



## Helping Hands

A publication of the Hillside Society for the Prevention  
of Cruelty to Animals, Inc. 51 SPCA Road, Pottsville, PA 17901

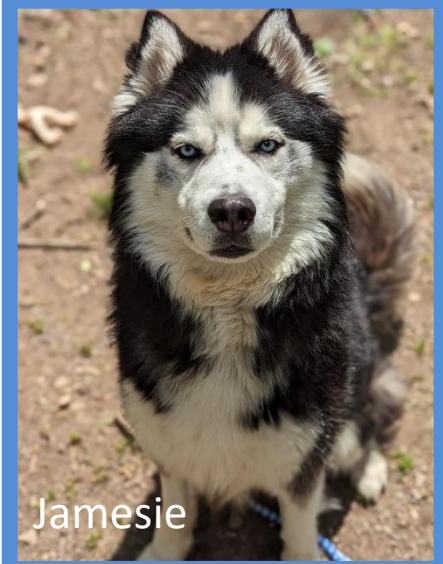
### Animal Shelters in Crisis: A Call to Action for Adoption, Fostering, and Support

As the leaves begin to change and the air turns crisp, animal shelters across the United States find themselves confronted with a season that's all too familiar—but more acute than ever. Shelters are facing a crisis, teeming with animals in desperate need and overwhelmed by a staggering influx of pets waiting to be surrendered. With resources stretched thin and a growing list of animals on their doorstep, these facilities urgently need help from their communities. Adopters, fosters, volunteers, and donors are needed now more than ever to help alleviate this pressing situation.

A perfect storm has led to this alarming situation. The pandemic initially caused a surge in pet adoptions, as people sought companionship during isolation. However, as the reality of returning to normalcy set in, many adopters found themselves unable to keep their pets due to financial strain, housing issues, or lifestyle changes. Consequently, shelters are now inundated with animals that once knew loving homes. Recent estimates suggest that animal shelters nationwide are functioning at or above their capacity, with certain areas seeing a surge of 50% or higher in animal intakes compared to previous years. This has led to overcrowding, overwhelmed staff, and a pressing call for community support.

Adoption plays a vital role in addressing this crisis. Each adopted pet symbolizes a narrative of hope and new beginnings. Shelters are filled with a variety of animals eager for a lasting home—ranging from dogs and cats to rabbits and beyond. By choosing to adopt, people not only receive a devoted friend but also assist shelters in making room for more animals requiring care. For those unable to commit to permanent adoption, fostering presents a viable option. Fostering involves taking in a pet for a limited time—be it a few days or several months—until they can be adopted. Foster homes are critically needed to free up space in shelters and provide individual attention to animals who may be scared, anxious, or adjusting to their new situation. Foster care can be especially beneficial for kittens and puppies who require around-the-clock care, as well as for those pets who may need special medical attention or rehabilitation. Plus, fostering can be a rewarding experience, allowing individuals to form a bond with a pet without a lifelong commitment.

Animal shelters are often run by a small staff and a band of dedicated volunteers. The impact of volunteer work cannot be overstated—since shelters require help with everything from walking dogs, socializing cats, and assisting with adoption events, to managing the administrative side of operations. Volunteers are essential to







### **Animal Shelters in Crisis *continued...***

reducing the strains on shelter resources and ensuring that animals receive the care and attention they deserve. Those interested in volunteering can typically find opportunities both within the shelter and virtually, such as helping with social media campaigns to promote adoptions or fundraising events.

For others, making monetary or material donations can have a profound impact on the lives of shelter animals. Please see the Hillside Wish List on page 7 for great ideas. The funds collected through these donations can assist with veterinary expenses, the procurement of supplies, and fundamental shelter operations, ensuring that animals remain healthy and comfortable as they await their permanent homes.

