

THE CONNECTION

August 2, 2019 - Issue 18

LIGHTS OUT AT LIVINGSTON

By Director of Brand Activation and Support Services, Greg Harris

You don't need me to tell you that the weather this summer has been both typical and a little out of the ordinary. While Michigan may enjoy relief from some of the natural disasters that affect other parts of the country, our unique summer storms carry their own punch. On the night of Friday July 19, our animal care center in Livingston County got its own stiff uppercut from mother nature and the crisis response process began in earnest.

Most importantly, the animals in our care and our team members were safe and unharmed. However, the storms that hit that part of our region did some dramatic damage to our property and caused a whole host of residual problems with our electrical service and basic facilities.

Our animal care team at Livingston first noticed the storm damage as they reported to work on Saturday the 20th, whereupon they began the crisis response process. Our facility team lead, Larry Wilhelm, was soon informed of what appeared to be significant damages to the building, both inside and out. As it was difficult to build up a complete picture of what had happened, the potential need to evacuate animals seemed to be a real consideration.

As the maintenance team arrived on site and began to assess the damage, Larry Wilhelm, Eric Wilhelm and Tyrone Cureton quickly began to realize that, thankfully, the problems were not as bad as first thought. Several mature trees in front of the building and along the retention pond were down, and power was intermittent. Larry and his team swung into action and began to resolve the issues.

Much like the weather that morning, I'd like to tell you the issues were also cleared up just as fast, but unfortunately that wasn't the case. A few problem circuits couldn't be restored to full power, our septic system pumps had stopped so water began to back up in the drains, and the main air conditioning unit was also out of service. Despite our team's best efforts, we could only do so much as most of our contractors who provide assistance in cases like this were unavailable at the weekend.

We were forced to close the shelter to guests for two days while the issues were being resolved. While the front of our facility looks a little bare now without the flowering pear trees in front, all ended well. A huge THANK YOU goes out to the tremendous team that care for our animals at Livingston County for quickly dealing with the adverse conditions and putting the care of our animals first. Larry, Eric and Tyrone probably would have enjoyed the weekend off, but they worked tirelessly to help their colleagues as best as they could so we could get back to normal as quickly as possible.

One positive outcome of this experience, however, was that we learned a lot from the storms that hit Livingston. New crisis communication plans for the organization are to be explored as well as the upgrading of our emergency technical infrastructure. We may not be able to change the weather, but with effective teamwork, we be able to handle any future storm damage even better than we did this one.



Before the Storm



After the Storm

MICHIGAN HUMANE STAFF AND VOLUNTEER INTERNAL PHOTO CONTEST

To celebrate our staff and volunteers and the connections they make with our furry friends, we will be holding an internal photo contest. We are always looking for those purrfect photos, like the one on the right taken by Stephanie Noble at Livingston, that show our staff members bonding with the animals that we work with every day. If you take a pawsome photo of a staff member with an animal, please send it to Devan Bianco. At the beginning of each month, the marketing team will pick three of the best photos sent to us during the previous month. The top photos will be posted in *The Connection*, and you will have the opportunity to vote for your favorite. The winner for each month will be featured as that month's cover photo in our new internal calendar. However, if you're not picked, don't be discouraged — your photo could be used for some of our marketing collateral!



For your photo to qualify it needs to be a high-resolution image that clearly shows a human/animal connection. The photo must also be visually appealing. Be cautious about where you are taking the photo. Make sure that the background of the image doesn't include anything that would detract from the main image; an example of this would be cleaning products being clearly visible in the background. Remember, you are capturing a moment between a human and an animal. Make sure that moment is all anyone can see when looking at that photo.

The internal photo contest is now live. If you have any memorable photos of a fellow staff member or yourself that you'd like to share, please send your photos to Devan Bianco at dbianco@michiganhumane.org. The first round of voting will take place in August.

WHAT IS BABESIA? *By Shelter Veterinarian, Allan Mergener*

We are excited to announce that Michigan Humane has been selected to present "Doxycycline, metronidazole and clindamycin combination therapy for Babesia gibsoni in fighting canines" at the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners conference in October of this year. Our shelter veterinarian Dr. Allan Mergener will be attending the conference and will present the case study during the case study lecture series. The presentation describes in depth how our shelter medicine teams diagnosed and treated dogs involved in the March 2019 seizure of 32 fighting dogs in Detroit.

Babesia is a tick-borne disease that infects the red blood cells of animals. Babesia can be transmitted by ticks or by blood contamination resulting from wounds sustained from dog fighting. Traditional treatment of this disease involves a course of an expensive injectable medication. The treatment plan discussed in the case study involves a combination therapy with three orally administered medications commonly stocked by most shelters.

We are excited about this opportunity for Michigan Humane to share this innovative treatment approach with other shelter veterinarians and collaborate with shelters across the nation to help continually advance the practice of shelter medicine.

TRIVIA

Q. Happy Shark Week! What kind of shark can survive in fresh water?

Send your answers to theconnection@michiganhumane.org, and the first person to answer correctly gets a free Michigan Humane t-shirt!

Issue 17 Trivia Possible Answer: Barry, Alfred and Cricket. Congrats to last week's winner, Mariann Gonczy.

JOB BOARD

Know someone who would be a great fit for the Michigan Humane team? Check out our job openings at michiganhumane.org/careers

Animal Transport Evaluator/Driver
Behavioral Health Services Director
Clinic Veterinarian
Clinic Veterinary Tech

Customer Service Representative
Development Associate
Licensed Veterinary Tech
Shelter Licensed Veterinary Tech

Shelter Medicine Manager
Shelter Veterinary Tech
Volunteer Programs Coordinator

EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT SURVEY ROADSHOW REMINDER

We have one more stop on the 2019 MHS Employee Engagement Survey Roadshow! We have had some great conversations at Petco, Detroit, Rochester Hills, Westland and Bingham Farms so far and we are looking to talking with Livingston. If you haven't already, make plans to attend the final survey review session featuring Matt Pepper, Tom Varitek, and Andrea Buchanan. If you have a planned vacation or are otherwise unable to make this event—we get it—but please make every effort to be there if possible. If you are off that day, we will pay for your time at the presentation. Here is the final date!

Aug. 5 - Livingston: 9:00 a.m. (you get breakfast!)

Talk with your supervisor or manager or director or whoever schedules you, to ensure you can make the final session. Looking forward to seeing you soon!



UPCOMING EVENTS

Meows on the Mat

- When: Thursday, August 8
- Where: Sommerset Collection - Troy, MI

Pups in the Plaza

- When: Friday, August 9
- Where: Little Caesars Arena Chevy Plaza - Detroit, MI

8-1-1 Miss Dig - DTE Adoption Event

- When: Sunday, August 11
- Where: Beacon Park - Detroit, MI

Shake Shack Donation Day

- When: Monday, August 12
- Where: Shake Shack - Troy, MI
- Shake Shack at Somersset Collection - Troy, MI
- Shake Shack - Detroit, MI

Meet Your Best Friend at the DIA

- When: Sunday, August 25
- Where: Detroit Institute of Arts - Detroit, MI

Meet Your Best Friend at the Zoo

- When: Friday, September 13 & Saturday, September 14
- Where: Detroit Zoo- Detroit, MI

INTERESTED IN SUBMITTING CONTENT FOR THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE CONNECTION? SEND YOUR SUGGESTIONS TO THECONNECTION@MICHIGANHUMANE.ORG

