



"The Kennel of Hope"

Tails of Hope

The Newsletter of Animals in Distress
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Rescue: It's not just a verb,
It's a promise.



We have just passed the annual Memorial Day commemoration of those who sacrificed everything to preserve our freedom. Several very touching speeches were made, most with some version of "Thank you" and "We are here for you." The big question is, of course, HOW are "we" here for you

and your family? Several celebrities made such comments but provided NO specifics on how THEY would back up those words with actions. Since a huge number of veterans are homeless, since veterans' homes and rehab centers have had a disproportionate number of COVID 19 deaths and illnesses, and since many veterans who survived combat have severe mental and/or physical damage, it seems fair to ask people to define what they mean by such comments as "We are here for you."

Too much gets buried behind words, which can be used in negative or positive ways. Words can express the most profound and inspiring thoughts. Words can hide cruelty and deceit. Words can motivate us to be better, or they can lure us into a downward spiral, both mentally and morally.

We want to make our intent at Animals in Distress very clear: we are who we say we are. We do what we say we do. For example, we have been and always will be a true no-kill sanctuary and shelter, where every animal is precious, and no animal is killed because of health, behavior, or other problems. Another word we define very carefully is rescue: rescue doesn't just mean taking an animal in. For us, it means a lifelong commitment to do everything necessary to allow that animal to heal, both physically and emotionally. Animals with broken bones, and broken hearts, need time and care and love. Just like people. No one can say how long it takes anyone to heal, or determine the extent to which someone might heal. Sometimes, just some improvement is the most that can be achieved. That's how life is: try as hard as we might, sometimes we preserve a life but need to commit to providing extra help for that particular rescue. Just as is done for people who suffer some trauma....

Words are not worth anything unless they are backed up with specific actions, and every newsletter we send tries to offer examples of actions we have taken—to save a life AND to honor

the trust you have placed in us, through your support, your prayers, and your kindness. You will never know how much your faith in our work means to us, and to the hundreds of animals who are alive today because you cared. Our upcoming WAEB Radiothon, starting July 13, is our biggest fundraising event of the year. It will be even more challenging this year because we will not be able to hold a lot of the events we usually do, all of which help to boost the Radiothon total. Having to cancel Alumni Day and Laps of Love, as well as postpone our bingo until August 30, and cancel the live Radiothon remotes and other events, add to the enormous challenges ahead of us.

Life is full of challenges. How we meet those challenges defines who we really are. And failure is not an option for Animals in Distress. Over 300+ animals count on us to be here. Those animals have nowhere else to go. They would be dead without all of us. Knowing that motivates all of us to try our best, to never give up, and to never lose hope. The only true failure is not trying....and trying and trying and trying. We MUST be here for those who have nowhere else to go.

This newsletter contains some examples of our commitment to the rescue (as we define it) of animals who would have had no chance elsewhere. These examples of our work, of our commitment to a mission that is compassionate and positive, loving and inspiring, are a reflection of what can be accomplished with the help of you, our friends and supporters. During the National Memorial Day concert event aired on PBS on Memorial Day, various celebrities sang inspiring songs, one of which was "You are the wind beneath my wings." Birds, no matter how beautiful, cannot fly without the wind beneath their wings—the wind holds them up, supports them, and allows them to "fly." What a beautiful image. So many of our friends and supporters are in the "shadows," sending donations and kind words and heartfelt prayers so that we can save the most hopeless and forlorn creatures. We know your names, of course, but you cannot possibly know how important you are to what we do. Years ago, after the new shelter was built by Leo DeLong, owner of Bucks Development, we asked Leo what we could do to show our appreciation for all that he and his wife Wanda did to make the new shelter possible. They had donated all the engineering and design costs, much of the actual construction, etc. Leo's answer was so typical of his modesty and genuine kindness; he said: "Just take care of the animals." In those simple words was the expression of faith and encouragement in support of what we do, every day of the year.

Our friends and supporters can count on us to honor our commitment to them and to the animals we rescue. With your help and prayers, we will continue to honor the mission of our sanctuary and the faith of those who make our work possible.

[WAEB 790 AM Radiothon](#) to benefit Animals in Distress, July 13-19.

Donations for Challenge Hours and for incentive prizes are needed now.

Please contact us if you can help with either at aidpa@enter.net for email or call Rose Yanger at 610-759-2819. Donations during the on-air portion of the Radiothon are encouraged when people know that they can make every dollar they donate double or triple its value during these Challenge Hours. It's amazing to see how much more we can raise when people know that their dollars are being doubled or tripled during a Challenge Hour!! PLEASE consider donating early so we can start with a good amount toward our final total. The minimum amount for a Challenge Hour is \$500. Businesses will get on air credit for their donations, and individuals can honor or remember a loved one by offering a Challenge.

