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**Angel Ridge Animal Rescue**

**390 Old Hickory Ridge Rd  
Washington PA 15301**

*Dogs and general office*



**Bailey's Cat Haven  
2650 Brownsville Rd  
South Park PA 15129**

*Cat Adoption Facility*



**Angel Ridge Animal Rescue**

**PO Box 94**

**Meadowlands PA 15347**

*Mailing Address*

## Our Amazing Journey

We might also denote this as our "amazing journey" issue. Inside:

- You will read about the amazing journey of two canines made possible by the indomitable determination of a married couple to bring two dogs together and the start of a beautiful family.
- You will read how two guys named Joe, living in different states, share a love for a big black dog and a new friendship with one another, as one Joe helps the other Joe to find happiness as he deals with a difficult medical situation.
- You will meet Caitlin, a young woman who began her amazing journey of fostering abandoned cats as a young child.

Finally, you will learn how our volunteer, Anne, made possible and shared an incredible journey with Apollo, saving his life.

Be inspired and enjoy - the Editor

## The Incredible Journey of Ivy and Grimm *by Nancy C Shannon*

Just a pup at only 10 months of age, this white shepherd mix was cruelly abandoned on the side of a busy road, with a small bag of food beside her. One of our rescue partners in West Virginia found her, gave her temporary shelter, and asked Angel Ridge Animal Rescue to assist her.

We marveled at the fact that she survived the traffic, the darkness and the cold. But we were utterly amazed when we learned that she was severely sight and hearing impaired. Our veterinarian determined that the white pup was completely deaf and possibly could see some shadows, but only out of one eye. The volunteers wanted to give her a name that did justice to her beauty, strength, and sweetness. Ivy Rose was the chosen name.

Ivy Rose was a "nightmare" to leash up and take for walks. She was always in motion, twirling and nipping at the walker's ankles. But when she was given a special toy to enjoy by herself in the play yard, she would continually throw her toy up in the air as far as she could and leap to catch it. Repeat, repeat, repeat. With such joy and reckless abandonment, she warmed the hearts of all who watched her. In fact, the volunteers made a video and posted it on our Facebook page.

Ivy's performance in the video captured the attention of Becky and Billy of Washington. They and their Jack Russell terrier, Grimm, were still mourning the loss of the nearly 16 years of age Jack Russell terrier, Cereal. Grimm was so depressed that he actually stopped eating. Becky and Billy came to Angel Ridge to meet Ivy without Grimm. Ivy approached both of them, putting her head in their laps, and the love connection was made. The next step was to bring Grimm to Angel Ridge to meet her.

It would be an understatement to say that the first meeting of the two dogs did not go well. With her typical wild and carefree approach, Ivy ran like a racehorse out of the gate and started to initiate some friendly but rough play with Grimm. Grimm snapped and snarled and wanted nothing to do with Ivy Rose.



**Ivy & Grimm**

Billy and Becky were devastated at this outcome and sobbed together during their drive home. They were not newbies in the canine rescue world, either. In the past, they have been the humans for handicapped dogs. At one point, their dog family consisted of five male Jack Russell terriers, all rescued and some with special needs.

They decided that they needed to learn more about dog behavior, living with special needs dogs, and even some sign language. Becky and Billy were determined to add Ivy Rose to their family. Trainers were contacted, and they purchased 8 books that they read together. Angel Ridge staff and volunteers became part of "Team Ivy and Grimm."



**Billy & Becky  
enjoying time with  
the dogs**

A few other meet and greets were scheduled at Angel Ridge. All ended miserably with Grimm vehemently rejecting Ivy Rose's advances. The couple had the same tearful drive back home. "We have to leave without her", they lamented.

Staff member, Melissa, and volunteers Anne and Debbie discussed their own plan with me and asked my permission to get it started. They would take Ivy to Billy and Becky's home for short periods, at least once per week. They scheduled intervals of both dogs being together, walking them past one another while they were leashed. The time of each interval gradually increased.

