



"The Kennel of Hope"

# Tails of Hope

The Newsletter of Animals in Distress  
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## *Reflections on Love*



As we journey through 2023, a new year and a new beginning, it is worth reflecting on what matters. We are being bombarded with messages. Politicians, salespeople, businesses, social media....the list of noisemakers goes on and on. Most (but not all) of these voices are trying to change how we think and act. Most want us to buy something, do something, or feel as they want us to feel. They try to create a sense of urgency or inadequacy or need or motivation that what they want for us is what we should do.

This newsletter's message is very simple: embrace Love. Don't let others decide what is in your brain or in your heart. Don't let them tell you that you're not good enough, not young looking enough, not smart enough, not measuring up. And the same applies to those you love. Sadly, there are too many voices trying to cancel out what sustains and motivates us in positive ways.

Here at Animals in Distress, we celebrate Love. Every day, over 300 animals are safe and loved because of people who care about those forgotten by others. Every day, thousands of families live with the animals they have adopted from us, sharing their homes and hearts with the cats and dogs we have saved. Some of those pets were not considered 'adoptable' by some people's standards because they were older, or have a medical issue, or have some behavioral challenges. How frustrating it is to hear people declare, with confidence and certainty, that some lives are not worth saving, not worth cherishing, not worth loving.

At our precious sanctuary, the staff and volunteers offer unconditional love to every animal here. They see potential where others might see flaws and weaknesses. One of our volunteers years ago said that "being here is like walking among angels." Just think about that for a moment. All the volunteer saw was kindness. She had done animal rescue for years but had never seen any place like our Kennel of Hope. She saw sad and broken animals being helped to mental and physical recovery. She saw Love in its purest form: Love asks nothing but gives everything. Love without judgment is acceptance of a person or animal without focusing on their flaws. And in animal rescue, we remember that even animals with issues we would like to change have most often become the way they are because of abuse, neglect, and betrayal.

February is a month celebrating Valentine's Day. Love messages are sold in stores by Hallmark and other greeting card vendors. Expensive flowers and candy and jewelry are offered as symbols of Love and remembrance. But to our way of thinking, real Love is not in things. It is in actions. Every day, people who truly love others live a life of Love. At our sanctuary, we exist because of people who love what we do. The animals we save are given another chance to live because of people who love them. YOU, our friends and supporters, make our work possible because of your Love. Your love is in the purest, most ideal form, because you expect nothing in return for your efforts on our behalf except that we keep doing the life saving work that we do. So, as we begin 2023 together, thank you for loving our sanctuary. Know that we love and appreciate all you are doing to help us save lives.

CHINESE AUCTION | REFRESHMENTS | 50/50 RAFFLE | DOOR PRIZES

# VERA BRADLEY & LONGABERGER BASKET



TO BENEFIT

## ANIMALS IN DISTRESS SATURDAY, APRIL 22

DOORS OPEN 11:30 AM | BINGO STARTS 1PM | 130 TICKETS AVAILABLE

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# CALENDAR OF EVENTS AND FUNDRAISERS



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



**Easter Craft and Gift Bazaar** at the shelter, starts Saturday, March 18, and continues every Saturday and Sunday, from 1 to 4 pm, until after Easter.

**Pet Photos with the Easter Bunny**, at the shelter—1 to 3:30 pm on Sunday, March 26 and Sunday, April 1. No appointments are needed. Gift shop will be available.



**Vera Bradley/Longaberger Basket Bingo**,

April 23 - See poster in this newsletter for details.

**Laps of Love Walkathon**, at the shelter—**Sunday, June 4**, starting at 10 am. Details in upcoming newsletter and on our website.

**46th Alumni Day Pets and People Party , Sunday, June 4**, 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 10, ending with all day event at shelter on Sunday, July 16\*

\*The Radiothon dates are tentative at this time



## *Tears of Joy*

As you know, our shelter is first a sanctuary whose commitment is unconditional to every animal we rescue. Because many of our animals are with us for extended periods of time, the animals grow very attached to us, and our staff and volunteers grow very attached to them. Time and again, people who adopt from us actually comment that they “hate to take the animal away from such a wonderful place where they are so loved and well cared for.” While this comment touches our hearts, we respond that nothing we can offer is as good as a loving, forever home where the pet will receive lots of one-on-one attention. As much as we would like to, we simply can’t provide that much one-on-one for each of the 300 animals in our sanctuary.

When an animal is getting adopted, we let staff and volunteers know about the adoption so they can say their private goodbyes and give extra hugs before the animal leaves. We know that our staff and volunteers love all of our animals and are happy to see them go to loving homes. But they might also shed a few tears as the pets leave. Those are tears of joy. Best of all, we get regular reports, updates, and even visits from most families who adopt our animals, and we share those with staff and volunteers.

We wanted to also share that many of the animals, as they are being adopted, will be torn between their attachment to the people here at Animals in Distress and their excitement at getting a home of their own. Here is Hadley’s adoption story.



Hadley is a Saint Bernard mix who had some serious medical issues when we rescued her. She was hospitalized for three weeks with an infection. She recovered and became a favorite at the shelter, greeting everyone with a huge grin and a wagging tail. She went to several of our events, like Wag Walk, and made a lot of friends for our shelter and all rescue animals. She finally was adopted by a woman who had recently lost her husband and her dog. Although we showed Karen other dogs, she fell in love with Hadley when she first met her. Fast forward to the day Hadley was adopted by Karen.

