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MORE LIVES.
www.rbari.org

RAMAPO-BERGEN ANIMAL REFUGE, INC.

2 Shelter Lane - Oakland, NJ 07436

Phone (201) 337-5180

Fax (201) 337-2040

www.rbari.org

January 2020

To RBARI Staff, Volunteers and Friends,

Happy New Year to all! As we look back at this past year, 2019 was a pivotal year for RBARI. So many positive changes, many beginning in earnest in Q4 2018. As we take stock, we would be remiss if we did not acknowledge the considerable contributions of those who made it possible.

To our **Staff** – Your dedication to the animals is humbling. It is so often a difficult job, but you *always* put our animals first, making sure they are healthy, loved and cared for. And you do so even under, and especially in, the most trying of circumstances. Where would they be without you? Thank you for all that you do each and every day.

To our **Volunteers** – Your support at the shelter and at our events is nothing less than essential. Whether it's walks in the cold, rain, and snow, or cleaning countless litter boxes, feeding hundreds of hungry mouths, selling tickets, wrapping prizes, manning games, laying concrete or painting, and so much more, it all makes an immeasurable difference. Thank you so very much.

To our **Fosters** – You are vital behind-the-scenes supporters. Always ready and willing to step up in an emergency, you provide a safe haven for rescues when the shelter is full, enabling us to save more animal lives. It goes without saying that *all* of you put in a lot of love and effort into fostering our rescues. For that, we sincerely thank you.

To our **Donors** – There is no way to truly express our gratitude for your kindness. RBARI simply could not exist without you and your support. So many of our most extreme rescues have become healthy, loved companion animals in a *forever* home because of you. And other, lesser known cases, have benefitted from your contributions and received life-saving care as well. What a difference you have made to the abused and neglected. What a difference you've made to RBARI. Thank you. We remain careful custodians of your generosity.

For those who have asked or those who may not be aware, here are some sample highlights of the successes you've helped bring about:

- Annex apartment renovated and occupied, giving animals 24/7 onsite protection - **some materials and labor donated.**
- Annex basement cleaned and new shelving built to optimize capacity; a dryer also added—**labor and materials donated.**
- Shelter reception, hallway, and Annex porch repainted – **labor donated.**
- New, modern cat kennels installed, improving cat life and allowing staff and volunteers to keep cats healthy and adoptable – **all donated.**

RBARI: Northern New Jersey's Leading No-Kill Animal Shelter – A Non-Profit 501(c)(3) Organization

- Cattery repaint and layout revamp launched to enhance appearance and achieve best practices care – **labor donated.**
- 3 new outdoor concrete kennels created, allowing more dogs access to fresh air while staff and volunteers clean; privacy panels installed across outdoor kennel to help minimize stress– **labor and most materials donated.**
- Old shed razed with one of two new restorative tiny houses (part of a plan for six) put in its place– **labor and materials donated.**
- **Record-breaking attendance** at key fundraisers, leading to increased revenues and essential funding for animal care.
- Staff member earns **accreditation as cat behaviorist and trainer**, distinguishing RBARI’s cat care – **course cost donated.**
- **First-ever social media expert** joins RBARI, resulting in unprecedented social media growth and increased awareness of RBARI and animals in need.
- **More dog lives saved** as a result of a successful partnership with **Jersey Pits** (over 6 emergency rescues just recently!).
- **More cats placed** in *furever* homes through our strategic alliance with New England shelters seeking adoptable cats.

There is much for RBARI to be thankful for because of you. In appreciation, we, the Board, remain steadfast in our commitment to the best interests of the animals, demonstrating sound judgment in shelter-related matters, and to protecting and championing the rights of the abandoned and abused who only have RBARI to turn to.

Thank you again and best wishes for health, happiness and the joy of a pet. And please continue to advocate for adopting, not shopping.

Sincerely,

The Ramapo-Bergen Animal Refuge, Inc. Board of Trustees