

Alley Animals

Editor's Note

Winter is *always* hard on homeless animals. This winter, however, seemed worse. Long-standing records for low temperatures were broken with new depths of cold to the bone, and I cringe to think of the horrid wind chill factor increasing the pain experienced by animals who couldn't even find a tiny warm spot to rest. Frequent snowstorms, wind, cold, all the elements of winter present in a big way this year. I'm certain many tails, paws, and ears sustained permanent injury from frost-bite.

It isn't easy to venture out in single digit temperatures in the dead of night, especially when the wind whips your face and icy pavement forces every step to be slow and deliberate. Moving around in the streets takes longer in the winter, sometimes going from one alley to the next is painstakingly slow when garbage bags and other debris freeze to the ground, yet somehow we must move them out of the driving path to avoid flat tires or damage to the alley car. But, the hungry and hurting creatures remain abandoned to the streets, so we didn't think twice as we pushed through the long nights to do whatever we could and came away each time wishing we could do more.

Your donations made it possible for us to offer food to animals who could never find anything to eat in a landscape where everything was frozen solid. You made it possible for us to take some of them out of the alleys of the inner city. Your financial help, your prayers and your exceptional kindness have seen us through difficul-

ties and obstacles that might have been too much for a small organization to withstand. We struggle with low funds all the time, but we get by because *you're with us*. Compared to those of many groups, our supporters may be fairly small in number, but you're fiercely loyal to innocent creatures who endure the pain and suffering no one deserves to endure. Your undeterred loyalty to them and to our work on their behalf restores our faith in our own species. We see animals who've suffered greatly at the hands of human beings, but, because of you, the story doesn't end there. Wickedness isn't the only aspect of human nature present where they hide—because of you, we're in the alleys, too. And *you're there* in spirit beside us all the way.

Please join our Spring Raffle and keep our alley car's wheels turning in the direction of the inner city streets each night. We'll travel the alleys if you'll make it possible. Every raffle donation and ticket returned to us keeps the light of good burning in places where the darkness threatens and pain is a way of life for homeless animals. Please join our raffle and be our way back to them.

Please Consider remembering Alley Animals in your Will. Animals on the streets will go on suffering, and if you have been blessed in this life we hope you will consider sharing your blessings with the least fortunate among us.

Alley Animals 410-823-0899

Help Us Help Them

Tickets \$1.00 Each — Drawing Date is 5/30/2014

Spring is here, and so is our raffle fundraiser. We hope you will participate and help further our work so that the animals are not completely alone on the streets.

Remember to include your **name** and **phone number** on tickets you purchase and return to us so that we can notify winners on the evening of the drawing.

Your Name _____
Your Phone # _____

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 410-823-0899 for additional tickets.

Leave name, address and number of tickets desired.

I Will Not Forget You

One afternoon, a local news station reported a story about a city police officer who beat and choked his girlfriend's puppy to death. He then threw the puppy's body in a dumpster and texted photographs to the girlfriend. It was a developing story, and soon the other local stations began reporting it. The officer was identified, and his name and picture were on the news. He was put on administrative leave, and the last report stated he was being charged with a felony under Maryland's aggravated cruelty to animals statute. I hoped this would be a sustained effort by local news media, and the officer would feel publicly disgraced as well as prosecuted fully under the law. Finally, the perpetrator of animal cruelty would be known and (hopefully) punished; far too many of them commit their crimes without any consequence for the horrifying pain and death they cause to their wholly innocent victims.

The next morning as the story began gathering momentum, young Caitlyn Virts was abducted by her father and a multi-state Amber Alert issued. Understandably, local newscasts were entirely focused on the safe return of little Caitlyn, prompting frequent updates on the latest aspects of the search for her. Within a couple days the Amber Alert proved successful, and the child was found unharmed, *thank God*, while her father was taken into custody, charged with the child's abduction and her mother's murder. It was the best outcome in a horrible chain of events.

After Caitlyn was reunited with her family and the frantic nature of her circumstance subsided, I hoped maybe one or two local stations might do a follow-up story regarding the torture and killing of the puppy. After all, this horrendous crime was committed by a police officer. My hopes were dashed, however, due to the disappearance of the Malaysian airliner and the growing clash between Russians and the Ukrainian people. So much headline grabbing high-profile news flooded the airwaves, no room was left for reporting an incident of aggravated cruelty to an innocent creature.

I admit I was sorely disappointed that at least one local news outlet didn't explore this as a news story, delving into details that might have brought to light in this case the success of Maryland's strong anti-cruelty stance. So many good points waited to be made while drawing attention to an aspect of criminal behavior that needs to be more diligently exposed. If we treat cruelty to animals as if it doesn't matter, it will continue unabated. The animals will go on suffering and the criminals pay no price.

