



"The Kennel of Hope"

The Newsletter of Animals in Distress
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Tails of Hope

Beginning the New Year

enjoy the
little things
in life

for one day you
may look back
and realize that
they were the **big** things.

As we start another year, we are mindful of how important our friends are to our ability to save lives and offer unconditional love to animals who have no other place to go. So many people keep our sanctuary and its animals in their hearts and prayers, and we can never express how grateful we are.

Since we don't spend money on calendars, mailing labels, and other such promotional gifts (money that could be used to save lives instead), we offer this newsletter as a way of sharing what is going on and what we are accomplishing with YOUR help.

So much is happening in the world right now, and it is so easy to get discouraged and pessimistic. So much seems cruel, thoughtless, and out of control. Many of us would like to "fix" such problems, but we lack the ability to do so. However, there is so much we can do to make things better. As Mother Theresa said, "There is no greatness except in little things."

Her comment is so profound. We must not give up because we can't do something on a grandiose scale. Each of us, no matter age or gender or job or education or religious belief, EACH of us has the power to change the world by doing "little" things that add up to something quite important.

Nothing shows that more than the outpouring of donations, gifts for the animals, kind and inspiring cards and letters, and so much more from people who believe that our work matters, that each animal saved represents a life that would have been snuffed out without our life affirming mission.

This newsletter will try to share with you some examples of how the world is a better place because of YOU. Never think that one act of kindness, or one kind word, does not matter. Put them together and they have a huge impact. How do we know this? Because Animals in Distress has been a sanctuary and shelter for many thousands of animals over the past 44 years only because of countless acts of kindness and support,

Thank you for your belief in what we do. We honor your trust in us by saving animals who have no hope elsewhere, and using 100% of donations to care for those animals, not to pay administrative salaries, do mass marketing and other non-animal care uses of funds.

Feel uplifted knowing that YOU are special. YOU have made a difference. And YOU are loved by the Animals in Distress animals (and people too). May 2021 bring you health, happiness, and hope that, together, we can achieve wonderful and life affirming results—one "little thing" at a time.



HOLIDAYS Filled with Love and Hope

The Holidays were different this year, with modified events and limited visits from the public. Despite all of the challenges, the fact remains that our friends shared their love and support with us in an overwhelming loving and generous way.

The Hospitality Center was decorated everywhere with the poinsettia tributes, ornaments, and wreaths bearing the names of beloved pets and people being honored or remembered. Love was manifested everywhere you looked, and love transcends time and distance: it exists in a way that touches the heart and soul. Thank you for sharing your Love with us.

We also received such loving notes and cards, along with donations. So many people were thanking and blessing us for what we do. We treasure your kind words and prayers. Those who support our work don't usually get to see all these loving notes but we are



inspired and strengthened by such encouragement. We are sharing just a few of them here, so you can know how much of a difference you are making by helping Animals in Distress save animals who would have little or no chance elsewhere.

One person wrote:



"God bless all of you for all you do for all that can't help themselves!

We said a Prayer for all of the animals out in this bitter cold weather, both domestic and wild.

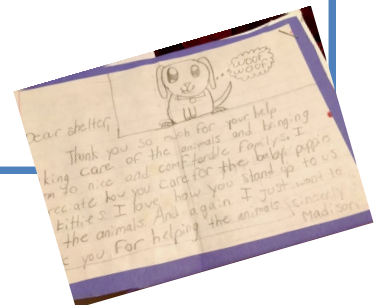
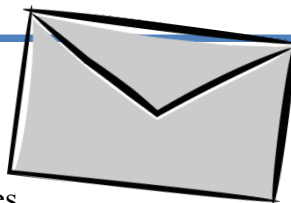
When they saw the star, they were overjoyed (Matthew 2:10) as all of you are when you find an Animal in Distress."

A student named Madison at Trumbauersville Elementary School in Quakertown sent a hand drawn card:

"Thank you so much for your help taking care of the animals and bringing them to nice and comfortable families. I appreciate how you care for the baby puppies and kitties.

I love how you stand up for us and the animals.

And again, I just want to thank you for helping the animals."



We get a lot of notes and updates about pets we have placed in loving homes. We always say that the adopting families become part of the extended Animals in Distress "family":

"Almost two years ago, we adopted Max from Animals in Distress. He continues to be a great source of joy in our lives, and it's hard to remember life before we had him. We will be forever grateful that we were able to adopt him from such a caring organization."

Santa Paws Had A Lot of Help This Year!!

Some people chose to have items shipped to us via Amazon, Chewy.com**, and other such services. And people brought huge amounts of donations of food, treats, toys, litter, beds, and other items. One standout in this category was Jack Lehr Electric, who services our HVAC system. As they did last year, they asked their staff and customers to donate to Animals in Distress. The results of their kind efforts were overwhelming. They delivered two vans full of goodies from our Wish List. Absolutely amazing effort! The group from Lehr is pictured below. Our shelter dog Buddy came out to thank two of them in person (he is pictured with the two ladies on the sofa)

Many thanks to our volunteers who donated baskets for the basket social and to Kelly Hartnett, Linda Hofert, and other volunteers for getting everything ready for the basket social and other public access activities.