As communities rally to address this unfolding crisis, it has become clear that the well-being of these animals rests in all of our hands. By recognizing the urgent needs of local shelters and taking steps to adopt, foster, volunteer, or donate, individuals can play a vital role in alleviating this crisis. The relationship between humans and animals is profound and transformative, and every bit of support counts. Now is the time to stand up for those who cannot stand up for themselves. By working together, we can change the fate of countless animals and ensure that they too have a place to call home.



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## Memorials, Remembrances & Honors

- Dottie Gittleman by: Pat, Dave & Ben Gittleman
- Kathleen O'Neill by: Regina Tunnard
- James P. Carduff by: Steven Everett, Karen, Kathleen & Nick Carduff
- Linda Ann Schock by: Dana Verdoorn, Mrs. Stephen Kuhn, Jill Polanycia
- Linda Ann Schlock, Terry L. Schlock & Lois Ann Messerschmidt Dyust by: Stephanie & Juan Costa
- Carolyn Carvahlo by: Nanette & Joseph Purcell, Psychological Associates of Schuylkill County
- Dorothy Yannaccone by: Thomas Yannaccone
- Nancy Johnson-Mcintosh by: Cindy Hartnett & Gary Petrash, Teresa & Conrad Stoffregen & Family
- Kim Challenger by: Mr. & Mrs. Robert McCaffrey, Carol Deibert
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- Vievea Ressa by: Boyd & Judy Adams
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- Sharon Hock by: Janice & Walter W.Dunkling
- Ed Risko by: Ginny Stanziola
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- Janet Madden by: Anita & Marty Dwyer
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- Nancy Beissell by: Amy Yeager
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- Rick Tarcheski & Lucy by: Janis Wise
- Robert Hulet by: Fleetwood Area High School Faculty & Staff



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- Jax by: The Kotch Family
- Miley by: Andy & Mindy Frantz
- Zoey by: Marilyn & Frank Exley
- Spookers by: Penny Engle
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- Wolfgang & Lou by: Mommy (Mrs. Dickie Matthews)
- Chester by: Dale & Kaye Schwenk, Kelsey, Zach, Wes, Erin & Billy
- Gretel, Boots & Koda by: Elaine Hackenberg
- Corky by: Sylvia Cunningham
- Spot by: Lee Ann Freiler
- Charlie by: The Devlin Dormer Family & Doggies
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- Raza by: Carol & Jeremy Fegley
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- Snickers by: Mary Ann & David Kline
- Mimi & Honey Baby by: Anna Brennan
- Coco & Tippy by: Marcia Stasulli
- Molly by: Karen Sugrue
- Koky by: Ronald & Dolores Kramer
- Boo Maccarone by: Christine Maccarone, Paul & Joanna Buber, Mike & Bev Piscitelli
- Timmy by: Rochelle Angelo
- Maggie by: Theresa & Bob Engle, Annette & Greg Smutny
- Tinkerbelle by: Mary Motchar
- Carmina by: Molly Sieger
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- Pumpkin by: Al's TV, Al & Edie
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- Finley by: Martha Zellner
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- Lily & Max by: Mary Louse & Jeffrey Ibach
- Oreo & Louloubelle by: Maryann Oneill Reilly, Vince Reilly, Daisy & Silver
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- Charlotte by: Sandy Startzel
- Gertie Owsinski by: Diane, Jerry & Jimmy Dog Briggs
- Charlie by: Noreen Semanski



- ❖ Jessica Roth's 40th by: Tracy Smulligan
- ❖ Ann McGuire's 91st by: Melissa Enos
- ❖ Sylvia "Nan" Nabholz by: Michael Knehans
- ❖ Kelsey Pramik's 35th by: Maria Paulonis
- ❖ Janet Hellman by: Marie & Bella Joy Vovakes
- ❖ Summer Russell's 12th by: Chief & Lett
- ❖ Julia Malinoski by: Barbara Polatz
- ❖ Jean Conway's 85th by: Bea Petri
- ❖ Jason Sikora by: Carole & Robert Lee
- ❖ Janet Pielacha by: Mrs. T. Laubenstein
- ❖ Dottie's 78th by: Dave, Pat & Ben Gittleman
- ❖ Lucy & Juliet Jedlovec by: Diane, Jerry & Jimmy Briggs

"In Memory" and "In Honor" **Contributions** may be sent to "Memorial Honors" Hillside, SPCA, P.O. Box 233, Pottsville, PA 17901. Those wishing to remember the Hillside SPCA in your will or estate planning, it is important to use our full corporate title "Hillside Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Incorporated." Thank you.

