Dear Friend,

Animal Rescue, Inc. has been helping animals for 44 years. But this year has been like no year we’ve seen before. How do we describe 2020? Challenging! Still, as the year comes to an end, we need to be hopeful.

When COVID-19 hit, we had to change the way we ran the Rescue, but we never stopped helping animals in distress. All of our regular fundraising events had to be canceled or made virtual. Donations slowed significantly as our donors worried about their financial wellbeing. Tours were put on hold and all animals had to be seen by appointment only for adoption. And the phone calls for found pets and pets to be surrendered became staggering.

Around us, other rescues and shelters were struggling. Some shelters were telling individuals to put the animals they found back outside. Smaller nonprofits were turning away animals, as well. Space is always an issue. Spay/neuter clinics and veterinary clinics were closed, adding an additional hardship to the feline overpopulation problem. As trying of a time this year has been for people, animals are suffering, too.

We aren’t able to take every animal in due to space, but we try to give people help, resources and choices. We offer free medical care in desperate situations, food and basic necessities with the hope they can keep the animal safe and comfortable until a foster is found or space opens at our or another Rescue. We don’t want it to be the end of the road for kind Samaritans or families in need looking for help.

From January to October 2020, we have taken in 309 animals. We found homes for 232 pets all together, and spayed/neutered 690 cats, dogs and other animals with our spay/neuter program. Considering this challenging year, we’re happy to have helped as many animals as possible.

But one of our biggest setbacks happened in 2020, too.

Continued on the back...
Continued from the front...

Just before COVID-19 hit, we broke ground for our spay/neuter and wellness clinic. This was an exciting time for us - a major project four years in the making. The old building was removed, ground was broken and then all construction in Pennsylvania halted with COVID-19. Our new clinic was to open in June 2020. It didn’t happen.

Finally, construction resumed in midsummer, but not without additional monetary issues. The cost of materials had risen substantially with the pandemic. We could no longer keep our original budget. The cost of building the clinic alone soared to more than $58,000 over our original budget.

We are hoping to have our grand opening this month, but we need help. The building is complete! But we still need to raise money for more surgical equipment. Our hopes are that we can use the donations from this fundraiser to secure an x-ray machine, dental machine and an oxygen machine, along with other necessary instruments, technologies and materials. All these would help the animals for years to come by providing a service to our surrounding area.

For 31 years, we’ve ended our fundraising year with our Peace Tree. This year, we hope for peace and progress -- an end to COVID-19 and moving forward to caring for the animals. The animals need us more than ever. Many shelters are still not open to capacity. We need to be there for them.

This is the 31st year of our Peace Tree. For a $10 donation per animal/person, a card in memory or honor of your special someone will be hung on our Tree. If you wish to recognize more than two people or animals, please provide their names and we will gladly make more cards. An acknowledgement of your gift will be sent to your designated recipient, if you desire. Feel free to send a non-returnable photo to be hung on our Tree.

Peace,

Grace Froelich, Founder

New This Year

You can now make a request online for cards to be placed on our Peace Tree! Learn more at animalrescueinc.org.