



Tails of Hope

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

website: animalsindistresspa.org
email: aidpa@enter.net
phone: 610-966-9383

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EDITOR: LOIS GADEK

What Kind of Decade Will We Have Starting in 2020+?



The beginning of a new year and a new decade always brings with it a desire to start over. Many of us make resolutions to exercise more, eat a healthier diet, lose weight, spend less, and

so on. And most of us don't live up to those resolutions. It seems, if we listen to the media and read articles, we are never where we need to be. We aren't thin enough; our hair isn't full enough; our clothes aren't trendy enough; we aren't sexy enough; we aren't measuring up in countless other ways.

Homeless animals are also judged unfairly: they aren't young enough, aren't "cute" enough (that word is a death sentence for many pets who aren't deemed "adoptable" because of age, unappealing markings, unacceptable behavior, like not making friends with strangers right away, etc.). Maybe they're scared and act in a shy or defensive manner. Maybe they are not considered "adoptable" because of a health issue like allergies, mobility issues, loss of an eye or other limb, diabetes, etc.

Well, we will not give in to those negative and judgmental comments. Let's say that no one—human or animal—is ever disrespected or discarded because he or she isn't good enough. Our sanctuary cherishes each life entrusted to its care, unconditionally.

The future looks promising IF we can be kind to each other and to all the creatures whose life we impact--IF we choose to see the potential and goodness in all of us. We want to share a letter from an elementary school student who sent this message:

YOU have been very kind to us in donating your money, time, and prayers to our work. Your encouraging letters and notes, accompanying your donations, have filled our hearts with inspi-

ration, especially when we are struggling to choke back tears and are wondering if we can continue to do this heartbreaking work. Knowing that you understand what we do and why we do it means everything to us. You help us continue our work. You care about animals that you may never see in person, that you may never hold in your arms. . . . you are compassionate, generous, and supportive. You, to quote a famous song, are "the wind beneath our wings." You see the beauty within.

You come in all sizes, and ages, and body types. Some of you are athletic, some are book worms and still read the paper version of books instead of electronic books. Some of you are eligible to collect Social Security, while others are too young to get a driver's license. The bottom line is this: YOU are good, just as you are. You are special. You are making a difference. Because of you, the world is a better place; and our little corner of the world at Animals in Distress exists because you are who you are--and what you are.

So, let's resolve that 2020 will begin a decade of celebrating all the good that we do because we care. We need to shut our ears to those who say that being kind and showing unconditional love isn't the right choice. Thank you for your donations and visits and letters and cards. Thank you for being there for us and the animals we rescue. We pledge to you to continue to do our best for hundreds of the most pathetic and friendless animals, who are not considered "adoptable" and worth the effort. We promise not to give up on them. In return, we ask that you continue to do what you can to make our work possible. Your friendship and support mean everything to us. To quote Mr. Rogers, who to this day comforts children of all ages with his kind and gentle television shows: "We love you just the way you are." Let us all resolve to appreciate what we have, what we have done, and what we can do---just by being who we are. And THAT is a resolution all of us can keep in 2020!

*Dear Animals in Distress,
Thank you so much for
taking care of animals.
I love animals!*

*I think all animals are cute.
Some may not be cute on the
outside, but they are all
cute on the inside.*

*Love,
Tom*



Let's Hold On To That Holiday Spirit

We want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who went out of their way to help during the holidays—with their time and their money. Our volunteers and a dedicated group from Olympus decorated the shelter, and hundreds of friends attended open house and other holiday events. Tributes to loved ones were on display everywhere, compliments of people and businesses who participated in that program, and hundreds of holiday cards came in with donations and the kindest, most loving messages.

Families and individuals, as well as several businesses, brought in monetary donations as well as items off our Wish List. FMI, Jack Lehr Electric, the Dublin Agway, Guardian Insurance and some anonymous donors among others, dropped off money and food, cleaning supplies, treats, etc. One business, which wishes to remain anonymous, donated 30 much needed cat trees!! It was amazing. Needless to say, the hundreds of feline residents were delighted and didn't waste a minute checking out the trees.

