

Bellwether Harbor

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www.facebook.com/BellwetherHarbor

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

It takes a lot to help the animals in our care! Have you considered volunteering your time? Volunteers are vital in the shelter. Dogs need to be walked, socialized, bathed and loved. Cats need to be groomed, exercised and socialized too! You might have other talents you can donate to our shelter. You may have thought of donating. Monetary gifts and a variety of supplies are greatly needed. Perhaps gift cards would be easier. The animals use many types of food to stay fit. Gift cards can be used to purchase those foods and cleaning supplies also. You can donate on our website too! No matter how you donate, your generosity benefits the animals. Bellwether Harbor is a non profit 501c3 organization. Thank you.



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 info 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 get 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 a 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. Adoption applications are accessible on our site, as well as a lot of other useful tips. 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. New to the site is an online volunteer application and a calendar of events.



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HARBOR HAPPENINGS

Bellwether Harbor's Memorial Garden

In the last six months Bellwether Harbor has planted several trees for the Memorial Garden. 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.

Danielle Merrill, Executive Director of Bellwether Harbor noted, "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 and benches which are already in place, a labyrinth, annual and perennial beds. We are currently working on memorial areas where personalized bricks may be placed commemorating special pets. The garden will be completed in phases as funds become available. We hope to complete the garden within the next 5-7 years. Visit our website if you would like to help build, donate or buy plants for the Memorial Garden.

www.bellwetherharbor.org/donations/memorialgarden/



The bridge and benches were 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
- Clorox Bleach & Wipes
- Purina Dog, Puppy, Cat and Kitten Chow
- Liquid All Free Detergent
- Fabric softener sheets unscented
- Unscented Clay cat litter
- Crates, Wire Cages
- Large Garbage Bags
- Peanut Butter for Kongs
- Newspapers (no inserts)
- Copy Paper
- Used Blankets and Comforters (no zippers)
- Pet Carriers
- Leashes



Have you met...Persnickity?

Persnickity has come a long way since her arrival here at Bellwether Harbor. She was a little wild and fearful of people and her surroundings. Lots of patience and love prevailed, now she seeks attention and loves the human touch. She would do best in a home as the only pet. She is quite personable and enjoys the company of people. She would make a perfect family addition! Persnickity is FLV/FIV and bartonella negative. She is also spayed, UTD on her vaccines and will be micro chipped before going home. She came to Bellwether Harbor the spring of 2013. Her approximate date of birth is 4/12/12.



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.

Heartworms

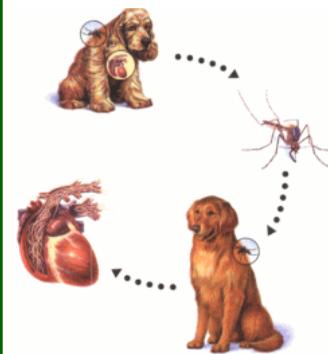
Heartworms infect dogs through mosquito bites. Once the mosquito bites it's prey, the microfilaria or baby worms enter the animal's bloodstream and eventually end up in the heart and lungs where the worms mature into adults. A heart worm cannot mature unless it enters a mosquito first.

A simple blood test can be preformed to see if your dog is positive or negative. Every 12 months you should have your dog tested. It is extremely important to test your dog before giving heart worm prevention. If given to a positive dog they could have a fatal reaction to the medications resulting in death. A year long preventative is the safest route to assuring your dog is protected from this disease. There are many preventives to choose from. Ask your veterinarian to recommend the best option for your pet.

Classic signs of heartworms are vomiting, gagging, gasping and rapid breathing or lethargy. Other more extreme signs are reluctance to exercise, fatigue and reduced appetite.

There is only one approved way to treat heartworms. Immiticide kills a large majority of the adult worms within a few day of administration. Dead heartworms quickly decompose and move through the dog's circulatory system. Death can occur with this treatment so cage rest is extremely important. If the heart beats too quickly it can cause the dead worms to block the heart and arteries resulting in death.

Is there a vaccine for heartworms? Scientists are researching possible vaccines, but as of right now there is no vaccine to protect your pet. Providing a year round preventative is the only way to help ensure your pet does not get heartworms. Most veterinarians recommend putting your dogs on heartworm preventative as quickly as possible after a heart worm test is done and a negative test result is given.



Heartworm in cats is rare. Cats have a natural immunity to the worm larvae. But it is equally important to protect them as well as your dog. Many of the preventatives provided for dogs, also come for cats. Making sure that your animals are always protected is important.

Heartworm preventatives; Heart Guard, Tri-Heart Plus, Iverheart, Trifexis, Sentinel and Revolution are the most popular and versatile. Many of today's preventatives also treat fleas and ticks, as well as round worms, hook worms and whipworms. Some even take care of ear mites.