

Making a Difference
Four Paws at a Time



P.A.W.S. of Michigan

(Precious Animal Welfare Society of Michigan)

P. O. Box 2184, Riverview, MI 48193

Winter, 2011 Newsletter



e-mail: info@pawsofmichigan.com

www.pawsofmichigan.com

Honoring Pete Phillips

P.A.W.S. of Michigan (PAWS) and the animals we help, recently lost a true friend when member, Pete Phillips, passed away on December 13, 2010, after a short, hard-fought battle with cancer. At only 64 years old, Pete left us much too soon.

Pete was an active volunteer with PAWS. He helped with many of our adoption events including Meet Your Best Friend at the Zoo. He always happily took shifts at our millionaire parties and our booth at the Wyandotte Street Fair. Pete was a happy volunteer at the Wyandotte Animal Shelter where he walked dogs and kept volunteers entertained. Many of the PAWS volunteers wear name tags that Pete designed and made for us. He always had ideas on how to make an event more profitable and more fun.

One of Pete's favorite volunteer activities was playing the role of Santa PAWS during our annual "Pictures with Santa" Fundraiser. Pete volunteered for many, many shifts for the 2009 pictures, usually with his wife, Sheila White, by his side, who helped with the event as well. He loved Santa pictures so much that he even purchased his own Santa suit, and had grown his beard in preparation for the 2010 sessions. Pete even made a few house calls in his Santa suit last year, gathering additional donations for PAWS. His absence was keenly felt during this year's photos.

Pete was born in Germany and was the son of an Army man. When Pete came of age, he also joined the Army. Through his time growing up and his own military career, he was able to see much of the world. After retiring from the Army, he worked for the Department of Army at TACOM in Warren as a civilian, which was the job he retired from in 2009. Pete was very proud of his time serving his country in the Army, as well as his continued work for them as a civilian. In the ten years that he lived in Riverview, Pete served on three city boards. He also enjoyed delivering Meals on Wheels during the holidays – something he had done for the past seven years. He loved to dance, and he and Sheila went often. A very outgoing and giving man, Pete loved to talk and joke with friends and strangers alike, and was always there to help when needed.

Pete is terribly missed by his wife, Sheila, his family and friends, his little adopted dog Missy, and his PAWS family. His time with us was too short, but his impact will always be remembered.

A military funeral will be held in Holly on May 20. Memorial contributions in Pete's honor can be made to the P.A.W.S. of Michigan general fund.

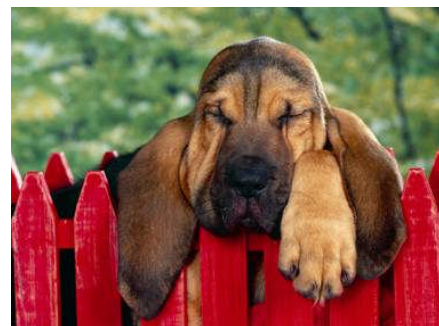


Our friend, Pete (aka) Santa Paws. We will miss you, Santa!



Greg Biffle Foundation Awards Grant

PAWS was the recent recipient of a \$2,000 grant from The Greg Biffle Foundation. The Foundation was founded by NASCAR driver, Greg Biffle, and his wife, Nicole, to "create awareness and serve as an advocate to improve the wellbeing of animals by engaging the power and passion of the motorsports industry." We've designated this money for our SNAP program and are targeting to spay or neuter 80 animals of low income or unemployed families at a significantly reduced cost. PAWS received a \$1,500 grant from the Greg Biffle foundation in 2009, and we used that money to spay or neuter 60 animals. Thank you to Greg and Nicole Biffle and their wonderful Foundation for helping us save lives through spaying and neutering.



*Dear God,
Is it on purpose our names
are the same – only
reversed?*

Love Me Because

To say the Love Me Because adoption event was a success would be a HUGE understatement. We were totally overwhelmed at times with emotion . . . happy emotion that is! Sixteen animals found loving homes, and over \$1,600 was raised at this event. A very successful day to say the least!



Two of our cats who came out to pose for the special "Love Me Because" event!

