



"The Kennel of Hope"

Tails of Hope

The Newsletter of Animals in Distress
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There's No Supply Problem With This Gift!!

In writing this holiday newsletter, I had major writer's block. After several decades of writing this special edition of Tails of Hope, I felt as if I had already said everything possible. BUT then it occurred to me that I should simply share what is in my heart about this time of year. Probably many of you are feeling something similar, or will be at some point in the future.

First, the media is bombarding us with all sorts of negative information, which is punctuated by video clips of shoppers in malls competing for various material items. We see stories of hundreds of cargo ships lined up for days in harbors, thousands of shipping containers piled on top of each other at various ports. Truck drivers are in short supply so the containers sit there for days and even weeks, causing a huge backlog. Production of cars is delayed because of a shortage of computer chips, gas prices are rising, and people are worried.

And here we are, at what should be a happy and peaceful time in our year! I have decided to declare a moratorium on all this emphasis on material goods and negative thinking, at least for the little world that is Animals in Distress.

YOU have been our friend and supporter. YOU have shared your kind words and prayers with our animals. YOU have volunteered your time to brighten our shelter residents' lives. YOU have become part of the AID Family, and YOU deserve better. You won't be getting any mailing labels and calendars and other trinkets from us, because you want the money you donate to help animals, not fill your desk drawer!

Our holiday wishes for you are too precious to be captured in material goods. Your "gifts" from us are the stories of animals you have helped us rescue. Our holiday greetings for you are from the hearts of animals, hundreds of them, who will be spending Christmas—and every day until they get adopted into a forever home—here at the Kennel of Hope. They will sleep in peace with full bellies, knowing that they are safe and loved. Every day will be a happy one, filled with kindness, and they will never again have to wonder what sadness or pain will occur to them that day.

Many of us are thinking about people and pets who are no longer here among us. Nothing can erase the pain of losing those we love, and the holidays intensify those feelings for many. However, there is healing in offering hope and love to those who are still living, in honor and memory of those who have passed on. The tributes decorating our Hospitality Center, bearing the names of loved ones, are a reminder to all of us that Love never dies. We can celebrate Hope and Peace and Love every day of the year, and remember and honor those who have crossed the Rainbow Bridge.

Our "gift" to you is the collection of stories in this newsletter, as examples of the gift of life that you have made possible all year. If our animals could speak, they would thank you and bless you for being their friend. You believe in the worth of their lives and the value of preserving the Kennel of Hope as a place of unconditional love and acceptance. Thank you.

For the Animals, Lois Gadek, President

Defying the Clouds, Wag Walk 2021 Was A Success

Despite some ominous weather that lasted almost to the beginning of registration, our volunteers believed that the rain would stop and the fun could begin. And they were right! The weather gradually cleared, and the determined Wag Walk participants, sharing our belief that the weather would improve, started arriving. Many of the pets in attendance were wearing creative costumes (it was Halloween, after all!), and good spirits were everywhere. Old friends reunited, and strangers became friends very quickly as the love of animals provided an immediate bond and basis for conversation. One of the very best aspects of all our events is the fact that those events attract really nice, caring human beings. In these troubled times, when many gatherings turn violent (and even deadly), our events are the opposite: one volunteer used to call them “love fests”!

Many thanks to all the volunteers who did the set-up, planning, and food preparation. Thanks to those who donated food and prizes, to those who collected sponsorship donations, and to

those who actually participated either with or without a pet.

Brenda Bolster again got top prize for collecting the most sponsorship money, with Karen Winston in 2nd place. Brenda also donated fabulous gift bags!.

Missing this year was one of our most loyal and special participants, AID cat Anton, who was adopted by Jeff Benner several years ago. Although he was paralyzed when we rescued him, Anton eventually became able to walk again, and he was our celebrity cat at every AID event for years. He greeted everyone, whether human or animal, without fear. He was so much more than “just a cat,” and we miss him terribly. We will follow up on Anton’s legacy in future newsletters but wanted to acknowledge him here, in the first newsletter after a major event that he would have attended. He was so special.

