



Tails of Hope

The Newsletter of Animals in Distress | P.O. Box 609 Coopersburg, PA 18036
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Hope, Love, and Kindness: Our Message for Every Day

What is a real home? It's a place where you feel wanted and loved and safe...you know you belong there. A home can be one room, or it can be a mansion; it can be decorated with priceless antiques or with thrift store treasures. Regardless of its monetary value, or its decorations, it is a place where you can go to bed and sleep at night, without fear or watchfulness. You are at peace there.

For many animals at Animals in Distress, our Kennel of Hope is the first "real" home many of its residents have ever known. Here, they know that they have food, shelter, and, most importantly, kindness, every day, every night, for as long as they need to be here. When new animals arrive at our doors, they often reflect their lack of a real "home"—they don't trust anyone...they grab food as if they will never get fed again...and they cringe

at the prospect of being hit when a human hand reaches toward them. For such animals, Animals in Distress is a wonderful place—once they realize that they are safe, and loved, and cared for.

This newsletter is devoted to sharing some of the good things that we have done with your help and support. We are not going to go into detail about all the sad stories of the hundreds animals we rescued. Rather, we are going to celebrate all the good that we have done and share pictures and stories of the people and animals who reflect the real reason to celebrate at this time of year. Kindness, charity, love, generosity, acceptance, hope—these are to be celebrated every day of the year and not just at the holidays.

We must not allow the cruel and disturbing messages that fill the media to drown out the positive messages. We cannot—and will not—let the dark forces win.



As you share holiday festivities with those you love, take a moment to reflect on Animals in Distress, a home for hundreds of animals who would have no joy, no holiday, and no future without our Kennel of Hope. May the blessings of the season be yours in abundance. Thank you for caring about those forgotten by others. Thank you for your support over the past years. Without YOU, thousands of animals would never have known what a home is and would have perished alone, in fear and pain.

As we count our blessing this holiday season, we say a special prayer for all our friends and supporters. Although you may not be physically present in our shelter on Christmas Eve, or any other day of the year for that matter, you are here—in every heart that beats, in every animal that sleeps in peace, in every act of love and kindness that is offered countless times each day to the animals who call Animals in Distress their "home" at any given time.

Nothing sold in stores could be as precious or more reflective of the true spirit of this holiday season than the wonderful second chance that you have given to animals whose faces you may never see in person, but whose welfare you care about in your heart.

We deeply appreciate all the kindnesses that we receive. And we especially appreciate when the kindness comes from children. Children are the future. As they find their way in life, they will be making some very important decisions, and we hope that they make those decisions with wisdom, kindness, and compassion.

A recent example of a promising young person is a young lady who conducted a fundraiser as part of a high school event to select the members of the court of the graduating class. Saige Smith wanted to be included in the court of her class, and each person who wanted to be in the court competed for that honor. They had to fundraise for a particular charity of their choice, and Saige chose Animals in Distress. She was familiar with and had supported our organization before so she continued her support with this project. She did various things in order to raise funds, including bake sales and other such events and, most importantly, a major fundraising campaign on social media. When her project was complete, Saige had succeeded in raising over \$4100 for us. And of course, she achieved her goal of being included in the court.

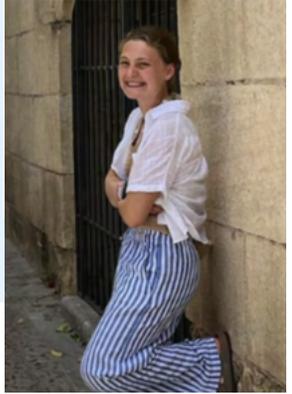
This impressive achievement is just one of many examples of her potential and promise. As she heads off to college, we know that she will do well and distinguish herself. But more important, we know that she is a compassionate young woman who wants to make a difference in the world. We know that she has the ability and the dedication to make things happen.

We would like to think that all the young people who are part of our organization in one way or another, who would rather have their birthday money or Christmas gifts go to our charity than to themselves, who understand that giving back is part of their mission as responsible human beings... They are the future, and we are so proud to be part of their lives at such formative stages.

