



"The Kennel of Hope"

Tails of Hope

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

website: animalsindistresspa.org
email: aidpa@enter.net
phone: 610-966-9383

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EDITOR: LOIS GADEK

Learning from our Pets: Be Kind and Live in the Present

If you listen to the news, you have been bombarded with all sorts of messages—many are disturbing and alarming, to say the least. How can we as individuals have an impact on such huge, even worldwide, crises? Some people cope by not listening to the news, so they don't get exposed to a daily dose of negativism. Some people fixate on every report, lamenting over the seeming hopelessness of the situation. As we approach Halloween and then the holidays, we must find direction and focus. We want to believe that Life holds a lot more Treats for us than it does Tricks!

All of us can be kind to each other, to creatures great and small, and—most importantly, we must remember to be kind to ourselves. So many of our friends have commented that if it weren't for their animals, they would be in a very dark place psychologically and even physically. This is understandable since our pets remind us to live in the present and to enjoy NOW. The cat basking in the sun, the dog rolling on its back in a pile of leaves, the joy our pets experience at our arrival home....these simple behaviors remind us to embrace the gifts we have NOW. The Nature that surrounds us sends similar messages: the golden sunsets, the birds and squirrels scampering among the trees,

the soothing sounds of a stream.....all of these connect us to the basic redemption of living and embracing being alive now.

Those of us who do a lot of animal rescue and rehabilitation are often amazed by how most animals, despite how forlorn, abused, and friendless, respond well to kindness and a second chance. Most of them don't obsess over the past and the harm done to them. In fact, they show a remarkable and admirable resiliency in being able to put the past behind them and try, once again, to live in a world that once did not value their lives.

Everyone supporting our rescue and rehabilitation work is part of a life affirming view of what is possible in a world that seems increasingly devoid of kindness, decency, and values. Every event we hold, every newsletter we send, every appeal we make...all are our efforts to raise the funds to do more life saving work and to share the news about some of our rescues. This newsletter describes our upcoming Holiday events and fundraising efforts. Due to anticipated delays in the mail, we are sending this information earlier than usual. Please help if you can. *Here's one example of why your support matters.*

We all know there are tens of thousands of stray cats roaming everywhere. Some will be rescued and given a home. Many will continue to roam, scrounge for food, fight for their lives, and fend off disease and injury. Sadly, most of them will die alone, in misery. One such cat was seen for months at a local shopping mall. Some people threw it food but could not get close to it. One day, it appeared to have an injured leg. Hit by a car? Bitten by an animal? Caught in something like a trap? We will never know. It evaded attempts to trap it and was facing a dismal future as the winter weather approached.

With the experienced trapping help of Martha Kahan (of No Nonsense Neutering), we were able to get the cat, whom we named Martha, to our vet. The picture at right shows Martha waiting in the trap for what is to happen to her next. *Will she be killed? Helped? Hurt? She has no clue and no reason to expect anything good.*

The diagnosis was disturbing: the leg had been broken so long that the bones had fused in a twisted and unusable position. Imagine the pain that cat was in. Amputation was the only humane option. Reports that the cat was feral and difficult to handle, turned out to be incorrect. The poor cat is scared and will need months of peace so she can find her way back to a more relaxed emotional state. We wonder how many animals are written off as "unadoptable," "feral" or "aggressive" when in actuality, they are so used to struggling to stay live that they need to learn that they are safe and loved now.



Martha will be spayed when she is stronger. She now knows what it is to get enough to eat, to sleep peacefully without fearing predators or cruel humans, to have a soft bed out of the rain and snow, to experience only kindness and peace. We don't know how long Martha's recovery will take, but we promise that she will have a loving home with us for as long as necessary. We make that unconditional promise to every animal we rescue—and YOU make all of that possible with your support, your prayers, and your time.

Blessing of the Animals : A Blessing of All Creatures Great and Small...AND the People Who Love Them



After doing the Blessing remotely on ZOOM last year due to COVID, we were thrilled and grateful to again hold the Blessing in person at our sanctuary. 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 brought photos of pets who were too scared or ill to attend, and some brought pets who would not be alive by the Blessing next year.

All of this is bittersweet: the sound of the last heartbeat is the saddest sound in the world. But the Blessing isn't sad: it's a celebration of Life, Love, and Commitment. Pastor Sharon O'Connor made the trip all the way from Delaware, as she has done for over 25 years, to provide music and to offer a heartfelt message about the role pets play in our lives. She individually blessed the pets in attendance, AND she blessed the loving people who care for those pets. Without those people, the lives of those pets would be sad and, in some cases, hopeless. She also blessed the 120 pets whose owners could not be present but who wanted their pets included, and then she blessed the 300+ cats and dogs now residing at our Kennel of Hope. As always, thanks to our volunteers for setting everything up as well as providing goodies.

Anyone looking around the shelter could see how much love was manifested between people and their pets. Older pets, energetic young ones, pets from shelters and pets from elsewhere, ...all were welcome to be part of this celebration of love. We offer the collage below to share some of the people and animals who were part of the Blessing. 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.





