



PAW PRINTS

A SAD TALE WITH A HAPPY ENDING

Have you ever seen a dog smile? A young Beagle named Pepper lived with her best friend, a kind and loving senior lady. They were inseparable—they ran errands together, attended dog training classes (obedience school is passé) and shared chicken, Pepper's favorite treat. It made them both smile.

But then, the lady had to move to an assisted living facility, and she was not able to take Pepper

with her. Heartbroken, short on luck and out of time, she turned to the Baltimore Animal Rescue and Care Shelter (BARCS) for help.

Meanwhile just a few miles away, another Beagle named Charlie, had just crossed the Rainbow Bridge—leaving his human, Terrie,

filled with grief. But that was before she met Pepper.

When Terrie learned about Pepper's story, she decided to reach out and comfort Pepper's senior mom with the following letter:

Hello,

You don't know me but I have a story to tell you that may interest you.

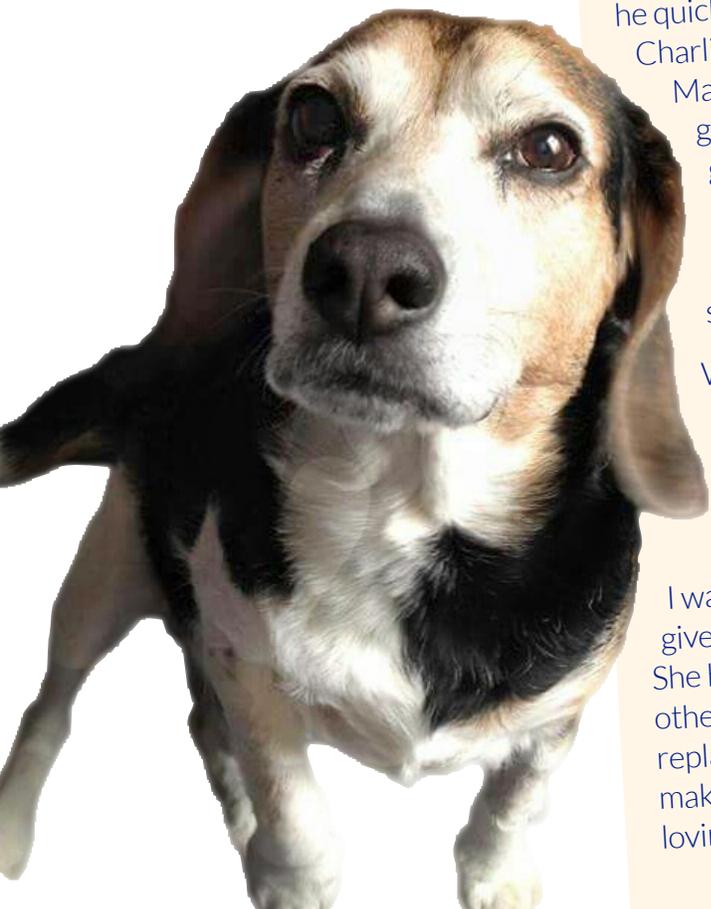
Fifteen years ago, I brought a Beagle named Charlie into my home and he quickly wrapped his little paw around my heart. About a year ago, Charlie became ill and gradually went downhill until finally, on March 14, 2017, he died in my arms. My heart has never felt such grief. I cried for days and felt like I had lost my best friend, which I guess in a way, I had.

My daughter decided to make it her mission to find the perfect dog to fill the void in my heart. At BARCS, she found this beautiful, sad little girl named Pepper, and instantly fell in love.

When she brought Pepper home to me, I felt like I had been with her my whole life. She wasn't as accepting of me at first, so we took it slow. I'm happy to say that today, she is sleeping in her new bed next to me, she sits in the chair with me, and she finally smiled over the weekend.

I wanted to write this letter to you because I know how hard it was to give Pepper up, but rest assured Pepper will have the life of a princess. She has a big sister, a Foxhound named Gracie Jo, and they wear each other out playing. I truly think Pepper was sent by my Charlie to be his replacement, and he's happy that his Mama is happy. I hope this letter makes you feel a bit better knowing that Pepper has come to the most loving home ever.

