



KAT'S KRITTERS RESCUE

September 2019 Newsletter



MESSAGE FROM KAT'S KRITTERS DIRECTOR:

Hello Supporters! We somehow find ourselves entering September already. I don't know about you, but I seem to have blinked and summer is nearly over! Spring and summer are always very hectic here at the rescue and this year has been no different. While adoptions continue to be very slow, in part due to having a number of animals requiring quite specific placements in order to set them up for success, our move towards offering more of a Sanctuary experience for difficult to place animals seems to be the right direction for us. Kat's Kritters Rescue is unique in a number of ways and, while we sometimes wish we could help more animals in need, we are proud of the high quality of care and pressure free experience we are able to offer to the animals that call the rescue home, either temporarily or permanently. I operate the rescue from my personal home/property, alongside my sole source of income (which keeps a roof over all the Kritters heads) which is my pet daycare/boarding service. The rural location of the rescue is ideal for the animals in care, and many animals benefit each year from their time here. Our decision to focus our attention on offering a permanent home to certain animals has been a natural progression, due to low adoption rates, and an increase in requests to take in "special", or low adoptable animals. Seeing feral or semi-feral animals come into care and be given an opportunity to progress at their own rate, and seeing them blossom and truly be joyful in their daily life here, made me realize that there is a need for offering these animals the opportunity to live out their lives in this manner, without further fear or disruption, and while ensuring they are safe and receiving a high quality of care. With many other rescues now operating in the province, many of which are much better equipped than us to take in and adopt out large numbers of animals over relatively short periods of time, I do believe there is a place for a rescue like ours that takes in a small number of animals each year and offers a permanent home to those that truly thrive here. We just need your support to be sustainable! Just as these animals rely on us to meet their needs and provide them with the high quality of life they deserve, we rely on you to help us do so. So many people often state that they "would love to help if they could". I'm here to tell you that EVERYONE can do SOMETHING to help! If many people signed up to be monthly donors, each giving even \$5 per month (the cost of a single cup of specialty coffee!), we could have reliable, stable income to keep the rescue running and provide the sanctuary experience to even more animals that need it - senior animals, shy/feral/semi-feral animals, high medical needs animals, behavioural issue animals, and so on! If a monthly donation isn't possible, consider a one time donation, in ANY amount. Collect from co-workers, friends or family members, attend/support our fundraisers, purchase our merchandise. If monetary donations are not possible, then consider a donation of supplies from our wish list, or simply make sure to share our needs and posts with others. I am grateful to every individual or business that supports the rescue in any way. Together, we are making a positive impact on the lives of animals in need. Here's hoping for a long, glorious fall season! Thank you all for your continued support of my life's work - Kat's Kritters. *Kathy*

Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart." - Elizabeth Andrew

VOLUNTEERS MAKE IT HAPPEN!

Our fall newsletter is going to focus on Volunteers....the great ones we have, and the opportunities for new people to join the KKR team! My name is Karen, and I have been volunteering at the rescue from the beginning. This Spring/Summer I made a commitment to take part in as many events as possible in order to understand what is required at each event, and hopefully to help our director Kathy, figure out what are the most important events for us to attend. This was on top of my normal glamorous jobs cleaning cat rooms and taking home litter boxes to be cleaned. What I found out is that every event I attended, hosted, participated in, was important! Whether it be financial benefit, public relations, attention for the animals needing homes, or networking, every event I attended was important for the rescue. But...we need more people!! If we could build a team of volunteers to help with these events it would be wonderful. You could commit to one event or several—whatever time you feel works for YOU. There are big jobs and little jobs, jobs that are in Winnipeg, and jobs that you can do at home. Some jobs take a few minutes and some take several hours. There really is something for everyone!!

HOW CAN YOU HELP?



