

# Volunteers find homes, love, for dogs and cats

BY HELEN NIEMIEC  
STAFF WRITER

Simpson was on death row at the Detroit dog pound one day and in the home of Kathleen and Ken Bartoluzzi the next day.

The terrier/dachshund mix had the good fortune of being saved by the Top Dog Animal Rescue League, a group of animal lovers in southern Oakland County.

The Bartoluzzis have opened their Beverly Hills home to two foster dogs, providing a home until a permanent owner is found. One of the two dogs, Simpson, ended up staying with the Bartoluzzis.

Lori Doepke of Troy and Connie Kraltz of Ferndale head up the volunteer organization, taking the league's puppies and dogs to Premier Pet Supply on Southfield near 13 Mile Road in Beverly Hills every other Saturday.

Doepke and Kraltz keep a number of the pets in their homes until the Saturday events.

"We can tell people about them because they've been in our homes," Doepke said. "That helps a lot. We can talk about their personalities and their habits."

The dogs all have one thing in common — they had a close call. All come from death row, so to speak.

The two women also have a dog pound and the Michigan Humane Society kennels, taking animals that are about to be put to sleep because no one has claimed them. They've been running the league for about two years and say that as word spreads, they are getting more volunteers and finding more homes for orphaned pups and dogs.

The animals are kept with foster families until they're adopted. Doepke said the group is careful in who takes an animal. They'll check with the adopter's veterinarian to make sure current and former pets were cared for plus there is a contract that requires pets to be spayed or neutered if they aren't already. And the league makes follow-up checks to make sure the newly adopted pet is cared for.

"We're not just trying to find any home. We want to find a good, permanent home," Doepke said.

The league charges \$40 for puppies and \$60 for adult dogs, which reflects medical costs incurred. All animals get their shots before they're put up for adoption and dogs more than six months old are neutered or spayed.

"We just try to get back the money we put in. There isn't any profit here," Kraltz said.

Ellen Rhynard and Jo Ann Bigler have a similar service that fosters and puts cats and kittens up for adoption. Until last week, the two groups were part of a single entity: The Silver Lake Animal Rescue League. The two groups now have chosen to operate alone.

The cat group will be showing its animals at the Abbey Theatre on Sundays.

"Cats are getting to be a more popular pet," Rhynard said. "And as our organization grows and we get more volunteers, we can do a lot more."

Feline adoption fees are \$50 for cats that are neutered or spayed and \$55 for a cat neutered and declawed. Since January, Silver Lake has found 189 cats new homes. Of that total, 124 were adult cats.

Raymond Hesano, owner of Premier Pets, said that he heard about the group through some of his customers and wanted to get involved.

He admits that the Saturdays "get a little wild" with cages of animals either down the front aisle if the weather is bad or outdoors with better weather. People stop and pet the animals, ask questions and try to find out more about the rescue leaguers.

Hesano admits to looking forward to the Saturday sessions, enjoying both the animals and the people who run the rescue groups.

Twelve pets have been adopted out at the Saturday sessions at Premier Pets. Rosene Richcreek of Northville and her son Rob, a recent Michigan State graduate, looked at the cages of dogs at Pro-



STEPHEN CANTRELL/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Pick of the litter: Rosene Richcreek tells her son, Rob, that she's found her new pet — a mixed terrier. "I like all of them," she said but the year-old terrier was the dog that went home with her.

mier Pet. Rosene Richcreek fell in love with a year-old black terrier, whom she held and talked to while her son looked at the puppies.

She put the terrier on a leash to see its response. The animal obediently followed Rosene Richcreek but then made a quick stop at a doggie biscuit barrel, snag-

ing a little bone for a snack.

"She's just adorable," Rosene Richcreek said. "We lost our dog about a year ago and I miss not having a pet. And this one is such a sweet dog."

Kathleen Bartoluzzi continues to volunteer with the Top Dog organization, noting that the educational aspect of the organization

is as important as the adoption portion.

"My husband and I feel very strongly about adopting pets from the humane society or the pound.

And we feel what (Top Dog) is doing is very good because it tells people to neuter or spay and that an uncontrolled puppy population means that a lot of puppies

get put to sleep in those facilities. No one ever thinks that happens to cute little puppies but it does," Bartoluzzi said.

The Top Dog group can be reached at 680-1426 or 541-2599. The Silver Lake league for cats can be reached at 545-5583 or 388-6640.

## POLICE/FIRE CALLS

Listed below are some of the Farmington area police incidents, fire calls and court cases reported during the past week.

### AUTO THEFT

An attempted theft of a white 1993 Pontiac from a residence on Meadowhill in Farmington Hills May 24-25 caused \$300 in damage to the steering column.

The attempted theft of a green 1993 GMC wagon parked on Meadowhill in Farmington Hills May 24-25 caused \$1,000 in damage to the front end.

An attempted theft of a 1993 black Chevy Blazer from a residence on Baywood in Farmington Hills May 24-25 caused \$800 in damage to the steering column.

