

Longtime Supporter Comes to Captain Jack's Rescue

It has long been Bellwether Harbor's purpose to rescue abused, abandoned and neglected dogs and cats. On November 17th a cat was brought to the shelter that exemplified all three of these qualities. This cat was severely emaciated, weighing only 5.4 pounds, dehydrated and with a badly broken rear femur. The staff named him Captain Jack—he needed a strong name and who better than after a crafty pirate from the movies. It was evident that Captain Jack would have a long road ahead of him, with mounting medical costs. A plea was made on our Facebook page for community support for Captain Jack. That is where his guardian angel, Linda Hitchcock, first saw him.

"His eyes are what drew me in," said Linda upon first seeing the pictures of Captain Jack. The severe emaciated state he was in tugged at the long time animal lover's heart. That is when Linda, along with her husband Dirk, decided to cover all of Captain Jack's medical expenses.

Dirk and Linda have worked with Bellwether Harbor for many years. While they operated a horse farm in Newaygo they hosted Blessing of the Pets events and worked diligently to make sure the dogs and cats on their farm were all spayed, neutered and received the vaccinations that were needed. In 2004 the Hitchcock's adopted their first dog from Bellwether.

"He was a terrific dog, trained and so well behaved. When our other dog passed away we knew we had to go back to Bellwether and adopt another dog," said Linda.

Through the years the Hitchcock's have donated countless blankets, toys and food for the animals of Bellwether. Their generosity has always been appreciated by staff and animals, but now they have an animal that appreciates them more than

the rest. After two weeks of care Captain Jack is weighing in at 7.7 pounds, has brighter eyes and just looks better. He is waiting to be stable enough for surgery on his leg. You can follow Captain Jack's progress, like our page [Facebook.com/BellwetherHarbor](https://www.facebook.com/BellwetherHarbor).

We will post regular updates and photos of this beautiful boy. Thank you again Dirk and Linda for your generosity and love of animals.



November 17, 2015



November 25, 2015

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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
- Peanut Butter for Kongs
- Paper Towels
- Newspapers (no inserts)
- Cat Toys
- Liquid All Free Detergent
- Crates, Wire Cages
- Clorox Bleach & Wipes
- Pet Carriers
- Copy Paper
- Large Garbage Bags
- Used Blankets (no zippers)
- Leashes
- Unscented Clay Cat Litter
- Diamond Naturals Puppy Food
- Diamond Naturals Active Cat Food
- Friskies Canned Cat Food, Pate Style
- Diamond Naturals Beef Meal and Rice Dog Food
- Diamond Naturals Kitten Food
- Fancy Feast Canned Kitten Food



TOBY'S ADOPTION

by Sharry Bailey, Toby's mom

In the summer of 2006, my husband was on petfinder.com looking at dogs. We had lost a dog to cancer in the fall of 2005 and our golden retriever and I were still feeling that loss. My husband knew it was time to bring another four footed friend into our home. He found Bellwether on the petfinder website and filled out their application.

On our first visit to Bellwether we knew exactly what kind of dog we wanted, a german shepherd mix, preferably with husky or malamute and a female. Bellwether didn't have any dogs fitting that description at that time. We agreed that we would look at the dogs Bellwether did have and keep our minds open. If we didn't see any that seemed to be a fit for our family, we would leave our name and number and come back when a shepherd mix came in.

And there he was...this young, yellow dog jumping so high, so happy to see us, saying "pick me, pick me"! Nope, he wasn't a shepherd mix, nope HE wasn't a girl and nope, he did not have one bit of malamute or husky in him. And YEP, we were interested! We can still remember that first moment we saw him, his sweet, young face so full of energy and hope and love. His name was Torino and he was young and spunky and a perfect match for our Golden Retriever. It was love at first sight. We set up a meeting for two days later so that Torino could meet our Golden Retriever and we could see how "the boys" got along. In the meantime, he would be cat tested since we have cats at home, too. I was on pins and needles for those two days, what if he didn't pass the "cat test", what if "the boys" didn't get along. All that worry for nothing, Torino passed the cat test with flying colors. And when "the boys" met? I think it took less than 5 minutes before they were fast friends. It seemed they both were saying, "well, where have you been, I've been waiting for you"!



