

Shelter Hours of Operation

Tuesday-Friday 10 a.m.- 5 p.m.

Saturday 10 a.m.- 4 p.m.

Sunday & Monday/Holidays Closed

(410) 527-1466



Defenders of Animal Rights, Inc.

P.O. BOX 25 • PHOENIX, MARYLAND 21131

IT'S OUR 50th ANNIVERSARY! 1976-2026

NEWSLETTER, VOL. 4, NO. 1, SPRING 1979



Defenders of Animal Rights, Inc.

P.O. BOX 4786

BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21211

DREAMS DO COME TRUE! Mary Jo and Jim Kovic show their dog Molly the future site of DAR's animal shelter and wildlife sanctuary. A former orphan, Molly braved the blizzard of '79 to remind you of the animals less fortunate than she. They will get a second chance when DAR's facility is built. Missing from this photo are you kind members whose donations made possible the down payment on this property. Obviously, you also believe hope for a better world for the animals makes this property our "promised land." We and the animals thank you for your abiding faith and generosity.



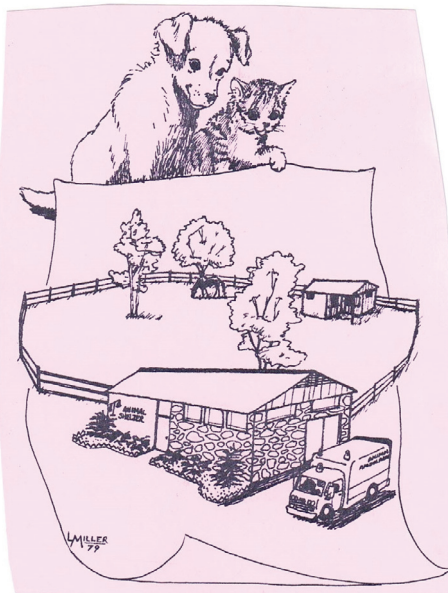
*****DAR IS BUYING 35.5 ACRE SITE FOR SHELTER/SANCTUARY*****

Once upon a time, we shared a dream. It was to buy a big piece of land nestled in a quiet corner of the world. On it we would build the best animal shelter in the entire United States!

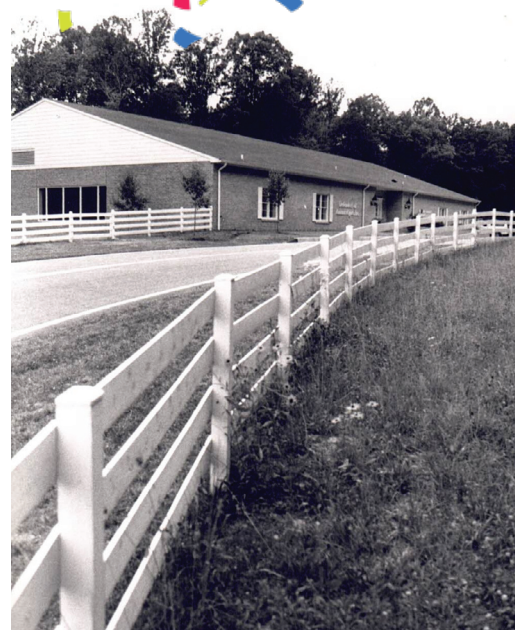
Our happiness can only be described as delirious when on a cold December night we counted DAR's pennies and said a prayer of gratitude--you had given us the down payment for the ideal property.

The 35.5 acres are located near Jacksonville in Baltimore County just minutes above the beltway. The land is totally wooded and is home to a wide variety of animals including deer, fox, raccoons, squirrels, and birds. This perfect refuge is a diverse ecosystem with mature forest, young scrub growth, heavy undergrowth in other spots, and two streams providing ample water for the wildlife.

Defenders' founders, Jim and Mary Jo Kovic, are pictured at the future site of the animal shelter in 1979.



An early concept drawing of the shelter.



The newly completed shelter in 1988.



2026 marks 50 years of Defenders standing up for abused and abandoned animals! Our organization has come a long way over the years, and we are so grateful for our supporters who make our rescue work possible! Thank you!

