

Once Abused and Abandoned, Now Ready to Heal Us

Angel Ridge Animal Rescue has been in existence for almost twenty years. During this time, it has been my privilege to open our doors to thousands of dogs, cats and horses in need. With the assistance of many dedicated veterinarians and volunteers, we have worked with these animals closely and lovingly so that they may heal in body and spirit.

Almost all of these animals have come to us after a life of abuse and severe neglect. Some of them, but not many, have come to us from a good life, with plenty of love and kindness. But the fact remains that thousands of animals who arrive at Angel Ridge Animal Rescue have suffered greatly.

We have watched these animals heal and grow in body and spirit. They harbor no hatred nor loathing toward humans, in spite of the fact that humans have put them through hell, quite literally. On one hand, and with fingers to spare, I could count the number of animals that we have accepted into our Rescue who were irreversibly damaged, and did not respond to us.

These animals have the gift of being able to love unconditionally, a gift that mankind once possessed, but lost. Unconditional love is loving without conditions. It is caring about the happiness of another without any thought of what we may get in return.

With unconditional love comes deep empathy and compassion. I have witnessed so many of our dogs and cats that have cuddled closely to the shaking body of a fellow animal that has been hurt, or has just had surgery, or is frightened by the thunder. Their goal is to protect and to heal.

I continually marvel at the ability of our companion animals to be teachers and healers to one another and to us, the humans caring for them. The realm of possibility for our animal friends to heal us is boundless.

The senses of our companion animals are elevated well beyond the limits of our human senses. Animals have been known to be able to detect cancer, the onset of a stroke, seizure, or diabetic episode in humans.

Just the simple act of petting a dog or cat can decrease our stress hormones, lower our blood pressure and our rate of breathing. In both the animal and the human, oxytocin, a hormone associated with bonding and affection, can be released through petting. (<https://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2012/12/121221-comfort-dogs-newtown-tragedy-animal-therapy.html>)

In my twenty years of animal rescue, I have been a witness to hundreds of instances of animals healing humans and one another. On my bucket list is my charge to myself to share these experiences, to write a book. I hope that day soon comes. But, for now, I share with you these incredible recent stories of dogs and cats in our care who have been able to rise from the depths of their incredible past abuse, to heal us. These are the stories of dogs Pearl and Darla, and cats Missy, Louie, Panda and Bree.

I hope that you are inspired!

Nancy C. Shannon

Pearl and Vern, a Powerful Bond

On a warm but overcast day in September of last year, a diminutive but determined Bulldog named Pearl, took her place among grieving families and dignitaries who were assembled to honor the memory of the fallen First Responders at Ground Zero on 9-11.

For most of her life, she had neither family nor home. But she had every right, and a burning reason, to be at the 911 Responders Memorial Park in New York today. She pushed her way forward through the crowd and found her fallen best friend's name among the more than 500 names inscribed on the magnificent wall. Pearl stood in silence for several minutes, her head bowed.



Pearl

Once Abused and Abandoned continued from page 1

The fallen First Responder was my husband, Vernon Voss, and Pearl was his best friend and service dog. Vern spent six months doing search and rescue at Ground Zero, a job that resulted in his condition of Posttraumatic Stress Disorder and the gradual shut down of his major organs. Vern died on December 2, 2016.

Pearl was adopted from Angel Ridge Animal Rescue in January of 2014, a transfer from another shelter that almost euthanized her for lack of space. Pearl became Rescuer Vern's ultimate rescuer. An extraordinary bond developed between the two. No words needed to be spoken; Pearl had a sense for what Vern needed and responded. When diabetes took Vern's sight away entirely, Pearl approached Vern's bed after the surgery, and laid her paw on his chest, trying to ease his pain. Pearl and Vern were inseparable.

During Vern's last hospital stay, Pearl found her beloved friend's room entirely on her own. Pearl walked through the main door and entered Vern's room like a member of his medical team, and rightfully so. Pearl was able to provide healing to Vern that was above and beyond what medical science ever could do. Once beside Vern's bed, Pearl gently laid her head beside him for a while, then assumed her position beside him.

