



# Tails of Hope

The Newsletter of Animals in Distress  
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VOL. XXX No. 1

MARCH 2022

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## Holiday Memories and New Beginnings

Here we are at the start of another year. The holidays are over, and we want to start this first newsletter of 2022 by thanking all our friends for an incredible outpouring of kindness during the past year, and especially during the holidays. Despite how busy some people get over the holidays, they take time to remember our sanctuary and the animals living there. Your loving notes and cards, your generous donations, your delivery of countless gifts of food and toys and treats and other goodies, your support of our holiday events like the Poinsettia tributes, Pet Photos with Santa Paws, our Holiday Craft and Gift Bazaar, our Open House, and our Take-A-Pet-To-Dinner sponsorship gift program—you were so generous and loving, and we thank you, on behalf of the hundreds of animals now living in our shelter, for countless acts of kindness.

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 the loving notes but we are inspired and strengthened by such encouragement.

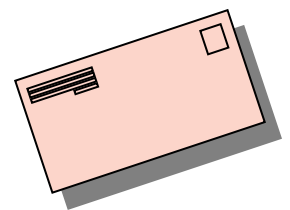
Thanks also to local businesses who did collections for us. Jack Lehr Electric collected a truck load of items, from food and toys and treats to beds and cleaning supplies. The Agway in Dublin again donated the proceeds of their Photos with Santa, and the Animal Rehab Center in Bethlehem collected from staff and clients. An interesting 'Girls Night Out' collection was done by 36 Emmaus HS graduates from the Class of 2004. Rather than buying each other gifts, these 80 year olds celebrate by dividing up the funds raised among 3 local charities.

And, finally, here's a letter that touched our hearts. It's from a father to his family:

DECEMBER 25, 2021

A VERY HEALTHY AND HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO ALL MY FAMILY

SINCE MY TIME WITH YOU IS CONTINUING TO GROW SHORTER, I HAVE DECIDED TO DO SOMETHING COMPLETELY DIFFERENT THIS YEAR AND I TRUST MY PLAN WILL MAKE EACH OF YOU VERY APPRECIATIVE AND PROUD OF WHAT I AM PROPOSING.



AS YOU SHOULD KNOW, ANIMALS IN DISTRESS HAS ALWAYS BEEN MY FAVORITE CHARITY. THEIR POLICY OF **SAVING THE LIFE OF EVERY ANIMAL** BROUGHT TO THEM AND PROVIDING A WARM, LOVING AND COMFORTABLE HOME UNTIL THEY CAN BE ADOPTED IS TO BE VERY MUCH ADMIRER.

YOU ALL REMEMBER OUR BELOVED CEE-CEE FROM HERE AND WHAT UNCONDITIONAL LOVE SHE GAVE TO YOUR MOTHER AND ME. NOW I HAVE DECIDED ON A SIMPLE PLAN TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE OUTSTANDING CARE ANIMALS IN DISTRESS GIVES ALL OF THEIR ANIMALS. I MUST DO THIS **NOW** OR IT MAY NEVER HAPPEN.

FOR CHRISTMAS, I AM DONATING \$25.00 IN EACH ONE OF YOUR NAMES AND ANY GIFTS FROM YOU WILL BE TURNED INTO CASH AND WILL BE ADDED TO MY DONATION. THIS WILL CREATE A NICE GIFT TO SUCH A WONDERFUL ORGANIZATION.

MAY GOD BLESS EACH ONE OF YOU FOR YOUR KIND UNDERSTANDING AND GENEROSITY.

WITH ALL MY LOVE AND GRATITUDE,

*Dad*

**Vera Bradley/  
Longaberger  
Bingo to  
benefit Animals  
in Distress**



Bring donations for the shelter (food, litter, treats, cleaning supplies, etc.) and get 3 FREE Chinese Auction Tickets

Seats limited to 120 so you have lots of chances to win!