Billy described Melissa as "absolutely amazing". Melissa told them, "Don't give up, you can get these dogs to like one another. We'll help make it happen. One day you two will wake up, and they will be best friends."

Melissa's encouraging words turned out to be a prophetic statement. It just took a while longer for this to come to fruition.

Ivy came to live in their home under very guarded conditions. For six weeks, Becky and Billy slept in separate bedrooms, each with a dog. A trainer recommended that they tie each dog to a piece of furniture, spread quite a bit apart. Each time the pieces of furniture would be moved closer together. But a mis-step happened in the last installment of this strategy. Ivy and Grimm came "nose to nose" and this was not intended, as yet. The two dogs leapt upon one another as if to say, "So where have you been all of my life?" They wrestled and played together, and a beautiful chapter of their friendship, and the start of a new family had begun.

Little Grimm loves big sister, Ivy Rose, with all his heart and soul. Ivy knows that given her size, she can sometimes be overpowering to Grimm. Ivy sometimes lays on her back and lets her "little bro" have the upper hand. Both dogs sleep in the same bed every night and they are inseparable during the day. Grimm has become almost like Ivy's eyes and ears.

Even though they know that Ivy cannot hear, Billy and Becky still talk to her constantly. They feel that Ivy can "read" them and picks up on their mannerisms. Ivy's keen sense of smell tells her when the neighbor is mowing his lawn because of the strong smell of the fresh grass. This is her cue to run the fence line in a race with the mower.

Billy told me, "Ivy is capable of doing things that I wouldn't ever have imagined. She is not able to hear or see, but she does it all. Grimm helps her to hear and see. These two are amazing together, and so are the people at Angel Ridge for making this dream come true."

## **Saving Apollo**

*by Anne Frederickson*

Apollo came to Angel Ridge Animal Rescue on a frigid wintry day. Plagued by recurrent ear infections that had left one ear crinkly with scar tissue and the other ear painfully blown up with a large hematoma, he was extremely ill. His family loved him, but the constant infections and subsequent vet visits had become too costly for them. They had a heartbreaking decision to make: possible euthanasia or find an appropriate surrender for him.

The beautiful chocolate brown pit mix was obviously in a great deal of pain, yet despite constantly shaking his head and crying, he still wagged his tail and was very friendly. When I left Angel Ridge that afternoon, I couldn't erase Apollo's sad, sweet face from my mind.

The next day, when I saw him again, I wasn't sure which was making him the most forlorn: missing his family or dealing with his infected ears. A vet visit confirmed that his



**Apollo during his  
ear treatment**

infection was so severe that it seemed inevitable he would need a TECA surgical procedure to remove his entire ear canal. Apollo's ears were infected to the point that one could not even see or access his ear canals to treat them.

He was placed on strong oral antibiotics, steroids, and pain medications that we all hoped would provide at least a small chance of turning his infection around. His hematoma was drained, and the poor treated ear was wrapped, creating an almost comical unicorn effect on the side of his head. Finally, the "cone of shame" was installed to keep him from scratching the vet's handiwork. And because it was determined that Apollo's ear infections were due to food allergies, he was placed on a strict prescription diet.

I was very moved by Apollo's gentle personality and his patience throughout the painful procedures and reasoned that if I took him home with me during this healing phase, perhaps he might make better progress. The dilemma: my own dog, Carrie, was quite dog selective, and I couldn't risk any squabbles between the two. Luckily, my daughter volunteered to care for Carrie while Apollo recuperated with us.

Apollo was all in with the plan. He readily jumped into my Mini-Cooper, and settled in for a nap. When he walked through our front door, he acted like he had been there from the get-go. Despite being hampered by his cone that had to be on 24/7 and banging into things occasionally, he was a sweet and well-mannered house guest. Quickly, he let us know he appreciated the finer things in life, like beds and recliners!