Adopted Animals:

Buddy (Shelter-To-Home cat)

Wyandotte Animal Control Animals:

Tibby, Willa, Ruby, Lucy, Solomon/Ranger & Kennedy (all cats) and **Nemo** (dog)

PAWS Animals:

Fury, Ricky, Lady Annabella, Maggie (cats), **Ozzy, Flannery, Jack and Dudley** (dogs)

YES! Sixteen in total, harder-to-place animals found homes all in a five-hour adoption event at Hood's Do it Best in Wyandotte.

Some of the meaningful comments by participants and volunteers:

~ Rose Darin ~ WAC volunteer and PAWS member: The success of the Love Me Because event exceeded all of our expectations. It accomplished exactly what we tried to do, which was to get difficult-to-adopt animals into forever homes. The hard work of every volunteer who participated along with the planning and executing of this event is so appreciated. Our hope is that someday we won't need to have this type of event, but until then. . . We look forward to the next one!

~ Phyllis Smith ~ Shelter to Home volunteer: Shelter to Home was honored to be invited to this event for special needs animals. Most of my own fosters fall into this category, so it was my pleasure to serve on the event committee and help with the planning. Our groups work very well together and our combined efforts to make a difference for animals in the Downriver area really paid off at the "Love Me Because..." event.

~ Patti Christie ~ Hood's Do it Best & PAWS volunteer: Hood's was most honored to host the Love Me Because PAWS adoption event. We had unbelievable support from many of our vendors, customers, and friends. The success of the event could not have been possible without the coming together of many volunteers, employees, and committee members! The fact that 16 "harder-to-adopt" pets were placed in furever homes and over

\$1,600 was raised for PAWS exceeded our expectations, and the Hood's gang is still completely overwhelmed! We hope to be asked to host the event again next year!

PAWS would like to thank Hood's for welcoming us with our animals, supporting and helping with every aspect of the Love Me Because event. Additionally, we would like to thank the community and the donators of all the wonderful items to raffle and for the silent auction that brought in over \$1,600. Thank you, also, to the multitude of adopters and volunteers who helped pull off such a successful event.



A PAWS event would just not be the same without a personal appearance from Fluffy!



2011 PAWS Calendars

The PAWS 2011 calendar showcases beautiful full color pictures of past and present rescue animals. Each of these animals were either taken into foster care by one of our wonderful volunteers, or were cared for at the Wyandotte Animal Shelter.

Calendars are being sold at a discount of \$4. Get yours today at the following locations:

- Wyandotte Animal Shelter**
1170 Grove St.
Wyandotte, MI 48192
- Hood's Do-it Best**
1844 Ford Avenue
Wyandotte, MI 48192
- Monkey's Resale**
12466 Fort Street
Southgate, MI 48195

You can also order a calendar through the mail by sending a check for \$6 (includes \$2 for postage) to:

P.A.W.S. of Michigan
Attn: Calendar
P.O. Box 2184
Riverview, MI 48193



*Dear God,
Why is it that humans often stop to smell the flowers, but seldom, if ever, smell each other?*



Team PAWS (PAWS Youth Group) Offers Their Thanks!

Wendy's Fundraiser

Wendy's in Woodhaven donated a percentage of their register intake for Team PAWS on March 23, 2010, so the group could purchase "Team PAWS" T-shirts. They generously allowed the group another fundraiser opportunity on November 27, 2010. After the fun Wendy's event, more fun came when they utilized their craft donation money collected at the Wendy's events and went shopping on December 15, 2010 at the PetSmart in Woodhaven, for the P.A.W.S. of Michigan Pet Food Bank. Not only did PetSmart allow the nine students and two adults to go shopping as a group, they also arranged for a guided tour by Tera (one of the managers). They were able to see the large stock area, the room where injured and sick animals are taken care of, the training area, grooming area, vet offices and, of course, everyone's favorite spot in the store – the animals! That was not the end of their generosity, they also gave a 10% discount on everything purchased and allowed the use of coupons that had been collected. Because the group is part of the non-profit PAWS organization, they were able to reap the tax-exempt status with their purchases. Because of these very nice and generous people at Woodhaven Wendy's and the Woodhaven PetSmart, they were able to help many families with cat food and cat litter at the Pet Food Bank. The purchases included 13 bags of Tidy Cat litter, 8 bags of Whiskas Cat Food, 6 bags of Natural Cat Food and 18 cans of Pro Plan cat food. The group thanks everyone who helped!