Bob Trexler, who had taken Hadley through Canine Good Citizen Class, was invited to be there, as well as some staff and others. We were all so happy for Hadley.. and for Karen. Here is the group

picture of Karen and Hadley, along with Bob, and two veteran staff members Diana and Angie.

As the staff went back into the kennel after saying their goodbyes, Hadley looked intently at them as they went back to the kennel where she had been loved and treated so well. She wanted to go with Karen, BUT she also would never forget those who had been so kind to her for so long.

Angie turned to smile and say one last goodbye. Notice how fixated Hadley is on Angie and the hallway back to the best home she had known. No words are needed to explain how this moment touched our hearts. No one has to tell us how our animals are being treated while in our care. The animals tell us all we need to know!





## *Everybody Loves Happy Endings!*

It's so nice when we get to report good news. Happy endings don't happen because we wish them to. It takes lots of resources and time and hope to save a life. Killing is always cheaper and quicker. Out of sight, out of mind. But that's not what we're all about at the Kennel of Hope.

Three years ago, we rescued a cat who was living in a car with her owner, who was homeless. Although the desperate woman did her best, the cat's health was deteriorating as was the owner's. The owner would not abandon her cat in order to go into a shelter, and the situation was getting desperate. When we learned of the situation, we agreed to provide the cat with a place to live and much needed vet care. This decision saved two lives: the cat's and the woman's.



The petite gray kitty, named Mitsy, was taken to our vet for an assessment. A heart murmur caused the vet to do further tests: the diagnosis was heart disease. As we always do in such cases, we asked what could be done to help Mitsy live as long as possible. For 3 years, we have been giving her daily heart medication and yearly echocardiograms to monitor her condition.

We know that some people would have put the cat down when the diagnosis was given, or would



just let "nature take its course." Some people would argue that the cat will never get adopted, so why bother?

Here's the answer to that question. Mitsy has been adopted. A nice lady named Dori saw Mitsy's picture on our website and knew immediately that Mitsy belonged with her. She and her husband are so proud of how well Mitsy is adjusting to their home and to their 13 year old cat. They will manage her daily medication and yearly visits to get an echocardiogram. What they are focused on is giving this sweet cat a loving home. We were able to save her because our friends believe that Mitsy's life has value.



Sometimes, despite our best efforts, we can't save an animal. One example is a recent rescue of a cat we named Tuesday. Her owner died. No one wanted the cat so a relative trapped Tuesday and was driving from shelter to shelter with the cat in the trunk of his car. He drove around for over 8 hours with the terrified cat screaming in his trunk. No one would help the cat. He was getting ready to just dump it somewhere and drive off, letting it alone and abandoned along the road.

Tuesday was running out of hope when the man just happened to drive by our sanctuary and drove in. There was no way that we could refuse to help the cat, so we took Tuesday to the vet. According to the man, Tuesday had never been to a vet or received

any medical care.

We were devastated to learn that she had a mass on her pancreas and several in her lungs. Once cancer has spread that far, there is little more to be done. This pretty calico kitty was only with us for 3 weeks before she passed away. We wanted to do so much for her but fate intervened.

It is sad to lose an animal, but we find solace in the fact that she got help: she did not die alone and unwanted in pain and fear. We wanted to do more for her, but we find solace in knowing that we did everything possible.

***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**

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Check enclosed for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ OR

Credit Card: *MasterCard* *Visa* *Discovery* (circle one)

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**Please enroll / renew (circle one) my  
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category (select one):**

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

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**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. **Our HVAC system had been on life support for several years, and we must replace the rooftop units. Two are on order for the cat kennel, at a cost of close to \$40,000. We have replaced one in the dog kennel and have two more in the dog kennel and three in Hospitality to replace. This is a huge amount of money but we have no choice. Animals' lives and welfare are at stake.**

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 donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to provide Hope for animals like Hadley, Mitsy, Chase, and so many others. who need a second chance in a world that seldom gives second chances. They depend on us for their lives.*

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## Another Happy Ending



In our last newsletter, we talked about a little dog we named Chase who had been thrown out of a car. The terrified dog ran and ran for days, crossing busy roads and so scared that he wouldn't trust anyone who tried to help him. We asked professional trappers to help us get him to a safe place, and told his story plus shared some pictures. A very nice couple, whose family has adopted dogs from us before, read his story and wanted to meet him. We showed them other dogs, just to be fair, but they knew that Chase was the dog for them.

Chase is a wonderful dog and has adjusted very well to being in his new and forever home. We get many glowing reports of his progress and some really cute pictures. The one that has hit our hearts shows Chase sitting on the sofa, looking out the window. This represents so much.

Too many abandoned and forlorn animals are on the outside looking in, wondering why they can't come inside, They wonder why no one cares what happens to them, why no one loves them.

Our hearts break for them. But we console ourselves by thinking of Chase, and many other pets we have rescued and placed in loving homes: they are now on the inside looking out, and not on the outside looking in.



# ANIMALS IN DISTRESS

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shelter dogs  
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for Easter!*