



"The Kennel of Hope"

# Tails of Hope

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

website: [animalsindistresspa.org](http://animalsindistresspa.org)  
email: [aidpa@animalsindistresspa.org](mailto:aidpa@animalsindistresspa.org)  
phone: 610-966-9383

VOL. XXIX No. 1

FEBRUARY 2024

EDITOR: LOIS GADEK

## *Another year, another chance*

This year has been a chance for a new start ... to learn from the past and plan for a brighter, kinder future. Maybe that's why some people make such a big deal out of the start of a new year: it's another chance, a fresh beginning, a chance to leave the disappointments of the past behind.

Here at Animals in Distress, we have great memories of all the kindnesses shown to us by our friends and supporters. Nothing more embodies that than the mail and donations we received over the holidays. Such kind messages written on cards, such heartfelt tributes to loved ones past and present that filled our Hospitality center during the holidays, such thoughtful gifts given to loved ones—Take-A-Pet sponsorships of one of our shelter residents, special items from our gift shop and Holiday Bazaar, and monetary gifts in honor or memory of a special person, pet, or family. Those gifts give life and hope to homeless pets and don't have to be exchanged for a different size or color!

Every dollar donated or spent on gift items and Basket Social, every dollar, goes 100% to saving animals and giving them a second chance in a world that seldom gives second chances.

You may have noticed the avalanche of charitable solicitations from larger organizations that spend tens of millions of dollars on mailings, gifts like mailing labels and calendars, and on television and social media advertising. Some of the appeals have run literally hundreds of times, especially on television, and continue even a month after the end of the holidays. Why? Because the sad pictures and sad stories and sad music and sad voice all, together, create sympathy in the audience as a nudge or even a guilt trip to get them to donate to the cause.

Many of us in animal rescue work have stopped listening to these appeals because they upset us too. What's even more disturbing is that these national appeals that cost tens of millions of dollars take funds away from local, grass roots shelters like Animals in Distress. And donors seldom, if ever, get a chance to visit and actually meet the animals their donations are helping.

In addition, given current news about wars and divisiveness and violence, some people have an understandable tendency to become "down" and pessimistic about life, the world, and the future. Understandable, Yes, BUT not inevitable. We CAN choose to break the spiral into negativity and hopelessness, and here's how: choose to make a difference.



Few people will be able to rock the world with great innovations and mind boggling achievements. But each person can make a difference. Each person can show kindness. Each person can be a hero. How do we know this to be true? Because Animals in Distress has existed for over 47 years...it has defied predictions that a true no kill shelter with a true no kill policy could not survive without killing animals who were deemed unadoptable, because of factors like age, health, or temperament challenges. And who was the

wind beneath our wings for those decades? YOU and friends like you...

YOU believed in our mission and have made our rescue and rehabilitation work possible. Donating money, and/or time, and/or other things like merchandise, according to your means and ability, YOU have made a difference in the lives of thousands of animals who have sought refuge in our sanctuary.

In the next few pages, we want to share with you some specific examples of how much good your support and prayers have done. Don't worry: we're not going to prey on your kindness by focusing on all the horrible things that happened. Yes, bad things happen. Sad beyond words. BUT...we can choose to do something to make things better. To help the animals (and people?) move forward in a positive way. Many of these stories have happy endings because we were able to help. Please visit us and see many of these animals in person: let them thank you for their lives. Let them show you how much your kindness matters. See, for yourself, why you are our heroes.

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

# VERA BRADLEY & LONGABERGER BASKET



TO BENEFIT

## ANIMALS IN DISTRESS SATURDAY, APRIL 20

DOORS OPEN 11:00 AM | BINGO STARTS 1PM | 130 TICKETS AVAILABLE

**\$30 FOR 20 GAMES**

4 SPECIAL GAME PACK IS \$5

BRING DONATIONS FOR THE SHELTER  
AND GET 5 FREE CHINESE AUCTION TICKETS  
(FOOD, LITTER, TREATS, CLEANING SUPPLIES, ETC.)