A busy news cycle brushed away this "minor" item, and the police officer sank into anonymity, his crime forgotten. It was as if no one cared, and the hope for a semblance of any justice for a puppy brutally killed was lost. So I dedicate this small piece in our newsletter to a

tiny being who represents so many other innocent creatures mercilessly tortured by humans. Some we have found in the city streets, but many suffered alone as this puppy did. If I were younger and more daring, I would climb to the rooftop of a tall building and shout with all my might: "*I will not forget you. I will not forget any of you.*" If my remembering the pain of animals who suffer is their only legacy, I will go on remembering and use the experience as a reminder of why I am involved in animal work. If I can make a mark against evil, a tiny indelible mark in this world, then perhaps someone else might come along and make it larger. And maybe someday, so very many vulnerable, innocent creatures won't be the forgotten ones who suffer, unrecognized, in the long shadow of human cruelty.

In Loving Memory Of:

The precious dog who died in the crate. *Sandy Miller
Bobbie LaSov*

Kathy Moran, our dear friend who passed away in 2008. Our group, Golf Goddesses, pays tribute to Kathy's life and memory by sponsoring a Golf Tournament every fall.

Susan Hyman & Golf Goddesses Tournament

My beloved husband. *Elizabeth Prenger*

Sam, Rudy, & Tuttle, my three beloved cats.

Joyce Jefferson

Baby, whom I rescued in 1998, along with her 2 brothers. She was with us for 15 years and was a super good kitty.

Diann Creager

Marilyn Huffman Daniels. *Frederick Graboske*

My dear friend, **Wilda Duncan**, who passed a few months ago, and is survived by her daughter, Elaine Cash.

Michele Hampton

My special aunt, **Audrey**, to whom I had become very close. Also my cousin, **Milly**; we lost her way too soon. She loved her dogs more than she did most people.

Sue E. Jones

The most wonderful cat, **Jody**. I miss her everyday.

Jackie Schwartz

Beulah, a chocolate standard poodle, who was our constant companion and loyal friend for ten wonderful years. RIP.

Betty & Lou Thomas

Alley Animals

Samantha & Sylvia.

Jim & Nancy

Martin, a friend of mine who passed away January 9th.

Barbara Wallick

Daisy & Willy.

Jo-Ann Whaite

Hermine Dawson.

Irene Ettinger

Thomas, the cat.

Ned Landis

Lillian Lowery.

Scott & Linda Nickel

Dick Evans, my beloved husband.

Jane Evans

Mrs. Vera Schissler, who loved animals.

*Ruth Hahn
Bertha Wajbel*

Sandee Winakur.

Sheila Bernstein

Beth Frank.

Jody & Howard Kesner

Terry Berkovsky, gone from this life but never from my heart.

Bob Berkovsky

My mother, **Mary Stark**, who cared so much about homeless animals.

Dorian Borsella

Denise Hamer, my beloved wife, who adored all animals.

George M. Hammer, III

My dear friend, **Pauline Steiner**, who made the world better for animals and loved them dearly.

Rosemary Chavez

My beloved **Maggie** cat, she took a piece of my heart with her.

Ann Bernhardt.

Mel Velten and his little Yorkie, **Pepper.**

Maggie Hediger

My beautiful black cat, **Elly**, who survived one brutal year on the streets and lived the next nineteen in a safe and loving home where she is now sorely missed.

Sandy Covahey

My beloved cat of 13 years, **Smokey**, who left this world 12/9/13.

Sandy Deel

Diane Hogg, our dear friend, who passed away on December 28th. She was a long-time animal rescue volunteer who gave us our dear cat, **Sparva**, who also passed in November.

Jean Razulis

Audrey DeVilbiss, who's passing I was so sad to hear of; what a beautiful, sweet, dear lady who gave so much of her home, time, and herself to the precious little ones who cannot speak of their hunger, pain, or fear—our four-legged babies whose many lives she and Dick helped. May we press on in her memory as she looks down on us from heaven. *Love & Prayers,*

Shelly Hampton, Dexter, & Gunner

Jacey, an abused cat who lived 4½ of her short 5 years of life with me. Despite her abuse, she was a sweet, sweet little cat which even her doctors acknowledged. During these years she enjoyed all the things my other cats do—lying in the sun, the fish pond, running as fast as she could within our big fenced-in yard. I'm deeply missing you, little Jace (she died Sunday, December 29th, at 2:30 p.m.).

Earnest Redeman

All the helpless animals that have died on the streets everywhere.

Barbara Smolinski

Gray Boy, an adult feral cat who showed up at our door in 1992. He was a beautiful gray cat with yellow eyes whom we fed everyday for 19 years, but who would not let us touch him or even get close. He eventually decided to live on our deck in a shelter we made for him. Two years ago, after much coaxing, he finally came inside where he lived out his days as a loving “snuggle bunny”. He recently succumbed to old age with his human parents by his side. He will always be our boy!

Sharon & David Nardone

Bell E. Button, adopted from Alley Animals in 1999. She started out as an abandoned puppy and grew into a beautiful 50 lb. “what the hell is it?” dog, who was loyal and loved very much. She crossed the Rainbow Bridge on 12/2/13 at the age of 14½. She is greatly missed by her fur siblings and her Mommy.

