



The RESCUE Review

Fall/Winter 2010

Pretty Polly

The road to a happy home was not easy for Polly, just 2 years old. So much has happened to her in that short time. Polly is a very pretty Australian Shepherd mix who came into the ARL earlier this year, barely over a year old. She quickly found a temporary home through the ARL's foster program where she stayed for several months until a good home could be found for her. A family finally adopted her in July and the ARL celebrated, as we do when every pet finds a permanent home. But this home was not Polly's forever



happy ending. They wanted Polly to be able to walk with them off of a leash. But our girl Polly is a runner – she escaped from her first home and likes to run away when she's not on a leash. Australian Shepherds are very active dogs and need fenced in yards and tons of exercise. The

ARL gave Polly's adopters some guidance about keeping Polly leashed but they said it was "cruel to have a dog on a leash." It's actually a law in Pennsylvania that dogs must be leashed in public places.

So, it was back to the ARL for Polly. Luckily, her foster home was able to take her back. Polly's photo and description were placed again on the ARL's web site, on Petfinder.com and on Adopt-a-Pet.com. It's a good thing that the ARL employs as many vehicles as possible to advertise our pets because that's exactly how Amanda Kelley, who lives in Lancaster, found Polly! On Adopt-a-Pet.com. Amanda already had one dog, a 9-month-old Golden Retriever

Continued on Page 2

Letter from the President

It is hard to believe that we are coming to the end of another year. I must say that this has been the most trying year since I have been involved with the Animal Rescue League. I, like you, have read the reports that the recession was over almost a year ago but also like you find that hard to believe. Just this week, most of the nation's news media reported that all of the major charitable organizations in the country experienced a ten-to-fifteen percent decrease in donations. What distinguishes animal rescue organizations apart from other non-profits is the fact that as donations and the economy continue to decline, the number of animals coming into shelters continues to increase.

Along with the staff and board, I have looked at every expenditure we make. We have cut overtime, changed our outdoor lighting to LED to save energy and funds, changed trash haulers, eliminated night stray pick up hours, changed insurance plans, and increased employee contributions to the health insurance plan. While doing all of this cost cutting, we have increased services in areas that should have an impact over time on the number of animals coming into the shelter.

Our surgery center runs almost every day. We do our normal spay and neuter Monday,

Continued on Page 3

The ARL's annual Christmas Open House and Pet Photos with Santa will be held on December 11 and 12. Visit with Santa and the adoptable pets, enjoy some refreshments plus bid on unique silent auction items.

what's inside

PAGE 1: Pretty Polly
Letter from the President

PAGE 3: Photos

PAGE 4: Lasting Memorial Plaque

PAGE 5: Bequests & In Honor
Membership Application

PAGE 6: Sullivan's Last Pasture
Promoting Our Pets

PAGE 7: Volunteer Profile
New Cat Surrender Policy

PAGE 8: Animal Hoarding

PAGE 9: Home 4 the Holidays
New Cat Holding Room

PAGE 10: Gala

PAGE 11: Pilots N Paws Helps the ARL's Dogs
Addition to the ARL Board of Directors

named Wrangler. She wanted another dog and knew that Wrangler needed a friend too. When she saw Polly's picture and information, Amanda felt that Polly was perfect for them.

On August 4, Amanda and Wrangler met Polly and it was instant love for all. Amanda adored Polly's always-wagging tail, cuddly and mellow disposition. Wrangler and Polly played like they had known each other forever. Polly was adopted once more. Three homes in 2 years.

Just a month later, Polly was limping on her front paw and was diagnosed with Lyme disease. She also had a cyst on that paw. Because the cyst was located in a place which would make it difficult to operate, Polly's veterinarian opted to see if the antibiotics for the Lyme disease would stop her limping. But Polly's limping became worse and she could not put weight on that leg. The vet decided that surgery was necessary to remove the cyst, with the possibility that it could be cancer. How could such a young dog have cancer? Amanda was worried about her new friend but was willing to do whatever was necessary to help her.

Polly had surgery in early October to remove the cyst and her veterinarian called Amanda to tell her the news: It was not cancer. Good news! But wait, there's more. Instead of it being a cyst, Polly actually had a 22-caliber bullet lodged in her paw. And she had major bone deterioration in the leg. Someone had shot Polly about 6-12 months prior, the vet estimated based in the spread of infection and bone loss. It's unimaginable how this sweet dog could have been shot by someone.

