



Angel Ridge Pet Gazette

Animal Rescue

Spring 2022

**WELCOME TO
OUR
SANCTUARY!**

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**Ralph and Bart at Zion
National Park**

Ralph's Big Adventure

Bart Christner

Editors Note: Ralph was accepted into ARAR in early 2021. Ralph was nearly a senior and over-weight and under-loved. Bart met him and immediately discovered the "Adventurer Soul" within this dog. Bart's story of their incredible summer adventure won a cash award for us from Petco Love, (their foundation). We are inspired... Read On!

Pandemic isolation by February 2021 proved difficult living in a rustic cabin on a remote seven acre lake. I was lonely. My sons just graduated high school and have the whole world ahead of them.

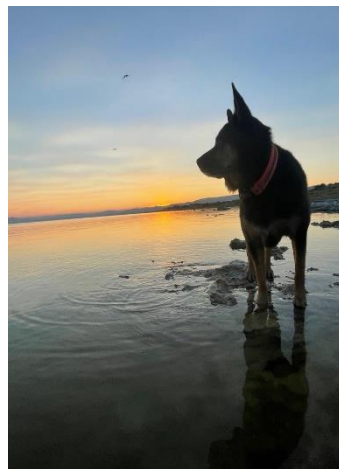
Five year old Ralph was posted online by Angel Ridge Rescue. A slow moving, somewhat aloof, obviously pampered, 80 pound (30 pounds overweight) Cattle Dog/Shepard Mix.

His elderly owners had loved him, fed him well, and fell ill. They could no longer care for Ralph. He was described as independent and lacking manners. Quite true. The perfect stubborn but gentle companion - a worthy pupil - for a home bound, live alone college professor. I adopted Ralph immediately.

Ralph came to his new home a nervous wreck. At first, he missed his prior owners very much. He truly longed for them. But activity outdoors, hiking around the lake, often on wilderness trails, his training began immediately. Ralph would train to be a registered Service Dog. But Ralph was obese. Ralph had difficulty running and could not jump in or out of a car. Within months his weight came down, and when his uniform harness arrived, complete with stylish patches, medical tag, and training registration cards... he wears them proudly. He trained in the area parks, along bike trails, even in the aisles of several local big box retailers.

As summer opened up, Ralph became the star actor in hundreds of short videos and thousands of photos. Ralph travelled in a conversion van through 20 National Parks in just over 30 days, with myself and my two recent high school graduate sons, and their friend. Touring the DC complex, including the Lincoln Memorial, to Chicago, Ralph scaled the Badlands, visited Mt. Rushmore, observed Yosemite Falls, experienced Old Faithful and rode a sky tram to the top of the Grand Tetons at Jackson Hole.

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Ralph's Big Adventure ~continued

Always at our trusted side, Ralph trotted Bryce Canyon Hoodoo trails, and slogged through stream beds in Zion Park's deep canyons. Ralph also took in the North Village Grand Canyon views before scoping out the Hoover Dam, passing through Las Vegas, walking among the Sequoias, and he awoke early to catch a sunrise at Yosemite's Half Dome from Glacier Point. An aspiring actor himself, Ralph even visited the Los Angeles Observatory and famous Hollywood hillside signage.

Visiting the Santa Cruz beachside, Ralph walked the Golden Gate Bridge, along the San Andreas Park... and his coup de grâce, Ralph scrambled beyond the tree line of Mt. St. Helens. He and I watched and waited, as my sons and their friend scrambled all the way to the top and returned exhausted.

Today, Ralph weighs a healthy, muscular 60 pounds, sprints with agility, climbs mountainous terrain, and hardly stops smiling. Afraid still of lake waters (we suspect he lived his first five years mostly indoors without much adventure), Ralph is learning to like swimming. Inspired by Ralph, I've also lost 25 pounds. Adventure is out there. Thank you, Angel Ridge!



PLEASE HELP OUR ANGELS AT
ANGEL RIDGE ANIMAL RESCUE

Mail this form and your donation to

P.O. BOX 94, Meadowlands, PA 15347



NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

I would like to contribute \$ _____ to:

(please choose one of these categories)

____ General ____ Emergency ____ Gathering of Guardian Angels Program
Contribution Vet Care (\$200 Annually or \$50 quarterly)

You can also donate through PayPal, aranres@yahoo.com

Mom and Daughter Crusaders For Dogs In Need

Nancy Shannon

Maybe it was the military, but some organization, somewhere, had a slogan that read, “The toughest job you’ll ever love”. Unknown organization, ARAR respectfully asks that we may borrow that slogan!

