



"The Kennel of Hope"

Tails of Hope

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

website: animalsindistresspa.org
email: aidpa@animalsindistresspa.org
phone: 610-966-9383

VOL. XXIX No. 7

SEPTEMBER 2025

EDITOR: LOIS GADEK

Thanks to Our Wonderful Donors. Business Sponsors, Volunteers, and Bobby Gunther Walsh and his Listeners



The 2025 WAEB Radiothon final total was \$235,076, just \$750 less than last year's record setting amount. Many thanks to the



generous businesses and people who make it possible for 100% of the money raised to go directly to the animals.

Radio station **WAEB** and its team (Craig Stevens, Dan Holzman, Mandy Schell, Jeff Warner, Brian Shoemaker, and many others) and **Bobby Gunther Walsh** were generous in their continuing support. **Ironton Telephone** again provided the phone system so we could answer phones from our shelter. **The Pet Friendly Vinart Dealerships** were again the underwriting sponsor of the Radiothon and for Sunday's food, which was an assortment of prepared items like **Yocco's** hotdogs, **Jersey Mike's** hoagies, assorted baked goods from the **Amish Village Bake Shop**, and many homemade goodies from our volunteers.



*A special thank you to Allentown Farmer's Market and Merchants (Mr. Bill's Poultry Market, Johnny's Fresh Meats, Amish Village Bake Shop, Lucy & Lolli's All Natural Pit Stop, Foods of the Mediterranean, Ritz Barbeque, Fairgrounds Farmers Market, Red Barn Produce, Soul Soup, Marketplace Grill, Stoltzfus Amish Deli, among others. Thanks to the Allentown Farmer's Market for hosting live remotes all day Saturday and to the vendors who allowed us to place donation cans and posters throughout the market. Special thanks to **Lucy and Lolli's** for allowing us to set up our remote location in their section. The hospitality and true support for our work, shown by all of these businesses, exceeded all expectations. What a wonderful way to have fun, meet some great people, and raise much needed funds!!*



*Special thanks to **Res-Q Natural Supplements** for generously donating 2 baskets of their products and 1-3 Sunday air time, and to **Jon Campbell Team Realty** for donating live air time and an exciting challenge from 4-5 pm. Thanks also to **Gene Dickison** and **Bob Holder** for donating air time on their shows.*

Thanks also to the businesses and individuals who donated money for Challenge Hours to inspire people to give and match the challenge:

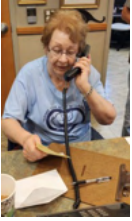
Nestles Purina Pet Care, Perkiomen Animal Hospital, For Cats Only Veterinary Hospital, Kiffle Kitchen Bakery, Vinart Auto Dealerships, Jon Campbell Team Realty, & many individuals who donated in honor or memory of pets or people, or through RMDs.

Please support the businesses who make our Radiothon possible!

Also, send thank you's to Bobby at:

**Bobby Gunther Walsh, WAEB,
1541 Alta Drive,
Whitehall, PA
18052.**

More Thanks...So many people were part of this Radiothon and helped in so many ways.



Denny Repsher maintained the digital records of every pledge, while Bev Repsher coordinated the phone answering during the week, assisted by Cindy Deutsch, Cheryl Miller, Sally Saeger, Cheryl Schneider, and Sherrie Hay. Kelly Hartnett covered calls after hours. Rose Yanger, Cindy Deutsch, Kelly Hartnett, Sharon Werner, and Denise Schaffer manned the weekend phone calls. Rose also coordinated the challenge and matching money, as well as the prizes and thank you's.



Mail processing for several weeks was handled by AID Treasurer Sharon Werner. Lois Gadek called in to Bobby's show twice hourly to tell stories of the many rescues done since the last Radiothon, was live on air with Bobby on Sunday, and wrote the newsletters.



Coordinating the set-up of tables and food at the kennel was an army of volunteers, coordinated by Kelly Hartnett, Linda Hoffert, and Bob Johnson. Mike Bonstein and Bob Taylor cooked the hamburgers. Many other volunteers performed countless tasks, which would take this whole newsletter to list, including making incredible baskets for the Basket Social, cleaning & arranging everything.....we couldn't have such an event without

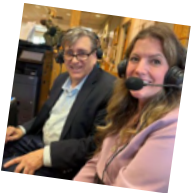
everyone! Special thanks to DJ Tony Bronico for his great music. We all loved it.