This is our biggest fundraiser and is essential to our ability to continue our work.

RADIOTHON UPDATES AND INFORMATION

No one quite knows now what to expect in July, as far as the pandemic situation. Please check our newly designed website, animalsindistresspa.org, and listen to Bobby Gunther Walsh on WAEB 790AM, for changes and updates in Radiothon activities, prizes, and other news.



VERA BRADLEY/LONGABERGER BASKET BINGO

Due to the growing concerns about groups gathering and sharing the coronavirus, our Vera Bradley/Longaberger Basket Bingo has been **re-scheduled for August 30.** Anyone who already purchased tickets and wants a refund can contact Kelly at 610-762-8553 or khart70906@aol.com. The tickets already purchased will be honored in August. Tickets are still available for those who want to reserve a seat. We strictly limit the number of participants so everyone has a great chance to win and a comfortable (and safe) place to sit!!

KENNEL OF HOPE YARD SALE, August 8 - 8am-12pm - at **Animals in Distress**—rain or shine! You may rent a table space for only \$10. Bring your own table and canopy. Contact Kelly at 610-762-8553 with questions or to reserve a space. You really should stop by and take advantage of many great items we will offer, all at reasonable prices. 100% of the money raised will go to help the shelter animals, so you can shop without guilt!!!!



Please note that all events are subject to safety concerns related to the COVID 19 crisis. Changes and cancellations will be made as needed.



Do you know how special you are? We know because we get your kind notes, full of words of encouragement. Given all the negative news right now, with violence and anger making life dangerous in some places, we thought sharing some of the GOOD news would be appropriate and healing.

Many of the families who have adopted pets from us keep in touch, as donors, volunteers, and proud adopters with updates on their pets. Many of the adopting families share pictures and wonderful reports of their pets, and their sadness when their beloved pets die. Many of our Take-A-Pet-To-Dinner sponsors love their sponsored pets so much that they send them greeting cards, gifts, and treats. You are such a wonderful, loving group of people. Words cannot express how much you mean to us and to the animals entrusted to our care.

*"...our precious CEE-CEE, the perfect cat. Beautiful, continually purring, very loveable and just a wonderful personality. We were truly blessed."
"Her pictures tell a good portion of her life with us. What a wonderful treasure for us to have. She was truly family."*

*"So sorry for all the difficulties you must be facing at this time. I am enclosing a small check. I hope it will be some help.
Love and Prayers"*

*"Thank you for all the wonderful work you do to take care of the furry pets that people don't want to love any more. All those little eyes look up with love for you as you take care of them.
God bless you!"*

"Theresa's update in the newsletter was welcome indeed. So happy she is receiving such good care and lots of love. We send our love and prayers (and a small donation) to her. Hello to everyone at AID!"



"It is always a pleasure to read your newsletter. It is so full of hope for a better world. I truly believe there is a Higher Power who cares for each single animal. I know the work you all are doing is His work being done through you His strength upholds you."

"Thank you for letting me know of Spunky's passing on over the 'Rainbow Bridge.' I'm so saddened. I was planning and will send in another \$120 to sponsor another one of God's special creatures as soon as my SS check comes in."

"I will sponsor another doggie in Spunky's memory..."

"Thank you for the picture of Spunky. He will be framed and go on my wall with my other doggies who have passed away. Spunky will always hold a place in my heart. I'm thankful someone was with him at the end."

Here's part of my stimulus check. The animals need it more than I do..."

Rescue in Action: Hannah's Story

Xray of Hannah showing bullet lodged in her shoulder



One of the most inspiring aspects of our work is watching animals who have suffered so much as they regain their health and start to heal. They are so brave, so determined, to make the most of the chance we have given them. For many of them, Animals in Distress is the first place they have felt safe and loved.

When we rescue an animal in very bad physical shape, we have no idea what to expect. One such case involves a recent rescue of a cat we named Hannah. Hannah had been scrounging for her food as part of what was supposed to be a feral colony. Like most outside cats, she was subject to various dangers, from cruel people, to aggressive animals, to inclement weather, to car and other accidents: the list goes on and on. One day, Hannah didn't appear to be doing well. The woman who was feeding her colony grew increasingly concerned over several days as Hannah got weaker and weaker until finally the poor cat could not move. Hannah laid on the woman's patio, in effect dying slowly. The woman was unable to afford veterinary care and called around to several rescues and shelters for help. None responded or were willing to do anything. Although Animals in Distress was out of the woman's geographical area, she contacted us in desperation. We could not allow that cat to die slowly and in misery. Two of our volunteers made the trip to get Hannah and were saddened by what they saw. The poor cat was clearly unable to do much for herself, and the thought that she would die slowly, alone and in misery, was unbearable.

