

Helping Hands

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

It All Starts with Training

Training and socialization are not optional extras — they are essential parts of responsible dog ownership and directly impact a dog’s safety, welfare, and ability to stay in a home.

In recent years, we’ve seen a noticeable increase in dogs arriving with little to no training or exposure to everyday experiences. Many struggle with basic handling, meeting new people, encountering other animals, or coping with normal environments. This often leads to fear, anxiety, and can lead to not-so-great behaviors.

Proper socialization, especially during puppyhood (but continuing throughout life) helps dogs learn that the world is safe. Positive exposure to different people, sounds, places, and situations builds confidence and reduces fear-based reactions. Training provides clear communication, structure, and mental enrichment, helping dogs understand expectations and make good choices.

Dogs who are socialized and trained are:

- Less likely to develop fear or aggression issues
- Better able to adapt to change and stress
- Easier to handle for veterinary care and grooming
- More successful in homes and less likely to be surrendered

Investing time in your dog — through positive training, enrichment, and thoughtful exposure — isn’t just about manners. It’s about giving them the skills they need to navigate the world safely.

Some local companies that our Hillside adopters have used to assist them with pet training include Farmhouse Pet Resort LLC or PAWZ Away Pet Care, but there are many companies that offer such services. Pet owners should always check references and do their research to choose one that best fits their needs.



= It All Starts with =
TRAINING
Building Confident, Happy Dogs
for Lifelong Success!

Training & Socialization Help Dogs:

- ✓ Feel Safe & Confident
- ✓ Handle Stress & Change
- ✓ Get Along with People & Pets
- ✓ Succeed at Home & in the Community
- ✓ Stay Happy & Out of Shelters

Why It Matters:

- Less fear & behavior issues
- Easier vet & grooming visits
- Stronger bond with your dog

Invest in Your Dog's Future — One Step at a Time!
Positive Training + Lifelong Learning + Stronger Bonds

“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.

