

# Alley Animals

## Editor's Note

You will find this Note unlike the others. This time the primary focus is not animals or our work directly, rather the topic and focus are personal. After many discussions, Alice and I decided it is fitting to share with you her recent and difficult challenge of facing cancer. President and founder of Alley Animals, Inc., Alice Arnold was diagnosed with an extremely aggressive and deadly form of breast cancer last February.

Because Alley Animals cannot afford to provide health insurance for its employees, months passed before Alice found financial assistance for the many necessary procedures, tests, and treatment. Not until we met with a team of doctors (radiologist, surgeon, oncologist) who would be instrumental in her care did we find out that Alice has not one but *two* separate and distinct cancers, a most discouraging development.

For weeks after that first long day of consultation, Alice underwent a barrage of scans and tests to pinpoint the cancer's progress in order to determine the most appropriate course of treatment. Her PET scan results showed a suspicious lymph node at the back of her chest, so Alice was scheduled for a highly delicate and dangerous biopsy of the node sitting directly atop the aorta as well as a vessel carrying blood to the lungs. Even a slight mistake during the surgery could spell disaster. A slim if energetic man, the surgeon who would perform the biopsy seemed thoroughly engrossed by his work as he described the procedure, which included deflating one of Alice's lungs. When we emerged from the meeting with him, I was confident that the next morning Alice would be "in good hands".

Three hours after I gave Alice a hug and watched as the nurses wheeled her on the gurney toward operating room #23, her surgeon rounded the corner into the waiting area. I felt myself falling into a daze as he explained his findings. It turned out that he did not need to biopsy the suspicious lymph node because (what the PET scan did not reveal) questionable tissue lined part of Alice's chest wall. The surgeon pulled a strip of this tissue for analysis and determined that it was, indeed, cancer. The main cause for this operation was to uncover whether the cancer was confined to Alice's breast, or if it had spread; her course of treatment rested on the answer. Now that we knew Alice was in stage 4, her oncologist could plan the right strategy.

To the bad news I can add some bits of good news. The surgeon who performed Alice's biopsy told me that breast cancer responds to treatment where other cancers may not. He said chemotherapy will be the backbone of her treatment, and Alice could do "beautifully". Another bright spot in this convoluted journey is Alice's oncologist. A consummate professional, she nonetheless brings an added element into her relationship with Alice, an element of approachability as well as a sense of humor. Most importantly she instills confidence, but a camaraderie with the person in charge of one's future lightens a difficult process.

At the time I write this (beginning of September), Alice has just completed her 3rd chemotherapy infusion and she has noticed improvement in the aggressive cancer. (The other cancer's tumor is small enough that a change in its size would be hard to detect.) We won't know Alice's official status until after more scans and tests chart her progress medically, but the fact that she has seen obvious improvement on her own is cause for loud cheers.

In 1993 my Dad suffered an aortic aneurysm. The ER surgeon who repaired the aorta told us he hadn't expected Dad to live through the operation, and gave him a mere 12% chance of making it past the first 24 hours. Four months later my Dad left the hospital and (thankfully) went on to a remarkable recovery. From this experience I learned a singular lesson: a fighting spirit and strong will greatly increase one's odds of defeating the fiercest enemy. My Dad never lost his will to fight through a devastating medical condition, and he won. As long as I've known Alice, she has faced challenges with a determination to succeed, a character trait I believe absolutely essential if she is to reign victorious over this loathsome disease.

Since the initial diagnosis, Alice has refused to feel sorry for herself. She hasn't let go of her responsibilities or life in general. From the beginning of her treatment she missed only *two nights* of her alley work. Alley team members Dee, Donna, and Sheri stepped in to ensure Alice's route was covered so that she could rest with a peace of mind knowing the animals were not neglected.

Cancer is a formidable obstacle, but Alice is a formidable opponent. Although I've seen glimpses of vulner-

(continued on Page 2)

# Alley Animals

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

ability in this friend of mine whom I've known for 25 years, these are but transitory moments. The headstrong Alice soon returns.

For more than 20 years, Alley Animals has weathered many a storm while marching forward. We may be a small group, but we're dedicated. Since the mid 1980's we've pursued our cause, we are not a flash-in-the-pan or a fly by night organization. One point Alice wanted me to stress so that if you come away from these paragraphs with nothing else, you come away with this: Alley Animals will go on. We're involved in this work not because it's a job, but because *we believe in what we do*. Day and night, animals on the streets strive against danger as well as wicked adversaries, and we at Alley Animals cannot—we will not—turn away from those who depend on us for the only good they find in a life of unrelenting burden.

