



# Tails of Hope

The Newsletter of Animals in Distress  
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Let's  
Party!!

## 45th ALUMNI DAY PETS AND PEOPLE PARTY

SUNDAY, JUNE 5, NOON TO 4

This year's Alumni Day is extra special because we have had to cancel Alumni Day for the past two years, due to COVID concerns. So many people have told us how much they miss our annual "family reunion," and we are thrilled to once again be able to host this event.

The fact that we are also celebrating 45 years of saving lives, and 20 years of being in our new shelter facility, adds even more weight to this year's events.

We are taking precautions to keep everyone safe, including having plenty of seating inside and outside, with lots of space for social distancing. Everyone is welcome, so plan to come and spend the afternoon among family and friends. Pets, of course, are always welcome too!

This annual event is like a big family gathering, where people (and their pets) can eat, socialize, play games, enter contests like a Pet Cake Walk, catch up with old friends and make new ones...plus win some great items in our always fabulous basket social. *(By the way, baskets are needed and can be dropped off by June 4.)*

*Donna Fisher and Friends will provide music, and our volunteers will have some delicious food and beverages for our guests.*

## Laps of Love Walkathon



registration starts at 10 am on June 5, which is the same day as our Pets and People Party we call Alumni Day. The whole day will be a lot of fun for you and your dog (or cat), plus dozens of prizes. Get sponsorships now and bring them with you when you register. The entry fee is only \$10 per person, with 100% of the proceeds going to help the shelter animals. Entrants bringing \$50 or more in sponsorships will receive an AID t-shirt.

**Also, Team Cat appreciates your support, even if you can't attend. Just mail in your donation for Team Cat, and the cats will get credit for raising money to help the shelter animals. Why let the dogs get all the credit?!**

Entrants will be eligible to win some really nice prizes, but mostly, they will know that they are helping the animals and having a great time as well. You won't meet a nicer bunch of people (and animals) than you will during the Laps of Love and the Alumni Day events that follow.



## A Reminder of the Impact of ALL of Us

Our newsletters highlight rescue stories of animals who would not have had a chance without our sanctuary. A rescue isn't over when the animal is admitted. Physical and behavioral issues have to be addressed, and that takes time and resources. Never forget that none of this is possible without your help and support.

100% of every dollar you donate goes directly to save animals like Gucci and her kittens, Doodle, Duchess, and so many others. No one gets paid for administrative, fundraising, and other such non-animal care duties. Our funds go directly and totally

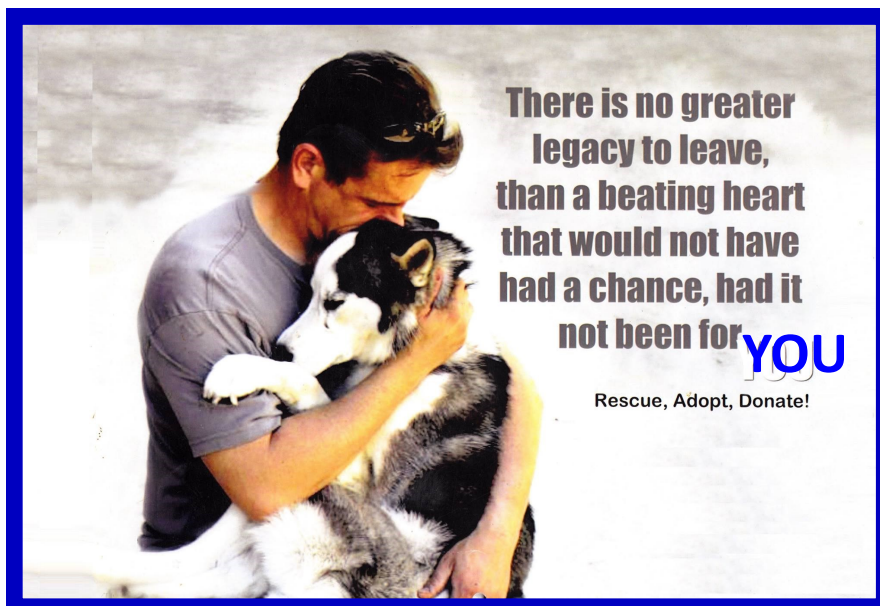
to save lives, not to fancy offices, expensive mailings and television commercials, costly events, and executive salaries.

Our WAEB Radiothon, which starts with its on air appeals on July 11, is our biggest annual fundraiser, last year generating \$215,353 in donations. That is an impressive total, and we used every dollar for animal rescue and care. Bobby Gunther Walsh (pictured above) has been a loyal and dedicated friend and our liaison with radio station WAEB.

