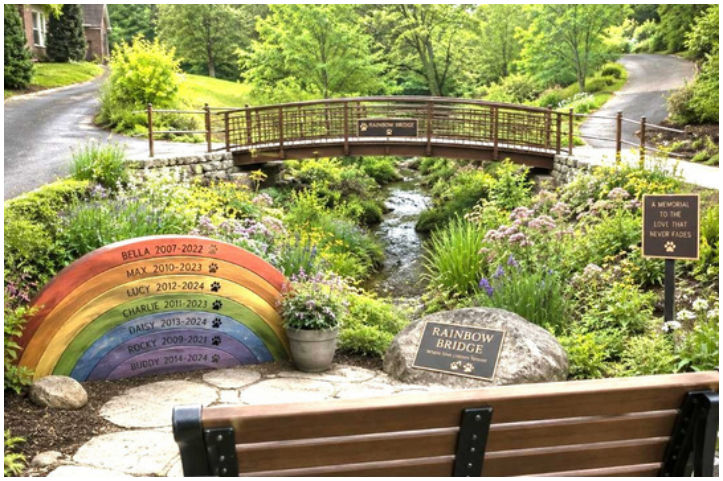
The Rainbow Bridge Project

by Nikki Capes



Our cat facilities, Bailey's Cat Haven and the Wellness Center are next door to one another on Brownsville Road in South Park Township. The terrain between the two buildings is rough, and a narrow stream separates the properties. We propose a foot bridge across the stream that we will make our Rainbow Bridge. In mythology, the bridge that our companion animals cross into Heaven is called the Rainbow Bridge. There, they wait until the day that we cross the bridge to be with them.

The Rainbow Bridge Project has seen significant progress over the last few months. Members of the project team recently met with the Allegheny County Conservation District at the stream site located between the two properties. During the meeting, we discussed invasive plant removal, stream-bank erosion control, bridge construction, and the creation of a native plant garden.

The completed space will feature beautiful native plants that attract butterflies, moths, bees, and other important pollinators. A bench will provide a peaceful place to sit and enjoy the gardens and the bridge. We will also install a Rainbow Bridge memorial sign where the names of beloved pets will be inscribed.

Before we can begin planting native trees, shrubs, and flowering perennials, we must first restore the streambank and remove invasive plants. Invasive species take up valuable space and do not provide food or habitat for our native butterflies, moths, and pollinators. By removing these plants and shrubs, we can make room for native trees, flowers, and host plants that support wildlife and strengthen the local ecosystem. Please see the article photo for an example of what this space could look like after stream restoration, invasive plant removal, bridge construction, and native garden installation.

This is no small undertaking. Environmental considerations and township approvals must be completed before construction can begin. The Allegheny County Conservation District continues to serve as an important conservation resource, and we have a meeting scheduled with the Township to discuss next steps.

Thank you to everyone who has donated so far in memory of your cherished companions. If you are interested in dedicating a memorial space for your pet, please see the form below.

For a donation of $30, we will inscribe the name of one companion animal and the year of their passing on the colorful bridge. For a donation of $50, we will include all of your companion animals that have passed.

IN NEED OF: Helpers to help remove invasive plants and shrubs. They'll be removed by hand tools/weed whackers/hedge trimmers. If you're interested, please reach out to Nikki Cat 412-605-9467.

Your name_____ Phone no._____

Address_____

Email_____

Names of animals being remembered and year of passing:

1._____

2._____

3._____

4._____

$30 donation for one, $50 donation for two or more.

Please remit to ARAR, PO Box 94, Meadow Lands, PA 15347

Questions? Email us at info@aradopt.org