



Tails of Hope

The Newsletter of Animals in Distress
June 2026

P.O. Box 609 Coopersburg, PA 18036
phone: 610-966-9383
website: animalsindistresspa.org
email: aidpa@animalsindistresspa.org
Editor: Lois Gadek

A Good Time Was Had By All

Alumni Day was its usual lovefest. Friends of the shelter, people who have adopted pets from us, loyal volunteers, and others gathered for what is an annual celebration, kind of like a homecoming. Music compliments of Donna Fisher and Friends, food of all sorts compliments of dedicated volunteers coordinated by hard-working Kelly Hartnett, a fantastic basket social and silent auction of various items donated by our friends, a pet cake walk, and a special program honoring the 250th anniversary of the birth of the USA, including D-Day and Memorial Day, which are also celebrated around this time.

The Animals in Distress adaptation of the John Lennon song *Imagine* was performed by Donna Fisher and Friends. Because a small group of people in this area believed that a no kill animal shelter was possible in a country that was killing between 128 million and 132 million cats and dogs and puppies and kittens every year in shelters, Animals in Distress was established in 1977. No building, no money, but a group of dedicated people determined to share a vision of a better and kinder world for animals in the Lehigh Valley.

But beyond that, the song on the broader scale celebrates the fact that we as humans can imagine a better, kinder way of doing things. The people who decided to create a democracy in the United States, who drafted a Constitution which is still admired worldwide today, who fought and died to make that vision reality... The power of good people to do good things if they believe in the mission and if they can imagine the future being better and kinder--that's when miracles start to happen. That's when what was impossible becomes possible. No guarantees. Just a strong vision of what is possible to make the world a better and kinder place.

Thanks to everyone who came to Alumni Day and participated in any way. And we do want to mention that the event was extra special because heart tributes were posted in the middle of the Hospitality Center, honoring and commemorating loved ones. And that's really what Alumni Day is all about. It's a celebration of love, a celebration of kindness and the belief that we can do the right thing and make the world a better place.

Our Annual WAEB 7:90 AM Radiothon

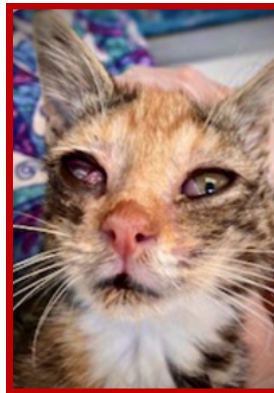
The on air portion of the Radiothon begins at 5 AM on July 13, with Bobby Gunther Walsh's morning show.

We cannot overemphasize the importance of this Radiothon. It is the single biggest fundraising event we hold during the year, and provides important financial support that allows us to rescue animals who desperately need not only shelter and food but often significant medical attention. We always like to remind people that our veterinary expenses alone, after discounts, are averaging between \$35,000 and \$45,000 a month.

That is the price of saving lives. Letting animals die or euthanizing them is cheap and quick, and those animals are forgotten almost immediately. But at Animals in Distress, we have made a commitment to try to do the best for every animal we rescue. As one of less than a dozen no kill animal shelters in the world back in 1977 when we were founded, we have remained true to that commitment. It is at the heart of who we are and what we do. And despite the enormous volunteer effort of the people who make a lot of what we do possible, we still have to pay bills. And that takes money. A lot of it.

Throughout the year, we have shared a few stories of the many rescues that we have done. We always say that if you want to see where your donations are going, visit the shelter. Look at the animals who now are alive, despite some horrible situations, and safe because we are here for them. Sometimes, sharing Before and After pictures of rescues is more powerful than words in showing the impact of our life affirming work.

For example, Kimmy came to us as a dying kitten whose eyes were exploding out of its head. Immediate veterinary care was essential. This before picture (to the left) is better than words to describe how desperate the situation was.



THEN

Months later, after extensive medical care and nursing, this is Kimmy today. What an amazing difference! But more than that, Kimmy (pictured below) is still with us and will be loved and cherished and cared for as long as necessary. Hopefully, somebody who understands the situation will adopt her. But in the meantime, and for as long as necessary, Kimmy is alive and doing well. She has lost her vision, but she has not lost her life.

So to get back to money for a minute, we don't look at money as something that we can buy a new rug with or new office furniture or whatever. 100% of the money raised during the Radiothon goes directly to rescuing animals like Kimmy, and so many other animals who are alive today because of people like you. We invite you to come to the shelter and meet Kimmy.

This can't happen without all of us believing that these lives matter. Our mission is clear, and our dedication has been well established for 49+ years **thanks to YOU.**

Thanks for caring
NOW





Alumni Day June 7, 2026





Radiothon Week July 13-19: Events and Information

Monday through Friday, July 13--17, 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 or our website at animalsindistresspa.org.

