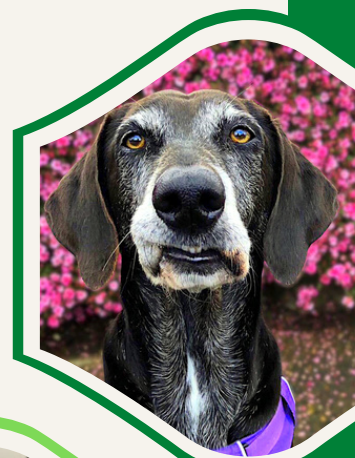


# surviving & thriving



Thanks to our Volunteers and Donors, Animal Advocates has emerged from the last two years stronger and more driven than ever to carry out our mission!



**Rescue. Rehabilitate. Rehome**

[animaladvocates.net](http://animaladvocates.net) | 412-928-9777

# Compassion in Action

**For nearly 40 years, Animal Advocates has been committed to the principles of its founders.**

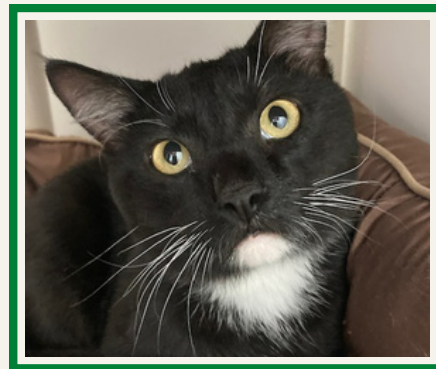
**S**tarting in 1984, Animal Advocates' founders sought to educate and raise public awareness on the ethical issues surrounding the treatment of animals.

These six individuals deployed grassroots advocacy, public demonstrations, letter writing campaigns and other educational tools with the aim of creating a community in which all animals are treated with dignity and compassion.

The small but dedicated group of volunteers took inspiration from national animal activist groups but independently researched and acted on projects of local concern, often standing on Downtown street corners with collection jars. Monies collected were used to inform and educate the public regarding the plight of homeless, abandoned, neglected and abused animals. As the organization grew and the number of volunteers increased, the need for a permanent home base in the form of a building was evident.

Early volunteers engaged in fund-raising by holding yard sales, soliciting individual donations and placing collection cans in stores. When those efforts fell short of the capital needed, volunteer Pat Kenezovich individually called 1,000 people on the mailing list.


When additional funds were still needed, pleas were made to friends and neighbors to offer loans with the promise of payback within five years.



Raymond (left) and Atlas both came to Animal Advocates with serious health challenges. They were welcomed into our care with no questions asked.

Finally, the needed amount was raised and the building at 35 Wabash Street in Pittsburgh's West End was purchased in cash, with no mortgage. The Animal Advocates Thrift Shop opened in April 1993, with the initial proceeds going to pay back those individuals who had provided loans.

Before long, the need for local animal rescue became clear. The Thrift Shop was moved downstairs, while the second floor naturally became a space for homeless cats after one was dropped off for boarding during a holiday and never retrieved. Today the second floor provides a temporary home for up to 15 cats awaiting adoption.

While animal rescue is the cornerstone of Animal Advocates' efforts, the job doesn't end once an animal is safe. In fact, the rescue is often just the beginning of an animal's journey. Behind the adoption statistics are rescue stories like those of Raymond, Atlas, Chloe and Maggie that reveal the meaning of compassion in action. 

## History of Animal Advocates

 **Founded by the original 6 volunteers**  
1984

 **Advocates Building Purchased in the West End**  
1992

 **Advocates Thrift Shop Opens**  
1993

 **Second Floor becomes dedicated to cat boarding**  
1994

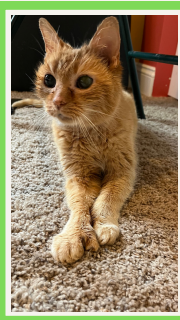
 **"Catio" addition built onto second floor space**  
1998

 **Fundraising for expansion project kicks off**  
2023



# A Brief Ray of Sunshine

**In his brief time with Animal Advocates, Raymond found love of his own, and had an outsized impact**



Left to Right: Raymond upon arriving at Animal Advocates, blind and weak; Raymond after a couple of weeks adjusting to his foster home; Raymond, energized, exploring the catnip outside his foster home.

