



"The Kennel of Hope"

# Tails of Hope

The Newsletter of Animals in Distress  
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## *The Season of New Beginnings*

As we come out of the winter cold and dark days, we find ourselves celebrating the beginning of a kinder and gentler season. Some of us romantics feel joy at the sight of the first robins, the dazzling yellow of daffodils, the blossoms of trees and shrubs.....all of these things were lying dormant until the season welcomed them to appear. They brighten our spirits and remind us that we have survived another winter.

I always see the similarity of the rejuvenation of the spring growth cycle and the rescue work that we do here at Animals in Distress. I can hardly believe that we are in the 45th year of our existence. It's often been a struggle to keep going. However, it is important to reflect on the lessons Nature has to teach us. If we move forward with Love and Hope in our

hearts, if we believe that we must at least try to do our best for those who have no hope without us, if we remember that every spring season is witness to the belief that Death and darkness can be overcome...if we remember that the only real failure is in giving up, if we look at the faces of the 300+ animals in our shelter, if we remember all the thousands of animals (and people) we have helped over the years....then we become inspired to keep doing the life saving work that we have been doing for 45 years.

This month begins the most important and demanding part of the year. Our biggest fundraiser of the year, our WAEB 790AM Radiothon with Bobby Gunther Walsh starts July 11. So much depends on how well we do with that event. Last year, we raised an incredible \$215,353, setting a record. This year, with people worrying about the price of gas and food etc., not to mention the other bad news in the media, we don't know what the outcome will be. What we do know is that we will do our best. What we do know is that our friends and supporters will do their best to help save lives. We can't do more, and we shouldn't do less.

One of the challenges for everyone is the increased price of essentials, like utilities and basic supplies. That is also true for small nonprofits like Animals in Distress. Having to raise at least \$50,000-60,000 *each month* is overwhelming, and that's just to cover basics. Remember that we have no paid staff except for the people taking care of our precious animals. As our shelter building ages, we have been faced with substantial costs for upkeep and maintenance. We have tried to use volunteers for as much as we can, but a lot of these projects require professionals in fields like HVAC, tree removal, repair of macadam, painting, etc.

We are also looking forward to our Alumni Day Pets and People Party on Sunday, June 5. Food and other goodies, our popular basket social, and many other features will give everyone a reason to stay and socialize. Best of all, we get to see many of the people and pets who have become part of the Animals in Distress Family. COVID has kept us apart for too long, and we look forward to a safe and loving reunion.

We hope that you will support our sanctuary as you have in the past. We can't do what we do without your help and your prayers. We call Animals in Distress "The Kennel of Hope" because we offer unconditional love for every animal rescued. That has been our pledge and our promise for 45 years.

*Lois Gadek, President*

For the Animals

**WAEB 790 AM Radiothon** to benefit Animals in Distress, July 11-17.

**Donations for Challenge Hours are needed now.** Please contact us if you can help at [aidpa@enter.net](mailto: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 annual 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](http://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 Andy, Donny, Cain, 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 45+ years of support and for your faith in a kinder, more loving world.***

We have been saving lives and offering hope to those forsaken by others for 45 years. Our work exists because of impassioned volunteerism and the support of our friends, who believe in a kinder and more humane world—for pets and for people. We have never taken funds from any government source, and are so appreciative of those who support us because they believe in our life affirming mission.

As one of less than a dozen no kill shelters back in 1977 when we were founded, we have stayed true to our commitment to every animal we have rescued. That commitment is unconditional and continues for the life of every pet.



## *Don't Worry, Sheila*



As we all know, bad things happen, sometimes without warning. Such is the case with one of our cat adopters. Her name was Sheila. Every time she came to visit (she attended ALL of our events as well), she enthusiastically shared stories of her two AID adopted cats, Andy and Donny. She carried pictures of them with her everywhere she went, and never got tired of sharing them, pointing out all the cute details that made “Her Boys” so special. We always enjoyed her visits, knowing how loved her “Boys” were.

A few months ago, we got a phone call that shook all of us to the bone. Sheila was found dead in her home. It appears she had been dead for a few weeks, and her Boys were with her corpse. Imagine their confusion and terror. Words cannot describe what must have been going through their feline minds. We can only imagine.