Tickets are available through Kelly or at Animals in Distress, 5075 Limeport Pike, Coopersburg, PA

**Highlights**

- ◆ Chinese Auction
- ◆ 50-50 Raffle
- ◆ Door Prizes
- ◆ Food & Baked Goods Available...No outside Food permitted
- ◆ \$20 for 20 Games

**Sponsored by Animals in Distress, at  
Emmaus Fire Co, 100 N. 6th St., Unit 1, Emmaus, PA**

**Contact Kelly Hartnett, 610-762-8553, email: khart70906@aol.com**

**Time: Doors open at 11:30, Game starts at 1pm**

**Date: Saturday, April 30, 2022**

## A Winter Night Rescue: Eddie



Eddie after a few weeks of getting food and medical attention

The reason we do what we do is very simple: every life deserves a chance. The more forlorn and hopeless, the more we need to offer kindness and hope. Imagine a world without kindness...without hope. Imagine a world where people answer suffering with indifference. Sometimes, we hear people say that the animals don't matter. After all, "It's just a dog....or a cat...or a kitten." How scary are such people, for their hearts are incapable of empathy, of caring about the fear, pain, and sadness of others. Research has proven, time and again, that how we treat animals is a good indication of our values and treatment of people. One act of kindness sends a positive message, that lifts the hearts and hopes of others who hear of that kind deed. Our world gets better with each act of kindness.

Recently, we rescued a cat who was found lying in the road, too weak to move out of the traffic. The temperature was 5 degrees! That's a death sentence for an animal without shelter or food. His skin was sunken in, and his lifeless body was like a breathing skeleton. He could not have struggled with his rescuers, even if he wanted to, because he was too weak.

We named the cat Eddie, after the man who rescued

the cat off the road in the dark. It's sometimes amazing that IF an animal gets help in time, despite being near death, that animal can often make an astounding recovery. They fight so hard to stay alive.

The good news is that Eddie is a sweet cat. Once he got some fluids and was warmed up, he was eating and drinking with great gusto. We don't know how long he was starving but he certainly made up for lost time.

The not so good news is that he is diabetic and FIV positive. His abdomen is distended so further diagnostics will be done to see if there's something wrong, like with his liver.

He loves being petted and squirms all over with delight.

The massive bite wounds on his rear are healing well, although we have no idea what animal attacked him so savagely.

Eddie is about 10 years old, based on his dental and physical evaluation. He certainly deserved better than what he has gone through.

However, he is safe now and will be loved and

cared for. He will never again know what it is to be alone and afraid and hungry and in pain, wandering alone in the cold and the dark. We make him a solemn promise that all his days will be good ones from now on.



Eddie's rear end was covered by infected wounds



# A History Lesson

After writing the Animals in Distress newsletter for close to 40 years, I feel a strong connection with those who have supported our work over the decades. I remember when the idea of a nokill shelter in the Lehigh Valley was first proposed back in 1975-76. At that time, the idea of not putting unwanted animals down was considered by many skeptics as wishful thinking by a bunch of kindhearted, well meaning people who didn't have a realistic understanding of the situation.

Back then, nationwide, an estimated 37,000,000 cats and dogs, and puppies and kittens, were being killed in shelters around the country, in many cases simply because there was no place for them to go. Killing was considered a regrettable but necessary tool to deal with animal overpopulation.

However, a small group of people were unwilling to accept that there were no alternatives. They felt that there just had to be more humane and life affirming options. One big challenge was that those who had the loudest voices and the most control over municipal decision making were not sympathetic to the nokill idea. In fact, very disparaging comments were used to describe the "wacko" people who were advocating for a humane alternative. Making matters worse was a deep divide in the humane community because most of the existing shelters and large national groups were not supportive of the new thinking. The money for animal causes was very limited anyway, and the struggling newcomers were left to swim in the ocean of negative thinking, with few willing to throw them an oar.

Thinking back on all of this makes me so grateful for the survival of that idea. I remember when I first heard that a small group of determined people who had been affiliated with a local Lehigh Valley animal shelter were trying to start a nokill shelter. They had no money. They had no property. They had no municipal support. They just had a dream of a better, more humane world for homeless animals.

