



"The Kennel of Hope"

# Tails of Hope

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

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## *A Message of Hope and Gratitude*

As we approach the end of 2020, we reflect on the many challenges this year has brought to the whole world. Death, uncertainty, economic issues, racial tensions, natural disasters...the list goes on and on. You know all of this because this information has filled our lives through news broadcasts, social media, direct mail, etc. Some people have said that we are in a hopeless situation. Some see a better day in the future.

In the midst of all of this chaos, Animals in Distress has steadfastly gone about saving lives. We have had to cancel or modify many events and practices, but we never lost sight of our responsibility to save the lives of the most desperate and hopeless animals. Excuses aren't acceptable when lives are on the line. Broken bones and broken hearts can be healed, IF we never lose sight of our goals.



For example, we rescued a kitten who had been hit by a car. The poor kitten was terribly traumatized, and appeared to have suffered head and brain damage. When we first saw it (see picture at left), it was lying lifeless—and hopeless—having abandoned any thought of being able to move or run away. The kitten was rushed to the vet for treatment. The kitten was named Melissa after the kind woman who rescued the kitten off the road. Several tense days went by, while Melissa's body responded to the supportive treatment she was getting. She wasn't eating, we thought possibly because of an injured or broken jaw, so she was syringe fed. It appears that she had suffered a fractured skull, broken nose, and gash in her chin. Gradually, she stabilized enough so we could bring her back to the shelter, where she continues to recuperate. She is very scared yet but knows that we are trying to help her.



shape. Her thigh was encased in the tar. When the fur was shaved, a big open gash was discovered underneath. It had to be sutured. She and her 6 babies are now safe and recovering at Animals in Distress.

And then there's Manny, a dog adopted from us in 2008. The dog had been taped inside a container and abandoned. He was adopted in 2008. However, his owner can no longer care for him so he is back where he started. Our adoption process includes a firm commitment to every animal we place: if the owner cannot take care of the adopted animal, it must come back to us. That animal will never be homeless or unwanted again. That is a huge commitment for any organization. We contacted some volunteers who knew Manny when he was residing with us, hoping Manny would adjust better if he recognized a friend from the past. One of them had taken Manny through our Canine Good Citizen Class back in 2007, before Manny was adopted, and had always kept Manny in his heart. After introducing Manny to his two other AID dogs, to make sure they were all compatible, the volunteer took Manny home.

***The list of stories goes on and on, well beyond the length of hundreds of newsletters. However, the point is this: YOU make these rescues possible. Your support and prayers make our work possible. As George Bailey learns in the holiday movie favorite It's a Wonderful Life, a person is never poor or hopeless as long as he or she has friends. Thank you for being our friend. Thank you for caring about those forgotten by others.***

***As you approach the holidays, please know that you are in our hearts and our prayers. Take great satisfaction in knowing that YOU have helped save lives, YOU have offered hope and a second chance, to those abandoned by others.***

***Despite the chaos around us, we can choose Love, Hope, and Peace. We can believe in the ability to do something worthwhile and life saving, IF we remember that TOGETHER we can write happy endings to sad stories.***



Or there is a litter of kittens and their mother (pictured at left AFTER she was recovering), covered in tar. The poor mother was pregnant and sought refuge in a body shop. Imagine how desperate a mother (whether human or animal) becomes when she has to provide not only for herself but for her offspring. Workers at the body shop did what they could but the tar was embedded in their fur, so they reached out for help. The mother cat, was named Mamma Mia, was in the worst

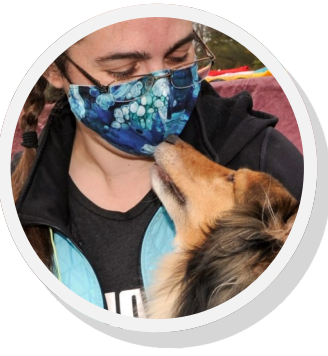


## *Fun and Games at Wag Walk 2020!!*

Thanks to all who participated in our annual Wag Walk at Lake Nockamixon. Beautiful weather along with lots of positive energy made another successful (and safe) event. In these days of COVID, we tried to practice all the CDC safety protocols while also providing a fun and positive day for all, including dozens of dogs AND two cats!

We raised over \$6,700 of much needed funds. Brenda Bolster was again the leader in soliciting sponsorship money, along with Karen Winston. Best of all, the dogs –and Anton the wonder cat—seemed to be having a great time: it was fun for them and their humans too.

Special thanks to the volunteers who did all the work for this event: prize soliciting, set-up of tents and tables, food serving, registration, bookkeeping....the list goes on and on. Sometimes, we stop to reflect on the endless generosity of time and money that our volunteers show. Most of them are at the shelter and see, firsthand, what all their efforts are for. Thanks to Anita Bielecki for these shots of a day well spent.







