



PAW PRINTS

KAYLEE'S BUCKET LIST

Raven Davis may only be 9, but she cares a lot about older dogs. She begged her parents to adopt "an old dog no one wanted." Her mom, Melissa, was touched by her compassion. Raven and her brother Brody are homeschooled. Melissa runs a travel agency from her home which includes a menagerie of pets and an abundance of love.

"When we went to BARCS, Kaylee was the oldest dog there," Melissa said. Kaylee, a bully breed mix, had been surrendered because her former family was unable to continue to provide for her. She was 11 years old and had a few medical problems, including a torn knee ligament, bladder tumors and early stage kidney disease. BARCS was providing treatment.

"We immediately fell in love with her, and were able to take her home the next day!" Melissa said. "She's the most incredible dog you could ever ask for: an epic snuggler, entirely housebroken and she even knows some tricks. We knew someone must have loved her dearly to train her so well."

The Davis family welcomed Kaylee with open arms and she settled in nicely. However, during a regular medical visit,

several suspicious lumps were discovered. After several visits to the veterinarian, and a lot of testing, it was determined that Kaylee has thyroid cancer and it had metastasized to her lungs.

"We adopted a dying dog. We didn't mean to, but we would do it again in a heartbeat to have the chance to love her for however long," Melissa said. After the initial shock and heartbreak of finding out Kaylee only had a few months left, the Davis family decided to fill those months making memories. They created Kaylee's Bucket List and have been busily checking it off.

If the Davis family has anything to do with it, Kaylee's story will have a very happy ending. Thanks to families like theirs, animals at BARCS have a second chance to be loved - no matter how much time they have left.

BUCKET LIST

1. Find a forever home ✓
2. Go out for a burger ✓
3. Go out for ice cream ✓
4. Have breakfast in bed ✓
5. Celebrate my birthday ✓
6. Go for a (short) hike ✓
7. Go on a picnic ✓
8. Have a doggie massage
9. Go out for coffee with mom
10. Go to the beach
11. See a solar eclipse ✓
12. Have professional photos taken
13. Inspire someone to adopt a senior dog ✓
14. Eat a cheese buffet in memory of Sargie
15. Visit another state
16. Eat a real Thanksgiving meal
17. Photos with Santa
18. Eat at a dog-friendly restaurant
19. Play in the snow
20. Visit Disney World with my humans



**VOTE FOR
KAYLEE!**

See page 4
for details

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friend,

It's the holiday season and here at BARCS we are surrounded by the love of our animals, and the joy of finding them new families. When a dog walks out the door—looking up excitedly at their new dad—or when a fearful cat purrs for the first time in the arms of their new mom, it truly feels like that holiday “magic” I remember as a child. These daily miracles are the reason their lives are worth saving.

This year was very special for the Brause household, as we welcomed a new member into our family. Nine-year-old Oreo came to BARCS because her former family could no longer care for her. She had a number of health issues, but a heart of gold. My sons, husband and I were smitten with her from the moment we met her. She had an instant bond with my oldest son, and they have been inseparable ever since. Giving a home to a senior is one of the greatest gifts you can give to both yourself and that animal.

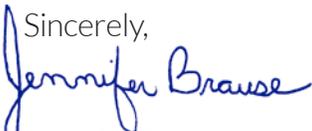
I'm so happy to have like-minded members of our community, like the Davis family (cover story), who are making the most of every day they have with their dog Kaylee, who has incurable cancer. Because of the Davis family and all of our amazing supporters, animals like Kaylee not only get a second chance, but become a part of something much bigger...the unconditional love of “family.”

On behalf of all the voiceless pets who have found a safe haven at BARCS in 2017, we extend our warmest thanks and sincere gratitude to YOU. There are not enough words to describe how grateful we are for your dedication, compassion and generosity this year and in year's past.

I hope that you will consider a gift this holiday season in support of our annual Gift of Life donation drive. Your gift will support the adoption fee of an animal in our shelter, so that they find a forever home like my Oreo or Kaylee. And, you will not only save that animal's life, but the life of the next animal that comes to BARCS in need of care.

Without you, none of the work we do would be possible. We truly appreciate that you have joined us in our mission to find happy endings for the homeless and needy pets at BARCS.

Happy Holidays, and thank you.

Sincerely,


Jennifer Brause
BARCS Executive Director and Founder



How you can help homeless pets this holiday season?

Sponsor an Adoption Fee

The greatest gift you can give to a shelter animal comes in the form of one small word... “home.” When you give \$75 or more to the Gift of Life donation drive, you sponsor the entire adoption fee of an animal in our shelter. Help us save lives this holiday season by sending a pet into the loving arms of a new family. A gift of any amount will help save a life. Donate online at xxxxxxx or use the enclosed envelope.

Check Out Our Wish List

Caring for our animals requires a lot of time, love, money and supplies. Donating wish list items helps us with the day-to-day care of our animals and supports our operational needs.

Our most needed items this holiday season:

- Used or new blankets and comforters
- Kongs, NylaBones and peanut butter for dogs
- Shiny crinkle balls and mice toys for cats

Items can be dropped off during the following hours: Monday - Friday from 10:30 a.m. - 6 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

You can find our full Wish List online at www.BaltimoreAnimalShelter.org

Gifts for Animal Lovers

Let us help you check off your shopping list with the following gift ideas that save animals at our shelter!

