



"The Kennel of Hope"

Tails of Hope

The Newsletter of Animals in Distress
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What's Your Angle?

So much in life is about how we "see" something: how do we decide what is a danger, what is a joy, what is important, what is inspiring, what is beautiful, what is worthwhile, what is important?

And beyond how we "see" something is another decision: what are we going to do about our "perception"?

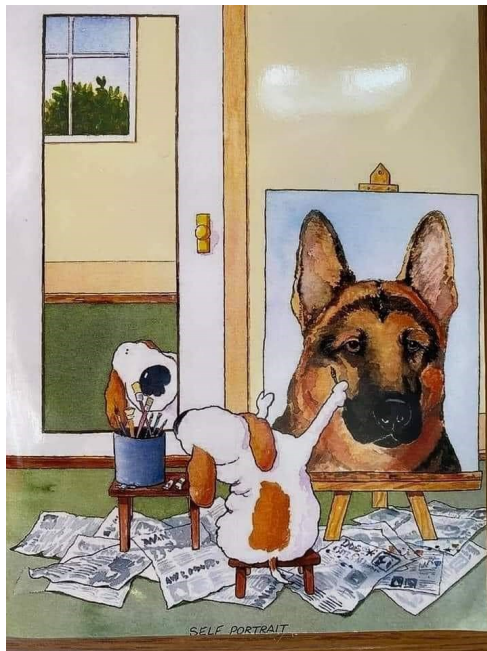
Ignore it? Deny that it exists? Embrace it? Run from it? "Fix" it? Give up and feel helpless?

The decision is ours to make. And we make that decision based on how we "see" ourselves and others. We can decide that we are helpless and can't do anything. We can decide that we will TRY to do something, even if we fail. We can seize what we perceive as a great opportunity to become happy, successful, admired, a "winner."

You might be thinking that this is an odd opening essay for an animal sanctuary newsletter, but it really isn't. Here's why.

If you have been reading our *Tails of Hope* newsletter, you are aware of many rescues we have done that seemed desperate; some might even call them hopeless. The decision to "see" them as hopeless could be justified on the basis that the chances of saving that animal are poor. However, you know that we are dedicated to "seeing" hope where there is a beating heart. We believe that we must at least TRY to do something rather than abandoning a poor, suffering, scared, desperate animal to suffer and die—alone, unloved, and scared.

The point here is that so much of what we can do depends on how we "see" ourselves, each other, and the world around us. Yes, some situations are so desperate that we aren't sure we can save a life or mend a broken spirit, but we have to try. The real failure is not trying. Circumstances beyond our



control might ultimately dictate the outcome of a situation, but we don't know that for sure until we TRY to do our best.

Best of all, in most cases, we succeed!! Against all odds, we can produce a miracle—with the help of great veterinarians and their staffs, with the help of dedicated volunteers and shelter staff, and with the support of our friends like YOU.

You don't realize how amazing you are. Your ongoing financial support, your generous donation of time as volunteers, your love and prayers and kind, encouraging

words—YOU make everything we do possible.

Why do you choose to help us? Well, let's go back to the previous comments about how we "see" things. You have such kind hearts, such empathy towards the suffering of others, that you can "see" how much your help is needed to save those who are often forgotten by others. Imagine a love so deep that you will help save animals (who are often the most undervalued and low priority): creatures who are without hope, without friends. And you so do with no expectation of any benefit other than helping to save a life.

You may never meet or touch these animals, but you care anyway. Such openhearted and loving kindness makes you special. You must know that we "see" how amazing you are. And we want you to "see" how much you are appreciated.

We dedicate every newsletter to you by sharing some of the many rescues we do, so you can "see" how much good you are doing. Sometimes, some of the stories end sadly, but most of the times they reflect all the good that we have done *together*.

Do You Like Happy Endings?



You may remember several months ago, we shared the story of a white German shepherd being rescued. The poor dog had been running and running near the intersection of Routes 191 and 22. Despite the heavy traffic, he managed to dodge the cars and evade the well meaning people trying to catch him before he was hit by a car. Finally, exhausted and hopeless, he stopped on the porch of a car dealership and leaned against the door. He didn't have the strength to go any further. See him in the picture at left. However, he was a bit challenging to approach since he gave every sign of biting someone if they approached him. A very kind passerby tried to help, even calling the police, but was told to just let the dog there. This kind man could not just leave the dog to his fate and wound up calling Animals in Distress.

By the time the dog, whom we named Hunter, was at our shelter, he was a sad sight: thin, scared, nervous, friendless. What we saw was somebody who needed a friend. And time. And kindness. And understanding.

