



"The Kennel of Hope"

# Tails of Hope

The Newsletter of Animals in Distress | P.O. Box 609 Coopersburg, PA 18036  
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## Are you desperate to hear about GOOD things happening in this world?

Rather than all the sadness, divisiveness, and negativity that seem to fill the media and infiltrate our everyday lives, wouldn't it be nice to celebrate Goodness, Kindness, and Compassion for others? Especially during the holiday season, we yearn for a message of Hope and Love and Faith. Instead, we are bombarded with the opposite.

This newsletter is our attempt to counteract all of the negative and destructive happenings with positive and loving messages, stories that prove the existence of Love, Hope, and Compassion all around us.

We wanted to send you a gift to express our gratitude for your love and support, but we know that you would not want us to spend precious dollars on "gifts" like mailing labels, calendars, and other such stuff. So this newsletter and the stories in it, all very real, represent our holiday gift to you. We didn't buy it in a store. We went to our animals for this message. If they could talk, they would tell you how very much your love has meant, and still means, to them.





## *A Special Message from a Cat's Purrerspective*

This message is delivered by Hannah, the rescue who came to us with multiple injuries including paralysis, bullet wounds, etc. After surgery and extensive rehabilitation, Hannah is able to walk (sort of) and is living proof that we can, together, make miracles possible.

I love that this newsletter is going to focus on happy things. We all know that many people—and way too many animals—have a lot of sadness and tragedy in their lives. But we rescued animals have learned (the hard way) that if you focus on the bad in the world, your spirit dies. So, I want to share with you a happy ‘tail’ of sorts (don’t you love my sense of humor?!) from our shelter, accompanied by a picture that should make you smile.



Fizz (pictured to the left) came to Animals in Distress as a kitten, was adopted out, and was returned 3 years later due to family problems (not because of anything she did). She is black with some white, and a really sweet cat. But no one noticed her. This happens a lot in rescue: animals who really did nothing wrong wind up being homeless and hopeless. If they’re older, or have a health issue, or a behavior issue, or just aren’t all that “marketable,” they are often deemed worthless and are euthanized as not “adoptable,” whatever that means! How very sad.

BUT at Animals in Distress, every animal rescued is guaranteed a home for the rest of its life. If a suitable home isn’t found, then the pet will remain at our sanctuary, loved and cared for. If a pet is adopted, and the family can no longer care for it, the pet has a safe refuge back at Animals in Distress. That commitment is unconditional. No matter how full our shelter gets, none of its animals will ever be turned away.

We see how wonderful and deserving these animals are. We see that they deserve a second chance, or a third, or fourth, or fifth one.

After 9 years, we ran Fizz’s picture in the ISO section of **The Morning Call**, praying that just one person would see how deserving she is. Miracle of miracles, a senior couple saw her picture and just sensed that she was the right cat for them. They fell in love with her. They didn’t care about her age, saying that *“We seniors have to look out for each other.”*

After all these years waiting to be discovered, Fizz is spending Christmas in her new home, loving all the attention and feeling safe and wanted.

So many animals (and people) are wonderful but get overlooked and discarded. Maybe the ultimate lesson here is that we need to slow down and take the time to appreciate those who don’t have a loud voice or a flashy style. Some of us need to learn to listen and to see with our hearts.

To everyone who supports our rescue work and the ongoing care of hundreds of our rescues, YOU make everything possible. We keep telling you that because it is so true. As much as we might want to, we cannot save these animals without your help.

Keep smiling, dear friends, and remember that we love you for caring about all of us.

*Love and Licks from Hannah and the 350 other animals spending the holidays at AID*



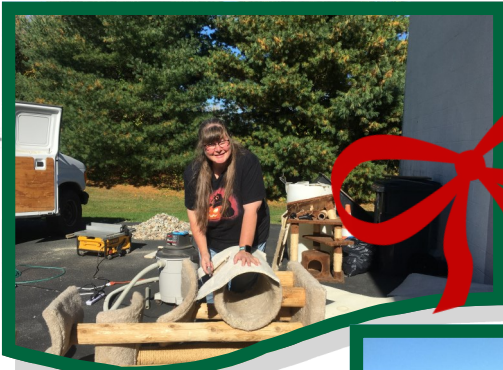


## Going to the Cats? And Dogs??

The Dream Weavers Canine Agility group donated a full day of hard work to re-carpet and repair several cat trees. As you can see from these pictures, they did an incredible job and worked wonders to restore the much used (and abused!) cat trees that had been well loved by the 300+ cats in our cat kennel.

