



"The Kennel of Hope"

# Tails of Hope

The Newsletter of Animals in Distress  
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Have you ever thought about what pictures do? We're talking here about the power of images to say so much. If you study art history, you learn about various important paintings, and you often read about the artist's background, intended message (if any), and other comments on those pictures. But what really gets your attention first is the picture itself.

According to the artist, the picture we're sharing now is reflecting a young boy who has failed a test at school. His parents and family are disappointed in him, and he is feeling pretty miserable about himself. He feels rejected in some ways, and, indeed, maybe he is.

We have created a society in which competition and success are more important than effort and good will. If you look closely at the picture, you will see that the dog in the picture is trying to connect with the little boy. The dog is trying to comfort him and send messages of love and acceptance. The dog does not care about the boy's academic achievement. The dog cares about the boy. The dog senses that the child is upset and sad. The dog, in that great empathy that dogs have for people, wants to help. He wants to reassure the boy. He wants to comfort him. He wants to let him know that he is not alone. He wants to love him and make him feel important.

There's a lot we can learn from that picture. Our pets give us so much unconditional love and acceptance. They become incredibly important to our emotional and spiritual well-being. Those of us who have dedicated our lives to helping animals understand that. We feel it. Indeed, some of us have gone through traumatic experiences and our strongest support system was our

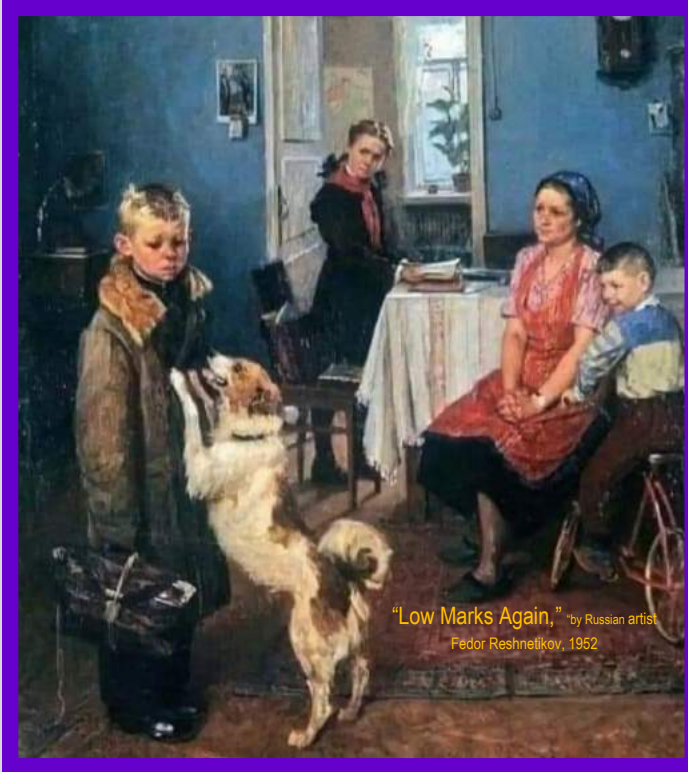
pets. Unconditional love. Nonjudgmental love. Total acceptance. These are gifts that are so hard to find among the human community, but they are gifts that are so commonly and freely given by our pets.

When we think about the 300+ animals in our shelter, and the thousands that we have helped over almost 5 decades of service, we are so grateful that we've been able to continue our work. Best of all, through thoughtful placement, we have been able to provide loving families with pets that will make them feel as special as that boy feels. When all human comfort has gone, our pets will be there for us. Indeed, for people living homeless on the street, unloved and 'invisible,' their only comfort is a pet. For people living alone, people with emotional crises, people with physical challenges, their pets are their

only comfort.

We wish that every pet would be allowed to live (and not be eliminated because they are unwanted or too old or not good enough, or not.....(just fill in the blanks). Our companion animals deserve to be appreciated, and honored, for all the good that they bring into the world. For all the good they do for humanity. For all the goodness that is natural and intrinsic to their nature.

So as we look at various pictures that we surround our lives with, either in museums, or in our homes, or on our cell phones, or on our computers, remember that the pictures remind us of things that are special and important in our lives. Let us be grateful for all the happy moments and tender moments that those pictures represent. And let us also hold in our hearts a picture of a future where all animals, great and small, will be safe and loved—and given a chance to be all that they can be in a world that desperately needs them.



"Low Marks Again," by Russian artist  
Fedor Reshnetkov, 1952

## *40 Is the Magic Number!!*

In a few months, we will be launching our 2024 WAEB 790 AM Radiothon, hosted on air by Bobby Gunther Walsh. Bobby recently celebrated a milestone in the Lehigh Valley: he has now been a broadcast personality in the greater Lehigh Valley for 40 years.