Because of the damage to the bone, Polly's front leg needed to be amputated at the shoulder. The surgery cost Amanda over \$1000, plus all of the other visits to the veterinarian prior to the surgery to determine what was wrong with her paw. Despite this large expenditure and the need to take out a loan to pay for it, Amanda remained dedicated to her new friend Polly.

Amanda is a true animal lover and understands the meaning of commitment to her pets. Thank you for giving Polly a forever home and a new start.



Always a sell-out, the fall Vera Bradley Bingo raised over \$10,000 for the ARL.

Dog Law Reminders Vaccines & Licenses

It is a law in Pennsylvania that all dogs are vaccinated against rabies, for the dog's protection and for the prevention of the spread of rabies. Puppies must be vaccinated by the time they are 3 months old.

All dog owners must purchase a license every January for their dogs. A dog license is important for your dog's safety. If your dog runs away from you and is picked up as a stray, the very best way to retrieve the dog is through the dog license. The animal shelter can quickly run a search to determine the dog's owner and your dog can be safely returned to you. Also consider buying a pet ID tag at your local pet store which gives your address and phone number so that your dog can be returned to you. Please remember that if your dog is caught without a license, the fine is \$300. Dog licenses can be obtained through your local Treasurer's office or at the Animal Rescue League.



Fall/Winter 2010

EDITOR

Chris Shaughness

GRAPHIC DESIGN

Bock Creative

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Harry D. Brown III

ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE BOARD

Barrie A. Pease,
President

Mary Jane Jacoby,
Vice President

Suzanne Lorah,
Secretary

Kimberly A. Moyer,
Treasurer

James E. Gavin, Esq.
Darrell Helms
Donald Miller
Roger Shank
Karen O'Neill
Ann Buckholz
Liz McCauley
Erica Oldham

SHELTER HOURS

Monday, Tuesday,
Thursday, Friday
10am to 4:45pm

Wednesday
5pm to 7:45pm

Saturday
10am to 2:45pm

Closed Sunday

CONTACT US

Kennel Road off Route 724
near Route 176
in Cumru Township

Phone Number:
610.373.8830

Fax Number:
610.372.6374

www.berksarl.org





Vettes Cruisin' for Pets has brought classic Corvettes to the ARL for the past three years in late June.



Breakaway Sports hosts the Pet Supplies Plus Doggie Dash in September to benefit the ARL



The ARL holds a Blessing of the Animals on the first weekend of October to commemorate the feast day of St. Francis, patron saint of the animals.

Continued from Page 1

Wednesday, and Friday, but have added Thursday afternoon for shelter animals prior to adoption - thanks to volunteer veterinarians from Wyomissing Animal Hospital and Leesport Animal Hospital. Since our costs are less for these cats and dogs spayed and neutered on Thursdays, we have also reduced our adoption fees for them by fifty percent in an effort to increase the number of adoptions. Weekends are filled with ARL spay and neuter clinics, clinics run by Fairchild Foundation, a TNR organization, and a new partner No Nonsense Neutering that runs low-cost spay and neuter clinics for cats and dogs. Also new this year, we are increasing the number of our vaccine clinics. We previously held seven clinics but now we will have nine every year. Since we do not have the space for people and pets to line up inside, we do not hold vaccine clinics in December, January or February.

We would also like to expand our public education programs. Along those lines, I am seeking advice and ideas from all of our members and supporters. Anyone with any ideas about how to get people to spay and neuter their house pets or free-roaming cats that they are feeding is encouraged to email me. Anyone who feels they may be able to present an educational program should also email me. If Berks County can find a way to address this problem, we will be a shining example for the rest of the country. I know everyone at the ARL would like nothing better than to walk into the cat room or kennels and see empty cages or kennels or as an ultimate goal, be in a position to change the ARL to a "no kill" shelter. But until we can control the local pet population, neither of them is a possibility.

