



"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@enter.net](mailto:aidpa@enter.net)  
phone: 610-966-9383

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EDITOR: LOIS GADEK

## IMAGINE

The weather was very kind to us on June 1 as we gathered to celebrate our 48th Alumni Day. Except for a few windy spurts, the day was almost perfect weather-wise. And it's always perfect when wonderful people and loving pets gather together to celebrate the Kennel of Hope.

Thanks to all the volunteers who made this event possible, from preparing the food, to putting together a wonderful basket social and silent auction, to doing all the hard work behind the scenes to make such an event possible. All these people do what they do out of love. We literally would not have survived for 48 years without what one of our founders called impassioned volunteerism.

*... Imagine no more killing  
It's easy if you try  
No hurt allowed here  
Only hope in the sky  
Imagine all the creatures,  
living life in peace...*

Highlight of the afternoon was a performance of the famous John Lennon song "Imagine." Most people are very familiar with the song, which was written at a time of great turmoil in the world. John Lennon was challenging people, or inspiring them, to imagine a world of peace. To imagine an alternative to the chaos and hatred that were dividing the country and the people.

Donna Fisher and Lois Gadek drafted new lyrics to the song, focusing on the evolution of our shelter from what many considered to be an unrealistic and soft hearted approach to animal rescue. The whole idea of not killing unwanted animals was considered, back in 1977 when we were founded, an irrational and impractical option. In fact, at that time, it is estimated that there were fewer than one dozen no kill animal shelters in the world.

We will have a lot more to say about the song later, and will be working to post it on our website among other places. But for now, what we wanted to do on this 48th Alumni Day was to pause and take a few minutes to be grateful. Be grateful that the founders of Animals in Distress could imagine a better, kinder way to deal with homeless and abused animals. They imagined that such rescue work could be done in a compassionate and life affirming way.

In July, we start our WAEB Radiothon, which is the biggest fundraiser of the year. We can't help but think back to the time when we were struggling so desperately just to buy food to feed the animals. We had no home, we had no money, but the founding people of our organization imagined that we could happen. Our organization didn't just happen because we wished it so. It happened because of a lot of hard work and dedication and sacrifice over decades. We never imagined we would have a new facility like the one we have now, thanks to the belief in our work by so many people, especially by Wanda and Leo DeLong.

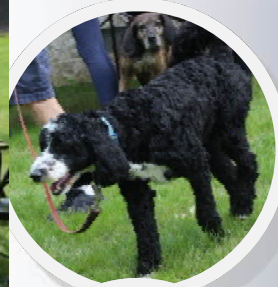
We can never take anything for granted, because life is fragile, and people are fragile and things happen. But, as a former professor used to tell her students, "do the right thing, for the right reasons, and good things will happen. They may not happen on your timeline, but they will happen."

On the next page of this newsletter is a collage of the pictures taken by Lowell Linde that shows snapshots of Alumni Day. In the shelter, surrounding the courtyard where the event was held, are hundreds of lives that would have been destroyed without all of us.

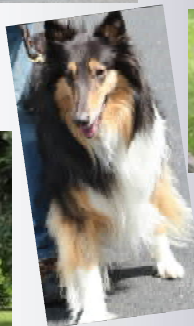
As we walk through the kennels and look at the animals, we imagine what could've happened to them if there were no Animals in Distress. The only way the world will ever get better and kinder is if we imagine that it can be like that. Every square foot of our property is a refuge for all creatures great and small. Every Alumni Day, we have what is like a family gathering, to celebrate the blessings that are ours because people in 1977 could imagine a kinder, better world.

Even though some of our friends could not join us on Alumni Day this year, we know that they were still present.





## Alumni Day 2025





## When Shelters and Rescues Close

Despite our best intentions and our best plans, sometimes things don't work out as expected. Such a situation involved a local animal rescue that was operated out of one of the founders' homes. Volunteers took care of the animals and did their best to try to find them homes.