Bobby has been a great friend to Animals in Distress, as well as to many other local charities. He has used his voice to try to help animals and children and veterans and others who didn't have a voice.

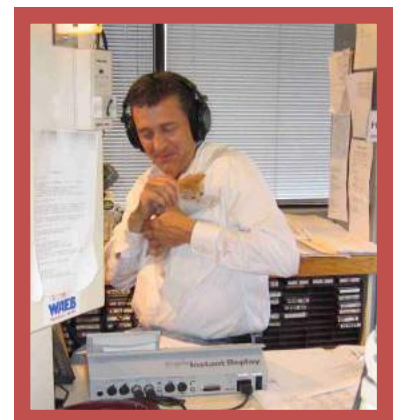
Craig Stevens of WAEB wrote a beautiful tribute to Bobby, and we quote part of it here:

“WAEB hired Bobby Gunther Walsh and tomorrow, March 12, we celebrate a remarkable milestone: 40 years of dedication and excellence.

*“Gunther, your unwavering commitment and engaging presence have been the best thing to happen to News-Radio 790 WAEB. Your voice resonates across the airwaves, connecting with listeners day after day. Thank you for four decades of passion, entertainment, and community spirit.”*

*Gunther's dedication goes beyond the studio – his work with charities, like Animals in Distress, the Children's Home of Easton, the Center for Animal Health and Welfare, the Allentown Rescue Mission, and many more. He has raised millions and touched countless lives. His passion for racing and love for his family, having endeared him to our listeners, making him a true icon of local radio. Here's to many more years of your voice being a part of our mornings. May your next chapter be as vibrant and impactful as the last.”*

After Craig wrote this comment, he posted a picture of Bobby that is among his favorites. We are going to share at this point some of our favorite pictures of Bobby, who has been a friend of our shelter, and a supporter of our mission for all 40 years that he has been in the Lehigh Valley. These are pictures that touch our heart because they show Bobby and some of our shelter animals. What many people may not realize is that Bobby is allergic to animals, but that hasn't stopped him from touching them and caring about them and even owning them in the case of some animals he rescued, including a little pint size dog named Scrappy. We hope you enjoy these pictures that show the deep connection Bobby has had to our life saving work.



As long as we're fortunate enough to be alive, we have a birthday every year. Some birthdays come and go, while others are seen as landmarks. While old age evokes mixed feelings in our culture, there are those who think that living many years is a privilege denied to many. And it's an opportunity to gain wisdom and experience and depth of character. Sadly, others view old age as a curse, and a stage of diminished capacity and limitation.

In the world of animal rescue, many people overlook the older animals. They don't want to deal with health issues, which is understandable, and they also sometimes don't adopt animals that are not outstanding in their looks and personality. Black pets are the last to be adopted and the first to be euthanized. Regrettably, many older and black or handicapped animals in shelters don't live very long. They are considered unmarketable and are therefore disposed of.

At our Kennel of Hope, we realize that some animals might not get adopted. But rescue is not just a word, it is a promise. At our sanctuary, it is the promise of unconditional love, and a safe place to live for as long as necessary. This means that some of our animals are elderly, and some of them are reaching advanced ages.