## Memorials In Loving Memory Of:

My beloved husband, **Bill**. *Ann L. Todd*

My dear husband, **John E. Norman**.  
*Norma J. Norman*

**Eleanor Karas**. *Girl Scout Troop 2547*

**Charles W. Warren**, my son. *Elva Elzey*

Our beloved stray cat, **Hermies**.  
*Marvin Feuerberg & Sylvia Rosenfield*

The precious dog who died in the crate. *Sandra Miller*

**Jessie Batch**. *John & Shirley Rice*

My three darlings: **Big Blue**, **Dearest Otto**, and **Lonnie Girl**. I miss you so. *Josie Forrest*

**Jessica Bachman**, March 1989—September 2008.  
Mom & Dad will always love you. *Gabrielle Bachman*

Judi & Oscar Rasmussen's boy, **Boonie**, their precious  
15 year old dog. With love from *Randy & Marlee*

**Isis**, **Cleocatra**, and **Tiffany**, my cats who are in  
Heaven. Gone but never forgotten and always loved.  
*Momcat (Ana A. Garcia)*

**Campbell**, my blue hooded rat, euthanized May 12, 2009, due to a malignant tumor. Despite his many health problems, he was sweet natured to the end and is missed by his fellow adopted brothers, Angus and McDuff. Rest in peace, gentle rat.

**Lucy Littlemouse**, euthanized March 9, 2009 due to a tumor, at age 14 months. A tiny black and white mouse, she made everyone who met her smile. She loved play-time with her adopted sister, Thomasina Littlemouse. She was very special and is much missed.

*Donna Rae Castillo*

**Scruffy** and **Laddie**, two plucky little strays who gave my life more meaning for several years. I learned a lot from them.

And **Fluffy** and **Perkie**, two sweet pets long gone but never forgotten.

*Sandy Graham*

**Spot** and **Squirt**, who were 2 canaries I had at the same time as Crocker Spaniel. They had been hand-raised by a friend. They loved each other as long as they were in separate cages. (Both were boys.) If you stood between their cages they would get very upset until you moved and they could see each other again. They also watched Crocker as he played with his ball, even when he'd have to retrieve it under their cages! Spot and Squirt are buried together, next to Crocker, at the Humane Society. They loved to sing and sing.

*Roberta LaSov*

For my beloved "baby" **Bitsy**, who was adopted from a shelter by my late husband, Oscar E. Collins. My husband chose Bitsy and quickly ran from the shelter—Bitsy was the first dog in the first run. He could not look at the faces of the other dogs and leave them behind. My Bitsy was 10 yrs. and 4 mos. old.

All of our many, many dogs and cats were rescued from the streets.

*Ann B. Collins*

**Hattie (Hathor)**, beloved cat of Audrey & Dick DeVilbiss.

*Sha Emminizer & kitties*

**Fuzzy & Scruffy Graham**, two of God's greatest creations.

*Sandy Graham (their guardian while they were here)*

**Lucky** of Mt. Carmel, a good friend.

*Frances Studnicki*

**Ray**, my beloved friend of 65 years who was more like a brother to me than a friend.

*Jean I. Hirsch*

**Chapin & Illelo**, beloved companions of Patricia Hunt.

*F. Crowley*

# Alley Animals

My precious **Patrick**, who died on July 4th, his 14th birthday. He was the sweetest guy I know! He loved to cuddle and have his head kissed; he purred all the time and I miss his love very much. *Jean I. Hirsch*

**Mary & Otto Stark**, committed caretakers of animals in need, people whose compassion touched the lives of many who had nothing. *Alley Animals, Inc.*

**Bonnie Blue Shifler**, our precious, beautiful baby girl kitty. She was our official household supervisor and ball collector, full of sugar and extra spice. *From Mommy*

Our dear friend, **Barbara Williams**. We were friends for 33 years but in a split second you were gone. We miss you so much. *Sheila & Carl Bernstein*

**Bear & Brinkley**, who passed away two years ago. Brinkley was adopted from Alley Animals. I miss you both so much. Love your Mom, *(Darlene Krawczyk)*

**Koko**, Jeri Golick's new kitten who died from feline polio. Such a short time on earth and how lucky Koko was to have you. *John & Eileen Miner*

Our Sheltie, **Tai Chi**. *Barbara & Thomas Partenope*

**Cindy Berger** and **W. Russell Berger**, her Dad. *Millie Berger & sister, Chris*

Einar Raysor's precious **Yum-yum**. *Alley Animals, Inc.*

**Coach**, beloved greyhound of our friends, Brian and Jann Barrows. Coach was very loving and appreciative of his care and the love bestowed on him. *Mr. and Mrs. Robert Warden*

