



Tails of Hope

"The Kennel of Hope"

The Newsletter of Animals in Distress
P.O. Box 609 Coopersburg, PA 18036

website: animalsindistresspa.org
email: aidpa@animalsindistresspa.org
phone: 610-966-9383

Vol. XXXVI, No.2

April 2023

Editor: LOIS GADEK

Home is a special word....

In a lesser known Robert Frost poem called "Death of the Hired Man," a husband and wife argue over how to deal with the return of their former hired helper on their farm. Old Silas has been an on again/off again employee for years, sometimes leaving for a better paying job but eventually returning to the farm. The wife feels sorry for the obviously ill old man Silas. In contrast, the husband argues that Silas is an ungrateful drifter who needs to move on. Unable to harden her heart toward the homeless and pathetic old man, the wife states that their farm is the closest thing he has to a home and that: ***"Home is where, when you have to go there, they have to take you in."***

It is painful to think about those without a home, a small corner of the vast universe where each living being can find peace and comfort, can find a safe place to rest and renew the spirit and the body. To be homeless kills the spirit little by little, erasing hope and a belief in the future. One of the seldom discussed aspects of Animals in Distress is the commitment we make to each adopter of our animals: each adopted animal will have a home with us, forever, if for any reason the owner cannot take care of the pet(s) adopted. Many reasons—illness, death, allergies, change in physical or financial status, etc.—can lead to a pet relinquishment, even 10 or more years after the pet is adopted from us. And we honor our commitment to each adopted pet by providing it a home regardless of how many years ago it was adopted.

Recently, we were called upon to take back a 14 year old cat who had been adopted from us 10 years ago at 4 years of age. Phoebe, a 14 year old calico found herself with no place to go after the death of her owner. She would be considered too old in the minds of many to be adopted out, and would be euthanized. However, Phoebe has a home with us for as long as necessary. She was understandably scared when she came in.. After all, she lost her whole world. She is doing much better a few weeks later in one of our little cat apartments. Phoebe has a 4 year old friend, a tiger named Squeaks, rescued by the kind lady who adopted Phoebe.

Technically, we were not committed to taking in Squeaks. But it would be unthinkable for us to offer a home to Phoebe and not also take in her best friend and only surviving family member.

Sometimes, something unforeseen happens after an adoption: one of the pets in the new home is not compatible with the new pet (even though we do introductions with the pets and take many precautions), or the pet has an unknown behavior problem (like separation anxiety), or something happens that makes it difficult to keep the adopted pet (like the birth of a child with severe asthma complicated by severe allergy to pet dander): regardless of the reason, the adopted pets have a "home" at the Kennel of Hope.

Obviously, this is a huge commitment on our part. To honor it, we have to keep ourselves able to deal with our returns, which puts a strain on our resources and available space. However, a promise is a promise....and these pets, and their adopting families, are all part of the Animals in Distress Family. And family means commitment, and commitment must be unconditional. Thank you for allowing us to make that commitment, and for being a part of the Animals in Distress Family.



WAEB 790 AM Radiothon to benefit Animals in Distress, July 10-16.

Donations for Challenge Hours are needed now. Please contact us if you can help at aidpa@animalsindistress.org 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. *Please mark "Challenge" on your donation so we can credit it to the proper account.*

This is our biggest 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, 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 Theodore, Jasper, —, 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!

We have been saving lives and offering hope to those forsaken by others for 47 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.

Every dollar matters. Thank you for 47+ years of your support and for your faith in a kinder, more loving world.

There Are No Words...

To reflect what we see when an abandoned, desperate animal comes through our doors.

The most cruel and soulless people are those who betray the trust of those who love them. Such people walk away without giving a thought to what happens to those they betrayed. One such rescue story will illustrate this point.

We received a call that a little, dirty dog had collapsed in someone's driveway and had been lying there all day, pressed up against the garage door. Concerned people looked everywhere for an owner, but no one was found. The little dog refused food and water, and just lay there—waiting to die.

We did not hesitate to rescue the dog and were so sad to see his condition. He was clearly neglected: very thin, dirty and matted, infested with parasites, and so weak that he had just given up. We did our best to make him comfortable and offered food and water and a soft bed. He was so exhausted that he hardly had the energy to eat or drink much. The picture to the right was taken of him, whom we named Theodore, a couple of hours after he arrived at our Kennel of Hope:

Please notice that he is so weak that his body spilled over the edge of the bed onto the floor, but he didn't even realize it. This kind of picture reflects what we often see when rescued animals finally know that they are safe and surrounded by people they can trust. We wonder how long they have been wandering, forlorn and alone, scared and friendless. Such animals can sense when they are safe.

A few days later, when he was feeling stronger, Theodore looks so much more hopeful in his red sweater. But he still wasn't eating well. The vet said that the poor dog had some broken and rotten teeth, which may have contributed to not eating even though he was underweight. We finally tried an appetite stimulant, which helped. Credit to our staff who tried him on all sorts of goodies and also hand fed him.



When he appeared to be stronger, and had gained a few pounds, we decided to go ahead with neutering him and getting his rotting mouth taken care of. Some of his teeth were extracted and his fur was shaved down to remove mats and debris.

A wound on the side of his face was cleaned up, and he came through the procedures very well. He must have felt like a new dog.

This picture shows him just after the procedures, while recovering at the vet. Thanks to our friends, we were able to save Theodore from a horrible fate and give him a chance to live a life full of love and kindness.



Love Never Dies...