EVENTS

There are several types of events that help the rescue with exposure, fundraising and networking. This is a list of the events I (Karen) attended this spring/summer. Events typically involve picking up some supplies (table, tablecloth, banners, adoptable books/profiles, cards, brochures etc.) and possibly an adoptable or two. Even if you can't spend several hours at an event if you are travelling to Winnipeg to shop you might be able to deliver these items to volunteers who are already in the city and willing to spend the time at the event.

I attended two Pet Valu adoption days. The first one I took cats Pops and Figaro and dog Tess and met volunteers Melanie and Trina and we spent a few hours greeting customers and sharing information about the rescue. The second Pet Valu allowed us to sell items so we set up our fundraising items as well. Volunteer Jane drove Millie and I in and spent the day with us.

A new event for us this year was a supply drive at Homestead Co-op in Carman. We borrowed a truck and set up on a cold windy day and were overjoyed to fill the truck to the top with much needed supplies. Volunteer Kerry joined me to sell the beautiful jewelry she makes for the rescue and we sold other fundraising items as well.

The next two events were larger events and are *must attend* events—Eastman Adoption Fair at Waldenway (a beautiful location) and MB Pet Expo in Winnipeg. These are full, busy days! Millie and I with the help of Google Maps, drove to Waldenway and met volunteer Brittany and had a wonderful day. Millie even walked the runway showcasing all the wonderful animals looking for homes. We sold items and networked with other rescues and businesses attending. We also got to meet a llama!! MB Pet Expo is held annually at the St. Norbert Arena and is another great day of networking, fundraising and showcasing animals. Cats April and Figaro and I met volunteer Trina and had a great day. These events are busy!!



One way to volunteer for these would be to offer to help at the end of day with packing up. Volunteers are tired by the end and still have to take down all our displays and load the car (and they never seem to fit the same at the end of the day!!). If you have a half hour and could take down supplies and fit them into the vehicle returning to the rescue you would be most appreciated!!

Unfortunately, we did not have enough volunteers to be able to do the Carman Fair Parade this year. There are many great festivals in Southern Manitoba and if you would be willing to have a float in a parade let us know!

A garage sale was held at my home on August 10th and was very successful but we have lots of great items left. Our supporters donated wonderful "stuff" and it has now been all priced and packed up and is ready for anyone who is in a great location for a garage sale! Come and get the boxes, set up some tables and you are ready for a great day!

I am attending a couple of different events this fall. We have volunteers who sew and knit items for the rescue to sell as well as someone who makes jewelry for us to sell. August 24th I was at the Muddy River Marketplace during Rosenort Summer Days, I will be at Fawn & Cub in Winkler on September 14th and at the Roland Pumpkin Fair on October 5th selling items to support the Rescue. Do you knit or sew? I'd love to talk to you!! *Karen*



WE LOVE
OUR VOLUNTEERS



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

My name is Crystal MacLennan and I am proud to call myself a volunteer for Kat's Kritters Rescue. From a young age, volunteering and giving back was a part of life. It is something that has stuck with me through adulthood, and I find it even more rewarding and fun when it involves something I am passionate about - animals! I was fortunate to meet Kathy almost 10 years ago and have been volunteering for her ever since.

Working full time and having a fur family of my own (5 cats and 3 dogs!!), I unfortunately wasn't able to provide on site help. I had to get creative to be able to volunteer around my schedule. I started with fostering and attended a few events, but then I found my niche. The last 3 years I have taken a lead role in organizing the annual online Kat's Kritters Rescue Auction. This has been no small feat and has continued to grow to be one of the larger fundraisers for Kat's Kritters Rescue. I surely couldn't pull it off without the support of other volunteers and, of course, you - the people who donate and participate!! So if you're thinking, "I want to help too!", you can! Hundreds of volunteer hours go into making The Auction a success. From needing donation drop off locations, to transport, to sorting, photographing, itemizing and packaging donations before and after the event, to computer work and excel sheets, to transport (again!) and pick up locations, there is almost something for everyone.

