



**SPCA/Humane Society
of Prince George's County, Inc. (SPCA/HS)**

**P.O. Box 925
Bowie, MD 20718**

**301-262-5625
www.pgspca.org**

HEADS & TAILS

The Animals Have Lost a True Friend

**Summer
2004**

Eugenie "Ninie" Murray, once president of our organization and instrumental in establishing our Spay/Neuter Clinic, died from a brain tumor on December 9, 2003. She was 81.

Ninie was an avid animal rights activist and an expert in animal welfare. She was a director and member of numerous animal rights organizations. She was twice a member of the Prince George's County Animal Control Commission. She testified on animal rights legislation at both the state and local levels. In recognition of her achievements, the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) dedicated a room in her memory at its headquarters in Norfolk, VA.

The animals have lost a true friend. An active member of the SPCA/HS of Prince George's County for 29 years, Ninie retired to California in 2001. She achieved

her dream by always finding ways to protect the animals from harm, whether by lobbying for animal-friendly legislation or investigating cruelties as a humane officer.

Ninie dedicated her life to helping all animals. She had an untiring passion and determination for animal welfare. Her motto was "We are here for the animals." Due to her devotion and untiring efforts to ensure the well-being of the animals, Ninie made a difference for the animals and taught others how to help them as well. She spared so many animals needless suffering.

Ninie, we will miss you. Many thanks from the animals that you protected. Thanks also for teaching humans to be more compassionate. Your legacy will continue. Memorial donations may be made in her name to the SPCA Spay/Neuter Clinic, PETA or your favorite animal welfare group.

Judy McClain

We are a private, non-profit organization, dedicated to animal welfare and rights. All activities are funded solely through contributions, dues, and special events.

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**Her motto
was "We
are here
for the
animals"**

*Ninie (left) with
Ingrid Newkirk,
President and co-
founder of People
for the Ethical
Treatment of
Animals (PETA), at
the May 2003
PETA convention.*

**It's About
the Animals**

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

The 2003-2004 Board of Directors

You may not see them often, but they are all working hard behind the scenes! Get acquainted with the board of directors.

MARY HELEN BROSNAHAN, PRESIDENT

(term expired June 30, 2004)

Personal: I was born in Germany, but have lived most of my life in MD. I've been married for 15 years to Ed Brosnahan. I have three adult children and one granddaughter, born in 2003. I have lots of animals at home, all kinds from dogs to cats to rats to hamsters. I am also a cat foster.

Professional: I work as a computer programmer for Verizon. I received a BA from UMD in English Literature and taught 9th grade English for 3 years.

Hobbies: I love to read, and to travel by train. I also enjoy attending animal welfare and rescue conferences.

How I Got Involved: In 1991, we adopted our third dog, Dion, from the shelter. Ninie Murray (see p. 1 of this issue) did the house check and the rest is history.

Past Volunteer Positions with SPCA/HS: Secretary, Dog Adoption Coordinator, and Foster.

Why I Stay With It: My biggest reward has been the success of the Spay/Neuter Clinic. I see pet overpopulation as the cause of most of the animal problems we have, and spay/neuter is the solution. For a relatively small group, I think we make a big difference to the animals of P.G. County.

ELFRIEDE PACE, VICE PRESIDENT

(term expired June 30, 2004)

Also serves as Medical Assistance Coordinator

Personal: I am married to Joe Pace; we have two grown children and 2 grandchildren. I was born and raised in Germany, then lived in Canada for 3 years before coming to the U.S. I have lived in Maryland for 34 years. I have 1 dog and 3 cats, and I foster cats.

Professional: I attended Handels Akademie, majoring in business and design.

Hobbies: I traveled a lot when I was younger.

How I Got Involved: Thirty-one years ago, I found a stray dog and asked this group for help. The rest is history.

Past Volunteer Positions with SPCA/HS: President, Longtime Board Member, and Foster.

Why I Stay With It: Because of my love for the animals.

Hopes for the Future of SPCA/HS: I hope we can do more spay/neuters, more humane education, and a better job targeting low-income P.G. county residents. I hope that one day, only old and sick animals are euthanized.

JANEL BRENNAN, SECRETARY/TREASURER

(Term expires June 30, 2005)

Also serves as Clinic General Manager

Personal: I am married to Craig Tillman and we have a one-year-old son, Joshua. I am originally from western NY and have lived in Maryland for almost 10 years. Growing up, I've owned cats and dogs, but currently we have only one pet – a 7-year-old cairn terrier named Seamus.

Professional: I earned a BA in Spanish and taught HS for 6 years. I got my MEd in Instructional Technology and work at UMD in the School of Languages, Literatures & Cultures.

Hobbies: I enjoy learning about other cultures, trying new food and seeing new things. I have lived in Spain, and traveled to France, Costa Rica, and Canada.

How I Got Involved: After leaving the teaching profession, I wanted to volunteer my time. I originally volunteered to take photos of the adoptable animals and load them onto the website. This quickly snowballed into fostering and such. After having my son, fostering isn't a possibility, so I am focusing on Board-related activities.

Past Volunteer Positions with SPCA/HS: Foster, Dog Adoption Co-Coordinator, and Website Coordinator.

Why I Stay With It: There are so many wonderful and passionate people in this group, and a lot of potential to help the P.G. County animals and to educate the public.

BARBARA WILSON, BOARD MEMBER AT LARGE

(term expired June 30, 2004)

Also serves as the Spay/Neuter Assistance Coordinator

Personal: I grew up in Massachusetts. I was married for 27 years to my late husband. We have four children.

Professional: At a young age, I entered a convent and was trained as a nurse. After 13 years, I left the order and met the wonderful man whom I later married.

How I Got Involved: Twenty-five years ago, I became aware of the SPCA/HS and eagerly joined.

Past Volunteer Positions with SPCA/HS: Longtime Board Member, Foster, and Dog Adoption Coordinator.

Why I Stay With It: I have always had animals in my life and want to work to help them.

Hopes for the Future of SPCA/HS: I would love to see our membership increase, so we can continue to do good for the animals of P.G. County.

Board elections
were held June 3,
at the General
Membership
meeting.