The 2018 Orioles Pet Calendar is on sale both in our shelter and online at www.orioles.com. This 18-month calendar features Orioles players posing with their pets and animals from BARCS. 100% of the calendar sales come right to our shelter. The calendar is \$15.

“I kissed a bull and I liked it!” is just one of the many fun shirts we have for sale at our shelter and online. Sizes range from adult small to XXL, in a variety of colors and funny sayings. Shirts can be purchased on our website at www.baltimoreanimalshelter.org, or at our shelter during adoption hours.

INKY AND THE WORKING CATS

Back in the days when most families lived on farms, animals had jobs to do. Horses pulled plows, dogs herded cattle and cats kept the mice population in check.

These days, most of us keep animals as pets. They're treated like family – in some cases, better than family. We love to spoil them and ask nothing but their love in return. A pet cat will likely be found lounging lazily on a chair or sprawled on the floor being warmed by the sun's rays – until the sound of the can opener rouses it from slumber.

But not Inky.

Inky had been living in a house that was piled high with refuse. When humans came near, he lashed out angrily in fear. BARCS' staff kept a close watch on him at the shelter to see if his behavior would change, but it didn't. It was going to be hard to find an adoptive home for this sharp, 4-year-old.

Meanwhile, Tom Foster and his business partner Colin Marshall were battling a rodent problem at Diamondback Brewing Company.

Their 7,000-square-foot Locust Point brewing facility was warm and filled with the barley used to brew the beer. "It was mouse heaven," Foster said. Traps baited with cheese or peanut butter had proved ineffective. They didn't want to use a chemical solution around the barley if they could avoid it.

So, when the BARCS Working Cat Program contacted them and told them about Inky, they decided to give him a try.

"The first day that he was here, he was hissing and really unhappy," said Tom. "I thought, 'Oh, I don't know if this is going to work out.' But then, at the flip of a switch, he settled in. I don't think he's hissed once since that day."

Within a week, Inky caught half a dozen mice, and today, the Brewery's rodent problem is history. "We haven't had a single mouse problem since Inky came," Tom said.

Before BARCS developed the Working Cat Program, a cat like Inky didn't have many options. Some cats can't be placed in a

home because they won't use a litter box, or are feral and aren't socialized. For these cats, the Working Cat Program can be a lifesaver. It places difficult-to-adopt cats on farms, and at warehouses, nurseries and other commercial settings where their natural talents can be put to good use. The working cats have earned their food, shelter and medical care, just as they used to do in the old days, down on the farm. It is an interdependent relationship that works for all parties.

The BARCS Working Cat Program spays or neuters the cat for free, and surgically implants an identifying microchip. In addition to finding employment for cats like Inky, the program frees up cage space at BARCS so that indoor cats can find new adoptive families.

As for Inky, "He's gotten extremely friendly," said Tom. "He'll let me pick him up now. He'll even jump on my lap when he wants to be petted." And spoiled. Inky now has his own 'office', and soon he'll have a brew named in his honor. Working Cat, indeed.



Inky takes a lunchtime break while working at Diamond Back Brewery

GIVING ONESELF IN THE SERVICE OF OTHERS

The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others. These words of Mahatma Gandhi ring true for Justin Ulch. Volunteering at BARCS has been a personal journey with rich and unexpected rewards.

A couple of years ago, Justin found himself with an abundance of free time. "I wasn't doing anything productive, and I felt I should do more," he said. Justin heard about volunteer opportunities at BARCS and decided to give it a try. He started out playing with the cats who were awaiting adoption, and things developed from there. He began cleaning cages and doing whatever he could to help out. It wasn't long before he started splitting his time and love between both the homeless cats and dogs at BARCS.

Justin has been learning a lot through the training programs BARCS offers to volunteers, such as: how to "read" an animal. "You can learn to tell when an animal is upset or not feeling comfortable by looking at their facial expressions and body language," Justin said. "That class was very, very beneficial. I now know that if I'm uncomfortable, it can make a dog uncomfortable, too."

Several years in and lots of "favorite animals" later, Justin has moved into the role of volunteer adoption counselor. "This is

actually my favorite role," he said. "We do an educational class to teach the adopter how to care for the animal. It's good information. People are always grateful for it. Then I get to present them with their animal, and that's the best part--the most heartwarming part."

"And the animals can tell when they're going home, too. They can tell when you take them out of that kennel for the last time."

Justin began matchmaking potential animals and adopters. He learned to train new volunteers. And he began fostering. Little by little, his volunteer hours added up, and he was recently recognized for donating 1,500 hours in 2016 and on course to do even more by the end of 2017.

"My experience here has been phenomenal. It's not just the animals. BARCS is a great environment to be in. A lot of people assume that an animal shelter is going to be sad place, But since I started, I have not had one sad day here. You can tell that the animals appreciate you, and BARCS is like a family. I'm not 'just a volunteer.' I feel as important as the staff. And I love working with the public, as well. Seeing their eyes light up when they meet

their new animal, and the animal's response. It's a great thing to be a part of."

Join our family!

BARCS is always in need of volunteers for all programs in our shelter. Walking dogs, petting cats, doing laundry and dishes, helping with office work - **WE NEED YOU!**

Justin poses with Catherine, one of his many foster kittens.



Put Your Love Into Action – Vote for Kaylee!

Kaylee's story is featured as part of the Petco Foundation's Holiday Wishes grant campaign.

Vote for Kaylee, and help grant holiday wishes for BARCS and other animal welfare organizations around the country. Go to:

www.petcofoundation.org/love-story/senior-dog-inspires-family-make-life