With your support, we are able to save many animals. Even those we cannot save are still better off than if we didn't help them.

Please understand that the ones we do save are even more precious because we know that we can't save every animal. Some people don't like to hear about the ones that don't survive. But we want you to understand that the ones we do save are even more precious because they are proof that we can work miracles, with YOUR help. We shed tears for some we lose, but we are thankful for the miraculous recovery of most. We cannot thank our friends and supporters enough for making our work possible. Our biggest fear is that some day, we would not have the resources to help animals like Duchess, Gucci, and Doodle. It is wonderful to know that our friends understand the importance of their help. Thank you, from the bottom of our hearts, for believing in us and our mission of unconditional hope and kindness.

*Any donation for the Radiothon will be much appreciated. We try to get as much money raised as possible, before the Radiothon starts, so we can inspire others to give what they can. Our challenge is great, especially in these sad and difficult times. But we know you will do what you can...for the animals who have no hope without ALL of us.*





## Memorial Day Reflections



Many people do not realize how many millions of animals have served in the military. Horses by the thousands, dogs, birds, rats, fish/dolphins, the list is amazing. These animals have saved millions of human lives, often at the sacrifice of their own. We owe them a debt we can never repay.

Ironically, many of these animals were discards, strays, without a home. Some just showed up around a military encampment and stayed. Many military dogs have sniffed bombs, alerted soldiers to hidden snipers, and defended their humans in direct combat.

***The Garden of Heroes at Animals in Distress is dedicated to all animals who have served humans, saving lives and making an impressive and unforgettable impact on countless humans.***



The first dog to be awarded several medals in military combat was a pitbull named Sergeant Stubby. He was a stray. The soldiers who rescued him were, in turn, rescued by Stubby hundreds of times.

**So, let us remember all the heroes who have made the ultimate sacrifice so we can be safe..and free. We at Animals in Distress honor such service and acknowledge a debt that our society can never re-pay.**



*As America celebrates Memorial Day,  
we pay tribute to those who have given  
their lives both human and K-9*

*Thank you for your service!*



## ***YOU Are the Author....***

***Whether we realize it or not, we are authors of life. Each living being has its own story, a beginning, a middle, and an end. When we come in contact with others, they are helping to write our story, and we are helping to write theirs. If we transfer that idea over to animal rescue, we can see that our efforts to save animals who are desperate and helpless is really helping to write their story. In many cases, we decide what the ending of that story will be. Will they live? Will they die? Will they go on enduring the miseries of their past? Or will they have new adventures in a brighter, and kinder future? We have so much power, Much more than most people realize.***

***Each of the hundreds of animals at our sanctuary has a story to tell. And we are part of the story. Maybe the most important part because we gave them a place to be when no one else would. We gave them hope when they had no reason to hope. We eased their pain and fear, and gave them a future. As rescuers, we touch every life we encounter, some very briefly, and some very deeply. How we choose to help write the endings of stories reveals a lot about us and about the world we want to be living in. Right now, in the midst of the chaos and cruelty of the world, we need to stand united on a path of kindness and decency and love. For all creatures, great and small.***

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What will the ending be? That is the question that we all have the power to help answer if we choose to exercise our efforts on behalf of others. One story that right now is being written, with no particular ending in sight, involves a humble cat and her babies. Those of us who have been in animal rescue a long time think that they have heard and seen just about everything, but we are often wrong. There are so many twists and turns in life, and we can't always feel confident that we won't see something even more cruel and more horrible or more troubling. But also, we sometimes see things more wonderful and miraculous than we ever imagined.

One of our volunteers was driving along a country lane between fields. By some miracle, he noticed what appeared to be a small carrying case in the tall grass, almost hidden from sight. Out of curiosity, he stopped to take a look. As he moved closer, he heard a pathetic sound, like a wounded animal. Imagine his surprise when he finally got to the object: A terrified and starving young cat in a small cage filled with feces and urine. Not only was this animal abandoned, but it was left to die a most horrible death. Because it was caged, the cat could not do anything except wait for death. Dying alone in its filthy coffin.



Distress, and our volunteers and staff were horrified to realize the condition of the animal but also the fact that she was very pregnant. They cleaned her up as best they could, and we took her to the veterinarian the next day.