**Pandora**, my sweet friend and companion of 15 years, an adorable Shih-Tzu who left me on July 3, 2009. I will miss her always. *Dale A. Uhlman*

**Arpeggio**, our beloved Cavalier, who was almost 15 years old and the love of our lives. *Arlene & Bob Hochberg*

Our treasured companions: **Pumpkin Pie**, **Peekin**, **Smokey**, **Bear**, **Rascal**, **Brandy**, **Pookie**, **Reba**, **Fluffy**, **Morris**, **Katarina**, and **Nippy**. *Carolyn & Dan Hoffman*

**Thomas**, the cat, and three special dogs, **Wolfe**, **Sheena**, and **Shadow**. *Helen Needle*

**Prissy**, who (along with his brother, Bear-Pup) was found starving in the ceiling of an abandoned mobile home in Winston Salem, NC. Part Siamese, Prissy took to me and would arise every morning and share breakfast with me! He always let you know what he wanted and when. He developed pneumonia and, due to a congenital heart defect, we all lost Prissy. *Wolfman (Michael Wolf)*

**Doris V. Spindler**, a compassionate person who meant so much to the people who knew her and to the animals about whom she cared. *Charlene & Robert Spindler*

*Carole Uhlig*  
*Linda Maus*  
*Theresa Booth*  
*Kelly Fitzgerald & Family*

**Dolly**, my beautiful, funny beagle mix baby girl. And **Maude**, the wonderful mother of five kittens who came to me for fostering after being abandoned. *Sharon Nardone*

**Scramble**, a friend for sixteen years. Gone from the world, but never from my memories. *Paul Beyard*

## In Honor Of:

**Ginny Foster's** special day: Happy Birthday! *Melissa K. Moore*

**Lenny Seliger** and **Richie Alperstein**. *James & Diane Rosenfield*

**Starry**, the midnight star, an absolute character who demonstrates that the depth of feline love is endless. And **Richmond**, the inscrutable lap-loving mischief maker. *Lilly*

For the "**Rainy Night**" puppy, discarded like trash (thank God he had the strength to cry out) and thank you Alice!

For **Smokey** and all victims of animal hoarders; thank you, Dee!

And, for **Miss Birdie**, who will live happily ever after. *Doris Richard*

The best sister **Mitzi**, and the best cat, **Ellie**. *Anne L. Bennett*

All the caring people involved in Alley Animals' work. *Deborah Szymanik*

A mighty **Viking**, in observance and celebration of her 90th birthday. *Lillian G. Leslie*

# Alley Animals

## Help Us Help Them Tickets \$1.00 Each — Drawing Date is 11/16/09

Please include your telephone number on each returned ticket; additional information would be helpful but not necessary

**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.

Sorry, we goofed on tickets.  
Please fill out as usual.

These days a tight budget restricts everyone's spending, including ours, but if you can spare anything for raffle tickets (or a small donation if you do not participate in raffles), you will make a difference for innocent beings who haven't even the most basic security of a safe place to sleep. We're a small local organization with severely limited funding—our Spring and Autumn Raffles play a critical role in the continuance of our nightly travels through hundreds of alleys.

As always, we salute you for caring about ones whose pain and struggle you will never witness firsthand. This is the highest form of unselfishness, because the good your financial assistance achieves will not be returned to you other than in knowing you gave of what you have that ones you will never meet might find it a little less difficult to make it though the night.

**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.

### Special Thanks:

*In recognition of Demetria Patras, for taking on extra duties during this time when Alley Animals needed her. Not only dedicated to her work, she is a good friend.*

**Alley Animals 410-823-0899 or  
410-785-2665**

### Wish List

Cat Food (dry & canned)    Bleach  
Dog Food (dry & canned)    Paper Towels  
Large plastic trash bags

We gratefully appreciate donations in response to our Wish List.

**If you have items to donate, call Dick at  
410-823-3319**

*We Cannot Save The World But  
We Can Save Them From the World*

I want to help. Enclosed is my donation of: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ . Check here if you wish an acknowledgment.

Please fill in below if name and address are incorrect on mailing label.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to Alley Animals, Inc.  
P.O. Box 27487 Towson, MD 21285-7487

Contributions are tax deductible under Section 501(c)(3) of IRC.  
Our web site: <http://www.alleyanimals.org>  
Our email address: [info@alleyanimals.org](mailto:info@alleyanimals.org)