

Alley Animals

Editor's Note

A month and a half ago we were under four feet of snow. Nearly every week in February meteorologists predicted another massive storm, beginning as torrential rain in the West or South, and developing into a blizzard by the time it gathered momentum and reached the east coast. Here in Maryland two blizzards landed their punches in less than a week. A few days later another major storm, barely missing our area, thundered through central and eastern Pennsylvania on its way to New England.

Drenching rains and record floods, frigid temperatures all the way down to Florida, a conveyor belt of blizzard-producing storms rolling across the country. From sea to shining sea with relentless persistence, winter pounded hardship and suffering beyond our ability to imagine onto the backs of the innocent. Homeless animals, wild animals, those tied out and thrown out, all felt the devastating wrath of winter.

In this area, many of us erroneously concluded after December's 20" snowstorm that we'd seen the worst, at least, of the frozen precipitation. When considering winter's nasty bag of tricks, including temperatures so frigid one can scarcely breathe the air, bone-biting wind and windchills in the single or minus digits, ice storms that make moving about dangerously difficult and, of course, snow, one would be hard-pressed to rank them in order of the suffering they cause. Inflicting hour after hour of horrific pain, all are deadly for animals trying to survive outdoors.

Nine long days passed after the onset of the first February blizzard before our alley teams could make a cautious trip back to the snow-packed streets. Even then, only a quarter of the alleys were remotely accessible, and a large percentage of the city *streets* hadn't been

cleared. Where plows had been through, they pushed mountains of snow into the entrances of many alleys, already blanketed with feet of snow, and the frozen mountains made access impossible. Reaching our locations in the few alleys we could get to meant we had to walk the length of each alley, wondering if the next step would mean plunging into a thigh-high drift. In some of the alleys the snow was undisturbed; in others, numerous pawprints in the snow told us animals (who weren't sealed in somewhere with no hope of escape) had been looking for something, *anything* to eat. After we trudged through the snow to the feeding spot, a place had to be cleared before putting down food, and this took effort and time; each alley was a whole new project.

We agonized as we waited those nine long days and nights before returning to the streets. Knowing hungry animals were no doubt braving the deadly snow and cold to make their way to the feeding place only to find it empty, was an image burning a hole in our daily thoughts. All of us cared deeply about animals everywhere who were taking a severe winter beating, but seeing in one's mind the familiar faces of animals one has come to know and care about, animals waiting *for us*, increased the overwhelming sense of helplessness and heartache.

Now but an unpalatable memory, the winter of 2010 mercilessly pounded animals who had nowhere to seek refuge. In search of any bright spot amid the abysmal devastation of winter, I could find only one. After the blizzards when people had dug out and once again hit the stores, I saw on the local news that one retailer quickly sold out of birdseed. It practically "flew" off the shelves. So humans, some anyway, did recognize the plight of wild animals losing their food sources underneath the interminable snow. Before heading back to

(continued on Page 2)

Help Us Help Them Tickets \$1.00 Each — Drawing Date is 6/14/10

Please join our Spring Raffle; we depend on the success of this fundraising effort to ensure that our work in the streets continues. Remember to include your **name** and **phone number** on returned tickets so that we can notify winners on the evening of the drawing.

1st Prize \$300.00 – Donated by Midstate Savings & Loan Association

2nd Prize \$200.00

3rd Prize \$150.00

4th Prize \$125.00

5th Prize \$100.00

Call 410-823-3319 for additional tickets.

Leave name, address and number of tickets desired.

Alley Animals

Editor's Note *(continued from Page 1)*

their frozen nests, at least some birds and squirrels would find an offering of kindness and nourishment.

Spring is now here, and thousands upon thousands of offspring will be born into a life of deprivation. As winter loosens its grip on the innocent, spring bites down hard. Its arrival brings new hardships to animals on the streets, hardships just as deadly as winter's but far less obvious. The earth's bright colors and fragrant blossoms sweetening the air may delight us, but will do nothing to aid the nursing mothers' consuming task of feeding and keeping safe their young in a thoroughly hostile environment. Kids have already begun training their dogs to kill by taking them through the alleys in search of small and vulnerable animals. Already we've seen the dead

they leave behind after the torture is completed. We aren't fooled by spring's seductive veil of sights, smells and sounds; years and years of experience have taught us to beware the danger hiding in the folds of warm temperatures and longer days.

Night after night, our return trips through the alleys happen because you care enough to support us. Only because of you can Alley Animals continue, and we are thankful to have you on our side. You make the difference, you give us the means to hit the streets each night and a piece of your spirit accompanies us as we turn into every alley. The things we see, the work we do may not be cheerful or pleasant, but we do it for innocent creatures who deserve an ally. If they don't have us, they have no one.

Memorials

In Loving Memory Of:

The precious dog who died in the crate.