We set a record for Take-A-Pet-To-Dinner sponsorships, as reported by Rose Yanger, program coordinator. We love knowing that the recipients of those sponsorships will be getting updates throughout the year about their special pet(s). By the way, many sponsors send greeting cards and gifts to their sponsored pets, and they rejoice when they get adopted...and weep if they die. It is not unusual to see greeting cards and nice notes posted in the cat and dog kennels on the runs and rooms housing the sponsored pets.

And, of course, the Holiday Tribute program resulted in an amazing display of poinsettias, ornaments, and wreaths bearing the names of pets and people, being remembered and honored. What a wonderful way to celebrate the holidays and letting people know of your kindness while helping save lives. Some people who have adopted from us send in tributes every holiday, for as long as their adopted pet is alive and even after it has died. They know that love doesn't die with the loss of life; what we hold dear in our hearts can never die, and our fondest memories will be with us forever.



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.

****People who want to send something for the shelter animals from Chewy.com can do so from a wish list we have posted there. To access the list,**

Go to Home/overview and click "Donate to a Rescue" at the bottom of the page.

Click "Find a rescue"

Search for Animals in Distress in PA and click on our name

Shop for products from our wish list or send a gift card.

Items ship directly to us and are tax free because we are a 501c3. Free shipping on orders of \$49+. If someone doesn't have an account but signs up for one to send us a donation, we get an additional \$15.

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.

Animals in Distress Membership Renewal/Enrollment Form

Please detach or copy this coupon and return it, along with a SASE, 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:

Card # _____ Exp. Date _____

Name on card _____

Authorized Signature _____

**Please enroll / renew (circle one) my 2021 AID
Membership in the following category**

(select one):

☐ **Life** - \$250 (once payable)

☐ **Senior** (65 and older) - \$10

☐ **Sustaining** - \$50

☐ **Active** - \$20

☐ **Corporate** - \$500

How Much one Picture Can Mean So Much

If you were driving through our parking lot area after the recent blizzard that left our shelter with almost 3 feet of snow to deal with, you would notice huge piles of snow everywhere. Our volunteers, especially Bob Johnson, did a heroic job of snow blowing and shoveling to open up the entrances, dog exercise yards, pathways, storage building, dumpster and propane tank areas....the list goes on and on.

We must hire people to do plowing and salting since we have neither the equipment nor trained manpower to operate machines capable of dealing with moving that amount of snow. We haven't gotten all the bills yet for all the recent storms but expect them to be in the thousands, even though Bob and others did some of the work around the buildings.

What is the alternative? Our first priority is the care of our animals and the ability of our staff to safely get to the shelter. The entrance must be kept open, or the staff cannot get in, and the animals are stranded.

Some of our devoted staff and volunteers actually slept over so there would be staff to do the basic tasks. When we think about the animals we have on medical support care for diabetes, heart disease, kidney problems, etc., having a lapse in their care could prove fatal. Our devoted staff knows this and did everything in their power to make sure the animals were cared for.

More snow storms are forecast as this newsletter is being written, and we don't know what might happen. However, we have faith in our staff and volunteers to do what is necessary to protect the health and safety of our 350 shelter residents.

In that context, let's take a look at the picture of one of our shelter dogs in the side exercise yard. She is standing at the door waiting to be let back inside after her potty/exercise break. Most people would pass by that scene and not think much about it. What can one simple picture say? The answer is: LOTS.

If you study the picture, you can see that Midnight is standing patiently waiting for the door to be opened so she can go back inside to her bed, her toys, her safe place. ***She trusts that someone will open that door, and that she will be safe and loved.*** This dog, who had been used as a bait dog and is covered in scars, who had been on death row at another shelter, who had been saved at the last



Waiting for the dog
kennel door to open

minute by someone who tried to care for her but developed heart problems and couldn't keep her, who had literally no place to go: this dog, who has been at Animals in Distress for over a year, without being adopted or getting much interest, this dog who is black and in a group of animals who are black and least likely to be adopted and most likely to be euthanized, THIS dog who had found love, safety, and kindness at Animals in Distress: THIS dog who would be dead if not for all of us, together, supporting the life saving work that we do...THIS dog stood waiting to be let inside. She trusted that she had a home with us.

Moments like that remind us of the promise we make to every animal we rescue, no matter age, or color, or medical and behavioral challenges: we promise them a home and unconditional acceptance for as long as they need us. The harsh weather and the deep snow made it difficult, if not impossible, for some animals to even be able to move around (especially the stray and outside cats). That cold and fierce weather means an agonizing death for many homeless animals, and even those who have what some could call a "home" but are kept outside in miserable conditions.



Midnight (pictured at left) is so appreciative of being with us. She wags her tail to greet everyone and doesn't harbor resentment because of the cruelty inflicted upon her.