I made sure that Apollo got his meds religiously, and he was watched carefully by All About Pets vet, Dr. Michelle Sacksteder. Over the span of a few months, Apollo had every other week appointments and procedures. Cultures of both ears pinpointed the type of antibiotic that would be needed to combat the infection in his ears. Apollo's healing was a slow process, but finally his ears were healed, he became pain-free, and he did not need to have his ear canals removed.

As he started to feel better, we got a glimpse at his true personality. He was an expert ball fetcher and loved his daily walks. He also was an expert at ingratiating himself to my husband. Perhaps because he lost his first family, he was a true Velcro dog, following me wherever I went. When I occasionally took him to Angel Ridge when he had vet appointments, he cried pitifully if I left his sight. He was definitely trying to tell me something!

Yes, I began to seriously entertain keeping Apollo! Although I didn't know how Carrie would possibly accept him—and I had assured Mark, my husband, it was only a temporary situation, I couldn't envision ever letting him go. Our director, Nancy Shannon, encouraged me to give it a shot, and while I initially resisted, I decided I would at least give Carrie and Apollo a trial run together. As I brought Carrie home, I thought of all the worst-case scenarios. What actually happened was a complete shock; they got along just fine! It seems it was meant to be.

Apollo will always need to stay on his current diet and have his ears carefully watched. Apollo's life would have been ended if he had not been welcomed to Angel Ridge. Now Apollo leads a pain-free life with a new family who also loves him. Another success story enabled by not only Angel Ridge but also because of the public's support of our mission.

## A Binx Between Two Joes

*by Faye Klein*



**PA Joe & Binx**

Coincidences are fascinating. Rather than seeming random, people often seek deep connections or cosmic meaning rather than surrendering belief to serendipity.

As a dog-walker at a local shelter, it is wince-inducing to see online posts from people trying to rehome their pets. Responses include rapid-fire vitriol showered upon the owner, amid a sprinkle of suggestions on how to "fix the problem" or to advise a more salutary avenue for the animal whose life hangs in the balance and is probably still wagging a tail.

It's not hyperbole to state that every shelter and rescue is busting at the seams. Add to that an unrelenting churn by people who have dogs for which they did not properly prepare. And those intractable about providing the necessary support to meet their pet's

needs. The results are abandonment, abuse, neglect — the dog is the victim.

Angel Ridge gets much of its "stock" from overburdened shelters. When space becomes available, complicated arrangements are made for volunteers to transport dogs from neighboring counties and states to our shelter. They are the lucky ones.

Binx was no typical “throwaway” pet. She was a beloved member of her WV family whose owner, Joe B. was suffering from stage 5 renal failure and urged by his doctor to rehome the dog to reduce health hazards. For weeks Binx was posted on social media with her glowing credentials — housebroken, good with kids, well-trained — but there were no takers and plenty of competition. Large dogs, black dogs, older dogs are all statistically harder to place. Joe never wanted to contemplate the alternative, but nobody stepped up for his dog. In the interim, Binx was relegated to a room away from Joe, separated from her family, her fate still undecided.

A team of dog devotees paved Binx's path from potential demise toward a tightly choreographed adoption. These die-hard rescuers are not only flooded with social media posts, they scour them for dogs to save which is where Binx was discovered. So in February, Binx was one of three dogs scheduled to make their way from WV to our shelter in Western PA, but the weather — ice and snow and distance — ruined her travel plans, preventing Binx from making the transport. Her time was running out.

A previous Angel Ridge visitor — mourning the loss of his Border Collie — had sought another BC mix without success. Passing as a BC in photos, Binx was a long-shot, but I still looked him up and amazingly, his name too, was Joe B. I told him everything I could about Binx. Weeks rolled by. Our shelter was full. No room for Binx.

Though kennel space was at a premium, I made the case for a fast-track adoption, so plans were made to get Binx. Amid the not-so-concrete promise of adoption— PA. Joe hadn't even met the dog — we find out Binx is no BC, but a Labrador/Pyranees mix!