Sandy & Bob Miller

Elinore Gordon.

Marie T. Gordon

Our beloved cat, **Hermies.**

Marvin & Sylvia

Trudy & Emma.

Wendy K. Steward

Terry Berkovsky and the **Berkovsky** cats.

Robert Berkovsky

My aunt, **Virginia Knowles**, who loved all animals with all her heart and in honor of her birthday, January 2, 1924.

Barbara Wallick

Bitsy & Sonny.

Anne B. Collins

Alvin & Betty Ford, who taught us to love all creatures great and small.

Mary-Jo Dale & David Ford

Luna, silent but talkative.

Joyce Briggs

Ndugu, a tiny African Pygmy hedgehog who crossed the Rainbow Bridge on 1-3-10.

The Metz Family

Morris Needle.

Helen Needle

My 5 wonderful dachshunds.

Maggie Hediger

Buddy & Muffie.

Rita Hockett

My precious **Jesse**. Sleep in peace, little one.

Audrey

Pharoah, a little cat I read about in the Catholic Review. She was the darling of Fr. Joe Breighner and she died after a valiant fight with leukemia and lymphoma.

Bobbie LaSov

For **TAJA**, who crossed the Rainbow Bridge September 18, 2009, beloved dog of Amy & Darrius Pergosky.

Kberry

Brandy, my beautiful calico cat. She was the runt of her litter, always tiny, but with such a beautiful face and a stubby tail like a shaving brush. She passed away this year at the age of 15.

Marguerite Brewer

Chrissy and **Lady**, two very noble and brave pets. I know they are finally at peace now. God bless them and give them a big hug for me.

Sandy Graham

Hawk, my niece Amber's Golden Retriever, who recently passed. He and his "brother" Buck were two of the dearest, gentlest dogs I've ever known. They were more than pets; they were true family members, and I'm praying for both of them

Sandy Graham

Ted Bates.

John & Eileen Miner

Victor Rodgers.

John & Maggie Miner

Yonkers.

John & Maggie Miner

Laurence Vernon Truitt.

Mrs. Theodore Tietge

JoAnn Crane & Joe Nejedlik

Paula T. Sanner

Gloria E. DiFonzo

Frank A. Traglia

Dick, my mother's big beautiful red cat, whom my sister and her sons cared for after my mother had several strokes. He had a long, happy life. We miss him dearly.

Jean E. Razulis

Logan B. Brewer.

Susy Pfarr and Rosie

Cleocatra, Isis and **Tiffany**. Beloved cats, gone but never forgotten and always loved.

Momcat (Ana A. Garcia)

Alley Animals

Memorials (continued)

My 14 year old Sheltie, **Whitney**, who was my shadow.
Teddi Schrock

Sweet Scooter, Paul & Irene Sallustio's beloved cat.
Joan Scroggs

Peter & Karen Andreasian's "baby" **Villikan**, a young kitten adopted from us who died Christmas Eve of heart failure at age 1-1/2.
Joan Scroggs

Elroy, the cat and **Tucker**, the dog. They were the best of friends, who were separated but for a short time, and now have the joy of each other's companionship once again. We miss you greatly but will see you again.
Leon and Linda Marthaler

Due to a sudden blood clot, my neighbors in Overland Park, Kansas, are mourning the loss of their rescued cat, **Angelo**. His daily presence in their window sill will be missed by me and my two cats.
Charleen Ponton

My dear wife, **Bonnie**, whom I lost November 13, 2008. Except for four years in the U.S. Air Force, I spent my entire adult life with Bonnie.
John Kleylein

My beloved cat, **Gully**, who left me on November 2nd, after more than 18 years of companionship and love.
Jacqueline West

Cuddles, adopted from Alley Animals.
Judith Scheuing

Gerda Deterer, President of Wildlife Rescue, Inc.
Lierra Lenhard & Enid Feinberg

Pub, my first guy cat, euthanized 12-25-09, age 16+ years. When it became evident his time was near, our vet and vet assistant generously met us at the animal hospital on Christmas morning so Pub would not have to suffer longer. He was adopted from DC Animal Control in 1995 as a stray; and since the streets had not been kind to him, he seemed content from Day One to be an indoor cat. He had a tiny meow but a super-sized purr and I believe, a brave heart.
Donna Rae Castillo

Chief, named after the hero firefighter, Francis X. O'Brien.
Marge Roberts

Lily White, a sweet black kitty, and my friend for 16 years.
"Lightly hold and gently keep
A small, good kitten in her sleep."
Dianne White

My dear **Stevie**, who died 12-12-09, just 2 weeks after a liver mass was discovered; and all my cats and dogs, those gone before and much loved.
Marybelle Page

Ken "Pop" Phelps.
Hank & Edna Kloczewski

Phoebe and **Zetta**, our two Scotties extraordinaire. We miss them greatly.
Barbara Patton

