



"The Kennel of Hope"

Tails of Hope

The Newsletter of Animals in Distress
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VOL. XXIX No. 6

MARCH 2025

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Matters of the Heart

Sometimes, we know what to do instinctively, because our hearts tell us. When we act against the dictates of our hearts, when we go against the innate compass that we all were born with, when we betray our better selves, we become frustrated and dissatisfied with ourselves and with everything else. Road rage, binge shopping, drug addiction, violent actions — — — these and many other comparable self and other destructive behaviors are present as manifestations of an inner sadness, a hollowness. Could it be that one gift that uplifts our soul and spirit is here, available to all?

Several recent studies have shown determined the positive effects of pet ownership on marital relationships. In other words, do marital relationships where pets are part of the family tend to be closer and more stable than are relationships without pets? The results of the study confirmed that the marriages that included pets in the family were happier and more lasting than those without pets.

These results mirror the results of countless other studies, showing that the presence of a pet in a person's life improves the quality of a person's life, both mentally and physically. Stroking a pet or playing with it can lower blood pressure, reduce stress, and provide many other benefits. For many families of divorce, the pet provides the only constant companion for the lonely spouse or the child devastated by the break up of the home.

The puzzling question remains, though: if pets do so much for us, why are so many pets abandoned and betrayed by their owners? In a time when many people are lonely or feeling alienated and unappreciated, why are so many loving pets being killed and discarded like yesterday's newspaper?

What we teach, by our actions and words, is what will be learned. If we act in a compassionate way, compassion will be learned. If we demonstrate acts of true charity and self-sacrifice, those higher behaviors will be encouraged in others, especially children. If we want the world to be a kinder and better place, then we must believe and act as if it can be that way. If we follow the deepest and best motivation of our heart, we will move toward being the kind of role models that can influence others to see and act in a more positive way.

The special task at hand for our Kennel of Hope is to stand as a symbol of the heart: a symbol of unconditional love and eternal hope. No member of our family is considered expendable or not worth the effort. The animals entrusted to our care, no matter how forlorn and hopeless many of them are when they arrive on our doorstep, deserve... **and get a second chance...** They are not treated as unwanted merchandise to be disposed of. Our hearts tell us that throwing these lives away... in the name of expediency... is terribly wrong and terribly sad.

Animals in Distress symbolizes a message of hope and love that needs to be sung loudly and proudly. The sad and violent times we now live in cry out for music that touches the heart and sings a song of Hope, unconditional Love, and Commitment.

As spring comes, bringing hope and renewal, and the harshness of winter fades, let us learn nature's lessons of hope and renewal. Let us join together in celebrating the uplifting feeling that comes from acting straight from the heart. Let our voices... and our hearts... unite in a song whose beauty and truth will touch the hearts of others, sending a message that will uplift the soul and be consistent with the teachings of our hearts.

May special blessings come to all who make this song possible.



This child and her pampered dog stop to help a desperate stray dog. Let's all make sure children grow up to be so kind.

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

VERA BRADLEY & LONGABERGER BASKET



TO BENEFIT

ANIMALS IN DISTRESS SATURDAY, APRIL 26

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.)

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50 S. 6TH STREET | EMMAUS, PA

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FOR MORE INFO:

CALL KELLY AT 610-762-8553 OR EMAIL KHART70906@AOL.COM
OR GET YOUR TICKET AT ANIMALS IN DISTRESS

To sponsor one of the prizes for the special bingo games, contact Kelly. For a \$50 sponsorship, your name (or the name of someone you want to honor) will be printed in the event program.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS AND FUNDRAISERS



Membership Campaign—new and renewals, see form in this newsletter or visit our website animalsindistresspa.org.



Easter Craft and Gift Bazaar at the shelter, starts Saturday, March 29 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 30 and Saturday, April 5. No appointments are needed. Gift shop will be available.

Vera Bradley/Longaberger Basket Bingo, April 26—See poster in this newsletter for details.

Laps of Love Walkathon, at the shelter—**Sunday, June 1**, starting at 10 am. Details in upcoming newsletter and on our website.



48th Alumni Day Pets and People Party, Sunday, June 1 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 14 ending with all day event at shelter on Sunday, July 20**

VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION SCHEDULE FOR 2025—April 22, July 29, and October 28—7pm, at Animals in Distress, 5075 Limeport Pike, Coopersburg, PA. Visit us on our website for directions and Volunteer Application (also available at our sanctuary). Volunteers help with dog walking and training, cat socializing, fundraising, maintenance, bake sales, grass cutting, pulling weeds and trimming, and many other tasks, You have no skill that we can't use!!