Our veterinarian did a complete examination of Hannah and, over several days and after many tests, we found out the following. Hannah had a bullet in her shoulder. Yes, some sick person had used her for target practice. There has been an epidemic of people shooting cats (even some dogs) "for fun." In Upper Milford Township, which is near our shelter, the police are investigating an alarming epidemic of such cruelty. In addition to being shot, Hannah had been crippled, suffering neurological damage that made her unable to walk or control her bowels and bladder. Sadly, the doctor determined that her injuries were caused by someone kicking or hitting her. And as if all that were not bad enough, we discovered that Hannah was not feral at all. She obviously had been a pet at some point, until she was discarded and left to fend for herself. At only a few years old, she had been through so much. She had probably gone up to the person who crippled her, trusting that she might make a friend there.

Here is where we come back to our definition of rescue. Do we euthanize Hannah? Do we try to help her? What if she never walks again? What if her other problems continue? Those are legitimate questions, but there is only one answer for us: we have to try to help her. She has suffered so much and been abandoned by others: how can we not do something to try to help her? There are no guarantees. There is only hope...and faith...and a belief in good things happening if we never give up hope.

The bullet was removed from her shoulder and supportive care allowed her body to regain some strength. The body has an incredible ability to heal when given a chance, and Hannah tried so hard to take advantage of the chance she had been given. She was eating well and eventually started to show a little twitch in her toes. That can be a sign that her damaged nerves are starting to heal.

Hannah before surgery to remove bullet



At this point in a rescue, decisions have to be made. Medical evaluation has been done, the patient has been stabilized, and the prognosis is mixed. Will Hannah walk again? Will she regain control of her functions? Is she in unrelievable pain? Is she responding to treatment? These and so many other questions have to be answered and decisions must be made. Shall we remove the bullet? Continue to work on her other challenges? Or shall we give up on her and say "We tried our best?"

GUIDING Principles: Rescue Means Trying Our Best for Every Animal

These kinds of decisions keep us awake at night, as we struggle to do what is best for that animal. Going back to the opening thoughts on page 1 of this newsletter, we repeat our guiding principle: ***we have to try***. Life offers few guarantees, of course, but Hannah was making progress and had a good chance of some form of recovery. She definitely would live. Would we let her? If she never walks again, could we take care of her? If her bodily functions were never normal, would we put in the extra effort to keep her clean and comfortable? Did SHE seem happy? Did she WANT to live? Decisions like these weigh heavily on us and must be guided by one principle: each life is precious and deserves a chance. We have seen crippled animals, like the amazing cat Anton

who came to us paralyzed, eventually walked again, and brings joy to countless people as he attends our events and became a therapy cat in a local nursing home. Some, like our beloved Eli and Spook, never regained their mobility but had (and have in Eli's case) happy and full lives. One crippled dog we rescued got amazing results when we bought him a doggie wheelchair to support his hind legs. He literally tore around in that device so fast that we had to keep a leash on him so he wouldn't run away!! Eventually, he was adopted and, over time, regained 80% use of his back legs.

Yes, miracles are possible, with help from people who care. It is clear that Hannah wants to live...and each animal entrusted to our care can depend on us to do whatever is possible for them. We can do that ONLY with your help and support.

Meet Hannah Today!

Would you like to know what is happening with Hannah? Obviously, we continued to care for her. Physical therapy exercises are done for her several times a day, to encourage her nerves and muscles to heal. She is so good natured about all of this handling: imagine how unfair it was to label her as feral and consign her to a precarious life out in the streets.



standing at food dish

Then, one wonderful day, right after Easter, staff excitedly reported that she was actually standing in front of her food dish!! She was wobbly, of course, and couldn't stand for long: BUT SHE WAS STANDING!!!! For an animal who couldn't move her back legs to actually drag herself up into a sitting and then a standing position—for that to happen—nerves and muscles must be getting healed and strengthened. We were so happy for her: words cannot express our joy. Some things are so precious and life affirming, that we must take a pause and celebrate them. Especially in these sad times, we need to remember that small victories are possible, but only if we try. Giving up on these animals is not an option.

Giving up on Love, Kindness, and Hope is not an option—at least, in the world of Animals in Distress.

