



Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue Capital Campaign

Building a Cat Haven to Increase the Number of Animals FMAR Can Provide Care For.

The Need

Friend of Michigan Animals Rescue (FMAR) was founded five years ago by Peter and Marcy LaFramboise, two people with a single goal in mind, "let's make a difference in our community by reducing the euthanasia rate of companion animals." Once that idea had been born, FMAR was created and Pete and Mary proceeded to search for a location to house the rescue. They eventually found a location in Sumpter Township, Michigan; a five acre property with a house and two barns. The smaller of the two barns was renovated into the current shelter facility housing nine dog kennels, multiple cat kennels, and a community cat room. FMAR was in business and quickly filled up with cats and dogs looking for homes.

National research shows that 37% of American households have one or more dogs and 32% of households have two or more cats. The majority of these animals are an important part of the family. On the other hand, 9.3 million cats and dogs enter shelters each year, and an estimated 3.7 million are euthanized. FMAR values the life of every companion animal and as a result, is a no-kill shelter. FMAR's vision is to place every adoptable animal into a home and work to eliminate the euthanasia rate in shelters.

The good news is that FMAR has made a significant impact in the community. Since its existence, FMAR has found homes for over 1600 companion animals, all the while staying true to its original reason for existence, to offer a no-kill shelter for cats and dogs.

The existing shelter facility is in great shape, but we are experiencing growing pains. The 1,200 square foot space is at capacity. FMAR refuses to compromise the quality of life of the animals that are at shelter and therefore cannot take in more animals or it will become overpopulated. But with the economy failing and people struggling, FMAR cannot ignore the need that is in the community.

Earlier this year, a 1,200 square foot pole barn was donated to FMAR. After much planning, the barn was moved onto the shelter property, and placed next to the existing facility. The goal is to convert this barn into the Cat Haven. In the past five years, the cat population has tripled from 25 cats to 75 cats and that number keeps on growing. By renovating the barn to create a Cat Haven, it will enable FMAR to increase the number of **cats and dogs** it can help.



Dodgie was rescued by one of our volunteers from a campsite. She was being chased and terrorized before she was scooped up and brought to the shelter. Once we saw Dodgie, we knew right away that she was expecting kittens. She gave birth to six beautiful kittens. Mom and babies have all been adopted into loving homes. Our new facility will let us help more cats like Dodgie.



The Existing Community Cat Room

Even though FMAR's existing facility is in good shape, the ***Cat Haven will be instrumental in reducing the stress levels in cats and dogs.*** The currently facility houses the cats and dogs in the same area, so they can see one another. Unfortunately, the constant view of the cats really aggravates some of the dogs. As a result, a dog will spend most of the day barking. Along those lines, our community cat areas are at capacity as well. And our older cat residents in the community cat room often resent the teenage residents.

The Cat Haven will take care of both these issues. First, the dogs

will be completely separated from the cats, thus reducing the stress of being in close confinement. Second, the Cat Haven will have enough space to create a separate room for adults, teenagers, kittens, and those cats that require special needs. When the stress level of an animal is reduced, it calms down making it more adoptable.

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Cats In our Community Cat Room



The Day the Barn was moved.

What FMAR Does

The Facility

FMAR is a unique animal rescue because it actually has a shelter facility. Potential adopters do not need to coordinate with foster families to see the animals; they can stop in to meet them all in one place. The dedicated group of volunteers ensures that the animals get exceptional care. The dogs get walked each day, have access to a large community yard and get lots of one-on-one attention. The cats are cuddled on a regular basis and given space outside of a kennel to roam.

Veterinary Care

It is FMAR's policy to spay or neuter all animals that reside at the shelter. In addition, any known medical problems are treated.

Adoptions

It is FMAR's goal to place pets and people together. In most cases, our adoption fees do not cover the needs of the pets we take in. FMAR adoption preparation includes but is not limited to spay or neuter of the animal, all vaccinations appropriate for their age, and any existing medical conditions. When appropriate, FMAR will allow the animal to have a sleep over with its potential adopters. This helps new owners feel confident that they are bringing home the best possible match for their family.

TNR Program

FMAR offers a Trap-Neuter-Release (TNR) program to the community for feral cats. Community members taking care of feral cat colonies can contact FMAR to help them stop the unnecessary reproduction of animals. FMAR will provide the person with a humane trap to catch the cats. The traps can then be delivered to FMAR the day before the scheduled surgery. FMAR will take them to the veterinarian, have them sterilized, and give them their rabies vaccination. This is a low cost program offered by FMAR to the community. FMAR's objective is to stop feral cat overpopulation and reduce the number of kittens being admitted into shelters every day.

In the Community

FMAR not only adopts animals out, but also takes in many animals from the community. FMAR primarily works with neighboring animal controls to transfer dogs to FMAR's facility and save them from potential euthanasia. Sometimes it becomes necessary for owners to surrender their pets because of unforeseen circumstances including the death of a relative, loss of a home, etc. If capacity permits, and the animal is deemed adoptable FMAR will take in owner-surrendered animals and care for them with the goal of placing them into new homes.

Our Community of Volunteers

FMAR is 100% volunteer run. Dedicated members of the community come to the shelter every day to ensure that the animals get optimal care. The volunteers provide a supportive community at the shelter.