It was a "PetSmart Takeover" by Team PAWS when they went shopping with their hard-earned money, so they could make the lives of pets and their human families much happier!

Team PAWS Is Growing!

Team PAWS has gotten so busy and full of great students, that they are outgrowing the current room that they utilize for meetings at the Riverview Library. The library has generously allowed them to use this meeting room twice a month, but because of the size of the group, they are now in need of a larger indoor space in the Downriver area. If you or someone you know has or may have a building, large room or space they could use for their monthly meetings as well as other extra events, please send a note to the Team PAWS leader at the following address: teampaws@pawsofmichigan.com.

Also, any young person who is between the ages of 12 and 18 years old and interested in joining the group, should e-mail the group at the above e-mail address. Please be sure to leave your name and phone number, so that you can be added to the waiting list.

Team PAWS Wish List

In order for Team PAWS to continue growing and helping the animals, they have a wish list with the hopes that rather than spending their hard-earned money on these items, people would be able to donate the following items:

- Fleece material (even scraps)
- Fabric markers (regular sized and thin)
- Needle nose pliers
- Craft beads (all sizes)
- White & colored copy paper
- Small & medium-sized key rings
- Scotch tape
- Craft charms (holiday & pet related)
- Craft safety pins (with no circle)
- Craft kits
- Craft pieces
- Liquid White Out
- Copy ink (HP74 & 75)
- Craft ideas
- Poster board paper
- Gift cards from Oriental Trading, Michaels, Craft 2000, Joann Fabrics and/or Office Depot.

Happy Tails Are Here Again!

Meet Gracie

Gracie was a stray who was taken to the Wyandotte Animal Shelter. No one ever inquired about her or came to see if she were there, so she was pulled by PAWS and placed into one of their foster homes in February 2010. She was in foster care for a very long time simply because she was a big girl. However, the foster family found that Gracie was sweet and friendly and a joy to have as a foster dog. Finally a great lady named Donna, from Rochester Hills, applied for her. She was adopted by Donna, and Gracie tells us she is doing very well. She loves going for walks and is able to do that from two to four times every day. While her mom is at work, she also has people who come visit so she has company during the day. There are children in the neighborhood who love to come and play with her because she is such a friendly girl! But one of her real highlights is when her new stepbrother, Clint, takes her to the doggie park so she can play with other dogs. This is proof that this was a perfect match, as Donna and Clint love her very much, and Gracie says she's happier than she's been in a long time!



Gracie would like for you to meet her new stepbrother, Clint. They are ready to go "trick-or-treating!"

Volunteer Spotlight – Marie Burbo***Need A Hand Or Need Help Or Have A Question?***

Marie Burbo is the one to go to! She is the PAWS greeter at adoption events, and she makes sure that potential adopters and those who are just looking are taken care of in a prompt, friendly manner. Marie always makes people feel at home with her kind demeanor and welcoming smile.

That's not all Marie does. She is also the founder of Team PAWS, our youth group. Marie oversees and monitors the group's activities. With Marie's help, Team PAWS has set up fundraisers such as the one at Wendy's, along with clothing drives and the TerraCycle drive. Marie adds both educational and craft projects to the Team PAWS program.

Now, if you think that's all Marie does, you might be surprised to know you are wrong. She has been a feline foster for PAWS since it began. She specializes in bottle baby kittens and in working with young feral kittens. Many young kittens would not have survived without her help and others would have ended up spending their lives in an outdoor barn situation. Marie is dedicated to saving these babies, and she is always ready to pass on her knowledge of kitten care to others.

Marie is assisted and accompanied in many of her PAWS activities by her lovely daughter, Amber. Many of us have watched Amber grow up to be a fine young lady, who is helpful, kind and considerate. She has proven that the "apple doesn't fall from the tree!" Marie's husband, Rusty, also shares in the kitten duties. He assists Marie and Amber in kitten cuddling, a chore that makes Marie's fosters social and lovable, which the adopters appreciate. Marie fits all these activities into her life along with working full time as a nanny.

PAWS is grateful for all that she does.