Pamela Stewart

My beloved **Sparky**, a little monkey living in a big people's world; that is what I would always tell him. I still struggle daily with grief from Spraky's not being here with me anymore. I miss him everyday.

Tammy Dickson

Bear-pup, a very special cat.

Michael J. Wolf, III

John & Lisa Cozzolino's three beloved cats who passed away this year, 2013.

Sherri Pennock

My beloved husband, **Daniel Hoffman**, who loved all animals.

Carolyn Hoffman

Alley Animals

Barbara Botsford.

John & Maggie Miner

My dad, **Charles Frederick Graham**, who, had he lived, would have been 100 years old on Dec. 19th. He was one of the finest human beings I've ever known. He was a loving, caring, dad, a devoted husband, a compassionate hospital administrator, and an all 'round wonderful person. He died 52 years ago, Jan. 3, 1962 at age 48, and I still miss him.

Sandy Graham

Sailor, who was "put to sleep" on Dec. 20, 2013 after losing a long hard battle with cancer of the liver. Autumn and Adam cared for Sailor for 5 years after his owners took him to them in a diabetic coma. They saved him, but he needed 2 insulin shots daily. He was about 13 years old when he died. He was a dear, sweet Chocolate Lab who was devoted to Autumn and Adam.

Sandy Graham

Donna Sexton, who cared so much about animals in need.

Anne Smawley

Our beloved Cocker Spaniel, **Sadie**, who crossed over the Rainbow Bridge on Dec. 17, 2013. Sadie was a rescue dog who came into our family in March of 2003, and changed our lives forever. Sadie had the sweetest disposition and loved everyone immediately. She loved to play with her toys and expected a new one every time we came into the house with a plastic bag. Naturally, she always found one in the bottom of the bag (but she wasn't spoiled—much). She was our constant companion and brought us joy everyday. She is greatly missed but will be remembered and loved forever.

Brenda & Don Richardson

Colleen Taylor's beloved cat, **Gracie**.

Roland & Leah Bark

Cindy Glorioso's lovely dog, **Samantha**.

Roland & Leah Bark

Baroness & Dr. Ghislaine Godenne.

John McCrea & Yvonne Sims

My beloved cats: **Cleocatra, Isis, and Felix**. Gone, but never forgotten and always loved. Felix, I still miss your waiting by the door for me welcoming me with your meows and head rubs. Rest in peace.

Love Always, Mom,

Anna A. Garcia

Noodles, a very special, beautiful white cat with sparkling eyes and a wonderful companion for 16 years to my friend, Joan, who is the best pet owner and caregiver an animal could ever wish for in life.

Barbara Wallick

Rascal and George, and

many other kitties from my childhood. *Shirley Landes*

The many loveable kitties I've lost over the years: **Muffin, Sheba, Puffball, Peaches, Pinkie, Trixie, Columbo, Gina, Twinkie, Sasha, Lady, Ko Ko, Yum Yum, Trapper John, and Winnie.**

Shirley Landes

My mother, **Ruth Pegg**, age 101, who died January 19.

Marlene Pegg

My gentle cat, **Noah**, who was my friend for 20 years.

Susan Dalton

Our wonderful (rescued) dog, **Flossie**. She was a senior when we found each other; we had 4 wonderful years together. We are donating in her memory in hopes of bringing a better life (or at least a meal) to other abandoned animals.

Merry and Jim Day

Our beloved **Armani**. You brought joy to us beyond description in the brief time you spent with us.

Patrice Green & Jerry Young

In Honor Of:

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

Michael T. Wyatt

Munchkin, my "Christmas Gift".

Jan Sinnott

Mercy, the kitten.

Liz Johnson

My beloved companion, **Clinton**.

Virginia Naylor

My wonderful friend, **Dawn Griest**, who does so much for animals and people.

Judith Eble

Judy Eble.

P. Jakubik

Mrs. Dorothy Bence.

Elaine Dombrowski

Peg Dolan, Julie Shacochis, and Missie Weidman.

Kathleen Dolan

Uncle Louis (Steinwedel), whose love for animals and his godsons knows no bounds.

Elizabeth Grove

Robin & Brandon Arnold, in celebration of their recent marriage.

Abby Sattell

Precious little **Mercy and Scruff**; for the compassionate ladies who saved those suffering creatures, Alice & Dee, a big thank you.

Doris Richards

All the saviors at Alley Animals who go out each night to try to ease the sorrow of all the homeless cats and dogs looking for love.

Mary-Jo Dale

Mr. Alan Merenbloom.

Virginia DeMeike

Alan Merenbloom, a good samaritan in the snow.

Julie Hendricks

My niece, **Mary**. Bravo! For all your hard work. I wish you much success in school and beyond.

Lilly

My **Dad**, whose recent 101st birthday reminds me how blessed I am to have him, the best Dad a girl could hope for.

Lilly