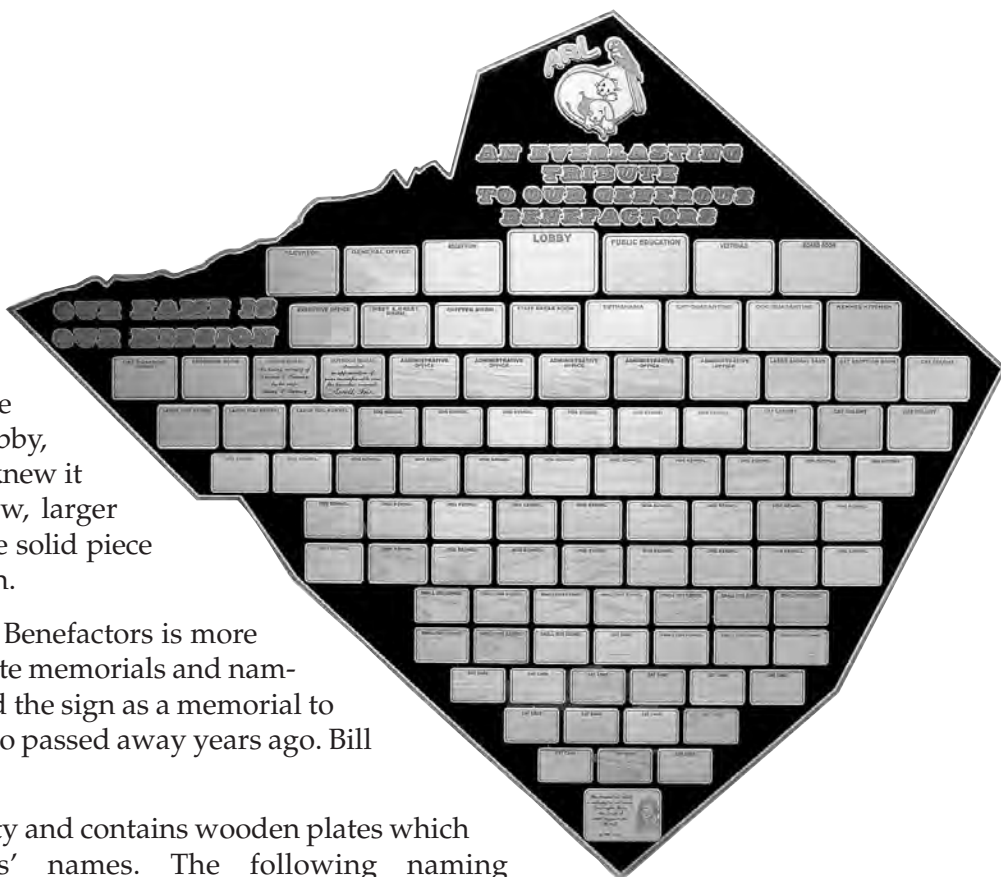
As a final note, I want to pass along my thanks to several groups:

- First and foremost our members and supporters. Without you and your donations of food, money, and time, the ARL could not exist.
- Secondly, to the ARL staff. I see them come to work every day full of hope and ready to care for any animal that comes into the shelter. Then I see the expressions change as they look in the stray room and see that overnight it has again been filled with discarded cats and dogs, and the line waiting in the office to surrender animals is three or four deep at the counter. They know that many of these animals will be euthanized due to health, behavior, or just plain lack of kennel and cat room space and that they will have to choose. By the time they punch out for the day, there are no smiles or joy. I do not know how they do it day after day.
- Third, thanks to all of the groups and volunteers that help out by holding fund raising events, coming to help with the upkeep of the shelter and grounds, walking dogs, and all the other things that support our efforts.

I wish everyone a safe and happy Holiday Season and a New Year filled with peace, higher employment, more joy, and less unwanted animals.

Barrie A. Pease
 President, Board of Directors
 Animal Rescue League of Berks County
Bpease@BerksARL.org

LASTING MEMORIAL PLAQUE



Bill Lessig is a perfectionist. He created the plaque currently hanging in the ARL's lobby, which we thought was beautiful. But he knew it could be improved. Bill has made a new, larger plaque with a better back-light and is one solid piece instead of in five pieces as the current sign.

An Everlasting Tribute to Our Generous Benefactors is more than a thank-you to people who contribute memorials and naming opportunities to the ARL. Bill created the sign as a memorial to his daughter, Sharon, an animal lover who passed away years ago. Bill sees this plaque as a tribute to her.

The plaque is in the shape of Berks County and contains wooden plates which will be engraved with benefactors' names. The following naming opportunities are still available:

Small Dog Kennels	\$1,500 each
Critter and Cat Cages.....	\$2,000 each
Dog Kennels	\$2,500 each
Cat Colony Room	\$3,000 each
Double Dog Kennel.....	\$3,500 each
Cat Boarding Room.....	\$5,000
Grooming Room	\$5,000
Meet and Greet Room.....	\$5,000
Critter Room.....	\$5,000
Executive Office	\$5,000
Employee Room.....	\$5,000
5 Offices.....	\$5,000 each
Dog or Cat Quarantine, Kennel Kitchen, General Office, Euthanasia Room, Elevator.....	\$10,000 each
Reception, Board Room, Vestibule.....	\$15,000 each
Lobby.....	\$50,000

The ARL's website is your tool to help the animals.