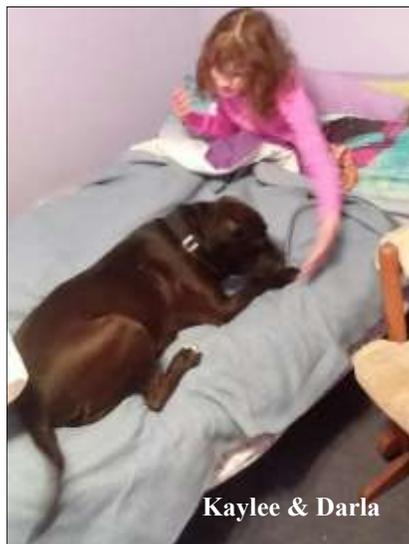
Pearl was Vern's best friend, helper and healer for almost 3 years. After Vern passed, she continued to walk alongside my entire family, offering support and healing when we needed it the most. She grieved deeply for Vern, but she was able to comfort us in our darkest moments of grief.

Vern and Pearl are now together in Heaven. In the winter of this year, Pearl died unexpectedly when her kidneys failed. Even in her last hours of life at the vet hospital, she extended her paw to cradle my arm, and her eyes told me that she would soon be with Vern again.

Of two things I am certain. First, is that the Lord put Pearl on this earth, and her life was spared, so that she could rescue my husband and my family. But more importantly, love is eternal, and not even death can break its powerful bond.



Pearl and Vern



Kaylee & Darla

Darla, Healer and Matchmaker

Pit mix, Darla, came to Angel Ridge from an impoverished shelter in December. She was on the euthanasia list because she was a pit bull. Her ears were brutally cut off, she had open sores around her neck, a malignant tumor on the outside of her belly, and heartworm disease.

In just a few months' time, Darla has made the transformation from an abused and suffering dog, to one that has found love, healing and happiness. Darla, in turn, brings happiness and special healing to the members of her new family.

Darla was adopted by Tim, and his daughter, Kaylee, an autistic child who is also blind. Kaylee's world is dark and often confusing. Darla has become Kaylee's light in the darkness. She is Kaylee's best friend and has become her special support dog. She is able to sense Kaylee's moods and needs, and responds to give her what she might need. Darla has helped dad, Tim, to deal with the extraordinary task of giving Kaylee everything

that she needs. Darla has inched her way into Tim's heart and has become his "match maker", connecting him with many new friends.

Darla's tumor has been removed, and the sores on her body have healed. Darla will be treated for heartworm disease next month.

Darla is one amazing angel, an angel who can help the people in her life to heal and be happy.



Darla

Once Abused and Abandoned continued on page 3



Once Abused and Abandoned continued from page 2



Missy

Cats With a Purpose

We have recently been blessed to be able to unite four special kitties with people who rely on them for emotional support and special assistance to cope with illness.

Bree was found eating garbage out of the dumpster at a local restaurant, last spring. At Angel Ridge, the volunteers saw such promise in Bree. Bree worked hard to learn and be comfortable with the new experiences in her life. Bree was adopted in February to be an emotional support animal for her new mom.



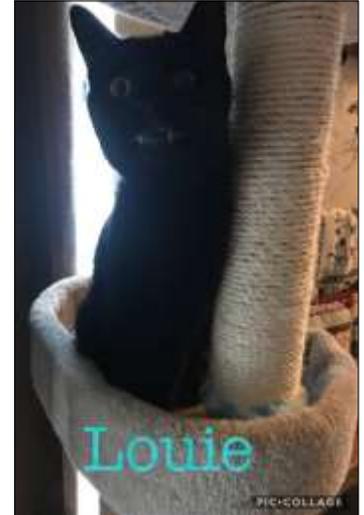
Bree



Panda

Kitten, Louie, was found in a cardboard box with his siblings at a construction site. Louie was adopted once and returned when his family's circumstances changed. His world was turned upside down and he was traumatized. Louie worked hard to recover and adjust. Louie was adopted, again, and is now on the road to becoming a Registered Support Animal for his new guardian.

Panda and his mom, Nova, came to Angel Ridge together. Nova passed away suddenly, and Panda was forlorn and depressed. He needed to find a purpose, a reason to live. Panda's purpose became clear when a lovely lady suffering from multiple sclerosis met Panda and adopted him. Panda became her emotional support cat and is the joy of her life. Panda's mom tells us that he makes her laugh through the periods of her chronic pain. He brings a "lightness" to her home and is truly a blessing.



