www.adopt-a-pet.org

Shelter Hours of Operation
Tuesday-Friday 10 a.m.- 5 p.m.
Saturday 10 a.m.- 4 p.m.
Sunday & Monday/Holidays Closed

SPECIAL HOLIDAY MAILING 2026

(410) 527-1466

Defenders of Animal Rights, Inc.

P.O. BOX 25 • PHOENIX, MARYLAND 21131

THE FEEL-GOOD ISSUE











SAFE AT DEFENDERS

A Defenders first! A transport of thirteen cats and four dogs made their way from Georgia to our shelter in Maryland... by plane! We are so grateful for the pilots and volunteers who made this trip possible!

We wanted to feature a few of the faces from our recent transport. What a diverse group, all with loving, sweet souls.

Top left is Chico, a two-month-old puppy who is so teeny tiny that some of our dog toys are bigger than he is! Holmes and Watson were so intent on snuggling that it was hard to snap a photo! Little Holmes underwent surgery to remove both of his badly infected eyes. He is now living a pain-free life and relies on his other senses and his doting brother Watson to get around.

Rosie and Heather are good-natured and beautiful. Ricky and William are darlings with hearts of gold.

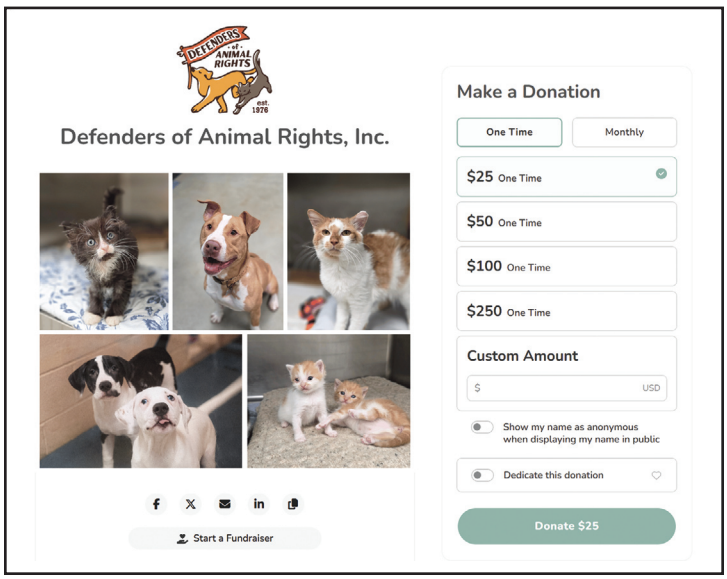
At Defenders, we go out of our way to save the animals who have nowhere else to turn. On behalf of these wonderful rescues, we thank you for enabling us to save them.





STEPPING UP FOR RON: When we heard about a Yorkie with vision problems, we knew we had to help him. Eye surgery was needed to address Ron's issues. This little champ became our office buddy through his recuperation and recovery.

We found this confident, friendly boy a loving home with lots of snuggles and even a senior Yorkie sibling. We love you, Ron!



AN EASIER WAY TO GIVE: Our donation page received a much needed revamp! We now accept additional forms of payment, as well as the option to set up recurring donations and leave gift designations.

We are dedicated to our animals' each and every need, from the very basics to advanced care, no matter the cost. Thank you for your commitment to our cause!



THE POWER OF YOUR GIFT: Precious Dolly is just a kitten, but her young life so far has been a struggle. Her tiny body was up against multiple parasites and a viral infection.

We fought for Dolly, running her back and forth to the veterinarian for i.v. fluids, medications, and specialized care. We did not give up on her and are pleased to share that Dolly is doing well. She has regained her strength and is growing like a weed! This is just one example of how your donation impacts our rescue work. Dolly sends her love and purrs!

Save a stamp! Please use your smart phone to scan this code. You will be directed to our new donation portal.

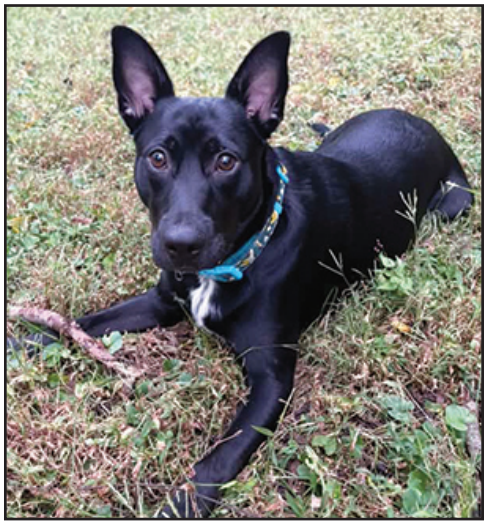


BECAUSE OF YOUR GENEROSITY, THESE LIVES HAVE BEEN SAVED!

Thank you for your support and for making a difference!



"Marley (left) and Brownie (right) Adopted in 2021. They are actually siblings even though they look nothing alike! VERY sweet cats."