A 1993 green Eagle Talon worth \$16,000 was stolen from Bob Saks Jeep Eagle on Grand River in

Farmington Hills May 24-25.

A red 1987 Pontiac Firebird with a spoiler worth \$6,000 was stolen from the parking lot of GSA on Research in Farmington Hills May 25.

### VANDALISM

The driver's window of a red 1986 Dodge Omni parked at a residence on La Muera in Farmington Hills May 24-25 caused \$250 in damage.

Damage to the rear windshield of a 1986 blue Pontiac Outless parked on Nine Mile in Farmington Hills May 25 caused \$300 in damage.

A man drove his car at another on Susan in Farmington Hills May 23, injuring the victim's hand and causing \$500 in damage to a purple 1993 Plymouth Acclaim.

A break-in at Forest Post Productions on Northwestern in Farmington Hills caused \$200 in damage to ceiling tiles and a picture frame May 26.

### BREAK-INS

A Sony VCR worth \$300 and a Tank VCR worth \$476 were stolen from a residence on Millbrook in Farmington Hills May 25 after the door was kicked in causing \$100 in damage.

The passenger window of a green 1993 Ford F-250 pickup was smashed May 24-25 causing \$100 in damage, and a portable cellular phone worth \$400 was stolen.

### THEFTS

Men's suits worth \$1,600 were stolen from the Men's Wearhouse on Orchard Lake in Farmington Hills May 16.

Video rental equipment valued at more than \$30,000 had been rented but not returned to Roscor Video Rentals on Haggerty in Farmington Hills May 21.

A Schwinn men's 10-speed bicycle worth \$200 was stolen from the 1/4 Off Card Shop on Orchard Lake in Farmington Hills May 25.

A Shinawa gas line trimmer worth \$425 and a Tinsaks gas edger worth \$600 were stolen out of the truck bed of a red 1990 GMC Sierra pickup parked on Floralview in Farmington Hills May 25-26.

An RCA VCR worth \$250 was stolen from the Charter House on Middlebelt in Farmington Hills May 26.

heading west on Eight Mile driven by Brian Janas, 19, of Farmington Hills.

The Firebird was knocked over a guard rail and into a Detroit Edison power line pole, police said. The pole snapped near its top and Edison workers had to replace it Thursday afternoon.

Kossal was taken to Botaford General Hospital in Farmington Hills. Janas was taken to St. Mary Hospital in Livonia.

The arrests came on May 17 after Hills officer Dan Luoma pulled into the Echo Valley subdivision on 12 Mile near Orchard Lake when he saw a 1989 burgundy Pontiac parked in an unusual manner at 3:52 a.m. Luoma saw two men wearing gloves get into the car. After he began questioning the men, they sped away and Luoma, with backup from Hills officer Charles Rozum, gave chase.

The officers followed the car onto I-696 going east, then onto Telegraph Road going north. During the chase on Telegraph, car radios were being thrown out the window of the Pontiac.

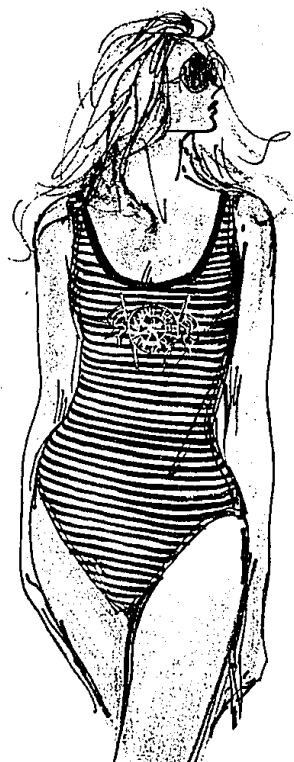
The driver lost control of the car and hit a tree in the median

north of 14 Mile. Bloomfield Township Police made the arrest.

Hills detective Tim Swanson said four of the recovered radios matched up with the attachments to four General Motors vehicles. Radios had been stolen from vehicles at the Farmington Square Condominiums, the Williamsburg Townhouses and Kendallwood Apartments the night of the arrests.

The May 26 preliminary exam was adjourned after testimony by three police officers. It will reconvene on June 21 in 47th District Court before Judge Maria Parker.

Bond was continued at \$10,000. Hawkins and Crowley are in the Oakland County Jail.



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BY BILL COUTANT  
STAFF WRITER

The preliminary examination of two Detroit men charged in connection with several break-ins and theft along with a high-speed chase through Farmington Hills and Bloomfield Township has been adjourned until June 21.

Kevin Jerome Hawkins, 29, and Rhuben James Crowley Jr., 25, both of Detroit stood mute at their May 18 arraignment in 47th District Court.

Hawkins was charged with four counts of breaking and entering an automobile and possession of stolen property, a five-year felony. Crowley faces the same charges as well as fleeing and eluding, a one-year misdemeanor.