Dog bites happen for many reasons. One of the most common but least understood is that the dog is afraid. Since the dog can't talk and explain how stressed out he is, escaping from the person or situation producing the fear is a natural reflex. One reason so many pets get lost on July 4 is the noise of the fireworks. When escape is not an option, a fearful animal, often in physical as well as emotional pain, may lash out with a growl, bite, (or scratch in the case of cats). Assuming that the animal who does so is unworthy of living, so "unadoptable," that it should be put down, is ignorant and unjustified.

The story of Hunter is a perfect example of this fact. After being given time and kindness, he started to show what a sweet dog he really is. Some breeds, most notably German shepherds and mixes including that breed, are highly sensitive and intelligent: they often take longer to find a stable and balanced mind set after experiencing great trauma. All of us need to feel safe, and loved, so we can show who we really are.

Every animal we rescue is given whatever it needs—time, medical care, training, and of course love—so it can become "whole" again. Of course, the best outcome is to find the right home for such a traumatized and sensitive animal, and we are delighted to share the good news that Hunter was adopted by the family of one of our shelter staff. He is so happy to find acceptance and love in his new family. Perhaps the most special aspect of this adoption is Hunter's deep bond with the teenage son: they obviously adore each other. Hunter lights up whenever the son comes home, and the son said that Hunter means so much to him: "Hunter makes me feel so much better after a bad day at work or school. I look forward to spending time with him." Here are some pictures of Hunter. *Please remember: YOU made this all possible.*



WAEB 790 AM Radiothon to benefit Animals in Distress, July 12-18.

Donations for Challenge Hours are needed now. Please contact us if you can help 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

More information will be provided in our next newsletters. And you can check our website, animalsindistresspa.org, and listen to Bobby Gunther Walsh on WAEB 790AM, for changes and updates in Radiothon activities, prizes, and other news.

Please participate in our fundraisers and help us raise the funds necessary to continue to do our work. Our monthly costs are climbing at an alarming rate, and we are deeply concerned about this. All creatures great and small deserve our Love and a second chance. And with your love and support, we can continue to save lives and bring hope to those who are forlorn and afraid.

Our greatest fear is that we will one day lack the resources to help pets like Hunter, Muffin, and so many others who would have little to no chance elsewhere. We have never taken one dollar of "public" money from local, state, or federal governments, and rely solely on our incredible volunteers, fundraisers, and your donations for everything that we can accomplish—together!

Every dollar matters. Thank you for 44+ years of support and for your faith in a kinder, more loving world.



Thanks for keeping in touch. *Your kind notes are full of words of encouragement. Given all the negative news right now, we look forward to sharing some of the GOOD news at our shelter.*

Many of the families who have adopted pets from us keep in touch, as donors, volunteers, and 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 pet so much that they send them greeting cards, gifts, and treats; and they mourn them when their foster pet dies. 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.

A quick update on Bo Duke...

He's doing so well...we are in love with him.
He loves looking at himself in the mirror.
Thanks again for your help with his adoption.



Bo Duke keeps studying his reflection in the mirror. He's probably trying to figure out who the handsome dog is!

"We adopted Shiloh from you in November 2020. As first time dog owners, we had a bumpy start, but you worked with us and now we're fully and completely committed and in love with our new family member!"

No other organization, or team, other than yours would have given us the opportunity and support we needed to get here. We cannot imagine our lives without Shiloh.

Thank you for all the work you do.

It's so important, and we're so very grateful!!



Your newsletter was the best Christmas gift.

Thanks for all you are doing.

I lost my little one this year, and Christmas will not be very merry. But I am happy to know that all of your little ones are taken care of.

When You Lose Everything

One of the saddest aspects of our work is taking in animals who have loving families. These animals may have lived for years with people who loved and cared for them, but then “something” happened that is so overwhelming that the family can no longer care for their beloved pet(s). It is a great irony that those pets, who are so used to stability and the love of their family, often have the hardest time adjusting to losing everything.

If an animal was adopted from Animals in Distress, it always has a home with us, no matter how long it has been adopted. We do our best to make it feel safe and loved, knowing that nothing can replace the home it just lost.



As an example, we recently took in a dog we adopted out 8 years ago. She is named Boots, a sweet, medium sized mix who is a certified therapy dog. She is such a well mannered, loving dog; and she doesn't understand what happened to her family and her home. We have tried to make her feel loved and safe, but her heart is still sad.

Her owners are facing several health challenges or they never would have returned her. It is so important for people with pets to make plans for what happens to their pets if they can no longer care for them. Many shelters and rescues place animals but don't take them back, so it is really important to make certain that an adopting family gets a clear picture of how much help they can expect if the adopted animal has training issues or, unfortunately, needs to be returned—either within months after adoption, or after many years.

Another example of a relinquishment due to poor health involves a sweet terrier mix named Buddy. His owner was dying of an aggressive cancer, and her husband could not take care of her in hospice at home, their other, more senior, dog, and Buddy. He decided that Buddy would have a better chance with Animals in Distress because of the care we provide and

because of how thoughtful our placement process is.