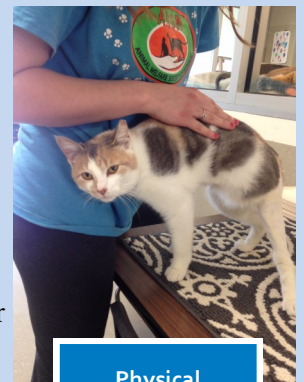
Hannah is now being fostered by AID Board member Kelly Hartnett, who has adopted several special needs cats from us. Kelly sends us regular reports of Hannah's improvement. Hannah now plays with toys, something we don't think she knew how to do before. Hannah likes to hide the toys under furniture, so Kelly thought she would put towels under Hannah's favorite hiding places so Hannah could not hide the toys there. Hannah has other plans: she removes the

towels from her hiding places and then places her toys where she thinks they need to go!

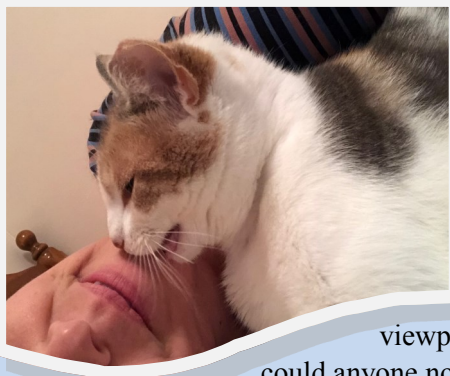
Hannah loves to cuddle with Kelly, and Kelly has acquired a carpeted ramp so Hannah can climb up on or get off the bed

safely. Imagine: Hannah now knows what it means to have a home and love. She still needs a lot of time and physical therapy so her improvement can continue. No one can predict how far back to normal she will come. But from Hannah's

viewpoint, she is loving life and showing her determination to be the best she can be. How could anyone not celebrate that?



Physical therapy



These pictures of Hannah and Kelly summarize what Animals in Distress is all about, ***thanks to YOU.***



Peluche: Finds His Forever Home *At Last!*

Several years ago, we were asked to take in a dog who had been badly abused. The poor dog had been bought as a puppy and was beaten and kicked by people who should never have

had a puppy in the first place. Finally, a nice woman convinced the abusers to let

her have the dog. She named him Peluche, meaning fuzzy bear in her language. Years went by, and Peluche was doing well. Then, the woman's husband decided to return to his native country, leaving his wife and special needs son (and Peluche) to fend for themselves. Despite her best efforts, the woman could not afford the rent they were paying and had to move. Sadly, she could not find a place she could afford where Peluche would be welcome.

She contacted several shelters and rescues, but none would help. Peluche was around 7 years old and had some memories of his past abuse. He would need special consideration in handling and placement. The owner said, for example, that Peluche did not like his head touched (which is understandable if he was kicked and hit). She was unable to find a shelter or rescue willing to make that kind of commitment. When we learned of her plight, we offered to take Peluche. The owner wept with appreciation at the relief she felt, knowing her beloved dog was going to be taken care of and not killed.

Although Peluche's former owner tried to take care of him medically, she could not afford much more than basic vaccinations from low cost clinics. Hence, when we got him in residence, we started to notice various issues with him. His one eye seemed sensitive, and he never fully raised his head as a normal dog would do. Eventually, our veterinarian and an orthopedic vet were able to determine that he had suffered damage to his neck and spine as a result of the abuse in his younger years. His eye problems were believed to be caused by the abuse as well.

Again, we are faced with decisions about what we can do for the dog who, though no fault of his own, had lost his home, his family, and some of his body function. Our response in such situations is always the same: we will try to do what is best for the animal. Peluche responded well to some orthopedic treatment by a specialist and seemed more comfortable with his neck movements. The eye had very little sight left but was able to be treated with medicated drops to reduce irritation. Peluche improved quite a bit but still reacted to people touching his head.

Because Peluche is a cute, smaller dog (considered more marketable in shelter circles!), some people expressed interest in adopting him. Obviously, he could not go to a home with rough dogs or undisciplined kids. But he seemed

to have potential for placement, after about a year or so of recovery.

Part of our commitment to each animal is finding them a home that suits their needs as well as the adopting family's. Animals are not merchandise to be sold at clearance prices! And victims of abuse like Peluche should not be subjected to more abuse by disappointed owners or go from one placement to another. It makes no sense to spend months, or years, rescuing and rehabilitating an animal, only to have it placed in another bad situation. Thoughtless placement is NOT part of responsible and caring rescue!