As a homecoming court nominee, I am fundraising for Animals in Distress! I chose this organization, which provides pets with medical care, food, and a loving place to live, because I am an animal lover. I am the person who cries when there is a dog in a movie, even if it isn't sad. :)

I have donated to this organization before, for my birthday, and as a kid it made me very happy to drop off the supplies and donations that we collected to the Animals in Distress location, where we could see the immediate impact of our fundraising! I hope to continue to make a difference for these animals, by making their lives just a little bit better with your help. Please share to your family and friends! Thank you for your support!





The dog kennel is all festive with decorations hand made by our senior dog kennel coordinator, who has a shop on Etsy called Diana's Decoratives. Each dog has its own one-of-a-kind personalized stocking. Photos and stockings of dogs who passed away are also displayed to remember them as part of the "family." That seems appropriate since Love never dies.

Augie (above right) was rescued this past August after being abandoned. He will be adopted a week before Christmas!

Stella trying to steal my heart and succeeding



Bart, who has adopted 3 dogs from us, has been a loyal dog volunteer for over a decade. He is smooching AID dog Stella.

The animals who reside with us are well cared for by a devoted kennel staff and dedicated volunteers who understand how much they can contribute to the quality of life for the shelter animals.

A hug, a kind word, a walk, a cuddle, a few treats, a quiet moment together.....these mean so much to animals who don't have families and homes of their own.

So many of these animals light up when their favorite people walk into the kennel: they know these are their people. Their family.



Heather cuddles with Odie, a loving dog who has been with us several years.

The three animals pictured on this page, and many others, will be spending the holidays at the Kennel of Hope. Although they have not been adopted, they are still loved and cherished. They have a home with us for as long as they need it. Their lives are precious, and we want our friends to think of them and so many others who will be spending the holidays (and as long as necessary) with us.



His Last Christmas

Although all three animals on this page have had serious health battles, they have gotten excellent medical care and lived much longer than expected. However, there comes a time when options are running out. Such is the case with Sid, the black cat lounging in the arms of volunteer Allison.

Sid and 4 other cats were abandoned along a country stream 10 years ago, stuffed into carriers lined up along the stream. All the others were adopted or passed away, leaving Sid as the lone survivor. He is now about 15 years old. Sid is in end stage renal failure . He has lost a lot of weight, but hasn't lost his spirit. He can usually be found lounging on a window sill, hoping for some food and fascinated by all the activity in the cat kennel.

Allison heard about us on the Jack Lehr Facebook site over a year ago, and has been volunteering with the cats ever since. She has fallen in love with Sid (and he with her), and is dedicated to loving and cuddling Sid for as long as he has left.

We don't know how much time Sid has left, BUT we do know that his final days will be full of love, kindness, and peace.

What a Wonderful Holiday Get Together!!



Holiday open house on December 7 was wonderful. First of all, the weather was very cooperative. Every parking spot was taken, with some cars out along the driveway coming up the hill to the parking area. There was hardly any standing room in the Hospitality Center because of all the people who attended. It was wonderful to see so many friends, and also to have them stay and visit with each other and participate in the silent auction and the basket social, as well as enjoying all the wonderful food. Hot hors d'oeuvres, cold hors d'oeuvres, salads, baked goods, and beverages and all sorts of wonderful goodies were provided by our hard-working volunteers throughout the four hour event. And best of all, everybody seemed to enjoy themselves and the happy and positive energy that filled our shelter.

Volunteers and friends donated a huge number of baskets for the basket social, so many baskets in fact that the front half of the cat kennel hallway was lined with baskets on both sides of the hallway. This provided not only a comfortable place for the baskets to be displayed, but it also provided endless entertainment for the cats, hundreds of them, who lined the windows of the social rooms housing the cats. It was difficult to determine who was having a better time observing what was going on: the cats who were looking out, OR the people who were looking at the baskets and couldn't ignore the cute cat faces lined up at the windows. It was a pawsitively wonderful time!