A family member called us for help with the cats. No one in the family could take them in. We immediately arranged for Andy and Donny to come back to Animals in Distress. We set up their own little room (we call them ‘apartments’) so they could adjust to the change slowly. It took the family several days to catch the terrified cats since they were frozen in terror and hiding somewhere in Sheila’s house.

At this point in this story, we want to stress two things. First, if you have pets, please make arrangements for what will happen to them IF you get ill or die or can no longer care for them. People who say “I will take your pets” often mean well but can’t actually follow through for a variety of reasons. Put your wishes in writing and make certain to include health and temperament information in your write up, including vet records/information. Also, if you can, leave a realistic financial bequest since it costs a lot of money these days to properly care for pets. One recent survey states that pet owners should plan on \$1200 per year for a cat and \$1600 for a dog, barring any unusual expenses like illness. Vet costs are substantial, and diseases like diabetes or allergies or kidney or heart issues, or.....the list goes on and on.....can run up huge vet bills over several years. Here at Animals in Distress, our single biggest expense is the medical care for our rescues and resident animals, including special foods and medicines. We understand what it takes to provide animals with the appropriate long term medical costs. Factor in food, grooming, and other costs, and you have a clear understanding of what responsibility is involved when someone takes in a pet, especially older or special needs pets. Providing a bequest to cover costs is important to the welfare of the pet and the caregiver.

Second, we want to remind our friends that we guarantee a home for EVERY animal we rescue, for its entire life if necessary. That is why we are a sanctuary as well as a shelter. People who adopt from us sign a contract, stating that the animal will come back to us IF, for any reason, the adopters can no longer care for that AID animal. This is a huge commitment on our part, but we know how essential it is for the animals, who will never be homeless again. This commitment gives adopters peace of mind as well, knowing that we are always here for them, even in emergencies. Our adopters and the adopted pets are “family” to us, and we want them to know that we are committed to them, not just for a few months or years, but for the life of the adopted pet and beyond.

### ***AND NOW HERE IS THE REALLY GOOD NEWS:***

A lady named Wanda, who had been visiting our cats for awhile, heard about the sad story of Sheila and her “Boys” and decided that she would like to offer them a home. Obviously, it’s taking some time to get Andy and Donny to settle in to their new home, but they are making impressive progress. On Easter Saturday, Wanda came to visit the cats at the shelter. Even though she has two cats at home, she hasn’t forgotten all the wonderful kitties here who will be spending holidays, and every day, here until they find just the right home. She speaks of the Boys with such love and caring in her voice and on her face. Most special of all is that she knows that Sheila is looking down on her and the Boys, with approval and appreciation. For someone who truly loves their pets, nothing brings greater joy than knowing that if we are no longer able to care for them, our pets have a loving home for the rest of their lives.

# Easter Fun For All

Thanks to everyone who participated in this year's Pet Photos with the Easter Bunny. Special thanks to Denise Schaeffer for being the best Easter Bunny anywhere! We asked Denise to pose with some of the shelter animals, since this is their Easter too. They might be spending the holidays with us, but that doesn't mean they don't deserve special recognition as much as do the loved and pampered pets who have families of their own.

We thought our friends and supporters would enjoy seeing the Easter celebration of the pets they have helped to save and support!

In the cat wing, we focused on a few special needs cats, such as those with FIV or Feline leukemia, as well as those who are blind or have special issues. Remember, these cats do not know that they are special needs. They take one day at a time, and celebrate being here in the moment. They inspire all of us to keep doing what we have been doing for 45 years.



Chappie - has cerebellar hypoplasia, a genetic balance disorder



Birdie (no eyes) & Patches, both FIV+



Eddie—recent rescue, nearly dead when he arrived



Patches, FIV+, checks out the Bunny

Bugsy, no eyes, feline positive





*Some of our shelter canines enjoying the extra attention. Looking pretty for the camera!!  
It's amazing that none of them tried to eat the Bunny ears  
(or the Bunny!).*





## *Are You A Work In Progress?*

So often in our rescue work, we see animals who have not been properly handled. Some were gotten as puppies or kittens, and were not socialized and not trained. Some people like kittens and puppies, but don't really care for cats and dogs. Some people abuse their pets, roughhousing or teasing or hitting or isolating (in crates, basements, outside). And way too many pet owners do not put in the time and work it takes to raise and own pets. Then, the pets get blamed (abused, discarded, punished, euthanized, etc.) because of what are preventable AND correctable problems.