Tragedy struck when the person who was hosting some of the animals in a small shelter at her home became ill. She became so ill that she could not take care of the animals or maintain the facility anymore. The small group of well meaning volunteers were faced with the prospect of trying to find placements for the dogs they had in their care, either in the little shelter or in foster homes.

One of the most daunting challenges of animal rescue is the fact that not all animals will find a home quickly, especially the animals that need extra care or training. And some may never find a home. And some may find a home but only after years. Therefore, trying to find a home for all these dogs in a short amount of time was extremely challenging. Some individuals and groups stepped up and took a couple of dogs, but some dogs were left.

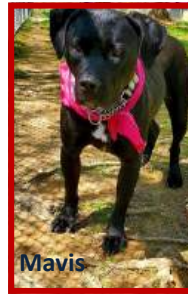
This is probably the greatest fear of anyone doing rescue. What happens if I/we can no longer take care of these animals? Where are they going to go? And especially with animals who are older or have health or behavioral issues, the question becomes even more serious because it will be very difficult to place those animals.

The situation was heartbreaking and urgent, so Animals in Distress stepped in and took four of the dogs that were left at the end of offers to help. The four dogs we took are really nice souls, but they haven't been well socialized.

They need to be worked with so they can become more comfortable around different situations and different people. None of them is aggressive or nasty. They are just scared and unsure of themselves.

One of the dogs is a year old mix named **Buttercup**. She is a very sweet dog, and just blossoms every day with new qualities that remain hidden in her shy personality.

Another one of the dogs is **Scotty**, a nice boy with lots of potential. He loves to play and he is an all-around sociable guy once he's comfortable around the people he's with. He and Buttercup love each other and forget to be afraid when they are together.



Then there is **Mavis**, about three years old, She's more reserved than the other two who are just about a year old and therefore still puppies.



The fourth and most abused of the four dogs is **Sophie**, another gentle soul who enjoys going for walks and playtime. She is very slow to trust people, especially men, but is totally devoted to people she knows. Her reluctance to trust men is understandable since her previous owner (a man) tried to choke her to death with his bare hands.

All of these dogs came from bad situations, so they're lucky that they were rescued when most were young puppies. And now they have been rescued again by Animals in Distress from what could've been a horrible fate.

Thanks to the dedication of our volunteers and the generosity of our supporters, we hope and pray that we are never faced with having to find emergency placement for the hundreds of cats and dogs housed at our sanctuary. When Animals in Distress was incorporated in 1977, it had no physical shelter. It rented an old boarding kennel in a garage in Emmaus, and had some animals there as well as in foster homes. It was a very fragile situation because there was no permanent location for the shelter. In fact, Pizza Hut bought that garage and was going to tear it down. We were given a certain amount of time to relocate. We had very little money, and most people thought that the idea of not killing unwanted animals was unrealistic. It was an uphill battle to quickly find a place to go with at least 200+ cats and dogs.

Proof that miracles can happen is the fact that our life affirming organization has continued for 48 years. Our animals, thanks to the support of so many caring people, have had a home that they can count on to be there for them now, and in the future. Our friends and supporters have made this possible, and we want you to know how grateful we are that we have a place for desperate animals, like Mavis, Buttercup, Scotty, and Sophie.

Various people have come and gone in our organization, many loyal to the very end of their lives, and we know that they have blessed us not only with bequests from their estate so we can continue our work, but with enduring love for the animals at the sanctuary we call our Kennel of Hope.

**Love never dies. And love is what we try to show every day to all creatures great and small.**

He doesn't know he's safe yet.  
 When I brought him home, he sat quietly on the couch, hunched over, eyes lost, as if trying to disappear.  
 That's not tiredness — it's sorrow. It's the weight of being broken too many times.  
 He doesn't understand yet that he'll never go back to the streets. He'll never be ignored, beaten, or abandoned again.  
 He's scared to move. He avoids my gaze. As if he believes he has no right to be here.  
 But I'll wait.  
 He doesn't have to do anything. Just breathe. Just exist.  
 One day, he'll look up and realize he's home.  
 Welcome, my boy. You're safe now.