Imagine our surprise when the veterinarian said that she was very young, definitely well under a year, and was pregnant with five or six kittens. This poor cat was so thin that it is hard to imagine her being pregnant with anything, let alone that many kittens.

She was made comfortable at our shelter and gave birth, overnight, to six babies. We noticed that she wasn't acting quite like a typical mother cat, and inspected everything more closely. Something seemed horribly wrong with the little kittens. We rushed the mother and the kittens to the veterinarian and were told that for some reason, the umbilical cords of the kittens were intertwined with each other. The mother cat did not know how to handle this situation. We can't even understand how she was able to give birth to six kittens whose umbilical cords were not separate. One possible theory is that the mother cat was squashed into the cage, unable to stand or move normally. The kittens inside her were, of course, squashed too, causing the umbilical cord to get entwined.

It took the veterinarian and her assistant almost an hour to untangle the cords. Sadly, the cords had wrapped around the kittens' feet and legs, cutting off circulation. This meant that there was significant damage to the limbs of the kittens, and the definite possibility that they could have paralysis or loss of limbs as a result.

The cat was terrified. He rushed it to Animals in



How horrifying is the thought of these babies, whose mother was just saved from a miserable fate, having now to go through more trauma. They were just born, innocent and fragile, and all we wanted to do was protect them and help them. Some of us were very overwhelmed by the thought of the struggle facing this little family, and we cried for what the mother had suffered and for what the kittens might suffer.

or to be treated with kindness and respect. Everybody deserves a chance. Every life has value.

Sadly, two days after giving birth, Gucci spiked a temperature of over 105 degrees and stopped eating. She and her babies were rushed to the vet, who diagnosed her with a massive infection of her uterus, which was all inflamed. She needed intravenous fluids and antibiotics as well as supportive care. She was unable to nurse her very fragile kittens, so the babies were transferred to skilled foster care.

Despite doing better on the antibiotic, Gucci was still in danger. If the infection flared up again, her uterus could become perforated, spilling infection throughout her

body. A decision was made to spay her. With excellent

care at For Cats Only,

Gucci has done well after the

surgery and just came back to

AID as this newsletter is

being written. Her

babies are still alive but

are exhibiting signs of

blackened and dying skin on the

legs that were deprived

of oxygen. It is anticipated

that some of them will need amputations in the future.

However, we are here and able to help them, and that is what we will do. Crying and feeling sad are understandable, but not an excuse for failing to try to help them. No matter what happens, this little family will have a place to be, with loving and caring people. We can't erase what happened, but we can't dwell on it either. We have the chance to help this little family, because of all the people who support our work. We can't stress enough the fact that rescues like these, which may take weeks or months or years, require a long-term commitment. It has never been our policy to cull through our rescues, disposing of those who have problems. Just because somebody is going to be blind or paralyzed or afflicted with challenges, doesn't mean that their life has no value and that they are worthless. What an arrogant and cruel view of life to take, if we assume that only those who meet certain standards deserve to live

Thanks for saving my family

Gucci is the sweetest and kindest cat, despite everything she has been through. Such animals are often the most inspirational beings in the world, because they go on and try and try and try again to survive in a world that often does not value their existence.

Please keep the kittens and Gucci in your prayers.

Thank you for your support and kindness. *Without you,*

*we cannot save such animals.*

Gucci after kittens were born but still entwined umbilical cords

After umbilical cords have been separated

## BINGO!!!

Thanks to everyone who made our Vera Bradley/Longaberger Basket Bingo a success. After suspending the bingo for two years because of COVID, we were able to safely host a bingo this year at Emmaus Fire Co. Special thanks to all the people who attended, donated prizes, and in many ways made the event successful in raising almost \$5,000.

Kelly Hartnett was the chief organizer. After the event, she was tallying up the cash proceeds and got extra help from one of her foster kittens. We thought our friends would enjoy seeing a picture of the Kitten Supervisor!



## The Good Old Days

Fun at “Back to the Arcade”, on  
May 29, 2022, from 12 to 5 PM.  
Lehigh Street, South Mall, Allentown.  
Free Pizza.

Buy raffle tickets for several great prizes and raise funds for our shelter animals. This is a really fun way to spend a Sunday afternoon! See if your arcade machine skills are still as sharp as they used to be.



## Duchess

It's a reality of animal rescue that some animals may be in the shelter for a long time if they don't get adopted. We never adopt out animals unless the right match is possible, for the welfare of both the animal and the adopting family. Some animals will end their years as our residents. While we would love to see all our rescues in loving forever homes, we know that some animals will live out their days with us.



