



# TAILS OF HOPE

The Newsletter of Animals in Distress  
P.O. Box 609 Coopersburg, PA 18036

website: [animalsindistresspa.org](http://animalsindistresspa.org)  
email: [aidpa@enter.net](mailto:aidpa@enter.net)  
phone: 610-966-9383

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Editor: Lois Gadek



## When words just aren't enough...

At this time of the year, we pause to say Thank You for all our blessings. But sometimes, words are just empty unless they are backed up with actions and deeds.

Over 44 years ago, less than a dozen animal shelters in the whole country called themselves no-kill. The idea was that they would save and rehabilitate animals and not kill them because the shelter needed space, because they were old or sick, or because they weren't "marketable". Animals in Distress was one of those shelters.

Decades later, Animals in Distress follows those same principles. Every animal rescued is treated with kindness and respect so it can heal mentally and physically from horrible experiences. That is a solemn promise we make to each animal we rescue. AND it is a solemn promise to YOU, our supporters. Without your support, we cannot help these animals, who often have no hope elsewhere.

These days, the definition of the term "no-kill" has been modified by many (not all) organizations to the statement that "no healthy, adoptable animal" is killed. That modification is not applicable to Animals in Distress, whose pledge is unconditional love and hope for every animal we rescue.

Again, words can be misinterpreted if they are not backed up with actions. Language is very powerful, and it can be used to inspire as well as to mislead. So, we want to be very clear about the language we use.

When we thank you for your support, we are backing up with action our sincere appreciation for your enabling us to save the most desperate and forlorn animals. We promise you to use each dollar donated directly for helping animals, not for administrative and fundraising salaries, not for fancy offices and frivolous expenditures. Our incredible

volunteers make all of that possible since they do all administrative and fundraising and bookkeeping and countless other tasks so that 100% of every dollar donated goes directly to animal rescue and care.

Without you, we could not save animals. Without you, many of the most abused and neglected animals would have no chance since they are often far, very far, from "healthy" and "adoptable."

Take, for example, two stray kittens we rescued recently. The one kitten, an orange tiger we named Ginger, had a prolapsed rectum, which means the rectum was hanging out of the body. This is a potentially fatal condition and a real emergency.

As this newsletter is being written, Ginger is having surgery to stitch the rectum in place since it had fallen out (prolapsed) twice. What a horrible way to die. His sister Callie is hoping he will be ok. He is all the family she has left.

We hope and pray that Ginger will make a full recovery and go on to live many years. He and his sister are pictured above. Out of respect for people's sensitivity, we decided not to include the picture of the prolapsed rectum.

We cite this example, not to horrify you, but to let you know what we mean by the term "rescue." To us, we make a promise when we rescue an animal. We make a solemn promise to you—to do the work we say we do, and to spend your donations in that mission only.

***Thank you for being there for us and the animals we have helped. Words cannot convey how much the animals and our staff and volunteers appreciate your kindness.***





## ***Blessing of the Animals : Pausing to Say Thank You for the Blessing of All Creatures Great and Small***

It's important to take time out of our schedules to be grateful. Remembering all the joy and love brought into our lives by our pets reminds us that we are so blessed to have our pets as part of our family and our everyday lives. All of our shelter events are a chance to see people we haven't seen in awhile, to re-connect with friends, many of whom have adopted pets from our sanctuary. Some of those attending had been fighting illness, some had lost a person or pet to such illness, and some were preparing to say goodbye to a loved one. Some brought photos of pets who were too scared or ill to attend, and some brought pets who would not be alive by the Blessing next year.

All of this is bittersweet: the sound of the last heartbeat is the saddest sound in the world. But the Blessing isn't sad: it's a celebration of Life, Love, and Commitment.

Sharon O'Connor made the trip all the way from Delaware, as she has done for 25+

years, to provide music for our Blessing. Pastor Mark Swanson did a wonderful job of

officiating. Both Sharon and Pastor Swanson have a deep and loving appreciation for the role pets play in our lives (and in theirs too). Their kindness is so obvious as they greet animals and capture the true spirit of the event.

As always, our volunteers did a great job of providing food and baked goods for the event, and most people enjoyed the fact that most of the edibles were homemade with love.