## A Special Home Needed

Amaya is an adorable adult cat who is currently searching for her forever home, a place where she can finally settle down and feel safe. She was brought to Hillside through no fault of her own. She is spayed, up to date on all her vaccinations, and tested negative for FELV/FIV. Amaya is in excellent health and ready to find her special person. However, it's important to note that Amaya has some challenges when it comes to adapting to new environments, she struggles with change



Amaya

and will require a caring human who understands that building a trusting relationship with her will take time and patience. This means that potential adopters should be prepared to offer Amaya a calm and stable environment where she can slowly acclimate at her own pace. Once she feels comfortable and secure, you will find that her gentle spirit shines through; she is a quiet, laid-back cat who dreams of having a warm lap to curl up on and a companion to share her days with. Amaya's affectionate nature will blossom given

the right circumstances, and she promises to be a loyal friend to anyone willing to invest the time and love she truly deserves. If you're searching for a loving companion who will appreciate your kindness and provide you with quiet moments of companionship, Amaya might just be the perfect match for you. Adopting her means welcoming a sweet soul into your home, and the bond you'll form with her will undoubtedly bring immense joy to your life as she learns to trust and love again.

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## Emma Needs a Home

Emma arrived at Hillside and as days turned to weeks, she quickly became a favorite among the staff and volunteers. Everyone adored her gentle nature and the way her eyes lit up every time someone came close. A shelter is no place for a senior dog, especially one as sweet as her. Emma is 13 years old and is in kidney failure so her finding a hospice home quickly is very important to us. A home where she can receive love and be spoiled for however long she has. When you see how active she can be, you would never believe her body was failing her. An active loving home with no other pets is what our Emma needs to flourish and strive. Are you Emma's new home?



Emma

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## Memorials, Remembrances & Honors

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- Tom Fore by: Anita & Marty Dwyer



### *Special Honors*

- Porcupine Pat's Retirement from Schuylkill Conservation District by: Jenna St. Clair
- Mia by: Jean A. Sharkey
- Happy Valentine's Day to Janet Pielacha by: Joe Pielacha
- Larry Shields by: Elsie Nesspor
- Happy Anniversary, Terry & Paul Laubenstein by: Janet & Joe Pielacha
- Bill & Cindy Zimmerman's Wedding Anniversary by: Jason & Kelly Fegley
- Frank & Jill Yuengling by: Cricket Yuengling
- Janet & Joe Pielacha's Anniversary by: Mrs. T. Laubenstein
- Daisy Dog & Silver by: Maryann Oneill Reilly, Vince Reilly & Silver Horse
- Sue & Julianne Schneck by: Patricia Kunkle
- Jason & Brandi Sikora's Anniversary by: Carole & Robert Lee
- Theresa & Harr Strauss's 50th Wedding Anniversary by: Diane, Jerry & Jimmy Dog Briggs
- Buddy & Missy by: Ruth Ann Cole
- Juliet Jedlovec by: Diane, Jerry & Jimmy Briggs



P.O. Box 233  
Pottsville, PA 17901



## EVERY DOLLAR MAKES A DIFFERENCE

We are funded almost entirely through donations. Every single dollar donated is spent for the benefit of animals in our area. **YOUR** generosity is what keeps our doors open allowing us to treat, shelter, feed, and love the many who come to us in desperate need of a second chance.

**They need you.**

**Please show them you care TODAY!**

*All contributions are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law. The official registration and financial information of the Hillside S.P.C.A., Inc. may be obtained by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.*



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