It's shocking how many dogs and cats are homeless and alone this holiday season – left behind by their families, forced to fend for themselves, tormented by those who would do them harm.

Fortunately, Main Line Animal Rescue is a gentle neighbor providing help when help is needed and making all these forgotten children feel safe and secure until the day they’re back in the arms of a loving family.
Our little elves work tirelessly all year long—undoing the damage suffered by dogs at the hands of unscrupulous puppy millers and animal hoarders. Dogs who have never known a kind touch are rehabilitated through massage therapy and made more adoptable by dedicated volunteers at our weekly “shy dog” training classes. And on those few occasions when trainer extraordinaire Mary Remer was not able to lead our classes—we had some pretty big shoes to fill. By poring over online inspection reports and right to know requests, and carefully monitoring the practices of Pennsylvania’s largest puppy mills, we know when they’ve been bad or good. And with our highly effective anti-puppy mill campaigns, we would urge them to be good for goodness sake. Puppy millers do not want to be on our naughty list.

Volunteers and dogs attend classes at MLAR’s new training center

When Harry Met Sally... in the alley

Every year MLAR rescues and provides medical care for hundreds of animals from the city streets. Each rescue presents its own challenges—none more challenging than helping feral or lost cats. Our volunteers can spend hours waiting for feral cats to go into humane traps or tracking an injured or lost pet. Yes, there are times when an alley cat will decide she is more hungry than afraid and will walk right up to one of our volunteers, but this is rare. Often a volunteer stays out until the wee small hours of the night gaining the cat’s trust, speaking softly and showing her how much he cares, and by the morning a very special bond has been formed—proving a man and a cat can be friends after spending the night together.

When Harry Met Sally... in the alley

Here MLAR Volunteer Harry Burns attempts to rescue a cat named Sally on New Year’s Eve by promising her a lifetime of companionship and a plate of Tender Vittles with Friskies on the side. She’s skeptical but soon joins the over eighty cats and kittens currently waiting for homes at MLAR.

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What we won’t miss this Christmas? We won’t miss gas chambers which were outlawed in Pennsylvania in 2012 (MLAR was thanked for our efforts on the floor of the Senate). We won’t miss the waivers handed out to puppy mills exempting them from the new dog laws we helped push through in 2008. The last of the waivers finally expired this year and all high volume dog breeding kennels in PA should now be in full compliance. We won’t miss the apathy of some legislators before they noticed our bus wrap on the streets of DC criticizing the USDA’s failure to protect dogs in federally licensed puppy mills, before they, too, realized something needed to be done.

Main Line Animal Rescue stands as a beacon—a leg lamp shining brightly in the front window of the world of animal advocacy. We fear not the Scott Farcusses of the world and we’ll meet any double-dog dare without fear or hesitation. And once we become attached to a cause, it’s hard to pull us away.

And it’s your support that makes the work we do on behalf of animals possible. Please consider making a donation to MLAR this holiday season. And to all our supporters we wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukkah.