

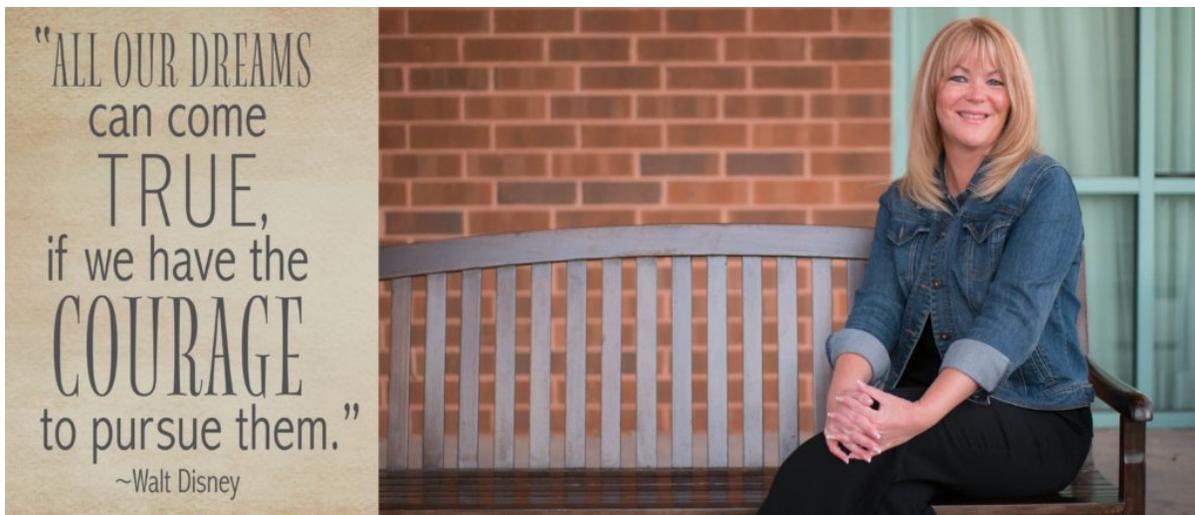


Getting Organized Now!

Inspiring you to showcase the best in life.

April 2021

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Tweet



Forward



National Pet Parents Day

The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) estimates that nearly 80 million US households have pets. It's estimated the US pet industry reached \$99 billion in 2020. And 61% of US pet owners are willing to pay more for foods that target their pets' dietary needs. In 2020, 40% of dog owners and 25% of cat owners have bought clothing for their pet.

Pet parents are responsible for the physical and emotional health of their pet, and will always be. It is a serious responsibility!

In honor of all that we do for our furry kids, the last Sunday in April is designated National Pet Parent's Day! How will you

celebrate being a pet parent?

Call or email us today. Let's get started:
(612) 616-1215; beth@gettingorganizednow.com



PUZZLE PIECES FOR ANIMAL RESCUE

We're creating a pet jigsaw puzzle for our office wall. The bigger; the better. Participants will send us a photo of their favorite pet for a donation. Those photos will be transformed into a jigsaw puzzle of BGL friend pets.

Proceeds go to Cats Meow Dogs Bark Rescue and the Animal Humane Society of Golden Valley. Complete details are forthcoming.

Call or email us today. Let's get started: (612) 616-1215; beth@gettingorganizednow.com



VIRTUAL C&C

Looking for motivation and inspiration to complete some fun projects or gifts? How about doing it all from the comfort of your own home? Our Virtual C&C series is designed to fit that bill.

C & C stands for:

- cocktails, cocoa, coffee
- cards, canvas, conversion, custom print

This two-hour training session is offered every other month and includes a \$10 FOREVER® gift certificate.

Check out our [schedule](#) and join us for some fun!

Call or email us today. Let's get started:
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beth@gettingorganizednow.com

"April is a promise that May is bound to keep." -- Hal Borland

Meet Jen Kamish, Founder of Cats Meow Dogs Bark Rescue

by Marjorie Simon

A three-minute phone call with Jen Kamish of South St. Paul, MN, tells you that she may be one of the most ardent animal lovers around. For instance: when her cat, "Nermal" was in renal failure, Jen drove Nermal to the Wisconsin Veterinary School of Medicine in Madison for a kidney transplant. That's how much she loves animals.

It's Jen's unique commitment to our furry friends that makes Cats Meow and Dogs Bark Rescue (CMDDBR) a most amazing place for pet adoption. Jen started her rescue in 1996 after volunteering for many years. She established her nonprofit in 2003.

Starting out, Jen's focus was senior cats and dogs who were about to be put down. Jen said, "Let senior animals live their lives out in peace, comfort and joy." Eventually, Jen realized the tremendous need for pet adoptions for cats and dogs of all ages. These days, her care puts the term, "state-of-the-art" to shame. Her organization even has an animal incubator and nebulizer. On average, Jen adopts out between 100 and 150 animals per year. "We're all about quality—not quantity," says Jen.



The Travesties of Puppy Mills

Unfortunately, many of the animals Jen and her volunteers rescue come from puppy mills. "Puppy Mills are merely a 'cash crop' for their founders," Jen laments. "Often there is no electricity or heat, and their diets are poor." Equally tough is that the animals are not socialized." These animals have never been hugged or petted. They can't comprehend love—or even people, Jen says.