If animals could speak words, humans might be more aware of what they are feeling and what horrors and disappointments they have survived. Most rescued animals, especially if they have survived betrayal and abuse, will need time to heal. They need a quiet and reassuring place to slowly recover from the sadness and cruelty they have endured. They have to learn how to be happy. They have to learn how to trust people and life again.

Animals in Distress has been such a sanctuary, a place of healing and unconditional love, for over 48 years. This newsletter can only tell a few stories of animals whose life has been saved by the work that we do every day, with the support of our friends.

The four dogs from the rescue that closed will need time to become trusting again, but it will happen.

**It will happen because they have unconditional love here.**

## UPCOMING:

**If you are donating items for the Silent Auction and/or the Basket Social, please drop them off by July 13. Best hours are 1-4 on Sat and Sun, and 6-8 on Monday nights. If you need to make special arrangements or have questions, please contact Kelly at: phone—610-762-8553 or email —[khart70906@aol.com](mailto:khart70906@aol.com).**

**INDOOR YARD SALE**, at Animals in Distress, **Saturday, August 23, 8-noon**. If you want to rent a space or have questions, please contact Kelly at: phone—610-762-8553 or email —[khart70906@aol.com](mailto:khart70906@aol.com)

**BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS**—**Sunday, October 5**, at *Animals in Distress*—formal blessing is at 2:30. All pets attending will receive a St. Francis of Assisi medal as well as an individual blessing.

**WAG WALK**—**October 11, RAIN DATE October 12**, at Lake Nockamixon. Details in the next newsletter. Start collecting sponsorship money now. Participants bringing in the most money will receive special prizes. Registration at the marina at 10:30 am.

**VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION, July 29 and October 28—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 and mowing grass, etc. in addition to working with the dogs and cats.



***The word rescue is not just a word,  
it is a promise.***

That promise means that once a desperate animal comes into our care, that animal will only have peace and kindness and hope in its life from that point forward. A sad fact of rescue is that we don't always know what we are committing ourselves to when we do a rescue.

Animals, like people, can have hidden problems and issues that are not immediately apparent. Some of these issues might affect health or behavior, and thus limit the adoptability of some of those animals who are rescued. For 48 years, our policy has been that once we rescue an animal, it will receive the best care that we can provide and a safe home, regardless of whether it is "marketable" or "adoptable" in the common use of those words.

A perfect example of that is a kitten that we rescued many years ago. We named him Chappie. Chappie came to us in 2015 as a tiny three month old black and white



tuxedo kitten. He was discovered as a stray by a woman who fed a group of cats in her yard. The kitten showed up all alone. He would take a few steps and was always falling over. He was starving because the other cats in the colony would not allow him to eat. He had difficulty walking and his legs were very weak. This caused him to have many

problems with his balance. Basically, several of his nerve impulses were misfiring, and that kept him from functioning normally.

Our veterinarian diagnosed him with cerebellar hypoplasia. Basically, there are various nerve impulses that misfire, and keep him from functioning normally. Some kittens outgrow the worst symptoms, and have a small deficit, but basically can function really well. Other kittens don't improve very much, and don't regain normal mobility. Over the next year he was given daily physical therapy by our volunteers, working on strengthening exercises and walking. He improved so much that he was able to walk over and scratch at a scratching post, although he had difficulty on hard surfaces and did much better on carpet.

He had many medical issues over the next several years... mostly caused by the starvation and stress of having to survive outside, including multiple severe

upper respiratory infections and significant gastrointestinal problems that required surgery. He must remain on a special limited ingredient diet for the rest of his life.

Euthanizing Chappie was never an option for us. We knew he would need special care, and we knew that very few people would be open to considering him for adoption. But that didn't mean that his life had no worth. It didn't mean that his life has no joy. It just meant that he had some special needs.

