

2011 - 1st Quarter  
January - February - March

# THE ARK, INC.

139 Bo Cole Road, Huntsville, Alabama 35806

Web Site: [www.arkinc.org](http://www.arkinc.org) Email: [ninaark@aol.com](mailto:ninaark@aol.com) Telephone: [256-851-4088](tel:256-851-4088)



## A Message From the Founder/Director

Dear Friends of Animals:

Can you believe that we are now through a decade of this century! Where in the world does time go? Seems as if it was just yesterday that I got the idea to build the Ark. Our accomplishments have been amazing over the past 20 years. However, none of our accomplishments would have been possible without the support of caring people like you.

2011 is proving to be a challenge. Regardless of the economy, animal rescue and veterinarian bills are on going. Animals know nothing about the economy. If it is good, or if it is bad, they continue to need our help.

What amazes me we still have no paid employees. Our shelter is operated entirely by volunteer support. We are blessed to have people that show so much love and dedication to the animals in our charge.

We will always be committed to what the Ark stands for. Always for animals, Respect for animals, Kindness for animals.

Last year we rescued 256 dogs and 278 cats. Your support made it possible for these 534 homeless animals to have the advantage of being adopted by a loving family. Many of these animals had life threatening diseases and injuries. We have a policy at the Ark. Each animal deserves the chance to have a long life in a good home. If our veterinarians can save it, then we adopt it as a healthy pet.

Thanks to wonderful volunteers like Jane Jattuso, Jill Chappell, and Shirley Greathouse, our Humane Education Program continues to teach children the responsibility of having a pet. In addition, Jane, Jill, and Shirley continue to thrill citizens in Nursing Homes with the joy of providing their love to our "therapy dogs", Ginger Bear, Dixie, Angel, and Bogie.

We continued to house the pets of domestic violence victims while they seek refuge at Hope Place. We know these pets take up shelter space that is so important to our rescue efforts. However, we feel they need to be provided a safe haven too. Often the abuser will inflict retaliation punishment on the pet because the victim fled the home for safety. The abused parent and children are always thankful to know they do not have to worry about the safety and care of their pets.

Your support allows us to provide these much needed programs in our community. In addition, your support of the Ark allows us to rescue, provide needed veterinary care, spay/neuter, and find loving homes for the animals in our charge.

I thank you for caring.

Sincerely,



WE MOURN THE LOSS OF A  
TRUE FRIEND

Dr. Lewis McCurdy DVM

There are no words to adequately express our sympathy for the profound loss of Dr. Lewis McCurdy. Dr. McCurdy died as the result of a tragic horse accident.

He was a man of integrity and was passionate about his profession. He served our community as a wonderful veterinarian. Dr. McCurdy was the founder and charter president of the Alabama Veterinary Medical Foundation. He held official positions in the Alabama Veterinary Association and received their award as Veterinarian of the Year in 2007. He also served as the president of the Madison County Veterinary Association. He gave selflessly of his time and expertise as a veterinarian to animal rescue charitable organizations.

Those that knew him will sorely miss him on a personal and a professional level.

Dr. Lewis McCurdy will always remain very much alive in the memories of those who loved, respected, and treasured him.



**APRIL  
HEARTWORM AWARENESS  
MONTH**

Along with the warmer months comes the mosquito. All outside animals are at risk of diseases spread by mosquitoes. The greatest risk to pets is Heartworm disease.

Some owners think because their pet lives indoors, they are safe from these pests. It is true the risk is slightly less, but in no way does being indoors eliminate this risk. There is only about a 45% less risk for indoor pets to be infected. Mosquitoes transfer the disease from pet to pet. Although it is impossible to keep every mosquito away from your pets, there are precautions you can take to help. Keep the lawn mowed, leaf piles cleaned away, and empty any standing water, as all of these are breeding grounds for mosquitoes. Plants such as Marigolds, Citronella Plant, Ageratum, and Horsemint are also good natural repellants.

Heartworm disease is not only a health issue for dogs. Cats can get them as well. Talk to your veterinarian about heartworm preventives available for your dogs and cats.



**THE ARK PENNIES FOR PAWS  
2010 CAMPAIGN RESULTS**

Ask and you shall receive. That is what we did and you made this campaign a great success. How wonderful you are. Adults, children, clubs, businesses, Ark volunteers, and organizations brought jars, sacks, boxes, and buckets of coins to the Ark. From January 2010 through December 2010, you collected \$10,543.00 in coins. Do you realize how many coins that is? This campaign was so successful we are going to keep it going through 2011. Please keep collecting your coins for the animals.

