) and to worm them for tapeworms and roundworms (averaging \$10 each). I also paid to have them de-fleaed (\$15 to \$50 each). Cats received the Feline Leuk test (\$42 each) and dogs and puppies received heartworm testing and meds (\$65+ each).

I cared for and loved the ones that were hit by cars or abused/neglected and paid for their vet care and medicines — all out of my own pocket.

I have had cats come in that had been dragged behind cars, shot repeatedly, dehydrated, emaciated and even with toes cut off. I cared for every single one of them and saw to it that they were 'vetted,' got them well and prayed for them to find a wonderful home. I also reach out to ANYONE who asks for help with any species of animal or pet.

Bunnies, guinea pigs, degus, chinchillas, birds, ratties, cats and kittens, dogs and puppies, I took all of them in and cared for them with minimal help from outside and absolutely no government help or grants. The list doesn't even include the wild animals that I care for. I need to have a choice about intake here, as I am NOT a hoarder and am well aware that there has to be a limit, or the high level of care these animals receive falls short and I can't let that happen.

Since so many people have just dropped off animals they either found or as pet surrenders in the hutches outside my building without my permission or knowledge, I have been forced to remove the hutches. It is my wish that those who come to surrender an animal for any reason consider donating towards its care, and giving generously if the animal is injured. Especially so if the animal is a pet being surrendered. I do this because I love animals and I want there to be a safety net in place for all of them. They deserve that much.

However, I am far from rich, and I have spent every dime I have (including my retirement savings) on this community's "throw-aways" and wildlife. I need the community to help me now more than ever.

By taking care of our own backyard, the world for animals would be a much nicer and safer place, and my home and life could again find a sense of normalcy. I believe each animal has a special place in this world and deserves to be loved and cared for. I pray for this community to help me keep this rescue service open

and support me in caring for these animals and finding safe and loving homes for them. I hope this rescue has proven to be a valuable asset to our great community since it has indeed been a resource to so many animals and to so many people.

I do not fault those that utilize my rescue group. I encourage people to help animals and bring them to a location that can provide them with care, whether it be to me or any other local rescue group. I have made it my life's work to help all animals in need. I know that many people in this community care deeply about animals and it is my hope that people will come forward to support the continuation of this community service. At this point I am appealing to your hearts and pocket books to make this possible. I am past the point of being able to support the amount of animals that come through my door. I have over 120 animals here at any given time (and that number increases in the summer). These animals require 24/7/365 care — more than three full time jobs — and many of the animals have special needs, not to mention the occasional "squabbles" from having so many different species under one roof.

Part of how I am able to run my rescue is through the graciousness of my wonderful landlords who allow me to operate at my home. Right now, they are waiting for the rest of this month's rent. I spent that money on food, litter, hay and greens for the animals here. This is where I need the community to help out.

So even though my dignity completely takes a hit, I am asking for help from the community of Fruitport, Michigan to help me keep Critter Café Rescue's doors open. I am asking you to consider making a commitment to help these animals. Consider sending monthly donations for the many animals here. Or help with Purina One cat food, hay, bunny and guinea pig pellets, Orchard Market or Meijer gift cards, or even gas cards to enable transports.

I am stepping out on a limb to ask you to give generously. Not a dime goes to anything but these animals and their care. If you have concerns about giving, you are also welcome to give donations to my account at the Fruitport Animal Hospital or even directly to my landlords. (Call me for their information at (231) 865-6021.)

Consider the wonderful places like Noah Project, CatTales, and Pound Buddies. I love them all to pieces, and thank God they are here for us, but they care for dogs and cats only. Critter Café Rescue cares for every single species (including wildlife), and it has been quite an undertaking!

Please know that I really need your help to continue to care for the animals in this community. They are counting on your help as much as I am.

Sincerely,
Christine Lea
Critter Café Rescue

www.CCCandR.petfinder.com

P.S. Please donate to all local shelters and rescues! We are so lucky to have them!