**R**aymond's rescue is a perfect representation of what sets Animal Advocates apart. He was rescued from the January cold by dedicated volunteer Rachel, who spotted a dirty, distressed and disoriented Raymond in a driveway and took him inside.

He was having difficulty walking and it soon became clear that Raymond was both visually and hearing impaired. Rachel quickly contacted the cat team and brought him to be held overnight in the cat apartment.

Once in a pen, Raymond mustered the strength to eat and drink, but it was uncertain that he would make it through the night. Once examined by a vet, it became clear how dire Raymond's situation was.

Estimated to be roughly 15 years old, he was blind, the result of extremely high blood pressure. He was not deaf, but his ears were so filled with dirt that he could not hear. Tests revealed that he was anemic and suffering from kidney disease.

His situation stabilized as Advocates volunteers began administering his medications. His hearing returned and his blood pressure decreased. After a few weeks, Raymond was fostered by Dana, another dedicated volunteer who hoped to give him a comfortable home. How many days Raymond had left was anyone's guess. As the weeks passed, he became more comfortable in his new foster home, enjoying catnip and snuggling with his new human.

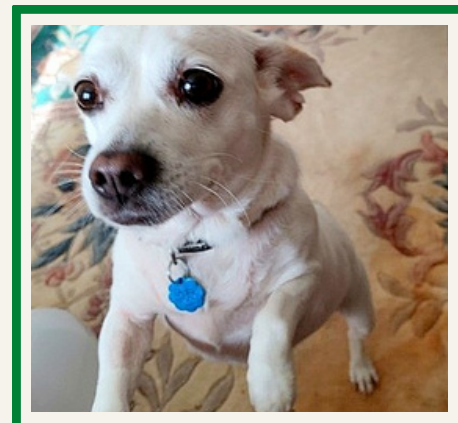
Eventually, Raymond's age and health issues caught up with him. In pain and struggling with accidents, it was time for Raymond to cross the rainbow bridge. While sad, knowing that Raymond lived an additional nine months surrounded by love and happiness made the entire struggle worthwhile. Raymond died happy, and with dignity. "We gave him a lifetime of love in the nine months he was an Advocates cat," Rachel recalled. 🐾

## Sweet Chloe was Rejuvenated in our Senior-to-Senior Foster Program

**C**hloe was tied outside on a rope virtually all the time, bored and lonely. The situation didn't rise to the legal level of animal abuse; she had a table for shelter and a bowl that sometimes held water. But for a bright little dog like Chloe, the loneliness hurt as much as being abused. Eventually, a concerned neighbor alerted Animal Advocates to Chloe's situation. We approached her "guardian," who told us Chloe had been left behind by a relative, and she was relinquished to our care.

Chloe quickly found a companion in our Senior-to-Senior foster program with Mary, a retired City of Pittsburgh narcotics detective and lifelong dog lover. When Mary and Chloe met it was a love match from the start.

Now, Chloe is right where she belongs. She's with the kind of loving guardian she's always deserved, living her best life and spreading joy as the cheerful, loving companion she was meant to be. Chloe has finally come in. 🐾



Chloe showing off her sweet side after she was finally allowed to be herself.



# Atlas, Loved

**After being abandoned in an apartment, sweet and friendly Atlas is looking for a long-term caregiver**

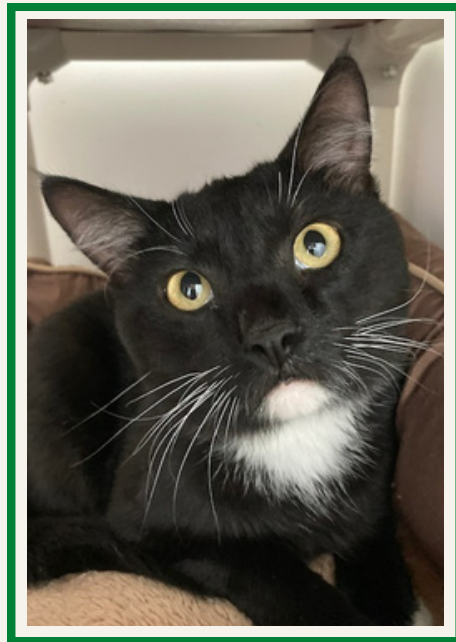
**T**he intake call was not an unusual one. A building manager needed help with a cat abandoned in an apartment. The manager stated that her next call would be to Animal Control to have the cat removed from the premises.