Joining Bobby at **Allentown Farmer's Market** on Saturday were volunteers Sandy Seng, Sherrie Hay, and Denise DeAngelis.

Sincere thanks to all who helped in any way. Events like these take a lot of work and countless hours. Because of the generosity of our volunteers and supporters, 100% of the money raised goes directly to help animals.



Does it matter? Hundreds of cats and dogs now at our sanctuary, or adopted into loving, forever homes, would say that your support means life or death for them and so many others. Thanks and thanks again for making this year's Radiothon a success ... and for saving lives.



And the Winners Are....!

Dinner with Gunther was won by Nancy Scholl of Allentown, Bruce Matta of Emmaus, and Jennifer Flederbach of Easton. Tickets and prizes to the **Allentown Fair** shows were won by Joe Ifkovitch of Allentown, Paul Fondl of Bethlehem, and John Aleszyck of Alburtis.

A \$250 gift certificate to the **Hotel Bethlehem** will be enjoyed by lucky Thomas Sofka of Hellertown. Timothy Mumma of Allentown won a \$500 gift certificate donated by **Hager Furniture**, and a \$500 gift certificate from **Joe Mascari's Carpets and Rugs International** was won by Mike Laudenslager of Bethlehem.

Ruth Feldman of Lebanon, NJ, will be wearing a gorgeous turquoise and diamond necklace from Westgate Jewelers.

Sally Loch of Slatedale will be making delicious food on the gas grill donated by **Lehigh Supply Appliances**. Marjorie Dominick of Bethlehem will be playing golf at **Wedgewood Golf Course**. And Clyde Mumma of Allentown will be dining at the **Union and Finch Restaurant**.

Iron Pigs tickets were won by John Laird of Nazareth and Brian Schell of Cherryville.

The Wind Beneath Our Wings

Animal rescue is one of the most satisfying and one of the most devastating things a person can do. Seeing an animal whose life has been treated with such disdain and ignorance by cruel people become whole and happy is like receiving the Nobel prize. It makes you feel wonderful. It makes you feel as if you can do something about the suffering in the world. It makes you feel as if you matter. And that animal's life matters.

And then there is the dark side to animal rescue. Obviously, knowing you can't save them all is part of the darkness. But the real crushing aspect is when you try very hard to save an animal, and you can't. Its injuries are too far gone, and the animal whose life you wanted to save slowly passes away. Nothing more to be done. You did everything you could, but it just wasn't enough.

It's at this point in animal rescue that some people start to burn out. They become devastated by the sadness of the loss, and they finally decide that the pain is too much. This is something that almost everyone involved in animal rescue experiences at one point or another.

After the Radiothon, we went through this experience with some kittens. We're going to share this with you to give you a glimpse into the world that we live in every day.



We will begin with little Ava. Ava came to us in horrible shape. Both eyes had definitely ruptured. She had difficulty breathing which turned out to be due to fluid in her lungs. She was full of ticks and fleas and was kept in the hospital to give her the best chance of surviving. The Hospital staff was so happy when she started to perk up. Even her breathing improved, and she seemed more relaxed. She liked when the staff sang to her. Just a tiny little soul. She was too weak to have the surgery to remove the damaged eye tissue, but everyone was hopeful that she would make it. The next morning, however she had passed away. Kittens are very tiny, and sometimes there is a bit of an improvement before they crash and die. These are the difficult cases because despite everybody's best efforts, we couldn't save that little life.

There's something about holding a life in the palm of your hand and promising that you will save it. And then not being able to do so. This little kitten, this little soul, its life didn't matter to many people. But it mattered to us. Sadly, caring wasn't enough.

