These helpless kittens lay in an alley—clinging to life and to each other. They were far too sick to escape the wretched place where someone had left them to die. We saw their pain and vulnerability. All we wanted to do was save their lives.

We used medicine and warm, soapy baths to get rid of all the fleas. These kittens were covered with them!

Initially, the kittens had to be force-fed. They also spent time in an incubator. Brad was diagnosed with hypothermia, a result of being exposed to the elements. Despite all the hardships, every single kitten has made a complete recovery.

HELPING BECCA

This photo of Becca with Ashley, one of her caregivers, captures the essence of our rescue work. It is full of love and gratitude.

Last year, we faced a crisis concerning Becca’s health. She needed surgery. Without it, she would die. An operation, however, was risky because Becca has a heart condition. Our decision was gut wrenching, but we did what was best for Becca. She not only survived the surgery, she feels better than ever!

We look back to her days in the Pet ER. With loving arms around her, we encouraged Becca to be strong. We would be waiting for her to enjoy a new life, one that would help her forget her cruel past. The dog with a frail heart couldn’t give up because so many people cared about her suffering.

"The scales of justice must be equal for all God’s creatures."
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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MEMORIALS: Contributions may be sent in memory of a loved one. We acknowledge gifts to next of kin. All donations over $25 are published. Thank you for honoring:

*ACE—in memory of our beloved Westie who gave us 15 years of love, joy, and play. We miss you.—Love, the Wissel family

*Mike Amerson—in loving memory of my brother-in-law. He loved all animals. R.I.P., dear Mike.—Love, Gail

*Aasper—in loving memory of a feral kitten adopted on a cold winter’s night, timid for several years, then more trusting, finally enjoying the affection of her family. Loved for 12 years and now in their hearts forever—Irene Heffner

*Axl—in loving memory of my beautiful Cocker Spaniel—Marion Quiroz

*Bandit—in loving memory of your sweet boy—Renée and staff at the Animal Medical Clinic of Dulaney Valley

*Beloved Dogs—in loving memory of my six dogs—Kathryn Pavlov

*Beloved Rescues—in loving memory of my beloved rescues—Barb Lee

*Allie Burke—in loving memory of Laura’s baby girl for 20 years—Love, Donna and Earl

*Dorothy “Elaine” Burkhardt—in loving memory—Joanne Passapae

*Burton—in loving memory—Howard Berliner

*Susan Cairnes—in loving memory of my beloved only sibling—Patricia Cairnes

*Candy—in loving memory of our beloved Maltese—Susan and John Thomas

*April Holmes Caspariello—in loving memory—Joe Caspariello

*Krista Chepulis—in memory of my dearly beloved niece—Dolores Hoheneder

*Virginia Collie—in loving memory. Donors to the Virginia Collie Memorial Fund include: Edie Brown and Ann McCloskey.

*Patricia Collingwood—in loving memory—Diane L. Degnan

*Emmie—in loving memory of your sweet girl—Renée and staff at the Animal Medical Clinic of Dulaney Valley

*Ezra—in loving memory of Jeff Fryer’s sweet 20-year-old cat.—Roland and Leah Bark

*Favre—in loving memory of our little guy, Favre. Love you always!—Yoder/Schouten family

*Janice Foesel—in loving memory—the Woods family

*Fred, *Wilma, *Dandy, and *Yankee—in loving memory—James Galovich

*Dvorah Fromberg—in loving memory of our dear friend—Randi and Alan Foreman

*Delaney Gaddis—in loving memory—Katherine Miller

*Alicia Gauger—in loving memory. Donors to the Alicia Gauger Memorial Fund include: Jane M. Dalton, Helen Resop, and Dr. Chalyse H. Shaw.

*James Giglio (1935–2020)—in loving memory—Joseph Giglio
PLEASE BE MY VALENTINE

Ruth gave her heart to a family that did not care about her. The family responded with cruelty instead of love. Ruth was forced to live outside in a filthy yard. There was no protection from the elements. Water and food were scarce.

