

Alley Animals

Editor's Note

At this time of year, when we humans surround ourselves with family and friends, when we decorate our yards and houses, when we give thanks for the marvelous blessings we ordinarily take for granted, and look forward to festive parties and gatherings, the separation between humans and the animals who have nothing but pain and hardship every single minute looms large in my mind.

I hear songs about good will and peace on earth, and my heart yearns for it to be so. Always the real world shakes me loose from my yearnings. I recognize the goodness and peace are not meant for the wholly innocent born into a world that does not welcome them. Human beings hope and pray for peace and good will, yet we are the ones ravaging this planet with violence and destruction, we are the ones spreading hatred. The peace and good will described in so much of this season's music ignores those who are without wickedness. At least once each year during this time of celebration by people, I turn my face skyward and plead, "Haven't they suffered enough? Don't *they* deserve some measure of peace on this earth?" Each year, my pleadings yield the same answer—no end to their suffering.

In order to get as much productiveness from the day as possible, a few mornings ago I was out before dawn; I made my rounds, dropping things off at the doorsteps of those needing items from me, picking up the items left for me. Making my way from one place to the next, I was driving on a major thoroughfare when something off to the side caught my eye. A deer had looked up to watch me pass. She surprised me, and reflexively I hit the brakes to slow down as I passed her when I saw another, smaller deer lift her head to look at me, and another, and another. I was dazed as I kept going. This lovely family was foraging for food and water in a tiny thicket surrounded my multi-laned roads, businesses, a major school, houses, and an apartment complex.

My heart ached for them. So unassuming, so gentle, so magnificent, these creatures forced to navigate our urbanized and hostile landscape in search of a few sprigs of nourishment. Worse still, I intruded upon them with my glaring headlights and loud engine; they were an unexpected vision of pristine innocence that I soiled as I interrupted them with the possibility of something else to fear.

At that moment I saw in them a fragile peacefulness. They bring peace to earth, a peace we so love to destroy. We repay their gentle gift by taking their habitat, forcing them to return to this tiny thicket with no protection from the deadly dangers waiting to harm them.

In the streets, we force homeless animals to seek shelter in filthy, abandoned buildings because there are no human families to offer them refuge. Homeless animals by the thousands, each a special individual, feel the full force of coldness from the human spirit. We repay their innocence and ability to love us by turning our backs on them, or worse. They are tortured and killed by members of the same species whose songs at this time of year proclaim goodness and light.

I think of the quotation, "Whenever you have done it for the least of these, you have done it for me" and I know that as much of an uphill battle as is traveling the streets and alleys night after night, we will continue. The creatures struggling with life and death every minute of their lives deserve far more than our small organization can possibly offer, but we must do what we can for the least fortunate among us, the least of these. They deserve goodness and mercy, and they bring to this world gifts we ignore, yet what they find here is burden upon burden heaped on their backs every minute of every day. We can't make things right for them, the job is far too enormous—more so than even the aware and compassionate person realizes.

But we will return to the alleys, knowing all too well we must do our best to avoid the people who not only hate the innocent creatures struggling there, but who also hate us for trying to help them. We'll go back to the streets night after night because they endure burdens of hardship we can't begin to comprehend; while goodness and mercy refuse to look kindly upon the least of these, we cannot turn away.

So please remember them in your thoughts and prayers this season, remember the ones who bring no violence or hatred to the world yet constantly live under the threat of both. Though they receive none, they deserve peace and good will for they are goodness and light.

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

Alley Animals

Memorials

In Loving Memory:

Callie Pafel—who died on 09-18-06, beloved cat of Tracy L. Pafel. *Ed & Nancy Foltz*

Billy—faithful kitty companion on the journey. *Ina F. Way*

Sabastian—my loving yellow tabby who was my devoted companion for over 15 years. *Virginia Baker*

In memory of my cat, **Maude**—my sweet Maudie died 09-07-06. *Sharon Nardone*

My sweet cat **Daisy**—who will forever remain in my heart, and who gave me 8 years of joy. *Mare Reasons*

Elizabeth Dinges—and her beloved pets, **Precious** and **Sunnie**. *Carole Scoone*

The little "**Shadow**" dog—of Lillian Leslie's story in the Fall 2006 newsletter. *Natalie Pawlow*

In memory of our son, **Ron**, who lost his battle with cancer on 9/1/06. *Arlene & Bob Hochberg*

My **Perdie girl**—a beautiful, loving girl pup who loved everyone and everyone loved her. She was 17 years old. *Theresa Chonoski*

Fern, Cycle and Little Orange, three shelter cats, rest in peace. *Donna Rae Castillo*

Conan, a beautiful male Belgian Tervuren I adopted from the Montgomery County Animal Shelter in 1987. He lived with me in MD for 2 years, in MN for 8 years, and in FL for 2 years. He was put down in Sept. of 1999 for health reasons. He was an intelligent and faithful companion. I cried like a baby when he was gone. Conan will never be forgotten. *James R. Burnett*

Ollie, our sweet little dog with a big personality. You left your paw print on our hearts. *Evie & Ted Tontrup*

Ollie. *Ed & Nancy Foltz*

My Dad, **Jerry**, who died in June at age 90. He is up there with all his dogs that went before him who were so beloved by him.