Support Rescue: Get your bunnies a hay-box and some of the best bun-toys ever! All natural jingle bell toys that bunnies and parrots love. See them here: <http://cccandr.webs.com/>

(Note from the Editor: I believe Christine is very dedicated and is the person she presents herself to be.) •

The Pet Pantry has moved

By Jennifer Stiles

We are pleased to bring you the GREAT NEWS! We have relocated the Pet Pantry to a location that will allow us to drastically cut our expenses so more of your donated dollars can be spent on the animals and not on expensive monthly bills. The pantry will now operate from our home (1890 Terrace Street in Muskegon), so food pickups and donation drop-offs will be handled slightly differently from our walk-in hours that you are all familiar with.

We will still be open on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, but you will need an appointment to pick up supplies. There will be no walk-ins accepted without prior approval. Donations can be dropped off at any point during business hours, and are still greatly needed and very much appreciated. Appointments will be scheduled in 15-minute time slots. Appointments can be scheduled between the hours of 12 noon and 6 p.m. If you are more than 10 minutes late, you must re-schedule your pick up. We encourage everyone to pay close attention to the amount of food your pets have, so that you can schedule your monthly pick-up accordingly.

There are a few inconveniences in connection with this move. The pantry is located in the basement with the entrance on the left side and to the rear. Those of you who may have difficulty with the stairs will be assisted in getting your items to your vehicle. If the gate is closed upon your arrival, there is a doorbell located at the gate. Please ring the bell and someone will gladly greet you. Please remember this is our home, so silence your cell phones and refrain from bringing your pets in with you as we have pets of our own.

The Pet Pantry is still 100 percent publicly funded, so we are encouraging you to continue supporting our mission. No donation is too small and every gift will help feed hungry animals. We still welcome donations made via the Pay Pal button on our website home page (www.petpantry.org). And donations are tax deductible.

Phone (231) 747-6986 to schedule appointments or for questions. •



Charlie Two

By Mary Modderman and Mary Weimer

Meet Charlie Two, a chocolate lab mix. He is a sweet, happy guy, complete with a warm brown tuxedo coat, lucky white paws all the way around and a lively tail sporting a white tip. But for all that, Charlie has had a run of very bad luck.

While playing ball and running around the yard with the kids, Charlie forgot his manners and jumped up, leaving a tiny scratch on one of the kid's chins. Rather than taking the time to work with him, his owners dropped him off at the shelter.

Since he arrived at Pound Buddies, he has been wonderful with all children, as well as with other dogs. He absolutely loves to be outside playing in the yard. He is a very clean dog in his kennel at the shelter, which means he is housebroken. He really enjoys it when someone puts a little canned food in his Kong toy. He will spend a lot of time trying to get that food out of there, and it's obvious from his expressions that this kind of thing makes him very happy. It really takes so little to please him. Charlie would love so much to be part of a family again. You can often tell by his expression that he is homesick and doesn't understand why his family went away and left him here.

Diana, a staff member, writes: "It is so sad to see Charlie Two watching people walk by without even talking to him. It breaks my heart, because he is really such a good boy and doesn't deserve to be so lonely and homesick."

Charlie is a large lab mix who is already neutered and current on his shots.

Please, please consider making Charlie's Christmas dream come true! Check him and all the pets available at our shelter at www.poundbuddies.org and fill out an online adoption form. Charlie Two lives in W1c36 (Ward 1, cage 36).

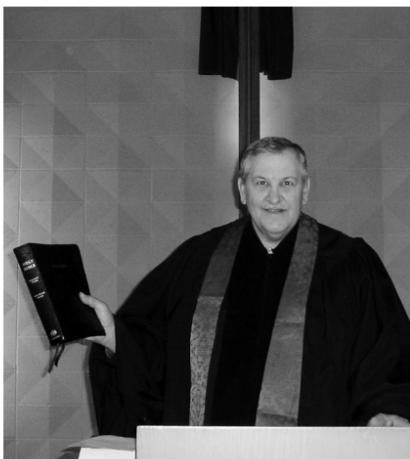
Pound Buddies Animal and Adoption Center is located at 1300 E. Keating between Sherman and Laketon. It is open to the public Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, noon to 2 p.m. and Wednesdays, 5 to 7 p.m. Check out our Adopt-a-Dog events held in the Muskegon area by visiting our website. •

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(between Edgewood & Middle Schools)



When our new minister Mike Scott came, he brought the manual.

Our church service starts with traditional & praise music, and after a few songs, the youth go to their Sunday School. ~ Preschool through High School ~ Nursery Provided ~

