



"The Kennel of Hope"

Tails of Hope

The Newsletter of Animals in Distress
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Nobody

One of the saddest remarks is that "he's nobody..." What does that mean? Is any life so valueless that its holder is "Nobody"? Have we become so hardened off that we consider other beings—with feelings, needs, and awareness—"Nobody"?

And when it comes to stray and unwanted animals, we—as a society—declare them "Nobody" because they are unwanted, homeless, sick, alone....and we exterminate millions of animals each year because they have Nobody to own them, to shelter them, to heal them, to protect them.

When Animals in Distress was founded 45+ years ago, its philosophy was based on a single principle: Every life is Somebody. Every animal deserved a chance, a life free of pain and fear and loneliness. No matter how old, or sick, or scared, every animal would get as much time as it needed to heal its emotional scars as well as its physical scars.

We remain dedicated to that philosophy today: everybody is Somebody at our sanctuary. Everybody deserves respect, shelter, and dignity. Everybody deserves Kindness, Love, and Hope.

We continue to be swamped with requests for help. In meeting those requests, we have stretched our resources beyond capacity. Most times, when there is a life or death situation confronting us, we don't have the time to weigh the pros and cons of various options. We either act quickly, or allow an animal to die in unspeakable pain and horror.

Part of this newsletter is devoted to reporting on major events we recently held, events that raise much needed funds for our shelter but also events that bring people together to celebrate family, hope, second chances, and life. This year's Alumni Day, our first in almost three years due to COVID, was heartwarming. Seeing so many friends and animals is the highlight of our year.

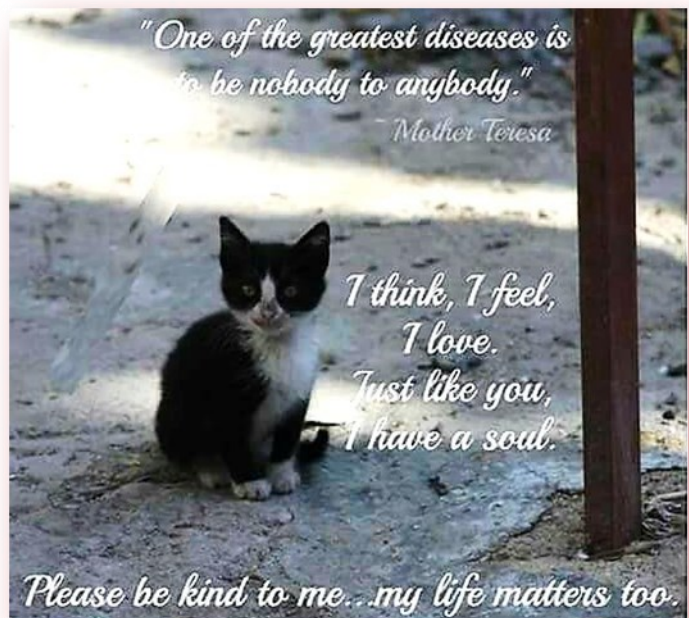
Our upcoming Radiothon, our biggest fundraising event of the year, starts on July 11 as Bobby Gunther Walsh of WAEB 790AM, 5 to 10 am, Monday thru Friday, shares stories of our rescues as proof of the importance of our life saving work. Part of the Radiothon is an emphasis on THEN and NOW: the animals we rescued were in desperate and hopeless situations THEN (when we rescued them) but they are

NOW safe, loved, and hopeful in our shelter or in the home of a family who adopted them. They are Somebody.

What power we all have to take a sad Nobody and transform him or her into a hopeful Somebody. Together, we can save lives. YOU are the only source of funding we have. YOU ultimately make the difference between life and death. YOU determine the ending of many stories with sad beginnings.

Please take a few moments to reflect on what we can do, together. Please support our work. We can't raise the \$60,000+ it takes to run our shelter every month without your help. As inflation hits all of us in huge rising costs in necessities, like electric and fuels, we dread the implications of having to raise another \$100-200,000 or more just to keep up this year. In fact, If not for our volunteers, that cost would be much higher. We pledge to you that 100% of every dollar you donate is used directly for animal care—not for inflated salaries or mass marketing through tv commercials and expensive mailings; not for "administrative" costs that hide a multitude of expenses having nothing to do with true animal rescue and rehabilitation. We get NO money from any public sources—not local, state, or federal. YOU are the only source of the money it takes to save lives.