Memorials, Remembrances & Honors

- Robert J. Lipko by: Greg & Gail Senich
- Toni Marie Pellish by: Greg & Gail Senich
- Rose Marie Klocek by: Susan Chuplis, Tricia Palubinsky, Lorraine & Ken Letcavage, Mike Nieddu, Paul Straka
- Janet Martinaitis by: Kathleen Martinaitis, Clare Ed Darker, Donna & Joe Palubinsky, Evelyn Mazur, Schuylkill Transportation System Employees
- Barbara Davis by: Daryl Davis
- Rosemary Flaim by: Michael & Jeanmarie Flaim
- Mary Ann Delpais by: Joseph & Shelly Delpais, Tamaqua Middle School Faculty & Staff
- Kathleen O'Neill by: Regina Tunnard
- Judi Lee Barton by: Donna Webb, James Corotto
- Al Rhen by: Yvonne, Michelle & Moriah Szpara
- Virginia (Stump) Zimmerman by: Ray, Lisa, Erik & Alec
- Mrs. Terry by: Anne Charles
- Lynn Terry by: Linda Fellows, Edward & Tracy Miller
- Travis Wrenfrow by: Carol & Robert Lee
- Rosanne Bilulis McCauley by: Georgette Wilson
- John Jubin, III by: Gwen Bodnar
- Ronald Slovinsky by: Francis Possessky
- Jerry Leon Gregory by: Patricia Kutch
- Patricia Mahoney by: Pottsville Parking Authority
- Cade Kindred by: Amy Yeager
- Jean Lang by: Scott Kemp, Russell Lang
- Chuck Randazzo by: Kathy & Jim Bosak
- Richard C. Berger by: Vickie Berger
- David B. Stoppi by: Dolores Gahres, D. Ronald and Bonnie Rowlands, Angelina Penov, Betty Hunzinger
- Denise Derr Malony by: Jane Rapant
- Mary & Guido Pisami by: Renee & Randy Pisami
- Randy Fehr by: Lori Skrobak & Casey Mills, Walter "Punkie" Weber, Coleen Lowe Halko & Joe Halko, John S. Bolton, John & Helene Coyle
- Michael Nowakowski by: Kathleen Edwards
- Gretchen R. Ulmer by: PennDOT EPDD, Fiona & Scott Jacoby, Alberta Hudson, Robert Davis, Raymond Sukeena, Bob & Peter Kasinecz
- Judith Kuperavich by: Ron Kuperavage
- Jim Quandel by: Byler Materials Group, Stacia Edwards, Joe & Carol Sternick, Tom & Brenda Moran, Frankie Ryan, Gaynell Warcola, Jeffrey & Diane Cresswell, Shawn & Brenda Swank, Jeanine Cola & Len Hoak, Robert Honnage, Marie Sidleck, Joe & Janet Pielacha, Sherri Hammer, Susan Ruzze, Harvey Frantz, Joseph Yutko, Jr., Suspension Repair Co., Bud & Jule Quandel, BJ, Kim & Albert Evans, Faye E. Walton, Padfield Plumbing, Heating & Cooling, Joe Halko & Colleen Lowe Halko, Angela Pasco Family, South Cass Citizen Fire Company, Lazarchick's Cafe, Inc., Donna & John Kalovac, Ronald & Beatrice Eichenberg, Helen Droskinis, Ann Marie & James Yacobacci
- Pippin Billie Jean Fuhrman by: Meaghan Cole
- Marlene Ferguson Lengel by: Debbie & Joe Nocket, Marie Ryan, LCTIEA
- Winston Fabrizio by: Karen Fabrizio
- Alberta Wagner by: Darlene Stank
- Michelle L. Kunkle by: Pat Kunkle
- Carl & Donna Fessler by: Kaye & Dale Schwenk & Family
- Jed Dubuc by: Vaal & Janet Kester
- Tony Carestia by: Frank & Cheryl Messina, Sue Bendle & George Yannaccone, Elaine Clews, George Smith, Beth Fryer, Suzanne Waltrich
- Wanda Tobias by: Matt & Renee Popalis
- Richard (Ricky) Neade by: Terry Davidson & Frank Bierman
- Martha Herbert by: Carol Donnelly
- Ed Leuchtner, Larry & Margie Gerber, BettyJane "B.J." & Jim Howat by: Jim Howat
- Anne Tamulonis by: Charlie & Diane Naspinski
- Marianne Berk by: George Berk
- Mary Berk by: George Berk
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- Maryann Pastorella by: Michelle Moyer
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- Donna Vuksta by: Sherri Hammer
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- Leona Deibert by: Nancy Chamberlain
- Kathleen Schally by: Ann Marie O'Boyle
- Patrick & Mary Antonio by: Evelyn Mueller
- Florence M. Nolan by: Edward Nolan



Memorials, Remembrances & Honors

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- Bobby by: Dennis Kinsinger
- Christina Ost by: Lisa Fritz
- Carol Moyer by: Michael Moyer
- Rod Schaeffer by: Susan Murphy, Patricia Schaeffer, Barbara & Ron Rozansky, ACI Family, Helenann, Mike, Shyam, Whitney & Erika, James Steele, Mel & Suzanne Barnes, Rob & Michele Rhody, Joseph & Jaqueline Troy, Donna O'Brien
- Sandy Darcangelo by: The Darcangelo Family, Michael & Elinda Lado, William & Elaine Miller, Sandra Darcangelo, Dave Darcangelo, Paul Darcangelo
- Maryann Pastorella by: Michelle Moyer
- Matthew J. Manning by: Atty. Karen Rismiller, Joanne Geist, Rochelle Angelo, Wendi Cartwright, Kristian Stokes, Donna & Al Stokes, Steve & Jan Kurtek, Pottsville Boys Basketball League
- Eleanore & Gordon Precourt by: Prudence Precourt
- Naomi Richenderfer by: June & Darryl Guy
- Thomas Gresh by: Mary Ann Laputka, Ellen Karpovich
- Mary & Mike Rozansky by: Barbara & Ron Rozansky
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- Rose Flaim by: Patti Hanrahan, Ed & Tish Applegate, Rich & Angie Hughes
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- Devlin Dormer by: Dana Lewis-Umphrey, The Peters Family, Robert Weckenman, Elizabeth Morina, Stephen Lilienthal, Stephen Freeman, Ingrid Mika, The Quandels, Sharyn Hodge, Mary Ann Durant, The Siple Family, Michaelene Fanelli, Peggy Smith, Herm, Patrick, & Kelsey Minnig, Dana Mansell, Tom & Lori Smith, John Richmond, Gretchen & Robert Witman, Kelly, Tony, Alana, Lucas & Benji Stagliano, Diane Fiorillo, Vince & Ruth Bindie, Deborah & Robert Crosswell, Mary Stagliano, Robert Boyer, Janine Choplick, Joanne Yeungling, Mr. & Mrs Gary
- Ronald "Skip" Schafer by: Sherrie Schafer & Josh Cochran, Steph Schafer-Smith & Matt Smith, Amy Doyle, Michael Cholko, Traci & Thomas, Jr., Stephanie & Thomas Wood, Marie & Timothy Siebler, Richard Steele, New Minersville Fire House Bikers, The Lion's Den, Heather Breisch, Jim, Lori, Jake, Leah, John & Jillian Guzick, Sharon, Terry & Sherri Miller, Law Offices of Williamson, Freidberg & Jones, Harry & Stacey Zerby, Harold Messer, Margaret Schafer, Jim & Gina Bohorad, Nick Quinn, John & Helene Coyle