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 person 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 holi-

day 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 2021 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 _____
(Mastercard, VISA, or Discover only please)

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 7 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

Happy Holidays Open House SUNDAY, Dec. 5, 12:00 to 4 pm.

Silent Auction (drawing that day at 4), Music, Craft and Gift Bazaar, Food and Beverages, Basket Social*

Fabulous selection of craft and gift items and much, much more. *This event features the area's largest selection of items with a cat or dog motif, many one-of-a-kind. All items are reasonably priced. *Baskets filled with various items are needed and can be brought to the shelter by 4pm on November 28. They 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. Drawing of the Basket Social Winners will be at 3 pm on Dec. 18.*



Pet Photos with Santa Paws at the shelter, 1 to 3:30 pm, on Sunday, December 12--- and on Saturday, Dec. 18
--No appointments needed. People are welcome to pose with their pet.

Happy Holidays Gift Bazaar at the shelter, 1 to 4 pm, every Sat and Sun until Dec. 19 *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.*

No worries about all the news reports of store shelves being empty and deliveries being held up on the docks. We have a lot of great items, many one-of-a-kind, so you can spend your money and save animals and avoid the stress of wondering when and if you can find just that special item that's being promoted during the holiday buying frenzy.

We also have our Tribute Program (details on pages 5-6) which provides a great alternative to focusing on material gift giving, and we also have an option of giving a sponsorship of one of our shelter animals as a gift (that's the gift that keeps on giving all year—details on page



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 Open House on December 5 and continue through the New Year. 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 below and mail your instructions to the P.O. Box on the form. The Holiday Tributes will be displayed at the December Open House and will remain on display until after the New Year. Please allow our volunteers adequate time to process your request. Tribute requests postmarked by December 10 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 web site at animalsindistresspa.org, email aidpa@enter.net, or call 610-966-9383.



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 Martha and Alden 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 _____

***Only Mastercard, VISA, & Discover card are accepted, please.*

Exp. Date _____

Name on card _____

Signature of cardholder _____



Martha says "Thank You" for my life!

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



Old Friends Old age has become a reason to discard and de-value a person or a pet. This trend is disturbing on many levels, and is cruel beyond words. Older pets are often abandoned when they develop health issues. People who abandon their older pets are among the most heartless creatures roaming the earth. With your help and support, we have been able to provide many senior pets with a loving place to spend their final days. A recent example of this is a cat named Alden, who was seen starving and wasting away by a nice woman who tried to help him. She couldn't afford much in the way of medical care but did what she could. She spent one month calling various places for help. Either she was ignored, or told to euthanize the cat, or to just put it back outside where "Nature would take its course."

The vet estimated Alden (which means "Old Friend" in Scottish) at 15 years. His teeth were rotted, his mouth infected and unimaginably painful, his emaciated body (he weighed only 5 lbs.!) was crawling with fleas, he dripped diarrhea, and was clearly dying slowly and in misery. He was diagnosed with end stage kidney failure. Needless to say, we are devastated that he was not helped in time to prevent a lot of this deterioration. If helped sooner, he could have lived several more years.

We know that we cannot undo what happened to him, but we can provide him with a safe and loving home for as long as he has. He is no longer in pain and is putting on some weight. He loves being held and is the gentlest and most loving soul. He is fascinated watching the other cats and seems so pleased to be loved and cared for in his final days.



Alden when rescued



Alden now

ANIMALS IN DISTRESS

P.O. BOX 609
COOPERSBURG, PA 18036

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
P A I D
Lehigh Valley, PA
Permit No. 271

DATED MATERIAL . . . PLEASE RUSH

Current Resident



Reminder: Wag Walk Walkathon will be held on Saturday, October 30, at Lake Nockamixon, Quakertown. Registration form and details are in our September newsletter, and are also posted on our website at: animalsindistresspa.org.

The holidays remind many of us of our childhood, and some of us experience mixed emotions as we think back to our youth and past holidays—people and pets now gone, special moments, the wonder that is only possible in childhood. What we are now is, in part, determined by our past. Christmas isn't about shopping and getting gifts. It's about Love...and Hope...and a kinder, better world for ALL creatures great and small. Over 300 animals at Animals in Distress have a safe and loving home at the shelter for as long as they need it. We honor the Christmas spirit every day of the year....and are so grateful to you for making all of what we do possible.

Mark Your Calendar

Holiday Open House - Sunday, Dec. 5, noon to 4 pm Food, fabulous basket social, craft and gift items, good company! Basket Social continues thru Dec. 18. Great prices and many one-of-a-kind items.



Watch out...Santa Paws may be checking to see if you've been naughty or nice (we know you've been nice, of course)! You've been so nice that we are offering a really great selection of gift items at low, low prices.

Pet Photos with Santa Paws - 1 to 3:30 pm on Sunday, Dec. 12 and Saturday, Dec. 18. No appointments needed.

Holiday Craft and Gift Bazaar - 1 to 4 pm every Saturday, and Sunday thru Dec. 19.

Check our website at animalsindistresspa.org for latest event updates.