We invite all of our friends and supporters to come to the shelter and meet Chappie. He is such a happy guy, such a joyful guy, such a loving guy. There is nothing he likes better than extra attention from the people who work or volunteer here. When you look at him, it is difficult to see that his life should've been discarded. Look in his eyes, and see the sparkle there as he waits for a treat or a pet. Watch how excited he gets, when he knows that he is being noticed.

***Helping such animals is what Animals in Distress has done for 48 years. And with your help, we will continue to do such life saving work for many decades to come.***

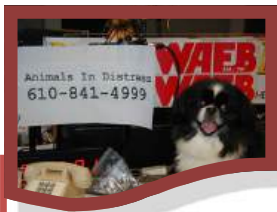
***Chappie is just one of dozens and dozens of animals who have "imperfections" but who are perfect in our eyes. They are special souls who just needed a friend and a home and hope and kindness and love. Helping such animals is what Animals in Distress has done for 48 years, and with your help, will continue to do such life saving work for many decades to come.***



Photos by  
Linda Hoffert

***Two of our recent volunteers, brother Gavin and sister Willow, have taken a special interest in Chappie and love all the affection he has for them. They help Chappie walk around and strengthen his muscles, and Chappie loves all the extra attention.***

***We are so grateful to all who make our work possible, AND make Animals in Distress a place where everyone, especially children, can see a place of unconditional kindness and love.***



## Radiothon Week July 14-20: Events and Information

**Monday through Friday,**

**July 14--18, Listen to The News Radio 790**

**WAEB Radiothon on the Bobby Gunther Walsh Show, which airs weekdays from 5 to**

**10 am.** Listen at these times for latest news, prizes, events, updates, and rescue stories.

AID President Lois Gadek will be calling in every half hour with stories of rescues that explain why donations are urgently needed for our life saving work.

Service Electric Channel 50 televises Bobby's show from 5-10 am. For updates on the Radiothon and other information, visit Gunther's page at [WAEB.com](http://WAEB.com) or our website at [animalsindistresspa.org](http://animalsindistresspa.org).



**Pledge line during the show, from 6-10 am, is 610-841-4999.**

Over the weekend, July 19 & 20, Bobby will be on air live from remote location on Saturday, and from our shelter all day on Sunday. Three hours of live broadcast from the shelter will be from 1-3 and 4-5 on Sunday.

**Pledge line to call on Saturday and Sunday is 610-966-9383 from 8am to 6 pm.**

**Sunday, July 20, at the shelter:**

**Continental Breakfast** starts at 8 with pastries and coffee/tea.

**Picnic Lunch starts around 11:30**, featuring hotdogs donated by **Yocco's**, burgers, various munchies, plus beverages, desserts etc.

**Music compliments of DJ Tony Bronico**

**Live broadcast for 2 hours, from 1-3 pm**, has been underwritten by

**Res-Q Natural Supplements**

**Jon Campbell Team brokered by Real Realty** is sponsoring a broadcast live from 4-5.

If you can't attend in person, you can listen in to find out why your donations are so important. It is such a luxury to have enough time to talk in depth about what we do, and to possibly interview visitors who have adopted from us or who donate their time and money because they see firsthand what the Radiothon means to us in saving precious lives.

**Live Broadcasts from Allentown Farmer's**

**Market 8am-4 pm on**



**Saturday, July 19** Stop by our table at **Lucy and Lolly's All Natural Pit Stop**, meet Bobby, make a pledge.

**Also on Saturday, July 19 (1-4) and Sunday,**

**July 20 (9-5pm) at the shelter:**

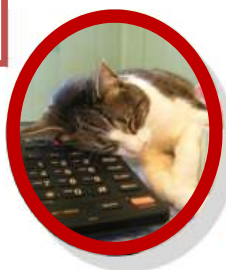
**Silent Auction & Basket Social**

**Special thanks to the Vinart Auto**

**Dealerships, Lehigh Valley Acura, Honda, Hyundai, & Porsche Lehigh Valley, & Mercedes Benz of the Lehigh Valley, for sponsoring the Radiothon AND for covering the cost of food we will be serving our guests. Their**