The day Buddy came to stay with us, we asked the husband to please bring Buddy's bed, toys, food, and anything else that would make him feel at home. It's sort of like allowing a child to take a special toy, doll, or blanket along on a trip: something familiar reduces fear and provides some reassurance.

It is a big responsibility to be the home for such pets, who have known love and felt safe. Animals can't tell us in words how they feel, but they can show us if we can just “see” what they are ‘saying.’ The pictures below show Buddy's owner completing the paperwork turning Buddy over to us: Buddy senses that something important is going on and shows his concern by snuggling up with his owner and lying at his feet. Because of your support, pets like Boots and Buddy will be safe and loved until, with luck, we can find loving homes for them.



Another Way To ‘See’



Before surgery

The picture at left is of a cat we named Muffin after rescuing her from terrible conditions. Abandoned, scared, afraid to move, Muffin sat in someone’s driveway for a whole day, waiting we assume for the people who abandoned her to return for her. Her eyes were so infected that there was no way she could see

anything. It takes weeks and months for such a condition to develop to that extent, so there is no chance she could have found her way to such a remote location. Our assumption is that she was abandoned there.

Our veterinarian determined that there was no hope for her eyes at this point. Diagnosis: the eyes were full of necrotic tissue. In other words, the infection was so advanced that it literally ate at and killed the healthy tissue. The only humane option (euthanasia is NOT an option here: after all, she could live a long and happy life despite being blind) was to remove her eye tissue.

We all cringe at the thought of removing eyes, but sometimes there is no other option. The picture below shows Muffin after surgery. **DON’T BE UPSET BY THIS!!** That surgery relieved enormous pain and saved her life.



After eye removal surgery

As we stated in the beginning of this newsletter, how we “see” something determines what decisions we make and what direction we take.

After being rescued and safely housed and fed at our shelter, after the surgery to remove her infected eyes (imagine the pain she was in), she started to feel safe. She knew she was in a good place, among people who would never let anything bad happen to her again. Some may look at her as a poor, sad kitty because she can’t see. We look at her as a special example of a will to live and the kind heart that doesn’t harbor a grudge because of how poorly she was treated.

Is it more challenging to find a home for a blind animal? The answer is yes. Sometimes, people think that blind animals have difficulty adapting. In our experience, blind animals can adapt better than most people do, maybe because their other senses are more developed than ours. Regardless, Muffin deserved another chance to live, and she will be here at our Kennel of Hope for as long as necessary—for life if no one adopts her.

Animals often go through horrors we can only imagine. Most of the time, with our help and dedication, they can be saved and given a chance to live, a chance to know what it is to be safe and loved. And they forgive. They forget the horrors of the past. They go on to try again to find their place in the world. They inspire us to do everything we can for them because they deserve our help. This final picture is Muffin today, all healed up. She is happy.



Muffin has much to teach us about seeing. She may have lost her physical sight, but she never lost the ability to “see” with her heart.

.....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 like Hunter and Muffin 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 _____



*Buddy and his friends
Thank YOU!*

For more information about Challenge Hours, please email aidpa@enter.net, call Rose at 610-759-2819, or provide your email or phone number so someone can get back to you: _____

Thank You for Lending Many Friendly Paws a Helping Hand!

Upcoming Events and Better Days

Due to the ongoing challenges of the pandemic, with the rising cases in Pennsylvania—many due to the variants in the virus, we do not feel able to safely offer some of the events that our friends are used to in the spring. The bingo has been moved (again) to the Fall, Mardi Paws was cancelled, and **we are now confirming that Alumni Day, the Laps of Love Walkathon, and the Commemorative Journal will also be cancelled.** We held a successful Yard Sale recently and may schedule another one in the fall.

Obviously, we are losing funds with these cancellations. Even more disappointing than the loss of the funds these events raised, we also lose the chance to connect in person with our friends. We love seeing all of you. We love chatting with you. We love seeing your happy pets, many of whom were adopted from us. 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."

Better days are coming, when we can again be together in person. But please remember that we are always "together," in our love for the animals who call Animals in Distress their sanctuary and their "home."

We started this newsletter with thoughts on how perspective matters. How we decide to "see" something determines, to a great extent, how we react. Do we give up? Do we stop caring? Do we see potential? Do we believe in kindness? In hope? In love? And do we then act on those beliefs?

Each rescued animal is an answer to how "WE" together at Animals in Distress "see" the animals we rescue. They are entrusted to our care. We will not fail them. We will honor our commitment to helping create a more compassionate world for all creatures great and small.

ANIMALS IN DISTRESS

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Purrfectly Great News fur You!



**WAEB 790 Radiothon
July 12-18. See how you
can help. We're not
pussyfooting around
about this event. It's the
biggest fundraiser of the
year, and we need YOUR
help.**