Even organizations as careful as ours, who take the time to really get to know each animal BEFORE placing it, who carefully screen applicants to make sure all aspects of the home situation are factored into the adoption—even with all of that, problems and challenges can arise after the adoption. At Animals in Distress, our placement volunteers are available after an adoption, to help with any problems and to make sure all is going well. And usually, things work out if the adopter gives time for the animal to adjust. Sadly, this is not the case with many adoptions and purchases by other organizations, free to good home postings, and breeders.

To illustrate our point, we refer you to the story about Sheila's cats. They needed time to adjust at the shelter, and then in their new home, after their ordeal of being in the house with their owner's corpse. That is so understandable and it is the responsibility of our organization to do everything possible to help make that transition go smoothly.



Cain on the day of adoption

Another example involves a Doberman named Cain. He came to us at about 7-8 months of age. Never properly socialized and really never wanted by one of the spouses, he spent a lot of his puppy months outside in the yard or locked in a crate. When we rescued him, he was disoriented about what was his role in human relationships. In his home, he had lived with two other big dogs, and next door were some yappy little dogs who delighted in running the fence line and getting Cain all worked up.

We saw in Cain a decent, sensitive dog who had potential but needed time, redirection, and just the right family to adopt him. Anything less would cause the adoption to fail, with possible serious or fatal consequences for Cain.

Finally, last fall, Cain was adopted by a really nice couple. Doberman rescue was actually in the family, since the husband's mother did dobie rescue in England. The adopters had no other pets or children and understood that Cain would need work to get him used to being in a home. In many respects, Cain did remarkably well and was eager to please his kind and patient adopters. However, he did develop hyper excitement if he saw a smaller dog across the street or while out walking around. Because of his strength, he lunged towards these dogs and pulled his owners over.

At this point, some people would say that he was aggressive, impossible to control, etc. Some might use painful methods to control him, and others might return him or have him euthanized or abandon him. However, Cain's adopters were responsible people and contacted our dog placement volunteers for guidance. After a few discussions, it was decided that they should go to a certified, professional dog behaviorist for help, and we recommended Leader of the Pack Canine Institute. In a few days after the assessment, Cain was showing significant progress, and even attended a class (and graduated!). Cain and his adopters visited us over Easter weekend, and he looks wonderful. He is so happy and well mannered. Cain's story is just one illustration that people getting animals need to realize that the animals (and often the people too!) are works in progress. It takes time, patience, and knowledge to bring out the potential in animals (and people).

**DON'T WAIT FOR  
THE PERFECT DOG  
TAKE THE DOG  
AND MAKE IT  
PERFECT**

THINGS DOG HANDLERS SAY | FACEBOOK

.....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 Cain, Andy, and Donny, and so many others can get a second chance in a world that seldom gives second chances.

Name\_\_\_\_\_

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*Check this box if you prefer that we don't send you a receipt.*

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



One of our young volunteers shares a special moment with an appreciative kitty at our sanctuary

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



## Upcoming Events

**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\*

Some of our volunteers have had to cut back or stop some of their activities due to health and other reasons. If you would like to help, please email us at aidpa@ptd.net. We need help with basic gardening (weeding, pruning, spring cleanup), housekeeping in our Hospitality wing (mopping floors, dusting, window cleaning), and painting of some rusted and worn doors, and washing exterior walls that are soiled with dirt and muddy paw prints. We also would like to have someone familiar with online selling to market some of the nice gift items donated to us. We feel that if they are marketed to a wider audience, we can get what they are worth, which is more money to help animals. All of these activities can be done on a flexible schedule, and any help is appreciated.

# ANIMALS IN DISTRESS

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**WAEB 790 Radiothon  
July 11-17. See how  
you can help save  
creatures great and  
small. It's the biggest  
fundraiser of the  
year, and we need  
YOUR help to save  
lives.**