The Pet Photos with Santa Paws set records for attendance, and our volunteer photographers went to any length to make the pets feel welcome. We decided to share a few “behind the scenes” shots of the photographic sessions, with volunteers going to any length to get the right expressions.



We have a soft spot in our hearts for people who keep their lights up a little longer—people who don't want to say goodbye to the holidays and the good feelings that come along with them. Let's try to hold on to those good feelings of love, friendship, and hope every day of the year. Animals in Distress practices the holiday spirit every day of the year, and we hope you can too.

BUFFET • SILENT AUCTION • MUSIC



MARDI PAWS

SAT., MARCH 7

bad weather date: Sun., Mar. 8th

6:30-9:30PM

at Animals In Distress • 5075 Limeport Pike • Coopersburg, PA

TICKETS: \$30 each • (\$35 after Feb. 21)

live music by

Lehigh Valley Dixieland All-Stars

wine tasting by

Sleepy Cat Urban Winery

MORE INFO: www.animalsindistresspa.org or call 610-762-8553

Redner's Tape Redemption Program Thanks to all who send their Redner's cash register receipts to the shelter. We redeem them for cash. You must go to the Customer Service Desk and obtain a Save-A-Tape card that will allow your tapes to participate in the program. Keep those tapes coming! They are providing a nice stream of income, since we receive 1% of the tapes' totals, excluding sales tax, milk and cigarette items.

Membership Renewal/Enrollment Reminder



At the beginning of the year, we not only renew our commitment to a message of hope for all animals. We also renew our membership in the Kennel of Hope. Members are welcome to all shelter events, receive the newsletter, nominate and vote for Board members, and go on record as supporting our work to preserve the dignity and life of animals forsaken by others. Please complete and send in the following coupon to indicate which of four membership categories you wish to be listed under, and if your membership is a new one or a renewal. Gift memberships are also available. Provide the necessary information on a separate sheet of paper and we'll inform the recipient of your thoughtfulness.

Aluminum Can Recycling Program is cancelled

for the time being due to the illness of the volunteer who handled that program for us. We will notify our friends if and when the program starts up again. Please continue to recycle and save the planet.

Animals in Distress Membership Renewal/Enrollment Form

Please detach or copy this coupon and return it, along with a stamped, self-addressed envelope, and your membership fee to:

Membership, Animals in Distress, P.O. Box 609, Coopersburg, PA 18036

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Check enclosed for \$ _____ OR

Credit Card: MasterCard or Visa (circle one)

Card # _____ Exp. Date _____

Name on card _____

Authorized Signature _____

**Please enroll / renew (circle one)
my 2020 AID Membership in the
following category (select one):**

☐ **Life** - \$250 (once payable)

☐ **Senior** (65 and older) - \$10

☐ **Sustaining** - \$50

☐ **Active** - \$20

☐ **Corporate** - \$500

CHINESE AUCTION | REFRESHMENTS | 50/50 RAFFLE | DOOR PRIZES

VERA BRADLEY & LONGABERGER BASKET



TO BENEFIT
ANIMALS IN DISTRESS

SUNDAY, APRIL 26

DOORS OPEN **12 NOON** | BINGO STARTS **1PM** | **130** TICKETS AVAILABLE

\$20 FOR 20 GAMES

BRING DONATIONS FOR THE SHELTER
(FOOD, LITTER, TREATS, CLEANING SUPPLIES, ETC.)
AND GET 5 FREE CHINESE AUCTION TICKETS

EMMAUS FIRE CO. NO. 1
50 S. 6TH STREET | EMMAUS, PA

FOOD & BAKED GOODS AVAILABLE | NO OUTSIDE FOOD PERMITTED

FOR MORE INFO:

CALL KELLY AT **610-762-8553** OR EMAIL **KHART70906@AOL.COM**
OR GET YOUR TICKET AT ANIMALS IN DISTRESS

A Story of Hope...Bob Hope, that is!



