



"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. 1

FEBRUARY 2026

EDITOR: LOIS GADEK

We Can Make a Difference—TOGETHER

Another year has arrived, and we are all wondering if 2026 will be a "good" year. Political and social division, climate crises and concerns, financial market ups and downs, international and worldwide instability, healthcare crises... the list goes on and on. So where in all this does Animals in Distress fit in?

In many cases, the answer to such crises and overwhelming situations is basic common sense: do what you can. Start bringing balance and kindness and caring into the small part of the world that you occupy. We all can do things every day to make someone smile, to help someone who is down, to let someone know that we care. Such gestures cost nothing but mean everything.

During the past holiday season, we were overwhelmed with so many acts of kindness, generosity, and thoughtfulness. The lovely notes on greeting cards, generous donations and gifts for our shelter animals, the special collections done by businesses and schools and churches and scouts and so many others—all of these true expressions of the holiday spirit of caring—are proof that kindness, and hope, and community still exist and can make a huge difference in our quality of life.

As Animals Distress enters its 49th year of saving lives, we are very aware of how blessed we are. When we were first started back in 1977, most folks thought that the idea of not putting animals down was unrealistic and foolish. The expedient and cost savings way to handle surplus and unwanted pets was to dispose of them. Killing is always cheaper than keeping someone alive: and who cares about these unwanted pets anyway? The answer to that question was and is "WE do." And so Animals in Distress was born, as another way to help animals, a life-saving organization that valued all lives, including those most often euthanized as "unadoptable" or "unhealthy": the older pet, the special needs pet, the abused pet, the most hopeless and forlorn.

Did that decision to help animals change anything? Well, we would like to think that it changed a lot. Many people have become our friends and supporters. With their help, we have been able to go from a rented garage in Emmaus (where the old Pizza Hut used to stand) to a wonderful shelter facility near Coopersburg, just about 7 minutes from Allentown and 14 minutes from Bethlehem. How did all that happen?



First thing to happen was that a small group of animal lovers decided to create an alternative kind of shelter. They didn't have much money, or a kennel, or even much public support: instead, they had a dream, a vision of what could be if they put kindness and hope and dedication into their philosophy. Such a mindset is the first step to making a change. If you think you can, then you can. Will it be easy? Usually, no. Will it be worth the effort? Yes.

In the case of Animals in Distress, after 48+ years, and thousands and thousands of animals saved, and thousands of people touched by our work, the dream and vision continue. The good work continues. The hope and love continue.

So, to get back to the opening thought: will 2026 be a "good" year? Our answer is yes. Yes, to hope. Yes, to trying our best. Yes, to making the most of every dollar we receive. Yes, to believing in the goodness of people. Yes, to being a positive and proactive force for change and for compassion.

We are ever mindful of the fact that we cannot do our work alone. We need the help and prayers of our friends. We need to trust that good deeds and good intentions still matter. When today's headlines on killings, scandals, and crises make us feel hopeless and powerless, take comfort in knowing that we are all part of this wonderful organization.

Thank you for your friendship and support. To all our friends, Happy New Year. May you and those you love be blessed with health, peace, and hope.

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

VERA BRADLEY & LONGABERGER BASKET



TO BENEFIT

ANIMALS IN DISTRESS SATURDAY, MAY 2

DOORS OPEN 11:30 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.)

EMMAUS FIRE CO. NO. 1

50 S. 6TH STREET | EMMAUS, PA

FOOD & BAKED GOODS AVAILABLE | NO OUTSIDE FOOD PERMITTED

FOR MORE INFO:

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

A Picture That Conveys Thousands of Promises Kept

If you were driving through our parking lot area after the recent storms that left our shelter with almost 2+ feet of snow to deal with, you would notice huge piles of snow everywhere. Our volunteers, especially Bob Johnson, did a heroic job of snow blowing and shoveling to open up the entrances, dog exercise yards, pathways, storage building, dumpster and propane tank access areas....the list goes on and on.

We must hire people to do plowing and salting since we have neither the equipment or trained manpower to operate machines capable of dealing with moving that amount of snow. We haven't gotten all the bills yet for all the recent storms but expect them to be in the thousands, even though Bob and others did some of the work around the buildings.

What is the alternative? Our first priority is the care of our animals and the ability of our staff to safely get to the shelter. The entrance must be kept open, or the staff cannot get in, and the animals are stranded. No fuel delivery, no garbage pickup, no access for food and supplies, no emergency access.

