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Many Helped Guinea Pigs

July 2 was a very happy day at the Tri-County Animal Shelter.

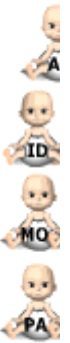
The approximately 40 remaining guinea pigs from a May 2004 Charles County Animal Control seizure of 240 guinea pigs and 10 dogs were loaded up and driven in air-conditioned comfort by Patuxent Animal Welfare vice president Randy Radeackar to the Critter Connection in Connecticut to await placement in homes.

Their journey, much like the one taken by the staff of Tri-County Animal Shelter over the last year, was made possible with the support of many caring people. The Tri-County Animal Shelter would like to express its deep appreciation to all the organizations and individuals who have unselfishly contributed supplies, time, money and knowledge to the care and placement of the guinea pigs.

While space restrictions prohibit a complete list, the following show how far and wide people came to assist: Judi Lainer and everyone at Metropolitan Guinea Pig Rescue, Charles County Humane Society, Calvert County animal control officer Craig Dichter, Last Chance Animal Rescue, the Lucky Ones, Calvert Humane Society, Calvert Animal Welfare League, St. Mary's Animal Welfare League, Maryland SPCA, Mark Hocking, Mary Baldwin, Dorothy Smigal, Joel Edelen, Stacey Reynolds of Riviera Kennels, PetSmart Charities, Guinea Lynx, Southern States Co-Op Charlotte Hall, the Critter Connection, Patuxent Animal Welfare Society, Small Angels, members of the Professional Animal Workers of Maryland and dozens of volunteers not affiliated with any group. Finally, a big thank-you to the shelter's staff for its hard work and dedication.

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With more than 14,000 animals entering the Tri-County Animal Shelter last year, caring for such a large number of guinea pigs was, to say the least, very challenging. Guinea pigs require clean bedding, a constant supply of fresh water and, of course, food. At the highest point, this involved almost 100 cages of guinea pigs on top of a daily population of almost 200 dogs and cats.

The generous spirit of all who lent a hand is immeasurable and will never be forgotten. To all of those who helped, please accept our gratitude and know in your hearts that your kindness not only got us through the hard times but also ended with almost all of the guinea pigs living happily ever after in a half a dozen states.

Thanks.

Joanna Snow

*Tri-County Animal Shelter supervisor*

*Hughesville*

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