"I adopted Evan in May! He is so spoiled and so smart. He loves his car rides now and never turns down a good play time outside with a big stick."



"Brothers Sheldon and Henry V were adopted in 2025. They are a blessing and are thriving. Thank you for bringing us together!"



"My bestie, Claire, with her dirty nose from playing in the dirt. Adopted in 2024. she is so amazing!"



"Albert is living his best life!"



"Violet & Gunnar: adopted in 2024"



"Defenders buddies: Gilbert and Birdie."

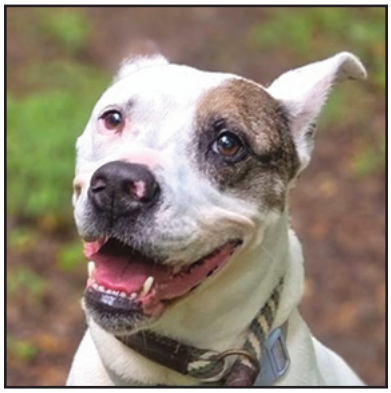
I FOUND LOVE AT... DEFENDERS of ANIMAL RIGHTS est. 1976



"Zazzy Rita, Reggie, and Lenny. They are all perfect and love each other so much."

LONGTIME RESIDENTS FIND FOREVER HOMES!

Join us as we celebrate the adoptions of some of our long term residents! We never gave up on them.



Dasani spent 729 days in our shelter.



Adoption day: 9/2/26!



Dasani napping in her chair.



Bruce spent 696 days in our shelter.



Adoption day: 10/10/26!



Bruce sunbathing at home.



Penelope spent 1,116 days in our shelter.



Adoption day: 9/30/26!



Penelope with her big brother.

Defenders of Animal Rights, Inc., is a nonprofit organization dedicated to eliminating cruelty to all animals. Our shelter is proud to help many animals, even those with extensive medical problems. There is no limit on the time we hold animals for adoption. If a pet is not adopted right away, we hold the pet until a good home is found. Donations for our work are tax deductible. Current financial info. is available upon request. Write Defenders of Animal Rights: P.O. Box 25; Phoenix, MD 21131. Call us at (410) 527-1466. Or, for cost of copying/postage, contact MD Secretary of State; State House; Annapolis, MD 21401; or the Virginia Office of Charitable and Regulatory Programs.

We do not use a professional fundraiser or any fundraising organization.
We do not sell, give, or lease donors' names.

FLORIDA RESIDENTS: A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE (800-435-7352) WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE. FLORIDA REGISTRATION CH 961. North Carolina Residents: Financial information about this organization and a copy of its license are available from the State Solicitation Licensing Branch at 919-807-2214. The license is not an endorsement by the state.

Erin Gillis	*President/Treasurer*
Donna Yawman	*Secretary*
Liz Brooks	*Chairman of the Board*
Ashley Shanklin	*Co-Operations Manager* *Photographer*
Pam Soper	*Co-Operations Manager*
Abbey Miller	*Social Media Manager* *Photographer*

TO HONOR AND REMEMBER

In Honor of:

***BELOVED ANIMALS**-from Laura & Ed Maloy. *"In honor of all those animals who have suffered, remained strong, and now await their forever homes."*

***MANDY BILGER and *COLE MURPHY BILGER**-from Annmarie & Chris Bilger

***BITSY, *BUSTER, and *THEIR WONDERFUL MOM**-from Ann Gunning

***CHIPPER**-from April Lugo

***PETER GERARD**-from Eliza Lerch

***MADDY BARCS**-from April Meehan

In Loving Memory of:

***MARGARET "SALLY" AMBROSE**-from Michele Fleming and Steve & Joan Wright

***ANDREA and *THE BOYS**-from Carole Garcia

***BUBBA**-from Eric Haas. *"Happy late birthday, Bubba. We miss you so much."*

***BUNS: *ODIE, *BUNNERS, *CHARLIE, and *SNOWBALL; *DOGS: *ABBY and *SHEP; *GUINEA PIG MIKA; *BIRDS: *ALEX and *PRETTY BIRD; and *FISH: *LUCKY and *ALL HIS FISH FRIENDS**-from Jammi Cumber

***BURTON**-from Howard Berliner

***HELEN FRANCES CESENARO**-from Maureen Yantz

***CLARENCE**-from Josh and Katie (Soranno) Massey. *"In loving memory of our 5-year-old guinea pig rescued by DOAR along with his brother George. It was a very hard goodbye to our little friend."*

***ARISTINE COKER**-from Norman Coker

***NANCY DeCARLO**-from James & Cait Merrill and Diane Revak

***JUDY DIETZ**-from Lorraine Johnson. *"In memory of a friend and animal lover."*

***STEVE DOUDIKEN**-from Jennifer McCabe

***EDGAR**-from Bob and Linda Soranno. *"Alley cat to pampered house cat, spicy on the outside but with a marshmallow heart, dearly devoted to his dad. We miss our Big E."*

***EMMA**-from the Swimmer family. *"Beloved cat of Susan Wozenski and Steve Havas."*

***JAMES GIGLIO** (1935-2020)-from the Giglio Foundation

***FREDERICK "FRED" GLEE**-from Krisit Bradley; Erin Elizabeth Byrne; Mary Cox; Lois Delinski; Linda & David Duckworth; Patricia Houck; Donna McMachan; Micki Morris; the Robergs: Debbie, Stephanie, Tim, & Christie; Joseph Sochurek; Nicholas Sochurek; and Mike & Cathy Spurrier.