Special thank you to all our volunteers who took the time to roll coins. They are not only great with our dogs and cats, but now have a lot of experience in the art of coin rolling.

Bless all of you that went to the effort of saving and bringing your coins to us.

**KEEP US BUSY ROLLING  
THOSE COINS  
DURING 2011**



**“Charity”**

**CHARITY FOR “CHARITY”**



**Volunteers Kerry Plunk with her daughter Marissa and Charity**



**“Charity” singing her song!**

All animals that come aboard the Ark are special to us. Often we have an animal that comes on board that is special-special. Charity is one of those animals. She is an 8-year-old toy poodle. She weighs less than 5 lbs. She came to us because her family discovered she had Heartworm disease. In addition, she had not been spayed and had two mammary tumors. We were so afraid she would not survive the heartworm treatment. Survive she did! Her tumors were removed when we had her spayed. Volunteers Kerry Plunk and her daughter Marissa are foster homing Charity through her recover period. They discovered if you made a doggie howling sound, Charity will throw her head back and sing a song! Thank you, Kerry and Marissa for being such wonderful volunteers. Giving animals another chance for a quality of life is what it we are all about. They deserve nothing less.

## When Pets Grieve



Pets can experience many of the same emotions as humans, including grief. Life can change drastically for a dog or cat that loses the companionship of another. It is not understood how much animals understand about death, it has been reported that families experience symptoms of their pet grieving. It is heartbreaking as you deal with the loss of a beloved pet yourself, but even more so as you see the pet left behind going through the same thing.

Signs of a pet grieving for its companion include, lethargy, loss of appetite, no interest in playing, sudden or unexplained illness, sleeping more, and sudden need for more affection.

When a pet is grieving, be patient. A pet may exhibit different behaviors when going through this time. As the pain of the loss begins to subside, so should the behavior issues as long as it is not related to the grieving process.

If your pet continues to exhibit signs of grieving behavior, you may consider getting another companion pet. You could take your pet to meet an animal you have considered for adoption. Most rescue shelters will welcome your grieving pet to help you find a new companion. If you do not want another pet, talk to your veterinarian to see if there is a possible medication that could help for a while.

---

## SPOTLIGHT ON SOME OF OUR VOLUNTEER ANGEL STAFF



**Randy Wallace & Sabrina**  
She leads, he follows!

### **Randy Wallace** Cat Coordinator AKA “Cat Man”

How very lucky we were the day Randy Wallace volunteered to help with our cats. Randy is a devout cat lover. The knowledge he has in his engineering head about cats is amazing. His expertise extends from breeds, diseases, behavior, and any thing else cat related. Randy volunteers at the Ark on Friday and Saturday. He is patient and kind with citizens that are interested in adopting one of our feline passengers. He can answer any questions they may have about adding a new cat to the family, how to introduce cats, what to expect with a new cat, and any other issues of concern. Randy even took the time to teach “Sabrina” one of our cats for adoptions, to walk on a leash. If you come to the Ark to adopt a cat, ask to see the “cat man.” That’s Randy.



**Jan Hammonds**

### **Jan Hammonds** “Jack of all Trades” Volunteer

Give this lady a hammer, drill, shovel, scoop, broom, or a leash hooked to a dog, she can handle it! In other words, Jan is willing to do anything she can to help the Ark. Jan and her husband Steve have been volunteers at the Ark for several years now. Steve’s job requires him to travel a lot, but when he has off time look out! Steve and Jan will come to the Ark ready to tackle jobs most people are reluctant to do. They scrub and sanitize our doghouses, add shavings to our pens, paint, etc. How could any organization be so lucky to find these two wonderful people? We are very blessed to have Jan and Steve. We wish every organization could be so blessed.



**Brenda Bryant and Ursula Lovell**

**Brenda Bryant and Ursula Lovell  
“Thrift Store Diva’s”**

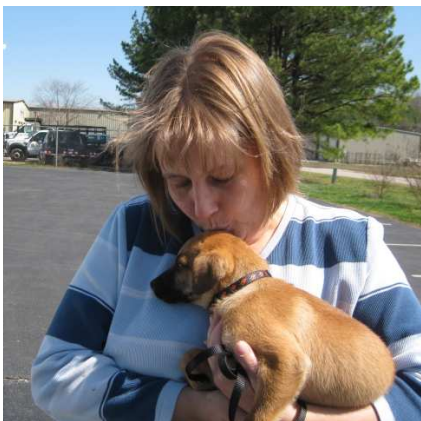
Move over Dillard’s and Belk’s! You could not possibly have volunteers like Ursula and Brenda. They volunteer at our thrift store 5 days a week. What a team! They spend the entire day waiting on citizens that come to shop for a bargain, hang clothes, sort, and place donated items on shelves. Sometimes eating their lunch while they work! They are outgoing and very personable. These ladies make our thrift store a success. Since we have no paid employees, we could not have a successful thrift store without the hard work and expertise of these wonderful, caring, and giving ladies.