Anyone looking around the Hospitality Center could see how much love was manifested between people and their pets. Older pets, energetic young ones, pets from shelters and pets from elsewhere,...all were welcome to be part of this celebration of love. We offer the collage below to share some of the people and animals who were part of the Blessing. We want those who couldn't attend—and those who sent in the names of their pets to be blessed—to know that they were included in our prayers and kept in our hearts.







# STOP Holiday Stress!

Let's be realistic: the holidays are a mixed blessing. Many people become exhausted (and sick) by running around buying gifts and all that goes with them (wrapping, delivering, paying for, returning, etc.) Many people spend too much, eat too much, and have too much. In the process of celebrating the holidays, we sometimes minimize or even forget the meaning of the holidays, which are a time for being grateful for what we have--our health,

our loved ones, our other blessings.

Let's make a deal: if you consider sharing your holiday celebration with the animals at the shelter, you will receive in return: less stress and work for you, more time for what really matters, tax deductible holiday "spending," and the knowledge that you have helped those who will not have any holiday at all, without your help.

Further, those who receive your gifts will know that they are being honored in the best way possible: by having good done for others, in their honor. What better way to honor the memory of a loved one? In this Holiday Fundraising brochure are all sorts of gift ideas. Please consider them as part of your holiday giving. You and the gift recipients will feel great by giving and receiving such gifts, and so will the homeless animals at our shelter. Remember: 100% of all money donated--and all money raised through such fundraisers--goes directly to care for the 350+ animals housed at Animals in Distress, over the holidays as well as during the rest of the year.



## *Share your gift giving with our animals*

Help us decorate the shelter for the holidays and do something special as well. In all Tribute categories, the person's or pet's name(s) will be printed on velvet ribbons attached to the Holiday Tributes. The display will be unveiled at the Christmas Open House on December 8 and continue through the New Year. A personalized announcement of your thoughtful gift will be mailed directly to each recipient you designate on the enclosed form. If you prefer, we will send the announcements to you so you can deliver them personally.

Please consider honoring a family, friend, business, or special pet or person by selecting one or more of these very special donor holiday options:

***Poinsettia Tribute with Name of Person/Pet Honored--\$35***

***Special Ornament with Name Honored--\$75***

***Special Wreath with Name(s) Honored--\$250***

Please designate your instructions on the form on the next page and mail your instructions to the P.O. Box on the form. The Holiday Tributes will be displayed at the December Open House and will remain on display until after the New Year. Please allow our volunteers adequate time to process your request. Tribute requests postmarked by December 12 will be guaranteed to arrive where designated before December 25.

Tributes received after that time will be processed as soon as possible, and displayed at the shelter immediately after we receive them.

**For more info: contact our web site at [animalsindistresspa.org](http://animalsindistresspa.org), email [aidpa@enter.net](mailto:aidpa@enter.net), or call 610-966-9383, ext. 8.**



## HOLIDAY TRIBUTES FORM

detach and return to : HOLIDAY, Animals in Distress, P.O. Box 609,  
Coopersburg, PA 18036

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (    ) \_\_\_\_\_



List the following as **Memorials** (indicate if a pet or a person) **for Poinsettias**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

If you want us to mail an announcement directly to the recipient(s), please supply the mailing address below (attach separate sheets of paper if you prefer):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



List the following as **In Honor** of (indicate if a pet or a person) **for Poinsettias**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

If you want the announcements mailed directly **TO YOU**, check this box [   ]

**Total Enclosed at \$35 each: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**  
**For Poinsettia Tributes**



=====

List the following as **Tributes or Memorials** (indicate if a pet or person) for **Special Ornaments** @ \$75

\_\_\_\_\_ indicate which are tributes/which are memorials



List the following as **Tributes or Memorials** (indicate if a pet or person) for **Special Wreaths** @ \$250

\_\_\_\_\_ indicate which are tributes/which are memorials

If you want the announcements mailed directly **TO YOU**, check this box. [   ]

If you want us to mail an announcement directly to the recipient(s), please supply the mailing address(es) (attach separate sheets of paper if needed): \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Enclosed: Number \_\_\_\_\_ Special Ornaments at \$75 each: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**Number \_\_\_\_\_ Special Wreaths at \$250 each: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**Total Enclosed for Ornaments and Wreaths: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**



## ***HolidayFun and Fund-raisers***

*100% of the proceeds benefit the no-kill sanctuary*

### **ANIMALS IN DISTRESS**

5075 Limeport Pike, Coopersburg, PA 18036

610-966-9383, website [animalsindistresspa.org](http://animalsindistresspa.org)

***Happy Holidays Open House SUNDAY, Dec. 8, 12:00 to 4 pm.*** Note change of date from first Sunday in December to the second Sunday due to Thanksgiving being so late. Having Open House over Thanksgiving weekend could conflict with some families' travel plans, so we decided to move Open House to a week later than normal so ALL of our friends could be here!!