There, in the parking lot exchange from owner to volunteer, WV Joe tearfully buried his face in her thick black coat kissing her good-bye not knowing what Binx: chapter 2 would be. Here, PA Joe made sure he was first in line, meeting Binx two days later, enough time for her to decompress. That same afternoon, PA Joe and Binx bonded and left the shelter, the past, and the heartache behind.

Since Binx's adoption, both Joe B.s have kept in touch about this special dog that brought them together. WV Joe knows his beloved dog is in excellent hands and gets updates on her regularly. These men are not your average Joes. What were the chances that one dog would be shared by two men with the same name? A coincidence for sure, but even more significant is the overarching love they share for dogs.

## Our Senior Squad of Kitties is Reaching Out to You

*by Barb Brown*

Bailey's Cat Haven is graced with a group of older and wiser cats- our “Senior Squad”. Many of these cats came to us when their humans encountered sad life events, like death or declining health. During their younger years, these cats were cherished and loving companions.

They are confused as to why they are suddenly living in a new place with many other felines. They are ready for their “second act”, a second chance to share their love with their new best friend.

Our adopters of these precious senior kitties tell us, again and again, of the special place in their hearts that their new kitty now occupies. Martha, who adopted Millie told us, “Millie is a very sweet, precious kitty. She wants to be petted, loved and held 24 hours a day. She is the perfect companion for me.” Margaret, who adopted Fuzzbuzz, describes him as easy going and playful.

I am happy to introduce our current “senior squad” to you. We are able to offer a reduced adoption fee for them during the summer months. These senior sweeties are reaching out and saying, “Come on, dear people, and take a chance on me!” If you would like to meet these sweet souls, please contact Barb at [baileyscathaven@gmail.com](mailto:baileyscathaven@gmail.com).



**Tig**

*His human died of cancer*



**Sweetie Pie**

*Loves to be petted*



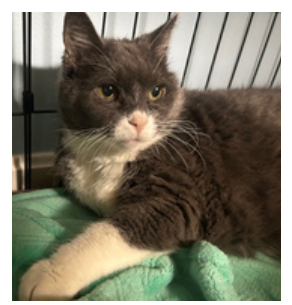
**Hubert**

*Was left outside in the cold*



**Gage**

*A volunteer favorite*



**Allie**

*Lived in deplorable conditions*



## My Fostering Transformation

by Caitlin Hornyak

When I was growing up, there was a stray cat in my neighborhood named Arthur, and he would come running whenever my friend and I called his name. I have always loved animals, but Arthur created a “soft spot” for cats with me. He was the sweetest cat, and I could never understand why he had to live outside.

While a kind neighbor did bring him inside during his senior years, I always wished my parents had let me bring him home. By high school, I started volunteering at an animal shelter, helping socialize cats and kittens, but I always felt like I could do more.



**Caitlin with  
Arthur, her first  
foster cat**

After college, while renting an apartment in Mt. Washington, I caught a sick stray kitten outside during winter. I knew I couldn't keep him because of the “No Pets” rule, but I couldn't watch him struggle outside. As I was reaching out to local groups for help with next steps, I found out that every rescue relies on fosters in order to help kittens, just like the one I found. I was able to get him vet care and provide him with love until he found an adopter. Bringing an animal out of a harmful situation is the first step, but they need somewhere to go until they are healthy and adoptable. I realized that being able to do the same thing for other animals in need, was my new goal in life. Since joining Angel Ridge/Bailey's in 2021, I've had the privilege of fostering over 60 cats and kittens. It's the most rewarding part of my life. While adopting saves an animal's life, fostering allows me to help dozens of cats find their forever homes.

Watching these cats “transform” is the best part. I've had scared or shy cats turn cuddly and confident with just a little patience and care. Every foster has their own personality, and it's so fun getting to know them. Letting go of a foster is always bittersweet, but finding the perfect home for each cat makes it all worthwhile. I love receiving updates from adopters about how well these cats are thriving in their new families. And as soon as there's an open space in my home, there's always another cat waiting for a chance at a better life—so I never run out of kitten cuddles!

Fostering has also connected me with people who share my love for animals. Together, we work to give these cats a second chance at life. I started fostering with just a spare bedroom and a desire to help, and it's become the most fulfilling part of my life. If you've ever thought about fostering, I encourage you to give it a try. You don't need to be an expert or have a fancy setup—just a willingness to open your heart and home to an animal in need (and a landlord who does not have a “No Pets” rule!).

## DONATE

You can donate via PayPal, using email [aranres@yahoo.com](mailto:aranres@yahoo.com). You can also complete the form below and mail your donation to the address shown.



### PLEASE HELP OUR ANGELS AT ANGEL RIDGE ANIMAL RESCUE

Mail this form and your donation to:  
**PO Box 94, Meadowlands, PA 15347**



**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE** \_\_\_\_\_

**EMAIL** \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to contribute \$\_\_\_\_\_ to (please select one of these funds)

☐ General  
Contribution

☐ Emergency Vet  
Care

☐ Gathering of Guardian Angels Program  
(\$200 annually or \$50 Quarterly)

**You can also donate through PayPal [aranres@yahoo.com](mailto:aranres@yahoo.com)**

## Cat Wish List

Our needs are great for the volume of animals we care for at Angel Ridge. The Angel Ridge Amazon wish list is on our website at [angelridgeanimalrescue.org](http://angelridgeanimalrescue.org). Please note that donations for the kitties should be delivered to:



*Domino wants to meet you*

**Bailey's Cat Haven  
2650 Brownsville Rd  
South Park, PA 15129**

Fancy Feast Canned Adult Food – no fish  
Delectables Broths  
Delectables Stews  
Delectables Bisques  
Fancy Feast Canned Kitten Food  
Purina Kitten chow - yellow bag  
Inaba Churu Cat Treats  
Frontline Plus for cats  
Nitrate Gloves, Medium or Large



*Daisy is looking for love*

## Dog & General Needs Wish List

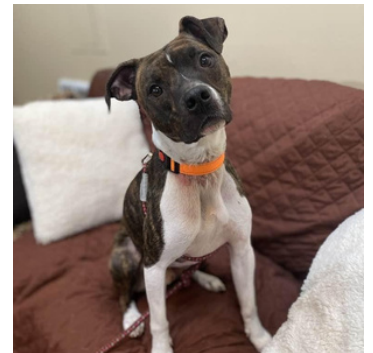
Our needs are great for the volume of animals we care for at Angel Ridge. The Angel Ridge Amazon wish list is on our website at [angelridgeanimalrescue.org](http://angelridgeanimalrescue.org). Please note that donations for the dogs or general office supplies should be delivered to:



*Onyx has lots of love to give*

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

Purina One Dog Food – canned and dry  
Frontline Plus for dogs  
Greenies Dental Chews  
Martingale collar/quick snap buckle  
Medicated pet shampoo  
Wet Swiffer pads  
Odoban or general-purpose cleaners  
Clorox spray and wipes  
Clorox  
Paper towels  
Trash bags  
Copy paper  
Postage stamps



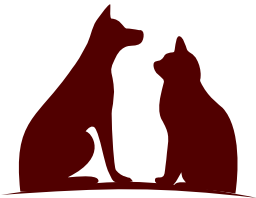
*Vida James is looking for a new best friend*

## Our Rescued Dogs and Cats Need You!!

Help an animal in need, and have some fun at the same time, as an Angel Ridge Animal Rescue volunteer! Here are some ways you can help:

- Volunteering with the dogs: We need dog walkers, off-site and adoption help, transport to the vet, office help, and handyman/woman help at the 390 Old Hickory Ridge Rd Washington location.
- Volunteering with the cats: We need cat care assistance, greeters, office help/organizing, and handyman/woman help at our 2650 Brownsville Rd South Park location.
- To help all of our animals, we need volunteers for fundraising planning and involvement, website update assistance, and picking up donated items from stores and the public.