Some of our devoted staff and volunteer actually slept over so there would be staff to do the basic tasks. When we think about the animals we have on medical support care for diabetes, heart disease, kidney problems, etc., having a lapse in their care could prove fatal. Our devoted staff knows this and did everything in their power to make sure the animals were cared for.

More snow storms are forecast as this newsletter is being written, and we don't know what might happen. However, we have faith in our staff and volunteers to do what is necessary to protect the health and safety of our 300+ shelter residents.

In that context, let's take a look at the picture of one of our shelter dogs in the snow covered side exercise yard. He is standing at the door waiting to be let back inside after his potty/exercise break. Most people would pass by that scene and not think much about it.

What can one simple picture say? The answer is: LOTS.

If you study the picture, you can see that K-Love is standing patiently waiting for the door to be opened so he can go back inside to his bed, his toys, his safe place.

He trusts that someone will open that door, and that he will be safe and loved. This dog, who has been at Animals in Distress for several years, without being



Waiting for the dog kennel door to open

adopted or getting much interest, this dog who is black and in a group of animals who are black and least likely to be adopted and most likely to be euthanized, THIS dog who has found love, safety, and kindness at Animals in Distress: THIS dog who would be dead if not for all of us, together, supporting the life saving work that we do...THIS dog stood waiting to be let inside. He trusted that he had a home with us.

Moments like that remind us of the promise we make to every animal we rescue, no matter age, or color, or medical and behavioral challenges: we promise them a home and unconditional acceptance for as long as they need us. The harsh weather and the deep snow made it difficult, if not impossible, for some animals to even be able to move around (especially the stray and outside cats). That cold and fierce weather means an agonizing death for many homeless animals, and even those who have what some could call a "home" are kept outside in miserable conditions and struggle to survive

K-Love is so appreciative of being with us. He wags his tail to greet everyone and doesn't harbor resentment because of the cruelty inflicted upon him.

He represents every animal in our shelter, every animal we have ever rescued: **that door will always be open for them, and they will never again know what it is to be forlorn, scared, homeless, and hopeless.**

**YOUR support makes that possible.
Bless you for caring.**

Redner's Tape Redemption Program Thanks to all who send their Redner's cash register receipts to the shelter. We redeem them for cash. You must go to the Customer Service Desk and obtain a Rewards card that will allow your tapes to participate in the program. Keep those tapes coming! They are providing a nice stream of income, since we receive 1% of the tapes' totals, excluding sales tax, milk and cigarette items.

Membership Renewal/Enrollment Reminder



At the beginning of the year, we not only renew our commitment to a message of hope for all animals. We also renew our membership in the Kennel of Hope.

Members are welcome to all shelter events, receive the newsletter, nominate and vote for Board members, and go on record as supporting our work to preserve the dignity and life of animals forsaken by others.

Please complete and send in the following coupon to indicate which of four membership categories you wish to be listed under, and if your membership is a new one or a renewal. Gift memberships are also available. Provide the necessary information on a separate sheet of paper and we'll inform the recipient of your thoughtfulness.

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 _____

Phone number _____

Email _____

Check enclosed for \$ _____ OR

Credit Card:

Card Number _____ Exp. Date _____

Name on card _____

Authorized Signature _____

Please enroll/renew (circle one) my 2026 AID

Membership in the following category

(select one):

☐ **Life** - \$250 (once payable)

☐ **Senior** (65 and older) - \$10

☐ **Sustaining** - \$50

☐ **Active** - \$20

☐ **Corporate** - \$500

Callie's Inside Looking Out

When people abandon their pets, sometimes the animals adjust just well enough to survive for a while. Especially if some kind people offer some food and a little bit of shelter. But living outside, facing the elements and danger from other animals and humans and traffic and disease, can eventually take its toll. It's wrong to assume that just because the animal is moving around, it is doing OK. Nothing could be further from the truth.

We recently rescued a cat who had been roaming a neighborhood for several years. A kind lady was feeding it, but no one took it in despite the fact that it was friendly and a very nice kitty. Clearly, it had been a pet. This was no feral cat who wouldn't trust people. Just the opposite.

Eventually, as usually happens with former pets who are abandoned and left to fend for themselves, the cat suffered an injury to its tail. Gradually, the injury got worse to the point where the cat's tail literally rotted and fell off, leaving a bloody and infected stump and exposed bone and flesh.



