



2015
HOLIDAY
APPEAL

Animal Advocates

LEADING WITH THE HEART

ANIMAL ADVOCATES, INC.

Location:

35 Wabash Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15220

Mailing Address:

P. O. Box 8480
Pittsburgh, PA 15220

Phone:

(412) 928-9777

E-Mail:

animaladvocatespgh@live.com

On the Web:

www.animaladvocates.net

On Facebook:

Animal Advocates-Pittsburgh
Animal Advocates Thrift Shop

Animal Advocates is a nonprofit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization. It is an approved recipient for donations under the Combined Federal Campaign.

CFC # 16564



RESALE SHOP

Phone:

(412) 928-9837

CURRENT SHOP HOURS

Monday through Friday –
12:00 to 3:00
Saturday – 11:00 to 3:00
Closed Sunday

Charlie's story

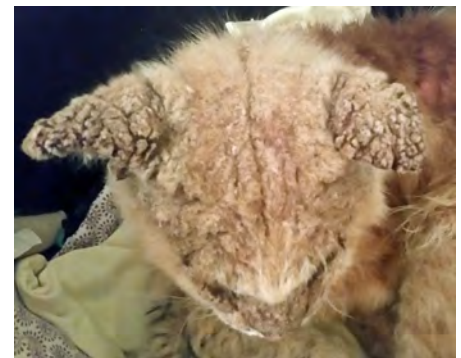
by Tami Kijowski



There are moments in our lives that we will never forget, always cherish and simply know that it was meant to be. One of my moments is with Charlie.

I was on my way over to the shopping plaza and there he was, walking on the sidewalk. I couldn't believe my eyes! I thought someone had poured acid on him. The orange cat's eyes were swollen shut, he was skinny, his orange fur was flaking off, and his ears were hard to the touch and completely covered with crust.

I rushed over to the shopping plaza and bought him some cat food and water--thank goodness he was still there when I returned. I wanted to help him, but I didn't know how to or what he needed exactly. I had never seen a cat in his condition.



When Charlie was rescued, his eyes were swollen shut and his skin had been ravaged by a severe case of mange. (Charlie's "after" photo appears at the end of the article.)

I contemplated what I could do for him while he ate and drank the water. I had my own cats at home--so I couldn't bring him home, for fear that they would get sick too. Reluctantly, I left the orange cat that evening, but I couldn't get him off my mind. I knew that he needed help, and quickly, before it was too late. The next morning on my way to work, I drove by again, hoping I would see him. No such luck; however, I left some more food and water.

I decided to text Linda Marino at Animal Advocates. I have fed feral cats in that area for a few years. I've worked with Animal Advocates to get several of the friendly cats adopted into their forever homes. The cats that are considered too "feral" and not adoptable. I would trap, spay/neuter and release, and continue to feed. This sick orange cat was out of my league; the only thing I knew was that he needed help.

Linda and called me back right away. She said if I could trap Charlie, they would be able to get him an appointment to see the veterinarian and we could learn more about his condition and what he needed. That phone call meant the world to me: it gave me both hope and support. It was exactly what I needed!

That evening--not knowing if I would ever see the orange cat again or if it was already too late for him--I drove back to the same area, this time

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A new look for Animal Advocates' resale shop

Exciting things have happened at the Animal Advocates Resale Shop in 2015.

We hosted a spring sidewalk sale, participated in the West End Community Festival (where we had a lemonade stand for Clarice, our shop cat), and celebrated our second annual Holiday Extravaganza.



Floyd relaxes on the loveseat in the shop's new coffee corner.

If you haven't been to the shop in awhile, we invite you to come visit and see all the changes. We look forward to welcoming you soon!