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

Over the weekend, July 18 & 19, 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 19, 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—
ResQ Gift giveaway**

Jon Campbell Team brokered by Real Realty is sponsoring a live broadcast 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



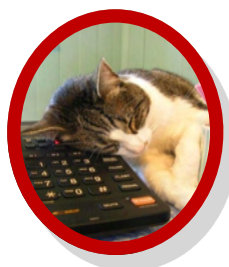
Saturday, July 18 Stop by our table at **Lucy and Lolly's All Natural Pit Stop**, meet Bobby, make a pledge.

**Also on Saturday, July 18 (1-4),
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.

**TAX DEDUCTIBLE PLEDGES ACCEPTED AT
THE SHELTER SATURDAY & SUNDAY,
8AM-6 PM IN PERSON OR CALL 610-966-9383.**

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

There are some rescue stories that stay in your heart forever.

There's something about the details that captures your heart in a way that makes it a permanent resident of your memory bank and your emotions. Such is the case with a seven year-old terrier mix named Cid.

Cid spent the first 7 to 10 months of his life in a trailer complex with hundreds of other dogs. He never saw the sunlight, never went for a walk, never had human contact except when someone would throw food on the floor.

When all of these abused and neglected dogs were finally liberated, some of them were put up for adoption. A young man adopted Cid. The man didn't intend any harm to the dog, just the opposite. But the young man suffers from some severe psychological and addiction problems, and was not really capable of properly caring for a dog. However, he did his best for several years, supported by loving grandparents who didn't want him and the dog out on the street.

Finally, as expected, the situation deteriorated to the point where the grandparents, in their 80s, were left with Cid. After the wife died, the husband was facing severe health issues, but wanted to provide for Cid. Before this time, due to lack of vet care, Cid developed severe glaucoma and turned blind in both eyes.

Because the grandfather could no longer navigate to walk Cid or take him outside, Cid was living in the basement with pee pads down for his bathroom needs.

Fearing that if something would happen to him, Cid would be without anyone to care for him, the grandfather contacted several places for help. He heard about Animals in Distress through Bobby Gunther Walsh on the radio, and thought we sounded like the kind of organization that would give such a sad dog a chance.

When we met Cid, we were very concerned about his ability to adjust to an environment full of strangers and strange noises and strange smells. The poor dog didn't know what to think, and stayed under the bench his owner was sitting on.

If you can put yourself in this dog's situation for a moment, you can understand how stressful this moment was for him. When he was sighted, and the grandfather could walk, Cid would enjoy going to the park and meeting other dogs. That was the one thing that really perked him up. Not people. Not new environments. Just



other dogs. After he went blind, however, and the kind grandfather couldn't walk him anymore, Cid didn't get out often. He didn't go anywhere. He stayed in the basement most of the time.

This photo tries to capture what we saw under the bench when we first met Cid. It's not a dog who means anyone any harm. It's just a dog whose whole world had disintegrated several times, and he can't see the world around him anymore. He just has to rely on the smells and sounds of whoever happens to be near him.

We knew that just putting him in a kennel run, given his stressed out situation, would only make matters worse. Such stressed out animals, undersocialized and fearful, need time and a kind, patient environment in which to decide if they can trust where they are. So we spent several hours with Cid, trying to let him know that he was in a safe and kind place.

Cid was difficult to convince in the beginning. He didn't really want to be touched or petted, although he tolerated it from one or two of us. But he stayed glued under the bench, refusing to come out. Refusing to take treats. Refusing to relax his body language.

Then it occurred to us that since he loves dogs so much, maybe a nice, friendly dog from our shelter would be able to tell Cid in doggy language that Animals in Distress is a good place to be. After a brief consultation, we decided to bring out Odie, a senior pitbull mix who has been with us a very long time. We often say that Odie is always the best dog in the kennel in terms of behavior. He is a sweetheart. Always has been. Good with other animals, even guinea pigs! Friendly with any human, young or old, doesn't matter.

Sadly, Odie is dying of an extremely aggressive form of cancer. There is no way to slow it down at this point. He has at most a month or two to live, and we are devastated. However, right now, Odie is not in any pain and he seems very happy. Everyone here is giving him lots of attention, lots of walks, lots of treats, and making his last weeks with us as wonderful as they can be. We will not let Odie suffer, of course, but right now, every day he has is considered precious and is filled with everything any dog would want.

So out came our dying Odie, oblivious of his impending fate, and just excited to meet new people and, best of all, a new dog.