WANTED: KENNEL HELPER, FT/PT, with compassion for homeless animals. Duties include cleaning, feeding, and loving the residents at this no kill sanctuary. Weekends/weekdays available. Special skills like vet tech skills are much needed.

Submit resume and/or letter of interest to: Animals in Distress, P.O. Box 609, Coopersburg, PA 18036 or email to: aidpa@ptd.net

Believe in Happy Endings

Imagine if you can, a beloved pet, that is left alone after its loving owner Susan died suddenly and unexpectedly. That is what happened with Charlotte, a petite, beautiful tiger cat.

When the family discovered the death, they knew Susan's cat was there, but they couldn't find it. Imagine how terrified that animal must've been. Imagine how afraid it must've been with all the activity and people in the house. The poor cat was nowhere to be found. The family wanted to do the right thing and get the cat some help, but they couldn't figure out how to find the cat.

However, Susan's brother kept coming to the house to put food out, and his efforts were rewarded when he saw that some of the food had been eaten.

Although Charlotte did not make an appearance to him, he knew she was somewhere in the house. He bought a trap but she didn't go in it. Not giving up, her brother kept going back and finally saw Charlotte hiding in her favorite "cave bed." He scooped up the bed with Charlotte in it and put her and the bed in a carrier. She felt secure in this burrito-like arrangement. That is how she arrived at our shelter.



Charlotte arrived on our doorstep, absolutely mortified. Whenever we see an animal in this condition, which is pure fear and pure insecurity, it breaks our heart. This picture shows you her state of mind arriving at our sanctuary.

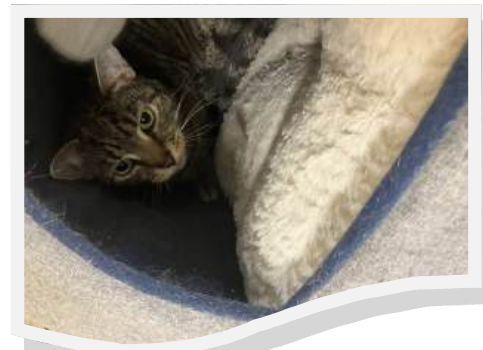
She wouldn't come out and socialize. She just hid. She wasn't tempted by the food or kind words or any effort to connect with her...she was paralyzed in pure fear.

However, from our experience, we know that such animals eventually start to heal, a little bit at a time. If they are in a quiet, kind, and safe environment, they eventually start to 'risk' coming out of hiding. They start to react more to their environment, and all the positive energy around them.

Sometimes, this is almost like being reborn. It's amazing how well animals can recover and bounce back from the most horrible treatment and most horrible experiences.

***We guess it's a testament to the power of kindness.
The power of hope. The power of love.***

After five days with us, Charlotte made an appearance and



started to reveal herself. This picture was taken on Day 5. She feels safe enough in her cat bed to allow us to see her and make eye contact with her.

We have called ourselves the Kennel of Hope since we were founded back in 1977, because we rescue animals who have little or no hope elsewhere. The big reward for that effort is watching animals recover, and blossom in the world that we can create for them. No feeling can compare with bringing light into the darkness of their lives. Kindness into the fear in their lives. Hope into their bleak and sad world.

A few days later, Charlotte had gained enough trust in us, and confidence in herself, that she allowed this picture to be taken. She is no longer hiding in a dark corner, afraid to be seen.



We at Animals in Distress were so happy that we could help Susan and her family by giving Charlotte a safe place to be. We had no idea if it would be for a short time or a lifetime, but we were prepared to give her whatever it

would take to make her happy and feel loved again. Susan was a longtime supporter of Animals in Distress and was a familiar face at so many of our events...how very kind of her family to have memorial donations come to us. Susan would have liked that.

Never, ever forget that all of our friends make this kind of rescue possible. Although many of you won't be able to visit the shelter and meet Charlotte, we want you to know about her. We want you to feel her story. And we want you to know how important your support and prayers and love are.

Here is the most wonderful news. A few days after the funeral, we received a phone call from a young woman, asking if we had recently rescued a cat named Charlotte. They had been at Susan's funeral and saw that memorial donations were to be sent to Animals in Distress.

The girl's mother had been good friends with Susan, and she remembered being there 6 years ago when Susan rescued Charlotte, who was just a tiny kitten abandoned in her yard.

When these nice people heard about Susan's passing, they wanted to know what happened to Charlotte. They came to our sanctuary to visit her, and this lovely woman, her daughter, and her granddaughter all came together. The woman started to cry when she saw her—Memories of the day Charlotte was rescued by her friend Susan flashing through her mind.