Over the years, Peluche had some families interested in him, BUT most did not like the fact that he was sensitive around his head. One family decided that he just wouldn't be right for them because he was "a foreign language speaking dog." Yes—believe it or not: because he was raised in a home that spoke a language other than English, he was not a good choice for them!! Finally, we found a great home for Peluche: a lovely older woman, a widow with no other pets, and a great record of responsible dog stewardship. She didn't care that Peluche's irritated eye had to be removed, or that he had developed a slight heart murmur. She said "I'm old too, and I have some health issues."

The date was set for Peluche to go to his forever home, but the nice lady never kept the appointment. When we called her, she said that she had just fallen and the hospital thought she had broken her hip. Obviously, the adoption was not going to go through. She could hardly take care of herself, let alone take care of a new dog. So, Peluche again remained with us.

A few months ago, a wonderful family who had adopted several animals from us (cats and dogs) over the decades was looking for another dog after their last AID dog and an AID cat passed away at a ripe old age. We thought that they would not consider another older dog, after two they had for many, many years. But they had met Peluche before, when the mother had volunteered at the shelter, and they were willing to give him a loving home for the rest of his life.

It takes very caring people to look at an older or special needs animal and see all the possibilities with that animal, rather than seeing the limitations. If everyone could focus on the good in all of us, rather than our negatives, the world would be a perfect place for creatures great and small. Peluche is doing well. He is being a gentleman around the family's cats and is enjoying having a family of his own. By the way, since his eye was removed, he is a lot less sensitive about having his head touched.

Peluche may not have sight in that eye, and he may have lost most of his hearing, but he can "see" and "hear" with his heart. Wouldn't the world be a better place if we all could learn to do that?

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

Enclosed is my gift of \$_____ so that the neediest pets, like Hannah and Peluche, get a second chance in a world that seldom gives second chances.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Check box if you prefer that we don't send you a receipt.

☐

Check is Enclosed or Charge my Credit Card

Card Number _____ Exp. Date _____

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Signature _____



Hannah says: "Thanks from all us little guys!"

A Matter of Commitment and Trust

This newsletter highlights a few rescue stories of animals who would not have had a chance without our sanctuary. A rescue isn't over when the animal is admitted. Physical and behavioral issues have to be addressed, and that takes time and resources. Never forget that none of this is possible without your help and support.

100% of every dollar you donate goes directly to save animals like Hannah and Peluche. No one gets paid for administrative, fundraising, and other such non-animal care duties. Our funds go directly and totally to save lives, not to fancy offices, expensive mailings and television commercials, costly events, and executive salaries.

Our WAEB Radiothon, which starts with its on air appeals on July 13, is our biggest annual fundraiser, last year generating over \$159,000 in donations. That is an impressive total, and we used every dollar for animal rescue and care.

As this newsletter was being written, we were contacted by someone who found a very sick cat hiding in a barn wall on a local farm. The man was desperate to help the cat, since no one else would, but lacked the resources to do so. We immediately arranged to have the cat admitted to a local emergency clinic. Sadly, the poor cat was so far gone that it was having multiple seizures, and nothing could be done to save it. We console ourselves with the fact that we tried to help it, and we find solace in knowing that the poor cat didn't die slowly, in agony and fear.

With your support, we are able to save many animals. Even those we cannot save are still better off than if we didn't help them.

Think about the irony of that moment: We were writing stories of hope and encouragement in even seemingly hopeless rescues, and rejoicing that Hannah and Peluche were examples of our dedication and unswerving efforts on behalf of each rescue. And then there are those we cannot save, like the cat today.

Please understand that the ones we do save are even more precious because we know that we can't save every animal. Some people don't like to hear about the ones that don't survive. But we want you to understand that the ones we do save are even more precious because they are proof that we can work miracles, with YOUR help. We shed tears for some, but we are thankful for the miraculous recovery of most. We cannot thank our friends and supporters enough for making our work possible. Our biggest fear is that some day, we would not have the resources to help animals like Hannah and Peluche. But we know that our friends understand the importance of their help. Thank you, from the bottom of our hearts, for believing in us and our mission of unconditional hope and kindness.

Any donation for the Radiothon will be much appreciated. We try to get as much money raised as possible, before the Radiothon starts, so we can inspire others to give what they can. Our challenge is great, especially in these sad and difficult times. But we know you will do what you can...for the animals who have no hope without ALL of us.

ANIMALS IN DISTRESS

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Hey, we need
your help now
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Please help us
Little Guys.



Check out our website at animalsindistresspa.org for news and updates.

WAEB 790AM
Radiothon starts July
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calendar now, so you
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important event, that
is dedicated totally to
raising funds to rescue
and rehabilitate
desperate and injured
cats and dogs. Check
out all the details
inside.