Tamela Terry and Janel Brennan were elected President and Vice-President, respectively, and Ginny May and Jenn Evoy were elected as Board Members at Large.

Many thanks to outgoing board members Mary Helen Brosnahan, Elfriede Pace, and Barbara Wilson.

COME TO THE NEXT
General
Membership
Meeting

THURS, AUG 5
7:15pm

College Park City Hall
4500 Knox Rd.

JUDY McCLAIN, BOARD MEMBER AT LARGE

(term expires June 30, 2006)

Also serves as Cruelty Coordinator and Investigator

Personal: I grew up in Pennsylvania and have lived in Maryland with my husband Roger since 1967. We have a male wire fox terrier named Dickens. I love the breed. They're very spirited and playful and they make very loyal companions. They are so much fun!

Professional: I was a Special Education assistant for 4 years, working with trainable children. Since 1997, cruelty prevention has become my profession. I am on call 24 hours a day and I'm very active in the county's political and legislative process involving animal welfare laws.

Hobbies: I collect stamps and wire fox terrier figurines. I also love to get out in the woods and enjoy nature.

How I Got Involved: In 1976, I became interested in animal welfare and joined the P.G. County Humane Society.

Past Volunteer Positions with SPCA/HS: Longtime Board Member, and Cat Adoption Coordinator.

Why I Stay With It: I want to alleviate the suffering of animals and prevent pet overpopulation. I feel the animals need my voice; my reward is making life better for them.

MARY BAYLESS, BOARD MEMBER AT LARGE

(term expires June 30, 2006)

Also serves as Dog Adoption Coordinator

Personal: I am divorced with two adult children and two young grandchildren. I grew up in Fairfax County, VA and moved to MD in 1974. I live in Columbia with my silent volunteer/foster-partner John. I have four dogs: Lucy, a 13-year-old Chow mix; Shiner, a 6-year-old blue merle Smooth Collie; Briscoe, a 1-year-old cattle dog mix; and stepdog Stoney, an 11-year-old Norwegian Buhund..

Professional: Since 1981, I have worked at BAE Systems. I left college in 1974 to work and pay rent. I volunteered with Fidos for Freedom for three years, as their Volunteer Coordinator and a puppy raiser.

Hobbies: I am a closet poet, love to read, and am very interested in dog behavior.

How I Got Involved: In 2000, I reported a neighbor for mistreating her dog and began a communication with Judy McClain. I was so taken by her professionalism and determination. When I learned she was a volunteer, I was very

impressed and signed up myself. Shortly thereafter I began fostering, and so it goes.

Why I Stay With It: I stay with it because of the dogs. (Sorry kitties - no offense!) To see a dog come out of the shelter (usually very smelly, very dirty, underweight, in need of care) and become a dog with light and life in his eyes who can find a loving home - it's the best!

Hopes for the Future of SPCA/HS: I hope we can do much more in the area of humane education and outreach. I would also like to see more done in the area of volunteer appreciation. We can't thank everyone enough for the time they donate to us. Our volunteers are the heart and soul of this organization, deserving great appreciation and respect. I hope that those feelings are communicated throughout this group. If you want to be more involved, or if you have issues you want resolved - let us know.

TAMELA TERRY, BOARD MEMBER AT LARGE

(term expires June 30, 2005)

Also serves as Newsletter Editor

Personal: I was born in Virginia, but grew up in Texas. After attending college in the Rockies, I came to the D.C. area for a 6-month internship back in 1986 and never left. I've been married to Mark Terry for 12 years and we have two young daughters - Hailey 3 and Jensen 2. My first pet was a beautiful black and white cat named Sebastian, and I have had many pets - cats and dogs - since then. Right now, we have three adopted dogs: Shazam (an 11-year-old basenji mix), Max (a 9-year-old greyhound mix), and Winston (a 7-year-old flat-coated retriever).

Professional: I work for the U.S. Department of Education, currently as a legal and policy analyst. I've spent the majority of my career in publishing and management.

Hobbies: I enjoy travel, writing, graphic design, playing the piano, and singing.

How I Got Involved: In 1994, when looking to adopt a dog, I learned how many animals were euthanized every day in P.G. County. I just had to do something, so I started fostering for the SPCA/HS.

Why I Stay With It: There are still too many dogs and cats being euthanized every day, and I have to keep trying. I want my girls to know that they don't have to accept the world they see around them; they can work to change it.

HEADS & TAILS

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The SPCA/HS is a nonprofit organization. To learn more, visit our website at www.pgspca.org or call (301) 262-5625.



**It's About
the Animals**

DRESS FOR SUCCESS



Available in a variety of colorful,
animal-friendly designs

T-SHIRTS & SWEATSHIRTS

Get them at an adoption event
or at our spay/neuter clinic

*All proceeds go toward the care of the many
animals we rescue and rehome.*

JUST FOR FUN On the Bookshelf

WALTER THE FARTING DOG

This is a story about a flatulent fido named Walter—the everyman of canines. A lovable pound pup of questionable ancestry, Walter has one flaw: an unfortunate tendency to emit clouds of noxious fumes. The children in his human pack adore him anyway, but mom and dad are less enthralled. Can something be done to help Walter win over their love—or at least their tolerance—or will he end up back at the pound?

This book will entertain and amuse both children and adults (at least those not offended by the word “fart”). It is co-written by Glenn Murray and William Kotzwinkle, perhaps best known for *E.T. The Extraterrestrial*. The distinctive illustrations by Audrey Colman provide an appropriate accompaniment to the text.

CHICKEN SOUP FOR THE CAT & DOG LOVER'S SOUL

This book celebrates the special bond between dogs, cats—and other critters—and the humans that love them through a collection of amusing, poignant, and inspirational stories. Authors including James Herriot, Dave Barry, Roger Caras, and Sarah, the Duchess of York, share tales (or is that tails?) of pets as healers, teachers, and beloved family members. You will laugh and cry, but most of all you will rejoice in the willingness of these amazing animals to share their love and lives with such imperfect creatures as human beings. (Kudos to writers/editors Jack Canfield; Mark Victor Hansen; Marty Becker, D.V.M.; and Carol Kline for producing such an uplifting book.)

