



"The Kennel of Hope"

# Tails of Hope

The Newsletter of Animals in Distress  
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Almost from the first year Animals in Distress was founded in 1977, the organization held what they called **Alumni Day**, which invited those who had adopted from the shelter as well as the shelter's friends and supporters to gather for a "family reunion" of sorts, where pets and people could spend a nice afternoon with each other, renewing old acquaintances and making new friends.



***This year, on Sunday, June 4, we will host our 47th Alumni Day. Live music from Donna Fisher and Friends, a fabulous Basket Social (please deliver baskets by June 3, preferably earlier) and Silent Auction, tasty food and sweets, a Pet Cake Walk, and other program highlights will fill the afternoon from 12 to 4.***

In the morning, with registration at 10:30, a **Wag Walk** will allow pets and their loving owners to stroll around the 42 acres of the shelter property, collecting prizes along the way. People who adopted cats who would prefer to stay at home are encouraged to walk in honor of their pets. 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.

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.

We are going to have a special remembrance service this year at 2pm, in honor of all the volunteers, donors, and pets who have passed away recently.

We don't want this to be sad or depressing. Rather, it is a way of honoring those who have been important parts of our lives, and who will live on forever in our hearts. ***Love never dies...***

If you can't attend in person, your loved one can be included in the memorial. Just fill out the information on the coupon on page 7 of this newsletter.

As we get older, we appreciate even more the friendships we have had over the years. Alumni Day is a chance to catch up with some friends and make new ones, to admire how happy the adopted pets are, and to celebrate the unconditional love that governs everything we do at Animals in Distress.

***Please plan to attend. But if you can't, know that we will be thinking of you and holding you dear in our hearts.***



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS AND FUNDRAISERS

This Way  
to the  
FUN



**Laps of Love Walkathon**, at the shelter—**Sunday, June 4**, registration at 10:30 am. Details in upcoming newsletter and on our website.

**47th Alumni Day Pets and People Party , Sunday, June 4, Noon to 4.** Do not miss this major celebration of our lifesaving work!! Pet Cake Walk at 12:45, Celebration of Life at 2. Live Music. Food. Basket Social. Silent Auction.

**WAEB Radiothon**—biggest fundraiser of the year—starts week of July 10, ending with all day event at shelter on Sunday, July 16



Basket Social



Delicious Food



Laps of Love



## *IF You're Lucky, You Will Get 'Old' Too!!*

There is a disturbing trend in our society to devalue those who are older, whether pets or people. Believe it or not, some people consider a dog or a cat that's over five years old to be difficult to 'market.' Those animals are often euthanized as "unadoptable" even though some can live for a decade or more with good care.

This mind-boggling and disturbing trend needs to be called out for what it is: prejudice. We have a lot of prejudices in our culture, and age discrimination is one of them. It is not our purpose in this newsletter to rant on and on about this injustice. Rather, we simply want to point out that many of the animals in our sanctuary are over the age of 10+ years. Does that make them worthless? Does that mean they should be discarded? Is that the kind of message we want to send our children? Is that the kind of message we want to send ourselves? I hope that most of you would answer with a resounding and unconditional NO!!

The story of Fish in this newsletter, for example, is the story of a cat, who was with us for almost a dozen years, who finally was adopted by a young man who has loved Fish since he was a teenager working at our shelter.

We have so many stories of older animals that got adopted, and we wanted to devote some time to sharing some of the good news. At least at Animals in Distress, and among those who believe in our mission, old age is not considered a disease. Old age, as the saying goes, "is a privilege denied to many." So we should honor and respect those who are older, for they have seen a lot of struggles in their lives, and they have survived, with our help or the help of others in their lives.

As we prepare for this year's Alumni Day, and Radiothon, we are reminded again and again that our beautiful facility on 42 acres is here because many older people included us in their wills and estate planning. We never could have afforded to do anything this extensive if it hadn't been for those people. Also, the general contractor on our Shelter building project was Leo DeLong. Leo was an older contractor when he decided to help us find a forever home for our animals. He and his wife Wanda generously donated our whole Hospitality Center, as well as the engineering and design costs for the whole project. When asked how we could ever thank him for his kindness, and extraordinary generosity, all Leo responded was: "just take care of the animals."