Lost or found pet? Go to http://berksarl.org/lostandfound_1.htm.

Do you want to register a complaint about animal cruelty that is not an emergency? We have a form: <http://berksarl.org/cruelty.htm>.

All of our upcoming events are listed, and don't forget, adoptable pets are just waiting for you to take a look!



Bequests & In Honor of Donations

In Honor of:

"Cedar" Albert
 Dave and Jo Althouse
 Linda Arner/Reuben Lattimore
 Janice Bare
 Baby Betsy
 James Bitting
 Dr. Michael Dickerson
 "Skippy" Dower
 Sandra Frey
 "Strider" Gebhard
 "Mittens" & "Cooper" Gerhard
 Irv Heinly
 Ivan, Danny, & Molly
 Elaine Kozlowski
 "KC" Lewis
 Stephanie Mays
 Andy & Rhea Schoener
 Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Warner

In Memory of:

"Sammy" Albert
 George Babb
 Jonny Baker
 Bernice Barto
 Doris Bagley
 "Bandit"
 Beverly Barto
 "Sweetie" Boder
 "Boots" & "Poog"
 Gerald Bricker
 Nancy Brittingham
 Nikki Brossman
 Marguerite "Peggy" Brown
 Bill Budick
 Kevin Butler
 Elvis Callahan
 Amelia Care
 "Justin" Cedar Lodge Farm
 "Deuce" Chillot
 "Chance" Chomnuk
 Rosemary Churchman
 "Sassy" Crofford
 James Cummings
 William Culler
 Linda Dembosky
 "Dexter" & "Asti" (our boys)
 "Roxie" DiBlasi
 Jo Diehm
 "Zak" Donavan
 Kathryn M. Doutrich
 Anne E. Eastwood
 "Katie" Eck
 Mary Jane Freeman
 "Ollie Frisky"
 "Mercury" Gabriel
 "Cinder", "Brandy" & "Tasha" Gebhard
 "Natasha" Geis

Helen Gieringer
 "Why Not" Gifford
 Francis H. Goeltz
 Betty Greth
 "Snow" Hall
 "Freya" Harvey
 "Ike" Heckman
 Lindy Heckman
 William Hershburger
 Marianne Hertz
 Nathan Hivner
 "Teddy", "Bobby" & "Roxie" Janov
 Maren Johansen
 "Missy" Keehn
 Richard Kerber
 Shirley Kern
 Harry Kissinger
 Sandy Knarr
 "Cosmo" & "Maxie" Kramer
 Silva Leinbach
 Frank E. Lepera Jr.
 "Duchess" Lesko
 Shawn & Lance from Lexie
 "Peaches", "Precious" &
 "Peppy" Lindstrom
 Leslie Manning
 "Basie" Martin
 Fern Mathewson
 "Marley" McCall
 Sylvia McCoy
 Raymond Melcher

Edward Michalowski, Sr.
 "Teddy" Michalowski
 Dorothy Miller
 Harold Miller Jr.
 "Rascal" Miller
 Hulda Grace Mountz
 "Magic" Murphy
 Thomas Newman
 Edward Nielsen
 "Junior" Nuding
 "Candy" & "Skeeter" O'Grady
 "Mercedes" Oplinger
 "Shermie" Pannabecker
 "Emma" Peters
 "Daisy" Piacine
 "Yogi", "Muffin" & "Buddy" Piscitelli
 Bradley Plunkett
 "Blackie" & "Jelly" Powers
 John Ratynski
 "Lucky", "Sheena" & "Ginger" Rauenzahn
 "Sandy" Ready
 H. Robert Redcay
 "Ed" Rehr
 Arthur & Doris Rohrbach
 "Hoka", "Shana" & "Schotzi" Romanic
 Chester & Gretchen Roth
 Joseph Sabanos
 Jarrod A. Seelig
 Dennis Seyfert
 "Jessie" Scheidegger
 "Daisy" Shaw

"Joshua" Sands
 "Maggie" Shay
 "Violet" Shiner
 "Leo" Shor
 Doris Showalter
 "Butters" Silvestri
 Jean Steinmetz Smith
 "Posey" Smoker
 "Buffi" Sparr
 Clair Stoltzfus
 Kasia Straub
 Dr. Donald E. Stoudt
 "Sullivan"
 Freida Sweitzer
 Richard H. Thompson
 Olga Tomko
 Dottie Trucker Miller
 "Milhouse" VanPell
 "Molly" & "Jenny" Kats Wade
 "Jake" Walker
 "Darty" Wegman
 Richard Weidner
 "Bebe" Weiler
 Jan Welch
 "Inky" Wheeler
 "April" Whiting
 "Gatsby", "Momma" &
 "Barney" Yacomos
 Gloria Zimmerman
 "Maggy" Zuber

Membership Application



Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 E-mail _____
 Telephone _____

Annual membership renewal levels include:

- Junior Membership (up to 18 years of age): \$15.00
- Senior Membership (65 years and older): \$15.00
- Individual Membership: \$25.00
- Family Membership: \$35.00 - \$49.00
- Patron Membership: \$50.00 - \$99.00
- Benefactor Membership: \$100.00+

Please make check payable to:

The Animal Rescue League of Berks County, Inc.

