

Season's Greetings

from the Animal Welfare Alliance of Henderson County, NC

December 2013

Dear Friends of the Animal Welfare Alliance,

Thanks for your ongoing interest and support! With your help, the AWA has been able to improve the health (often saving the life) of countless beloved pets and innocent stray animals. That knowledge should give you a warm glow of satisfaction, even on a cold winter's night.

In 2013 we continued our Emergency Veterinary Assistance program for animals whose owners have fallen on hard times through loss of employment, bad health, or other difficult circumstances. It's always distressing when a pet gets sick or injured, but the distress is multiplied when you can't afford treatment. Veterinarians are big-hearted people who frequently donate time and services for hardship cases; but they are also professionals with expenses to pay and payrolls to meet. We are happy to step into the breach in cases such as these (all from 2013; names omitted to respect privacy):

- ✿ Cat with kidney stones whose owner was unemployed.
- ✿ Small poodle with dislocated hip whose family had lost one income earner.
- ✿ Senior Yorkie with a urinary tract infection whose "mom" couldn't afford an office visit.
- ✿ Cat whose leg needed to be amputated, but whose family needed help with the first payment.
- ✿ Starving stray hound taken in by a woman who needed help paying for its heartworm treatment.
- ✿ Senior Boston terrier who wasn't eating, owned by a senior couple on a fixed income.
- ✿ Dog in need of skin scraping and antibiotics to treat a chronic infection.
- ✿ Cat who was not eating, owned by a family on disability.
- ✿ Young pit bull with an eye infection whose owner had never taken an animal to a vet.
- ✿ Boxer/bulldog with possibly cancerous tumors whose owner had borrowed \$200 from friends but needed \$200 more for the surgery.
- ✿ Chihuahua who was bitten in the eye by a cat and whose owner had lost his job.
- ✿ Dachshund who got into rat poison, owned by a single mom with three children.

When we hear these stories, it makes us grateful that we are able to take care of our own animals—in all their variety!—and to lend a hand to those less fortunate.

We thank Community Partnership for Pets (communitypartnershipforpets.org) for referring many of these cases to us. CPforP has an outstanding spay/neuter program that we are proud to assist through production of videos and support of their innovative Pet Responsibility in-school workshops for fourth graders.

Please visit our website, vista-hill.org, to keep up with AWA activities and see a list of our participating veterinarians.

Thank you in advance for your donations, which can be sent (as always) to the address below.

We wish you all a wonderful holiday season and a healthy and prosperous 2014!

Sincerely,



Rose Marie Gladieux
AWA Sec'y / Treasurer



Frame from a VIDEO produced for Community Partnership for Pets and other organizations sponsoring spay / neuter programs.



BEFORE AND AFTER:

Our dog Cookie, above, cleaned up for her adoption photo when she was first taken in by animal control after being abandoned to starve. Below, Cookie today: queen of Vista Hill.

