

Alley Animals

Editor's Note

One summer when I was just a youngster, I noticed a very thin dog hanging around the corner store in my neighborhood. Even now (I don't like to think how many years later), I can still see her with her tail between her legs standing on the sidewalk in front of that store. I don't know what brought her there, I never saw anyone offer her food, but I did see a store employee kick her. I ran home and told my older brother. He took me back there immediately to find out what happened. My brother wasn't confrontational with the man (who denied kicking the dog), but he let the man know he was aware of his actions, I guess hoping this would act as a deterrent for the future. Summer turned to fall and the dog was still there.

One day I saw her lapping water from a filthy puddle. She must have been quite thirsty because in the puddle was a small plastic toy, a couple inches in length, which she swallowed and kept lapping. This horrified me. I ran home again and told my parents. I remember relaying

only those two incidents about the poor dog, the kicking and swallowing the toy, but perhaps I brought more stories home than I remember because soon after, my parents decided the situation could only be resolved by taking in the dog as part of our family.

After this decision, my mother's first action was to make an appointment at the vet's office for the dog to be spayed. Of course vaccinations and other standard medications were administered as well, but spaying was the priority. I wasn't even 10 years old, so I had no clue as to the significance of it or of my mother's extraordinarily responsible outlook. She was, indeed, ahead of her time. I told my friends about taking in the dog and how we had her "spaded." I didn't know what spaying was, but I knew my parents considered it a necessity, so I figured it was something I could brag about. Decades later, I now know I was right.

I grew up with that dog by my side; I took her on long walks through the neighborhood, and everyone we met along the way gave her a warm greeting. The last

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Help Us Help Them

Tickets \$1.00 Each — Drawing Date is 12\15\2017

Please include your name and phone number on each ticket purchased; winners will be notified on the evening of the drawing.

1st Prize \$300.00

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.

When we first contemplated the possibility of an Autumn Raffle, we wondered if this particular time might be less than ideal due to the onslaught of recent hurricanes. Because Alley Animals' supporters are especially caring and generous, many of you may have already contributed to the efforts to help the animals and people displaced by Harvey, Irma, Jose, and Maria. While we're aware that your pocketbooks might be lighter after having helped the massive rescue effort, our work does continue. The timing of our raffle mailing might not be the best, but ultimately we realized the appropriate judge of whether or not you can support it is...you. We press on in our nightly travels through the inner city streets and alleys, and it doesn't hurt to ask for your help.

If you can join our raffle event, we offer our sincerest appreciation. Each ticket purchased helps sponsor our trips through hundreds of alleys. If you aren't able to support our raffle, we know you put your resources to good use in response to the devastation visited on so many innocent creatures and people as well.

Whether you support our raffle or helped organizations offering disaster relief, we thank you. It is your goodness that keeps our world from becoming a place of irreversible darkness where violence and human wickedness toward the innocent goes on unchecked. You are the reason the light of good keeps shining.

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year of her life she was not well. Unfortunately, our veterinarian was less than competent and diagnosed her with heart worms—which she didn't have, but we didn't know it until it was too late. I was away when my mother took her to another vet who recognized right away our gentle dog needed surgery. Wise and caring, my mother told the vet if he found a dire condition that couldn't be treated, to euthanize her while under anesthesia. And that's how the once skinny, homeless dog begging for food at a corner store left us.

Looking back, I realize this was my childhood introduction to the plight of homeless and abandoned animals. I'm proud of my parents for allowing us to take in the dog, and I'm grateful she taught me how much a part of one's family—one's life—a homeless animal can become, even if I was too young to grasp the underlying lesson at the time. Our planet might be a better place for animals if more youngsters had experiences similar to mine as well as parents ready to set the example of direct, compassionate action.

Our Autumn Raffle will likely be our final mailing of 2017. Newsletters and raffles require a substantial amount of time, and I've noticed time grows stingier with its daily allotments. Through the years additional tasks have found their way into my backpack of duties, and promptly completing all the things I need to do stretches the hours thin. I very much doubt I'll discover hidden blocks of time ready to offer themselves toward a year's end newsletter, so our next planned mailing will occur in 2018.

For many years your loyal support has carried us back to the alleys, and it is a privilege to thank you for remembering the noble creatures enduring daily hardship on the streets of the inner city. Because you remember them, we travel the alleys. You've reserved a place in your life, in your spirit, for the hidden suffering of the homeless animals—in this you stand apart from the many human beings who withhold compassion and refuse mercy toward the innocent ones among us. You are our rock and our foundation as you send us back to the hungry and homeless, and every time we return to them we know you're there, too.

We wish all of you a productive and peaceful rest of this year, and a joyful holiday season.

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.

In Loving Memory of:

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

Joan Welch, Sandi McMillin's beloved mother. Joan loved animals, especially Sandi's two boxers.