During Radiothon last year, a black cat was found dying in the street. He was missing his right rear leg, which limited his options, and he was also being picked on by the other stray cats in the neighborhood. He could not fight for food very well and was slowly starving. We originally named the cat Hope, but changed it to Bob Hope when we found out the cat was a male. Clearly, we were his only hope.

Black cats are always the last to be adopted from shelters, as are black dogs. And missing a leg kept him from appealing to some people because he made them sad to look at him, or they didn't want a cat with a disability.

The great thing about such rescues is that the animal doesn't know that it has a deformity or handicap just because, it's blind, 3-legged, etc. That's one of the great advantages animals have: they don't sit around lamenting what they don't have or weep over how they have been mistreated and

abandoned. They simply choose life over death, happiness over gloom, and hope over despair. There's a lesson in that for all of us.

Walking through our sanctuary and looking at the hundreds of lives there is a wonderful healing experience. Animals who have literally been through hell are alive and well: they are happy because they feel safe and loved.

One of our volunteers recently decided to adopt Bob Hope. That is certainly something that can happen when people spend time to get to know some of our shelter residents. Like people, every animal has its own personality, and it's so important to get to know an animal (or a person) before deciding to offer it a forever home. The person who fell in love with him works with handicapped people and said that she was drawn to Bob because he was missing a leg but had such an incredible personality and so much determination.

Like the elementary school student who wrote the letter on page 1 of this newsletter, saying animals are "cute" both inside and outside, this adopter saw so many positives in an animal some shelters might consider "unadoptable." An added bonus to this adoption is that Bob joined a home that already had a cat, a very shy and laidback cat. That cat is now so much happier and confident since he has Bob to inspire him not to be afraid any more.

Update on Theresa:



The elderly lab mix with bone cancer that we wrote about in the last newsletter continues to do well, considering her condition. Her prognosis, while terminal, included the prediction that she would probably not see the new year. Well, with medication and lots of love and prayers, Theresa is still doing well. Her tumor has grown very little and she enjoys life and the extra attention she is getting. Please keep her in your prayers.

Detach coupon here and mail to Animals in Distress, P.O. Box 609, Coopersburg, PA 18036

Enclosed is my donation of \$_____ so that desperate animals like Theresa, Bob Hope, and so many others will get a second chance in a world that seldom gives second chances.

Name_____

Address_____

City_____ State_____ Zip_____



Check this heart if you don't need a receipt.

*Thank You for caring
about those forgotten
by others.*

Check Enclosed or Credit Card Number_____ Exp Date_____

Signature on Card_____



Be a real party animal and come to this year's Mardi Paws celebration! Good food, Silent Auction with fabulous items, live music, excellent company, surprises - and all proceeds go to saving lives! Eat, drink, have a great time—and do a good deed as well! See you on March 7!



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 the Animals in Distress shelter unless otherwise noted.

★ **Mardi Paws---March 7**—Food, Fun, Live Music, Silent Auction, Prizes and Games....snow date is March 8.

★ **Easter Bazaar** Starts **March 28, 1-4**
On Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday & Sunday thru Easter

★ **Pet Photos with the Easter Bunny, March 29 & April 4,**
1 to 3:30

★ **Vera Bradley/Longaberger Basket Bingo - April 26,**
at Emmaus Fire Co. #1, 50 S. Sixth St., Emmaus, PA

Your support of these events will help our animals...and be fun for you and your family and friends. Hope to see you soon!!



PLEASE: Help us get the word out: post a copy of the event flyers in this newsletter where you work, at local stores, clubs, and other places where people may see them. You can also download them from our website, in color. Also, you can email them as attachments to friends, family, and co-workers; and you can post and share them on social media like Facebook. Please help us tell people about these worthwhile and fun events.