



Tails of Hope

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"The Kennel of Hope"

The Newsletter of Animals in Distress

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EDITOR: LOIS GADEK

Blessings All Around



Thanks to all who participated in this year's Blessing of the Animals in honor of the feast day of Saint Francis of Assisi. Sadly, animals were not considered as worthy of care or kindness in centuries past by certain religions and societies. They were abused, killed, neglected, and left to starve to death.

Saint Francis took a different view of the situation. He felt that all creatures great and small deserved the same compassion and love and care that humans did. He truly was remarkable in going against his own faith and society. But sometimes, the heart knows more than any institution does. Sometimes, we follow our hearts because we know doing anything else will put a cancer on our souls. The result of his compassion is that today, we honor his feast day as a way of reminding everyone that animals are indeed a blessing.

We want to thank Dr. Steve Myers for officiating at the blessing. Steve and his wife Karen had adopted a dog from us many years ago, who was much loved. For almost every year for almost 28 years, Sharon Grant O'Connor has come all the way from Delaware to provide music. Sharon and her husband Danny have rescued so many animals in Delaware that we're not even sure of the exact count right now.



These are the kind of people who not only participate in the Blessing, but who know what the Blessing is all about. They know that human life without animals would be sad and lonely for many people.



We also want to thank the volunteers who organized the event, providing homemade food and refreshments for everyone.

A special part of the program this year was the dedication of a collage of medals and ribbons put together by Denise Schaffer. Denise adopted a border collie pup named Eli from us over a decade ago. Eli, typical of his breed, required lots of mental and physical activity, and Denise did an outstanding job of getting Eli into agility and other doggy activities. Eli became a champion and accumulated so many ribbons and medals that they would fill a whole room.



Eli and Denise have attended almost all of our events since she adopted him. We have countless photos of Eli hanging out, wearing costumes, participating with other dogs, and in general being part of our family here at the shelter. Sadly, Eli passed away recently.

When Denise presented us with a framed collage displaying some of Eli's medals and ribbons, we decided that we would hang it in a prominent place in our Hospitality Center. Eli was a shelter dog. He was a rescue. He was a bit challenging as a puppy and probably would've been put down or abused if he hadn't come to us. And here he was... Champion, a gentleman in fur, and a wonderful example of the potential in animals that are given a second chance because of the people who support our work. Without such people, who believe in giving discarded animals a second chance, animals like Eli and Madeline would have not had a chance to live.

Perhaps, the best thing we can do in honor of these wonderful rescued animals is to go on rescuing animals.

The pictures below capture some of the love and caring at the Blessing. Over 400 other animals in our shelter and beloved pets of people not able to attend were blessed as well.



Photos courtesy of Lois Gadek, Sherrie Hay, & Deb Purdy



A Holiday Gift Idea

TAKE A PET TO DINNER PROGRAM

Many people who love animals cannot have one in their homes due to various reasons such as allergies, lease restrictions, space, etc. There are others who already have pets and cannot add to the pet population in their homes or some people live out of the area but have expressed an interest in helping the pets in our shelter.

We have a wonderful program at the shelter entitled “**Take a Pet To Dinner.**” This program enables a person to sponsor a dog or cat currently living at the kennel and to become that pet’s “special person.” What a wonderful gift idea for a special person for this year’s holiday season!! You can choose a 6 month or 12 month holiday sponsorship. The recipient will receive a festive gift announcement package, including a

photo and story about their sponsored pet and the giver of that gift (YOU), along with a holiday gift announcement card. Throughout the year, the sponsor will also get periodic updates about the sponsored pet, so this gift keeps giving long after the holidays are a distant memory, keeping alive the true feeling of the holidays!

We do all the work, and you enjoy all the appreciation for such a thoughtful gift!! To give a Holiday Pet Sponsorship, just fill out the form below. Sponsorships can be from a single person or a group of people, and can be given to one person or a whole family. What a great and yearlong gift for the family who has everything, or for a child who wants a pet but can’t have one due to allergies in the family or rental restrictions!