The pictures on this page, taken by Anita Bielecki, capture the fun and camaraderie of this year's Wag Walk.



A Special Plea

This newsletter contains lots of information on fundraising. Folks, we need the money to pay for the many costs required to save lives. Saving animals who are old, young (not weaned), injured, and otherwise "unadoptable" takes money... lots of it.

Please support these events if you can. Please donate what you can. Lives depend on it. For decades, YOU have made the difference between life and death for thousands of animals...YOU have made miracles possible. YOU have made Hope and Love possible in a society that sees so much selfishness, cruelty, and indifference to the suffering of others.

You may not realize it but you are thought of more than you know. Each time a broken, scared, helpless animal is rescued by us, and we rush to get that animal the best care we can give it, we think of YOU. You may not be there in person that day, but YOU are there in spirit: your love and compassion, your generosity, your caring about others who have no hope without our help...YOU make those rescues possible.

YOU are a blessing to us, and a Guardian Angel to animals whose lives have been saved due to your generosity and love.

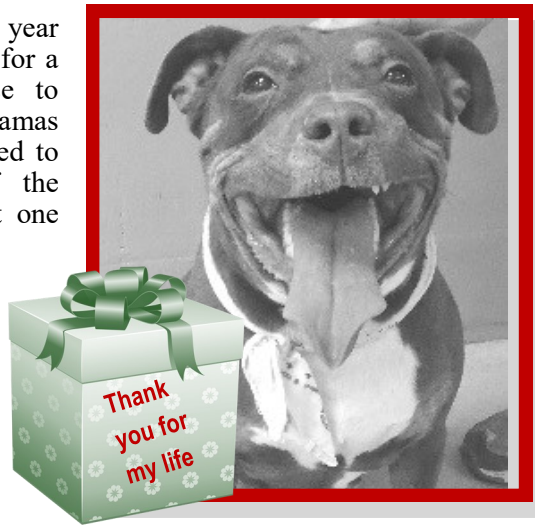
Just recently, we saved an 8 year old dog who had been neglected for a long time, shuffled from house to house as the various human dramas played out. The dog was subjected to domestic abuse in several of the homes. In fact, it got so bad at one point, that the drunken abuser actually kicked in the front door and beat the dog's owner so badly that she wound up with a concussion. The abuser was sentenced to prison for awhile, but got out and tried to resume the abuse.

Understandably, in the years of trauma, the dog developed a great fear of strangers and of physical and verbal violence. Despite the risks to her, and her fear, she would try to intervene and protect her owner from being abused. The result was that she was beaten as she tried to save her person. Sad beyond words.

Somewhere along the line, she suffered an injury to



of skin hanging from her chest. It's difficult to describe it so we're



including a picture.

Because the dog, named Cocoa, had never been spayed, and had had a couple of litters, we were very concerned that she might have cancer. Unspayed females are much more susceptible to cancer, and she had been through so much trauma that we feared the worst.

So here was the decision facing us: do we take in a scared and traumatized dog who had several strikes against her? She is a Doberman/pitbull mix, so that's one limitation in the eyes of many. She is psychologically traumatized and may take months or longer to become stable enough to be placed in a home. And she needs surgery for the mass removal, spaying, and all the bloodwork and diagnostics involved with all of that. Plus she needed vaccinations, testing for Lyme, heartworm, etc. and a multitude of other things.

AND that's just what we knew at the moment we had to decide her fate.

Her family was being evicted and had no one to take her. At least, no one who would provide her with what she needed. In addition, other shelters they contacted refused to help her except to euthanize her.

Of course, our friends and supporters know that we will do our best for each animal, even those who seem hopeless. We at least have to TRY. This dog had been through hell, and we were her last chance.

We are so happy to give our friends an update. Cocoa had her surgery and did well. Best of all, the mass was biopsied and turned out negative for cancer. What a huge relief!

