

We need your help!

Give today at [www.hswestmi.org/donate](http://www.hswestmi.org/donate)  
or call 616.453.8900x209  
3077 Wilson Drive NW  
Grand Rapids, MI 49534

Please email us at  
[adoptions@hswestmi.org](mailto:adoptions@hswestmi.org)

## Support HSWM While Traveling!

**Have you ever dreamed of touring beautiful Ireland?**

Now is your chance to visit the Emerald Isle and its many wonders! Rich history, rolling hills, and warm smiles lie ahead in Dublin, Waterford, Killarney, and Limerick. HSWM is planning a trip for fall of 2019 to visit quintessential Ireland; a portion of the proceeds will help animals in need!

Visit [www.hswestmi.org/ireland](http://www.hswestmi.org/ireland) for more details!

# Impact Report



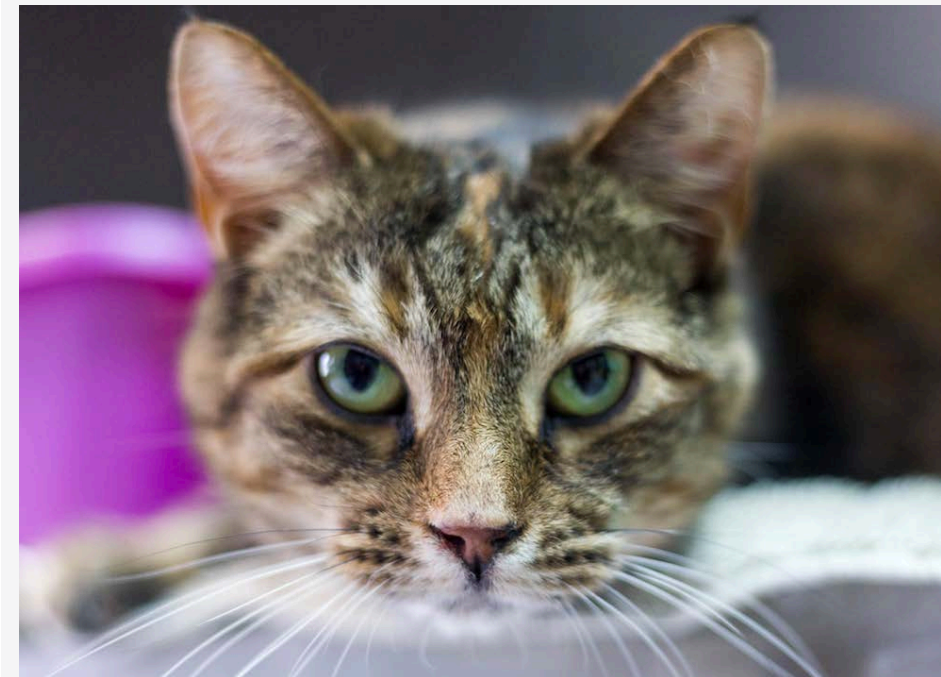
◀ Titan  
adopted  
August  
2018

## Happy Tails – Nala & Titan

### Titan

Titan was one of our long-term residents at HSWM, he came to us as a transfer from Clarksdale, MS in May 2018. Titan, a two-year-old terrier mix, was very cautious when he first arrived at our facility.

The kennel and shelter environment became too much for him over time which made it a little more difficult for people to see his true personality, until one day when just the right person came in to see him. Titan's new family is able to provide all of the love and support he needs to be happy in his forever home.

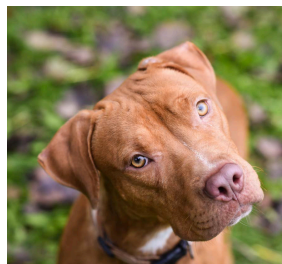


### Nala

Nala is a four-year-old domestic short hair cat that came to us in September 2018 as an owner surrender. She stayed with us for close to a month until she was able to find her perfect forever family.

Today, Nala is able to lounge in her new home and spend lots of time with her family because of your continued support of Humane Society of West Michigan.

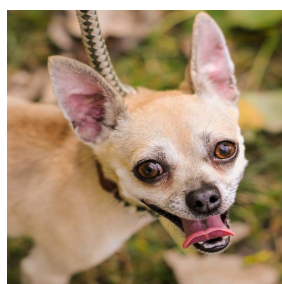
◀ Nala adopted August 2018



## Dog to Dog Meetings

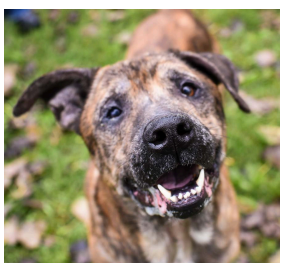
### First impressions aren't everything.