**EMMAUS FIRE CO. NO. 1**

50 S. 6TH STREET | EMMAUS, PA

FOOD & BAKED GOODS AVAILABLE | NO OUTSIDE FOOD PERMITTED

FOR MORE INFO:

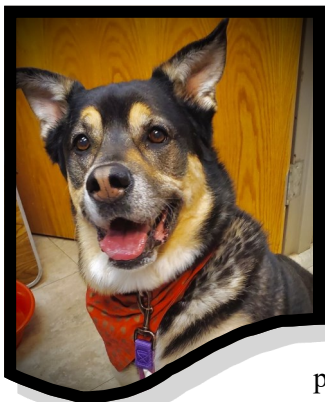
CALL KELLY AT 610-762-8553 OR EMAIL [KHART70906@AOL.COM](mailto:KHART70906@AOL.COM)  
OR GET YOUR TICKET AT ANIMALS IN DISTRESS

## Hidden Treasure

Do you ever get the feeling that there are hidden treasures? We're not necessarily talking about gold, jewels, and all of that. But rather, there are animals out there that get overlooked because they're older, or they're not gorgeous or purebred or whatever...

These days, so much focus is given to arbitrary standards of beauty and desirability. As long as you look good, especially if you are young, you'll get noticed.

As long as you're young and perky, and all of that, you are praised. But what about the quiet ones? What about those of great kindness and sensitivity, who fade into the background and go on unacknowledged?



In the animal rescue world, many people decide on the marketability of an animal before they decide whether it lives or

dies. An animal that isn't marketable, an animal who is older, or has a health issue, or has a personality that is distant on the first meet and greet—those kinds of animals often are dismissed. We see time and time again that animals we know have a lot to offer are getting bypassed. It breaks our hearts.

Some of us here at Animals in Distress take great pleasure in finding the hidden treasures in our animals. You can't decide, based on outward appearance and "marketability," whether an animal is for you or not. Of course, each life is precious. But the people who find the real treasures are willing to look beyond the surface and open their hearts to those who might otherwise fade into the background.

One such story is that of Mocha, a middle-aged shepherd mix, who was abandoned by her owners. A witness saw a middle-aged couple push Mocha out of their car at Dunkin' Donuts, and they sped away. The young man who saw this was horrified. The dog stood in the parking lot, totally confused. Where are my people? What am I supposed to do? Where am I supposed to go? You could read these questions and the growing fear in the face and body language of that poor dog.

The young man could not in good conscience leave that dog there, so he loaded her in his car and took her home with him to his apartment. He discovered that she was a wonderful dog. He puzzled over and over how anyone could abandon such a beautiful and loving dog. She slept in bed with him. She was a wonderful friend. But then, a couple of months later, his landlord ordered him to "get rid" of the dog.

He checked with several possible rescues and shelters, but found no help. Finally, he came upon Animals in Distress. We heard the sad story of this dog, we imagined the fear and loneliness she had gone through, and we thought about how the young man had done everything within his power to help her. So Mocha came into our shelter. She turned out to be a very nice dog as predicted.

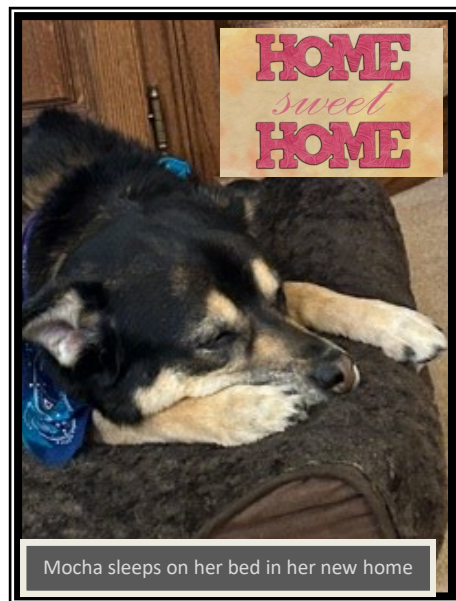
But Mocha is a bit reserved. She doesn't "sell" herself. She's nice and quiet and sweet, and we showed her to many people interested in adopting a dog. But no one was interested.