Please help us turn Nobody into Somebody.





Radiothon Week July 11-17: Events and Information

**Monday through Friday,
July 11-15, Listen to our
WAEB 790AM iHeart Media Radiothon
on the Bobby Gunther Walsh Show, which
airs weekdays from 5 to 10 am.** Listen at these
times for latest news, prizes, events, updates, and rescue
stories.

AID President Lois Gadek will be calling in
every half hour with stories of rescues that
explain why donations are urgently needed
for our life saving work.

Service Electric Channel 50 televises Bob-
by's show from 5-10 am. For updates on the
Radiothon and other information, visit Gun-
ther's page at WAEB.com or our newly de-
signed website at animalsindistresspa.org.



**Pledge line during the show, from 6-10 am,
is 610-841-4999.**

Over the weekend, July 16 & 17, Bobby will be on air live from
remote locations on Saturday, and from our shelter all day on
Sunday. Three hours of live broadcast from the shelter will be
from 1-3 and 4-5 on Sunday.

**Pledge line to call on Saturday and Sunday is 610-
966-9383 from 8am to 6 pm.**

Live Broadcasts from Remote Locations,

Saturday, July 16



Stop by, meet Bobby, make a pledge.

**Allentown Farmer's Market at Lucy and
Lolly's Pet Store 8am-noon.** Sponsored by
Mr. Bill's, Johnny's Meats, Lucy & Lolly's, Amish
Village Kitchen, Allentown Farmer's Market.

Ritz Barbecue at Allentown Farmer's Market from 12-4.

Volunteers will have tables at both locations to take pledges.

**Also on Saturday, June 16 (1-4) and Sunday,
June 17 (9-5pm)**

Silent Auction & Basket Social at the shelter

Sunday, July 17, at the shelter:

Continental Breakfast starts at 8 with pastries
from Amish Village Bakery, and coffee/tea.

Picnic Lunch starts around 11:30, featuring
Yocco's hotdogs & burgers, various munchies, plus bever-
ages, desserts from Amish Village Bakery, etc.

*Pledges may be made or dropped off at the
shelter all day Sunday.*

**Live broadcast for 2 hours, from 1-3 pm,
has been underwritten by ResQ products,**
who are also offering product giveaways.

**Don Wenner-DLP Realty/Don Wenner
Capital Partners is underwriting a third hour of
live broadcast time from 4-5.** If you can't attend
in person, you can listen in to find out why your
donations are so important. It is such a luxury to
have enough time to talk in depth about what we
do, and to possibly interview visitors who have
adopted from us or who donate their time and
money because they see firsthand what the Ra-
diothon means to us in saving precious lives.

***Special thanks to the Vinart Auto Dealer-
ships, L.V. Acura, Honda, Hyundai, & Porsche, &
Mercedes Benz of the Lehigh Valley, for sponsoring
the Radiothon AND for covering the cost of food we
will be serving our guests. Their kindness reflects the
commitment to the community of this incredible or-
ganization, a blessing to the Lehigh Valley and beyond.
Thanks to Ironton Telephone for helping to set up
phone lines off site at the shelter.***



**PLEDGE LINE TO CALL ON
SATURDAY & SUNDAY, 8AM-6
PM, IS 610-966-9383.**

Our Love Fest #45: A Purrfect Day

After three years, since June 2019, we were finally able to host our annual homecoming event, Alumni Day. We know that all our friends and supporters have missed this event, but we appreciate that you all understand the priority of keeping everyone safe.

These COVID-filled years have been challenging for everyone. We have had to cancel many events, which resulted in a loss of fundraising revenue. Worse yet, is the fact that we have missed seeing our friends.

Such missed get-togethers remind us how much we rely on and care about each other. No internet or online experiences can ever replace the face-to-face encounters that enrich our lives and deepen our relationships. The weather was glorious for this year's Alumni Day, which also celebrated our 45th year of saving lives since we were founded in 1977 as one of less than a dozen no kill shelters in the United States. We are also celebrating our 20th year since moving to our new facility in November 2002.

One of our former volunteers, now deceased, called Alumni Day a "Love Fest." He was so moved by the genuine caring that he saw, among humans AND for the animals in our care. The pictures on the next two pages, taken by Anita Bielecki, reflect some of the people and animals in attendance. Many of the people who attended have had a tough 3 years, battling various health problems, struggling with the loss of loved

ones, and facing various challenges caused by COVID. But for this one day, for everyone there, June 5, 2022 was a day for celebrating and honoring Love, in all its manifestations. We hope that the photo collages will capture that spirit.