WE offer the hardest job that anyone does love – that job is being a foster family to dogs and cats who may be just beginning their lives, or at the end of their lives, and are weak or sick or may have been abused

Carol and Mary Coccia, mom and daughter from McMurray, have fostered dogs in great need for nearly two and one-half decades. They have lost count, but there have been about thirty dogs, most of them elderly and with extreme veterinary issues. Mary has become an expert in working with vets and nutritionists to give each dog exactly the care that he or she needs

Many of the pooches have come from ARAR, but Mary has become a Crusader for dogs in need, and she searches the internet every day. “Word” has also gotten around about these two ladies and the “magic” that they work on elderly, sick dogs who have given up hope. They are lovingly accepted into their fold. Their “reach” on finding dogs that they might possibly help extends wide throughout Pennsylvania, and into Ohio, West Virginia and Kentucky.

The dogs in the Coccia household are so well loved and cared for that most live a very long time. Sadly, within a year’s time, the Coccias lost five dogs : Lady, age 17, Maggie, age 19, Sylvia, age 17, Nick, age 16, and Fancy, age 15. Carol and Mary describe this year of loss as one of the saddest aspects of their fostering. Carol and Mary speak of each dog as a gift and a privilege showered upon them. There have been too many dogs to tell you about here, but these dogs were, undoubtedly, very special.

~ Nick, the little old Pomeranian , that was found tied to a dumpster on Christmas Eve.

~ Sam, the Bichon, who was found wandering the city streets, dragging his back legs. The Coccias put Sam on the move again as he raced around their property in his little wheelchair.

~Lady, left to die in a field with a horrendous case of Mange.

~Solomon, a large lab mix that came from a shelter in Ohio to ARAR. He had a softball size tumor removed from under the skin on his chest. The skin was pulled together as best as it could be and stitched. The Coccias fostered Solomon for about two years and had to make a couple of trips back to the vet for some replacement stitches. Solomon loved to go for car rides, no matter that it was for a vet visit. Carol remembers one time when Solomon found an unopened bag of Ghirardelli chocolates wrapped in foils. With every potty episode for days, Solomon turned the Coccia front lawn into a shiny sparkle show. Luckily, he did not get

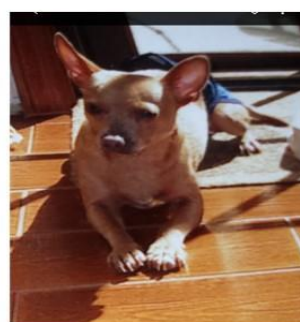
sick from his ill-gotten treats. Solomon’s cancer eventually returned. Carol, Mary and I will forever miss this loving, gentle dog.

The Coccias have fostered as many as nine dogs at one time, calling them their “baseball team”. A few dogs have been named after sports figures. How they loved sickly poodle, Sidney Crosby, who came to them from a shelter in Ohio with Snowball, a former puppy mill dog with a large mammary tumor.



Nick

Lady when she was rescued and years later



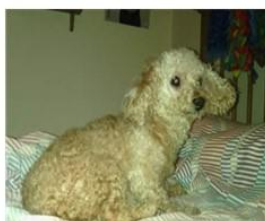
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But then there was Ben Roethlisberger, a sickly chihuahua, who came to them in 2007. Ben lived a happy life for a few years, but then old age began to affect him. He took a turn for the worst one year when Mary was in the hospital having heart surgery. Carol returned home from the hospital to find Ben in his last hours and held him in her arms until he passed. Mary was devastated that she could not say good-bye to Ben.



Ben Roethlisberger

The Coccias and I share a loving experience with two miniature poodles, mother and son, who came from a shelter in Ohio. The dogs had been breeder dogs at a puppy mill, and they were no longer any use to them. Mom, Tater Tot, and son, Toby, were ages nine and seven respectively. They had never been out of a crate, never felt grass, could barely walk, and had never been cuddled. The Coccias fostered Tater Tot and I adopted Toby. Tater Tot lived a great life for several years but passed two years ago.



Tater Tot

Toby is still with me, my precious baby. He is probably sixteen years old, eats a soft food diet, and has the bark of a dog ten times his size. This dog who never walked for the first seven years of his life can still run "like the wind"!

Rescue dogs are so forgiving and resilient. Once they know that there is a human who will love them, they reach within themselves and give back oh, so much more, than they are given. "The hardest thing in the fostering experience?", I asked Carol and Mary. "Losing them unexpectedly, and so many together." "The most incredible part of your fostering?" No words. Their tears tell the story of the incredible love that they have been given for so many years.

Angel Ridge Wish List

Our needs are great for the volume of animals we care for at Angel Ridge. Monetary donations are welcome as well as these products used daily at our shelter.