Love, Edna & Hank

Bailey. *Ann L. Todd*

Mischa. *Sarah Kaplan*

All my pets. *Jo-Ann Whaite*

Dale R. Houck. *Myra Houck Specht*

Sparky & Grey. *Mary Elliott*

Bear-Pup & Prissy. *M.J. Wolf*

My Dad, **Joseph Hartman.** *Dawn Mulqueen*

Joseph Hartman. *Jeri & Gene Wilkins*

Jesse Elkins. *Toni Fowler*

Melissa F. Martin *David Lynch*
Jane Johnston
Friends and Colleagues from the
Office of the Public Defenders in Baltimore County

My beloved mother, **Jessie Batch.** *Shirley Rice*

Lora Kincade & Charles Kincade.
Robert Kincade & S.K. McCullin

For my beloved wife, **Denise**, who loved animals.
G.M. Hamer, III

Rocky, our beloved little Beagle. *Gail & Tom Koch*

Our yellow Lab, **Mac**, a rescue who adored cats!
Susan B. Maule

Donnie, our sweet girl for 22 years. Miss you.
Frnacis Ames

Chessie, my calico cat of 18 years, and **Marge Kelly.**
Steven Kline

Samson, our sweet and gentle "Hemi" boy.
Jim & Nancy Gibson

Rocky, precious cat, crossed over in May 2017.
Karen Wolf

Alley Animals

Bailey, beloved tuxedo cat of my dear friends, B.&S. Sherry.
Debby Smith

My sweet angel monkey, **Sparky**; I cry for him almost every night and I still miss him everyday.
Tammy Dickson

Hans, Gretel, Heidi, Maxie, & Fritzie, my 5 Doxies.
Maggie Hediger

Our precious cat, **Marmalade**, who came in from the rain and brought sunshine to our lives.
Irene & Paul Sallusito

Marion Bence, my good neighbor. *Mary Elaine Gabor*

Mr. & Mrs. Munley's beloved dog, **Lilly**, who passed away in September 2017.
Leah & Roland Bark

Bridget, a beautiful blind horse who spent the last few years of her life at The Cow Sanctuary in New Jersey. Now she's reunited with another blind horse, Remedy, who was her special friend at the sanctuary.
Sandy Graham

Bruce Bonn.

*Trina Wetherald
Barbara Murphy
Lori Faircloth
Friends at SSA
Joan Simon*

*Marie Brannan
Cliff Walsh
Patty Gilman
Donna & Nelson Izquierdo*

Stan Puciul, my beloved husband, who passed away in June 2015. He worked tirelessly to help animals every day and had a true respect for all living beings.
Marilyn Puciul

Winston, our beloved black and white cat. A big personality and clown who loved to lie on my chest.
Sherri & Mike Pennock

Our beautiful cat, **Asia**, he is our second loss this year.
Sherri & Mike Pennock

For the pets who enriched our lives: **Herb, Stashu, Gracie, Dixie, Pixel, Bo & Mollie.** *Frances Studnicki*

Honey, a neighbor's dog whose unbounded spirit loved chasing after a bit of bread and all that life offered.
Craig Giles

Duffy "Doodle" Beer, 14 yrs., went home 06/01/16;
Carson Diggins, 14 yrs., went home 02/01/17;
"Trooper" Close, 11 yrs., went home 07/01/17. We lost 3 Westies in 13 months, 2 were our rescues. All beloved.
J. Norma Beer

My mother, **Trudi Mitchell**. She died in September of 2015 at 94 years old. As a child, I remember her putting out goodies for all the poor homeless and mistreated animals in the alleys of the area where she lived in downtown in Mt. Vernon.
R. Mark Mitchell

Mrs. Rosalie Benner, animal lover, who took in my mother's aged cat (16+) when she could no longer care for him. Mrs. Benner did not flinch when "Willie" ran up a large medical bill. The cat lived about 3 more years.
Dorian Borsella

Dr. Stanley Platman, my compassionate doctor whose love of animals led him to take in an abandoned, starving pit bull wandering the streets of Baltimore.
Dorian Borsella

Rosemary, our sweet rescue Beagle, who departed too soon but left such a wonderful presence in our hearts.
Kim & Tim Sparklin

My beloved cat, **Toby**, who battled cancer for 3½ years. He finally succumbed on June 1, 2017. Those years were a special gift because, following my retirement three years ago, I was able to spend a lot more time with him. Most of that time, he was in good shape, eating heartily and enjoying life, albeit at a slower pace. Fortunately, his final decline was rapid, and although the end was heartbreaking, memories of all the good times during his 16 years (he was estimated to be 2 years old when I got him from the County Humane Society) have been flooding back. Since it is "documented" that cats suffering from nasal carcinoma live a maximum of 2 years following surgery, Toby's 3½ (mostly good) years were a true blessing.
Francine Jamin