Duchess on Easter 2022

Such is the case with Duchess, a shepherd mix who was

rescued along with her puppies, many years ago. Duchess was chained to an old trailer in the mountains, and had to fight other dogs for the meager food she was given. She was starving, as were her puppies.

As is often the case, the mother was left behind while the babies were adopted. Duchess became more content over the years, knowing she was loved, safe, and well fed. A few of our staff and volunteers have a special fondness for her and make sure she has lots of TLC.

As Duchess has gotten older, she has had some health challenges. Most alarming was a neurological crisis, resulting in a head tilt and some mobility issues. However, she recovered about 80% from that but has arthritic and some mobility challenges. (This is no different than we humans, as we get older!) Our staff helps her on days when she's not as mobile, and never complain about the extra work involved. They rejoice on the days when she is able to get around well, and they keep a close eye on how she is feeling and how well she is eating.

We don't know how much longer Duchess will be with us, but we do know that every day of the rest of her life will be full of love and kindness. That is the promise we make to every animal we rescue. That is our solemn pledge.



.Please detach this coupon and mail it to: RADIOTHON, Animals in Distress, P.O. Box 609, Coopersburg, PA 18036

*Enclosed is my gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ so that the neediest pets, like Gucci and her kittens, Doodle, & Duchess 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 (MC, Visa, Discover)*

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

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

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Here's my donation for Team Cat in the Laps of Love: \_\_\_\_\_



*Scooty the Cutie says:  
"Thanks from all us  
little guys!"*



*Getting old is often seen in our society as devaluing someone's life. So much focus is on looking and acting young, denying the reality of the toll that many decades have taken on our bodies. Some shelters consider any animal over 5 to be close to unadoptable and, therefore, often do not keep those animals around very long.*

*Here at Animals in Distress, each life has value. Each life deserves respect and love, regardless of age or physical/emotional challenges. One rescue that reflects this is of an elderly cat named Doodle. Doodle's owner suffered from dementia and often would forget to feed the cat, or let her back in the house. This sweet cat would cry and cry on the porch, begging to come in, begging to be fed, begging for a warm place to sleep, but her owner didn't react.*

*Finally, neighbors intervened as they saw Doodle's health deteriorating and got the owner to relinquish the cat to Animals in Distress. Neglect and old age had taken its toll on Doodle, and she had renal failure as well as heart and thyroid issues. We got her on supportive care, including fluids several times a week, and Doodle responded. She was happy. She was safe and loved, and she spent a year with us enjoying the best year she had ever known.*

*Inevitably, Doodle finally couldn't fight her health challenges and passed away in the arms of the people who loved her. She didn't die alone and afraid. She deserved to be loved right up to her last breath. She deserved to be treated with kindness and dignity. She deserved to know what it was to be loved, unconditionally.*

# ANIMALS IN DISTRESS

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## Alumni Day and Laps of Love, June 5

Please drop off baskets for the social by Saturday, June 4

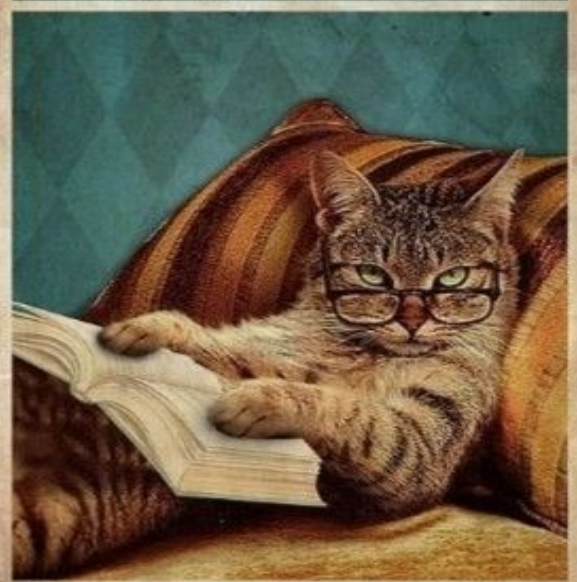
## WAEB Radiothon, July 11-17

Challenge Hour donations of \$500 or more are still needed to inspire others to donate. Double or triple your donation by making a Challenge. Contact Rose at 610-759-2819 for details. ALL donations are needed and much appreciated!

*Help us celebrate 45 years of saving animals.  
Help us celebrate 20 years in our new home.*

Help us raise much needed funds to support our  
life saving work.

## Mark Your Calendar



***We're Counting on YOU!!***