....detach here and mail to Holiday Take-A-Pet, Animals in Distress, P.O. Box 609, Coopersburg, PA 18036....

Animals In Distress Holiday 2024 Sponsorship in Take A Pet To Dinner Program

Your Name: _____

Address: _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone: _____

6 Month Sponsorship (Dec thru May) \$60 _____

12 Month Sponsorship (Dec thru Nov) \$120 _____

Name and address of person(s) to receive gift: PLEASE NOTE FOR EACH RECIPIENT IF THE SPONSORSHIP SHOULD BE A CAT OR A DOG: We will choose a pet in need of a sponsor unless you have a specific request.

Will you be my sponsor?



Enclose a check with this form. **OR**...If you would like to pay your sponsorship by credit card, please complete this section.

Card Number _____ Exp. Date _____ Dollar Amount: _____
Mastercard, VISA, or Discovery only please

Authorized Signature _____ Date _____

Name (print) _____

Send this form and payment to “**Holiday Sponsorship Gift Take a Pet to Dinner**”, **Animals In Distress P. O. Box 609 Coopersburg, PA 18036** Gifts postmarked by December 7 are guaranteed to arrive before Dec. 25.



Holiday Fun and Fund-raisers

100% of the proceeds benefit the no-kill sanctuary

ANIMALS IN DISTRESS

5075 Limeport Pike, Coopersburg, PA 18036

610-966-9383, website animalsindistresspa.org

Email: aidpa@animalsindistresspa.org

Happy Holidays Open House SUNDAY, Dec. 8, 12:00 to 4 pm. ***Silent Auction (drawing that day at 4), Music, Craft and Gift Bazaar, Food and Beverages, Basket Social****

Fabulous selection of craft and gift items, baked goods (please deliver donated baked goods to the shelter by 4pm on December 7, and hot and cold munchies and appetizers by 11am on December 8. Please contact Kelly at 610-762-8553, or email her at khart70906@aol.com to coordinate with her about the food items. **This event features the area's largest selection of items with a cat or dog motif, many one-of-a-kind.** All items are reasonably priced. **Baskets filled with various items are needed and can be brought to the shelter by 4pm on either November 30 or December 1. They should have a value of at least \$10 and can be in any theme you choose: chocolate or coffee or tea lover, cat lover, bathroom, dog lover, etc. The baskets we have received in the past have been exceptional, with some worth \$75 or more.* Drawing of the Basket Social Winners will be at 4 pm on Dec. 15.



Pet Photos with Santa Paws at the shelter, 1 to 3:30 pm, on Saturday, December 7---and on Sunday, Dec. 15 --No appointments needed. People are welcome to pose with their pet.

Happy Holidays Gift Bazaar at the shelter, 1 to 4 pm, every Sat and Sun until Dec. 24 *Please stop by and do some last minute shopping, while also enjoying one of the area's greatest gift selections featuring cats and dogs. New items are added constantly.*

No worries about all the news reports of store shelves being empty and deliveries being held up on the docks. We have a lot of great items, many one-of-a-kind, so you can spend your money and save animals and avoid the stress of wondering when and if you can find just that special item that's being promoted during the holiday buying frenzy.

NEW this year is a Sweet Treats Contest! Bakers are invited to bring their goodies to the shelter by December 7 for the Holiday Open House. IF they choose, their donated baked goods will be entered in a contest for the Yummiest Goodie at Open House. Prizes will be awarded after a blind tasting. If interested, contact Kelly at (610) 762-8553 or khart70906@aol.com.



STOP Holiday Stress!

Let's be realistic: the holidays are a mixed blessing. Many people become exhausted (and sick) by running around buying gifts and all that goes with them (wrapping, delivering, paying for, returning, etc.) Many people spend too much, eat too much, and have too much. In the process of celebrating the holidays, we sometimes minimize or even forget the meaning of the holidays, which are a time for giving, not getting; a time for being grateful for what we have--our health, our loved ones, our other blessings.

Let's make a deal: if you consider sharing your holiday celebration with the animals at the shelter, you will receive in return: less stress and work for you, more time for what really matters, tax deductible holiday "spending," and the knowledge that you have helped those who will not have any holiday at all, without your help.