So many special moments, so many special people...enjoying each other, Donna Fisher and her friend Regina provided music (Donna played her father's violin from many years ago), our Basket Social (thanks to all who donated baskets), the food and goodies prepared by our volunteers, the dogs (and a few cats) who participated in the Laps of Love and the Pet Cake Walk....it was the purrfect day, in the purrfect place, encircled by the hundreds of animals now residing in our shelter. Cats lined the windows of the cat wing, looking out on the festivities in the courtyard. Although the animals didn't get to have any of the champagne punch toast, or the special cake, they knew that this day was special.

President Lois Gadek presented Angie Haklar, the longest serving member of our shelter staff, with a special recognition. Angie has been with us since 1999, and worked at our old shelter off Race Street in Allentown (we were there almost 25 years), and has been a knowledgeable staff person who can work in both cat and dog wings.

Many thanks to our volunteers for getting the day's festivities ready. We could not exist without the help of our dedicated volunteers.

The View from Above

Under these roofs beat the hearts of hundreds of animals who have no place to go if not for Animals in Distress and the people who support our work. Under these roofs are hundreds of animals who have been betrayed, abandoned, injured, forgotten. Under these roofs such animals sleep peacefully now, with full bellies. They wake up every day to a loving greeting from our devoted staff. They will be loved and cherished for the rest of their lives, because they are under these roofs.

Those of us responsible for keeping everything running have made a huge commitment to the animals here now, and to those who will be rescued in the future. Past and current Board members and volunteers understand the importance of *impassioned volunteerism*, as founder Mildred Shirk called it. Our work isn't just for when we feel like it, or have a few hours to spare.

Being responsible for all of these lives, and maintaining such a facility, is a huge commitment, which we take very seriously. Thanks to our current Board members: Rose Yanger, Lois Gadek, Kelly Hartnett, Linda Hoffert, Bob Johnson, Deb Purdy, and Sharon Werner. They and our devoted Staff and Volunteers are the reason everyone is safe and loved, under these roofs.





Alumni Day 2022





Nobody... in the Shadows

They are in the shadows, those cats that don't belong to anybody. One day, they were cute kittens and attracted the eye of someone who took them home. How charming! How much fun, as the little fuzz balls scampered around and played. Then, the novelty wore off. It was too much trouble to clean the litter box, too much work to feed the kitty, too much money to spay or neuter and get shots. So, Nobody's Cat was set on the street to fend for itself.

Such was the sad story of Mercedes, a 6-8 week kitten we rescued from certain death on the streets. People saw her from time to time, but no one claimed her: she was Nobody's Cat. Where she slept was Nobody's concern. Whether she got food was Nobody's worry. She was a Nobody, almost invisible, certainly not worth anyone's effort.



This is a picture of Mercedes when we first rescued her. She was literally blind and in great discomfort due to the infected and grotesque swelling and decay of both eye-balls.

Despite her condition, all she showed was trust and love. Such a sweet soul.

Next is a picture after the one eye-ball was removed. We are hoping

that she can recover some vision in the other eye, but only time will tell.



Mercedes is now safe at Animals in Distress and has a lot of good years ahead of her, now that she's been given a second chance, now that she is Somebody.

Mercedes' story is so typical of that of many animals who seek anonymity in the shadows, and who die silently and alone most of the time.

The lyrics of an old song come to mind: *"You're nobody til somebody loves you."* Well, Mercedes and the 300+ other animals at the Kennel of Hope are Somebody, because they are very much loved by all who make our work possible. *"You're nobody til somebody cares"* continues the song. And because YOU cared, Mercedes—and so many other desperate animals-- will have a second chance in a world that seldom gives second chances.

Update on Gucci and her Kittens

Our last newsletter told the story of a pregnant, starving cat stuffed into a small carrier and left along a country road to die. The carrier was full of feces and urine, meaning that the poor cat, who wasn't more than a kitten herself, had been there for quite awhile, dying slowly. As we reported, Gucci soon after being rescued gave birth to six kittens, whose umbilical cords were wrapped around each other, and some of the legs of the kittens were actually deprived of oxygen and would have to be amputated later.