We wish we could share a videotape with you of the moment when Cid realized that Odie wanted to be friends. Cid's whole body posture changed, and he started to slowly creep out from under the bench. In no time, Cid was out from under the bench and Odie was sniffing him. And Cid wagged his tail cautiously, and actually appeared to seek out and want more attention from Odie.

More than one of us observing this had tears in our eyes at the thought that this dying dog still had gifts to give the world and still is capable of empathy and kindness towards others. And maybe Odie's last great good deed will be opening up Cid to the possibility that he can be happy and enjoy the rest of his life because he can trust everyone at Animals in Distress, a true Kennel of Hope.

Here are a few pictures that try to capture what we just described.



It's been a few weeks since Cid has been living at the shelter, and it has been a process of encouraging Cid in a gentle and kind way, and, of course, involving Odie as much as we can in walks and quiet moments sitting in the grass.



Bart, one of the volunteers who helped introduce Cid to the shelter initially, comes to walk Odie and Cid together. Here they are sitting in the grass, enjoying such a happy



moment. Cid is getting to be a different dog. More trusting. Happier. And of course, thrilled to be with his new best friend. Odie--His big brother.

We have had Cid to the veterinarian for a complete physical, and except for his bulging eyes, due to the untreated glaucoma, Cid is in decent shape for a seven year-old dog. And he is a very nice dog. Despite being scared, he has never shown any aggression or offensive behavior. He is potentially a great pet for someone who can be patient with him as he adjusts to being blind in a world he never got to experience much of before he lost his sight.

The veterinarian is concerned that his bulging eyes may be vulnerable to puncture or rupture, so we are considering possibly having his eyes removed in the future as a safety precaution. There is no rush on this decision right now because he is not in pain from what we can tell. Many animals and people with glaucoma suffer extreme pain as the pressure builds up and presses on their optic nerve. But Cid seems to be past that phase, so we are now giving him time and kindness so that whatever happens in the future, he knows he is safe and loved and can trust whatever is going on.

By then, Odie will probably be gone, and that breaks our hearts. But Odie will live on in our hearts for his decency and empathy towards a sad little dog who desperately needed a friend. There is no question that Odie will be in Heaven waiting for all of his friends from the shelter to join him someday, including little Cid.

Hold the Presses!

Just as this newsletter was getting ready to go to the printer, we rescued a pathetic and desperate cat we named Hobo.

He was in a trap, and several vets refused to work on him because he was in a trap.

He was full of scratches, bite wounds and punctures all over... many hard to see because of his fur... maybe a fox or a dog attacked him? We can't imagine how much pain he has been in.

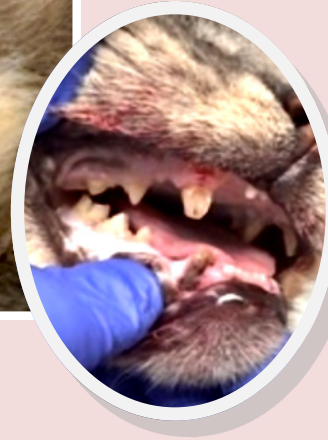
Our vet took him into surgery right away. He had blood coming from his mouth, and was also oozing from puncture wounds on the left side of his head and by his ear.

Many blood engorged ticks covered his head and other parts of his body, and he was crawling with fleas. Tapeworms were coming out of his anal area. His teeth are in terrible shape, and one had to be removed immediately. However, it was too risky to keep him sedated for long so more dental work will be needed in the future.

He is anemic from all the parasites and FIV positive.

The vet estimates him as only about five years old! We cannot believe the miserable life he must have lived in these five years to look so beaten down. People think animals don't have feelings, but this cat is the picture of "discouraged, depressed, hopeless"... you name it!

He does not growl or hiss. He just stares with these sad half-open eyes as if to say... ***What are you going to do to me now??***



UPCOMING EVENTS

WAEB Radiothon—biggest fundraiser of the year—complete schedule and other info in this newsletter.

If you are donating items for Silent Auction and/or the Basket Social, please drop them off by July 6. 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

Yard Sale, Saturday, August 29, from 8am to 3 pm, and Sunday, August 30, from 8am to 1pm, at the Animals in Distress Shelter, 5075 Limeport Pike, Coopersburg. Rain or shine. You can reserve a table spot for \$10. Or you can drop items off as donations if you aren't reserving a table to sell them. Contact Kelly for more info: email: khart70906@aol.com or cell: 610-762-8553.

2026 Volunteer Orientation Schedule, 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, mowing grass, etc. in addition to working with the dogs and cats.

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 Cid, Odie, Kimmy, Hobo 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 (3 winners)
Great Allentown Fair tickets to various shows,
Iron Pigs tickets

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

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



Check out our website at 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.

**Everybody's talking
about the WAEB
790AM Radiothon,
starting July 13. 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.**