Further, those who receive your gifts will know that they are being honored in the best way possible: by having good done for others, in their name, in their honor. What better way to honor the memory of a loved one? In this Holiday Fundraising brochure are all sorts of gift ideas. Please consider them as part of your holiday giving. You and the gift recipients will feel great by giving and receiving such gifts, and so will the homeless animals at our shelter. Remember: 100% of all money donated--and all money raised through such fundraisers--goes directly to care for the 350+ animals housed at Animals in Distress, over the holidays as well as during the rest of the year.



Share your gift giving with our animals

Help us decorate the shelter for the holidays and do something special as well. In all Tribute categories, the person's or pet's name(s) will be printed on velvet ribbons attached to the Holiday Tributes. The display will be unveiled at the Christmas Open House on December 8 and continue through the New Year. A personalized announcement of your thoughtful gift will be mailed directly to each recipient you designate on the enclosed form. If you prefer, we will send the announcements to you so you can deliver them personally.

Please consider honoring a family, friend, business, or special pet or person by selecting one or more of these very special donor holiday options:

Poinsettia Tribute with Name of Person/Pet Honored--\$35

Special Ornament with Name Honored--\$75

Special Wreath with Name(s) Honored--\$250

Please designate your instructions on the form below and mail your instructions to the P.O. Box on the form. The Holiday Tributes will be displayed at the December Open House and will remain on display until after the New Year. Please allow our volunteers adequate time to process your request. Tribute requests postmarked by December 11 will be guaranteed to arrive where designated before December 25. Tributes received after that time will be processed as soon as possible, and displayed at the shelter immediately after we receive them.

For more info: contact our website at animalsindistresspa.org, email aidpa@animalsindistresspa.org, or call 610-966-9383.

The holidays remind many of us of our childhood, and some of us experience mixed emotions as we think back to our youth and past holidays—people and pets now gone, special moments, the wonder that is only possible in childhood. What we are now is, in part, determined by our past. Christmas isn't about shopping and getting gifts. It's about Love...and Hope...and a kinder, better world for ALL creatures great and small. Over 300 animals at Animals in Distress have a safe and loving home at the shelter for as long as they need it. We honor the Christmas spirit every day of the year....and are so grateful to you for making all of what we do possible.



HOLIDAY TRIBUTES FORM


detach and return to : HOLIDAY, Animals in Distress, P.O. Box 609,
Coopersburg, PA 18036

Your Name _____

Address _____


City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone () _____


 List the following as Memorials (indicate if a pet or a person) for Poinsettias

*If you want the announcements mailed directly **TO YOU**, check this box []*

If you want us to mail an announcement directly to the recipient(s), please supply the mailing address below (attach separate sheets of paper if you prefer):

 List the following as In Honor of (indicate if a pet or a person) for Poinsettias

Total Enclosed at \$35 each: \$ _____
For Poinsettia Tributes

 List the following as Tributes or Memorials (indicate if a pet or person) for Special Ornaments @ \$75

_____ indicate which are tributes/which are memorials

 List the following as Tributes or Memorials (indicate if a pet or person) for Special Wreaths @ \$250

_____ indicate which are tributes/which are memorials

If you want the announcements mailed directly TO YOU, check this box. []

If you want us to mail an announcement directly to the recipient(s), please supply the mailing address(es) (attach separate sheets of paper if needed): _____

Total Enclosed: Number _____ Special Ornaments at \$75 each: \$ _____

Number _____ Special Wreaths at \$250 each: \$ _____

Total Enclosed for Ornaments and Wreaths: \$ _____

Blessed by Purrfect Weather, Wag Walk 2024

Was A Fun Day for Pets and People

Lake Nockamixon is beautiful in autumn, bathed in colors of gold and bronze, even more beautiful because the waters of the lake capture and reflect back the colors around them. Old friends reunited, and strangers became friends very quickly as the love of animals provided an immediate bond and basis for conversation.