As we think back to all of the friends of our shelter for the last 47+ years, we are humbled by their kindness. Even though many of them have passed on over the decades, their memories and their spirits stay alive at our shel-

ter. We know they're up in heaven, now, smiling down on the kind people who presently make our work possible.

We especially want to acknowledge the people who have adopted some of our older animals. They understand that these animals are not going to live for 15 or 20 years, but they have a higher purpose in mind: they want to give these animals, whom they love, a wonderful and kind home for the rest of their lives. None of us knows how long or short we are going to live, but we all want to know that we will be loved and cherished until our last breath.

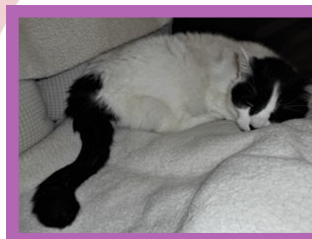
Recently, an older couple inquired about adopting two cats from us. They specifically wanted to have the oldest cats in the shelter. It is certainly not an understatement to stress that we seldom get that kind of request. They were invited to come and meet some of our senior kitties, and wound up adopting Chubby and Buckwheat.

Both cats had been with us for the sum total of their lives, almost 14 years. Their littermates were all adopted while kittens, but these two remained, we suspect because they were laidback and shy and didn't 'sell' themselves. We were so worried that they might not adjust to being in a home after all these years in our shelter, and we didn't want to disappoint these exceptionally kind people. Fortunately, we couldn't be happier with the outcome of that adoption. Both cats are enjoying their new home as if they had been in a home their whole lives. Obviously, that is partly a credit to the quality of life we offer in our cat kennel, and the quality of care that our cats get from our devoted staff and volunteers.

Here is the recent communication we received from the couple who adopted the cats:



Both cats are adapting very quickly. They race up and down the stairs, help their mom on the computer, and Chubby, the male, has bonded with his dad and hangs out in his "man cave." What a happy home!



**Home at last!**



## Another Happy Ending



We like to share with our friends some of the happy outcomes of our rescues. Just because an animal is rescued does not mean that the rescue is over. In fact, that is the beginning of a whole process of getting the animal physically fit and getting it psychologically to a good place. Only then do we offer that animal for adoption to a forever home. How long that process takes varies widely. No animal is treated as old inventory and offered free to the first person who expresses an interest. After all these rescues have been through, the last thing they need is to be put in a home where they will suffer abuse, neglect, and heartbreak: they need a forever home that values and cherishes them. Anything less than that, and we fail that animal.

In our last newsletter, we told the story of Theodore, a little dog who collapsed in someone's driveway and laid there, against the garage door, all day. He was too weak to move and so dehydrated that he could not even rally himself to take in any nourishment. This picture shows Theodore once we had him in our sanctuary. He is so tired and weak that his body is literally sprawled across and off of his bed.



***Now, for the really good news!*** Theodore has been adopted by a loving older couple who recently lost their beloved dog. They missed having a dog and fell in love with Theodore (now re-named Teddy) upon first meeting him. The picture to the left shows Theodore after his bath on adoption day.

And to the right is a picture of Teddy in the arms of his new 'mom.' Notice the expression and gaze on Teddy's face. He is looking at Diana, our senior dog staff person. He knows that she and our staff and volunteers have taken excellent care of him. He trusts them. He loves them. And they love him back. We know his new family will keep in touch with us, and we also know that Teddy will remain forever in our hearts.



***What isn't shown in Teddy's adoption picture is YOU. Yet you are very much there. You made the rescue possible. Your prayers and support have kept our doors open so we can help animals like Teddy, who literally on the edge of life or death. Here at Animals in Distress, we choose life. You choose life...and hope...and love. Without you, we are unable to write happy endings to such stories. Without you, death and despair win.***

## BINGO!!!

Thanks to everyone who made our Vera Bradley/Longaberger Basket Bingo a success. Thanks to Emmaus Fire Co. for their hospitality. Special thanks to all the people who attended, donated prizes, and in many ways made the event successful in raising over \$5,000.



