

## Get your pet a picture with the Easter Bunny

The Uppity Puppy at 706 South Washington in downtown Royal Oak is hosting pet photos with the Easter Bunny from noon-3 p.m. on Saturday, March 23, with a donation. All proceeds benefit the home-

less kittens, puppies and adult dogs and cats of the Animal Welfare Society of Southeastern Michigan. The Uppity Puppy is located across from OGC. For more information call the AWS at 248-548-1150.

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**Dog of the Week: Welby** is a really smart dog who loves playing with children. He's only 18 months old and was found wandering the streets in Wayne County — alone and afraid. Today this little 34-pound Beagle mix is confident, super-warm and friendly. He's also active, and already knows how to give his paw for a treat. If you would like to meet Welby and give him a fun and loving home, call The Michigan Humane Society Westland Shelter at (734) 721-7300.



**Cats of the Week: Lily and Molly** have been best friends their entire lives and now they're known at the shelter as R26414 and R26415. These 8-year-old well-mannered cats were abandoned by their owners, who decided they just didn't want to take care of them anymore. Little Lily has a pastel tortoiseshell coat and her friend, Molly, has a pastel calico coat. Both are very well behaved and love lots of attention. They like to play and purr and have very gentle and outgoing personalities. They would be great in a home with or without kids. Lily and Molly should live together — this way they can remain best friends and then won't ever feel lonely. They're spayed, vaccinated, healthy, litter-box trained and ready for a home. If you can rescue them, call Michigan Humane Society Rochester Hills Shelter, (248) 852-7420.

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## Proactive approach can help with messy house

**Q: My house is a constant mess and I do not know where to begin to clear away the clutter and how to keep it organized.**

### DOMESTIC PLANNER



DIANA KOENIG

**A:** The best way to tackle a messy house is to deal with the clutter immediately, before it has a chance to accumulate. Procrastination should not be a part of your plan. If you need help, call a friend for moral support. She may offer to come over and help you. If managing a clutter-free house has been a continual problem, you will have to make some changes. This will require patience on your part. You will not only need to change your plan of action but also the way you think. Once you have your home the way you want it, you will need to create a plan for maintaining the clutter-free environment. If you implement the following suggestions you will embrace success in the area of house organization:

Organize one room at a time. Start with the room you use the most. Place any items that don't belong in that room in a basket by the door. Don't leave the room until you are finished with that area. Enlist the help of your family. Give them simple tasks to help you pick up clutter. Make sure there is a place for everything. If you do not have a place, create one.

Make sure your drawers, cabinets, shelves, and closets are not filled beyond capacity.

Donate, sell, or discard unused and unwanted items. Keep a give away box in your storage area. Containerize items on shelves. The shelf will look neater and you will be able to access items in the back.

Use small baskets or small, lidded containers for items such as rubber bands, paperclips, small toys, coins, hair clips, and pencils. Use laundry baskets to store shoes, stuffed animals, and large toys.

Keep the sink free of dirty dishes. One dish quickly turns into a stack.

Keep a basket by your door for miscellaneous items, such as sunglasses, keys, outgoing mail, and reminder notes.

Designate a shelf or container for items that are not yours. This would include library books, store returns, something borrowed, and something left at your home.

Set up a file system for all your paper clutter.

Read through mail and immediately file anything you need to keep/throw away anything that you don't.

Make a rule that things cannot be left on the floor. Enforce your rule daily.

When you bring items in from the car, put them away immediately.

When you are finished using an item, put it back where it belongs. Buy what you need and make sure you have a home for shopping sprees.

Maintenance is the key ingredient to an organized house. Creating and implementing a plan to keep your house clutter-free will take far less time in the long run. This proactive approach can be a lot less frustrating than tackling the mess that results from having no plan.

**Today's Refrigerator Bulletin:**  
"Sweep away the mess with a practical plan."

Diana Koenig is a writer, educator, speaker and consultant. Send your questions and success stories to: Diana Koenig, P.O. Box 1702, Manchester, Mo. 63011, e-mail dianakoenig@hotmail.com. Visit [www.domesticplanner.com](http://www.domesticplanner.com).

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