DOG BLESS AMERICA: TAILS FROM THE ROAD

Jeff Selis went looking for an escape from career burnout. He found kindness, hospitality, and some pretty great dogs. With a human friend, his dog Otis, and a 1965 Polaroid Land Camera, Selis drove 17,000 miles over a three-month period, meeting, photographing, and learning the stories of at least one dog in every state. From Shorty, a mixed breed in Mobile, Alabama (who's short on looks but long on personality), to Loup, a retriever in Jackson Hole, Wyoming (who spends most days chasing balls in a lake), *Dog Bless America* is filled with wonderful photographs and entertaining essays about 58 canine characters. An entertaining and heartwarming book interspersed with short excerpts from Selis's journal.

Note: These books are available from Barnes & Noble, an iGive.com participating merchant. Link to iGive (and then Barnes & Noble) through our website and we will receive a portion of the proceeds from your purchase. Visit us at www.pgspca.org.

Pam Townsend

*Your everyday shopping can help
P.G. County's homeless animals!
Join at www.iGive.com*

and select the SPCA/HS of P.G. County as your cause. Then, just shop online at over 400 stores in the iGive Mall (stores like Barnes & Noble, Lands' End, and Amazon). Up to 26% of every purchase you make is donated to the **SPCA/HS of P.G. County**.



CRUELTY PREVENTION

Out in The Heat — HELP!

"When we do the best that we can, we never know what miracle is wrought in our life, or in the life of another." Helen Keller

Now that it's summer, we will receive more cruelty calls – many about dogs being kept outside in the heat, without protection from the weather. If you know of a backyard dog, please remember it is just as important to monitor its care in the summer as it is in the winter.

SHADE

The intense heat of summer is very hard on the animals. As in the winter, dogs must have proper shelter from the weather. The outdoor dog needs a doghouse to protect it from rain and bad weather, but it also must have access to shade from the sun. A doghouse in the middle of the yard without shade is a "heat box". Shade can be provided by trees or by a tarp over a kennel.

WATER

There should be water available at all times, and it should be changed frequently to remain fresh. The best containers are secured so they can't tip over: a bucket or large bowl won't tip if it's sitting in a hole dug into the ground specifically to hold it steady. A bowl can be secured to a wide base, or a bucket can be wired to the kennel fencing. Adding lots of ice cubes to a bowl of water can help keep it cool.

CLEANLINESS AND PESTS

Fecal matter needs to be picked up daily to prevent flies from being drawn to the area. Dogs can suffer from "fly strikes" to the ears and body, from bugs repeatedly biting them. This can cause painful sores which require medical attention.

Dogs who live outside are prone to being bitten by fleas. Watch for hot spots, which can occur from the dog licking, chewing, or digging itself to relieve the itching.

ASPHALT

Dogs should never be allowed to stand on hot asphalt. Their paws are very sensitive and can burn. Concrete runs can also get hot. There must be a shady area available at all times.

Dogs should be brought inside during the hottest part of the day. In fact, we recommend that all pets be kept indoors as a part of the family. However, some owners will not allow their pets indoors. For these dogs, be a friend; be their voice. If you know of an animal living under substandard care, please let us know so we can help. Call (301) 262-5625 and choose box # 1.

Thank you.

Judy McClain
SPCA/HS Cruelty Investigator

To report an incident of animal cruelty, abuse or neglect -- or to volunteer with our cruelty program -- please call 301-262-5625 and leave a message in Box #1.

THE BACKYARD DOG

Dogs are pack animals that thrive on companionship. Much like their wolf ancestors, dogs are very social. In fact, dogs are more social than humans and need to be part of human families. When you own a dog, you become the dog's pack. He wants to be with you. Forcing a dog to live outside with little or no human companionship is one of the most psychologically damaging things a pet owner can do to a dog.

Backyard dogs make lousy guard dogs. A dog becomes naturally protective of where he lives (his territory or turf). He will only defend the place he lives in. If he is never allowed in the house, then the house will not become a place to protect. Most people keep their valuables inside their houses, so why wouldn't you want your dog to protect the inside of your house? Unless allowed to live inside, your dog will not develop a sense of territory. He will not sound the alarm when someone tries to invade your house. It is not uncommon to hear stories of families being robbed while their backyard dog snoozed through the whole episode.

Backyard dogs have more behavioral problems. Being left alone or isolated from his pack counters all your dog's instincts. Your dog can become very stressed or anxious. A dog exhibits stress by digging, barking, howling or whining, chewing, escaping, and exhibiting hyperactivity. These problems can become so troublesome that your neighbors may complain. You can be fined, and your dog may even be in danger.

Think about how much time you'll devote to your dog. People who keep their dogs outside constantly rationalize it. They insist that they do spend time with their dogs, they do feed them, they do walk them. Spending an hour a day with your dog is not enough for his mental welfare. Be realistic! What about when it is rainy, windy, cold, or just plain too hot? Are you still spending that hour daily with your dog no matter what? Making the backyard your dog's only home does not make him a real part of the family.

Give your dog a chance to be your best friend! Don't kick him out because you think he is untrainable, unruly, or that it's good for him to be outside. Instead, take the time to make him a part of your family, a part of your pack.

Humane Society of Silicon Valley

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Getting Fit with Fido

CALL US!

301-262-5625

Our 24-hour voicemail service receives over 1,500 calls each month. If you need our help, leave a message and we'll get back to you as quickly as possible. Emergency calls are routed to an on-call volunteer for immediate response. We help with animal emergencies, cruelty/abuse and neglect cases, volunteer inquiries, vehicle donations, lost/found dogs and cats, spay/neuter inquiries, and other miscellaneous issues.

**It's About
the Animals**

Now that summer is here, you may be wishing you were in better shape. If you hate exercising alone but don't have a friend or family member willing to work out with you, don't despair. Dogs can make wonderful exercise partners. They love being with their pack leader, enjoy the great outdoors... and never back out because of last-minute scheduling conflicts.

Besides, you'll be doing your dog a favor. Exercise is as good for Fido as it is for you; it helps dogs build strong bones, improves their cardiovascular systems, and tones their muscles. This contributes to longer, healthier lives.