TO HONOR AND REMEMBER

In Honor of:

- ***BRUCE**-by Pamela Escobar. *"In honor of my brother Bruce."*
- ***CHARLIE**-by Jenn Workman. *"In honor of Charlie, adopted 4/2025."*
- ***MOLLY**-by Norman and Joanne Schreiber. *"In honor of Molly, living her best life with Norman and Joanne, so grateful to be rescued and loved."*
- ***BETTY PARKS**-by Jane McCubbin. *"Happy 85th Birthday!"*
- ***PHIL**-by Tom Zapf. *"In honor of Marvin, adopted 3 years ago. He is living his best life!"*
- ***THOR and *FINN**-by Amy McFarland. *"In honor of our two Akita rescues."*

In Loving Memory of:

- ***ASHES**-by Tina Schaeffer. *"In memory of our girl, Ashes."*
- ***DIANE BARTLETT**-by Sue, Tina, Jeff, & Kristi Bartlett; HCPSS EIAT; Connie Houston; Deborah Singer; and Sally & Rick Young.
- ***BELOVED CATS**-by Jeff Chokov. *"Cherishing many memories of our beautiful cats."*
- ***BELOVED DOGS AND CATS**-by Janet L. Gorda. *"In memory of my dogs and cats."*
- ***EDWIN LEE BELZ**-by The Assessment & Placement Unit of DPP and Sharon Narotsky
- ***BINDI**-by Karen Goshaney. *"In memory of our beautiful Tortie, Bindi."*
- ***LEE BOBADILLO**-by Rose-Marie Kratz
- ***BURTON**-by Howard Berliner
- ***CAINE, *WINSTON, *TANNER, and *ISAAC**-by Mom and Dad Wallace. *"Love you always and miss all four of you guys."*
- ***GRACE CARROLL**-by Diane Green and Jonathan Green. *"In memory of Grace, a lover of all animals."*
- ***BOB DWYER and *BANDIT**-by Patricia Dwyer. *"In loving memory of my brother and his dog."*
- ***BEN ENSOR and *PIGGY**-by Karen Ensor. *"In loving memory of Ben Ensor and his Piggy, too!"*
- ***TIGER FLACH**-by Diane Meyer. *"In loving memory of Mike and Lisa's bestest, awesome pup. Forever loved and missed. With love from Auntie Di."*
- ***DELANEY GADDIS**-by Katherine Miller
- ***ANDREA GARCIA and *THE BOYS**-by Carole Garcia
- ***JAMES GIGLIO (1935-2020)**-by The Giglio Foundation
- ***GRIFFON**-by Denise Thatcher
- ***JAMES GRIISSER**-by the Membership Committee of The Baltimore Women's Giving Circle.
- ***GIL GRUZYNSKI**-by Dr. Leona Gruzynski
- ***ROXANNE HOOVER**-by Noreen E. Waller
- ***EDWARD GARSON JOHNSON**-by Mara Katz, Tom Hagigh, and Judith Opfer.
- ***KELLY and *MELODY**-by Maureen Stonich
- ***LARRY KILDUFF**-by Joanne Kilduff
- ***JOAN LANE**-by Lenore Martin
- ***DEBORAH LIMMER and *DELANEY GADDIS**-by Maureen Foley
- ***RICHARD LYON**-by Barbara Friedel
- ***BRIE MATUSKY**-Love, Donna and Earl. *"The sweetest love bug who couldn't get close enough to her Mommy."*
- ***MAX**-by Carol Rocci
- ***TERRI ROZANSKI**-Love, Donna and Earl. *"In loving memory of our precious niece who loved all animals."*
- ***RUFFY, *BUCKY, *BO-BO, *POPEYE, *HUSKY, *SHEIK, *BLONDIE, *COOKIE, *THE PI, *CALLIE, and *CHAUNCEY**-by Harvey and Barbara Maizels
- ***SOPHIE**-by Jo Anne Stevens. *"In memory of my friend Anne's beloved cat."*
- ***SPRITE, *BUD, *SANDY, *DOG, *VAL, *BECKY, and *GEORGE**-by Jane "Cricket" Geis
- ***RUTH THOMPSON**-by Jane E. Thompson
- ***RACHAEL VAN DER EERDEN**-by Harold & Ida Eck. *"In memory of our beloved daughter who loved all animals."*
- ***WILLOW**-by Lee Britton, Jr. *"In loving memory of my dog."*
- ***SUZANNE WINKLER and *FREEDOM**-by Jeanne Shoemaker. *"In memory of my Mother and her favorite cat, Freedom. She loved cats!"*
- ***DONNA WINNER**-by Thomas Winner. *"In loving memory of my wife, Donna."*
- ***SUSAN YAQUIANT**-by John Yaquiant

A SOFT SPOT FOR SENIOR PETS



Granny Smith

Our friend Julia made the case for adopting senior animals for a school project. She is pictured with Granny Smith, one of our recent senior rescues.

Julia's poster has a prominent place in our lobby so everyone can consider the benefits of giving an older pet a second chance and loving home.