Despite all that Ruth has endured, she always puts her best paw forward to everyone! We selected Ruth to celebrate Valentine’s Day and to kick off our 2022 A.D.O.P.T. (Animals Depend On People Totally) Program.

Joining A.D.O.P.T. is easy. Kindly donate at least $10 every month. We will send you 12 envelopes to make your gifts plus a photo of a dog, cat, pig, or ewe representing all the animals you are saving. Please see coupon.

Any chance you can give Ruth the good home she deserves? She loves to snuggle.

SAVED: FIVE-WEEK-OLD ABANDONED KITTEN

It is a miracle that this kitten is alive. We cradled him in our hands and felt his sadness. It was the sorrow of being unwanted. Dustin was left on a road to die. He must have been so afraid of the speeding cars. He was cold and all alone.

If you see an animal being abandoned, get as much information as possible such as a description of the person and the car as well as a license plate number. Please report this cruelty to your local animal control.

We put our all into saving every animal who comes through our doors. Dustin was extremely hungry. Yet, he didn’t know how to eat from a dish, a bottle, or a syringe! Photo shows Abbey, one of his caregivers, hand-feeding baby Dustin. A hand extended with kindness is something an animal never forgets especially when that cat or dog has been mistreated.

As soon as Dustin is strong enough, he will undergo surgery. Sometime in his sad past, he suffered with an infection that was never treated. Tragically, it destroyed his left eye; and that eye will need to be removed.

We know you will be rooting for our little guy. He bravely faces the challenges caused by cruelty because, now, he is loved.
The pets shown here are just a sampling of the many dogs and cats who are waiting at our shelter for good homes. Esther has been with us since May 9, 2016! She is calm and quiet and enjoys snuggling in her cozy bed.

A year ago, Cassie was brought to us with a painful elbow fracture. It broke our hearts that she had to have her right leg amputated. All she wants is a good home and love. Your love.

Brady may be “smiling” but his heart is breaking because he doesn't have a home.

A year after his rescue, Brady still needs a family to call his own. Brady is so amazing that he is almost impossible to describe. When you are in his presence, you understand what a dog’s love can mean.

His adoring eyes may not have saved him from cruelty in the past. But, today, they shine with gratitude for our help.

Brady is hard of hearing. He also has pain in his leg that is controlled with medicine. If you just give him a chance, he will wrap paw prints around your heart forever.

It has been three years since we rescued Belvedere. If you are a person who likes to snack, Belvedere would be a great companion for you. He is “all in” when it comes to eating treats.
*GINGER*—in loving memory of Bev and Michele’s beloved rescue dog and member of the family—Gayle M. Seward

*RUSSELL GLEDHILL and KUBE*—in loving memory—Dr. & Mrs. Norman Schreiber

*GRACIE*—in loving memory of your sweet girl—Renée and staff at the Animal Medical Clinic of Dulaney Valley

*MY GRAYC and SUNSHINE*—in loving memory of my cats, adopted in 1998—Pamela Paulk

*SCOTT GUNTER*—in loving memory—Gailey and Patty Street

*HEATHER and JOHNIE*—in loving memory of two beautiful family members who continue to be in our hearts—Linda Chokov

*ELIZABETH "BETSY" PATTERSON HUGHES*—in loving memory—Sue and Dave Seiler

*Itoq*—in loving memory of our beloved Yorkie-Susan and John Thomas

*JACK*—in loving memory of Rhys and Helen Townsend’s beloved cat—Josie Kaestner

*KATIE*—in loving memory of our dear girl. We love you always.—James Blondheim

*ROGER KORNMAN*—in loving memory of my husband of 51 years—Gloria Kornmann

*MARGARET "PEGGY" LAMBROS*—in loving memory. Donors to the Margaret “Peggy” Lambros Memorial Fund include: Megan Foley, Robert & Jean Foley, Shannon Foley, John & Judy Gillan, Ken & Peggy Hemmeter, Antoinette Lambros, Shirley Matzdorf, and Benjamin Petrilli.

