Fence Brothers Relays Shelter Advice After Fall Surge in Stray Dogs

November 23, 2026

KENTWOOD, MI - November 23, 2026 -
A family dog that slips out of a yard in Kent County and is picked up as a stray can end up at a county shelter that was reaching capacity in late October, WZZM 13 On Your Side reported. Fence Brothers, a family-owned fence company in Kentwood whose customers often raise dogs getting out of the yard as a concern, is passing along the shelter?s own guidance on identification and found dogs to homeowners this month.

The Friends of Kent County Animal Shelter posted on Facebook that the shelter could become overfull after 60 stray dogs were brought in since Oct. 12, according to an Oct. 23 WZZM report. The station reported that the shelter turned to the public for help, asking residents to adopt, foster or share Lost & Found dogs so strays could get back home faster.

The October influx came after what the shelter describes as its usual peak. In the shelter?s August newsletter, Director Angela Hollinshead wrote that July through August is generally the peak intake season and that intake slowly declines into the colder months.

It was not the first squeeze of the year. In June, WOOD Radio reported that the shelter was nearing capacity. The county administrator?s office said only a handful of kennels were available and that many dogs were on mandatory stray hold, which limited space for lost, abandoned and emergency animals. A stray hold is a required waiting period that keeps a found animal available for its owner to claim.

The shelter?s August newsletter also describes what happens when an animal comes in. Each one is scanned for a microchip, a small implant under the skin that carries an identification number, and checked for ID. When staff find a chip or a tag, they contact the owner.

A 2009 Ohio State University study, published in the Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association, drew on shelter records from 2007 and 2008 at 53 shelters in 23 states. It found that microchipped dogs were returned to their owners at about two and a half times the overall return rate for strays. The biggest reason owners of chipped animals could not be found, the researchers reported, was an incorrect or disconnected phone number.

The June WOOD Radio report also carried a request from Hollinshead: residents who find a loose pet should hold it safely in the area where it was found for 24 hours and post it on social media and lost-and-found pages. She said that greatly increases the chance of a reunion.

Fence Brothers, which has served West Michigan since 2013, is run day to day by brothers Alec and Kyle Trierweiler. Dogs getting out of the yard are among the common concerns homeowners bring to the company, along with privacy, pool safety and security. Co-owner Alec Trierweiler answers customer calls and texts personally and is the company?s primary point of contact.

?A lot of the time, a dog is part of the conversation when somebody calls us about a fence,? said Trierweiler. ?That many dogs coming in at once means a lot of families out looking, and a lot of extra work for the staff and volunteers at that shelter.?

Homeowners can reach Fence Brothers for a free estimate at www.fencebrosmi.com or by calling (616) 348-9988. A customer review of the company?s work is available in full.

About Fence Brothers

Fence Brothers is a family-owned residential and commercial fence installation company located at 4477 E Paris Ave SE, Kentwood, MI 49512, serving West Michigan since 2013. The company builds wood, vinyl, aluminum, chain link and ranch fencing on-site, installs gates and gate operators, and handles permits and Miss Dig utility marking on every project.

Fence Brothers is insured, holds a 5.0 rating and Angi Approved status on Angi, was named a 2025 Angi Super Service Award winner, and backs installations with a five-year workmanship warranty. More information is available at https://www.fencebrosmi.com/.

###

For more information about Fence Brothers, contact the company here:Fence BrothersAlec Trierweiler(616) 901-8492alec@fencebrosmi.com4477 E Paris Ave SEKentwood, MI 49512

Fence Brothers

Fence Brothers is a family-owned fence company serving West Michigan since 2013. Founded by brothers Alec and Kyle Trierweiler, the company builds custom wood, vinyl, aluminum, and chain link fences across Greater Grand Rapids.

Website: https://www.fencebrosmi.com/

Email: alec@fencebrosmi.com

Phone: (616) 901-8492