Fortunately, there happened to be "room at the inn," and an Animal Advocates volunteer responded. Although shaking with confusion and fear, Atlas – with a gleaming black and white coat and bright eyes – was clearly social and with some time to adjust would be readily adoptable. Or so we thought.

Atlas' initial vet exam revealed a heart murmur and cardiac malformations.

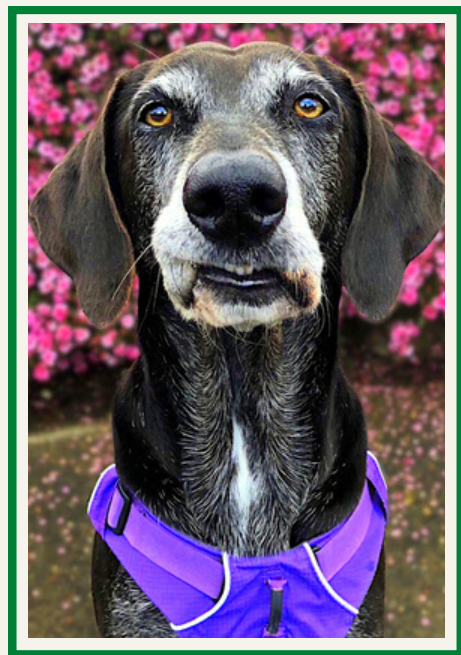
Further testing by a veterinary cardiologist diagnosed Atlas with Tetralogy of Fallot (ToF), a congenital condition involving four cardiac malformations so rare in cats that Atlas was only the second ToF patient the vet cardiologist had ever treated.

Unfortunately, it is not correctable through surgery, but it can be managed to a degree by medication. Tests determined that while Atlas' condition has not yet progressed to heart failure, his long-term prognosis is unclear. While Atlas' journey with Animal Advocates is not what was initially expected, the rescue is committed to finding him a home, for however long he has. 🐾



Atlas was abandoned in an apartment by his previous owner, and is currently in foster care.

## Remembering Maggie: From a Life Worth Saving to a Life Well Lived



Maggie's legacy lives on with her twitter account, @Maggarooo, and her many followers.

**T**he young lab mix was found wandering an industrial park in Ohio and taken to a low adoption shelter where she was named Jasmine. Eventually, Jasmine became Maggie after Animal Advocates pulled her from that shelter and brought her to the safety and comfort of a foster home.

Maggie was a beautiful dog - statuesque and nicely muscled with a sleek, shiny black coat. Yet at heart she was mostly a sweet goofball. Her adopter, recognizing how special and unique she was, set up a twitter account for her, @Maggarooo. Her adopter became not only Maggie's guardian, but also her photographer as @Maggarooo exceeded 103,000

followers and made the cover of Dogue Magazine. She only grew more dear and beautiful with age. Maggie died this year at age 15, 12 years after being adopted. That's a long doggy life, and for Maggie a very full and happy one.

"Maggie captured the hearts of so many because she was pure love, especially in her golden years" said her adopter. "I am forever grateful to Animal Advocates for allowing me the privilege of caring for such a special girl. The work you do as volunteers truly makes the world a better place."

We share this in memory and honor of a wonderful dog, and her equally wonderful guardian. 🐾



# Six Ways to Support Us

Interested in helping local animals in need? Here are a handful of ways you can support the Animal Advocates mission

## foster

Temporarily foster a cat or dog until a permanent home is found.



## cat care

The hours are flexible, the co-workers are adorable, and the time is well spent.



## shop sales

Get first dibs on new items, make some friends, and raise money for animals.



## donate

☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$500 ☐ \_\_\_\_\_

If you can find it in your heart and budget to support animals in need, make checks payable to Animal Advocates and use the enclosed envelope. Donations can be made online at [AnimalAdvocates.net/support-us](https://AnimalAdvocates.net/support-us).



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**Your Animal Advocates Thrift  
Shop purchase of \$100 or more!**

Limit One Coupon Per Customer, Per Purchase or Visit. Some Exclusions May Apply.  
Expires March 31st, 2023

## other

We're always looking for talented folks to use their skills to help animals.