One of the very best aspects of all our events is the fact that those events attract really nice, caring human beings. In these troubled times, when many gatherings turn violent (and even deadly), our events are the opposite: one volunteer used to call them “love fests”!

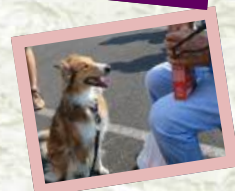
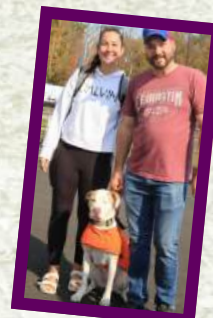
Many thanks to all the volunteers who did the set-up, planning, and food preparation. Thanks to those who donated food and prizes (Robin Levan made fabulous desserts), to those who collected sponsorship donations, and to those who actually participated either with or without a pet.

Rose Ann Lutkavage collected the most sponsorship donations, and Brenda Bolster and Karen Winston also collected a substantial amount. Brenda also donated fabulous gift bags. The pictures on this page, taken by Lowell Linde, capture the fun and camaraderie of this year’s Wag Walk.

The total raised this year is \$7,564. Every penny of that goes directly to animal care, thanks to the hard work and generosity of our friends.



AID dog SHELBY, adopted by Michael & Marla Burke. Photo compliments of Marla.



Photos compliments of Lowell Linde

.....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 Madeline, Eli, and Shelby, and so many others, who need a second chance in a world that seldom gives second chances. They depend on us for their lives.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

If credit card**: Card number _____

***Only MasterCard, VISA, & Discover card are accepted, please.*

Exp. Date _____ Name on card _____

Signature of cardholder _____

Check this box if you do NOT want a receipt for your donation



Thanks for Lending A Friendly Paw A Helping Hand!



KENNEL HELPER, FT/PT, with compassion for homeless animals. Duties include cleaning, feeding, and loving the residents at this no kill sanctuary. Weekdays/weekends/holidays included.

Submit resume or letter of interest to:
Animals in Distress, P.O. Box 609,
Coopersburg, PA 18036 or email to
aidpa@animalsindistresspa.org.

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

Veterans Day is November 11

One of the areas of service that is often overlooked is the incredible contribution and sacrifice of millions of animals.

Horses and dogs are the most well-known, but many other species of animals have also served in various ways. Books have been written about that topic, and some of them are included in the Garden of Heroes display at our shelter. We created the Garden of Heroes several years ago to remind people that we have a debt we can never repay to all the animals who have saved millions of lives through their military, police, fire detection, search and rescue, and many other areas of service.

We are a society that is still killing millions of innocent animals, simply because people are irresponsible and thoughtless. We need to be reminded as a society that animals have served us not only personally and emotionally, but they have provided us with unconditional love, protection, and companionship, when the world has turned its back on us. They have also saved the lives of thousands of soldiers and emergency responders, as well as finding lost and terrified people, often losing their own lives in the process.

One of our most loyal volunteers over the years was Les Miller, who served as a sonar man in the Navy. Les was proud of his military service and always reflected the dignity and dedication



of those who have served selflessly to protect their country and all of us. Les and his wife, Cheryl adopted a dog from us named Madeline. Madeline was abandoned with all her puppies, and the little family was starving to death. Animals in Distress rescued all of them, and found homes for all the puppies and then eventually for Madeline.

When Les passed away, Madeline never forgot him. Les's wife Cheryl shared a couple of pictures with us that we wanted to share with our friends. One picture shows Madeline at Les's grave. And the other picture shows her in front of the chair that he sat in. She simply can't understand why he's not there anymore.



We must make sure that those who have served our country are not forgotten or overlooked. And that includes all the animals who have saved countless lives through bomb detection, search and rescue, and so many other areas of service. Our Garden of Heroes at Animals in Distress is our way of acknowledging their service. We must never forget them.

A former name for what we now call Veterans Day is Remembrance Day. It is so important for all of us, despite all the craziness of the world around us, to pause and think about those who have served us, including all the animals that have saved countless lives. We can never repay the debts that we owe to those who served selflessly and often gave their lives to save the lives of others.