SHOP Merch: <https://www.hillsidespca.com/store/>



Long Sleeve \$28.00



Tie Dye T-Shirt \$30.00



Hoodies \$40.00



Sue, Andrew, Lauren, Lindsey & Izzy by: Gayle & John Rehnert
 My Grandson Ty by: Bonita Scholtes
 Samantha Bates by: Matthew Bates
 Ishmael, Ella, MaxwellBob & Quince by: Anonymous
 Eric Naspinski & Laurelle Williams by: Charlie & Diane Naspinski
 Angel by: Carissa Hensch
 Attorney Jack Price & Teresa by: Allen & Beth Greenawalt
 Gen & Dave Donochik by: R.A. Cambria
 Mark & Mary Cambria by: R.A. Cambria
 Ann & Tim Knoebel by: R.A. Cambria
 Jarad & Dot Cambria by: R.A. Cambria
 R.A. Cambria by: R.A. Cambria
 Charlie & Kelly by: Kelly Zweibel
 James Baum by: Deborah Long
 Sage & Patch by: Darren & Gina Horner
 Harriet Bradway by: Lorraine Bernadyn
 Happy Valentine's Day, Janet by: Joe Pielacha



Memorials, Remembrances & Honors

- Harold Watkins by: Lee Ann Cox, Jill Zweisdak, Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Hoppes, Mr. & Mrs. Tim Oravek
- Barney Brown by: Richard & Helen Shoup
- Judy Reed by: Vicki Reed
- Bernadine Mahalage by: Paula Hopkins
- Wendy Perla by: Linda Rizzard
- Paul F. Stahler by: Kim Stahler & John Zukowski
- Joseph Skyber, Jr. by: Alice & John Milewski
- Ann Brinsko by: Cheryl & Jack Killian, Bob Brinsko
- Cindy Semerod by: Dave Semerod
- Michael James Brandt by: Dina Brandt, Vick Baker, Lidia Munoz & Josefa Contreras
- Ann Halteman by: Jeanine & Daniel Harrell, Betty Jane Kutz
- Joan Saunders by: Mary Anne McCaffrey
- Irene Lewandowski by: Joe & Kathy Lescavage, The Stutzman Family, Carol & Bernie Wesolowski
- Dean A. Geist by: Elaine & Arlene Moyer, Dave & Sue Moyer
- Mary Ann Siket by: Schuylkill Haven Area High School Faculty
- Sandra Lee Beltz Edmunds & Barbara Ann Beltz Banket by: The Edmunds Family Foundation
- Joe Kodash and Nipper by: Richard Trauger
- Barbara Umlauf by: Kathleen Drobnick, Sallee Umlauf, Shirley Willinsky, Ellet Sapp
- James Bohrman, Sr. by: Tom & Donna Schaeffer, Marty & Anita Dwyer, Charlie & Diane Naspinski
- Josie Honus by: Maryellen Boyle, Karen Yeosena, Matthew Lucyk
- Joseph Buzzelli by: Carolyn Chupka, Donna Avvisato, Maria & Marty Panunti, Frank & Lana Pagliante, Roxanne & Ralf Casey, JoAnn & Don Jones, Laura & Taylor Majewski, Suzanne Sandson, Melissa Fertal, Theresa & Ray Laudato, Donna & Jeff Davis, Ken & Bonnie Lewis, Kim Smallacombe, Dan & Maria Sallacombe, Lisa Weitz, Guditis Family, Jan & Diane Lis, MaryLou Panuti, Ed & Jen Sienkiewicz, Sharon Schippang
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- Gertrude Shay by: Dave & Chris Moore
- Sylvia Weaver by: Janet Marshall
- Joan Catizone by: Alfred Karen
- Barbara Schaeffer by: Barbara Sippel Schwartz, Paul F. Werner, Deborah Pflueger
- Colleen McHugh Smith by: Geraldine Seroka
- Robin E. Doran by: Elizabeth Siminitus
- Patricia Frie by: John Frie