Then there is another kitten we named Kimmy. She was hanging out with a group of abandoned cats in a country farm area. The kind lady who was trying to feed these animals noticed that Kimmy was in trouble. The kitten was just lying in her driveway, not moving. Her eyes were infected, and she was in danger of losing her sight. She also had a very bad upper respiratory infection and struggled to breathe. She weighed only 1.6 pounds, which is way less than a 6-7 week old kitten should weigh. Imagine being blind and sick and only about six or seven weeks old if that. And nobody is helping you. You can't find food. You can't really do much to defend yourself. You're dying. Alone. When she came in, she ate a little, but then stopped eating. So one of our volunteers took her home and syringe fed her small amounts of food all night. We didn't know if she was going to make it, but the next day, she perked up a little. It's like her whole will to live had been jump started. Kimmy continues to improve but still has chest congestion and damaged eyes. But she's alive, and playing, and purring, and HAPPY!





Here is a picture of Kimmy sleeping soundly with food in her belly and a soft place to rest her body. Just think of her fate if we did not rescue her. Whatever the future holds for her, she will always be loved and cared for. She will not starve or suffer or wander alone and afraid in her blindness.

That is the promise we make to every animal we rescue.

Kenny was rescued because the woman who had been feeding a group of stray cats noticed that this tiny kitten had lost a leg. She didn't know what happened, But it was an urgent situation. He was loaded with fleas that were sucking all his blood out, and his fur was caked with the debris of the dried up blood all over his body. When we gave him a bath, the water ran red. We estimated him at about four weeks of age, which is very tiny. Once the scab was off of the wound, the flesh underneath was very raw. Kenny was taken to the emergency room, where he was given some antibiotics. No one is sure how he lost his leg. It could've been an animal bite or sliced off somehow or tangled in a wire or caught in a trap. We will never know what happened. We hope no one was so evil as to cut his leg off. Imagine this little kitten weighing only .6 pounds. He'd already been through hell. And very starved and malnourished, of course.



We named the kitten Kenny, after the very sick husband of the woman who brought the kitten to us. The kitten was dehydrated and didn't even want to eat or drink. His body was shutting down. Kenny was on the verge of passing away. One of our volunteers took Kenny home and kept offering him drops of nutrition periodically all through the night. By the next morning, Kenny seemed a little perkier. This volunteer is an experienced foster mother for tiny kittens. She understands how fragile the situation is, so she continues to foster him.

Kenny has survived so far. What the future holds, as more medical information is obtained, is unknown. What we do know is that Kenny now has a chance.

None of these rescues is possible without the help of the people who support our work. No matter how much we want to, no matter how hard we try, no matter how hard the veterinarians try, the bottom line is that we need the support of our friends. It's difficult to lose a kitten like Ava. It's difficult to fail to save a life in any rescue attempt. But knowing that we could possibly save that life and not having the resources to do so would be devastating beyond words.

We can regroup our effort after losing Ava because of the knowledge and belief that we will be able to save others. We save them in her honor and her memory. We save them to honor the memory of all those we couldn't save.

This belief in the power of trying is how most of us keep doing animal rescue. The failure would be if we couldn't try. The sadness would be in knowing we could've done something and we didn't try. Or we didn't have the resources to try. Or we didn't have the will to try.

If there is one message that we want this essay to stress, it is that *your love, support, and prayers are the wind beneath our wings. Thank you for making these rescues possible.*

Thank you for giving us the chance to save more lives.

Animals In Distress

Wag-Walk

Walk-A-Thon

Nockamixon State Park

**Sunday,
October 11, 2025**

(Rain Date - Sunday, October 12)

Registration begins at 10:30 a.m.
(at the Marina)

Walk starts at 11:30 a.m.
(approximately 2.5 miles)

You, your pet, your family and friends are invited to a day of fun, food, fresh air, and great exercise!

Animals in Distress

Is a non-profit, tax deductible organization dedicated to rescuing and rehabilitating abused, abandoned, and injured cats and dogs.



Our no-kill sanctuary receives NO public money from taxes or municipal sources and relies totally on donations and fund raisers for its income. ALL non-animal care work is done by volunteers, so that 100% of ALL donations go to help the animals.

For more information call Kelly at:
**610-762-8553 or email her at
khart70906@aol.com.**

Shelter website (www.animalsindistresspa.org)

If it is raining on Oct 11, CALL 610-762-8553 after 8 am to get the event status.