This article is very difficult to write, and yet we must share the news that four of our longtime volunteers have passed away in the last few months. Some of our volunteers donate so much time and effort to our sanctuary that we don't know how to find the words to express our appreciation. They become family, to the humans and animals who make Animals in Distress a true sanctuary, a place of peace, love, and unconditional kindness. You may or may not know each of them personally, but you do know what they believed in with all their hearts. We will miss them more than words can say.



If you have ever phoned the shelter for help, you may have talked to **Bonnie Schneider**, who volunteered with us since we moved to our new facility in November 2002. Over the decades, many people called or wrote to express their gratitude to Bonnie for her guidance and kindness in their time of stress. She helped to save the lives of thousands of animals. She adopted a Doberman from us named Lady, and some cats. We will never forget Bonnie's comment: "I love coming here. It's like walking among angels." Well, Bonnie is among the angels now, surrounded by Lady and all the animals she helped to save.

Back in the early days of Animals in Distress, an elementary school teacher named **Nancy Michener** was persuaded to join the Board of Directors as Treasurer. Nancy served in that capacity, keeping track of every penny, and even counting the amount of paper towels we used in a month, since approximately 1980 until she had a stroke a few years ago. Nancy spent many hours each week documenting expenses, filing reports, paying bills, and doing countless other tasks. She recently passed away and is probably counting angels now, with her favorite Siamese cat sitting on her lap.



The best feeling in the world is knowing your presence and your absence both mean something to someone.

Steve Homick was the pioneer who created the dog walking trails on our property. Over the years, those trails were expanded to almost 5 miles on our 42 acres, along the stream, through the fields, and bordering the wooded areas. Steve could be seen almost any day, seated on his riding mower, often wearing his straw hat as he cruised through the trails. Steve used to love picking up the golf balls that strayed from the adjoining



Uncle Steve and "Dog"

golf course, and he collected hundreds of them. He would wash the good ones off and then sell them for a fundraiser for us.

Steve was a unique and fun person. He worked for the Red Cross Children's center for over 30 years, sharing his kind words with those who needed them most. He and his wife Maggie adopted several dogs and cats from us over the years. Both of them also helped out on Alumni Day and other such events. We have many great pictures of Steve, but we chose one of our favorites: Steve grilling hotdogs and hamburgers wearing his hotdog hat.

No one can ever replace Steve. He was one-of-a-kind in so many ways. And we honestly believe that he is watching over those walking trails he so lovingly maintained for decades.

John Sawyer was a kind and gentle man who

had deep feelings about giving to others, including animals. John and his wife adopted some dogs from us, and John helped us enormously with our website and other technical projects. He spent hours providing comfort to some of our terminal animals and would patiently sit with them, sharing a gentle energy that would calm and comfort them. He and his wife Donna took in many rescue dogs who needed their patience and knowledge to heal.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS AND FUNDRAISERS



Kennel of Hope Indoor Yard Sale, Saturday, May 20, 8am-12pm—at **Animals in**

Distress—

rain or shine! You may rent a table space for only \$10. Contact Kelly at 610-762-8553 (email is khart70906@aol.com) with questions or to reserve a space. You really should stop by and take advantage of many great items we will offer, many from gift shops that closed, all at reasonable prices.



This year, we have an enormous selection of brand new pet items, including leashes, collars, and sweaters—all at incredible discounts.

Remember: 100% of the money raised will go to help the shelter animals, so you can shop without guilt!!!!

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

47th 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



.....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 Theodore, Jasper, Phoebe, Squeaks, and so many others can get a second chance in a world that seldom gives second chances.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

☐

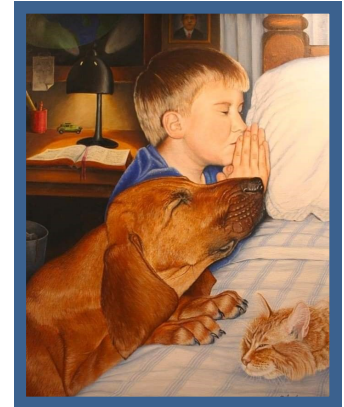
Check this box if you prefer that we don't send you a receipt.

*Check is Enclosed **or** Charge my Credit Card (Mastercard, Visa, Discover)*

Card Number _____ Exp. Date _____

Name on card (print) _____

Signature _____



Thank You for Lending Many Friendly Paws a Helping Hand!



Our NEW email address is aidpa@animalsindistresspa.org.

A sad fact of cat rescue is that some cats will test positive for various diseases. One of the most serious (and contagious) of these is feline leukemia. Kittens and cats who are rescued and then test positive are usually euthanized. Some leukemia positive cats can live many years with the immune system compromising disease but they must be kept separate from cats who are not infected.

Animals in Distress, in keeping with its dedication to do everything possible for the animals we rescue, recently admitted a kitten that tested positive for leukemia (Felv). Death was the alternative for him.

Jasper was very sick, loaded with parasites, and going down hill fast. His face was so caked with discharge from his infected eyes and sinuses that he could not breathe through his nose. We are pleased to report that he's doing better now, has gained weight, and is happy—unaware of his condition. He, like our other Felv residents, will live out their days with a full belly, basking in the sunshine and playing with their feline buddies in our Leukemia Isolation Room.

There is no guarantee how long Jasper will live, but at least, for now, he has a chance.



Jasper when rescued



Jasper now

ANIMALS IN DISTRESS

P.O. BOX 609
COOPERSBURG, PA 18036

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
P A I D
Lehigh Valley, PA
Permit No. 271

DATED MATERIAL . . . PLEASE RUSH

Current Resident



Monday Night Volunteers in the Cat Social Rooms