Patty's Day Finally Came

Some dogs change a *shelter*... Patty changed *people*. On March 18, 2022, Patty arrived at Hillside SPCA. What none of us knew then was that she would become one of our longest-resident dogs—and one of our most unforgettable. For 1,390 days, Patty waited patiently for the life she deserved, all while giving her whole heart to the staff who loved her along the way.

Patty wasn't just a dog in a kennel. She was a goofy best friend. A steady presence. A comfort on hard days and a bright spot on the good ones. She reminded all of us what resilience and unconditional love really look like.

On January 6, 2026, just about two months shy of her four-year surrender anniversary, the post we never thought we'd make finally arrived. Patty went home. We are endlessly grateful to Patty's adopter for trusting us and for giving this incredible girl the life she always deserved.

Hillside won't be the same without her. But our hearts are fuller knowing that Patty's story doesn't end here—it begins.



Christmas Honors

- Memory of Katie by: The Hopkins Family
- Merry Christmas, Nan in memory of Robert Nabholtz by: Michael Knehans
- Suzanne & Frank Mieso by: Marie & Bella Jay Vovakes
- The DeFeo Family by: Marie & Bella Jay Vovakes
- Janet & Sam Hillman by: Marie & Bella Jay Vovakes
- Janet Pielacha by: Theresa Laubenstein
- Terry & Paul Laubenstein by: Janet & Joe Pielacha
- Janet Pielacha by: Joe Pielacha



Pet Memorials

Saffron by: Georgine Sinkus

Tiko, Ike & Mr. Greeny by: Gerald Moyer

Molly by: The Allars

Candy & my Father by: Pamela Weeks

Ralphie by: Mell D. Carnahan

Walter & Uno by: Kathleen Bridgen

Penny by: Don & Linda Lindenmuth

CeeCee by: Deborah Donahue

Kelly by: Don & Linda Lindenmuth

Katie by: Lee Ann Freiler

Minnow by: Dianne Sterner

Boomer by: Ralph E. Beam

Reilly & Rockne by: Marty & Anita Dwyer

Gus, Brodie, Hogan, Nitz & Charlie by: Brenda & Larry Shuey

Moses by: The Thomas Family

Roscoe, Cotton & Elvis by: Edward Nolan

Jessie, Trevor & BB by: Eric and Patti Yoder

Catherine, the St. Bernard by: David Herb

Bingo by: Mr. & Mrs. William Bowler

Portia, Rynatta & Ryan by: Sharon Bishop

Cindy, Amos, Tabby & Turk by: Mr. & Mrs. James Sworen

Leo by: Charlie & Diane Naspinski

Baron & Travis by: Carissa Hench

Pumpkin by: Al's TV (Al & Edie)

Maddie by: Joan Straub

Penny by: David Lindenmuth

Toby by: Marilyn & David Henninger

Miss Kitty by: Pat Purcell-Brown

Xena & Judah by: William Moss

Rusty by: Ann Swatsky

Luke & Pepper by: Charles Underwood

Lager & Shelby by: Robert Schaeffer

Jack by: Beth & Rick Watt

Candy & My Daddy by: Pamela Weeks

Saffron by: Georgine Sinkus

Katie by: The Hopkins Family

Bear by: Doris Rudnick

Bootsie Beahan by: Laurie Alabovitz Beahan

Lou by: Sarah Sell

Capone by: Dwight Reiman

Tippy, Jingles, Gino, Samantha, Cleo, Chloe, Brandy &

Rocco by: Randy Pisami

Maria, Angelo, Ava & Paulie by: Renee Pisami & Paul

Chester, Rustle, Sheba & Friskie by: Kaye & Dale Schwenk & Family



Baby by: The Kergick Family

Trooper & Rosie by: Ralph Beam

Peppy by: Jane Beth Burns

Tuffy by: Elaine Mattie

Coco & Tippy by: Marcia Stasulli

Barney by: Richard Shoup

Pete, Cuddles, Blazer, Blaze, Rex, Julie & Otis by:

Audrey A. Lantz

Leo by: Bill & Elaine Miller

Gretel, Boots, Koda & Taz by: Elaine R. Hackenberg

Michael I, Michael II, Squeek, Giz, Subbie & Millie by:

Eva Wesnoski

Ernie by: Patricia Palubinsky

Walter & Uno by: Kathleen Bridgen

Cotton by: Sandy Startze

Kasey by: Bob & Carol Freiler, Don & Linda Lindenmuth

Skye by: Darren & Gina Horner

Lizzie by: Eleanor Mahalchick

Catherine, the Saint Bernard by: David Herb

Pippa by: Joe & Denise Kriesher

Buddy the Beagle by: The Weber Family



Alex Chimahusky by: Karen

Chimahusky

Theresa Strauss's 76th by: Diane

Briggs

Harriet's 90th by: Lorraine Bernadyn

Theresa Laubenstein by: Joe &

Janet Pielacha



Building Hillside's Next Chapter

More than 25 years ago, Hillside SPCA began in the most heartbreaking way. After Roy and Gloria Kissinger passed away just months apart, dozens of animals were left behind in a shelter that was falling apart—physically and financially. With little more than compassion and determination—and just \$25 in the bank—a small group of volunteers stepped in to help what felt like an impossible situation.

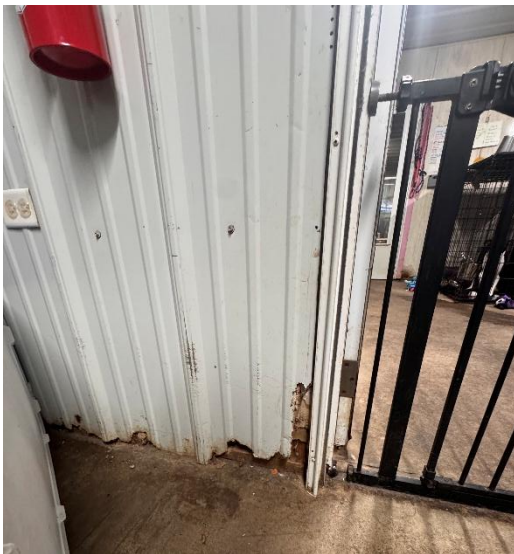
At the time, the goal was simple: find homes for the remaining animals and close the shelter. But as one animal left, five or more would arrive. Turning them away was never an option. These animals had nowhere else to go—they were depending on us to survive.

What followed was nothing short of extraordinary. Through countless pleas for help, our community responded. Because of your support, Hillside SPCA transformed from a struggling, crumbling facility into a safe haven. Today, we have multiple buildings, heated floors, outdoor yards, and the ability to care for hundreds of animals simultaneously. Thousands of lives have been saved because of you.

From the beginning, our mission was different. We wanted a place where the animals felt loved. A place where every animal would be given attention, care, and a real chance, no matter how long it took.

Now, we are looking towards the future. We are preparing to begin Phase 3 of our Capital Campaign—renovating and modernizing our original Big Dog Building, which dates back decades. From what we can find, the original building was built in 1963. This update will allow us to better serve our animals and support the incredible team who cares for them every day.

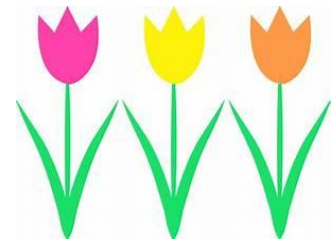
We've come this far because of you. With your continued support, we can build the next chapter—one that ensures every animal who walks through our doors continues to receive the love and care they deserve.



