



We need your help!
Give today at www.hswestmi.org/donate
or call 616.791.8057

3077 Wilson Drive NW
Grand Rapids, MI 49534

Please email us at
adoptions@hswestmi.org

Join Us at Spring Break Camp

This camp will include games, education,
friends, and fun!

When: April 1st - April 4th
Ages: 7-12
Time: 9 AM-4 PM
Cost: \$125 and \$115 for each additional sibling
After Care: 4:15 PM -5:15 PM \$10 per day

Location: Humane Society of West Michigan
Questions or register by email:
heducation@hswestmi.org



Thank Your For Your Help: The Petland Bills

"The Petland Bills", HB 5916/17, were vetoed by Governor Snyder in December 2018. The bills would have stripped local governments rights to regulate pet stores. Thank you to animal advocates who called, emailed, and personally met with their representative, senator, and/or governor. Also, many testified at our state capital and were on the floor, visually and verbally opposing these bills. We overwhelmed them with information and were a voice for the animals who depend on us!

I extend deep gratitude to the donor who funded Midwest Strategy Group together we lobbied in opposition of these bills. With their help, animal advocates and I met with legislators including Governor Snyder's Deputy Director of Legislative Affairs, Michelle Lange. The outcome? A win for animals. Thank you again for your compassion and advocacy,

Trudy Ender
Executive Director



Impact Report



Butterfly adopted
from HSWM

Butterfly Finds a Home

This beautiful girl was brought to Humane Society of West Michigan in March of 2018. Butterfly was timid at first and would only allow to be petted on her own terms. She needed the resources to find her perfect home, the comfiest couch, and a patient family. After several months and because of your support, Butterfly was able to find her forever home and is now able to relax and decompress on her own couch!

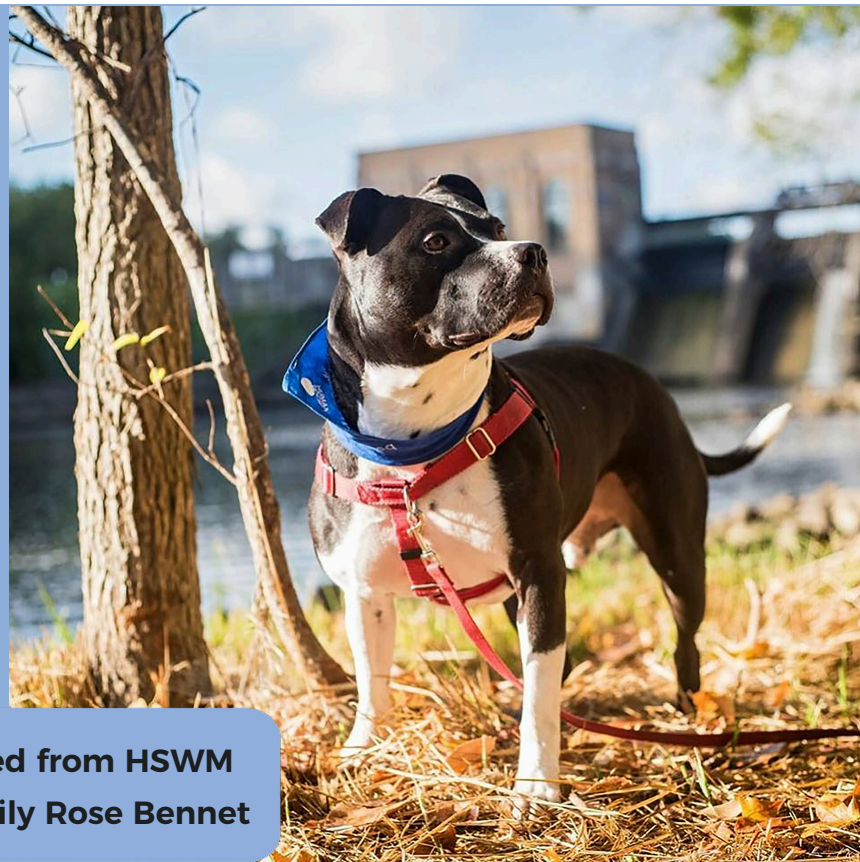


Toby adopted from HSWM

Paws, Claws & Corks! March 18th, 2019

Join us for the seventh annual Paws, Claws & Corks on March 18th at DeVos Place! This extravaganza features the hottest restaurants, breweries, and wineries in West Michigan. Guests will enjoy samples of fabulous cuisine, tastings of fine wines and micro brews, and have opportunities to bid on amazing experiences and packages in the live and silent auctions. The funds raised from this great event will continue our mission to promote the humane treatment and responsible care of animals in West Michigan through education, example, placement, and protection. Individual tickets, corporate tables, and sponsorship opportunities are available. Don't miss the best dog-gone night of the year with HSWM!