We changed Torino's name to Toby and he has been with us over 9 years now. He has brought so much joy and love to our home. He was exactly what I needed to push me through that final stage of grieving and I only wish we had found him sooner! We have had so many compliments on what a nice, gentle dog he is and I thank Tim at Bellwether for that. Yes, we reinforce his manners at home but Tim and Bellwether gave him the foundation. He constantly makes us smile and our hearts are so full of love for him. All these years later he is still full of energy and love! All these years later, I still feel so blessed to have him in our lives! And all these years later I am still so very thankful that Bellwether rescued him and allowed us to adopt this beautiful boy named Toby!



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
- Advertising

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.

TOXIC HOLIDAY PLANTS

They may be pretty, but some holiday plants are poisonous—even deadly. As little as a single leaf from any lily variety is lethal to cats. Others to avoid:

- Christmas tree **pine needles** can produce oral irritation, vomiting, diarrhea, lethargy, trembling and posterior weakness.
- **Holly**, commonly found during the Christmas season, can cause intense vomiting, diarrhea and depression.
- **Mistletoe**, another Christmas plant, can cause significant vomiting and diarrhea, difficulty breathing, collapse, erratic behavior, hallucinations and death when ingested.
- **Poinsettias** can cause irritation to the mouth and stomach and sometimes vomiting.



Taking precautions with pets during these festive times can help ensure that you and your family will enjoy a happy — and healthy — holiday season!

<http://www.petinsurance.com/healthzone/pet-articles/pet-health/Top-5-Holiday-Dangers-to-Pets.aspx>

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Have you met Jill?

Jill was brought into the shelter at just 3 weeks of age. She was bottle fed by one of our staff until she was old enough to eat on her own. Jill is a happy, sassy little kitten that loves attention. She's playful but also loves to be held and fussed over. She is up

to date on vaccines for her age. Jill will soon be spayed, and will be micro-chipped before going to her forever home. She is a domesticated, shorthaired, black and white tuxedo. Jill's approximate date of birth was 8/11/15 and her date of arrival was 9/17/15.

New Bellwether Harbor Animal Sponsorships-

We invite you to Sponsor one or more of our Shelter Animals this holiday season. We estimate that it costs \$36 a month to care for each of our cats and \$60 a month to care for each of our dogs. This does not factor in any medications or medical procedures that may arise. Since our priority is to take in abused, abandoned and neglected animals care can be costly. Please help us continue to offer the level of care our animals deserve. The funds raised through animal sponsorships will go directly to animal care. Ask us about sponsoring or you can go to our website and choose your level from the drop down menu. Please add the name of the animal you would like to sponsor on your checkout page. We will send you a conformation email within one business day. Thank you for sharing your holiday with the animals of Bellwether Harbor.



Bellwether Harbor

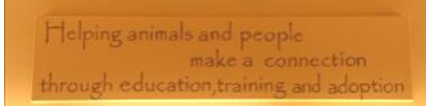
7645 W. 48th Street
P.O. Box 475
Fremont, MI 49412-0475

Phone: 231-924-9230
Fax: 231-924-2012
www.bellwetherharbor.org

Like us on
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www.facebook.com/BellwetherHarbor



WoofTrax Take Your Walk for a Dog

What is it? *Walk for a Dog* is a smartphone application that supports local animal organizations like Bellwether Harbor, every time you walk your dog.

How does it work? After you download the app onto your smartphone, take the phone with you when you walk your dog(s). Simply press the "Start Walking for ..." button and the app will keep track of your walk. When your walk is stopped it is credited to your selected shelter or rescue. The more people walking for Bellwether, the more is donated, so please spread the word.



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.

Visit Us On The Web: www.bellwetherharbor.org

Our 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 videos of Bellwether's amazing pets. Get the latest news with activities or just read up on shelter news. There is also an online volunteer application and a calendar of events.