**Sylvia Blanteno**

**Sylvia Blanteno  
“Office Tornado”**

You could not pay most people to do what Sylvia does. She returns all the telephone calls we receive each day. In addition, she updates the animal medication board, the animals at the Ark board, and the veterinary appointment board. She makes charts for all new animals coming on board the Ark. If an errand needs to be run, Sylvia is on her way. She is dependable, and volunteers at the Ark 5 days a week. She arrives early, vacuums, sweeps and dust before the day starts. She does most of the adoptions paperwork. She makes all medical charts for animals that are on medication. What more could you ask of a volunteer? She is a true asset to our organization and we appreciate her dedication.



**Heike Keltner & Pebbles**

**Heike Keltner  
Dog Coordinator AKA “Dog Woman”**

If we had paid employees we could not pay Heike how much she is worth to the Ark. Priceless is the word. It is amazing how she can take sad, timid, and scared dogs and convince them they are her best little friend. All the dogs love her and are very excited to see her. We were lucky she came to the Ark as a “dog walker” volunteer. Walking dogs only turned out to be a portion of the duties she performs at the Ark. She volunteers at the Ark 5 days a week. She brushes matted coats, bathes, cleans ears, clips toenails, scoops pens, medicates dogs and cats that need it, helps feed, and bring dogs in for the night. None of the duties she performs are assigned to her exclusively. If she sees something that needs to be done, she does it. The only time Heike is not volunteering at the Ark is when she goes to her native Germany to visit her family. What a blessing volunteers are. We believe they are angels we just can’t see their wings.

**SPOTLIGHT ON OTHER ARK ANGEL VOLUNTEERS NEXT ISSUE OF OUR NEWSLETTER**

**“JUST FOR FUN”**



**“Callie”**

**Can you find our house cat Callie?**



**“Callie”**

**We think she is trying to learn aerobics!**



**“Andy”**

**Do they have Hurricanes in Huntsville?**



**“Naughty Pug”**

**No, actually this little guy is a statue. He was a gift to our director from her sister, Jenell Adkins this past Christmas. We had so much fun with this little guy. He looked so real that people would try to stop him from what they thought he was doing!**



**“Cats and Laser Beam”**

**What is that shiny red thing? Don't know, but I am going to put its light out!**



**“How am I going to tell mama her son is a pig and not a kitten?”**



**No! “I am not a Gremlin and I do not have 3 ears!”**

## SHELTER IMPROVEMENTS CONTINUE

We all know the Ark was constructed step-by-step, project-by-project, and donation-by-donation. Our priority was to build a facility with humane and comfortable housing for the animals in our care. As a no kill shelter, we knew some of our animals would be with us longer than others. Providing a “home” environment in an animal shelter is not an easy task. However, that was our goal and we continue to improve our housing comfort for our animals, as funds are available. Cat trees with carpet covering can be extremely hard to sanitize. Randy Wallace, our “cat man”, found a cat lover in Georgia that hand makes wooden cat trees. We purchased 14 new trees and replaced all carpet covered cat trees. Each one has 4 resting shelves, and is coated with polyurethane for easy cleaning. We bought fleece-covered pads to put over some of the resting shelves. These pads can be removed and laundered as needed. We purchased sisal rope and covered some of the post for scratching. Thank you!



Our new cat trees after delivery. We added the sisal rope before placing the trees in our free roaming cat rooms.



Pooh Bear, Archie, and Bonnie on their new cat tree waiting for warmer weather. They love to go out on their “catio.”



Our 4 new exercise dog run measure 8' x 70'. Large dogs need this room to run and play. 1/3 of the front portion of these runs are under the roof of our “pole barn” providing shelter when it rains.



“Oliver”  
Visit and hang out with me.