In addition to enjoying better physical health, dogs—like people—who enjoy regular physical activity sleep better, have more energy, and are more content and mentally alert. A dog that gets to walk, run, or swim is less likely to shred your sofa, deconstruct the living room, or maul your expensive new shoes. In other words, “A tired dog is a good dog.”

The amount of exercise dogs need and can handle depends on their sex, age, health, and breed. Dogs developed to hunt, retrieve, herd, or perform other types of work usually need more exercise than non-sporting, non-working, or toy breeds that have been bred as companion dogs.

WALK OR RUN?

All breeds of dogs can benefit from running but some require special considerations, says Dr. Peter Shires, professor and section chief of small animal surgery at the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine. “Flat-faced breeds, such as the pug and Pekingese, often have upper airway constrictions that make them vulnerable to heat and exercise exhaustion,” he explains. “Greyhounds, on the other hand, can usually handle more running than a person can.”

Walking is an excellent alternative for most people and their four-legged companions, according to Shires. In fact, a long walk is more appropriate exercise for most dogs than a quick run. And if you're worried that you won't burn as many calories by walking, think again. According to Dr. Ben Hurley, professor of kinesiology at the University of Maryland, walking or running the same distance burns roughly the same number of calories—it just takes you longer to walk the same distance.

DOS AND DON'TS

Before beginning any human/canine exercise program, take your dog to a veterinarian for a thorough physical. Whether walking or running, take care to start your exercise program slowly, especially if your dog is

older, overweight, or a puppy. This allows dogs, like people, to condition and strengthen their muscles, joints, and respiratory systems.

Choose an appropriate running surface. Since dogs don't have the protection of shoes, try to run on grass rather than concrete or asphalt whenever possible.

Hydration is important for both of you. “Make sure frequent small amounts of water are available when running or taking a long walk, especially in warm weather,” says Shires. “And don't run on a full stomach.”

Don't push yourself or your dog, especially on very hot or humid days. Dogs who want to please their pack leaders won't give up till they collapse. Be alert to your dog's condition. Early signs of heat exhaustion include rapid breathing, heavy panting, salivation, muscle tremors, and staggering. As heatstroke progresses, the dog may also vomit, have diarrhea, experience convulsions, and even collapse. Heatstroke can be fatal if not treated immediately.

Control of your dog in public places is essential; therefore, running or even walking off leash should be avoided or exercised only with caution, even in areas where local laws allow off-leash exercise. Your dog may be fine in most situations, but what happens if he encounters another, less well-socialized dog or succumbs to the instinct to chase a cat or squirrel? No dog should be exercised off leash unless you are completely sure that she will return promptly on command.

Most experts also advise against running your dog beside a bicycle or while on a skateboard or roller skates. At best, you could end up being pulled over; at worst, your dog could be hit by a car.

OTHER OPTIONS

Walking and running aren't the only options for joint exercise. For those who live near water or have access to a canine aquatic facility, swimming can be a great alternative if the dog enjoys it. As a non-weight-bearing form of exercise, it's particularly good for dogs recovering from orthopedic problems, says Shires.

Other options for athletic canines include agility, flyball, and competitive obedience. While these dog sports offer humans less exercise, they do provide a great opportunity for owners and their dogs to have fun together while learning and bonding. And that's an important element in any exercise program because the bottom line is... if it isn't fun, you won't stick with it and then neither you nor your dog will benefit.

Pam Townsend

DOG ADOPTIONS

The Benefits of Temperament Testing

We primarily rescue dogs from the P.G. County Animal Management Facility in Forestville, Maryland. We also take in owner give-ups, but the majority of our mutts (and purebreds) are shelter dogs. Every week, if we have available foster homes, a volunteer visits the shelter to look for dogs we can save. Sometimes shelter staff members call us about a certain dog they're hoping will go to a rescue group.

We look for highly adoptable dogs who are friendly, affectionate and want to be with people. We also watch for any health concerns a dog may have. We try to choose dogs who are going to be easy, both mentally and physically, for the average adopter to care for. We take our volunteer jobs very seriously, because if we select dogs that are hard to place, it will take longer for us to find suitable homes for them. And that means that each week, we'll have to pass over other highly adoptable dogs.

When we visit the shelter we make a quick scan to see what is available. It takes some time to evaluate dogs, so a walk-through to see what dogs are there is usually the first step. We have a lot of things to keep in mind: what foster homes are available, what size dogs can they accept, what dogs are already in the program, and what dogs are popular with the public.

We also try to keep pity out of the picture. You really have to keep your emotions in check at the shelter. You can't make choices based on sympathy, but must focus instead on what is best for the public.

It's a lot to consider, but it makes the process a bit easier with so many of them looking for homes. Some dogs really "sell" themselves – with wagging tails and soft looks on their faces, they beg for attention. These

usually get tested. Other dogs may be growling, extremely shy or aloof. We don't test these dogs.

Once we select a dog for testing, we begin our observation as the kennel worker takes the dog from its cage into a private room. Does the dog walk well on a leash? Does it growl or lunge at other dogs as it passes by? Is it excited or shy?

We walk into the room and watch how the dog responds to us. Is the dog friendly? Is it interested in human contact? Does it ask for affection or demand it? What type of affection does it want? Will it tolerate lots of petting? Does it like to be hugged?

We initiate several types of interaction with the dog, and observe closely how the dog responds to each. The process usually takes about 15 minutes per dog, and we normally test three to six dogs per visit.

We truly believe in our program of screening dogs. Though nothing is foolproof, temperament testing helps us better ensure the public's and our own volunteers' safety. And our adopters are happier too.

Anyone who has ever lived with an aggressive dog knows how much work and heartbreak it can be. The grief and frustration of owning a dangerous dog can be awesome: working with a trainer, trying different obedience techniques or hiring a behaviorist only to find that your dog is not going to change.

On the other hand, a highly affectionate dog truly becomes a member of the family and has fewer behavioral problems. We can't save all the homeless dogs, but if we choose well, we can give some the best possible second chance!

Mary Bayless
Dog Adoption Coordinator

For more
information on
our adoptable
dogs, visit
www.pgspca.org
or come to an
adoption event
(see the schedule
below).

And check out p. 8
for some recent
success stories!

