

Bellwether Harbor

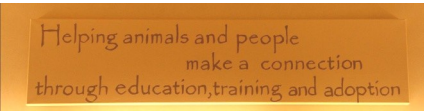
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Is your pet wearing an I.D. tag? ID tags should be worn by your animal at all times. A dog or cat can easily slip out through an open door and run off. The tag should be worn on a properly fitted collar, reducing the chances of the collar slipping off.

Do you have up-to-date information on the ID tag? Make sure to update your pet's ID tag or microchip information immediately when you move or change phone numbers. We offer both services here at Bellwether Harbor. Available anytime are tags which are engraved here while you wait, for a reasonable price. An ID tag will allow anyone who finds your animal to immediately call you or return your dog to your house.

Get your pet(s) Micro Chipped! Microchips are a great source of identifying lost pets; a veterinarian or shelter can scan the chip and bring up the owner's information. Standard ID tags are still highly recommended to use along with a microchip. Microchip clinics are held every second Saturday of the month or by special appointment.

The Christmas open house is **December 7th**, we look forward to seeing everyone! What makes the year end fundraiser most fun? It's the shelter decorated with greenery and lights, tasty Gourmet baked goods at the bake sale and Santa shows for photos with the family and the pets. Oh! And there will be the Bellwether Boutique for your early Christmas shopping and a micro chip clinic. It is a lot of fun, come and join us! Like Run Forrest Run, money from Bellwether's Christmas open house fundraiser is used for shelter operations, which continues to supply the dogs and cats with comfort year around. As always, monetary gifts and supplies are greatly needed. Your generosity benefits the animals at Bellwether Harbor. Thank you.



Visit Us On The Web: www.bellwetherharbor.org

Our current website has information about Bellwether Harbor, its policies and how to adopt an animal. It also has tips for owners needing to find a home for their cat or dog. An adoption application is accessible on the site, as well as a lot other useful tips. Find out about dog training. Look at photographs, read bios, and watch video of Bellwether's amazing pets. Get the latest news with activities or just read up on shelter news. New to the site is an online volunteer application and a calendar of events.

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HARBOR HAPPENINGS

Bellwether Harbor Launches Memorial Garden

by Cathy Obits

Danielle Merrill, Executive Director of Bellwether Harbor, recently planted a maple tree that will become the center piece of a Memorial Garden on the grounds of Bellwether Harbor. The Garden will offer a landscaped space with memorial areas, benches for quiet reflection and green spaces for interaction with pets being considered for adoption.

"We are extremely excited to begin the development of this garden," noted Ms. Merrill. "This has been a long time dream to have an area where community members can lay their special friends to rest, sit and reflect on special memories with their pet, and/or memorialize their pet through the purchase of an engraved brick." The garden is expected to be open to the public during normal operating hours of the shelter.

Several features planned for the garden will be a bridge at the entrance to the garden, a labyrinth, annual and perennial beds, benches, and memorial areas where personalized bricks may be placed commemorating special pets. The garden will be completed in phases as funds become available. The Harbor hopes to complete the garden within the next 5-7 years.

Bellwether Harbor is a non-profit shelter that relies on the gifts of donors and volunteers to continue it's mission of helping animals.



The bridge was made by the Enterprise program at Newaygo County Regional Educational Service Agency.

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Bellwether's Mission Statement

"Helping animals and people make a connection through education, training and adoption"



Supplies Are Always Needed

Bellwether Harbor is a non-profit entity that relies on the gifts of donors and volunteers to continue its mission of helping animals and people make a connection through education, training and adoption. If you or someone you know is interested in donating any of the following items to the animals at Bellwether Harbor contact the shelter at 231-924-9230. All donations are tax deductible.

- Hard Dog Toys
 - Cat Toys
 - Crates, Wire Cages
 - Pet Carriers
 - Copy Paper
 - Used Blankets and Comforters (no zippers)
- Peanut Butter for Kongs
 - Liquid All Free Detergent
 - Clorox Bleach & Wipes
 - Large Garbage Bags
 - Unscented Clay Cat Litter
- Purina Dog, Puppy, Cat and Kitten Chow
 - Newspapers (no inserts)
 - Fabric Softener Sheets Unscented
 - Leashes
 - Large Garbage Bags
 - Paper Towels



Have you met Zin Zin and Cubby?

Zin Zin (left) is one of 6 kittens born to a Bellwether Harbor momma cat named Licorice. Unfortunately, because of her color, Zin Zin has been overlooked time and time again. Sadly, she has grown up here at the shelter. Zin Zin is a bit of a pushy girl with other cats, but can still occasionally be spooked by a loud noise. She really loves attention of people and probably would love a quiet home that would allow her personality to blossom. Zin Zin is FLV/FIV and bartonella negative. She is also spayed, up to date on her vaccines and has been micro chipped. Her date of birth was 5/26/09.

Cubby (right) is a happy, happy girl that never stops wiggling. She loves every person that she has met here at the shelter and is extremely playful. She does very well in obedience classes and is eager to please. Cubby is also the current ambassador of Bellwether Harbor when we visit class rooms. We take her into schools and teach children how to greet dogs they may not know and bite prevention. Cubby is up to date with vaccines and is heartworm negative. She has been spayed and will be micro chipped before going to her forever home. Cubby is a brindle and white American Bulldog mix. Her approximate date of birth was 4/3/08 and her date of arrival was 3/27/12.



More Volunteers Are Always Welcome and Very Much Needed

Bellwether Harbor is always looking for committed volunteers to help at the shelter. The animals love you for it! Volunteers are needed in all areas including:

- Socializing cats and dogs
- Bathing and grooming animals
- Housekeeping
- Fundraising

- Kennel Cleaning
- Grant Writing
- Special events
- Marketing

- Dog Walking
- Education
- Photography
- Advertizing

Volunteers must be 15 years of age or older. For more information about volunteering and how you can help at Bellwether Harbor, visit the shelter or contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Carmen Froehle at 231-924-9230 ext. 3 or carmen@bellwetherharbor.org.

Solve Skunk Smell the Natural Way

If your dog goes off leash, chances are it will someday encounter a skunk. But you don't need to run to the store for commercial cleanser to get rid of the smell; your cupboard probably has everything necessary for a natural solution. Tomato juice has been long touted as the home remedy of choice, but research has shown that it only masks bad odors-it doesn't eliminate them.

- Use the formula developed by chemist Paul Krebaum, a simple solution of everyday ingredients:
- One quart of hydrogen peroxide (use a fresh bottle; hydrogen peroxide degrades over time)
 - 1/4 cup baking soda
 - One teaspoon liquid soap

This solution packs a one, two punch: The liquid soap breaks down the oil that carries the smell producing molecules, thus enabling the hydrogen peroxide and baking soda to neutralize the odor. Mix the formula right before you use it. The foaming that you'll see when it's mixed is the hydrogen peroxide breaking down into the water and oxygen. Washing your dog must be done while the formula is bubbling for it to be effective. Mix the formula in an open container, the foaming causes pressure to build up and it could explode.

First wipe off the excess skunk spray with paper towel you can throw away afterward. Next, thoroughly wash your dog with Krebaum's solution, taking care not to get any in your dogs eyes. Leave the solution on for five minutes, then rinse your dog thoroughly with clean warm water. Repeat if there is still an odor present.



Bring your dog to a veterinarian if it shows signs of distress, such as red, watering eyes, or bleeding that might be a skunk bite. Although skunk spray will not blind a dog, it is painful, and skunks can carry rabies.