(continued on page 3)



MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friend,

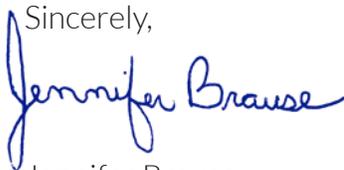
The BARCS team is celebrating the lifesaving efforts of an always-busy summer, and thankful to all those who helped us find positive outcomes for the thousands of homeless animals that came through our doors. Thanks to foster volunteers, like Annie and Andrew Myers, hundreds of underage, motherless kittens have found a safe haven this summer to grow healthy and strong. (You can read about Annie and Andrew's foster journey on page 3.) Our Community Cats Program that cares for unowned outdoor cats, continues to show positive results in our shelter and community. (Read on page 4 how program volunteer Carol Hyman is working to reduce overpopulation in Baltimore City.)

Pepper's story on the front cover is one of my most favorite "Happy Tails." Seeing two families connected through the power of adoption is what makes this story truly special—I'm happy to report that Terri Bowman and her family have been in contact with Pepper's original owner, and have visited her in the nursing home where she now lives.

Fall is one of my favorite times of year here at the Baltimore Animal Rescue and Care Shelter (BARCS). We are hard at work preparing for BARCStoberfest, our biggest lifesaving event of the year. It's a pet-friendly festival in Baltimore's beautiful Patterson Park, complete with a 5K run/walk, shopping market, costume contests, a beer garden, yoga with your dog and much, much more! Not only is it the best day in Baltimore to be a pet, the money raised is a lifeline to our homeless animals. You can register today, create your own fundraising page and start collecting donations. Even if you aren't able to make it to the festival on October 28 at Patterson Park, your fundraising participation makes you an essential part of our success.

Thank you, as always, for your support. We couldn't save lives without each and every one of you.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Brause
BARCS Executive Director and Founder



Saturday, October 28
from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
in Baltimore's Patterson Park
www.barcstoberfest.org

Ready, Set...SNIFF! 5K Run

Run/walk as a team with a four-legged buddy, just as yourself or with your fundraising teammates. Register by creating a personal (or team) fundraising page, and collect at least \$40 in donations. Participants receive an ultra-soft T-shirt, a doggie bandana, free entry to our dog-friendly beer garden and e-coupons to local pet stores and businesses.

Dog-Friendly Beer Garden with Live Music

Drink local craft beers with your pup by your side, all while overlooking Baltimore's best view of the city! Admission to the beer garden is \$10 per person. Those who have raised \$40 or more for BARCStoberfest (this includes those who have pre-registered for our 5K race) will receive free admission to the beer garden and a souvenir cup.

Howl-o-Ween Pet Costume Contest

Unleash your creativity and celebrate Halloween by entering your pet in our popular Howl-O-Ween Pet Costume Contests at BARCStoberfest. The contest is judged by local, animal-loving BARCS VIPs. Prizes are awarded to the top three costumes in the following categories: best Baltimore theme, best group or pair (human/pet) and best Halloween theme.

Other Fun Festival Activities: Shopping market, BARCS adoptable pets and local rescue groups, pet-friendly photo booth, agility course, kids tent (face painting, making cat toys and a 'PawsPort' scavenger hunt), food vendors and trucks, BARCS bake sale and much more!

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If you would like to respond to me I would love to hear from you. I am enclosing two pictures of Pepper taken yesterday. She misses you, but she's happy to have such a wonderful place to live.

Sincerely,

Terrie

P.S. Terrie and Pepper's former mom have stayed in touch. Just one more case of hearts healed when you open your life to an animal in need.

Foster. Adopt. Volunteer. Donate. You can't change an animal's past, but you can certainly rewrite their future.



Terrie meeting Pepper on Mother's Day

IT'S KITTEN SEASON!

They're cute. They're cuddly. And, they're costly! Every year, from May through October, is what we like to call "Kitten Season."

Kitten Season is the time when shelters here in Maryland and across the nation are flooded with underage kittens in trouble. Most are motherless. They're too young to thrive on their own. Many are sick, injured and in need of round-the-clock care.

It's an overpopulation problem, and the humane solution is to make sure the kittens that have been brought into the world get care, good homes and are spayed or neutered so they don't keep on adding to the problem. But in order to survive the spay/neuter surgery, they need to have strong and well-developed immune systems.