Neglect and abuse—not cleaning kennels, not caring for the adults after their puppies reach eight weeks—are typical. Jen and her volunteers try to compensate for that, but Jen says that this can take one year or more to rectify. (Patient adopters are a must.)

Puppy gestation is 62 days. In puppy mills, the mothers are given little time to recover from pregnancy before they are again impregnated. This is very hard on female dogs, of course. They are placed in a pen with many male dogs to make the next litter. So inbreeding is common.

The inbreeding causes problems ranging from physical and behavioral abnormalities to lasting conditions such as immune system disorders. So, part of CMDDBR's duty is to determine if the animal is suitable for adoption, and to make adopters aware of this, and how to care for such animals.

Caribbean (Cari)

Jen remembers Beth Gibson Lilja's adoption 12 years ago like it was yesterday. Beth, of course, adopted Cari, her beloved bichon frise. "Cari came with another dog—no socialization—we could not even touch them. They didn't understand hugging or petting," says Jen. "I was open with Beth and said, 'You are going to have to work with her. She doesn't know what a hug is. She doesn't know what a treat is. She doesn't understand toys. She's not house-trained, either'", said Jen. Bichons can take a year to adjust. (Unless Beth is the parent...See Beth's April blog for her adoption experience.)



Other Resources

On the bright side, Jen's rescue conquers major challenges. There's the time a breeding facility in Missouri closed operations. Jen facilitated placing 125 Dachshunds, 150 West Highland White Terriers and 100-plus Shih Tzus. On the other hand, she's been called to animal-hording cases, one with 45 cats which began with five, so the inbreeding was ghastly.

Likewise, animal lovers, for various reasons, surrender their pets to CMDDBR. Jen places these pets, too. Finally, Jen connects pets needing new homes using the Minnesota Rehoming Pet's Group Facebook page.

CMDDBR also features an "adoption house" called "Pounce & Fetch" for cats. But if a dog will be adopted into a home with a cat, Jen introduces the dog to cats at "Pounce" to prepare them. Most dogs and cats become great friends.

You get the idea: Jen and her crew are passionate about pets. She gives them extraordinary care including quality food, vitamins, supplements, and an overdose of love, hugs, and pets. This, of course, requires money. So, CMDDBR welcomes donations.



Not surprisingly, Jen has stringent adoption requirements. That's good for the pets and adopters, and results in a 98 percent successful placement rate. Often Jen's process includes a pre-adoption home visit to convince Jen that the animal will do well in its new environment. The contract all adopters must sign includes:

1. You must provide the best possible home environment for the pet.
2. You will make the commitment to care for this animal for its life. But—also a rare feature—CMDDBR will be a resource for the adopters at all times. From small questions to major concerns—they encourage the adopters to call them throughout the pet's life. With Jen's extensive pet knowledge, she has a myriad of resources to recommend.
3. Health disclaimer: Jen states that they never know an animal's background. They try to ensure the animal has all its shots and a microchip but advises all adopters to find a vet they like for their new pet ASAP.

As you may have guessed, Jen works 16-18-hour days. "The compassion switch is always on," says Jen. "No matter how tired we are, this is a way of life for us. We always give our all to these pets."

No wonder many seek out CMDDBR when they want a new pet. A cat or dog could not be luckier than to be taken in by Jen and her dedicated volunteers. And the adopters are equally lucky.

Ready for a pet's lifetime of unconditional love, or want to donate? Check out their Facebook page, [Cats Meow Dogs Bark Rescue](#), or call 651-343-1964, or email adoptablepets@aol.com.

From our blog...

Why a Pet? Why Not!

Are you lucky enough to know how much a pet can enrich your life? Or are you waiting to discover that joy? Either way, in the USA, May is National Pet Month. So it's a perfect time to brag about BGL & Associates, LLC CMO (Chief Morale Officer) Caribbean (Cari). She is our 12-year-old bichon frise whom we adopted from Cats Meow Dogs Bark Rescue (CMDDBR). Cari was a puppy mill dog.

[Read more](#)

Get caught up with all our blogs!



We invite you to join our private client Facebook Group:
[Photo Solutions Clients.](#)

2021 Page & Project Challenge Club!

\$75 | January–December 2021

Membership Guidelines:

1. Receive an exclusive gift as a Club Member.
2. Set a goal to complete 221 individual pages or projects.
3. Count all projects one-for-one.
4. Showcase your project(s) at the annual brunch.
5. Receive a \$10 discount on one workshop each month.
6. Receive a special rate for our National Scrapbook Day event.
7. Pay early-bird rate for Twin Cities Digital Day workshops.
8. Receive (2) 30-minute individual virtual coaching sessions.

Includes monthly follow-up email. Additional benefits may be added.

[Register Now!](#)



Pet Rescue Puzzle Piece

DRAWING

Drawing will be held Saturday, May 10.

UP NEXT!

05 | 01: Twin Cities Digital Day
BGL & Associates, LLC Studio | [Details](#)

05 | 21-22: National Scrapbook Day
BGL & Associates, LLC Studio | [Details](#)

05 | 29: Virtual C&C: Canvas & Coffee
via Zoom | [Details](#)

We've made a change for registrations! Now you can register for [Workshops](#) or [Events](#)!



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