Our dog **Butch**, who died in July at age 15. He was a great companion to our Alley Animals dog, Sam. We love and miss them both very much. *Jackie Mantua*

My sweet little 4 year old kitty, **Minnie**. She was a real comedian. One of her greater tricks was to mcow and yawn at the same time, it sounded like she was yodeling. *Mrs. Jean Hirsch*

Phillip Foos, a kind and gentle man, who touched many lives with his generosity. We will miss you.

Evie & Ted Tontrup

Tucky & Diva Ramsey

Harriet C. MacLarty

Regina R. Russell

Judith & Jerome Dyba

Ed & Nancy Foltz

Susan & Eric Fisher

Mr. & Mrs. Edward Skinner III

Bob & Penny Stiffler

J.L. Abel

Deanna & Don Coll

Witches Brew I and Witches Brew II, long-haired torties and lap-sitters beyond compare. *Sandy Covahey*

In memory of **Muffie** and **Buddy**. We loved them dearly. *Rita Hockett*

My beloved sister, **Bessie**. *Mrs. Jean Hirsch*

Owen, a once abandoned, abused and terrified Beagle mix who was rescued by members of your organization twelve years ago. Lynn Ackert fell in love with him and adopted him. Under her loving care, Owen became her devoted companion. He finally learned how to be a dog. Lynn married my nephew, and Owen became a loved member of our family until he died, this past August 2nd. We all mourn him, Lynn most of all.

Virginia L. Noble

Benjamin Franklin, who passed away September 18, 2006. *Monumental Life Service Center*

Corinne Walls

Johnnie Walls

Katherine Campbell

Shirley Brooks

Charles C. Franklin

Holly. *Eileen & Hal Engel*

Moosie, beloved cat of Butch and Linda Rosenblatt. *Jody & Howard Kesner*

In Honor Of:

Candy, Spatz, Little Boy and Little Girl—beloved friends of Gloria & Phil Donlin.

Mr. & Mrs. Philip E. Donlin, Jr.

A dear friend, **Ann Priftis**. *Vanessa Taylor*

Leslie Nielson's Birthday. *Karen Wruk*

Mr. & Mrs. Roy Parsons, my boys' godparents. *Elizabeth L. Grove*

Roberta LaSov—Happy Birthday. *Jeanne L. Blake*

Happy Birthday, **Janet Perry**. *Allene Rittenhouse*

Alley Animals

Alley Animals, Inc.

2006 Spring Raffle Winners

1st Prize	Marlene Moe, Joppa, MD
2nd Prize	Sandra Tucker, Sykesville, MD
3rd Prize	Jan Kleiman, Frederick, MD
4th Prize	John Lejsiak, Sparrows Pt, MD
5th Prize	John Seal, Jr., Baltimore, MD

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2006 Fall Raffle Winners

1st Prize	Michael Smith, Columbia, MD
2nd Prize	Sarah King, Chester, MD
3rd Prize	Stella Wilson, Millersville, MD
4th Prize	Lilliana Simon, Baldwin, MD
5th Prize	Donna Gavin, Kingsville, MD

Special thanks to **Michael Smith, Sarah King** and **Lilliana Simon** who donated their prizes to Alley Animals, and **Stella Wilson** who donated part of her prize.

We offer our biggest thanks to everyone who participated in our Fall raffle. Your support, as you know, will sponsor our nightly travels through the streets and alleys, and we are truly grateful that you believe in the worthiness of the homeless creatures suffering in the cold. The hurt, the sick, the hungry will benefit from your kindness.

You, our supporters, are the reason we can continue our work in the alleys, and in return for your help we pledge to travel the streets six nights a week no matter how frigid cold the weather becomes. The animals are out there and we will be too, thanks to you.

*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.

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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

Wish List

Cat Food (dry & canned) Paper Towels
Dog Food (dry & canned) Bleach

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

Low Cost Spaying and Neutering

Maryland SPCA — 410-235-8826

300 Falls Road
Baltimore, MD 21211

Humane Society Spay/Neuter Clinic 410-833-4480
Nicodemus Road
Owings Mills, MD

S.N.A.P. 410-885-5783

P.O. Box 686

Chesapeake City, MD 21915-0686

Please Consider

remembering Alley Animals in your will. Animals on the streets go on struggling to survive at all cost, and we will go on fighting to better their lot.

If you have been blessed in this life, you can share your blessings and help us help them even after you're gone.

Alley Animals

Show Your Compassion On the Road Tell The World About Spaying, Neutering

Show your care about Animals—Purchase an Animal Friendly License Plate and help us in our battle against animal suffering. It's easy!

Just call Shirley at @410-557-0023 or
email her at shirlkee@hotmail.com

Each applicant will receive a free bumper sticker. In
white letters on a royal blue background, it reads:

Prevent A Stray Spay Today



Alley Animals, Inc.

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