Mail Applications to:

Animal Rescue League of Berks County Inc.
 P.O. Box 69, Mohnton, PA 19540

Thank you for your support!



Sullivan's Last Pasture

The ARL's mission is to find good, loving and permanent homes for as many animals as there are homes. But sometimes, animals come to the ARL and live out their lives here. Sullivan, a 30-year-old Quarter horse mix, found shelter and a final place to live at the ARL and was released to the Rainbow Bridge on September 7.

Sully, as we lovingly called him, was rescued in response to a complaint that the ARL received. He was undernourished, very thin and sickly. The owners of the property were moving and they intended to leave Sully behind, an act that none of us can quite comprehend. The ARL brought Sully back to our barn where we treated him and attempted to bring his weight to normal. A veterinary exam found that Sully had arthritis, COPD (a fatal lung disease) and Cushing's disease which can be quite difficult and expensive to treat. The ARL spent the money to help Sully, despite his age. Sully thrived at the ARL as best as he could at his advanced age and health. No adopters came forward to take Sully. And many of us were glad that he was with us to stay because he had a sweet and loving disposition. When he felt up to it, he greeted people at the gate and loved to have his neck and mane stroked. As the apples fell from the trees on the ARL grounds, people brought them over to him and watched as he savored the treats.



The summer of 2010 was very tough on Sully with the extreme heat. Many days, you would find him standing in one spot for hours as he tried to breathe. We knew that we had to make a decision soon – keep Sully alive as long as medically possible or allow him to go with dignity. We also knew that with the coming colder weather, it would be very difficult to keep weight on his already frail body. The cold and possible snow would be difficult for him to tolerate. ARL Humane Officers Alison Rudy and Tracie Graham called on Sully's veterinarian, Dr. Jose Gomez of Brandywine Equine Veterinary Associates, for advice and it was his opinion that Sully was suffering. Together, they decided that Sully should be euthanized.

Sullivan was once a riding horse for children which is not surprising due to his gentle and loving nature. But like so many other horses before him, once his usefulness was through, he was discarded. The ARL showed

its appreciation to Sully by giving him a nice place to live and gave back his dignity. The ARL thanks Dr. Gomez for having a soft spot for Sully, for the loving care he gave him and for the generous donation he and Brandywine Equine Veterinary Associates gave in Sully's memory.

Rest in peace, our handsome friend.

Promoting Our Pets

With so many animals coming into the ARL, we need to be as creative as possible to try to find them homes. We cannot simply rely on people walking into the shelter as the only means of advertising our pets. Adoptable pets are shown on the ARL's web site (www.BerksARL.org), updated weekly. But for people who are unaware that the ARL exists, the ARL's adoptable pets are also listed on a couple of web sites, www.petfinder.com and www.adoptapet.com. Both of these sites have become recognized worldwide as the places to find pets.

ARL pets are also featured in The Reading Eagle, Loose Ends magazine, WFMZ TV, and the Concourse TV at the Sovereign Center.

Are you on Facebook? So is the ARL! Find us and become a friend. Our page features adoptable pets, tips and advice, and happy-ending stories.

Do you know of any other place that our pets can be featured? Email Chris Shaughness at cshaughness@BerksARL.org.



VOLUNTEER PROFILE: Juanita

Who is the best friend of the bunnies, guinea pigs, hamsters and other assorted critters who make the ARL their temporary home? It's Juanita! As she enters the room especially made for small animals four days a week, the rabbits stick their noses through the cages in anticipation of the tasty treats she bring for all of them – specially for each of the different animals' diets. Bunnies get carrots, guinea pigs look forward to their greens, birds are treated to seed sticks, and hamster/gerbils receive their fill of carrot tops. And if there happens to be a reptile or two in residence, Juanita brings them something special too. She buys the veggies using her own money from the farmers market who also saves the carrot tops for her, knowing that she's donating them to the animals. In addition to her volunteer time at the ARL, Juanita delivers The Merchandiser in her neighborhood every Tuesday. She uses the money she earns from that job to buy the special veggies for the critters. That's dedication.