*kindness reflects the commitment to the community of this incredible organization, a blessing to the Lehigh Valley and beyond.*

*Thanks to Ironton Telephone for helping to set up phone lines off site at the shelter and at the station.*



***Pledges may be made and/or paid in person at the shelter all day Saturday and Sunday.***

**PLEDGE LINE TO CALL ON SATURDAY & SUNDAY, 8AM-6 PM, is 610-966-9383.**

Please detach this coupon and return it to: RADIOTHON, ANIMALS IN DISTRESS, P.O BOX 609, COOPERSBURG, PA 18036

*Enclosed is my donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to help save lives of desperate animals like Chappie, Sophie, Buttercup, Mavis, Scotty, and so many others, to get a second chance in a world that seldom gives second chances.*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number and/or email if you win a prize \_\_\_\_\_

*Check this box if this donation is payment for a pledge you already phoned in: [ ]*

*Check this box if you do not need a receipt for your donation: [ ]*

Please indicate one: [ ] Check enclosed OR Enter Credit card (MC, Visa, Discover)

info below:

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

Card number \_\_\_\_\_ Exp date \_\_\_\_\_

Your signature \_\_\_\_\_

Phone if paying by credit card \_\_\_\_\_

*We can't help animals like these without people like YOU. Thanks for caring when many just turn away and try to ignore the great need for Kindness to all creatures great and small.. You make all the difference—more than you can know.*

Please mark PLEDGE on your check and envelope if you are mailing a pledge you already called in during Radiothon Week.



Those who prefer can donate by clicking on this QR code

### ***Incentive Prize Highlights***

*We know that you donate only to help needy animals. However, due to the generosity of the following businesses and individuals, we are able to offer these incentive prizes in various categories. This list is not inclusive, since many more prizes will be added as the Radiothon progresses.*

*Please support the businesses mentioned in this newsletter.*

***Donors of \$100 or more*** are eligible for a drawing to win one of these fabulous ***prizes:***

***\$500 Gift Certificate to Joe Mascari's Carpets and Rugs International of Allentown***

***\$500 Gift Certificate from Hager Furniture in Palmerton***

***Gas Grill from Lehigh Supply Appliance of Bethlehem worth \$600***

***\$250 Gift Certificate to the Historic Hotel Bethlehem***

***Beautiful Piece of Jewelry from Westgate Jewelers of Bethlehem***

***Donors of \$50 or more*** are eligible for a drawing to win one of the following:

Passes for Golf at ***Wedgewood Golf Course***

And Other Gift Certificates and Gift Items to be announced later

***Donors of \$25 or more*** are eligible for a drawing to win one of the following:

***Dinner with Bobby Gunther Walsh compliments of the Historic Hotel Bethlehem***

***Great Allentown Fair tickets to various shows, Iron Pigs tickets***

# ANIMALS IN DISTRESS

P.O. BOX 609  
COOPERSBURG, PA 18036

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DATED MATERIAL . . . PLEASE RUSH

Current Resident

*Hey, we need your help now more than ever. Please help us make this year's WAEB Radiothon our best yet!! We Little Guys need your help now!*



**Everybody's talking about the WAEB 790AM Radiothon, starting July 14. Mark your calendar now, so you don't miss out on this important and fun event, that is dedicated totally to raising funds to rescue and rehabilitate desperate and injured cats and dogs. Check out all the details inside.**

Check out our website at [animalsindistresspa.org](http://animalsindistresspa.org) for news and updates.

Pledge line in studio is 610-841-4999, all week. Shelter pledge line is 610-966-9383, Sat and Sun 8am-6pm.