## 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 purrson 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 a 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 2020 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: \_\_\_\_\_

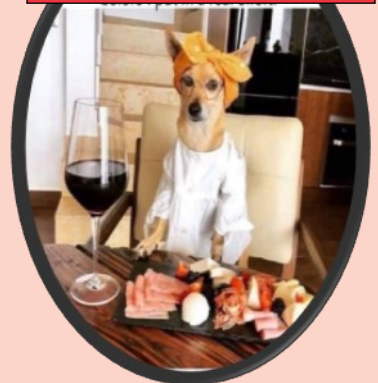
Authorized Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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.

Will you be my sponsor?



# *Holiday Fun 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 and Pet Photos with Santa Paws* are **CANCELLED** due to the pandemic. We want all our dear friends to be safe above all else.

It's been rumored that Santa Paws might make an appearance at the Basket Social



### *Craft and Gift Bazaar, Basket Social\* and Goodies-to-go, Saturday and Sunday, December 12 & 13, 10 am to 4 pm*

Fabulous selection of craft and gift items, as well as a huge assortment of baskets **\*Baskets filled with various items are needed and can be brought to the shelter and 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.** \*Because we are still closed to the public, baskets can be left on the front porch of the kennel building any day, until Friday, Dec. 11. Volunteers and staff are in and out all day caring for the 350+ residents of our sanctuary, and will bring them inside. Drawing of the Basket Social Winners will be at 4 pm on Dec. 13. If you need to make special arrangements to deliver your baskets, please contact by calling or texting Kelly at 610-762-8553 or email her at [khart70906@aol.com](mailto:khart70906@aol.com).

*Happy Holidays Gift Bazaar Continues and Basket Social Winners Pickup of Baskets they won* at the shelter, **12 to 4 pm, Sat, and Sun Dec. 19 & 20.** 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.

*After Christmas Craft and Gift Bazaar, Sunday, December 27, 1-4 pm.* Get some after Christmas bargains. Bring your newsletter and you are eligible for a drawing to win a discount on all Holiday merchandise!! You can get 10, 20, 30, 40, or even 50% off!!!!



**\*\*\*\*We will be following CDC guidelines to provide safety for all involved. Wear masks, keep a social distance of 6+ feet, use hand sanitizer, and limit your stay to approximately 15 minutes if there are people waiting to get inside. We will limit the number of people inside to approx.. 10, not counting volunteers. Your cooperation is gratefully appreciated.\*\*\*\***

# 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 giving, not getting; 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 name, 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 Gift Bazaar and Basket Social on December 12-13 and continue through Bazaar on Dec. 19-20 and the After Christmas Bazaar on Dec. 27.

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 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 website 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**

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

**Total Enclosed at \$35 each: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**For Poinsettia Tributes**

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

=====



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: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

.....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 Melissa, Mamma Mia and her babies, Manny, and so many others. 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 \_\_\_\_\_

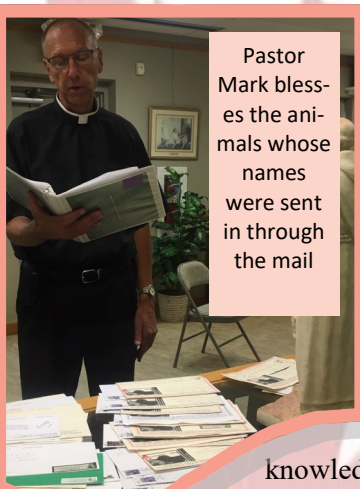


**Check this box if you do NOT want a receipt for your donation**

☐

## ***Blessing of the Animals : A Way 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 bring photos of pets who were too scared or ill to attend, and some bring pets who would not be alive by the Blessing next year.

This year, because of COVID 19, we decided to do a virtual blessing over ZOOM. The thought of not having the Blessing was too sad, so we decided to try connecting over the internet. Nothing is ever a substitute for being together in person, but our first attempt at holding a virtual event actually turned out very well, with around 500 pets (including those residing at our sanctuary as those whose names were sent through the mail plus those in virtual attendance on ZOOM) getting blessed. Pastor Sharon O'Connor of Delaware provided the technical



knowledge as well as music and coordination, to keep us all connected. Pastor Mark Swanson of Hegins did a heartfelt prayer and homily. Both Pastor 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, even over the internet!

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. The pandemic has stressed a lot of people, who have had to change how they do things, from holiday get-togethers to shopping to basic socialization. Maybe there is a lesson to be learned here: we are connected by our love and kindness towards each other. We miss seeing and hugging and chatting in person, but that doesn't mean that we care any less. Better days will come, and life will become easier (we hope). In the meantime, please keep us and all our shelter animals in your hearts and prayers, and we will do the same for you.

# ANIMALS IN DISTRESS

P.O. BOX 609  
COOPERSBURG, PA 18036

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
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Lehigh Valley, PA  
Permit No. 271

DATED MATERIAL . . . PLEASE RUSH

Current Resident

**HELLO!**

Read my story on page 1. Look how I am doing now (see my picture—aren't I a cutie?) And compare it with the picture of me more dead than alive on page 1. I would be dead if it weren't for folks like YOU.

We would love to have you participate in some of the activities listed in this newsletter. We have had to adjust some events due to COVID, but we want you to know that YOU are very special to us. YOU make everything possible, including saving the life of sad and abandoned pets like me.

Love, *Melissa*