Making the Difference

Our Goals - Imagine the Possibilities

Our goal with the Cat Haven is to ultimately increase the number of cats and dogs that we can help by increasing our capacity and offering the best care available.

The Cat Haven will allow us to:

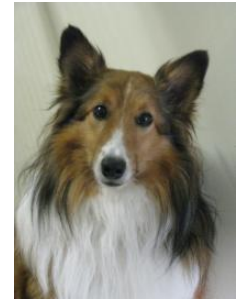
- Increase animal space, thereby allowing us to increase the number of animals that are being assisted.
- Convert the existing shelter facility into the dog space and, with the cats leaving, the number of dogs being helped out will increase from 9-12 (depending on size and age) to 15-20, and the cat capacity will go from 25-75 depending on size and age to 125-130.
- Reduce stress levels in cats by separating them in their new space, age-appropriately and providing them with community cat areas, so they are healthier, happier, and, in turn, more adoptable.
- Reduce stress levels in our dogs by giving them more room in the existing facility, which will improve their behavior.
- Reduce the spread of diseases in our cats by having designated isolation areas.
- Reduce the stress of laboring cats with specialized birthing room, increasing potential of healthy births.
- Give our volunteers a more comfortable space to work in.
- Offer peace of mind to people who must surrender their family pet, by offering a safe haven and the potential for a caring home.
- Reduce number of animals released into the wild by people who have lost their homes.

How You Can Help

You can help make FMAR's capital campaign goal a reality. FMAR is funded primarily by individuals, looking to make a difference in the lives of animals. Any amount will take us closer to our goal.

FMAR has been fortunate to have received an anonymous donation of \$25,000. Our generous benefactor has offered us this amount as a matching gift. *Every donation that is made, up to a total of \$25,000, will be matched dollar for dollar.*

In addition, anyone who donates \$100 or more to the building fund will have his or her name displayed (unless otherwise expressed) on a dedicated wall in the new shelter.



Toby was found tied to the fence at FMAR with the following note: *"My name is Toby, and I am 4-1/2 years old. My family loves me but they lost their home and can't take care of me any longer. I still have all of my boy parts but I am housebroken. I am a little shy at first but very friendly and a little hyper when you get to know me. I like to play fetch and I get along with children, dogs and cats. Please help me find a good home."* Toby needed us more than his short note revealed. Toby underwent surgery for 2 tumors (including lab testing for cancer), infected teeth and gums, damaged dew claw removal, and a neuter. He also needed all of his vaccinations, heartworm testing, and medication for the infection. Toby has since found a wonderful new family to spend his life with...of course who could resist a boy as beautiful and loving as Toby?

FMAR has countless stories just like Toby's. Each and every one of them are given the best care available to us. With your continued support, we will build the Cat Haven and FMAR will have more room to help other dogs like Toby, who have lost their home, find a new one.

Our Promise to You

Because you are a valued supporter of FMAR, we promise to keep in touch with you via a quarterly newsletter and monthly e-newsletter informing you of the Cat Havens progress and our success stories. We would also like to invite you out to the shelter personally, so you can see firsthand the changes that are taking place and meet our furry residents.

Thank you

FMAR's success hinges on the support we receive from *you*. Thank you for your continued commitment to making FMAR what it is today, and believing in what it can become tomorrow.



Kitten season is always busy at FMAR. The shelter is typically packed with moms and kittens. This past year was no exception. We spotted two moms, Daisy and Mama Mia, at our local animal control with six babies total. They appeared to be very sick, but we had no idea just how sick until they came back to the shelter. The kittens were about three weeks old. They were underweight, had upper respiratory infections, high fevers and pneumonia. They couldn't breathe through their noses, which made feeding from their moms very difficult. Their chances for survival were slim.

Our dedicated group of volunteers did everything in their power to nurse these kittens back to health. Their medication cocktail included Hi-Vite vitamins, L-lysine paste, Interferon liquid, Terimycin eye ointment, and Clavamox antibiotics. They also had mentholated ointment on their little nasal passages to help them breathe during feedings. The babies were all bottle fed, three times daily with extensive care taken to properly isolate and sanitize them. Two of the kittens did pass away, but the remaining four and two moms began to show slow progress. Eventually, they all became strong enough to be spayed, neutered and be adopted into homes.

Every year, FMAR volunteers work hard to nurse kittens and cats back to health. With the addition of the Cat Haven, we hope to help even more!



Campaign Budget Summary

Total Campaign

Capital

Shelter Cost \$110,000

Pledges

Individual Pledges \$17,340

Corporate Pledges \$6,000

Summary

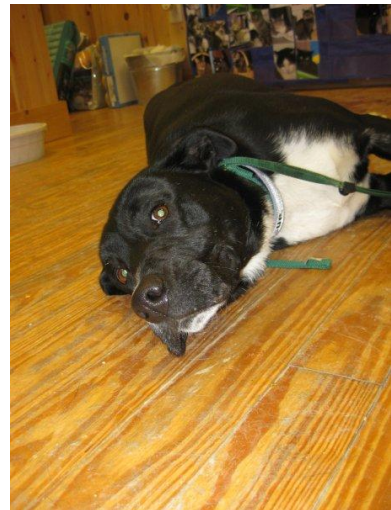
Total Cost \$110,000

Total Pledged \$23,340

BALANCE \$86,660

Current as of 02/03/2001

You can make a difference!



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