

Bellwether Harbor

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

Petting With A Purpose

One of the best ways to communicate with a cat is through touch. Most cats love to be stroked, pet and scratched. Most people enjoy the feel of that silky fur and the sight of a happy, purring face. Here are some suggestions that are soothing and satisfying for both you and your cat.



- Do approach your cat slowly and speak in a soothing tone.
- Don't force a massage on your cat.
- Don't massage your cat when you feel stressed or hurried
- Do use clean hands-no need for oils, creams or lotions
- Do pay attention to feedback. Look for purring, rolling on to one side, kneading, and soft eye blinking. Stop your massage if your cat squirms away from you, hisses, sinks his back under your hand, or meows in protest.
- Don't press too deeply-you could harm your cat
- Don't try to substitute massage for medical treatment for conditions such as arthritis. Let it complement the care plan devised by your veterinarian.

By: Arden Moore

Volume 11
Issue 60
Fall 2014

HARBOR HAPPENINGS

Don't Lose Those Pets!

Have you thought about proper identification for your dog or cat? The chance of losing a pet applies to all pet owners, as accidents can happen. When properly identified, the chance of reuniting a lost pet to their family greatly increases. The simplest method of identification is with a tag and collar. It is inexpensive, quick, easy to implement, and it's better than no ID at all. There are some drawbacks to the tag and collar system however. The most common occurrence is when a pet slips out of the house or yard when not wearing a collar. Also, an improperly fitted collar may easily slip off when your pet gets loose. In addition, tags often scratch or fade making it less visible to read. A more permanent solution would be to have them implanted with a microchip.

What exactly is a microchip? A microchip is a small device that is comparable in size to a grain of rice. These rice-sized computer chips each have a special identification number that helps animal shelters and humane societies get in touch with the pet's owner. Many stray animals have been reunited with their owners because of these chips. When a pet is found, they can be brought to most shelters or veterinarians to be scanned for chips. When a chip is found, giving a quick toll free call to the company that issued the chip gives the name and phone number of the pet's owner.

Where do they place this microchip? Microchips are permanently inserted into the animal with a needle; it's no more painful than having a vaccination. On cats and dogs the microchip is placed beneath the skin between the shoulder blades on their back. They cannot feel the microchip once it is in place, and it should not cause them any future problems. Microchipping is safe, beneficial, and well worth the security of knowing your pet has a better chance of being found should they become lost. They're inexpensive and available at most veterinary offices. Also, some animal shelters regularly hold community microchipping events. Having your pet microchipped is always a smart idea, designed to increase the chance of reuniting you with your lost pet.

Bellwether Harbor holds microchip clinics the second Saturday of the month. Both the Avid® and Home Again® micro chips are offered. For more information about microchipping please contact Bellwether Harbor at 231-924-9230 or visit our website at www.bellwetherharbor.org

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Bellwether's Holiday Open House is **December 6th**, 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 Holiday 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.



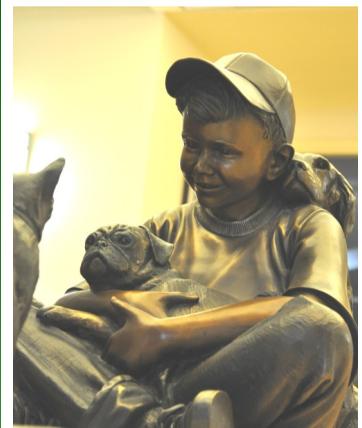
Visit Us On The Web: www.bellwetherharbor.org

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 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.



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



Have you met kittens Bobby and John John?



This is Bobby, black and white and John John, all black. Their momma, Norma Jean came to us about 3 weeks before giving birth to a litter of 5 of the sweetest kittens.

All five have been handled since birth, making them affectionate little dolls. They love to run about and play and, of course cuddle time!

Bobby and John John are up to date on vaccines for their age and have tested negative for feline leukemia.

Bobby and John John are neutered and will be microchipped before going to their forever homes. Their date of birth is 5/4/14.

Have you met Thorn?

Thorn (right) Thorn came to us by way of another local shelter. He is a smart, energetic, amazing guy. He is bouncy, happy and overall wonderful!! Thorn takes a little while to settle down, but quickly switches from playful to cuddly....sacked out on his side next to you or trying to get his large frame onto your lap! Thorn seems to do well with other dogs, but may be too much for young children and cannot live with cats. Thorn loves attention and is pretty much game for anything. He is up to date on vaccines and is neutered. He is also negative for heartworms and will be microchipped before going to his forever home. Thorn would be ideal for an active family or single person. He'd love a big fenced yard or be a great running companion. Thorn is a Doberman/Boxer mix. He is a gorgeous dark brindle. His approximate DOB was 1/15/11 and his date of arrival was 8/7/13. If you like Thorn, you can submit an online application or here at the shelter.



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
- Kennel Cleaning
- Dog Walking
- Bathing and grooming animals
- Grant Writing
- Education
- Housekeeping
- Special events
- Photography
- Fundraising
- Marketing
- 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.

How to Get a Good Night's Sleep for You and Your Dog

Dog keeping you from a good night's sleep? With just a few easy pointers, you can ensure that both you and your dog get all the rest you need.

1. With a new puppy, it is very important to establish a set sleeping place for him on the very first night. This can include a kennel or a crate if using it for training. Be sure to line the kennel or crate with newspaper in case of any night time accidents. Have an elevated area at the back of the sleep area, possibly a dog bed or pillow, so your dog is not sleeping in its own waste.

2. Let your dog "find" his sleeping space.

It is important that you choose the place for your dog to sleep, but you need to train him to go to this area at will. Lead him with a treat to connect a positive reward with his sleeping area. Never pick up your dog and place him in his sleep area, or he will associate being there with a negative experience.

3. Though you may want to share your bed with your new dog, don't do this right away.

It is important to get him used to your sleeping arrangements before allowing him to participate in this intimate connection. If your dog whines or cries during the night, do not react. Cooing or comforting your dog will reinforce his whining and send the signal that your dog can summon you at will.

4. Invite your dog into your bedroom.

Never allow him to enter your room on his own or crawl onto the bed uninvited. Your dog is not a concierge; wake up on your own terms, and make sure he waits calmly for you to start his structured day.

5. If changing your dog's sleeping arrangements, be sure he has plenty of exercise and food.

If your dog is tired out and full, he should adjust fairly easily to a new sleeping place.

6. It's important that you feel comfortable with your dog's sleeping arrangements.

If you are up all night worrying about your dog, not only will you be tired, the dog will be able to read your negative energy. With these tips, you should be able to ensure your dog gets all the rest it needs with not as much fuss!