I started supporting the effort in whatever ways I could. As a child, I had always tried to help homeless and abused animals, and I experienced many obstacles to my efforts. I would feel so overwhelmed by the lack of support for saving these animals. So, when I heard of a shelter being proposed that would cherish lives, no matter age or health issues or behavior issues, I felt a whole new world opening up for me.

Out of all of this, miraculously, a 501c3 nonprofit organization called Animals in Distress was incorporated in 1977. The founders started out by renting an old summer boarding garage owned by East Penn Vet Hospital. Cats and dogs were housed there in very modest facilities, and several animals were in foster homes because of space limitations at the facility. People dug deeply into their own pockets to supplement the

donations from the public. Then disaster struck: Pizza Hut was going to buy the property (which is located on Chestnut Street in Emmaus) and demolish it. Where were the AID animals going?

A major appeal was launched to raise funds to at least get enough money to make a down payment on some land where an animal shelter would be allowed under zoning laws. A 2.4 acre old farm property off of Race Street near Catasauqua was available, and the desperate founders bought it with what funds they could scrape together. Some volunteers built a 20x100 concrete block building with their own hands. They couldn't afford to hire a lot of contractors but were very resourceful in many ways. For example, someone donated a 35 year old oil furnace, which was installed and provided heat for many years after.

The old barn on the property was in disrepair, sagging 18 inches in the middle, and the old farmhouse was in better shape but poorly maintained over its 150 years. However, Animals in Distress now had a "home," a safe place for the orphans it rescued and kept for as long as necessary. The shelter was very humble, but it was everything to those who had struggled and fought and prayed for this to happen.

We wanted to start off the new year with this brief history lesson because **2022 IS THE 45th ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDED OF ANIMALS IN DISTRESS.**

**2022 IS ALSO THE 20TH YEAR SINCE WE MOVED INTO OUR NEW 42 ACRE FACILITY ON LIMEPORT PIKE NEAR COOPERSBURG.**

We want our friends to understand how miraculous this milestone is: unrelenting dedication from our founders, a belief in a better world for animals (and people too), and living proof that a humane alternative to killing did exist if society would just give Hope a chance and choose Life over Death. Animals in Distress is one of the first 10-12 nokill shelters in the United States. Many failed to survive, but enough did continue to inspire others to start their own shelters.

My point here is that nothing would have happened if people gave up on the vision for a more humane approach to discarded pets. And the reason Animals in Distress exists today is that people—like you and so many others—stepped up and donated time and money to make our existence possible.

I want you to know how much you are appreciated, and how much your kindness matters. The overwhelming support you have given us has saved countless lives and allowed us to be a living example that miracles are possible if people refuse to give up their belief in a better, kinder world. In this world of sweets and sour, YOU have made all the difference.

For the Animals,

Lois Gadek, President

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS AND FUNDRAISERS



**Membership Campaign**—new and renewals, see form in this newsletter

**Pet Photos with the Easter Bunny**, at the shelter—1 to 3:30 pm on Saturday, April 2 and Sunday, April 3. No appointments are needed. Gift shop will be available.

**Vera Bradley/Longaberger Basket Bingo**, April 30—  
See poster in this newsletter for details.

**Yard Sale**, Saturday, May 14, from 8am to Noon, at the Animals in Distress Shelter, 5075 Limeport Pike, Coopersburg. Rain or shine. You can reserve a table spot for \$10. Contact Kelly for more info: email: khart70906@aol.com or cell: 610-762-8553.

**Laps of Love Walkathon**, at the shelter—**Sunday, June 5**, starting at 10 am. Details in upcoming newsletter and on our website.

**45th Alumni Day Pets and People Party , Sunday, June 5**, Celebration at the shelter—noon to 4 pm. Do not miss this major celebration of our lifesaving work!!