- Fancy Feast Canned kitten food - chicken or turkey
- Royal Canin Canned Mommy & Baby / kitten food
- Pro Plan canned kitten food - liver and chicken
- KMR Milk replacer powder - 1st step
- Unflavored Pedialyte
- Litter deodorizer
- Cartons of disposable gloves
- Frontline Plus for cats
- Frontline Gold for cats
- Purina One Dog Food
- Frontline Plus for Dogs
- Martingale Collars with Quick Snap Buckles
- Odoban or Pinesol
- Canon 245 and 246 Ink Cartridges
- Copy Paper
- Trash Bags
- Clorox Disposable Wipes
- Wet Swiffer Pads

Gift Cards for Chewy, Amazon, Giant Eagle or Petco are Great!

Or order directly on **AMAZON** and deliver to

Angel Ridge Animal Rescue @390 Old Hickory Ridge Rd, Washington, PA 15301

There For Them When Humans Let Them Down

Sara Phillips

I don't really know when I started to foster, but at least fifteen years ago. I was volunteering at the Washington Area Humane Society. I started to foster because there was such a need for it...so many animals just didn't acclimate to the shelter life. I have fostered big dogs, little dogs, young dogs, old dogs, pregnant dogs, mother dogs with puppies, litters of puppies without moms, puppy mill survivors, sick dogs, injured dogs, shy dogs, problem dogs, escape artists, dogs with ongoing health problems, and now... cats and kittens, also.

I have fostered for Angel Ridge Animal Rescue, Washington Area Humane Society, The Puppy Connection, and Cali Cats. I also am a Puppy Raiser for Gallant Hearts Guide Dog Center located in Madison, Mississippi.

I once had a mother dog give birth to thirteen puppies in our house. That was the largest number of fosters at one time. Fourteen dogs that all looked alike...liver and white hound dogs! I have no idea of how many fosters I have had over the years. I should have kept track. Counting dogs and puppies...over fifty for sure.

Foster mom day is like any other...walk the dogs, feed the dogs, walk the dogs, play with the dogs...repeat. Also, sometimes there are vet appointments to go to with the foster dogs and cats. With the cats, it's usually spay and neuter appointments.

I try to bring the fosters love and a pack to associate with until they are adopted. If they don't get along with our dogs, we have a big enough house that they can be separated, if necessary. Too many of my fosters ended up staying! All of our little dogs were foster fails!

The foster animals bring joy and purpose to my life, as I am getting them ready to become someone's special fur baby. One of the most memorable fosters was Suzie....an eighteen-year-old dachshund who had mammary cancer and was nearly blind. She was a tough little fighter and always was ready for a little walk and a treat.

Another memorable foster was Olive, a mother pit bull and her puppies. She was a breeding dog, rescued from a fighting ring. She and her puppies were found tied outside, deep in the woods, in a make-shift dog- house with other dogs in similar circumstances. Olive was always cautious and would only allow an occasional pat on the head when I brought her and the puppies food. When this little family was finally returned to the shelter, Olive was given a temperament test. She failed, and was put down. Her puppies were all adopted out. I still think of how humans let her down.

Doxies, Spike and Bean, both rescued from a high kill shelter and taken to Angel Ridge Animal Rescue, became my special house guests over the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays last year. Both were in a lot of pain from severe dental disease. Spike had a full mouth extraction, and Bean had to have the bone and tissue of the inside of her mouth rebuilt by a dental veterinary specialist. Spike and Bean loved being part of the family and brought us so much joy.

If you want to be a foster...it is very easy. Just remember... there is ALWAYS room for one more dog (or cat).



Bean and

Spike



2021: A Banner Year For Cat Rescue and Placement

Barb Brown

WOW, what a year! We ended 2021 with 242 cats and kittens adopted, a big increase over 214 adoptions in 2020. We became involved in some new and unfamiliar situations in 2021 as well.

Owners Passing, Leaving Their Cats Behind

Many people did not make provisions for their cats at their passing. Some situations that we encountered were terribly tragic. We found that cats left in this situation need a lot of time to decompress and learn to trust again. This is a sad process to watch, and it takes a lot of time and patience on the part of our volunteers. Cats do grieve, we witnessed that first-hand.

Some Large Cat Rescues

Our volunteers were also involved in some large cat rescue. In one case, we removed eighteen cats from a home after the owner pleaded for our help. This was a gradual process, requiring a lot of time and cats, so it made our placement process quite a bit easier than most.

Washington Estates Trailer Park Project

In 2021, we continued our work in the Washington Estates Trailer Park. We continued our search for an alumnae cat that became lost. We took in five cats from the property of an owner that had passed, and the family did not want the cats. All five cats sat outside their home, waiting for their mom to return. This was truly heartbreaking to watch. Angel Ridge volunteers, assisted by a neighbor, worked day and night, over several weeks, but all five cats were finally trapped. I am happy to report that four of the five cats have already been adopted.

