

Oldtown pet refuge recovering from storm

7-10-12

Ark of Hope received damage from wind, water

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OLDTOWN — The Ark of Hope Animal Rescue continues to recover from wind damage during last week's storms. The rescue still needs help, but owner Dianne Care is thankful for the outpouring of support the animals have received from community members.

"It's been a struggle. But

the volunteers have been fabulous. It's amazing how much people in the community will do to help the animals ... they are a true blessing," Care said Monday. "I don't know what we would have done," Care said.

Volunteers brought food and cleaning supplies to help out. The Frostburg Lions

- **The Frostburg Lions Club will conduct a pet food drive and take other donations.**

Club also plans a fundraiser for the Ark of Hope. The club will be conducting a pet food drive. Lions will be collecting pet food and other donations

each Friday from 9 a.m. to noon at the Frostburg Farmers Market at City Place. The collection will continue through Aug. 3. For information, call 301-687-0212.

Power and water to the damaged building was only restored Saturday, about a

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CONTINUED FROM 1A

week after the storm hit. Phone service remains out at the Oldtown site. The building's roof was seriously damaged by powerful winds, and while some temporary patching was done, more permanent roof repairs will be needed. "I don't have a clue (at how long the repairs will take)," Care said. Her home served as a temporary shelter for the animals. The dining area became a makeshift cattery, she said.

And all that costs money, which Care says is now her primary need. Cleanup was a major issue and supplies were used that Care usually doesn't have to worry about, like brooms. Roof insulation was spewed around and needed to be cleaned up and a great deal of feed was lost. She also has many veterinary bills.

Trees blew the fences out, but the fences are now back up so the outside play area is secure. Fans are now running in the building to keep the animals cooler in the hot weather.

"I am so tired, to tell you the truth," Care said. Most of the animals are fine, some puppies have developed coughs, though. The puppies are now on antibiotics.

"At this time we have 25 adult dogs, 16 puppies (between 3 and 7 weeks old), 21 adult cats and 10 kittens (between 2 and 8 weeks old)," Care said in a July 6 Facebook posting. When phone service is restored, the Ark can be reached at 301-478-3300.

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