Marie working hard at one of the PAWS events

Volunteers Of The Month

Big sloppy puppy and kitty kisses to the following individuals who were honored for their devotion to PAWS and the animals:

October, 2010 Volunteer – Michelle Karshneski

Michelle has been cleaning cages at our Luv-A-Pet Center at the Canton PetSmart faithfully, almost from the day we started with our adoptions at that store. In addition to cleaning, she buys treats, toys, and supplies for the kitties. She was instrumental in

making P.A.W.S. in the Park the big success it was, chairing the bake sale, co-chairing the contests and games, and co-chairing the volunteer coordination, plus donating a lot of items to the raffle.

November, 2010 Volunteer – Noel Muscat

Noel assists his wife, Terra, with fostering cats (the couple are "dog foster failures," adopting their only foster, Bella). He assists in the adoption events at PetSmart in Canton, as well as at major events like Pet-A-Palooza and Meet Your Best Friend at the Zoo. He has donated several beautiful homemade cat trees as raffle prizes for our events, transports food donated to our pet food bank, and has helped at the Wyandotte shelter, including setting up a new bank of cat cages.

December, 2010 Volunteer – Frank Dalton

Frank is a big help with adoption events, transporting shelter animals to PetSmart and major events such as the Meet Your Best Friend at the Zoo. He is also always there when it comes time to set up for a fundraising or adoption event, both for PAWS and the Wyandotte Shelter. Frank regularly takes the late-late shift at our lucrative millionaire parties, sacrificing sleep to bring in the big money for the PAWS Millionaires Party.

Upcoming Events***Every Thursday Evening – 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.***

Taylor PetSmart Adoptions – located on Eureka Road

Every Friday Evening – 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Woodhaven PetSmart Adoptions – located on Allen Road at West Road

Every Saturday Afternoon – Noon - 3:00 p.m.

Canton PetSmart Adoptions – located on Michigan Avenue east of Beck Road. Visit our cats anytime at the Luv-A-Pet Center at the Canton PetSmart.

Fourth Wednesday Each Month – 6:30 p.m.

PAWS General Meeting – Riverview City Hall – Activity Room B. Bring a friend and learn more about PAWS!

March 23, 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Wendy's of Woodhaven is allowing Team PAWS to have another great fundraiser. Come and help the group by having dinner!

April 7, 8 and 9 – 4:00 p.m. – 2:00 a.m. (License #M61273)

Come and have fun at our Millionaire Party at Woodhaven Lanes, 20000 Van Horn (corner of West Road and Allen Road) in Woodhaven. Texas Hold-Em and table games to benefit PAWS. Proceeds to be divided between the general fund and the spay/neuter clinic fund. If you need additional information, please call 734-556-2164

April 14

Fundraiser at the Rockery in Wyandotte. Watch for details coming very soon.

Spay/Neuter Clinic Well On Its Way! Professionals Offer Their Help

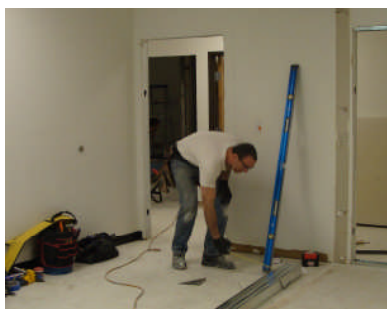
We're on an extremely tight budget for our clinic renovations. That's why we were especially excited and grateful to have the help of three professional builders/carpenters when we had our recent "demo" (demolish the walls) day.

Led by professional builder, Mike Wisusik, professional builders/carpenters, Kenny Kulaszewski and Mike Romano, together with PAWS own super volunteer, Jerry Golden, spent an entire hard-working, busy day knocking down several of the clinic walls in order to open up bigger spaces for our operating room, dog kennel, surgical preparation room, and cat kennel. The speed of their work was aided by the help of industrious volunteers, Mary Gasiewski, Lana Golden, Linda Lee, Devin McGill, Chrissy Romano, and Kris Jordan, who cleaned up the debris almost as quickly as our building crew could bring the walls down.

But the work didn't stop when the walls were down. Our dynamic volunteer crew kept going almost until dark, framing the new walls, and hanging the drywall on one side (leaving a side open for the electrical and plumbing crews to do their work). At the end of the day, we could see our vision of the clinic transform from a paper plan to actual walls! And it looks even better than we had ever imagined! It's a professional job by a professional crew, all of whom so generously gave of their time and talent to make it happen.

The building work that Saturday was sped along, thanks to prep work by Ray Ferda. Ray is a licensed electrician who is donating his time and talents to adapt our building to the new layout of the walls, and for the special electrical demands of our clinic. Ray spent many hours in the building prior to the arrival of the building crew, disconnecting the wiring from the "demo" walls and making the demolition faster and safer for the building crew. Ray also prepared a wiring diagram of the building so that the electrical work will go faster and more smoothly when the time comes to start the new wiring.

From all of us at PAWS and the PAWS Clinic, a huge thank you to everyone who has donated his or her time and talents to helping move our clinic project along. We are grateful to all of you, especially to the professionals who are so generously giving their time to help our mission.



Builder, Mike Wisusik, donating his professional time for the PAWS clinic on "demo" day.

Architect Of Our future

When we signed the lease in December for the building that will one day be home to the PAWS low-cost spay/neuter clinic, we naively thought that we could sketch a few floor plans for our renovations, and we would be ready to start our remodeling work. That idea came to an abrupt halt when the city building inspector strongly suggested that we hire a professional architect to do our floor plans. At first we were very upset, since we didn't have money in our very tight budget for an architect. But after hiring architect, Rick Bohl, President and Principal Architect of Richard Bohl Architects, LLC, our dismay turned to excitement and relief.

Rick received his Bachelor's Degree in Architecture from Miami University of Ohio. His professional affiliations include membership in the American Institute of Architects and the Construction Specifications Institute. Rick has experience in the design of residential, industrial, healthcare, and educational facilities. He has also served on various local boards and commissions and was the perfect choice for helping us design our clinic.

Recognizing our need to keep our costs very low, and believing in our mission to end animal homelessness, Rick agreed to significantly discount his normal fee to something we could afford. But Rick's work has been anything but discount. Before our first meeting, he took the time to research our group and the needs of a spay/neuter clinic. He came prepared with answers for questions we didn't even know we had! Rick thoroughly researched the equipment we will need, the electrical and plumbing requirements of the equipment, and the specialized requirements for the smooth workflow of a high-volume spay/neuter clinic. As we learned more about our needs (coupled with old-fashioned changing our minds a few times), Rick patiently worked through multiple iterations of the drawings of our floor plans and the layout of equipment. The result is a beautiful, professional floor plan that exceeds our wildest expectations of how best to utilize our space. The City of Taylor Building Department has approved our plans, and we are moving forward with our renovation process.

Now that we have seen Rick's drawings and have the benefit of his experience and insight, we cannot imagine how we would have ever gotten the renovation project off the ground without his help. Rick, PAWS and The PAWS Clinic are forever indebted to you for your generosity in lending your time and talent to our project. We would also like to congratulate you and your family on the recent addition of your adorable chocolate lab puppy, Jib. We're sure he's proud of how his dad helped his fellow four-leggers.



Architect, Rick Bohl, (always smiling) goes over the floor plans with Karin Pigott and Chrissy Romano

PAWS Donations

Goods and Services Donations

Linda Muzyczka (2)
 Glenn & Rhonda Campbell
 Pug Lady Kingdom (2)
 Patti Christie
 Terra & Noel Muscat (2)
 Donna & Tom Hall
 Rose & John Darin
 Hood's DO IT Best
 Southpointe Veterinary Hospital
 Feed Rite Pet Supply
 Mike Wisusik
 Mike Romano

Meijer Southgate
 Joan Pollack
 Sheree Smith
 Lois Schippling
 Diane Desrosiers
 Chris Johns
 Mary Nixdorf
 Patti Christie
 Carol Pitchford
 Fathead Corporation
 Kenny Kulazewski
 Ray Ferda

Donations to the General Fund

Diane & Raymond Rito (2)
 Barb & Scott Withers
 Tom & Linda Dyze
 Charmaine Guerriero
 Deborah & Howard Knight
 Louie & Anne Gmoser
 Harry & Kathleen Starr
 Raymond & Rita Vozniak
 Nicole Summit (initiated Microsoft Corp. Matching Grant)
 Metro Shores Credit Union Employees
 Riverview Community Schools – Casual Clothes for a Cause
 U-M Office of University Development Employees
 Southgate Figure Skating Booster Club

Jeff Czich
 Anonymous Donor
 Michelle Karshneski
 Fathead Corporation
 January Wagner
 Robert Szwed
 Bruce Pease
 Donna & Ed Parritt