Juanita retired in January 2007 from the Reading school district. She regularly stopped into the ARL to visit with the animals and was not quite ready to jump back into the commitment of a job. But when she saw how hard the staff of the ARL works, she knew she wanted to help. Juanita has been a regular volunteer at the ARL since November 2009, choosing



to care for the small animals because she has a penchant for them herself. At home, she and her husband have about 20 pets—6 cats, 3 guinea pigs, and an assortment of gerbils, hamsters and mice. They adopted several of them from the ARL, and others have come from pet stores or other places who were going to destroy the animals. Juanita talks the stores into giving them to her for free so that they are not killed. Five of her cats had been outside strays but she trapped them, had them spayed/neutered, and vaccinated. And now they live inside with the 6th cat that she adopted from the ARL.

In addition to preparing the special diets and treats for each critter, Juanita also cleans all of their cages thoroughly

and changes the bedding to keep them comfortable and healthy. Depending on how many critters are at the shelter, it generally takes Juanita about 1 ½ to 3 hours each day to accomplish her job. And even though she is a volunteer, she takes her job seriously. She realizes that the animals and staff depend on her. If she must miss a day, she always makes up for it by coming in another day. She knows that the ARL relies on her.

The ARL has a very high adoption rate for critters, despite that we receive a large number of rabbits and always have a good selection. Some stay longer than others but all eventually get adopted due to the regular, loving handling by Juanita. If a bunny, guinea pig, or other small critter is fearful of people, Juanita makes it a personal objective to socialize and handle them until they become relaxed around people. She also coaches children how to handle the critters safely, and often has successfully recommended the perfect critter for potential adopters!

Juanita says that she has always been “a little critter person” and expresses that “I treat my animals like I want to be treated.” The ARL cherishes seeing Juanita's smiling face almost as much as the critters. We thank you so much!

New Cat Surrender Policy

Effective in September 2010, the ARL instituted a new policy for anyone surrendering cats or kittens to the shelter. They must be secured in either a carrier or a closed box. The purpose of this policy is two-fold: for the safety of the surrenderer and the ARL staff, and for the security and emotional well-being of the cat. Prior to this policy, people were allowed to carry cats in their arms into the shelter. But many cats become scared, unruly and difficult to handle without the protection of a carrier. The new policy will benefit everyone.

ANIMAL HOARDING

Many people like to collect things: Art objects, wine, antiques, recipes, animals. Animals? Yes, animals. Television shows about hoarders have become very popular, and Animal Planet recently aired a 6-week series on animal hoarders. But did you know that incidents of animal hoarding are on the rise, and occur in all neighborhoods, in all income levels?

Animal hoarding is defined as possessing an inordinately large number of animals and often not being able to properly care for their health or well-being. The ARL has investigated several cases of animal hoarding in the past several years in Berks County and confiscated animals as a result, with two cases just last year.

Hoarding is a psychological disorder often associated with obsessive compulsiveness (OCD). Hoarders frequently are looking to find fulfillment through the collection of animals, to overcome loneliness or find love that is missing in their lives. Also, many animal hoarders begin with good intentions of rescuing needy animals but then become overwhelmed when the expenses exceed their abilities to pay. Often, their homes are in great disrepair because all of their income goes toward animal care. And that is frequently not enough.

Last year, the ARL was called to a small home in Reading after the

owner was put in jail for reasons having nothing to do with hoarding. The police called us when they found over 40 animals in the house that was literally falling down around them. We recovered dogs, cats, and birds. In addition, we found a dead animal in the freezer. Most of the dogs were elderly and sickly, and the ones who were healthy were very scared because they had not been socialized with people – they had been imprisoned in this home. Many of the cats were also anti-social and unadoptable.

The hoarders who the ARL have investigated over the years are a drain on our workload because they need constant supervision. After the ARL removed most of their animals and had them sign agreements not to acquire more animals, the ARL's Humane Officers must periodically check in on them to ascertain that they are keeping to their agreement. Most do not. Because hoarding is a psychological disorder, most people will gradually begin collecting animals again. An ARL officer checked in on one of these hoarders during the summer and she would not allow entry. After repeated questioning, she admitted that she had acquired a dog and brought the dog outside. The poor little white dog was missing much of its fur from an extreme flea infestation. You could see hundreds

of fleas on her. The ARL's Humane Officer confiscated the dog and treated her.