### ***Music, Craft and Gift Bazaar, Food and Beverages, Basket Social\****

Fabulous selection of craft and gift items, baked goods (please deliver donated baked goods to the shelter by noon on December 8), extensive homemade dog biscuit selection in many flavors, and much, much more. *This event features the area's largest selection of items with a cat or dog motif, many one-of-a-kind.* All items are reasonably priced. **\*Baskets filled with various items are needed and can be brought to the shelter by 3pm on December 7. They should have a value of at least \$10 and can be in any theme you choose: chocolate or coffee or tea lover, cat lover, bathroom, dog lover, etc. The baskets we have received in the past have been exceptional, with some worth \$75 or more.** Drawing of the Basket Social Winners will be at 4 pm on Dec. 19

**Free gift wrapping for any gift items costing \$5 or more.**

#### **Ugly Sweater Contest...**

Judging at 3pm. Special prizes. Must be present to win!



***Pet Photos with Santa Paws*** at the shelter, 1 to 3:30pm, on Sunday, December 15--- and on Saturday, Dec. 21.

No appointments needed. People are welcome to pose with their pet.

***Happy Holidays Gift Bazaar and Basket Social*** at the shelter, 1 to 4 pm, every Tues, Thurs, Sat, and Sun until Dec. 24 Please stop by and do some last minute shopping, while also enjoying one of the area's greatest gift selections featuring cats and dogs. New items are added constantly.

***Vera Bradley Store, Dec. 7,*** Lifestyle Center in Lehigh Valley Mall—we will receive 10% of all sales that day. See the new cat design...it's wonderful!

***Gift Wrapping, Barnes and Noble, Dec. 19 ,*** Promenade Shops, Center Valley, 10am-8pm



## A Holiday Gift Idea

### TAKE A PET TO DINNER PROGRAM

Many people who love animals cannot have one in their homes due to various reasons such as allergies, lease restrictions, space, etc. There are others who already have pets and cannot add to the pet population in their homes or some people live out of the area but have expressed an interest in helping the pets in our shelter.

We have a wonderful program at the shelter entitled **"Take a Pet To Dinner."** This program enables a person to sponsor a dog or cat currently living at the kennel and to become that pet's "special person." What a wonderful gift idea for a special person for this year's holiday season!! You can choose a 6 month or 12 month holiday sponsorship. The recipient

will receive a festive gift announcement package, including a photo and story about their sponsored pet and the giver of that gift (YOU), along with a holiday gift announcement card. Throughout the year, the sponsor will also get periodic updates about the sponsored pet, so this gift keeps giving long after the holidays are a distant memory, keeping alive the true feeling of the holidays!

We do all the work, and you enjoy all the appreciation for such a thoughtful gift!! To give as Holiday Pet Sponsorship, just fill out the form below. Sponsorships can be from a single person or a group of people, and can be given to one person or a whole family. What a great and yearlong gift for the family who has everything, or for a child who wants a pet but can't have one due to allergies in the family or rental restrictions!

..... detach here and mail to Take-A-Pet, Animals in Distress, P.O. Box 609, Coopersburg, PA 18036.....

### Animals In Distress Holiday 2019 Sponsorship in Take A Pet To Dinner Program

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

6 Month Sponsorship (Dec thru May) \$60\_\_\_\_ 12 Month Sponsorship (Dec thru Nov) \$120\_\_\_\_

Name and address of person(s) to receive gift: PLEASE NOTE FOR EACH RECIPIENT IF THE SPONSORSHIP SHOULD BE A CAT OR A DOG: We will choose a pet in need of a sponsor unless you have a specific request.

Enclose a check with this form. If you would like to pay your sponsorship by credit card, please complete this section.

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ Dollar Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Authorized Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name (print) \_\_\_\_\_

Send this form and payment to **"Holiday Sponsorship Gift Take a Pet to Dinner", Animals In Distress P. O. Box 609 Coopersburg, PA 18036**

Gifts postmarked by December 10 are guaranteed to arrive before Dec. 25.