Enter Annie and Andrew Myers to the rescue! Annie and Andrew are BARCS Foster Care Volunteers. Foster parents hold a special place in our hearts for their selfless service. Annie and Andrew have been fostering since 2013, and have cared for 107 cats and kittens, showering them with nourishment, toys and lots of love.

The BARCS Foster Program is vital, not just during Kitten Season, but throughout the entire year. Foster families offer a lifeline for:



Andrew and I find it rewarding to see the kittens develop and grow into such fun little pets - each one unique. We think it's really important to be able to get the fragile babies out of the shelter and into a home so they can thrive. We enjoy being able to see how happy their adopters are when they've found their new forever friend. We like that BARCS is local, provides education for the public and saves animals' lives!

- Annie Myers

- sick or injured pets
- animals having trouble adjusting to shelter life
- pets who need work on their socialization skills so they are more adoptable
- or those who simply need time to mature before they are adopted

The Foster Program at BARCS is critical to our rescue work. When foster parents like Annie and Andrew open their homes, it means more homeless pets can be saved. These animals will have a safe, warm, loving environment to heal, grow and flourish.



If you are interested in helping save the lives of some of the unwanted animals of Baltimore City, complete an application at baltimoreanimalshelter.org/volunteer/foster-homes. If you would like more information on our Foster Program please contact the Foster Coordinator at foster.barcs@gmail.com.

WHY I VOLUNTEER

“When my husband and I lived in California, we used to feed feral cat colonies,” said BARCS volunteer Carol Hyman. “So, when we moved back to Baltimore, one of the first things I did was to sign up to volunteer at BARCS. The Community Cats Program seemed like a natural fit.”

Carol volunteers a couple of days a week at BARCS working with the cats that come into our shelter through Community Cats Program. While this program’s main focus is TNR (trap, neuter and return)—with a goal of stopping overpopulation and spread of disease in outdoor and feral cats—many cats require additional medical care. That’s where Carol comes in. Every animal at BARCS is treated as an individual, which means some cats intended for TNR find alternative, positive outcomes because they can’t thrive outdoors. Carol takes care of those cats, feeding them, cleaning their cages, and then working with them individually to improve their social skills so they can be adopted. “I really love it because the staff is fantastic,” she said, “and I get to interact with cats!”

Aside from breeding causing overpopulation, living on the streets puts unaltered and unvaccinated cats at risk, which is why BARCS strives to TNR outdoor cats before they contract and spread disease. Since the inception of the Community Cats program, BARCS has decreased feline euthanasia dramatically, allowing us to save more than 90% of the cats in our care. Spaying and neutering outdoor cats means there are less stray adult cats and unwanted litters of kittens entering our shelter annually. BARCS is then able to focus our in-shelter resources on indoor, companion cats seeking adoption.

While volunteering at BARCS, Carol also fell in love. “Right now, at home I have three rescued cats — Boo, Stella and Argyle.” Argyle was a cat Carol was attempting to release on Argyle Avenue, after he had been neutered and vaccinated. “Outdoor and feral cats are happy to be back in their colonies, but Argyle wouldn’t leave my side. On the way back to BARCS, he rode in my lap, and I knew right then he would be going home with me.



By volunteering, Carol got an inside look at how the organization is run, and it was easy for her to become a donor, as well. “I have never seen a more dedicated staff and group of volunteers!” explains Carol. “They make sure every animal is treated with love and care. BARCS does so much with so little. I donate as much as I can afford to keep this amazing place going. If I won the lottery I know where my winnings would go!” BARCS has won the lottery with caring volunteers like Carol!

BARCS has many volunteer opportunities, making it easy for individuals and groups to become involved! Visit baltimoreanimalshelter.org/volunteer for more information.

BARCS Community Cats Program is a humane and effective way to reduce the number of unowned stray feral cats living on our streets. BARCS volunteers are trained to humanely trap stray and feral cats so that they can receive medical care, vaccinations, and spaying or neutering. Each cat treated is marked by a painless ear-tipping procedure for easy identification. The program:

- Prevents unwanted litters
- Opens shelter cages for indoor, companion cats
- Decreases the number of un-adoptable, outdoor and/or feral cats needlessly dying in shelters
- Helps improve the health of outdoor cats
- Reduces nuisance behaviors like spraying, fighting, howling and roaming

Do you see outdoor cats in your neighborhood? Contact the **BARCS Community Cats Program** to help us make outdoor cats, healthy cats. 443-240-8530