After our veterinarian untangled the kittens and Gucci and the babies were back at our shelter, tragedy struck. Gucci became very sick and had to be rushed to the vet, along with her fragile babies. Unfortunately, she had a bad infection in her uterus and was dying. She was rushed into surgery, to save her life, but she would no longer be able to nurse her kittens.

Experienced kitten fosters took on the laborious task of round-the-clock feedings for this high risk litter. Despite their best efforts, all of the kittens died over a period of a couple of weeks, one by one. Sometimes, despite everyone's best efforts, some lives just can't be saved. We did everything possible, but they were beyond saving. But you don't know that when you start a rescue effort. It's so easy to take the

viewpoint that this or that case is hopeless, so why try?

The answer is that people in rescue work need to try. The outcome isn't always what we hoped for, but we did our very best.

Do you realize how much your support and prayers mean to us? We can't possibly do what we do without you. You are the wind beneath our wings...

Please come and meet Gucci. She is doing well and would love to thank you, in purrson, for giving her a chance.



Please detach this coupon and return it to: RADIOTHON, ANIMALS IN DISTRESS, P.O BOX 609, COOPERSBURG, PA 18036

Enclosed is my donation of \$_____ to help save lives of desperate animals like Mercedes, Gucci, and so many others, who seldom get a second (or third or fourth) chance in a world that seldom gives second chances.

Name_____

Address_____

Phone number and/or email if you win a prize_____

Check this box if this donation is payment for a you already phoned in: []

Check this box if you do not want a receipt for your donation: []

Please indicate one: [] Check enclosed OR Enter Credit card (MC, Visa, Discover)

info below:

Name on card_____

Card number_____ Exp date_____

Your signature_____

Phone if paying by credit card_____



We can't help animals like these without people like YOU. Thanks for caring when many just turn away and try to ignore the great need for Kindness to all creatures great and small.. You make all the difference—more than you can know.

Incentive Prize Highlights

We know that you donate only to help needy animals. However, due to the generosity of the following businesses and individuals, we are able to offer these incentive prizes in various categories. This list is not inclusive, since many more prizes will be added as the Radiothon progresses. Please support the businesses mentioned in this newsletter.

Donors of \$100 or more are eligible for a drawing to win one of these fabulous prizes:

\$500 Gift Certificate to Joe Mascari's Carpets and Rugs International of Allentown

**\$500 Gift Certificate from Hager Furniture in Palmerton
Gas Grill from Lehigh Supply
Appliance of Bethlehem**

Donors of \$50 or more are eligible for a drawing to win one of the following:
\$250 Gift Certificate to the historic Hotel Bethlehem

A "Getaway" at **Oliver's Salon and Day Spa**, including a massage, manicure, and pedicure

Passes for Golf at **Wedgewood Golf Course**

And Other prizes to be announced later.

Donors of \$25 or more are eligible for a drawing to win one of the following:

**Dinner with Bobby Gunther Walsh,
Great Allentown Fair tickets,
A Facial from Oliver's Salon and Day Spa,
Iron Pigs tickets,
And Other prizes to be announced later**

REMINDER:

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS—Sunday, October 2, at *Animals in Distress*—formal blessing is at 2:30. All pets attending will receive a St. Francis of Assisi medal as well as an individual blessing.

WAG WALK—October date to be determined, at Lake Nockamixon. Details in the next newsletter. Start collecting sponsorship money now. Participants bringing in the most money will receive special prizes. Registration at the marina at 10:30 am.

If you are donating items for the Silent Auction and/or the Basket Social, please drop them off by July 13. Best hours are 1-4 on Sat and Sun, and 6-8 on Monday nights. If you need to make special arrangements or have questions, please contact Kelly at: phone—610-762-8553 or email — khart70906@aol.com.

ANIMALS IN DISTRESS

P.O. BOX 609
COOPERSBURG, PA 18036

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Lehigh Valley, PA
Permit No. 271

DATED MATERIAL . . . PLEASE RUSH

Current Resident



Check out our website at animalsindistresspa.org for news and updates.

**Everybody's talking about
the WAEB 790AM
Radiothon, starting July 11.
Mark your calendar now,
so you don't miss out on
this important event, that
is dedicated totally to
raising funds to rescue and
rehabilitate desperate and
injured cats and dogs.
Check out all the details
inside.**

Pledge line in studio is 610-841-4999, all week. Shelter pledge line is 610-966-9383, Sat and Sun 8am-6pm.