They wanted to adopt Charlotte and give her a forever home. They could not walk away from her, knowing how much Susan loved her and how precious her little life was. Charlotte seemed to recognize them and came over to greet them. Animals often sense things that humans don't. We think that Charlotte had an immediate connection with them, something special.



We are sharing a photo of the day that Charlotte went to her forever home. Charlotte is secure in her bed, which is in the carrier with her. That's why you can't see Charlotte! It's almost as if love triumphs over all. Susan is gone, but these people have taken over being the guardian angels for

Charlotte. Susan must be so happy, knowing that Charlotte has a forever home.

We wanted you to know above all else that hope and love are alive and well here at Animals in Distress, thanks to everyone who supports our mission. We feel so blessed to be able to share this story with all of our friends. We all need to be reminded, in these turbulent and difficult times, that there are good people out there. There are wonderful things going on. They may not make it into the newspaper or on television, but these stories warm the heart and uplift the soul.

If you are reading this newsletter, you are part of our extended family here at Animals in Distress. You matter to us. So please consider connecting with vulnerable people to make sure they are OK. And if you are a vulnerable person, please reach out to a friend or neighbor or, hopefully, a family member and work something out. None of us knows what will or could happen, given various circumstances.

But one thing we can do, each and every one of us, is commit to making sure that vulnerable people, including ourselves, have somebody reaching out to them every day. It doesn't have to take much time. It doesn't have to be a big deal. You just need to verify that that person is OK.

And since we are an animal rescue organization, we also urge everyone who owns a pet to make provisions for that pet if something happens to them. Sadly, in many cases, the pets are forgotten in an emergency and often, especially with cats, emergency responders don't even realize there is an animal in the apartment or house.



WAEB 790 AM Radiothon to benefit Animals in Distress, July 14-20.

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

***Every dollar matters.
Thank you for 48+ years
of your support and for
your faith in a kinder, more
loving world.***

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.

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!

Animals in Distress Membership Renewal/Enrollment Form

Please detach or copy this coupon and return it, along with a stamped, self-addressed envelope, 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:

Discover, MasterCard, or Visa (circle one)

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Please enroll/renew (circle one) my **2025 AID**

Membership in the following category (circle one):

[] LIFE.....\$250 (once payable)

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[] ACTIVE.....\$20

[] CORPORATE.....\$500

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

..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 Charlotte, Moonie and Cooper (the puppies), and so many others. who need a second chance in a world that seldom gives second chances. They depend on us for their lives.

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☐

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Puppies and kittens are cute. No doubt about it.

Millions of people adopt or purchase puppies and kittens because they are so adorable. BUT puppies and kittens are small for a few months and then, surprise!!, they grow into cats and dogs. And that's a whole other situation. Dogs and cats have to be trained and socialized while they are young so they learn how to act around other animals and people. They have to learn to go potty outside for dogs, and in a litterbox for cats. They have to learn not to destroy things or bite or claw. As pets, they should allow themselves to be touched, to share and not guard possessions, etc. etc. Dogs also need to learn leash manners and other socially acceptable behaviors such as not jumping on people or barking annoyingly. Did you know that approximately 1 in 7 cats and dogs who get a home this year will NOT remain in that home for the rest of their lives? Did you know that the average age of a dog in this country is 2 years old? The bottom line is this: acquiring a baby companion animal is taking on a major commitment. Dogs especially need a lot of socialization in the first year or two, and they need exercise and companionship. Trying to reverse the behavior of a nippy, overly reactive 100 lb. dog is much more difficult than training a puppy. Too many people decide that they can no longer handle their dog or cat: no time for...



too active, clawing furniture, barking, moving and can't take, new spouse won't allow.the list of excuses goes on forever.

Shelters are stressed beyond their limits and often are unable to take back the dogs and cats they placed as puppies and kittens. Here at Animals in Distress, we spend a lot of time making sure that people are selecting the best pet for their lifestyle and family. When young animals are involved, we offer extra guidance about raising those pets so they have a forever home and are not recycled or disposed of. Every animal we adopt out has a home with us if something happens, like death of the owner, even if the pet was adopted many years ago.

If you know people who are tempted to acquire a puppy or kitten this spring, as litters are born, please remind them that they must offer those innocent animals a lifetime commitment to a forever home.

These photos show two puppies in our shelter right now. They are adorable and will make great companions if trained and socialized. They're both going to be bigger dogs and they will need to be worked with now. They lost homes before they were even 4 months old!



ANIMALS IN DISTRESS

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