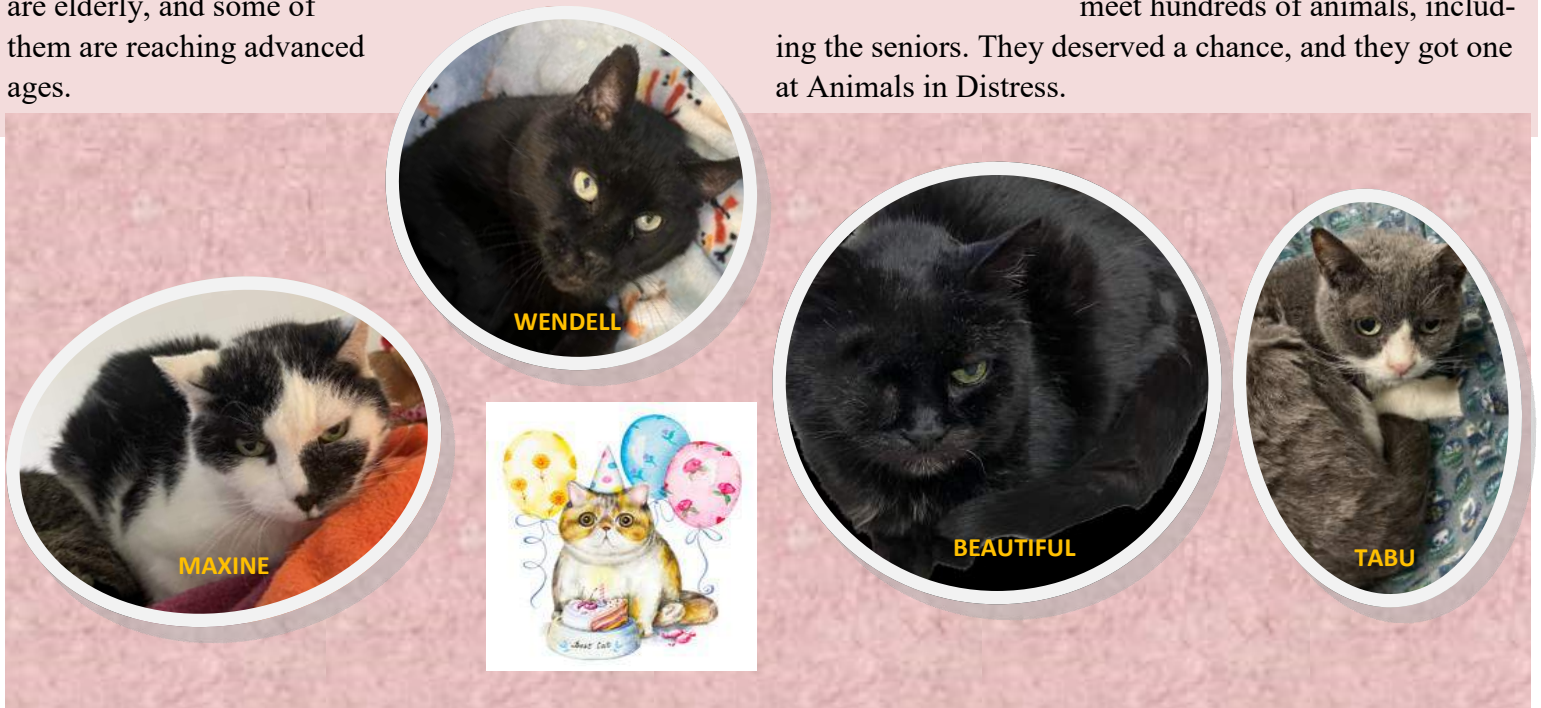
One of our longtime friends and supporters, Barb Oliveri, sponsors animals in our Take a Pet to Dinner Program, and regularly visits the cat kennel. She keeps tabs on the cats in her social circle, and she reminded us recently that we have some cats who will be celebrating their 20th birthday. Some of them might even be older, but those are the ages we can actually document from our records. Anyway, Barb wanted to suggest that we do something to celebrate these senior kitties.



Barb accepts a birthday sniff from Midnight as he, Wendell, Tabu, Beautiful, and Maxine celebrate their 30th birthdays at Animals in Distress.

We thought this was a wonderful idea. So, we are featuring here, some of our cats, who, around this time of year, are celebrating at least 20 years! Some of them came to us as kittens and never got adopted, some of them came as older cats, but never got adopted, But all of them have had a safe and loving home at Animals in Distress. And all of them are still here, a living witness to what the Kennel of Hope, our precious sanctuary, is all about.

We decided to share some pictures of these special seniors, not only to honor them but to honor the love that made their lives possible. If you ever want to see what your donations are going towards, please visit the shelter. You can meet hundreds of animals, including the seniors. They deserved a chance, and they got one at Animals in Distress.





## CALENDAR OF EVENTS AND FUNDRAISERS

**Membership Campaign**—new and renewals, see form in February newsletter or visit our website [animalsindistresspa.org](http://animalsindistresspa.org).

**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. Food, live music, fabulous Silent Auction and Basket Social, Pet Cake Walk, and some surprises. Do not miss this major celebration of our lifesaving work!! Renew old acquaintances and make new ones!

**WAEB Radiothon**—biggest fundraiser of the year—**starts week of July 8, ending with all day event at shelter on Sunday, July 14**

**2024 Volunteer Orientation Schedule, April, 23, July 23, and October 22—7pm,**  
at Animals in Distress, 5075 Limeport Pike, Coopersburg, PA. Visit us or our website for directions and Volunteer Application.

Volunteers help with fundraising, cleaning, maintenance, bake sales, tending shrubs and mowing grass, etc. in addition to working with the dogs and cats.

Spring has sprung and so has 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, and so much more. Plus a huge selection of various gift items that you won't find elsewhere.