Dogs are social animals. As such, an initial reaction does not necessarily predict the future because a relationship is something that develops over time. Have you ever had an experience where you didn't like someone the first time you met, but the more you learned about them, the more you were intrigued? Dog to dog relationships are no different. Likewise, a first good impression does not guarantee they will become best friends.



### What's a proper introduction?

How they meet affects the outcome. We all need to be ready to meet someone; forced interactions do not usually turn out well. A gradual and low stress introduction would be to walk them



together; initially at a distance and reducing the distance over time. Handling the leash loosely rather than tightening or pulling will allow dogs to move without too much restraint. Limiting their choices and movements tends to have negative effects. We all have different personal space preferences and would like to be able to step away when we feel the need. Soft body postures are good signs just like how your body relaxes when you smile.

### Managing at home

There are areas of conflict in a home. Doorways, where they eat, where they sleep, or that special spot next to you can all be considered valuable real estate and all dogs want to be the first to claim it. You may want to support each dog's role while teaching them that good things happen to those who wait. You may also want to teach them that good things happen when the other dog is around.

## Bark in the Dark 2018!



Humane Society of West Michigan's sixth annual Bark in the Dark on Saturday, October 6th attracted over 600 guests and raised over \$82,000 to support animals in need!

Participants of this family and dog friendly 5k and 1 mile fun run/walk enjoyed food, music, and the Independent Bank Dog Costume Contest which had a record breaking 35 pups entered! In addition to the costume contest, family fun activities included: face painting, balloon animals, live painting, sponsor tents, and a pup-a-razzi photo-booth! Each participant took home a "wag bag" filled with goodies for their furry friend.

Thank you to the many participants, donors, committee members, and volunteers who made the event such a success! Special thanks to the sponsors who chose to support the event including Meijer, Joyce Wisner, Fox Subaru, Independent Bank, BDO, Chow Hound, Adventure Credit Union, and Alliance Beverage! Many thanks to Shannon Williams, At Your Service Valet, Buddies Pet Photography, Starbucks, Flo's Sports Bar, Rocket Science Creative, Holland Litho, and Green Dog Photography for donating their services!

## As You're Turning Your Heat on, Help us Keep Them Warm.



It's fall in Michigan and at HSWM we are making critical repairs and upgrades to our facility including new rooftop units (RTUs), energy recovery ventilators (ERVs), and re-sealing and caulking the masonry to ensure our animals stay warm, dry, and comfortable. A generous donor is matching \$10,000 towards these repairs. We need your help to raise the needed \$60,000 to cover the costs for these repairs and we have not yet met that goal. Help us ensure that we can provide a safe and functioning environment to all animals in our care. Please consider making a gift towards our needed facility repair- every donation makes a difference.

Thank you for your care and support!

Make a gift at [hswestmi.org/donate](http://hswestmi.org/donate) or call Amy Stockero at 616-791-8138 for more information.

## Paws, Claws & Corks

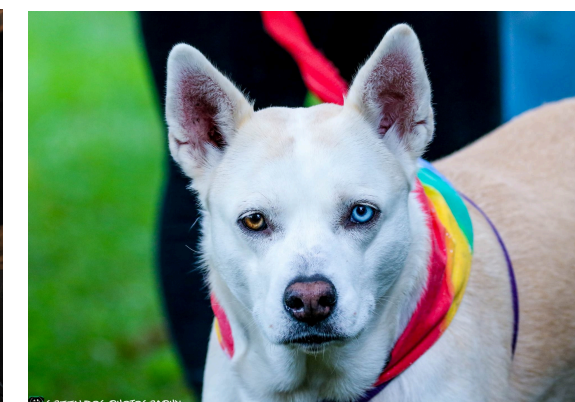


Save the Date - Monday, March 18, 2019 at DeVos Place in Grand Rapids.

Paws, Claws & Corks will feature the hottest restaurants, breweries, and wineries in West Michigan. Guests will enjoy fabulous cuisine as well as the opportunity to bid on exciting packages including trips, memorabilia, adventures, and more all while supporting HSWM!

Sponsorship opportunities & tables available! Contact Megan Ellinger, HSWM Events Coordinator, at 616-791-8089 for more information.

## Sponsorship Spotlight



On behalf of our animals and organization

Thank you, Mr. Donald Tassell

for your continued support of Bark in the Dark!

### HUMANE SOCIETY OF WEST MICHIGAN HOURS:

- MONDAY - 12:00/7:00
- TUESDAY - 12:00/7:00
- WEDNESDAY - 12:00/7:00
- THURSDAY - 12:00/7:00
- FRIDAY - 12:00/7:00
- SATURDAY - 11:00/4:00
- SUNDAY - 11:00/4:00