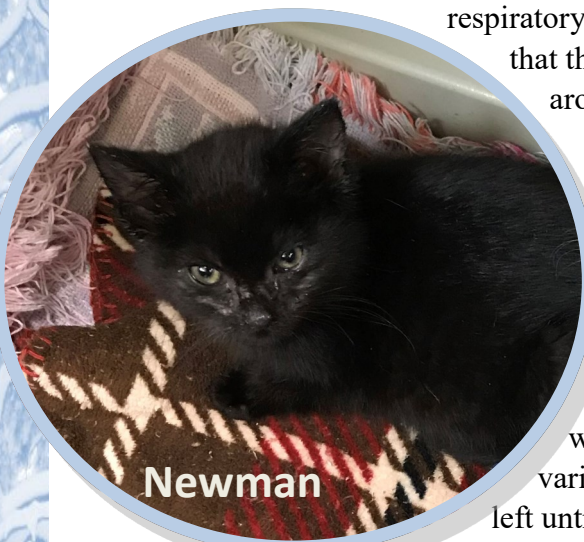
She represents every animal in our shelter, every animal we have ever rescued: that door will always be open for them, and they will never again know what it is to be forlorn, scared, homeless, and hopeless.

YOUR support makes that possible. Bless you for caring.

Babies in the Blizzard

Those of us who are sensitive to animals have been exceedingly concerned about all the animals stuck out in the cold. Even wildlife has been challenged to survive in deep snow and limited food and water access. How anyone could think about abandoning any animal, let alone baby animals, in such weather is unthinkable. Sadly, however, it happens—more than you would like to believe.

We got a call from a frantic woman who found a box in her yard that evidently contained kittens (as she found out later), but the kittens were nowhere to be found. By the time she and her husband were able to find them, several days had gone by, and the kittens were in rough shape, with a severe upper respiratory infection. Mucus was caked on all their faces to the extent that the one kitten struggled to breathe. The desperate lady called around for help but got none until she called us.



Newman

The kittens were rushed to an emergency clinic since it was a Sunday when most vet hospitals are closed, and all were cleaned up and given antibiotics and supportive care. The black kitten we named Newman was the worst of the three and eventually was diagnosed with pneumonia. Another kitten, Nellie, had a growth in its ear that had to be surgically removed after the kitten recovered enough to withstand anesthesia. And all three are still suffering with various intestinal parasites (coccidia, roundworms, etc.) that, if left untreated, could lead to severe anemia and death.

The alternative, of course, would be to do nothing. After all, as some might say, they're "just cats." Imagine their fate if it weren't for Animals in Distress, a true Kennel of Hope, for the most desperate and hopeless animals.

We can only do this work, we can only work these miracles, we can only save lives with Your help. All of us, together, can make such a difference, bringing light into darkness, life into death, love into cruelty. As we always stress, our mission is to save lives, and to respect the miracles that each life represents.



Nutmeg

These snow kittens, as we call them, and so many others are safe and loved every day, every night, no matter what. That is our solemn promise to them and to all who call Animals in Distress their sanctuary and their home, for as long as they need it.



Nellie

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

Enclosed is my gift of \$_____ so that the neediest pets Midnight, Newman, Millie, and Nutmeg can 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 _____

Name on card (print) _____ Signature _____

Thank You for Lending Many Friendly Paws a Helping Hand!



Upcoming Events

Due to the ongoing challenges of the pandemic, it is unlikely that we will be able to safely offer some of the events that our friends are used to in the spring. The bingo has been moved (again) to September, Mardi Paws has been cancelled, and it looks like Alumni Day, the Wag Walk, and the Commemorative Journal will also be cancelled. We are planning to hold a Yard Sale on April 10 at the shelter, details in next newsletter.

In addition to the loss of the funds these events raised, we also lose the chance to connect in person with our friends. However, we must put everyone's safety first. Nothing is more important than protecting the lives and welfare of those who are beloved members of our extended "family."

The recent storms that left over 4 feet of snow on our property have cost us thousands of dollars. Despite the hard work of people like Bob Johnson (pictured to the right snowblowing a sidewalk open), we have to pay people with large enough equipment to keep our long driveway and parking areas open so staff and volunteers can get in to care for the animals. Many thanks to all who made sure the animals were fed, medicated, and cleaned every day, despite the weather. Special thanks to the staff and volunteers who slept over so the critical animals, like those with diabetes, never missed their insulin or other medications.

No matter the challenges, our dedicated staff and volunteers will continue to care for the hundreds of animals in our shelter, continue to help the neediest and most desperate animals like the Snow Kittens, and will continue to try to raise the funds necessary to do the work that saves lives and gives hope.



ANIMALS IN DISTRESS

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Permit No. 271

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Current Resident

IT'S NOT WHAT
WE HAVE IN LIFE,
BUT WHO WE HAVE IN
OUR LIFE THAT
MATTERS