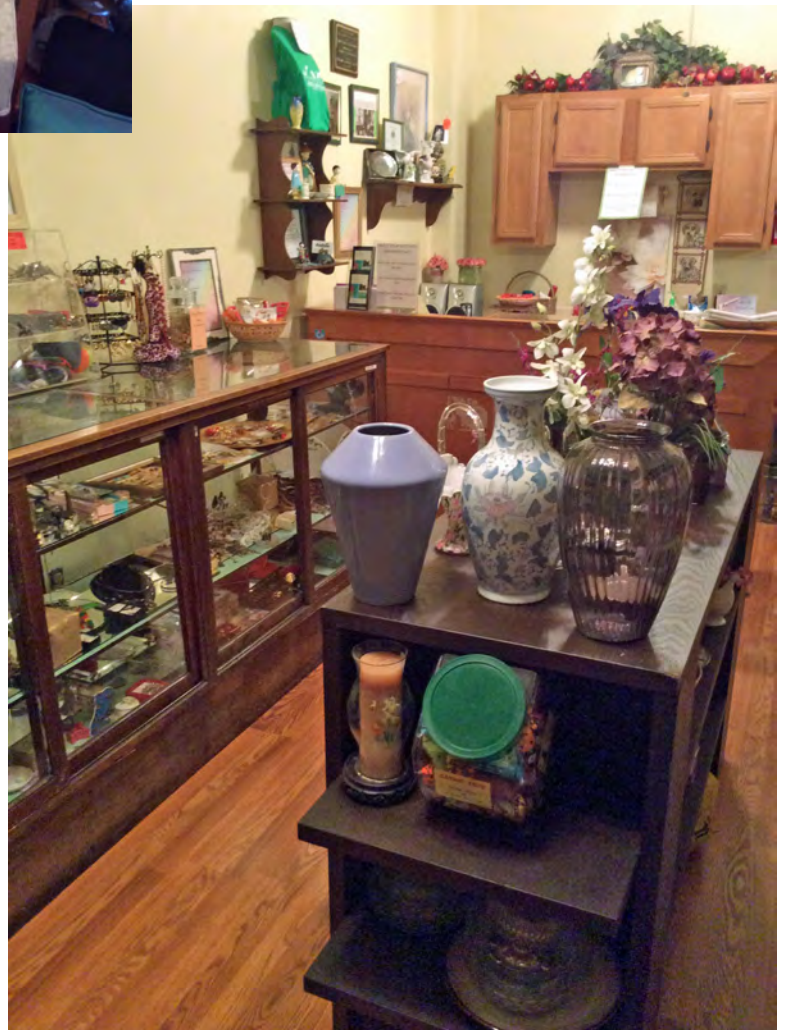
A poster-size portrait of Clarice, the shop cat, adorned the lemonade stand during the West End Community Festival. Clarice was recently adopted, so another amiable kitty will be greeting shop visitors in the new year.



We added a fundraising coffee corner to the shop, where visitors can enjoy a hot beverage while getting to know one of our adoptable animals.

Beautiful renovations also took place in the shop. We acquired several wood display fixtures and new flooring in the back room and bathroom. The bathroom also received a mini-makeover, so now we have more room for our shop cat.

The outside of the shop has been enhanced with a colorful new sign and a pair of safety railings at the front entrance.



The jewelry case was relocated to make room for our new wood service counter.

What a pair!

Gracie, a too-cute-for-words beagle-terrier mix with a lively, saucy, and very friendly personality, and her gentleman friend Sarge, a dashing Doberman with dignified bearing and a noble countenance, were best friends, inseparable, traveling together, who found their way to a crowded shelter. That shelter wanted to assure that these two would definitely stay together and



Gracie and Sarge with Tim, their adopter.

called on Animal Advocates for help.

Not only are Gracie and Sarge staying together, but they also have been entrusted with very special "work." Sarge is in training to be a service dog for a veteran with PTSD. Crissy Mancini, one of Animal Advocates' board members, is a dog trainer and works with an organization called TADSAW (Train a Dog Save a Warrior).

<http://www.tadsaw.org/>

Sarge has been partnered with Tim (coincidentally, he is also a sergeant) who served in the military for 12 years and 8 months, including combat duty in Iraq. We want to continue to offer help to our veterans and save more dogs who are suitable for this much-needed role.

We do not want to charge an adoption fee for our adoptable dogs entering service dog training. If you would like to make a donation or sponsor the adoption of a dog (or cat) for a veteran, please note that on your reply slip.

Gracie has an important job, too: best friend and playmate for Tim's family, including his four young children. She didn't need any special training; she was a natural.

Charlie's story

Continued from Page 1

equipped with a trap and a can of tuna. There he was walking on the sidewalk again! I was setting up the trap, and before I could even finish, the orange cat simply walked right into the trap and sat down. It was clear that he wanted to be rescued.