Louie

Kitty Missy had a very hard life before coming to Angel Ridge. She also tested positive for feline leukemia. Missy's adoption was truly a case of love at first sight. A very lovely lady came to our Rescue looking for a friend shortly after her husband had passed away. The love connection was instantly made.

Missy is her mom's shadow, friend and helps her face each new day. Missy and her mom now live in an assisted living facility. Missy and mom go everywhere together.

Deer Ticks Spread Deadly Disease To Our Dogs

A major issue that we have been dealing with in our Rescue is the prevalence of Lyme Disease. Lyme Disease can occur when a deer tick attaches itself to the skin of a dog. These ticks can be found in a regular suburban yard, a far cry from the belief that these ticks inhabit only wooded areas. The disease can be deadly if not caught and treated in time. Sadly, we have had reports of a few of our adopted dogs who contracted Lyme Disease in their new homes. In some cases, the disease had progressed so dramatically that veterinary science could not offer a cure.

We urge you to use a flea and tick preventative on your dog on a year-round basis. When your dog has his annual veterinary check-up, ask the veterinarian to test for Lyme Disease. There is a vaccination available to prevent Lyme disease, but with some concerns regarding side effects. It is recommended that you discuss this vaccination with your veterinarian, as well.

One of the first symptoms is recurrent lameness because of inflammation of the joints. More serious complications are kidney failure and heart or nervous system disorders. If the disease is detected in the early stages, a daily protocol of the antibiotic,

doxycycline, may be necessary for between one and three months.

Other symptoms of Lyme Disease in dogs include (Source: Pet MD) :

- Stiff walk with an arched back
- Sensitivity to touch
- Difficulty breathing
- Fever, lack of appetite, and depression
- Superficial lymph nodes close to the site of the infecting tick bite may be swollen
- Heart abnormalities
- Nervous system complications

Being a proactive dog owner is key to avoiding or beating Lyme Disease. Get your dog tested regularly. Check his fur for ticks after he has been outdoors. Use a flea and tick preventative on a monthly basis. Your furry best friend will thank you!



From Feral to Trusting, Love Wins Them Over

By Kelley Smith

In March, 2015, we rescued 6 feral cats from a cat colony. They were completely unsocialized. The gentleman who was feeding them was moving to a care facility and asked us for help.

We were unaware of just how challenging it would be to interact and try to care for these cats. During their first year at Angel Ridge, volunteers were swatted at, lunged at, and constantly hissed at. We had no experience working with feral cats, but we were determined to gain their trust.

Slowly, each cat began to trust us and caring for them became a labor of love. We were determined to win them over, and at long last, success was ours!

- Jelly, a beautiful long gray-haired cat, was the first to be adopted in late 2015.
- Smokey, a friendly big gray boy with an incredible disposition, was adopted by a volunteer in the summer of 2017.
- Howie, a handsome black cat with a gentle disposition, was also adopted in the summer of 2017.
- Bean, a teddy bear of a cat, was also adopted in the summer of 2017.
- Kit Kat, a sweet and slender black beauty with a triangular face, was adopted in June, 2017.
- Kate, a nurturing and loving cat, was adopted in May, 2018. She watched over the older cats in the shelter, as well as the new kitten arrivals. Her adoption was bitter-sweet as she was with us the longest and captured the hearts of all of the volunteers.

Many rescuers would have given up on these frightened and non-trusting kitties, but this was not the case with the Angel Ridge Animal Rescue cat volunteers. Six lives were saved, and they are now thriving in their forever homes.



Jelly



Smokey



Howie



Bean



Kate



KitKat

About Angel Ridge Animal Rescue

Angel Ridge Animal Rescue is a 501(c)(3) charity for animals that is operated at Angel Ridge Farm, a 51-acre facility located in Washington County, PA. Angel Ridge provides a permanent home and cares for animals that are not adoptable due to their age, handicap, breed, or temperament. We also provide temporary homes (with the ultimate goal of securing permanent homes) for: animals that are adoptable but who cannot get a place in a traditional shelter or who have medical problems that preclude them from living in a shelter; animals that will not adapt well to a traditional shelter or have been in a shelter for an extended period of time; and animals living in a shelter who have become aggressive due to their environment and are re-trainable but in danger of being euthanized in the shelter scenario.