Find the perfect pet at one of our ADOPTION EVENTS

1st Sat of the month, DOGS ONLY
12-3pm, PetValu (on NH Ave in Silver
Spring), 301-654-3690

3rd Sat. of the month, DOGS&CATS
12-3pm, Columbia PetSmart (on Snowden
Rd), 410-312-0950

4th Sat. of the month, DOGS&CATS
Bowie PetSmart (on Mitchellville Rd), 301-
352-7286 (Volunteer Orientation at 11:00am)

4th Sun. of the month, DOGS ONLY
12-3pm, Kensington PetSmart (on Nicholson
Ln), 301-770-1343 (TENTATIVE -- call first!)

SUCCESS STORIES

9 Doggone Good Tails

PIERRE

Pierre was an owner give-up—at least 10 years old, decaying teeth, the beginning of cataracts. We wondered who would ever adopt poor Pierre. Pierre is now living happily with his new family, a physician and a social worker, three other dogs and one cat. Oh, and Pierre is a “working” dog now. On weekends, he goes with his social worker mom to the convalescent home to visit with the residents.



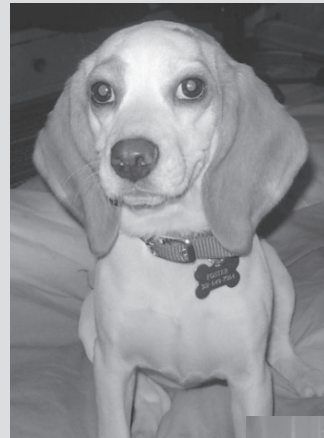
SIERRA

Shortly after her adoption, Sierra's new family felt that something was wrong. A visit to the vet confirmed that Sierra is profoundly deaf. Her new family has been working with a trainer experienced with deaf dogs. Sierra has *them* trained to open the back door and let her out whenever she rings her bell.



CASEY

The shelter worker was really upset—Casey's time was up and the shelter had held her as long as they possibly could. But Casey, an affectionate 4-month-old, got a last-minute reprieve when an SPCA/HS volunteer agreed to take her into our program. Within an hour, Casey was at an adoption show where her new family met and fell in love with her. This sounds like a “tall tale,” but *it's absolutely true*.



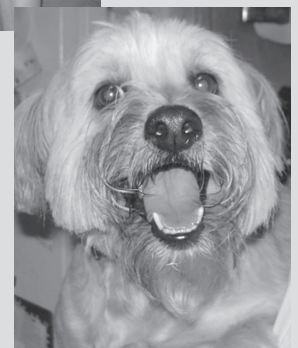
UNO

Before Animal Control took him into custody, two-year-old Uno was kept outside 24 hours a day. He came to the SPCA/HS and was adopted shortly thereafter. Uno now lives *inside* with his new family. He has a warm place to sleep, plenty of food, lots of toys and a loving family to call his own.



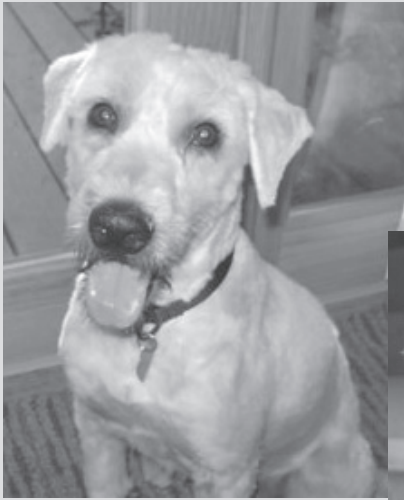
ANGEL

A Good Samaritan spotted the frantic dog running loose in a parking lot and tried to pick her up, but the dog was afraid and confused, and she refused to be caught. Finally, realizing it was her last chance at catching the panicked dog, the rescuer offered her water and the dog gave up, ending the chase. This dog's Guardian Angel must've been watching out for her, and that's how she got her name.



**It's About
the Animals**

Photos and stories by Sharon Wentzel



WILLIE

When Willie was found as a stray he was so matted his new foster family took him to the dog groomer before they took him home. Who knew beneath all that fur was a beautiful Wheaten Terrier? Willie's with his new family and his coat is now long and lush. He bears no resemblance to the sorry little stray dog that first came to the SPCA/HS dog adoption program.



OLIVIA

She has the face of an angel – but Olivia was mad about something and she was very vocal about her frustrations. No matter how attracted people were to her sweet face her angry tirades at adoption shows drove people away. But one family felt that deep inside Olivia's heart was a sweet girl with a disposition to match that beautiful face. They were right, and Olivia is now happily living “quietly,” we are pleased to report, with her new family.

For more information on our adoptable dogs or providing a foster home, visit www.pgspca.org or come to a show (see the schedule on p. 7).



EBONY

Ebony was found as a stray with a litter of puppies. Her playful, fluffy babies quickly found homes. But Ebony, still plagued by her days on the streets, was painfully shy. At adoption shows she hid under the table! After one year in the program, Ebony was placed with a foster family who soon realized they wanted Ebony to be their foster forever. Ebony now wears a heart-shaped identification tag that reads “Ebony—Our Girl”.

GRETA

An “overweight” German Shepherd mix, Greta came into the program in December. Her appointment to be spayed was postponed because of bad weather and then the holidays came. And on January 4, 2004 it became obvious why Greta was so chubby when she gave birth to two puppies (pictured at right), Annie and Sophie.



CAT ADOPTIONS

Adorable Adoptables



CELINE

Celine is a 2-year-old female calico who was rescued from the P.G. County Animal Management Facility on her “last day.” She is extremely sweet with her foster mom. She loves to drink water from the faucet and sleep at the foot of the bed. While Celine does get along well with other cats she is an “in charge” kitty, so she would do equally well as an only child. Is there room at the foot of your bed for Celine?

KIDA

Kida is a 1-year-old female torbie. Kida is a very quiet cat. Her favorite spot in her foster home is a bed that sits in front of the window. She is very friendly. Although Kida gets along well with everyone, she does not have a “buddy” so she would do equally well as an only child. Do you have a window that Kida could sleep in front of?