The woman who had been feeding the cat tried to spray something on the tail, but the tail stump got more infected and more deteriorated.

Obviously, the poor cat, who we named Callie, needed to be taken to a veterinarian. We knew there was no other option but to get medical help for the animal... Callie was dying slowly and painfully, and there were two alternatives. Let the cat die or get it medical care.

Everyone at the vet hospital was amazed at how sweetly natured Callie is. Despite all the pain she was in (and had been in), she remained so trusting. The first priority was getting the infection under control and then surgically removing the rotting tissue and getting the tail closed up.

Unfortunately, although Callie responded well to the surgery and the antibiotics, some sort of mass was discovered and had to be diagnosed. So far, Callie continues to do well and we're doing diagnostics on the mass to determine how best to treat it.

On page 3 of this newsletter, we shared a picture of one of

our Kennel dogs in the snow covered exercise yard, waiting patiently for the staff to open the kennel door and let him back inside where it's warm and comfortable. That picture says so many things if you're a person who's involved in rescue.

We can empathize with what it's like for pets who once had a home and a family to be on the outside, looking in where they have been warm and safe inside with their family. What must they think as they adjust to their exile from everything they have known? Indeed, some animals who are abandoned by families that move away, remain sitting on the front porch waiting for the family to come back. They just don't understand that they have been abandoned. They cling to whatever is left of the life they have known.

That's why the picture of one of our dogs trusting that he will be let back inside is so special. We would never abandon an animal who trusts us. What kind of heartless evil soul abandons someone who trusts them?

We don't know what the future brings for Callie, but we know that she now has a real chance to be safe and loved for the rest of her life. She will never again be on the outside looking in. She will never feel friendless and abandoned and afraid and alone. That's a promise we make to every animal we rescue.



And that is a promise that we keep unconditionally. **Rescue isn't just saving an animal, it's making a commitment to that animal. Rescue isn't just a noun, rescue is a verb. And that means action. That means unconditional love. That means the door will always be open to a safe place inside.**



These cats are safe with us, and are inside safe, not outside looking in



Sharing Our Hearts

February is the month of love and our logo is a heart with a dog and cat sleeping together. It says share your heart with animals. For the months of February thru June, anyone giving a \$35 donation can have a personalized heart hung in our Hospitality Center. It can be in honor of a pet, in memory of a pet, or in memory or honor of a special person.

We will send an acknowledgement of your thoughtfulness.

Just fill out the form below and we'll do the rest. These hearts make very nice gifts for birthdays, anniversaries, Happy Easter, Happy Spring, Happy Mother's Day, etc.



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

Your Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone () _____ Email _____

Please allow at least 2 weeks for processing.

List the following as **Memorials** (indicate if a pet or person)

List the following as **In Honor of** (indicate if a pet or a person)

List the following as **OTHER**: birthday, anniversary, graduation, Mother's Day, wedding, etc.

☐ Check this box if you want the announcements mailed directly to you.

If you want us to mail an announcement directly to the recipient(s), please supply the mailing address (attach separate sheets of paper, if you prefer) and any special instructions:

Total Enclosed at \$35 each: \$ _____

.....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 Callie and K-Love can 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

Card Number_____ Exp. Date_____

Name on card (print)_____ Signature_____

Thank You for Lending Many Friendly Paws a Helping Hand!



Calendar

Membership Campaign—new and renewals, see form in this newsletter

Yard Sale, Sunday, April 18, from 8am to Noon, at the Animals in Distress Shelter, 5075 Limeport Pike, Coopersburg. Rain or shine. You can reserve a table spot for \$10. Contact Kelly for more info: email: khart70906@aol.com or cell: 610-762-8553.

Vera Bradley/Longaberger Basket Bingo, May 2—See poster in this newsletter for details. To sponsor a prize for the Bingo, donate \$50 and get your name as a sponsor in the event program. Contact Kelly for details: call 610-762-8553 or email khart70906@aol.com. Please share the poster and make copies as needed.

49th Alumni Day Pets and People Party , Sunday, June 7 Celebration at the shelter—noon to 4 pm. Do not miss this major celebration of our lifesaving work!! Details in upcoming newsletter and on our website.

WAEB Radiothon—biggest fundraiser of the year—mid July, details TBA

2026 Volunteer Orientation Schedule, April, 28, July 28, and October 27—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.

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

IT'S NOT WHAT
WE HAVE IN LIFE,
BUT WHO WE HAVE IN
OUR LIFE THAT
MATTERS