Angel Ridge Animal Rescue is also a shelter and sanctuary for cats and horses. We have a limited amount of space to shelter these animals, but we provide outreach in other ways. On a monthly basis, Angel Ridge Animal Rescue provides food to feed local stray and shelter cats, and we financially assist rescuers who care for abused horses.

Angel Ridge is always looking for volunteers for a variety of jobs at the shelter. Please contact us at 724-229-7053 or e-mail us at aranres@yahoo.com to join in all the tail wagging fun of volunteering!

The official registration and financial information of Angel Ridge Animal Rescue may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling, toll-free within Pennsylvania, at 1-800-732-0999.



Registration does not imply endorsement.



SPRING FOR OUR RESCUES



BINGO

• Doors open at 11:45 am
Early birds 12:30 pm

Cover All Pays \$700 Jackpot Winnings on Regular Bingo \$100

Special Bingos Pay \$150-\$700!

- Regular Bingo starts at 1:00 pm
- Admission: \$25 at the door \$20 in advance. Includes 12 Bingo cards and beverage.
- Additional cards available for purchase that day.
- Chinese Auction, Raffles, Basket of Cheer, 50/50.
- Food available for sale.

Sunday, Nov. 11th Cecil Volunteer Fire Hall, Cecil, PA



BENEFITS ARAR EMERGENCY VETERINARY EXPENSES

INFO: 412-965-6595

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY AND MAKE SURE YOU INCLUDE A PHONE NUMBER IN CASE WE HAVE A QUESTION

Name _____

Tickets Ordered: _____ x \$20.00

Address _____

Please add \$1.00 for S/H: _____

City / State / Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Alternate Phone _____

Amount Enclosed: _____

Cash Check Enclosed Credit Card (VISA / MC / AMEX)

Fill out application and mail back to:
Angel Ridge Animal Rescue
P.O. Box 94
Meadowlands, PA 15347

Credit Card No. _____ Exp. Date _____ / _____

Name on Card _____ Security Code (3-digit) _____

Signature _____

Make checks payable to: ARAR

Email (for credit card orders) _____



Volunteer Opportunities at Angel Ridge

Without the time and talents of our volunteers our Rescue could not operate. Our volunteers are PRICELESS! Contact Rose, Volunteer Coordinator @ tomkorose@hky.com. Volunteer areas include grooming and one-on-one time, offsite and on-site adoption help, dog walking, office help, kennel helpers, grass cutting and maintenance, website, fundraising and fostering. In this issue, we focus on the importance of fostering.

Fostering, the Bridge from Hopeless to a Home

Every year, we welcome hundreds of dogs and cats into our Rescue. Many of them have disabilities that requires extra help from us, and many are traumatized or unsocialized because of their past life experiences.

Our challenge is to give them what they need so that they will be adopted and will be able to embark on a wonderful new life. Placing these pets in a temporary, foster home can result in a miraculous turn around for them.

There is no “text book” solution or “how to” rule for being a successful foster parent. But there are some common ingredients: love, determination, kindness and lots of patience.

Blind dog, Keller, and abandoned cat, Serena, are pets that have been able to make that transition from hopeless to a home because of the life-saving bridge provided by their foster families

Keller, Loving and Letting Go

By Andrea Michalski

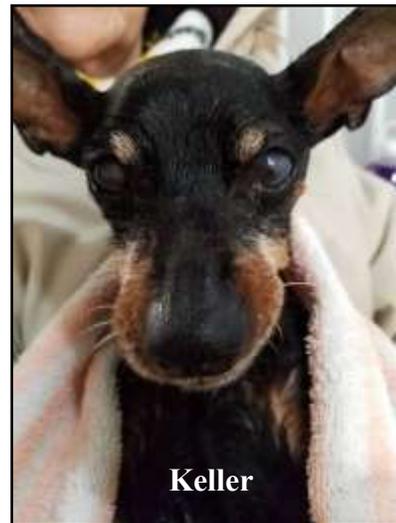
Keller was brought to Angel Ridge Animal Rescue by an animal control officer. He was found wandering the streets in the bitter cold, just days before Christmas. Keller was old, blind, frightened, emaciated and dehydrated. Keller was very close to dying.

One day while my daughter and I came to Angel Ridge to walk dogs, we were told about a small, blind dog that was really having a hard time getting comfortable and acclimated to the kennel. We asked to see him, and needless to say, our hearts melted to see this sweet little miniature pinscher in a playpen looking dazed and confused.