Many thanks to Mary Faith Rhoades-Lewis and her friends for providing beautiful music during the event. These professional musicians gather every year to help make our holiday open house extra special. Best of all, they seem to be having a great time and fit right in with the jovial spirit of the day.



Some of the pets in attendance had been adopted from Animals in Distress, and it was wonderful to see how happy they were in their loving homes. There's nothing better than rescuing an animal from a miserable situation, giving it time and care so it can heal and reach its potential, and then having it adopted by a family who truly loves and appreciates it. Life doesn't get much better than that for those of us in the animal rescue world.



We don't want to forget about all the volunteers, coordinated by Kelly Hartnett, who put the event together, starting with Christmas decorations and getting all the food together and making sure it was served beautifully. They coordinated the endless tasks that have to be done to make an event like this successful.

Another very special part of the open house was the tribute program. Hundreds of red poinsettias, wreaths and ornaments, all bearing notations as to who they are in honor or in memory of, were displayed all over the

Hospitality Center. Every year, we are deeply touched by the thoughtfulness of people who want to honor or memorialize their loved ones by having their tributes shared with all of us at the shelter. This is, of course, an important fundraiser for us. But it is so much more than just a fundraiser. It is love.



On the next page, we are going to share more pictures of the event to give our friends an idea of how special the day was. We know that not all of you could be with us at the open house, but you all were there in spirit. And we thank all of our friends for their support, friendship, and prayers. None of this is possible without everyone helping to make it happen.



Holiday Open House 2025



Photos in this news-
letter are courtesy of
Lowell Linde, Linda
Hoffert, Cheryl
Miller, Sherrie Hay,
and Diana Deitrich



This page features two cats who were recently adopted and will be spending their first Christmas in a home with their family. Both cats had terrible beginnings and were with us for a long time before being discovered by the purrfect families.

Poppy, at right, is a dilute calico who came to us 8 years ago along with 2 other very tiny kittens. They were near death with infections of the eyes and chest, critically low body temperatures, and starving.

Two siblings were adopted within a few months, but Poppy was very shy and did not attract any adopters. We moved her to a quiet room, where she did a lot better but still did not find a home.



After 8 years, it was Poppy's turn to get a home. A few months ago, a very nice couple visited us, looking for a middle aged cat who would do well as an only cat. Poppy was a purrfect match for them. She loved them from the start, and they loved her at first sight.

Poppy has settled in very well and will be spending the holidays—and the rest of her life—in her own home, with people who love her.



Guy (above and to the right) came to us at about 6 years ago. He was found lying in someone's backyard, starving, being eaten alive by parasites and fleas. He was about 2 years old when rescued. He always loved people and would be the first cat on everyone's lap when they came into his cat social room.

He suffered from many GI issues, along with dental disease and severe ear infections which affected his ability to walk straight, and caused a long-term head tilt. Through all his treatments and many visits to the vet, he remained sweet and trusting.

Several months ago, one of our new volunteer families chose Guy's room on their first visit on volunteer night. Guy was the first cat to jump on their laps and welcome them!

They knew he was just what they were looking for. He now is very happy and spends his days lounging on the couch and helping their daughter with her homework. He has come a long way!





Enclosed is my donation of \$_____ to keep Hope and Love alive at Animals in Distress, for pets like Stella, Odie, Guy, Sid, Polly, Augie and so many others.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Check this box if you do NOT want a receipt mailed to you.

Credit Card Info: **

Number _____

Name on card _____

Expiration date _____

Signature _____

**** MC, Visa, & Discover only**

Thank you for caring about those without a voice.



.....Detach coupon here and return to: Animals in Distress, P.O. Box 609, Coopersburg, PA 18036.....



Volunteer Orientation Dates for 2026

Tuesday, January 29

Tuesday, April 28

Tuesday, July 28

Tuesday, October 27

7pm at Animals in Distress

5075 Limeport Pike, Coopersburg

A volunteer application and more information are available at the shelter or on our website:

animalsindistresspa.org

ANIMALS IN DISTRESS

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Current Resident



***A Special Message of Peace
and Love for All Our Friends
and Those They Love***

from

All the Animals

and People at

Animals in

Distress