A couple who had adopted dogs from us over the years was preparing to say goodbye to their last dog adopted from us, who was elderly and dying. They took an interest in Mocha. And when their elderly dog passed away, they came back and adopted her. That's a great ending to the story, but there's much more. Mocha has exceeded all of their expectations. She settled in immediately. She is housebroken. She is playful and happy and a wonderful companion. She is beyond anything they could've hoped for. And she is home.

The success of her quick adjustment to her new home, and the friends and the family, and everybody in the neighborhood, and everything that she has been exposed to, her adjustment has been extraordinary and way beyond anything we could've anticipated. She has started a new life. She is happy. And she has love.

We can't help but think about the people who missed out on finding such a hidden treasure. There are so many hidden treasures in our shelter, as well as in other shelters. People with great understanding and perception know that it takes time to find those treasures. But they are out there. We promise you.

We wanted to share this particular story with you because your support and prayers make everything we do possible. We keep telling you that so you don't forget how important you are. And if you need anyone to tell you how important you are, just ask Mocha. She is finally now in her forever home, and Animals in Distress and the people who enable our life-saving work have made this happy ending possible.



# THANK YOU



Over the past year, many people, businesses, and others have thought up creative ways to donate to the animals in our sanctuary. One newer way of raising funds is over the Internet. This way of fundraising is highly susceptible to fraud and false claims, but it does reach a lot of people and has raised substantial funds for honest and worthwhile charities and causes.

Some of our friends and supporters have chosen Facebook fundraising as a way of helping. For a birthday or anniversary or holiday gift, some of our supporters have asked that donations to Animals in Distress, instead of gifts, be given to celebrate the event and honor a special loved one.



Several of our friends have raised funds that will literally save lives and are more meaningful and long lasting than things bought in a store. We appreciate these

shared celebrations and think that there is no better way to celebrate and honor the achievements and existence of a loved one.

We were so grateful when Jack Lehr Electric hosted three major fundraisers: The Cutest Dog and The Cutest Cat Contests on Facebook, a huge collection of needed items among their incredible staff and clients.

And then several groups—school, church, scout, and others—brought in donations of money and items for cleaning and animal care. Some of the donations were part of the Morning Call Be An Angel program for local charities, but many were done by people who want to support our lifesaving efforts.

Of course, an amazing number of people donate baskets for our various basket socials. These baskets rival the baskets in

any fundraiser anywhere, in creativity, contents, and quality. And some people run fundraisers for us, like a painting party, pancake breakfast, yard sale, wine event, and so on.



A special category of donations comes to us in the form of bequests in wills. We could not exist without these funds. Each bequest is greatly appreciated, and we are deeply touched that some of our friends have such a deep belief in our mission that they would leave us their lifelong savings. The bequests ensure that the spirit of the deceased lives on forever.



In the spirit of thinking about the fact that we all can leave a legacy, we want to stress the absolute importance of making sure your pets are provided for in your estate planning. Way too often, we are

asked to take in pets of people who have died or have serious problems, and we try to help when we can. However, so much more is possible if the pets have been provided for in writing.

Still another, growing way to donate and also extend the amount of the donation is through Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs). Good old Uncle Sam does not want people who saved up for retirement to sit on their savings indefinitely. At age 70 1/2, a certain percentage of retirement accounts must be withdrawn as taxable income. By now, most people know about this. However, a real tax break exists if the RMD is sent directly to a qualifying charity instead of passing through the donor's hands directly. The donation is NOT taxed as income. Some supporters have donated this way, and we hope more consider doing so.

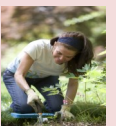
Our income is also supplemented by donation cans placed in various businesses. A special program created by the late Steve Homick places cans in people's homes and allows people to collect their spare change on a regular basis. It's amazing how much comes in from these canisters. If you're interested, just contact us at [aidpa@enter.net](mailto:aidpa@enter.net)



**It all helps save lives ...  
EVERY DOLLAR COUNTS!!**

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

**Maintenance of beds** around buildings and in the Garden of Heroes. Weed pulling, shrub trimming, mulch spreading. Starts in April/May thru Fall—estimated couple hours a week, at time convenient for volunteer(s).