We agreed to foster him. We had never fostered before, but we have lots of dog experience and were confident we could help poor Keller. We brought Keller home with us, and were actually impressed to see him adapt to our home in just a few days. It’s remarkable how handicaps, like blindness, don’t seem to hold dogs back as much as one would expect.

Keller made friends with our dogs and gradually learned his way around the house. Over the month or so that we had Keller, we took him to the vet for his neuter and dental surgery. We got to know him quite well and grew very fond of him.

While we cared for Keller, Angel Ridge kept in touch with us regarding an interested adopter. After he had completed his necessary medical treatment and the weather was clear (this all hap-



pened in the dead of winter and a lot of snow), we brought Keller back to Angel Ridge to meet his potential adopter.

Susan and her husband were anxiously waiting for Keller to arrive. They became completely smitten with him. After talking and sitting with Keller for 30 minutes or so, it was clear that they wanted to adopt him. We knew that our time with Keller had come to an end. With teary eyes, we kissed him goodbye.

We left feeling a little sad, but quietly joyful, because we know that he was moving on with someone who loved min-pins, and had other dogs with whom Keller would fit right in. We were the “bridge” between shelter and fur-ever home, and we felt good about being strong enough to love and let go.



Serena, a Loving Work in Progress

By Barb Brown



Serena with Matthew

Serena was rescued from a housing development in Bridgeville in December, 2017. She just wandered into a trap that we had set. We were not expecting to see her in the trap, but we could not leave her behind.

At the shelter, she spent weeks hiding under her bed, only peeking out from time to time. Eventually, she became confident enough to move into her hammock. Serena was still incredibly shy, but she became more interested

in her surroundings and liked an occasional pet from volunteers. But then her progress stalled.

Allison, a new volunteer, developed a fondness for Serena, and spent more time at her cage. I approached Allison one day and asked if she and her family would like to foster her. She immediately responded, "yes"!

Allison reports that Serena is doing really well in her home. She spends her time in a spare bedroom with lots of toys and comfy beds. Allison and her children spend time in Serena's room each day, playing, petting or just being with her. Allison's daughter does her homework while sitting with her. Allison watches television with Serena, and her son reads a book to Serena.

The family is getting Serena accustomed to scary sounds such as a vacuum cleaner and a dog's barking. Serena is growing more confident, and is now playing and interacting with the whole family. This once shy and fearful cat has been re-born and soon will be ready for her forever home.

Serena is like many of the cats who enter the shelter. We rescuers have no way of knowing what they might have experienced in the past: human cruelty, neglect, having to fight for food. The shelter environment is a scary and unfamiliar place, so we must work slowly and carefully to gain their trust. Foster families are indispensable in helping us in this mission.

Do you have the love and patience to become a foster family to an Angel Ridge dog or cat? Contact our office for more information @ 724-229-7053, or for cat fostering, contact Barb Brown @ 412-334-0924



Serena with Maddie



5K and 10K races benefiting
Angel Ridge Animal Rescue
Saturday, August 19th
Montour Trail, Hendersonville Trailhead
Run or Volunteer!!!

<https://caradecarlo097.wixsite.com/roar-5k-10k>

7:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. - Check in and Packet Pickup

9:00 a.m. - 10K Race Start

9:15 a.m. - 5K Race Start

10:30 a.m. - Results and Awards

Email: rtar412@gmail.com



Please Help...Join Our Gathering of Guardian Angels

You, dear Angel Ridge Animal Rescue supporters, are the Guardian Angels that help us to provide extraordinary veterinary care to our animals in the greatest need.

We never walk away from a challenge. We continually take in older, sometimes ill or injured animals, and get them the veterinary help that they need. We help them to heal in body and in spirit. We find incredible homes for them.

By becoming a Guardian Angel to these deserving souls, you help them to heal and have a chance of a new and better life. The donation for this program is \$200 annually or \$50 quarterly. You can do this by checking the Gathering of Guardian Angels box on the donation form on page 9.



Thank you for being a Guardian Angel to our Angels



Invisible Fence Brand Special Offer

Angel Ridge Animal Rescue has partnered with them to offer invisible fence to you at a **\$100 off savings and a \$50 donation to our Rescue.**

Invisible Fence will custom design the fence to suit your specific needs and has designed the **Perfect Start Plus Training System** to ensure your pet's safety. A certified trainer will assist you in the implementation of your new Invisible Fence.