For the precious dog who died in your car after avoiding you for so long. No precious pet should be subjected to so much suffering on the streets, totally abandoned. It broke my heart.
Doris Richard

My sweet dog, **Bubba**. We rescued Bub during a snowstorm in February, 2007. He was about two years old, unneutered and was running down a highway with a dart embedded in his neck. For the next 4½ years, he was the beloved companion of my friend, Dale. On July 3, 2011, Dale died in his sleep and poor Bub was alone with Dale's body for five days. He came to live with me—I never knew how sweet, intelligent and loving pit bulls were until I met Bub—until his death of a twisted intestine on January 26, 2017. I loved him dearly and will miss him always.
Sharon Drescher

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In Loving Memory Of: *(Continued from Page 3)*

Woodie; a grand cat in every way. He came to garden with me and stayed forever. Over the bridge 5/10/17 of heart failure. Surrounded by his family and Susan, our pet sitter, who came to share in his passing. RIP

Wendy South

Starry, Richmond, & Gretchen, feline family members who enriched all our lives, particularly my niece, **Mary**, and my **Dad**. Each of their losses left us with empty places where they used to sleep, perch, and cuddle, but they also left us with volumes irreplaceable memories reminding us of how much they loved us.

Lilly

In Honor Of:

Sandra Fellerman, the World's Most Wonderful Mother.

Rosanne & Marty Horowitz

Our four wonderful Grand Kids! **Adam, Darcy, Alex, & Jena**.

Sheila & Carl Bernstein

Our "Dobie" Raven.

Sheila & Carl Bernstein

My grandson, **Jack Molesworth**, in celebration of his 21st birthday.

God Bless, Granny-Carolyn Orandle

Happy Birthday to the most wonderful, special Mom-We love you so much.

Rosanne & Marty Horowitz

Debby Smith, in celebration of her love of animals and the life-changing kindness she offered us.

Anne Postich & Carole Downes

Yvonne, the 10 year old dog I adopted from a shelter in March 2017. I had been totally lost after losing Sweet Pea and Tippy. Yvonne adjusted to her new home in a very short time. Of course, she has taken over everything, including my bed.

Doris Richard

The safe return of our cat, **Lilly**, who was lost at a hotel in Savannah, GA while we were driving home to Pennsylvania from Florida. She was found 13 days later by a dedicated cat lover who never gave up on finding her. My husband flew to Savannah and brought Lilly home to Philadelphia. We will be forever thankful.

Sandi Robers

To **God** who created all and He blessed us with family, friends and animals. We are grateful for **Shad**, our fifth Siamese cat. God knew what we needed and the companionship of people and animals does our hearts good.

Patricia & Richard Decker

Laura Majchrzak: Happy birthday to the world's best cat mom!

Polly Roberts

Jasmine, my beautiful white Oriental Shorthair with gorgeous dark blue eyes, who turned 19 years old on July 16, 2017. She has kidney disease but is still happy, sweet and loving. I love her company and sweet disposition.

Love and hugs, *Mom (Ana A. Garcia)*

My dear niece, **Mary**, whose delightful onstage portrayal of Vera in *The Odd Couple* (female version) made me one very proud aunt.

Lilly

Spring 2017 Editor's Note Addendum

At the end of my editor's note in the Spring 2017 issue of our newsletter, I referenced a bill sponsored by Delegate Clarence Lam. The bill extended to first responders the Good Samaritan Law protection, ensuring they could legally assist animals in situations of distress or crisis. Fortunately for animals and first responders, the bill is now law in the State of Maryland, thanks not only to Delegate Lam's leadership, but also a great deal of hard work by the volunteers at Maryland Votes for Animals, PAC-Inc. www.voteanimals.org. Making progress for animals legislatively can be a convoluted path, requiring a willingness to set aside frustration in dealing with political bodies while seeing things through to their conclusion. Anyone wanting widespread victories for animals can be grateful for people endowed with the fortitude exhibited by the volunteers at Maryland Votes For Animals, who have accomplished much-needed changes through legislation.

In addition, the people of Wildlife Rescue, Inc. www.wildliferescueinc.org have attained difficult victories on behalf of deer and other wild animals through sustained efforts. Their landmark deer sterilization project was not an easy achievement. Hands-on work with animals can strain one's emotional stamina, but navigating the obstacles when negotiating with people in powerful positions must surely test the limits of one's mental stamina as well. Persistence by the people at Wildlife Rescue paid off, because the deer sterilization project has greatly improved the lives of deer in Maryland.

Although Alley Animals' work is in the streets and alleys of the inner city, we applaud and respect members of other organizations who weather the many and varied storms along the way toward important successes for all

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**Please make checks payable to:
Alley Animals, Inc.**

Alley Animals

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