In these times of economic hardship, most shelters and rescue organizations are overflowing, and so many of us want to do whatever we can to help. It's possible that when people who have the tendency to be hoarders hear about the need for homes, they want to help. All animal lovers want to do everything we can to help. But most of us know our limitations. Hoarders are unable to recognize when they are in too deep.

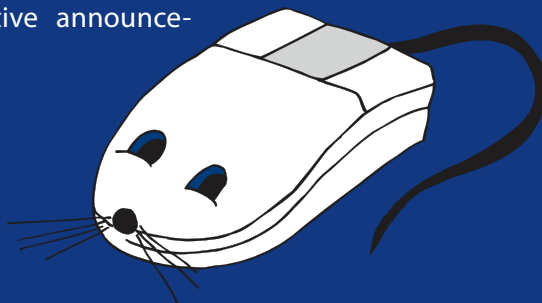
What are some of the signs that a person is a hoarder? One classic symptom is social isolation. They have a tendency to withdraw from people as caring for their animals requires more and more time. Second, they refuse to allow anyone to enter their homes. They also have curtains and blinds closed so that no one can see into their homes. According to the Hoarding of Animals Research Consortium (<http://www.tufts.edu/vet/hoarding/harc>), other symptoms include:

- Having more than the typical number of companion animals;
- Failing to provide even minimal standards of nutrition, sanitation, shelter, and veterinary care, with this neglect often resulting in illness and death from starvation, spread of infectious disease, and untreated injury or medical condition;
- Denial of the inability to provide this minimum care and the impact of that failure on the animals, the household, and human occupants of the dwelling;
- Persistence, despite this failure, in accumulating and controlling animals.

If you know someone who exhibits these signs, it is very important to get them help. Contact the ARL if you believe that they animals are not receiving proper care. We will investigate and provide help.

Sign up for email newsletters:

The ARL sends regular updates via email. Sign up on our web site at www.berksarl.org to receive the Pets of the Week emails as well as other informative announcements.



Vaccine Clinics:

The Animal Rescue League holds low-cost vaccine clinics in our Surgery Center on the fourth Saturday of the month from 1-2:30pm from April through October. Arrive early, as the line can get quite long.



Watch the BCTV show:

Berks Community Television generously offers the ARL a ½ hour time slot each month to discuss issues related to animals and the ARL. Please tune in at 7:00pm on the 3rd Monday of the month for the live show, also featuring adoptable pets from the shelter. The show rebroadcasts on Wednesday at 1:00pm, Thursday at 10:00pm, and Friday at 9:00am.



Home 4 the Holidays

For the second year, the ARL is participating in a program called Home 4 the Holidays sponsored by the Helen Woodward Animal Center and Iams. News releases are sent to local media outlets for us to let everyone know that we're participating in the program. The ARL sets adoption goals for each week from October 1 until January 4 and reports our status each week on a special web site that tracks adoptions from all participating shelters and rescue groups. Home 4 the Holidays supplies the ARL with adoption kits to give to dog and cat adopters. Each kit includes coupons for Iams and Febreze products, and a pet care guide. The ARL is proud once again to be a part of just one more way to raise public awareness to adopt a shelter pet.



The ARL held its first Howl-o-ween Costume Party at the Grill Fire Company. Monsters and ghouls, and even Santa made an appearance.

Wish List

We are in need of many items to help the animals and the staff. Please take a look at the list and consider dropping off whatever you can. Thank you for your ongoing support!

DOGS

Dog food— wet and dry
Frontline/Advantage/Advantix
Baby shampoo or tearless dog shampoo

CATS

Kitty litter • Dry kitten food
Metal kitty litter pans

CRITTERS

Food for rabbits, guinea pigs, birds
Toys and treats • Water bottles

FARM ANIMALS

Horse blankets • Dewormer • Leads and halters

CLEANING SUPPLIES

Paper Towels • Facial Tissue • Toilet Paper
55-gallon trash bags

New Cat Holding Room

Because of the donations received from the Vera Bradley Bingo held in March, the ARL was able to complete its new cat holding room. Equipped with 20 cages, the room can hold up to 40 cats (if some of them are litters). Prior to having this room, incoming cats had to be housed with the general population of cats. So if any incoming cat was sick, the potential existed that healthy cats would be infected too. Now that we have the new room, cats are held for several days to be sure that they are not sick and they are also vaccinated. Having this room "gives the cats time to calm down" when they enter the shelter which is very stressful for cats, says Sheila Conners, ARL cat room technician.