Takka and **Razzberry**, two of the dearest, sweetest cats to grace this earth.
Sandy Graham

Dewey, a big orange tabby, abandoned as a kitten at the Spencer Library in Iowa. After nearly freezing to death, Dewey was taken in by the librarians and given the love he deserved. For 19 years, he and the library director were inseparable. He touched thousands of lives, "one lap at a time."
Sandy Graham

Ruth M. Rathel, who died 5 March, 2010.
*American Legion Auxiliary Rosedale
J. Gregory Burgan
Jarrettsville Elementary School Social Committee
Jackie Panuska & Family
Joseph Lundin
Sarah Rathel
Sharon Rathel*

Muriel Harrison, 1912-2010.
*Bernard M. Melsage
Bertram Harrison*

William P. Taub, Bowie Maryland.
*Nadine A. Taub
Myra Keeler
J.L. Pickering
William & Noreen McCarthy*

William P. Taub, whose love and respect of cats was much admired by us.
Aleta & Bob Johnson

Gregory of St. Elizabeth Hall.
Virginia Elkins

Jessie, a darling orange and white kitty who brought Dick and Audrey DeVilbiss smiles and love for many unforgettable years.
Alice & Lilly

Lulabelle, a most remarkable big grey rabbit. Dee Patras rescued her after Alley Animals was notified someone abandoned her in a park. Under Dee's care, Lulabelle flourished. Her size and gorgeous coat were enough to catch the eye, her mischievous if life-loving personality captivated everyone fortunate enough to make her acquaintance.
Lillian G. Leslie

McDuff and **Angus**, sweet rat brothers, who joined adopted brother rat Campbell over the Rainbow Bridge in August and September 2009. Also **Danny**, my little white mouse, who died peacefully in his sleep in August 2009. He was adopted in January 2008 after being taken from bad circumstances by Animal Control officers. Frightened and aggressive when he came to me, he became over our 19 months together, gentle and sweet-tempered. He would hop right into my hand for playtime and kisses. He was a special boy.
Donna Rae Castillo

Alley Animals

In Honor Of:

Mildred C. Berger's 80th birthday. *Lauren Taylor
M. Marszalek
Suzanne Bailey*

Alice Arnold, may she be well and strong. *Diane Hankey*

Wishing health and hope for Alice in her courageous spirit. *Carolyn London*

My beloved daughter, **Ingrid**, who remains strong in the midst of adversity; she is a blessing and a miracle. And, **Prince Tai The Precious**; this highly developed Sealpoint Siamese and I share a deep bond of love and friendship which brings joy every day. *Einar Raysor*

Betsy Richardson. *Janice L. Retler*

John & Lisa Cozzolino, for all they do for the feral cats in Owings Mills. *Barbara Cozzolino*

My Mom, Margery Burger. *Kristin Winter-Jones*

My cat, Jesse James. *Ann B. Collins*

My aunt, Louise T. Keelty. *Michael T. Wyatt*

Kim Rodey, in celebration of her birthday. *Edna Kloczewski*

For Alice, God bless her. *Doris Richard*

Alice Arnold. *Joan Scroggs
Mary Castle Barthel
Gloria Cowen*

Alice, from another breast cancer survivor. *Judith Scheuing*

All the dogs, cats, and other of God's creatures that silently suffer each day. *Bobbie LaSov*

Kristin Jones. *Margery Burger*

Alice Arnold, whose story touched me. I hope her kindness and courage will be an inspiration to others. I know God has a special place for her, and she is in my prayers daily. I thank her for all she has done for God's creatures, and I know that in their own way, they do too. *Sandy Graham*

God bless Alice, a magnificent soul. *R.J. McConahy*

For all the courageous little mothers and their precious kittens; for all the chained dogs forced to endure a brutally cold existence. For all of God's precious creatures. *Doris Richard*

Our granddog Lucy, who was rescued when she was 8 months old. She had been abused but has turned into a wonderful dog. *Gran & Pop*

My friend, Virginia Foster. *Gloria A. Hirsch*

Marlee Wasserman. With Love and Thanks from *Aunt Joanie & Uncle Leon*

All the forgotten souls. *Tammy Dickson, Sparky, Baby, and Boojae*

For Alice Arnold, wishing you a total and complete recovery; for Lillian G. Leslie, wishing you continued strength; and for the tremendously caring and kind LaSov family whose In Honor Of I read in the newsletter—Trevor is so lucky! *Elisabeth Friedman
(mother of adopted Tanya, my cat child)*

My Scottish Terrier, Libbylass, who just had her 10th birthday. *Barbara Patton*

Two very special birthdays in March: My niece Mary, a blessing no words could adequately convey, celebrated her birthday March 5th. And March 30th, when the world's very best Dad turned 97. *Lilly*

We Cannot Save The World But We can Save Them From the World

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