RACHEL

Rachel is a 1-year-old black with white female cat. She and her brother were adopted when they were kittens, however, their person returned them because she was moving and could not take them with her. Rachel is extremely affectionate. She loves to sit on her foster mom's lap and watch television. She also likes to sit on her foster mom's shoulder and help read the newspaper. Do you have a shoulder big enough for Rachel?

KITTY

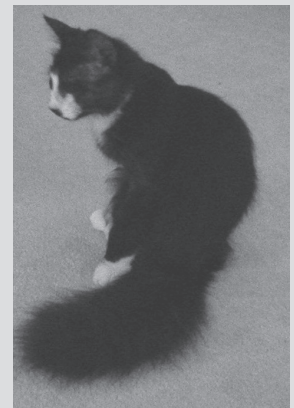
This beautiful 3-year-old torbie is playful, affectionate, and may even decide to sleep on your bed at night! She came from a multi-cat home and has some health issues which, though not life-threatening, make her better suited to being an only cat. She has thrived under the tender loving care of her foster home, but she longingly waits for that one special person who will be hers. Could it be you?



GOODWIN

Goodwin is a 2-year-old fluffy black and white male. Goodwin had a cold in his eye when he was a kitten and complications arose and the eye had to be removed. Goodwin loves to be petted and sit next to his foster mom. Goodwin gets along well with everyone.

Goodwin's favorite spot in his foster home is a fluffy kitty bed that sits in front of a window where he dreams of his forever home. Could that be yours?



SPECIAL FEATURE

A Day at the Clinic

Just over three years ago, it was an empty doublewide trailer sitting awkwardly in the middle of the county's parking lot. The sign on the front read "SPCA/Humane Society of Prince George's County Spay/Neuter Clinic." And inside were bare walls, assorted pieces of donated equipment, and the seeds of change.

Today the same sign is out front, but inside, the trailer is dramatically different. There's a lobby and reception area, two kennel wards, a kitchen with pet grooming tub, a treatment area, and a fully operational surgery suite. With the best equipment and computerized record keeping, this facility rivals the best small animal clinic around. Each day we're open, we surgically alter as many as 45 animals, preventing countless unwanted litters of puppies and kittens. If born, many of these unwanted animals would end up at the already burgeoning animal control holding facility across the street.

This clinic stands on the frontline of the battle against pet overpopulation in P.G. County. Its reach extends into D.C., Anne Arundel County, Charles County, and even Virginia. Its mission is to stop what would otherwise happen, and that's something that's nearly impossible to measure. We can only guess at the clinic's impact, until the seemingly endless flow of abused, neglected, unwanted, and feral animals falls back and subsides. It seems a daunting and impossible task, but we're in the fight every day that the clinic is open.

At 7:00 am, the first staff members arrive and prepare for the busy day ahead: they return phone calls, prepare surgery supplies, and ready the facility to receive its customers, who begin arriving at 7:30 am. Over the next hour, as many as 45 animals will be admitted. Their owners pay in advance and we transfer the animals into various kennels and holding areas to await surgery.

At 9:00 am, the surgeries begin. We start with the female cats, as many as 25 in one day. Often they are feral (wild), having arrived in the very trap they were caught in. Most feral cats will also be tested for Feline Leukemia and FIV, vaccinated, and dewormed.

Sometime after 11:00 am, we start on the male cats. (Cats take longer to come out of anesthesia, so we save the dogs for later in the day.) The surgical pace is steady throughout the day, though at noon, we stop to examine

and treat a few SPCA foster animals who have come in for vaccinations, diagnostic testing, or treatment.

Sometime between noon and 2:00 pm, we start on the female dogs, often as many as 16. We work fast; all the animals must be awake enough to be discharged safely at day's end. Then we operate on the male dogs, finishing around 5:00 pm. But more animals have arrived in the front kennel ward; they are new or sick SPCA foster animals waiting patiently for testing and treatment. We examine and treat them all.

Throughout the day, the front office staff makes appointments, fields phone calls, and keys in invoice data. All along, we have carefully monitored our post-surgery patients as they recover and wake up.

The end of the day is a flurry of activity as we prepare medications and discharge paperwork. At 5:30 pm, the day is about to come full circle. The lobby is crowded with clients. We see them each in order, addressing their questions and concerns. We give detailed discharge instructions and a phone number at which they can reach the doctor.

It takes about 45 minutes to fully discharge all the patients. The staff has been working for nearly 12 hours now, but the day isn't quite over yet. We have to clean the kennels, take out the trash, file the paperwork, and prepare supplies for the next surgery day. It's been a long, hard day and as the staff leaves, the once bustling clinic is again dark and quiet. In the silence, it's easy to imagine the hundreds of puppies and kittens that won't be born unwanted and unloved. For one day, we've done our best to muffle the anguished cries of pet overpopulation. But there are more animals out there, and tomorrow is another day of fighting on the frontlines.

In just three years, the SPCA/HS Spay/Neuter Clinic has become a top-notch facility with numbers and quality results that rival the best in the country. Its success is due to the hard work and dedication of many SPCA/HS leaders, members, and volunteers, and of the clinic staff. It's something we can all be proud of, and we've earned the right to brag about our results. The battle continues, but with every cat, with every dog, with every day we do make a difference.

Dr. Thomas Smith, D.V.M., Clinic Veterinarian

In the silence, it's
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pet overpopulation.

**It's About
the Animals**

SPAY/NEUTER Clinic Celebrates a Major Milestone

To make an
appointment, call
the clinic at
301-324-0807.
To donate to our
clinic, use the form
on p. 15.

The SPCA/HS Spay/Neuter Clinic in Forestville, MD performed its 10,000th surgery in March. This is no small accomplishment, and we are so proud.

It's impossible to know exactly how many unwanted litters we've prevented, but the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) estimates that in seven years, one female cat or dog and her offspring can theoretically

produce more than 400,000 animals. That means that we've managed to prevent at least **FOUR BILLION** unwanted feline and canine births in Prince George's county, and that's only projecting through 2009.

We want to thank our hard-working clinic staff and all the past SPCA/HS leaders who - with their blood, sweat, and tears - literally willed the clinic into existence in 2001. Thanks to all those who volunteer at the clinic or shot clinics, who handle the spay/neuter calls, and who spread the word at adoption shows and community events. Lastly, thank you to the Prince George's County government for their ongoing support.