The vet visit determined that my new rescue had a severe case of mange. He simply needed love, food, water, safety, and a couple of doses of Revolution, a topical parasite medication. When we checked out at the veterinarian's office and they asked me his name, "Charlie" was the first name that popped into my head.

Charlie stayed in the vacant apartment above where I live. He had to be on quarantine and wasn't able to be around any of my pets at home. He was very weak initially; his routine consisted of sleeping, eating, drinking, and visits from me to change his cat bedding several times a day as his old, mangy fur fell out and his beautiful new coat started to grow in.

I had Charlie for two months, until he found his forever home. His new fur has grown in and he is absolutely beautiful. He is healthy. He is a lap cat that resembles a lion cub. He is chatty. He loves to play and eat treats. He loves to spend time with his new human family of four and his fur siblings, which include two cats and a dog. He is loved. He has been rescued.

Charlie would not have been saved without Animal Advocates stepping in to help me that day. Through their adoption process and the articles that they posted telling his story, he found his forever family. Donations from Advocates' supporters provided him with the medication and vet care that he so desperately needed.

I am sure others saw Charlie and wanted to help him but didn't know how; however, with some knowledge, support, and guidance, anything is possible.

If you aren't able to volunteer your time, please consider sending a donation to help care for abandoned animals like Charlie.



Love...and letting go

by Patricia Murphy

It was time to put together our yearly holiday appeal. I was to do a “wrap up,” an overview about some of the animals in need that we’ve cared for this year and some of the kind people, volunteers of long standing and newly minted, who have helped.

I was having a particularly difficult time focusing and getting on track. My mind, heart, and hands were occupied with the end-of-life care of one of my own dogs. Since my Bliss was an Animal Advocates dog whose story typifies our rescue, let me weave a bit about her into this piece.

Bliss was the dearest, sweetest little beagle imaginable, just entering her senior years when she came to us as a foster. The moment I met her, with her luminous brown eyes, cute speckles, and wildly wagging tail, I knew she was mine for life. Bliss had some lumps and bumps when we took her in, some of which were malignant. We had 3½ happy, love-filled years before a recent very aggressive recurrence of the cancer led to her last chapter.

During her time with me, Bliss gave joyous, open-hearted love to every dog, cat, puppy, kitten, or person she met. And you couldn’t help but give it back in return. This year we helped other seniors—dogs like Rosie the Riveter, Ginger, and Dragon, cats like Parker and Smithers—and many more who now are brightening their foster or forever homes. And we’ve been able to give special care, medical and emotional, to animals like Charlie, the cat with severe mange, and Cooper, a gentle, emaciated spaniel mix.

Our dedicated cat foster caregivers bottle-fed helpless newborn kittens; our dog foster caregivers gently, patiently guided dogs, some of whom never before had experienced life in a home, on the finer points of indoor living.

In the end, as I was caring for Bliss, the words to an old hymn by George Matheson were going through my mind:

*O Love that will not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in thee;
I give thee back the life I owe,
That in thine ocean depths its flow
May richer, fuller be.*

All of us who love animals know how hard and heartbreaking letting go is, even when it’s not in the animal’s best interest to hold on. Then it came to me: not letting go does not mean keeping them from finding ultimate release and relief. It’s staying with them, comforting them, being there to the end.

Whether the letting go is seeing them off to forever homes or helping them pass from this life, we as individuals and volunteers for Animal Advocates hold our commitment to the care of our animals, foster or forever, as a sacred trust. And we hope that no matter how the storm rages, we will always be able to see the rainbow through the rain.

*O Joy that seekest me through pain,
I cannot close my heart to thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain,
And feel the promise is not vain,
That morn shall tearless be.*



Bliss welcomes Animal Advocates foster puppies Sydnee and Geno.



Happy Holidays
from the volunteers
at Animal Advocates

2016 WISH LIST

Animal Advocates appreciates donations of household and decorative items for our resale shop, but we have little room to store large quantities of animal care and cleaning supplies. We do have space and on-going need for the following:

-  Cat food (unopened bags & cans)
-  Plastic pet carriers, especially those with openings on top and front
-  Washable pet beds
-  Sturdy carpeted cat trees (new or gently used)
-  Clumping cat litter
-  Towels and fleece blankets
-  “Forever” postage stamps
-  Gift certificates to grocery stores, pet supply stores, and office supply stores

...And of course, we welcome the gift of your time and expertise as a cat care, shop, or foster volunteer!