Contact Michele Bell for a no obligation consultation @ 724-420-2589 and be sure to mention Angel Ridge Animal Rescue for your \$100 discount and our \$50 donation.





PLEASE HELP OUR ANGELS AT ANGEL RIDGE ANIMAL RESCUE

Mail this form and your donation to:
Angel Ridge Animal Rescue
P. O. Box 94
Meadowlands, PA 15347



Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

I would like to contribute \$ _____ to:
(please choose one of the categories):

- General Contribution
- Gathering of Guardian Angels Program (\$200 annually or \$50 quarterly)
- Emergency Veterinary Care



Calendar of Events

- Petco, Bethel Park** **Cat adoptions** the 1st Saturday of the month, 12-2
- Petco, Washington** **Dog adoptions** the 1st Saturday of the month, 12-3
- Cat adoptions** the 3rd Saturday of the month, 12-2

Parlay Lounge Fundraiser

Date: Sunday, June 10, 2018
Time: 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM
Location: Parlay Lounge, Hyatt Hotel, Racetrack Road, Meadowlands, PA
Pets and fundraiser

Hearts and Paws Pet Fair

Date: Saturday, June 23, 2018
Time: 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM
Location: South Park
Vendors and rescues from local area.

ROAR, 5k and 10k race, August 19th, Montour Trail, Hendersonville Trailhead, 9am start

WCCF, A Day of Giving, September 12, 2018 (more information to follow)

**BINGO, Sunday, November 11, 2018 Cecil Fire Hall, Cecil, PA
Doors open 11:45 a.m., regular bingo starts at 1:00**

Angel Ridge Wish List

Our needs are great for the volume of animals we care for at Angel Ridge. Monetary donations are welcome as well as these products used daily at our shelter:

- Unscented clumping Kitty Litter
- Purina One dog food
- Purina One dry cat food
- Fancy Feast canned kitten or cat food
- Friskies Meaty Bits, shreds or filets
- Dog & Cat Food (canned & dry)
- Greenies Dental Chews
- Cat Nail Clippers
- Martingale Collar with Quick Snap Buckle
- General Purpose Cleaners, such as Odoban or Pinesol
- B&W/Color Copier
- Copy Paper
- Postage Stamps
- Cat wand toys/Cat toys
- Nylon Adjustable Cat Collars
- Bleach
- Toilet Paper
- Paper Towels
- Trash Bags
- Liquid Laundry Detergent
- Anti-Allergen Pet Shampoo
- Epson 200 & 273 Ink Cartridge



Many of these supplies are available through Amazon and can be ordered and delivered directly to Angel Ridge. Visit angelridgeanimalrescue.org and click on the Amazon link.





ANGEL RIDGE ANIMAL RESCUE
P.O. Box 94
Meadowlands, PA 15347

NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
Washington, PA
PERMIT NO. 2

Visiting Hours are Weekdays by Appointment
Weekends from 12:00 to 3:00
Other times by appointment
724-229-7053
www.angelridgeanimalrescue.org

CURRENT RESIDENT OR:

Our Angel Tree of Hope

This is a loving gift for a birthday, graduation, anniversary and Father's Day, a loving remembrance for a loved one or pet that has passed.

Our Angel Tree of Hope, located in our Adoption Center, will hold a special heart with a name inscribed, for each of the loved ones you remember in this very special way. A beautiful card will be sent to the loved one that you are remembering. We can send the card to you or mail it directly to your loved one.

- ✿ \$25 provides a rabies shot.
- ✿ \$50 will enable us to buy a Kuranda dog bed.
- ✿ \$75 will pay for a spay or neuter.
- ✿ \$100 will keep our buildings' lights on for a week.
- ✿ \$200 provides heat/electric in our kennel building for one week.

Your Name _____

Your Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Please check one: In honor of . . . In memory of . . .

Loved one you are honoring or remembering: _____

Please check one:
 Send the card to me. Send the gift card to the person/family being memorialized
(If checking this box, provide info below to whom this should be mailed.)

Name of Honoree, Family, or Person: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Amount of Donation \$ _____



Please mail this form to: Angel Ridge Animal Rescue • P. O. Box 94 • Meadowlands, PA 15347