The clinic's lucky 10,000th customer was an adorable 4-month-old lab named Charlie. His surprised adopter, Shirlene Gray of Forestville, received a commemorative certificate and a gift bag of goodies. On March 29, we had a small celebration at the clinic, with Charlie as the guest of honor. The clinic staff, several board members, and Charlie's family attended. Because Charlie was adopted from the county shelter, we were also joined by Chief Rodney Taylor of the county's Animal Management Division. The food and fraternizing were great, but the best part was being able to hug Charlie, our newest soldier in the fight against animal overpopulation in Prince George's County!



Lab puppy Charlie, the SPCA/HS Clinic's 10,000th customer, poses with clinic veterinarian Thomas Smith (left) and Chief Rodney Taylor of the Prince George's County Animal Management Division.



A Tasty Way To Raise Dough.

Uno will donate 20%
of your check to:

To Benefit: SPCA/HS of Prince George's County
Fundraiser Date: August 23, 2004

Valid only at:

In the new Bowie Town Center
4001 Town Center Blvd.
Bowie, MD
(301) 352-5320

Please present this certificate at the time of payment to have 20% of your check's value, excluding tax and tip, donated to the organization above. Not to be used with other coupons or discounts. Tickets are not to be distributed in the restaurant or within the perimeter of the parking areas. Valid for date listed above.

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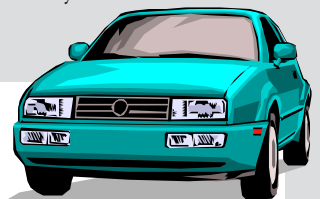
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**Donate your used vehicle.
Running or not, we will tow.
1992 or newer.**



Call (301) 262-5625 (choose option 2); we'll promptly return your call, answer all your questions, and arrange pickup of your vehicle.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

What NOT to Feed Your Pet

What do you get when you mix avocado, macadamia nuts, chopped onions, and raisins in a red wine vinaigrette... add some nutmeg and a pinch of salt and wrap it all in a rich pastry crust? Well, it could be an interesting dish for a potluck picnic... but it's definitely a recipe for disaster for your pet!

Most pet owners know that chocolate contains a cardiac stimulant and can be fatal for dogs and cats, but they overlook other toxic items in their pantry:

Drinks and foods containing caffeine – like coffee and tea – cause many of the same symptoms.

Grapes or raisins – even a small amount – can cause acute kidney failure... and so can excessive salt.

A naturally occurring compound found in onions damages the oxygen-carrying hemoglobin in your pet's red blood cells. The result can be an abnormally low red blood cell count... and anemia.

The avocado meat, pit and plant are all toxic. Animals that eat them may have difficulty breathing and get fluid accumulation in the chest, abdomen and heart.

Nutmeg can cause tremors, seizures and death.

Macadamia nuts are another concern. As few as six kernels can cause dogs to develop muscular tremors, as well as weakness or paralysis in the hindquarters.

Excessive fat and too many fried foods can cause pancreatitis and abdominal pain.

Bones can splinter, damaging a dog's internal organs.

Tomatoes – especially tomato plants – can cause tremors and heart arrhythmia.

Other fruits on the 'Do Not Ingest' list: apples, cherries, peaches and pears. Their seeds contain cyanide, which is poisonous to dogs and humans. (Dogs don't know to toss the core. They eat the whole thing.)

Lastly, raw eggs can cause salmonella poisoning.

Whew! It's enough to drive a pet to drink! But don't let them at the bottle – alcoholic beverages can cause weakness, depression, and staggering... just like with people. Stick with a good old-fashioned dog biscuit or some catnip and lots of one-on-one loving care.

Faith Lapidus

**ASPCA Animal
Poison Control
Center**

**1-888-4ANHELP
(888-426-4435)**

(\$50.00 charge per case)

*Visit www.aspca.org for
more information.*

WITH SINCERE THANKS And Appreciation

Linda Armstrong and the employees at Tresses and Sheers (Savage, MD) for sponsoring us with their adorable dogs-and-cats holiday tree in December!

College Park Animal Hospital, Washington Animal Rescue League, Beltway Vet Referral Hospital, The Animal Eye Clinic, and Chesapeake Veterinary Cardiology Associates for providing excellent care and reduced-fee services to our homeless animals.

White Oak Pet Valu (in the White Oak Shopping Center, Silver Spring MD) for their repeated generous donations of surplus dog food, and for providing a venue for our adoption event.

PetSmart stores in Kensington, Columbia, and Bowie for providing a venue for our adoption events.

Drs. Foster & Smith for their donation of dog supplies.

Hills Pet, Iams, and Midwest Crate for donating educational brochures and materials.

WUSA PetLine9 for featuring our animals.

Hartz Mountain for a generous donation of pet toys and pet care products.

Clear Channel Broadcasting Company for donating monthly airtime to our organization..

Carolyn Coon and Starfish Design for website maintenance.

Adele L. Abrams, Esq. for legal consultation.

John MacLean, CPA for helping with our financial and tax paperwork.

Paul Bartlett and Southern Auto Brokers for assisting with our auto donation program.

Dan Hoffman and Business Direct for print work.

Michele Buesch and Bonnie Griffin for writing our thank you and acknowledgment letters for donations.

Aino Hunter for a generous donation to the Trixie Fund, and for fostering Mindy, Hope, Princess, and Higgins, who could not have been saved without her help.

**It's About
the Animals**

SPECIAL DONATIONS Memorials and Honorariums

IN HONOR OF PEOPLE

Judy McClain

Robin Tierney

Mrs. Beverly Fry

Cynthia Burns

Terry Hess

Katherine A. Hess

Dee Ryerson

Gay Kolski

David Phelps

Mrs. David Phelps

Sharon Nielsen

Donna Johns

Craig Henderson

James Atkins

Joni Marginot

Nancy Hadley

Peggy Buckley

Maggie Butts

M.M.