***GRACIE**-from Josie Kaestner. *"In loving memory of Lorraine Johnson's beloved cat."*

***GREY, *GUSSIE, and *GINGE**-from Janet and George

***GIL GRUZYNSKI**-from Dr. Leona Gruzynski

***HARLEY, *BUGSY, and *POPPY**-from Jaime Gilliam

***BARBARA HARTZELL**-from Cindy Adamski

***HEATHER**-from Stella Budkiewicz. *"In loving memory of my Husky mix."*

***DEBORAH LIMMER and *DELANEY GADDIS**-from Maureen Foley

***ANNE SESSIONS LOANE**-from Margaret Aune, Nancy & Darren Aune, Robin Bull, Stephen & Linda Kimler, Brian Lammi, Margaret Schumer, and Melinda Sutton

***DENNIS MIEDUSIEWSKI**-from Brian Connolly, Fred & Sally Hinder, Killala Court Homeowners Association, Patti DiMarco, Linda Klingmeyer, Janet Mank, Donna Miedusiewski, Theodora Prettyman, Laura Richardson, Trinity Short, Marlene & Bruce Soloman, Susan Steinberg, Kay L. West, Lois L. West, Paul Winterling, and J.L. Zacker

***MISSIE**-from Ken and Rhonda Bonvouloir

***KATHERINE G. MOORE, *GINGER, and *LILLY**-from L.K. Moore. *"In loving memory of my mother, Katherine G. Moore; Ginger (my brother, Thomas W. Moore's baby and cat adopted from Defenders); and my dog Lilly."*

***PENNY**-from Jay Goldscher

***PINKY** (2010-7/10/2026)–from Matthew Gulczynski. *"You cried out to me as a stray kitten and then gave me a lifetime of love."*

***RO**-from Cheri and Kim

***ROMIE & *SOFIE**-from Maureen Rifkind. *"In memory of our two cats who died ten days apart. We miss them so."*

***ROSIE**-from Leah Bark. *"Remembering a wonderful dog."*

***TOMMY**-from Greg, his loving dad. *"He was such a good boy."*

***BABY TROTTA**-from the Dilleys. *"In loving memory of John Trotta's fur baby."*

***ROBERT WRIGHT**-from Susan Wright. *"In memory of a loving man."*

***SUSAN YAQUIANT**-from John Yaquiant

***ZION**-from Harry and Ida Eck. *"In memory of our beloved neighbor dog, Zion. He has been our dog Truman's best buddy all his life. We loved him very much and will remember him always."*

HAPPY HOLIDAYS! THANK YOU FOR THE GIFT OF LIFE





Iggy is pictured above relaxing in his new home. He thanks you for giving a little dog a second chance.

Dear Kind Member,

What a year it has been! It was hard to narrow down the photos to feature in this issue since we have had so many uplifting stories to share. With the support of our community, our faithful donors, partnering shelters, and dedicated staff, we are changing the lives of so many animals every single day.

Sweet Iggy, a recent rescue, is one of our favorite success stories. This poor boy came to us so downtrodden. One look into his soulful, brown eyes, and you would want to move mountains to help him feel better. His skin was crusty and inflamed. Patches of fur were missing. He was underweight. His ears were badly infected and crudely cropped. His joints were deformed and painful. On top of everything, Iggy also had multiple breathing issues that needed surgical intervention.

His list of ailments was lengthy, but it was nothing we couldn't handle. We tackled them one by one, with the help of our amazing partnering veterinarians. Through it all, Iggy was the best boy, taking his various meds and leaning in for pets. Slowly, he began to gain weight. His hair grew back in, and a spring returned to his step. For the very first time, he drew in deep breaths without a struggle.

For Iggy, this is just the beginning of his story. He has been adopted by a wonderful family who shared this update with us:

"The dedication and care this organization shows to their animals and adoptive families is truly unmatched. Iggy, now Mack, has been the absolute best addition to our life. He's my daily inspiration—constantly reminding me that you can look totally tough on the outside while being full of pure kindness on the inside."

We hope this newsletter conveys the power behind your generosity. We certainly couldn't do it without you and send our heartfelt thanks. Wishing you and your loved ones a happy and healthy holiday season!

With Love & Appreciation,



Erin Gillis, President