Clawing is a natural activity for cats, and relieves stress and satisfies an inborn tendency to flex the claws. It is so kind of this group, which is devoted to dog agility, to take on the task of making the shelter cats feel better by having new carpeting to enjoy.

If our cats could speak, they would express their appreciation to these people and also thank those who originally donated those cat trees and condos.



THANK  
YOU





## ***Do You Remember Your First Dog? Your First Cat? Or Other Pet?***

The adorable dog in the picture is Barkley. He was found dirty and loaded with parasites and had been neglected for quite some time.

We got him cleaned up, vaccinated, neutered, etc. so he could be offered for adoption. We do this for all of our rescues, of course, and like to get to know the animal before placing it in a family.

We had a lot of interest in Barkley: after all, he's little, cute, friendly, and younger. And of the people expressing interest, one family, with 4 children in their teens, stood out. The children had been petitioning for a dog for a long time, but their parents insisted that nothing would happen with a dog until the children were responsible enough to meaningfully participate in Barkley's care.

The family has had other, less demanding pets, of course, to allow the children to demonstrate that they are ready for a dog.

Barkley will be spending this Christmas, and the rest of his life, being adored by his new family. He is the perfect dog, we are told, and is just what the family wanted—and needed.

The picture above says everything we need to tell you about how Barkley is doing. Thank you for making this rescue and adoption possible. Thank you for caring.

Among our most profound memories of childhood, for many of us, is our pets. For some children, their pet is their best friend, their confidant. Pets don't judge us; they just love us. Pets don't tell our secrets or blame us for our mistakes; they just love us.

When we place animals in homes, we are especially mindful of taking great care where there are children involved, especially if the children have never had a dog or cat. The memories of their very first dog or cat will often create a strong lesson in how precious pets can be and how important it is to understand the commitment required when bringing another life into the family.

When parents delay getting a pet until the children are old enough to understand the responsibility and commitment required, we are very supportive to do what we can to reinforce the lessons of responsibility and commitment for the life of that animal. Pets aren't toys; they deserve love and care forever.



## *Here in this house...*

**I will never know the loneliness I hear in the barks  
of the other dogs 'out there'.  
I can sleep soundly, assured that when I wake my world  
will not have changed.**

**I will never know hunger, or the fear of not knowing if I'll eat.  
I will not shiver in the cold, or grow weary from the heat.  
I will feel the sun's heat, and the rain's coolness, and be  
allowed to smell all that can reach my nose.  
My fur will shine, and never be dirty or matted.**

**Here in this house...  
There will be an effort to communicate with me on my level.  
I will be talked to and, even if I don't understand,  
I can enjoy the warmth of the words.**

**I will be given a name so that I may know who I am among many.  
My name will be used in joy, and I will love the sound of it!**

**Here in this house...  
I will never be a substitute for anything I am not.  
I will never be used to improve peoples' images of themselves.  
I will be loved because I am who I am, not someone's idea of  
who I should be.  
I will never suffer for someone's anger, impatience, or stupidity.**

**I will be taught all the things I need to know to be loved by all.  
If I do not learn my lessons well, they will look to my teacher  
for blame.**

**Here in this house...  
I can trust arms that hold, hands that touch...knowing that,  
no matter what they do, they do it for the good of me.  
If I am ill, I will be doctored. If scared, I will be calmed. If sad,  
I will be cheered.**

**No matter what I look like, I will be considered beautiful and  
known to be of value.**

**I will never be cast out because I am too old, too ill, too unruly,  
or not cute enough.**

**My life is a responsibility, and not an afterthought.**

**I will learn that humans can almost, sometimes, be as kind  
and as fair as dogs.**

**Here in this house...**

***I will belong. I will be home.***



## Impassioned Volunteerism

Over the decades, our shelter has existed because of the generosity of many people. In addition to donating money, many people donate their time to do things that we otherwise would have to pay for. We only pay our wonderful staff for animal care tasks. Everything else, from writing this newsletter and keeping the financial records to answering correspondence, to changing furnace filters and pulling weeds, to maintaining our website, and...the list goes on and on and on. Everything else is done by unpaid volunteers.

One of our founders, Mildred Shirk, gave the term 'impassioned volunteerism' to describe our dedicated core volunteers who understand that what they have chosen to do represents a lifestyle choice, not just something to do when they have a few hours to fill.