Her bloodwork and other tests were also fairly good, so she should have many fulfilling years ahead of her.

What she needs now is time. Time to regain her belief that she is loved and safe. A belief that no one will hurt or threaten her or those she loves. A belief that each day brings good things: kind words, soft caresses, enough food, and stability,

We are grateful for being able to help Cocoa and so many others.

YOU made this possible. As you celebrate the upcoming holidays, please know that we keep you in our hearts and prayers. The animals you have helped to save would thank you if they could. Know that you are making a difference. You are making our world a better, kinder place for all creatures great and small.



HolidayFun and Fund-raisers

100% of the proceeds benefit the no-kill sanctuary

ANIMALS IN DISTRESS

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610-966-9383, website animalsindistresspa.org

Happy Holidays Craft and Gift Bazaar and Basket Social Every Saturday and Sunday from 1 to 4 pm.

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. Drawing of the Basket Social Winners will be at 3 pm on Dec. 18.*

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.



Pet Photos with Santa Paws at the shelter, 1 to 3:30 pm, on Saturday, December 11--- and on Sunday, Dec. 18 --No appointments needed. People are welcome to pose with their pet.

Anton says he will miss sitting on his sofa and greeting everyone, but loves you all. He and Spook, and many others, are in Heaven but will always be with us in our hearts!

Don't worry 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. You can avoid the stress of wondering when and if you can find just that special item that's being promoted during the holiday buying frenzy.

Also, in our **Holiday Tribute Program**, you can share your love in our Hospitality Center through poinsettia, ornament, & wreath tributes and memorials for people and pets --and we notify the recipients so you don't have to! And you 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)—in our **Take-A-Pet-To-Dinner program**.

Complete information on both holiday gift programs and forms are in last month's newsletter and also available on our website, animalsindistresspa.org.

Where would Stanford Be..?

Sometimes, we feel that looking at a rescue is like looking Death in the face.

It was obvious to the people visiting the neighborhood that this stray cat had had a very rough life. A very elderly man felt sorry for him and put food out. However, he had to go into a nursing home, leaving no one to give the poor cat even food.

He was starving, filthy, suffering from a horrible smell coming from his many rotting gums and broken teeth...the list of symptoms goes on and on. The daughter of the man came from Australia to finalize her father's home and personal arrangements, and she was horrified by what she saw. The low cost vet clinic she took him to found out that he is diabetic and also has FIV, which is a compromised immune system.

The clinic performed a dental procedure on him. However, they left many pieces of broken teeth and bones in his jaws. The poor cat just couldn't seem to get a break. He also had long nails that had grown back into the pads of his feet, and his ears were tattered and beat up—a sure sign of his tough life on the streets.

The daughter contacted everyone she could think of, but no one wanted the poor cat. She could not take him with her when she left for Australia, and was desperate to think of his fate if put back outside.

What would you want to see happen in this situation? This cat is certainly not a cute, young kitten or some especially “marketable” (we hate that word when applied to living beings) cat. Stanford was simply a poor soul who needed, for once in his life, to be given a decent chance to be safe and loved.

As you probably guessed by now, we took Stanford in and got his dental situation corrected. No more excruciatingly painful experiences as he tried to eat food. No more cold, hunger, and fear. He eats well, remembering his empty belly when meals were very scarce.

The bloody drool from his mouth has been stopped. And we also discovered that he is deaf. He is definitely a cat who was not born feral, so we assume that at some point, he found himself out of a home and on the streets fighting for his life.

For perhaps the first time in his life, he knows Peace. He is now living in our special room for diabetic kitties and is starting to trust humans. When we first got him, he was afraid to look at anyone and would hide.

He seemed sad and depressed, which is understandable, but we are slowly seeing some improvement. He will need time to find the confidence to trust again.

He seems to be a nice cat who has experienced nothing but pain and fear and loneliness until arriving at Animals in Distress. He may have several years ahead of him, maybe only a few. We don't know what the future will bring. However, what we do know is that he is safe and loved and cared for, for as long as he needs it. He is HOME. He will spend this Christmas and all other Christmases as part of the Animals in Distress family.