Purchase your tickets today at
www.pawsclawsandcorks.com



Vinny adopted from HSWM
Photo by: Emily Rose Bennet

Breed Specific Legislation through the Eyes of an Animal Care Technician

When working in the kennels at HSWM I often hear, “All you have are Pit Bulls” or “There are so many Pit Bulls here”.

Pit Bull is not a breed, but an umbrella term used to refer to different types of dogs such as American Staffordshire Terriers, Staffordshire Bull Terriers, American Pit Bull Terriers, American Bulldogs, and many others. Many dogs with similar characteristics become classified as Pit Bulls.

One of the reasons for such a high population of Pit Bull type dogs in shelters is Breed Specific Legislation (BSL). Breed discrimination and breed discriminatory policies, laws, and ordinances ban and/or place restrictions on a breed of dog. BSL is not isolated to Pit Bull type dogs. Rottweilers, Chow Chows, German Shepherds, Doberman Pinchers, Great Danes, and many other breeds are commonly targeted through BSL and at any time a breed can be added. BSL is often a knee-jerk response to an isolated situation. A study by the United States Centers for Disease Control found that 84% a situations in which dogs harmed individuals were the direct result of humane negligence The Dogs were neglected, mistreated, un-socialized, chained outdoors, or left unsupervised with children.

Often at HSWM we get messages from families needing to surrender their beloved dog due to breed restrictions. These families are often unsuccessful in finding a foster home for their pet until they can find a home that will allow them to bring their dog with them.

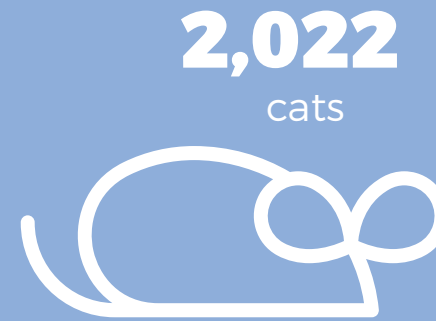
HSWM advocates for these dogs. We are their voice and a stop along the way to their forever family. Unfortunately, there are shelters who will not adopt out certain breeds due to BSL. Some shelters who are bound by laws will partner with local rescues or shelters to transfer these animals so they can be adopted. HSWM is a transfer partner for many of these shelters. I am happy and honored to work for an organization that works so hard in our community and state to educate that dogs are individuals, regardless of their breed. All dogs deserve a chance and a home. We advocate for breed neutral laws that help keep people and pets safe, while encouraging the enforcement of existing animal control laws.

Currently, there are twenty-one states in the U.S. that prohibit Breed Specific Legislation and more cities throughout the country that are repealing BSL ordinances. These will be replaced with breed neutral ordinances. The American Bar Association, the National Animal Control Association, and the American Veterinary Medical Association are just a few of the organizations that support this work. We support the many efforts to make Michigan number twenty-two to prohibit breed specific legislation.

Tanelle McFadyen
HSWM Animal Care Technician & Founder and President of Grand Rapids Pit Bull Alliance

How Your Donations Help

3789
Animals Adopted
in 2018



2,022
cats

1,530
dogs



237
small
animals



Over 2500
Procedures



Meet our New Director of Development Amy Stockero



Fifi available for adoption

Please meet our new Director of Development, Amy Stockero. Amy comes to HSWM with extensive development experience, especially in the greater Grand Rapids area. Amy brings many years of fund development and community engagement to this role. Previously, she worked for Grand Valley State University, the Grand Rapids Public Museum, WGVU Public Media, and the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. Amy has a passion for West Michigan as well as animal welfare and is thrilled to work for an organization that helps animals find their forever families!

Travel with Humane Society of West Michigan and Collette Travel!



Now is your chance to visit the Emerald Isle of Ireland and its many wonders! HSWM is planning a trip for fall of 2019 and a portion of the proceeds will help animals in need! Stops on this 10 day adventure include Dublin, Waterford, Killarney, and Limerick. The registration deadline for this great adventure is April 29th. For more information, contact Megan Ellinger, HSWM Events Coordinator, at mellinger@hswestmi.org.