Several months later, a resident who was known to have a lot of cats, moved out of her trailer leaving thirteen cats behind. When I saw them so hungry and scavenging for food, I knew that we needed to help. We were able to rescue all thirteen cats. The Washington Estates Trailer Park Manager provided us with temporary housing for the cats until we could get them all vetted. I am extremely grateful to our volunteer team that worked with these cats, doing cat care and socialization on site.

Tiffany



Kitten Season, 2021

There seemed to be no end to kitten season last year. We were still taking in kittens in December. Kittens were rescued from some crazy places: at a local gas station by the air pumps, under a tractor tarp and only a few survived, under abandoned buildings, in the middle of the road, in a window-well, under a trailer. I am so grateful to the dedicated group of volunteer fosters that work so tirelessly to save and nurture these babies. This is generally a three-month commitment as some kittens need bottle fed, requiring feedings every two to three hours. One foster was feeding six kittens every two to three hours. For these volunteers, seeing the kittens, once weak and helpless, begin to thrive and then get adopted is the ultimate outcome and satisfaction.

Wonderful Adult Cat Adoptions

Last year, some of our older adult cats found incredible home. Parker, a cat who took a long time to trust again, was adopted to a wonderful home. Emmy Lou, who had been overlooked for adoption for several years because of her quirky attitude, was adopted by a cat savvy adopter who fell in love with her crazy personality. Duddie, a street cat who survived poisoning and having his throat slit, was adopted by a cat volunteer who fell head-over-heels in love with him.

Pet Supplies Plus, McMurray

I am happy to report that we have cats again in cages at Pet Supplies Plus, McMurray. Adoptions there are outstanding. We are so grateful for their support and kindness.

Last year was an incredible year. So much was accomplished, in spite of COVID. If you would like to make 2022 an even more amazing year for our cats, please see our Wish List on page 4. We hope that some of you may even want to join our cat and kitten volunteer and foster team.



Alvina



Emmy Lou



Cat Volunteers and Fosters Needed



We continue to need Cat Volunteers to help provide cat care at the Shelter as well as at Pet Supplies McMurray. We have cats at both locations.

Also, kitten fosters will be needed this year.

Please contact Barb Brown at jacob75293@aol.com to inquire or if interested

Calendar of Events

March 26, Saturday, Biscuit Bingo
(@ Circuit Center/ IBEW Hall)

April 29-May 1 Friday-Sunday @ Pittsburgh Marathon
(see back cover for details)

May 14, Saturday, Disc Golf @ Schenley Park

***Off site adoptions tbd as COVID restrictions allow**

***Check our website or Facebook for updates**

Our Angel Tree of Hope

Your monetary donation in honor of a loved one or in memory of someone who has passed will keep our Angels happy and healthy and ready for a new home. Our Angel Tree of Hope, located in our Adoption Center, will hold a special heart, with a name inscribed, for each of the loved ones you remember in this very special way.

A beautiful card will be sent to the loved one that you are remembering. We can send the card to you or mail it directly to your loved one.

\$40 provides a rabies shot . \$75 will enable us to buy a Kuranda dog bed. \$100 will pay for a spay or neuter.

\$150 will keep our buildings' lights on for a week. \$200 provides heat in our kennel building for one week.

Thank you for remembering our Angels.

Your Name _____

Your Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please choose one: _____ In honor of _____ In memory of _____

Please check one: Send the card to me _____ Send the card to the person I am remembering. _____
 (Please provide the name and address below.)

Name of loved one or family (if in memory) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Amount of Donation: \$ _____



TREE OF HOPE

Please mail this form to Angel Ridge Animal Rescue, P.O. Box 94, Meadowlands, PA 15347



Mail: P.O. Box 94, Meadowlands, PA 15347
Site: 390 Old Hickory Ridge Rd., Washington, PA 15301
724-229-7053 | www.angelridgeanimalrescue.org

CURRENT RESIDENT OR:



The Pittsburgh Marathon 2022 : Run For A Reason

The Dick's Sporting Goods Pittsburgh Marathon 2022 has something for everyone – fun for people of all ages and some financial help for ARAR rescues. Some of our volunteers and their friends have chosen ARAR as their reason to run. The public can choose to sponsor one of our runners, or make a direct contribution.

We also would like additional runners to join our team. Here is the schedule of race events:

Marathon, Half Marathon and Marathon Relay on Sunday, May 1st, 7:00 am

5K, Saturday, April 30th, 8:00 am

You can click on this link to sponsor a runner, make a donation and to join our team of runners:

<https://tinyurl.com/24bpccbu>

Closer to the day of the Marathon, Angel Ridge and other participating charities will have our own Marathon page. Rescue dogs Hudson and Ryan are having a blast helping our volunteers get ready for race day!