**SPRING HAS SPRUNG AT THE ARK**

Spring is a beautiful season. We see the beginning of new life in the budding of trees, grass turning green, early blossoms, warmer with more sunshine, and robins in our yards. Sadly, most animal shelters dread spring because with it comes other forms of new life: nursing mommy cats, expectant mommy cats, and cats giving birth at the Ark. Each time an expectant cat or a nursing cat comes aboard the Ark, a private room must be available for each mother. This limits our intake of other cats because of space. We provide a birthing bed that was constructed by volunteers. This prevents the kittens from wandering away from mama. Each bed has a heated kennel pad. The temperature remains at a preset factory degree that will keep the pad at the same degree at all times. The bed is removed when the kittens start to climb over its walls. This allows them the freedom of the room. During April and May of 2010 we had 56 kittens and 4 nursing mothers in our shelter. We are already receiving those dreaded phone calls. "My cat had kittens can you take them?" "This stray came to our house and had kittens." "I found kittens under my shed." No shelter can take all the ones that need shelter. Please spay and neuter your cats. A happy cat is a cat that does not go outdoors.



Twinkie, our Manx mommy gave birth to 3 kittens 3/9/11. One has a bob tail, one a Manx, and one long tail.



Orchid, our dilute Torti gave birth to 5 kittens on 3/19/11.



Beauty, our tuxedo is a baby expecting babies! She is only 7 months old.



**"GUESS WHAT?"  
YOUR DONATION TO THE ARK WILL ALLOW NEEDY ANIMALS  
THE ADVANTAGE OF FINDING A LOVING HOME**

- \$25.00 Annual Membership Fee
- Honor of / Memorial Contribution  Pet  Family Member  Friend
- Angel Fund to help care for animals on board the Ark

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City/ST/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE**

Mail to: The Ark  
139 Bo Cole Road  
Huntsville, Al 35806

**VISA/MASTERCARD  
ACCEPTED**

VISIT OUR WEBSITE [WWW.ARKINC.ORG](http://WWW.ARKINC.ORG)  
MAKE YOUR DONATION BY PAYPAL  
BE ONE OF OUR FACEBOOK FRIENDS

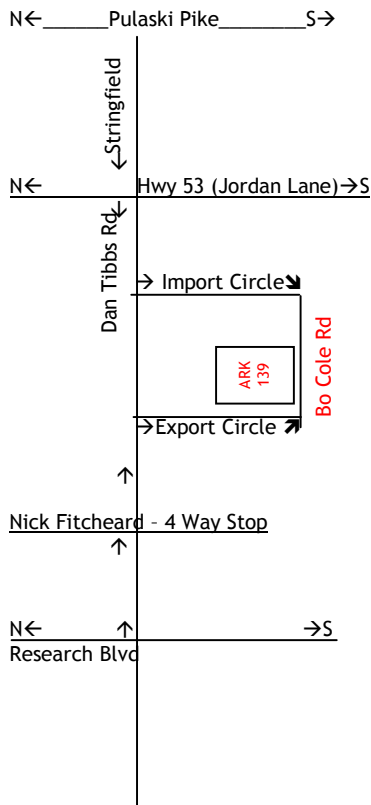
WOULD YOU PREFER TO RECEIVE OUR NEWSLETTER BY  
EMAIL? PLEASE SEND A REQUEST TO:

[newslettertheark256@gmail.com](mailto:newslettertheark256@gmail.com)



See our animals for adoption  
[www.arkinc.petfinder.com](http://www.arkinc.petfinder.com)

**To the Ark**  
**Access to Dan Tibbs closed from S lanes**  
**of Research Blvd due to construction**



**The Ark Board of Directors**

**Jane Jattuso, Chair**  
**Sylvia Blanteno, Vice - Chair**  
**Cindy Payne, Secretary**  
**Doug Beal – Treasurer**  
**Randy Wallace, Cat Volunteer Coordinator**  
**Heike Keltner, Dog Volunteer Coordinator**  
**Ursula Lovell, Thrift Store Manager**

**Kathy Boothe, Accountant**  
**Herman “Buck” Watson, Attorney**

**UPCOMING ARK EVENTS**

**Annual Bill Youkey Memorial Golf Tournament – June 25**

**Adopt A Cat Month – June – Adoption Fee 1/3 off**

**WATCH FOR OTHER EVENTS PLANNED LATER IN THE YEAR.**

**THRIFT STORE BLOWOUT SALE – FIRST FRIDAY & SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH**

**The Ark**  
**139 Bo Cole Road**  
**Huntsville, Al 35806**

**NON-PROFIT ORG.**  
**U.S. POSTAGE**  
**PAID**  
**TONEY, AL**  
**PERMIT #005**