Pictured left: rusted wall panels. Pictured above: exposed insulation and water lines from missing wall panels. DONATE to the Capital Campaign today!



- Dog Halter No Pull Harness, Large & XL
- Miracle Nipple Syringe Mini-10pk
- PetAg KMR 2nd Step Kitten Weaning Food.
- Pet KMR Kitten Milk Replacer Powder
- Purina Cat Chow Sensitive Stomach
- 9Lives Dry Cat Food
- Nylon Dog Leashes, All Sizes
- Kitchen sponges
- Blue Buffalo Wet Cat Food
- Weruva Kitten Fur Baby Food
- 5" Shallow Cat Food Dishes
- Small Litter Boxes
- Laundry Detergent
- Purina Dry Dog Food
- https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/30IHMVDYUCUFY?ref=wl_share

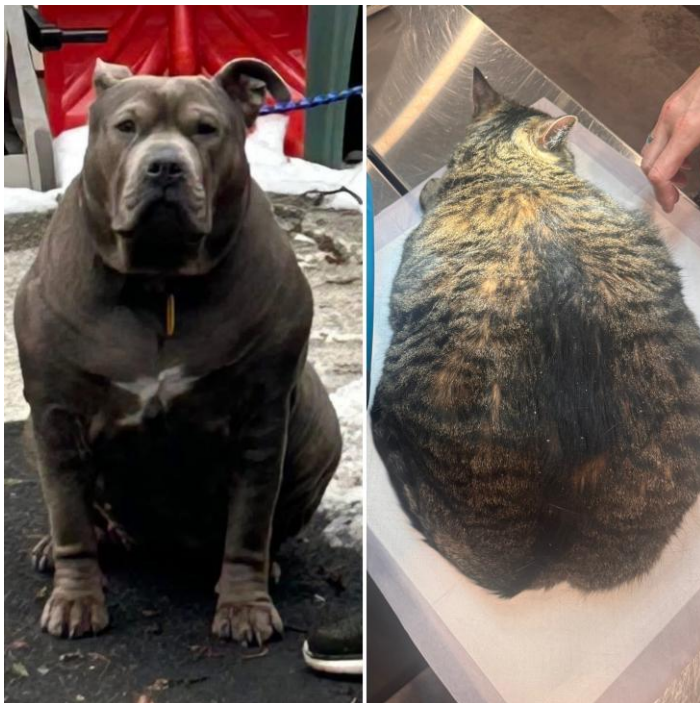


Donate online @ <https://www.hillsidespca.com/donate/>

Healthy Pets, Happy Lives: Small Changes That makes a Big Difference

At Hillside SPCA, we're lucky to see something wonderful every day: how deeply people love their pets. That love shows up in cuddles, playtime, and yes—sometimes a few extra treats. As pet obesity continues to rise nationwide, it's becoming an important conversation, but also a hopeful one, because small, simple changes can make a big impact. Carrying extra weight can affect a pet's health over time. Overweight dogs and cats may be more prone to conditions like diabetes, joint discomfort, heart or respiratory issues, and reduced mobility. Cats may face liver-related concerns, while dogs can experience lower energy levels. Most importantly, excess weight can limit how comfortably pets move, play, and enjoy daily life.

Weight gain often happens slowly, which makes it easy to miss. Extra treats, generous portions, limited exercise, or sharing people food all come from a place of love. The good news? These habits are also easy to adjust. Measuring meals, choosing balanced nutrition, swapping some treats for play or affection, and encouraging daily movement can help pets feel their best.



If you're unsure whether your pet is at a healthy weight, consider talking with your veterinarian. Regular weigh-ins, body condition checks, and nutrition conversations can help catch small changes early and keep pets on the right track. Your vet can also recommend portion sizes, activity levels, and weight-management plans tailored specifically to your pet.

A healthy weight means more energy for walks, playtime, and snuggles—and more quality years with the families who love them. With thoughtful care and a little consistency, we can help our pets thrive. Together, we're giving them the greatest gift of all: a longer, healthier, happier life.



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.



Support & Donations

Enclosed is my gift in the amount of \$_____.

- Joe & Caroline Fund
- General Operations
- Capital Campaign

Name: _____

**Mail to
Hillside SPCA Inc.
P.O. Box 233, Pottsville, PA 17901**