Our hearts always go out to senior pets, too. Animals in their golden years often find themselves in shelters through no fault of their own. Sadly, it usually takes them much longer to find homes, as they are often overlooked for puppies and kittens.

So many wonderful senior animals have come through our doors over the years. We always seek out the ones who need us the most. Some require veterinary specialists or expensive medical procedures. Others are understandably depressed and bewildered, as their whole worlds have been turned upside down.

At Defenders, we ensure their each and every need is met. Through appointments, surgeries, recovery periods, and everyday care, we spoil them with love. Please consider adopting a senior pet!



Ben



Sebastian



T Bone



Brimley

MOM AND PUPS ARE NOW SAFE AND SOUND



Emma

Emma and her eight puppies made the journey from a Georgia shelter all the way to Defenders. This precious mama dog nursed and doted on her babies the entire trip.

At our shelter, Emma is so grateful to have a safe and secure place to continue caring for her newborns. She is such a sweet girl, always up for pets and lovingly gives you her paw.

In the above photos, two of our caregivers, Lily and Graham, enjoy some puppy snuggles while Emma gets a little break outside and some kennel housekeeping. Once all the pups are old enough, we will have them spayed or neutered, vetted, and available for adoption. After Emma is spayed, she will be looking for a loving family, too. This outstanding mama deserves a forever home!

BEST FRIENDS: ALL SHAPES AND SIZES



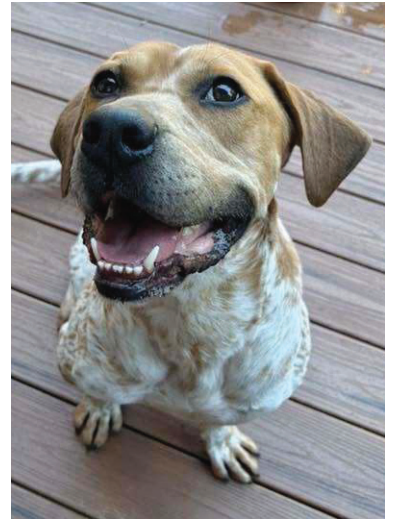
Hamilton (left) and Roman (right) were both rescued from another shelter. Together, they are as thick as thieves!



We recently took in six female rats from an owner who was going into the military. He was heartbroken to part with his beloved pets. These girls are such a joy, and it is our honor to step up for them.



DEFENDERS LOVE STORIES...PAST AND PRESENT



"Charlie and Binx, they are truly the goodest boys!"



"Wally World!!! August 2026 will be 2 years with our sweet boy. Defenders, you truly are angels on earth for all these fur babies. Your dedication and love shine through unconditionally. Thank you!!"

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.

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

A LEGACY OF KINDNESS: You can make a difference for our animals and provide a lasting positive impact by including Defenders of Animal Rights, Inc., in your estate planning. By making arrangements to support our shelter, you can ensure needy orphans will receive the help and care they desperately need. For bequest purposes, our Federal Tax I.D. number is 52-1061126. Thank you so much.



SAVE A STAMP! Please use your smart phone to scan this code. You will be directed to our website's donation portal. Thank you!

TINY KITTEN BEATS THE ODDS



Above, precious Yeta rests with her little bandaged head. For such a small baby, she has the courage of a lion!



Dear Kind Member,

We hope this newsletter finds you well. We chose little Yeta's story to highlight the good you make possible in our corner of the world and the importance of celebrating small victories.

It's a miracle Yeta even survived. As a stray kitten, she was outside with no shelter or protection. She hid inside some underbrush to stay safe. Tragically, that area was to be mowed, and we will spare you the details that followed. Yeta narrowly escaped with her life. She suffered a substantial injury to her head. We immediately rushed Yeta to our veterinarian for emergency treatment.

Yeta required sutures and regular bandage changes to ensure she healed properly. Through her recovery, she remained strong and feisty. She ate like a champ and purred with her whole heart.

Today, Yeta has healed and is in a wonderful home. With a missing ear, she may look a little different than other kittens, but in our eyes she is perfect. Her new mom says Yeta is a busy, happy girl and describes her as "absolutely fearless".

We thank you for the support you provide for our animals. Your donations, sent with love, enable us to reach out to animals like Yeta and provide them with the very best of care. You enable us to say, "Yes, we can help".

We know the cost of living is increasing, and we feel it firsthand. From basic necessities, utilities, and repairs, it seems that everything has gone up. Through it all, we know we can depend on you to keep going and to keep furthering our mission. Thank you for going out of your way to ensure animals are safe every day.



Erin Gillis, President

With Love & Appreciation, 