And if you are now thinking, “Hey! I could help with.....” please contact Kat’s Kritters Rescue to express your interest.

There can never be too many volunteers and at the end of the day it is ALL for the benefit of the animals



VOLUNTEER...DO GOOD—FEEL GOOD

VOLUNTEERS AT THE RESCUE

The importance of volunteers in the success of a rescue operation is truly beyond what words can express. Without volunteers, the ability of a rescue to help the animals that need them would be severely reduced, if not impossible. While Kat’s Kritters Rescue is not a foster based rescue, we still have a huge need for volunteer assistance. Currently, we are scraping through with only a few committed volunteers carrying the burden of all of the work. Operating the rescue out of my home means that most of the daily workload falls on my shoulders. While the animals always receive the care that they need, there just aren’t enough hours in the day to complete all the work. Certain tasks get pushed to the backburner so that the most important tasks are completed. This is why volunteers are so integral. On the couple of days that I have volunteers scheduled to help with cat chores, for example, knowing that the cats are being cared for means that I can use that time to try and catch up on other tasks - paperwork, scheduling appointments, reviewing applications, folding that mountain of laundry, completing yard work/improvements, or maybe just having a much needed shower! Sharing the workload means more gets accomplished and the overall quality of care for the animals is improved. Off-site volunteers are equally as important, and our current biggest need. We regularly need help with donation pick ups and deliveries (usually from Winnipeg to the rescue) and, with our current small team, sometimes we miss out on donations because we don’t have anyone available to pick up, or our donation drop off locations are full with needed supplies, but no one is able to transport the donations out to the rescue. This type of volunteering is perfect for someone with limited time, but that travels back and forth from Winnipeg and could assist on occasion! We are a small rescue, and rely on attending events to promote the rescue, and our adoptable animals, as well as to solicit donations and make connections with other organizations or businesses that may support us in the future. Because of our rural location, most of these events require travel and, in order to attend, we need volunteers to provide transport of supplies and animals from the rescue to the event and back again. We also need reliable volunteers to manage our booth/table on behalf of the rescue at the events, handle animals, sell items, and provide a positive representation of our rescue. We want to be out and about spreading the word about the work we are doing and the animals in our care, but we have had to miss out on many invitations, sometimes meaning we don’t get invited again, or that we miss out on a donation opportunity, because of lack of committed volunteers. Most events require only part of a day (sometimes only a few hours). Can you help us by volunteering to attend, or transport, for even one event a year? Perhaps you are skilled with working with websites, or you are amazing at planning events? How about volunteering to help us in one of those areas? There is also an emotional component, for me, as to why volunteers are important. Kat’s Kritters Rescue is a personal labour of love and I have dedicated my life to this work. Having other compassionate, caring individuals as part of my team means being able to share the devastating moments, the heartbreak, the outrage at times, as well as the uplifting moments and successes with others that can understand.

Being surrounded by like-minded people helps make this difficult journey manageable and, for that, I am always full of gratitude for my volunteers.

There is a job available for everyone, and every volunteer is valued! Consider joining our team! Please email us at katskrittersmb@gmail.com to discuss volunteer opportunities and to request a volunteer application!

Adopters....

Did you adopt from Kat's Kritters Rescue? Send us an update! We LOVE hearing about former Kritters living life in their adoptive homes! Join our private group for adopters! Search "Kat's Kritters Rescue Adopter's" on Facebook and request to join.

Kat's Kritters Mission Statement.

To sterilize and provide veterinary care to animals in need and to provide a safe, loving environment while we seek to place each animal in a permanent, happy and loving forever home.

Did you see Kathy & Tess on Global TV's adopt a pal segment?

Great PR for the Rescue!!



ADOPT....DONATE....VOLUNTEER

For more information on adopting, donating or volunteering please see www.katskrittersmb.com.

You can find us on Facebook and Instagram as well!

Waiting for our forever homes.....