# A Cat Named Fish



This is the story of a cat named Fish and the young man who loves him. Their story is important to share for several reasons. First, it is a story of love. Love that lasts. Love that is unconditional. Second, it is a story showing that some younger people

become inspired by the love they see at

Animals in Distress to grow and mature that love into something quite wonderful and inspiring.

Owen was a teen of 14 when he first started working in our cat kennel. He would come after school and help feed our 300+ feline residents. He did this for several years. In the process, he fell in love with a black and white cat we named Fish. Fish got his name because he was abandoned at 6 months of age with a fish hook embedded in his mouth. Fish is a wonderful, intelligent cat but did not do well with a lot of the other cats in his social room. If ever there was a conflict in the room, Fish was usually involved in it. To create some peace in his room, our vet prescribed Prozac to mellow him out.



Fish is a loving cat with people, and loved to be petted and held. He especially loved to ride around on shoulders! Fish and Owen developed a special and deep bond. When Owen graduated from high school and left his job here, he made a promise to Fish, saying "When I get my first apartment, I will be back for you."

Owen now has his realtor's license and also has another job besides. He even ran a fundraiser for us last year with the Emmaus movie theater. AND, most important, he never forgot the promise he made to Fish.

Owen specifically looked for a safe, pet friendly apartment. He found a lovely second floor, one bedroom townhouse with a very safe entrance. He specifically did not want a roommate because he wanted to be sure that Fish would be safe and would not have to get along with anyone else who might have pets, or worry about safety with people going in and out. Fish has a reputation in our cat kennel as an escape artist and would mastermind escaping from his social room every time the door was opened. When new staff or

volunteers were entering his room, he took special pleasure in darting past them, or behind them, or over them—while they were shocked at his nimble and speedy escape.

When Owen moved to his new home, he immediately came to apply for Fish. The pictures below need little explanation. Fish came to Owen immediately and got into the carrier that was going to take him home to his new life with Owen. Fish knew and trusted us to only place him in the purrfect home.

Our staff and volunteers were happy to see him get such a good home, but sad that they would no longer see him. Owen keeps us informed about Fish's great success in settling in and says that it's as if they had been together forever.

This rescue and adoption story reflects so many important things about our work, work that YOU make possible: we never gave up on Fish and gave him a good home for as long as he needed it. Owen saw the unconditional love and care given to our animals and developed a true love for the shelter and for Fish. May all young people find such a kind and loving place as they face the tremendous challenges of growing up in this chaotic world. And love, true love, is forever. Fish remembered Owen, and fell back into his arms as if they had never been separated.

We can't help but reflect on the difference between people who so easily throw their pets away because they are moving, or too busy, or in a relationship where the pet is not welcome....the list of excuses goes on and on. AND then we have Owen, and others like him, who only thought about what would be best for his cat when he selected his first apartment.

Owen and Fish cuddle at home—together at last!



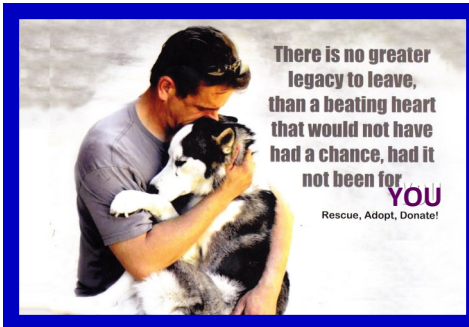
# A Reminder of the Impact of ALL of Us



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 Fish, Theodore, 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 10, is our biggest annual fundraiser, last year generating \$201,108 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 for decades.



With your support, we are able to save many animals. Even those whose lives we cannot save because they didn't get to us in time, 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 Fish, Theodore, Chubby, and Buckwheat. 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.***

***Donations for Challenge Hours are needed now.***

*Please contact us if you can help at [aidpa@animalsindistresspa.org](mailto:aidpa@animalsindistresspa.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.*

*\*\*Donors wanting to get a deduction thru RMDs can contact Rose to make deferred payment arrangements.*



.....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 Fish, Cubby, Becca, Teddy, and so many others can get a second chance in a world that seldom gives second chances.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

***List here names of loved ones to be honored and remembered at our Celebration of Life on June 4:***

\_\_\_\_\_





## ANIMALS IN DISTRESS

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*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!*



### ***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 re-pay.

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. 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.***