**WAEB Radiothon**—biggest fundraiser of the year—starts week of July 11, ending with all day event at shelter on Sunday, July 17\*

\*The Radiothon dates are tentative at this time



***Animals in Distress***  
***Membership Renewal/Enrollment Form***

Please detach or copy this coupon and return it, along with a stamped, self-addressed envelope, 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: MasterCard or VISA (circle one)

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name on card \_\_\_\_\_

Authorized Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Please enroll/renew (circle one) my 2022 AID  
Membership in the following category  
(select one):**

☐ **Life** - \$250 (once payable)

☐ **Senior** (65 and older) - \$10

☐ **Sustaining** - \$50

☐ **Active** - \$20

☐ **Corporate** - \$500

If this is a gift membership, include name and address here: \_\_\_\_\_

**YOU MAKE EVERYTHING WE DO POSSIBLE....**

The reality of doing the kind of work we do is that it takes money....and we cannot do this work without your constant support. Wishing won't mend broken bones, heat kennels, or buy medicine. Cold, hard cash is a constant concern for those of us who work, day after day, to keep the shelter running, and the animals safe and cared for.

Bless those who send regular donations, which are the lifeblood of our funding.

Another key resource is the unselfish, often impassioned volunteerism that allows us to use 100% of every dollar donated for animal care, NOT for administrative salaries, fundraising, bookkeeping, and many other jobs normally paid for in many nonprofits.

And still another invaluable source of income is bequests and memorials when someone dies. Without bequests from people who remember us in their wills, we would never have been able to build our shelter or pay our bills in months when demands for our help far exceed our income from donations and fundraisers, and we are running tens of thousands of dollars in the red. Heating repairs and many other unexpected expenses create huge stress on our budget and demand more from us as the building ages.

And mentioning fundraising events, we have several in upcoming months. We hope you will support them generously. Maybe your friends, family, neighbors, co-workers, church groups, scout groups, etc. would like to join you in running your own fundraiser, or supporting one or more of ours?

You might notice that we are not spending huge amounts of money on catered events, expensive places like hotels and resorts, and professional organizers. Our volunteers do a great job of putting events together, with love and attention to detail. They do that so that 100% of every dollar raised will go to the shelter—100% goes to the animals.

.....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 Eddie and Winter 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 (no American Express please)

Card Number\_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date\_\_\_\_\_

Name on card (print)\_\_\_\_\_ Signature\_\_\_\_\_



***Thanks from all us  
little guys!***

***Thank You for Lending Many Friendly Paws a Helping Hand!***



## **A Tale of Two Kittens**

This is Winter. She and her 4 week old sibling were found starving to death in sub freezing weather. Sadly, people knew the kittens were outside in the frigid weather, but they didn't do anything about it for days. Sometimes, we question how someone can know of such a desperate situation, right in their backyards literally, and yet they do nothing. Were they waiting for some miracle?!

Sometimes, WE have to be the miracle. We who care have to do what is right.

Sadly, by the time someone did try to help the kittens by getting them to us, the one kitten was too far gone. She died. At least her last few hours were spent in a warm and safe place, surrounded by people trying to help her.

His sibling did survive. Her picture is above. We named her Winter, after the season in which she was found. She is slowly recovering from her ordeal and appears to be doing well. Such a young life to have to go through such horror. She is now 12 weeks old and will make a nice pet for someone.

We can't change the past, as much as we would like to sometimes. BUT we can give Winter, Eddie, and all the other animals we have rescued a chance to know kindness and Hope and Love.

**None of this is possible without the help of our friends, like YOU.**



# ANIMALS IN DISTRESS

P.O. BOX 609  
COOPERSBURG, PA 18036

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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U.S. Postage  
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Lehigh Valley, PA  
Permit No. 271

DATED MATERIAL . . . PLEASE RUSH



*This is Cinna, one of our dog residents at Animals in Distress. She is proudly wearing one of the coats that her Take-A-Pet-To-Dinner sponsor sent her for Christmas, along with lots of treats, toys, another coat, and other goodies. Cinna gets so many packages specifically addressed to her that she has her own mailbox at Animals in Distress.*

*Cinna is helping us celebrate our 45th Anniversary as one of the nation's first no-kill animal shelters. She is also helping us celebrate the first 20 years in our new facility on Limeport Pike.*

*2022 is a big year for us, so plan on lots of special news and events.*