Donation to General Fund From In Memory Of

Mavis & Craig Farrand
 Donna Morgan
 Virginia & Paul Kaucher
 Tom & Karen Arbor
 Friends of Sheila White
 Andy & Barb Barnosky
 Friends & Family of Pete Phillips
 Theresa Falzone
 Kris & Jay Jordan
 Lloyd & Sharon Slinglend
 Frank & Yumi Dalton
 Linda Lee
 Carol McKee & family
 Carol McKee & family
 Frank & Yumi Dalton

Pete Phillips
 Pete Phillips
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 Pete Phillips
 Pete Phillips
 Pete Phillips
 Pete Phillips
 William Augenstein
 Tia, Charity, & Jack
 Heisuke Dalton

Sponsorships From

Pug Lady Kingdom
 David Bard

For
 Aidia, Alexis, Brandi
 Flannery

Donation to General Fund From In Honor Of

Todd Thomas
 Michelle Simmons
 Karen Bennett
 Carrie & Mark Enderich
 Lana Golden Thank You
 Christmas for Barry Malone
 Christmas in honor of
 Granddaughter, Kristina
 Poole
 Maggie's 2nd anniversary
 with them

Donations to SNAP Fund

Dennis & Janice Murphy
 Kris & Jay Jordan
 Dennis & Jo Mahaffey
 Kathleen & Rick Sawicki
 The Greg Biffle Foundation
 IBM Corporation Anonymous Employee (3)
 Claire Marable (2)
 Lisa M. Thomlinson
 Maral Meyers
 Shirley Casey
 Katherine Asam

Donations to the Clinic Fund

Virginia & Paul Coppin
 Bruce & Melanie West
 The Home Depot, Taylor
 AAA, ACG Sales Administration
 Lois Schippling
 Craig Tylanda
 Rose Darin

Donation to Clinic Fund From In Memory Of

Tom & Karin Schwartz
 Frankie

Donations to the Pet Food Bank

Our Angel, Barbara (3)
 Our Angel, Laura(3)
 Bacon Memorial Library
 Allen Park (HS) Animal Welfare
 Groomingdale's Pet Center (Ava & Enzo)
 PETCO Corporation
 Tamara Barber
 Frank & Yumi Dalton
 Dennis & Janice Murphy

New and Renewal Memberships

Individual Memberships

Jerry Osborne
 Terri Fitzpatrick
 Michelle Karshneski
 Betty Britz
 Gloria K. Reeves
 Connie Muzzin

Family Memberships

Tim & Lou Ann Durand
 Kathleen & Rick Sawicki
 Marie, Rusty & Amber Burbor
 Tamara Barber
 Frank & Yumi Dalton
 Carol McKee & Gordon,
 Emily & Katherine Hopcian

Pet Memberships

Hagitha & Druzilla Fitzpatrick
 SamiJaye, Toes, Twink, Mini, Jack & Grey Karshneski
 Lindsay & Cooper Dalton

*If we treated everyone we met with
 the same affection we bestow upon
 our favorite cat, they, too, would purr!*

Membership/Donation Form

Please complete this section for either membership and/or donations

Name _____
 Address _____
 Phone _____ E-mail address _____

Membership Application

Membership Levels

_____ Individual Membership	\$ 20	_____ Supporter	\$ 100
_____ Family Membership	\$ 30	_____ Tail Wagger's Club	\$ 250
_____ Youth Membership (15 and under)	\$ 10	_____ Business/Corporate	\$ 500
_____ Senior Membership (60 and over)	\$ 10	_____ Pet Membership (Name of Pet) _____	\$ 5

Membership entitles you to voting privileges within the group as well as a copy of the quarterly newsletter

Donations to P.A.W.S. of Michigan

Type of Contributions

\$ _____ In Honor Of _____
 \$ _____ In Memory Of _____
 \$ _____ Special Contribution (Indicate Cause) _____
 \$ _____ SNAP (Spay/Neuter Assistance Program) (helps families who cannot afford to sterilize their pet)
 \$ _____ P.A.W.S. Spay/Neuter Clinic
 \$ _____ Pet Food Bank

If mailing your membership fee, please mail to:

**P.A.W.S. of Michigan
 P. O. Box 2184
 Riverview MI 48193**