He will never know loneliness and fear again. He will be loved.



It's cold. Are you coming back?

Remember me? You couldn't wait to have me. I was so small and cute and I was FREE. You thought about getting me fixed, but I was a baby and that was a long way off. We were best friends. Then you started packing, and I was excited, we were going to go on an adventure. And then you were gone, and I am still here. It's cold. Are you coming back?



When you take on a pet, you are taking on a life and a moral and legal responsibility to take care of that life.

Please don't abandon pets.

Do You Believe In Love At First Sight?

Movies and tv dramas looking for exciting material will often use heightened emotional moments to excite the viewer: in the old song “Some Enchanted Evening,” the singer sees a vision “across a crowded room,” and you know the two of them will never be strangers again. How romantic! And how not realistic....

However, there are always exceptions to every rule, and here is one of them.

Boo, a longhair white cat, and his littermates were rescued as tiny kittens. They all survived and grew up, everyone finding a home except Boo. He was a handsome cat but had one challenge: he was shy. No matter how many times we would show him to prospective adopters, he just didn’t ‘connect’ with them. Most people want to adopt animals who respond to them and ‘connect’ with them. Boo did not do that, and he remained with us for several years.

Recently, the daughter of a family who had adopted three cats from us over the years, came looking for a cat to join her and her dog. She understands the importance of adopting a rescued animal, so she was open to looking at the hundreds of cats we have available. After carefully considering her options, she decided to adopt Boo!! We were thrilled, of course, but also concerned: Boo was never in a real home, and he certainly wasn’t what we could call social. Could she, would she, be able to see past his issues and develop the potential we felt he had?

It is with the happiest of hearts that we report that Boo is doing better than expected. He is literally blossoming into a cat who embraces all the good that life can offer. He has made great friends with the large dog, and seems fine with the fact that the dog is many times his size! Best of all, Boo is no longer hiding. For the first time in a long time, he is playing with toys and lounging proudly on the sofa as if he had always been in that home.



Boo meets his “purrson” and falls in love, as does she!

We just had to share this story at Christmas: for the first time in his life, Boo has a home of his own for Christmas. For the first time in his life, he has a one-on-one relationship with someone who is devoted to him. While every animal in our sanctuary is treated well and loved, we simply don’t have the kind of time to develop a close, deep, personal relationship with each animal. We always say that if we can’t find just the right home for an animal, it is better off staying with us. BUT when we find the right home, there is nothing better in the world for that animal.

We’re going to share a few pictures of Boo’s journey—of his love at first sight moment, and then his “I’m home at last” pictures in his new home. Your friendship and support made it possible for him to have the time and opportunity to find a forever home, which is for all of us—human and animal—the very best Christmas gift ever!



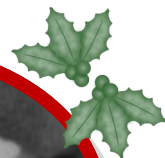
Boo checks on his new doggie friend



Boo “beats up” his stuffed toy



Lying on the sofa is Boo’s favorite place



Enclosed is my donation of \$_____ to keep Hope and Love alive at Animals in Distress, for pets like Cocoa, Boo, Stanford, and so many others.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____



Check this box if you do NOT want a receipt mailed to you.



Thank you for caring for those without a voice.

Credit Card Info: **

Number _____

Name on card _____

Expiration date _____

Signature _____

**** MC, Visa, & Discover only**

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

It Takes ALL of Us!

Although these past two years have been especially challenging, there are many things that COVID could not change: Love, Kindness, Hope, a sense that we are ALL dependent upon each other. None of us can function without taking into account the big picture, with all its challenges.

The many rescues we do, a few of which are highlighted in this holiday newsletter, would not be possible without the support of many people. We are so grateful to them for making miracles possible, not just at holiday time but every day of the year. 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 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 if something happens to the guardian.

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.



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Message of Peace and Love
for All Our Friends and
Those They Love from
All the Animals and
People at
Animals in
Distress***