**Online Selling of special items** donated to us—we get some really nice, unusual and collectible items donated, but we don't reach a large enough audience to be able to sell them for a fair price. Someone with experience in online marketing and selling would help us raise more funds to help animals, and to find good homes for these special items.

Interested parties can email us at [aidpa@ptd.net](mailto:aidpa@ptd.net).

# 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 16, 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 17 and Saturday, March 23. 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 2**, starting at 10 am. Details in upcoming newsletter and on our website.

47th Alumni Day Pets and People Party , Sunday, June 2 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 8, ending with all day event at shelter on Sunday, July 14**



**BINGO**

Spring is Coming. and so is our **Spring Bazaar** of new items, all at least 50% off. Dog sweaters and coats, leashes, collars, dog and cat toys, water bowls and pet dishes, carriers, cages, beds, and so much more. Plus a huge selection of various gift items that you won't find elsewhere.

Several tables feature incredible prices on a variety of pet-related items, all at 50% off retail. In addition, bring proof of having adopted your dog or cat from an animal shelter, and you can get **another 10-25% off**. Once these items are gone, we do not believe we will be able to repeat this amazing offer. And remember: **ALL proceeds go to our life saving work.**

*The bazaar will be open every Saturday and Sunday from 1-4 pm (except Easter) starting February 24 and will end on May 12 (Mother's Day).*

# ***“Kindness is the language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see.”***

– Mark Twain



Imagine being abandoned in a strange place, with no friends, and no food and no shelter. Imagine how afraid you would be. And then, imagine not being able to see.

That was the predicament of a cat we rescued around Christmas. He was a stray who showed up in a woman’s yard. She fed him for several days, but was concerned because his eyes were pasted shut and dripping thick yellow liquid. He tried to eat, but the liquid kept running into the dish. It is difficult to imagine the pain that he felt, and the confusion and fear.

When we realized the urgency of the situation, we arranged to get him to a veterinarian as soon as possible. He had several medical issues, including a botched surgery to neuter him. We will never know his complete story. What we do know, is that given his blindness, he could not have survived. Massive infection and pain, combined with an inability to get away or defend himself, would’ve led to an early and ugly death for him.

We are including a before picture (above), not horribly graphic, to give you an idea of his predicament. After he had surgery to correct the botched neuter, and another surgery to open his eyes and correct the problem where his eyelids were scraping on his eyeballs and causing all the trauma, we are sharing an after surgery picture (right). In that picture, we are seeing his eyes for the first time. In that picture, he’s able to see the world around him for the first time in a very long time.



This is one of several dramatic rescues we did in the couple of weeks around Christmas and New Year’s. While others were celebrating the holidays, we were celebrating the rescue of such animals who had no family and no home. We are so grateful to all of our friends for making this rescue and so many others possible.

Since it was the Christmas season, we named the cat Gingersnap. His color is similar to that of ginger cookies, And he is as sweet and loving as that popular dessert. He is at the shelter, one of many living examples of the kind of miracles we can work, not just during the Christmas season, but every day of the year.

Gingersnap appreciates everything that’s been done for him, and feels the love around him. If you ever need to feel that there is still good in the world, please visit our sanctuary and spend time with some of our animals. They may not tell you with words, but they will definitely “tell” you, that love and hope and kindness can bring miracles and can save lives.

***Love, Hope, and Kindness are alive and well every day at our Kennel of Hope.***

.....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 Mocha, Gingersnap, 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 \_\_\_\_\_

{ } Check enclosed OR 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 need a receipt for your donation



## *Animals in Distress* *Membership Renewal/Enrollment Form*

Please detach or copy this coupon and return it, along with a SASE, and your membership fee to:  
**Membership, Animals in Distress, P.O. Box 609, Coopersburg, PA 18036**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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

Credit Card: *MasterCard, Discover, or Visa (circle one)*

Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name on card \_\_\_\_\_

Authorized Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Please enroll / renew (circle one) my 2024 AID  
Membership in the following category  
(select one):**

**Life** - \$250 (once payable)

**Senior** (65 and older) - \$10

**Sustaining** - \$50

**Active** - \$20

**Corporate** - \$500

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

**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



*Some of our  
shelter dogs  
are all ready  
for Easter!*