With the addition of the cat holding room, the ARL is able to house more cats. We have



GALA



For the second year, the ARL held its annual Gala at the Sovereign Performing Arts Center in Reading. Howlywood 2010 featured a display of Hollywood gowns from the collection of Gene London. Guests were wowed by the beautiful dresses, delicious food, delectable auction items, splendid music and captivating adoptable dogs.



Gala photographs supplied by Kelly Armour Photography

Pilots N Paws Helps the ARL's Dogs

When a shelter takes in over 10,000 animals every year, they need to get creative with ways to find homes for them. Because we average that many pets, the ARL relies on other organizations to help us because there are simply not enough adopters coming through our doors. The ARL has relationships with many animal rescue organizations but these groups can't do it alone either. They need help to bring adopters to pets...and to bring the pets to adopters. That's why the ARL called on Distinguished Dobermans Rescue, Inc. (DDR) and they called on Pilots N Paws to help.

DDR is based in the Pittsburgh area with no physical shelter facility but instead relies on a large network of foster homes. DDR also has foster homes in other East Coast locations, and Berks County is lucky to have at least two of these foster homes. They regularly come to the ARL and take dogs who are either older or special needs. In August 2010, two elderly Miniature Pinschers (Min Pins), as well as a young rowdy yet scared German Shepherd, were accepted into DDR's program. Because DDR is based in Pittsburgh, foster homes were easy to find in that area instead of in Berks County. But how could they get Babie, Katie and Nadia to Pittsburgh? DDR has a lot of experience with sending dogs to good homes in other areas. They knew about a group and program called Pilots N Paws.



What is Pilots N Paws?

Pilots N Paws is an all-volunteer organization formed to bring together airplane pilots and rescue organizations to enable the transportation of homeless pets to foster homes and adopters. It was founded by Debbie Boies and Jon Wehrenberg when Debbie needed to transport a dog that she wanted to adopt from Florida to South Carolina.

Pilots N Paws began when Debbie's 12-year-old Doberman passed away, and she and her family decided to rescue a homeless Doberman. When she found one in Florida who needed help, Debbie and her family agreed that this needy boy was the perfect fit for them. But the challenge was: how to get him to their home in South Carolina? Through her network of family and friends, she found Jon, a pilot. He offered to fly the dog from Florida to Debbie. After that flight, Jon became interested in animal rescue. He asked Debbie many questions about rescue work, animals in shelters, what happens to them, where do they go, how do they get there, etc. Debbie sent him to various web sites where people help to coordinate ground transportation for rescued animals and she showed him several shelter sites as well. The next day he sent her an email and said "We need to do something!" Debbie agreed and asked if he thought Pilots N Paws would be an acceptable name. Of course it was and hence, Pilots N Paws was formed.

As Debbie says, Pilots N Paws came together from "a need, a generous offer and a decision made to do something to help."

How does Pilots N Paws work?

On the Pilots N Paws web site (www.pilotsnpaws.org), pilots register as available resources to transport animals. Rescues also must register on the web site. When a rescue needs an animal transported, they post a message on the forum on the web site. The pilots check the forum and respond to the post if they are able to help. All correspondence and arrangements are then made strictly between the pilot and the rescue group.

So that's how Babie, Katie and Nadia found themselves on the other side of Pennsylvania. All three found loving homes. Sadly, Katie needed to be euthanized in October due to a serious heart condition. But for the two months that she lived in her new home, she was one happy girl thanks to DDR and Pilots N Paws. The ARL thanks Distinguished Dobermans and Pilots N Paws for helping.

Addition to the ARL Board of Directors

The ARL is very pleased to announce that Dr. Erica Oldham has joined the Board of Directors. Dr. Oldham has been a resident of Berks County for over 9 years and is a strong supporter of community service. In addition to the ARL, she has been a volunteer with United Against Puppy Mills, working on their billboard campaigns, chairing fundraisers, and staffing their education booths at local community-based events. According to Erica, "I believe that it is important to have kindness and humanity for all living creatures, both human and animal. I strongly believe in the importance of adopting pets." She has three rescued dogs. Welcome!



The **RESCUE** Review

Shelter Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday

10am to 4:45pm

Wednesday, **5pm to 7:45pm**

Saturday, **10am to 2:45pm**

Closed Sunday

Phone: **610.373.8830**

Address: Animal Rescue League of

Berks County Inc., PO Box 69

Mohnton, PA 19540

Web site: **www.berksarl.org**

Mission

The Animal Rescue League's mission is to impact all aspects of humane treatment of animals through quality service, accommodation, and education of pet owners and the community.



**Animal Rescue League
of Berks County, Inc.**

P.O. Box 69

Mohnton, PA 19540