*LEO and MINNIE*—in loving memory. Gone but not forgotten—Robert B. Miller

*DEBORAH LIMMER and DELANEY GADDIS*—in loving memory—Maureen Foley

*MIRIAM K. LINDBERG*—in loving memory—Michael and Maud Ziegler

*MAGGIE and KC*—in loving memory of our girls—All our love, Sharon and Manny Garcia

*GERTRUDE McCLURE*—in loving memory of my Mom—Kimberly Rudd

*DEMPSEY McELLAN*—in loving memory—Emmett Bachran

*MELODY*—in loving memory of my sweet girl—Maureen Stonich

*ROSS MULFORD MYERS*—in loving memory. Donors to the Ross Mulford Myers Memorial Fund include: Carole Dean, Carol & Tom Edel, John & Kathryn Fader, Kenneth S. Fisher, Isabel C. McDonnell, John & Carrie Turner, and Jaymie Watts.

*MURPHY and PHIL*—in loving memory. Forever in our hearts—Becky Brown

*NOVA*—in loving memory—Eric Konzal

*OLIVE OYL*—in loving memory of Mommy’s good girl! Miss you!—Arleen and Jay

*ELLEN and ROY PARSONS*—in loving memory—Elizabeth Grove

*GEORGE and DOROTHY PELUSO*—in loving memory of my parents—Jackie Peluso

*REGGIE and BUDDY*—in loving memory—Doug and Susan Dumont

*ROCKY*—in loving memory of a beloved stray who gave my nephew 15+ years of love—Valerie Noll

*SPECK*—in loving memory—Donna R. Winters

*THOMAS STRICEK and CHIÜN*—Thank you for all your love.—All our love, Grandma and Mom

*TEDDY*—in loving memory of your sweet boy—Renée and staff at the Animal Medical Clinic of Dulaney Valley

*TINY*—in memory of our beloved cat who is greatly missed! Until we meet again at the Rainbow Bridge.—Maria Ortiz and Maria Spangler

*TIPPY*—in loving memory Wanda and Danny Palmer’s beloved little dog. Cherished and never forgotten—Junie and Sherri

*BELLA VIAL*—in loving memory of a distinguished and beloved therapy dog—Col. Charles C. Viall

*SUSAN YAQUIJANT*—in loving memory—John Yaquiant
Dear Kind Member:

Penny and Cassandra and her kittens came to our shelter within a week of each other. Both were emergencies involving specialized care. There wasn’t a moment to lose.

Cassandra had just given birth. Sadly, she had a prolapsed uterus that had to be removed right away. You can imagine how vulnerable her newborns were. We bottle-fed the babies until their mom had her surgery and was able to nurse them again. Everyone is doing well.

Penny’s situation was equally heartbreaking. X-rays showed two breaks in her right elbow and three breaks in her left! The makeshift red bandage that someone put on her was just “window dressing.” Penny desperately needed expensive surgery or she would never be able to walk normally–much less run and play!

Our shelter paid a veterinary orthopedic surgeon to perform two operations on Penny’s legs. It was the least we could do for this three-month-old puppy who had more than her share of suffering.

As we start the new year, we wish you good health and many blessings. And, we thank you for getting us through 2021 when so many animals depended on us.

As you know, our shelter does not receive any local, state, or federal aid. Our place of refuge depends entirely on donations. If you can help today with any size tax-deductible gift, we would be so grateful. It is for the animals under our care and for those victims of cruelty who wait and hope to be rescued.

From the bottom of our hearts, we thank you. Please be safe and well as we continue to forge ahead during a pandemic. Take care and Happy New Year.

P.S. We hope, too, that you will remember Defenders of Animal Rights, Inc., with a bequest in a will or on a life-insurance policy or savings account. The harsh reality is, Cassandra and her adorable babies would not have survived without our help. And, we will never forget how Penny’s sad puppy eyes pleaded for us to take away her excruciating pain. Your remembrance is a powerful gift that saves lives in an often uncaring world. Thank you.