We thought you would enjoy hearing about some of the hundreds of volunteer efforts that help us exist. The shelter animals get the benefit of EVERY dollar you donate, or every dollar we save because you donate your time and talent. Our Board members do countless jobs and exhibit every day their selfless devotion and generosity to the animals who rely on all of us for their lives.

Let's start with a recent dog training class just for shelter dogs. Dusty Springer donated her time to teach the Canine Good Citizen class for some of our adoptable but rough-around-the-edges canines. Two of those dogs have actually been adopted recently.

### CGC Class 2020



Many thanks to trainer Dusty Springer and the following volunteers: Bart, Heather, Bob J, Bill, Kathy and Adam.

## KENNEL VOLUNTEERS

Despite the pandemic, we have been able to allow some volunteers to visit on Monday nights to walk dogs and socialize cats, and a select few visit at other times: some walk or train dogs, some clean in the cat wing, and some work on the property.

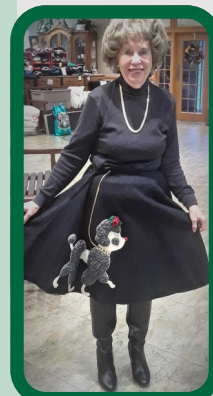
Pictured at left is Lee Kocielek, one of our most loyal dog volunteers (her family owns Kiffle Kitchen Bakery). Lee spends hours with each dog she takes out. When asked why she spends so much time with each dog, she responded that she wanted them to have a nice visit outside, where they can relax, get petted, gobble some treats, and feel like they are loved by a special someone.

Anita and Bill come to work on dog rehabilitation on a weekly basis, and have devoted countless hours to helping the most challenging dogs..



## Age Isn't Important

Our volunteers are all ages and backgrounds. Recently, a longtime volunteer and cat/dog adopter, Audree Chase, passed away after a battle with cancer. This picture was taken in November 2019, with Audree sporting a poodle skirt and her dancing boots. She was celebrating her 86th birthday!!





## God Bless Us Everyone!

Although we missed seeing a lot of our friends at Open House and Pet Photos with Santa Paws, we are able to see some folks at the Basket Social and Gift Bazaar. In looking at the pictures from many years of open houses in December, we are reminded of what a wonderful "family" we have at and through Animals in Distress.

We are reminded again that family isn't about biological connections only: it is also about connections of hearts. In the song **I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas**, the line that comes to mind is "I'm dreaming of a white Christmas, if only in my heart."

Those who care about and support our work, some of whom will never actually visit the shelter and touch the animals they have saved, are part of our Christmas in our hearts.

The poinsettias, ornaments, and wreaths bearing the names of people or pets being honored or remembered fill the room with gentle memories of those who could not be present physically, but who are remembered with Love. Some of you send in such tributes year

after year, keeping the memory of loved ones alive—and honoring those still living by sharing your love with our shelter animals.

Every dollar donated or raised through these events goes to save lives. We cannot stress enough how important your support is to our ability to continue our rescue and rehabilitation work.

These animals come to us with broken bones—and broken hearts. Please be as generous as possible, so the animals spending Christmas with us this year, and the many who will be rescued in the upcoming year, will have a safe and loving home with us for as long as they need it.

No one is paid for non-animal care duties, and no tax dollars are received. YOU and others who care make the difference between life and death. No one gets big salaries, and no money is wasted on television commercials and marketing expenses.



## Can You Help?

A significant reason for our survival is the inclusion of Animals in Distress in people's wills and estate planning. Without such bequests, we would not have been able to survive, and we certainly would not have been able to build the new shelter. Please consider giving the gift of life by remembering us when thinking about your estate.

A recent law makes it possible for those who reach 70 1/2 years old to have their required minimum withdrawal from their retirement accounts go directly to a charity, without being taxed. That means that 100% of the donation is made with non-taxed funds.

And don't forget to provide for the care of any pets you have. Too often, people assume that their pets will be cared for, but the reality is that pet guardians must make specific provisions to guarantee the welfare of their precious pet family members.

Any animal adopted from Animals in Distress is guaranteed a home at the shelter for the rest of its life, if something happens to the owner. This is a huge commitment on our part and one we have always honored.



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

**Enclosed is my donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to keep Hope and Love alive at Animals in Distress, for pets like Fizz, Hannah, Barkley, and so many others.**

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*Thank you for caring for  
those without a voice.*

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*May you find joy in the happy  
stories in this newsletter. Have a  
wonderful howliday and may  
all your wishes come true.*