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 until May 12 (Mother's Day).**

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## 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 Annie, Midnight, Maxine, Tabu, 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 8, is our biggest annual fundraiser, last year generating \$218,535 in donations. That is an impressive total, and we used every dollar for animal rescue and care. But it takes a lot of money to save lives, and is cheap to kill. Our veterinary costs alone have risen to about \$30,000 per month, and sometimes more. The alternative is to turn our backs on animals who have no hope without ALL of us doing what we can, together, to save lives.

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 who have no hope without us. 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 consider donating early so we can start with a good amount toward our final total.***

*Please contact us if you can help at aidpa@enter.net 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!!*

*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.*

## ***TWO YEARS CAN BE A LIFETIME OF HELL***

This newsletter started talking about pictures, and how they can say so much without using any words. Pictures can inspire. They can anger. They can share special moments. And in the animal rescue world, pictures can speak better than words can in terms of the desperate situation many of the animals we help rescue are found in. We wanted to share one recent rescue that represents the importance of our friends who support the life-saving work that we do.



Photos courtesy of Linda Hoffert

These pictures show a cat named Annie. She had been seen as a stray in the neighborhood for several months, but she didn't belong to any of the stray cat colonies. Because she was an outsider, some of the cats attacked her, and would not allow her near the food that some of the neighbors put out for the stray cats. She was not welcome in their world. That doesn't mean the stray cats were mean. But there was limited food, and they were closing ranks against outsiders.

Time went on, and Annie, that's the name we gave her, started to show signs of declining. She had lost a lot of weight because she couldn't get food, and she was getting weaker and more desperate looking.

Nobody in the neighborhood wanted her or was willing to get her any help, so she became one of those "invisible" stray cats that people see, but they don't really "see." Her fate was obvious. She was dying—slowly, unwanted, unloved, and suffering. She was truly an animal in distress.

Her condition was so concerning that we immediately took her to the veterinarian for an evaluation. Our

original diagnosis was that she was an older cat, possibly around 15, and that we may not be able to save her. But we needed to at least try.

Annie had been spayed and had some sort of tattoo, so she clearly must have belonged to someone at some point. However, her condition was deplorable. She was loaded with intestinal parasites that were sucking any nutrition that she might have acquired, and she was crawling with fleas, sucking all of her blood. Her fur was filthy and matted, her skin full of bite marks, her eyes were sunken, and her plight was desperate to say the least.

We are happy to report that Annie is doing better now. She has been given some flea treatment, has been shaved down, so that all of her matted fur and parasites have been gotten rid of, and she has been treated for her intestinal parasites and her malnutrition. She loves her canned food and eats a lot of it, making up for months when she had no food.

Most sad of all is that the vet has determined that Annie is only about two years old. What a hell she has gone through in those two years. What betrayal she has gone through. What hopelessness and desperation. What sadness and fear. Our hearts break for her, and for other animals who will never know that there are people who care about them. They will die alone and in fear, and they don't deserve that. No one does.

Because of all she has been through, Annie needs time to trust people again. That is understandable. She has no reason to think the world will be kind to her. So, we are going to give her as much time as she needs. We are going to flood her with kindness and understanding. We are going to let her know that she matters. And we want to let our friends know how much we appreciate their support and their prayers and their kind words, as we continue to do our life-saving work. As we keep reminding everyone, ***rescue is not just a word, it is a promise.***

.....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 Annie, Midnight, Fester, Tabu, Wendell, and so many others get a second chance in a world that seldom gives second chances.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Check 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!***

**Isn't this picture adorable? It captures the heart and makes us smile. When you know more about the picture, you will understand why you feel that way.**

The picture shows the grandchildren in the Kavchok family, who have been adopting dogs from us for many years. The two grandchildren pictured here have grown up with some of our AID dogs, and are shown here holding two of the more recent adoptions of AID dogs. On the left is Fester, who was abandoned during a downtown Bethlehem festival. And on the right is little Grace, also a poor waif left without anyone to love her.

Many of the people who adopt from us become loyal and long-term friends of the shelter, which is understandable since they are living with flesh and blood representatives



of the work that we do—The life-saving work embodied in the unconditional love we offer at our Kennel of Hope.

We want to live in a world where children are kind. And children need to see kindness and charity and service to others as they grow up. They need to understand that it is within their power to make the world a better place, a kinder place, and a more loving place.

Thanks to the Kavchok family and all the other people who have adopted AID pets into loving, forever homes.

Thanks also to Lowell Linde for taking pictures during our Easter Bunny Photos, to Denise Schaeffer for being the best Easter Bunny ever, and to all the people who showed up and had their pets' photos taken. Even though we got rained out on one of the two photo session dates, it was still a success.

# ANIMALS IN DISTRESS

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