Lachelle D. Savoy

IN HONOR OF ANIMALS

Angie (Ebony) and

Rupert (Buster)

Donna O'Berry

Calvin and Petunia

Nancy Hadley

Taco Belle

Gloria Ericson

Pete-e, Chip, Sooty,

Wazzie, Tuffy-man,

Biggies & Friendly

Francine Abell

Ginger

M. and A. Reiman

Foxy

P. and S. Frank

Gator and Bud

Fern Nerhood

In Memory of People

In Memory of Ninie Murray

She was dedicated in making things better for all creatures great and small. She was an advocate for animal rights and welfare. She was the voice of the voiceless. She will be sorely missed by both her friends and the animals.

Judy and Roger McClain

Joni Marginot

Joan Marshall

Ginny May

Ed and Mary Helen Brosnahan

Alain and Mary Louise deSarran

Joe and Elfriede Pace

In Memory of Kay Nelson

Shirley Bielawski

Elizabeth Jay

In Memory of Lorraine McClelland

Elizabeth Jay

In Memory of Athena Hedding

Darrow School

Dept of Labor, Office of Workforce Security

Ellen and Peter Calhoun

Mary Koutris

Sandra Miller

Glenda and David Robertson

Harold and Verda Morgan, Jr.

Charles and Eva Fuchs

In Memory of Ruthann Frothingham

William and Shirley McGinty

Cindy Johnson

Patrick Alison Becker

Harriett and Bud Hankins

Captain and Mrs. Richard Fox

Joan Abel

Dept of Defense, IIA General Counsel

Virginia Polacek

Buffy and Dorothy Ball

In Memory of Carlton Johnson

Margaret Folkins

In Memory of Leslie Landis Prager

Mr. and Mrs. Steven Landis

In Memory of Karl Feissner

Katy Wruk

Herman Anthony Litzinger

Irving and Nan Custis

Louis A. Caporletti of A/C Tire Co.

G.A. Eberly Plumbing and Heating LLC

Mr. Albert G. Jackson, a lover of animals

Martha and Monica Roaché

In Memory of Mildred Leaworthy, loving mother of James Young

In Memory of Animals

In Memory of Ojitos – Ana Sierra-

Honigman's beloved dog

Sharon Wentzel

In Memory of Heenie, our sweet cat

Doris O'Keefe

In Memory of Maggie

Patricia Kearney

In Memory of Shasta

Virginia S. Taylor

In Memory of Spooky

Uncle Charlie and Aunt Carolyn

In Memory of Cleo

Susan Stayer and Wendell Albright

In Memory of Langley

Cesar and Maria Filippi

In Memory of Venus, my 15-year-old cat who died August 11, 2003

Bernadette Bailey

In Memory of Pussita

Stanley Gadowski

In Memory of our dog Cookie & our cat Tony

James and Christina Young

HEARTWARMERS Homer? Rufus? Just Call Him Lucky

The shelter called me about an adorable American Bulldog puppy, an owner give-up with a bum leg who was scheduled for euthanasia the next morning. I had to at least look. He was gorgeous, and sweet, so with caution to the wind I said yes. The next day I picked him up and brought him home to foster. I named him Homer (as in Homeless Homer, Handsome Homer, Heroic Homer). But when I got home, my friend John took one look and said "You got Rufus out of the shelter!" So Rufus stuck.

Rufus was a great foster dog. He followed me everywhere, and he always had to be touching, always close. He had the best temperament. His leg, though. Very bent, and shorter than the other front leg. Apparently an old break that had healed incorrectly without vet care. The pain he must have had. We took Rufus to an orthopedic surgeon and to three regular veterinarians. They spoke of surgery, then amputation, then decided to wait until he was fully grown and go from there.

I thought I'd never be able to find him a home (and I secretly wished he would stay with me forever). But one Saturday at the Bowie PetSmart, a woman came in to see Rufus, her completed application in her hand. I do believe it was love at first sight. She had recently lost a dog to cancer, and I knew that if anyone could heal her broken heart, it was Rufus. An awesome pet owner, Ann passed all our checks and soon adopted Rufus. It was so hard to let him leave my home. He has a heart as big as Texas, and a smile, love, and enthusiasm that can only be described as contagious. Every day is a party for Rufus. He is what makes me want to continue to volunteer and to rescue needy dogs who might otherwise never get that second, or third chance.

Mary Bayless, Dog Adoption Coordinator



Membership Application/Donation Form

SPCA/HUMANE SOCIETY OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, INC.
P.O. Box 925 BOWIE, MD 20718 301-262-5625

PLEASE CHECK AS MANY AS APPLY:

☐ **MEMBERSHIP** (circle one): *Single (\$20)* *Family (\$30)* *Lifetime (\$100 per person)*

☐ **RENEWAL:** *Please check here if this is a renewal membership.*

☐ **ADDITIONAL DONATION:** *I am enclosing an additional gift in the amount of \$ _____*

I enclose the additional donation IN MEMORY OF:

A person: _____ *A pet:* _____

I enclose the additional donation IN HONOR OF:

A person: _____ *A pet:* _____

☐ **VOLUNTEER:** *I am willing to help in the following capacity:*

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____ (PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO THE SPCA/HS OF P.G. COUNTY, INC.)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

All donations and dues are tax-deductible. Please complete this form and mail with payment to the address above. Thank you.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

2nd Annual Dog Adoptions Reunion

Carrying on the fine tradition started last May, the SPCA/HS will hold its second annual Dog Adoption Reunion on **Saturday, August 14, 2004, from 12:00n - 4:00pm at Wheaton Regional Park**. It's sure to be a day of fun for everyone in your pack!

Last year, almost one hundred people and their dogs showed up to get reacquainted and celebrate second-hand dogs. We had contests and raffles with great prizes, good food, and obedience demonstrations.

If you have adopted from or fostered for the SPCA/HS Dog Adoption program, please bring your canine buddies and join us for a wonderful day in the park. Watch our website for more information. (If you'd like to help us organize this event, please contact Jenn Evoy at jevoy@umd.edu.)

Former foster dog Mickey (right) arrived in style at last year's Dog Adoption Reunion.



ARE YOU A MEMBER?

Individual membership to the SPCA/HS of P.G. County is only \$20 and includes a subscription to Heads & Tails. Your vital support will help us reduce animal overpopulation, homelessness, and mistreatment in P.G. County. (Use the form on page 15.)

We appreciate your support. All contributions are tax deductible.

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