.....Please detach this coupon and mail it to: Animals in Distress, P.O. Box 609, Coopersburg, PA 18036....

*Enclosed is my donation of \_\_\_\_\_ to provide Hope for animals like Ginger, Callie, Penny and Buddy who need a second chance in a world that seldom gives second chances. They depend on us for their lives.*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

If credit card: Card number \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name on card \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of cardholder \_\_\_\_\_



*Thank You for caring  
about us little guys!*

Check this box if you do NOT want a receipt for your donation

☐

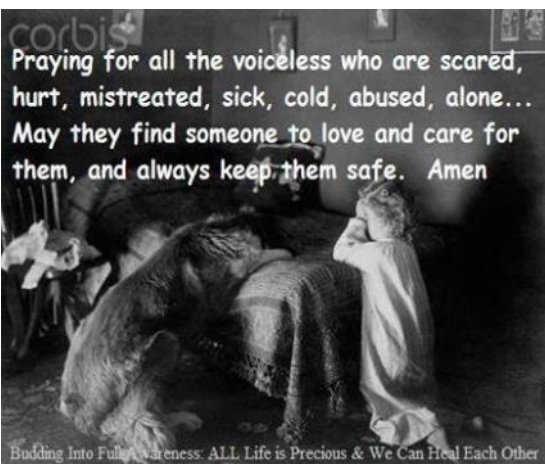
**Last year in our November newsletter, we wrote about two older animals with medical issues.**

One was a senior dachshund named Penny, who came to us with a large mammary mass. The biopsy of the mass when it was removed showed a medium grade cancer. Buddy B is a senior beagle who was found wandering in the road. He had a miserable skin infection, partly due to fleas, several cracked and broken teeth, an odd mass dangling from his rear area, and a very large testicle that could be cancerous, and he was anemic. After surgery, and many teeth being removed, the biopsy revealed that Buddy's was not cancerous.



Both animals could have been dismissed as not "healthy or adoptable" due to health issues and age. However, we are thrilled to report that both dogs were adopted and are doing well in homes that adore them.

Life is full of surprises, some good and some devastating; some people and animals are dealt a good hand, and some seem to get dealt hand after hand of grief, pain, and betrayal. What happens is not their fault, but they usually pay the price.



The lives of many animals we have rescued are full of pain and betrayal. These poor souls have been abandoned, abused, neglected, and worse—they have never known a place that loved them unconditionally, who nursed them when they were sick, and comforted them when they were afraid. As the Kennel of Hope, Animals in Distress makes an unconditional commitment to every animal it rescues. We will do everything in our power to help every rescued animal—and no animal is too old, or too neglected, or too worthless to be loved.

Please visit us and see 300-400 examples of the miracles that we, together, can make happen, every day of the year. Thank you for caring.

# ANIMALS IN DISTRESS

P.O. BOX 609  
COOPERSBURG, PA 18036

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
P A I D  
Lehigh Valley, PA  
Permit No. 271

DATED MATERIAL . . . PLEASE RUSH

Current Resident

## Mark Your Calendar

All events are at Animals in Distress, 5075 Limeport Pike, Coopersburg, PA, unless otherwise noted.



### Holiday Open House - Sunday, Dec. 8,

noon to 4 pm Food, fabulous basket social, craft and gift items, good company! Basket Social continues thru Dec. 19. Great prices and many one-of-a-kind items.

**Ugly Sweater Contest. Free Gift Wrapping.**

**(Details inside)**

### Pet Photos with Santa Paws—

1 to 3:30 pm on Sunday, Dec. 15 and  
Saturday, Dec. 21. No appointments needed.



Watch out...Santa Paws may be checking to see if you've been naughty or nice (we know you've been nice, of course)! You've been so nice that we are offering a really great selection of gift items at low, low prices.

**Holiday Craft and Gift Bazaar**—1 to 4 pm every Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday thru Dec. 24.

**Vera Bradley, Dec. 7**, Lehigh Valley Mall, 10% of all sales to us!

**Gift Wrapping, Dec. 19**, Barnes and Noble, Promenade Shops, (10 am-8pm)

*Check our website at [animalsindistresspa.org](http://animalsindistresspa.org) for latest event updates.*