



Shelter Hours of Operations  
Monday—Friday 10 a.m.—4 p.m.  
Saturday 10 a.m.—1p.m.  
Sundays/Holidays Closed

[www.adopt-a-pet.org](http://www.adopt-a-pet.org)

(410) 527-1466

# Defenders of Animal Rights, Inc.

14412 OLD YORK ROAD • PO BOX 25 • PHOENIX, MARYLAND 21131

## 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

**INTRODUCTION:** This annual report allows prospective donors as well as current contributors to get a recap of the programs and objectives of this organization.

**TAX STATUS:** Defenders of Animals Rights, Inc., is a nonprofit corporation under section 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Service code. Donations are tax deductible.

**GOVERNANCE:** Defenders is governed by a Board of Directors who have demonstrated their experience and dedication to animal welfare. The Board has two to five meetings a year.

**2021 IN REVIEW:** During 2021, we placed 251 animals in good homes. Since opening the shelter, we have adopted out a total of 31,340 animals! Furthermore, when potential adopters want a pet that we do not have, we refer them to other shelters. Other programs include spay/neuter services, veterinary care, rescues, farm animal care, humane education, youth work programs, grief counseling, etc. We promote adoptions at our shelter and at various other locations. We encourage adoptions through newspaper advertising and online.

Sadly, many people are forced to part with their beloved pets because of their economic situation or illness. We give these families peace of mind knowing their animals are in safe hands. Defenders of Animal Rights, Inc., is unique in that we find good homes for each and every adoptable pet who comes through our doors. Many orphans are with us six months or even years before being adopted. Our rescued farm animals are permanent residents.

Children who visit and do community service at our shelter learn about animal care. Our programs promote a good work ethic and help young adults to be responsible on the job and in the community.

**HISTORY OF DEFENDERS OF ANIMAL RIGHTS:** The organization was founded in late 1975 by Mary Jo Kovic. After working several years with other organizations, Ms. Kovic saw the need for a new group to help animals and people.

This group - Defenders of Animal Rights, Inc. - would provide a multitude of services not available at the time. These services include animal shelter operation, low-cost spay/neuter services, aggressive adoption program, humane education, wildlife sanctuary, work programs for youth, etc.

The Defenders' shelter would be different from existing shelters that euthanize animals after only four or five days. This new shelter would hold adoptable animals for as long as it took to find them homes.

The corporation was incorporated under the laws of the State of Maryland in July, 1976. It gained 501(c)(3) status by the U.S. Internal Revenue Service.

IN 2021, WE CELEBRATED OUR 46<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY!



Shelter Hours of Operations  
Monday—Friday 10 a.m.—4 p.m.  
Saturday 10 a.m.—1p.m.  
Sundays/Holidays Closed

[www.adopt-a-pet.org](http://www.adopt-a-pet.org)

(410) 527-1466

# Defenders of Animal Rights, Inc.

14412 OLD YORK ROAD • PO BOX 25 • PHOENIX, MARYLAND 21131

## 2021 ANNUAL REPORT, PAGE TWO

Starting out slowly, Defenders centered its activities on education. In 1979, it purchased a 35.8 acre property to realize the goal of an animal shelter and wildlife/farm animal sanctuary. The shelter opened in late 1988.

The organization is supported by donations from the public. Contributors receive a bi-monthly newsletter describing its activities. The public is always welcome to visit the shelter and see firsthand the animals they are helping.

### DIRECTORY OF SERVICES:

- Animal Shelter, Wildlife Sanctuary, Farm Animal Center
- Rescues, Veterinary Care, Adoptions
- Humane Education
- Services to help humans:
  - Grief Counseling
  - Youth Work, Community Service
  - Visits/Tours for Scouts, Schools, Nursing Homes, etc.
  - Adoptions: Adoptions enhance human health. Studies have shown there are physical and emotional benefits to having a pet.
  - Animal Control/Education: Defenders works to reduce pet overpopulation, thus decreasing the numbers of stray animals on the street. This spares taxpayers considerable expense for animal control. It also helps curb the spread of diseases such as rabies.

**SHELTER OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:** The public is always welcome to visit our shelter facility. Supporters can actually see how their donations are being used. Our normal hours are 10am to 4pm Monday through Friday and 10am to 1pm on Saturdays. However, due to the pandemic and the need to safeguard the welfare of our animals, we are temporarily conducting our services by appointment only. WE CARE FOR OUR ANIMALS 365 DAYS OF THE YEAR.

Mary Jo Kovic  
President and Executive Director