We have a great volunteer group in place, so you will be welcomed and helped along the way!



To help with the dogs, contact Anne at [mrsfred@verizon.net](mailto:mrsfred@verizon.net)

To help with the cats, contact Barb at [jacob75293@aol.com](mailto:jacob75293@aol.com)

You can also visit our website at [www.angelridgeanimalrescue.org](http://www.angelridgeanimalrescue.org) to print an application.

## Cat and Kitten Fosters Needed!!



Fosters are especially needed for the rescue kittens. Kittens must live in a foster home until they are 12 weeks old.

We provide supplies, expertise and support. If you are interested or have questions, please contact Barb at [jacob75293@aol.com](mailto:jacob75293@aol.com)

## SAVE THE DATES!

### JUNE

June 1, 12-3 PM, adoption event and kitten shower, Pet Supplies Plus, McMurray

June 14, 12-3 PM, open house at Baileys Cat Haven

### JULY

July 1-31, Christmas in July Angel Trees at various locations

July 12, time TBD, Pints and Paws fun event, Mondays Brewing, McMurray

July 20, 12-3 PM, ice cream social adoption event, Pet Supplies Plus, South Park shops

### AUGUST

August 3, 12-4 PM, No Fleas Market and Rummage Sale, South Park Community Center

August 17, 12-3 PM, national black cat day adoption event, Pet Supplies Plus, South Park shops

August 30, 4 PM-?, Dog Days of Summer fun event, Coconut Joe's Tiki Bar, Finleyville

### SEPTEMBER

September 6, 12-3 PM, tailgate time adoption event, Pet Supplies Plus, South Park shops

September 18, WCCF Gives Day of Giving

September 20, 11-4 PM, South Park Community Day, South Park Fairgrounds

### OCTOBER

October 18, 12-4 PM, Subaru Loves Pets event featuring Angel Ridge pets, Subaru of the South Hills, McMurray

October 19, 12-3 PM, Howl-o-Ween costume contest and adoption event, Pet Supplies Plus, South Park shops

### DECEMBER

December 6, 12-3 PM, pictures with Santa Claus, Pet Supplies Plus, South Park shops

December 20, 12-3 PM, pictures with Santa Claus, Pet Supplies Plus, McMurray

### And don't forget!

Adoptable pets at PetSmart, Washington, the first Saturday of every month, 12-3

Adoptable pets at Petco, Washington, the third Saturday of every month, 12-3

Be sure to check our website for updated events! [angelridgeanimalrescue.org](http://angelridgeanimalrescue.org)



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

## **CURRENT RESIDENT OR:**

### **Our Gathering of Guardian Angels**

Angel Ridge Animal Rescue has rescued, restored and rehomed animals in need for over two decades. We have never refused an animal because of its injury, illness or handicap. Rescuers in our area and surrounding states call upon us to take these dogs, cats and kittens into our shelter.

Our philosophy is that an injury or sickness that can be healed is no reason to end an animal's life. We have a special program of caring contributors named the Gathering of Guardian Angels. These Guardian Angels contribute \$50 quarterly, or \$200 per year to this program. The program is there to provide the funds for needed medicines or surgeries for the dogs, cats and kittens who come to us with extraordinary veterinary needs. Please consider joining this elite group of contributors, Angels, who provide the needed extra financial help for our little "angels." Last fall, three of our dogs needed emergency care at a cost of \$12,000. This year, we have accepted dogs and cats who needed emergency surgeries. The Guardian Angels Fund helped to pay those bills. To join, mark the Gathering of Guardian Angels box on the donation form on page 5.

Thank you and God bless.