[illegible]

All Pledges are Tax Deductible

Participant's Name (print)

Signed

Parent/Guardian signature if under 18

Welcome to

Bring a blanket or lawn chair



Prizes:

- All participants who raise \$100 or more will be

Dog Rules:

current ID tags. Your furry friends under 6 months

People Rules:

accompanied by an adult; under 18 must have a



Registration Form

Name

Please Print

Address

Phone

Pet's name

Registration Fee:

\$10.00 - Pre-Registration (postmark Oct. 4)

\$15.00 - Day of Event

Total Raised

(DO NOT WRITE IN THIS BOX^ We will fill it out the day of the event)

Participants under the age of 12 must be

Pre-Register: Form and \$10 entry fee

Animals in Distress Waa Waa

c/o Kelly Hartnett,

2761 W. Fairview Street,

Allentown, PA 18104

The participants raising the most

The person raising the most \$

chooses first and so on. Ties will be

resolved by a drawing to determine the

order of prize selection. Participants

will receive a gift bag at check-in, while

supplies last.

Sponsor Sheet

এ/০

(iv)

.....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 Ava, Kimmy, Kenny, and others like them can get a second chance in a world that seldom gives second chances.

Thank you for caring.

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 (Visa, Mastercard, Discover)

Card Number _____ Exp. Date _____

Name on card (print) _____

Signature _____

I can't attend the Blessing of the Animals but want my pets blessed:



List names:



Thank You for Lending Many Friendly Paws a Helping Hand!

★ **Coopersburg Community Day**, Sept. 20

★ **Lower Milford Township Festival**, September 27 from 11 to 5—enjoy a true country festival, with food, music, local vendors, craftsmen, —a family event for young and old! Held at the municipal building, 7606 Chestnut Hill Church Rd. off of Limeport Pike, Coopersburg

★ **Blessing of the Animals** Our annual Blessing of the Animals Ceremony will be held at 2:30 pm on Sunday, October 5, at our shelter. This very special day will include a memorable service highlighted by live music and thoughtful readings and reflections on the joy pets bring into our lives. Each pet that is blessed will receive a St. Francis medal. **Also, if you can't attend the Blessing, you may send in the name of your pet(s) on the donation coupon on page 7, and those pets will be included in a special blessing at the event.**

★ **Wag Walk Walkathon** Sunday, October 11 (rain date Oct. 12) at beautiful Lake Nockamixon, Quakertown—**the full brochure us included this newsletter, and you can access it now online at our website: animalsindistresspa.org.** The event is fun and great exercise, plus it raises much needed funds for our sanctuary. And people can come without pets too. *Cat owners are also welcome, even if the cats prefer to lounge at home! Various games will entertain pets and people until the actual Walk begins.*

★ **Volunteer Orientation**, Tuesday, October 28, at the Animals in Distress shelter 5075 Limeport Pike, Coopersburg, PA 18036. **Orientation begins at 7pm. You can fill out an application form early by requesting one when you're visiting us or by email, or by visiting our website at animalsindistresspa.org. We rely on our volunteers for our existence and need volunteers in almost any category you can think of.**

Nominations for the Board:

The Nominating Committee invites members in good standing to nominate candidates for service on the shelter's Board of Trustees for 2025

Board members are unpaid, are expected to donate at least 10 hours per week, and participate in various areas of administration and fund raising. To nominate someone, including yourself, send the candidate's resume, a letter specifying what area(s) the candidate is prepared to serve in, and a letter from the candidate expressing ability to serve, and mail the nomination to: Nominating Committee, Animals in Distress, P.O. Box 609, Coopersburg, PA 18036. Nominations must be received by Oct. 10

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



Thanks to all our friends, our 2025 WAEB Radiothon was a success. Hundreds of cats and dogs here at the Kennel of Hope wanted to give you a PAWS UP for your help.

You can read all the details in this newsletter, but we cats and dogs wanted to purrsonally thank you for caring.

We don't have families of our own, but we do have a family here at Animals in Distress. And YOU are part of that family.

We love you.