



Wishing you warm
**HOLIDAY
GREETINGS!**

**HUMANE SOCIETY OF BERKS COUNTY, 1801 N. 11TH STREET, READING, PA 19604
BERKS COUNTY'S LEADER IN ANIMAL WELFARE**

*In honor of all the animals safe today because of the work of the Humane Society of Berks County
In honor of all the people who have made that work possible, the Humane Society of Berks County salutes
the spirit of the season with the enclosed special gift to you of "A Dog's Prayer" and "Regarding Cats".*

The Humane Society of Berks County has rescued literally tens of thousands of animals who would have been alone and struggling to survive, had it not been for the Humane Society. Thanks to the help of supporters who are sensitive to the needs of the helpless and the abandoned, the Humane Society of Berks County is leading the fight to give animals a new life in permanent, loving homes.

A loving home is what we found for a brave little dog named Crystal. Abandoned and homeless, Crystal was brought to the Humane Society by a good samaritan. Weak, starving, so flea infested her hair was falling out in patches, it was uncertain if Crystal could even be made healthy again. But despite her previous mistreatment and terrible health, Crystal had nothing but tail wags for the Humane Society staff helping her. After bathing and flea treatments, special diets to bring her body weight up to normal, veterinary care and costly surgery to remove six huge bladder stones, Crystal was a new dog! Without the Humane Society and the support of caring people like you, none of this would have been possible. She now has a happy home and is part of a family that gives her the love she deserves.

And a loving, happy home is what Autumn, a young tortoise shell kitten, deserved, too. Unfortunately, what she received at the hands of a sadistic monster was torture. Doused with flammable liquid and set ablaze, Autumn barely survived. With severe burns covering her head and

back, she would have faced certain death had she not been rescued by the caring staff of the Humane Society. Even then, she faced the likelihood of fatal infections due to her burns. After weeks of vet care and the loss of her ears, Autumn turned the corner. She was cared for by a generous foster family during her recovery. In a matter of a few weeks more, this brave little kitten was adopted into the safety of a new home. She is truly one of the Humane Society of Berks County's greatest success stories.

To continue this success, we must have your help. Your financial generosity helps us to provide housing for the homeless, food for the hungry, and veterinary care for the sick. It helps us to provide 24-hour-a-day emergency ambulance service for injured animals, lost and found services for stray animals, education for those who need it, and prosecution for those who deserve it. All of this is paid for through the voluntary donations of people who care. *We receive no support from regional or national animal welfare organizations such as the ASPCA or HSUS.* You make our work possible. The animals don't have a choice of where they will spend the holidays. For many of them, the Humane Society is the only safe place they have ever known. In this season of remembering and sharing, please remember the animals and send the largest gift you can manage to help the Humane Society of Berks County save lives...like Crystal and Autumn.



Be the answer to a prayer! PLEASE HELP.

A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the PA Department of State by calling, toll free, within Pennsylvania 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.



A DOG'S *Prayer*

Treat me kindly, my beloved master, for no heart in all the world is more grateful for kindness than the loving heart of me.

Do not break my spirit with a stick, for though I should lick your hand between the blows, your patience and understanding will more quickly teach me the things you would have me do.

Speak to me often, for your voice is the world's sweetest music, as you must know by the fierce wagging of my tail when your footsteps fall upon my waiting ear.

When it is cold and wet, please take me inside, for I am now a domesticated animal, no longer used to bitter elements. And I ask no greater glory than the privilege of sitting at your feet beside the hearth. Though had you no home, I would rather follow you through ice and snow than rest upon the softest pillow in the warmest home in all the land, for you are my god and I am your devoted worshiper.

Keep my pan filled with fresh water, for although I should not reproach you were it dry, I cannot tell you when I suffer thirst. Feed me clean food, that I may stay well, to romp and play and do your bidding, to walk by your side, and stand ready, willing and able to protect you with my life should your life be in danger.

And, beloved master, should the great Master see fit to deprive me of my health or sight, do not turn me away from you. Rather hold me gently in your arms as skilled hands grant me the merciful boon of eternal rest – and I will leave you knowing with the last breath I drew, my fate was ever safest in your hands.

-Beth Norman Harris

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REGARDING *Cats*

Of all God's creatures, there is only one that cannot be made slave of the leash. That one is the cat. If man could be crossed with the cat it would improve the man, but it would deteriorate the cat.

– *Mark Twain*

With their qualities of cleanliness, discretion, affection, patience, dignity, and courage, how many of us, I ask you, would be capable of becoming cats?

– *Fernand Mery*

I have studied many philosophers and many cats.
The wisdom of cats is infinitely superior.

– *Hippolyte Taine*

When I play with my cat, how do I know that she is not passing time with me rather than I with her?

– *Montaigne*

After scolding one's cat one looks into its face and is seized by the ugly suspicion that it understood every word. And has filed it for reference.

– *Charlotte Gray*

Thousands of years ago, cats were worshiped as gods.
Cats have never forgotten this.

– *Unknown*

There are two means of refuge from the miseries of life: music and cats.

– *Albert Schweitzer*

If a fish is the movement of water embodied, given shape,
then cat is a diagram and pattern of subtle air.

– *Doris Lessing*

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