January 2018

Dear AKI Friends,

Every year since 2007, when I started Animal-Kind International, our donations have increased and 2017 was no exception. We started 2017 very concerned that we wouldn't meet our goal, but you came through for us and our partner organizations. Thank you for that. In about 2 more months, we'll compile and make available the AKI 2017 Annual Report with information about what our partners have been able to do thanks to your support.

To our monthly donors: If you haven't received your AKI end of year email letter and receipt for your donations, please get in touch with me at karen@animal-kind.org and I will re-send it.

A Rose in Niger

We started 2018 with one of the best rescues that I've ever been involved in. The adventure started on July 4, 2017 and involved people in Niger, Tanzania, and the US all coming together to help a sweet dog in Niger named Rosie.

This AKI Blog post (January 17, 2018) documents all the twists and turns in Rosie's rescue story up to the confirmation that Rosie would be flying from Niger to Tanzania on January 20, where she would be welcomed to their shelter by our AKI partner, Mbwa wa Africa.


UPDATE January 17 onward: Rosie arrived with her escort, Devin, at the Kilimanjaro airport and quickly settled in to life with the other Mbwa wa Africa sanctuary dogs. On January 23, Maureen (MwA's Humane Ed Specialist) wrote to us: "We have vets visiting from the UK helping Jens with the spay/neuter campaign. Today, we took Rosie to be spayed. During surgery, the doctors noticed a severe infection in her uterus [pyometra]. They told us that had the infection not been discovered, it would have ruptured and she would have been dead in a few weeks. I don’t think Rosie is a dog, but a cat with 9 lives."

Rosie has helped so many, in particular, many US servicemen stationed in Niger, and we thank everyone who has helped Rosie.
The AKI Blog: Kingston Community Animal Welfare
Since the last AKI newsletter on December 15, we've reported in the AKI Blog about how Kingston Community Animal Welfare and Uganda SPCA have used AKI donor funds:

- December 29 AKI Blog: More Kingston Community Animal Welfare Rescues Made Possible Thanks to AKI Donors - Since mid-September, KCAW has made some dramatic and lifesaving rescues, all made possible thanks to AKI donors! Here are some of their stories....[click here to read more]....

The AKI Blog: Uganda Society for the Protection & Care of Animals

- January 21: Here's how the Uganda SPCA used donations from AKI donors & some adoptions too! - Typically, we send AKI funds to our partner organizations three times a year. Our requirements are only that our partners use AKI money for animal rescue, protection, and welfare and that they report to us about how they used our donors' funds (our partners also discuss with us beforehand about their plans for using AKI money). We're one of the few funding organizations that doesn't tie our support to a specific project. This is so important for the USPCA (and our other partners) because without AKI donors, they wouldn't have the money to operate (many organizations have money for specific projects, but no money for general operations!) .....[click here to read more]....

Looking Forward-2018
Of course in 2018, we'll still be raising money for and awareness of our partner organizations and of the animal welfare situation, challenges, and needs in poor countries; and we'll be working hard to keep our supporters apprised of how our partners spend your donations.

Here are some other things we're planning to do in 2018:
- As I mentioned, each year since the start of AKI, we've raised more money and we're very grateful for that. But as I'm sure you're aware, with everyone clamoring for attention and donations, it's so difficult
to keep this steady increase going especially with our relatively small support base. I believe that so many more people would love to support our partner organizations if they only knew about AKI. So during 2018, I'm going to ask you, our supporters, to help spread the word about AKI. I put together a Volunteer Packet (a 2-pager) with ideas about how you can help us raise funds and increase visibility—many of these ideas will take no more than a few minutes, others might take a few hours, all of them should be fun! If you can help, just send me an email message or fill out the contact form: https://www.animal-kind.org/contact-aki

• For 10 years, we've provided humane ed material to HE volunteers in South Sudan. It's not an easy country to work in and especially in the last few years, it has only gotten more difficult—for people and animals. I've received about 20 messages in the last year about the situation for dogs in the country: there's currently no animal welfare organization in South Sudan. So I organized an email group with the people who have contacted me, including medical doctors, journalists, and UN staff, all of whom have lived and worked in South Sudan, many still do, and who are interested in starting an animal welfare organization in conjunction with a local vet and other interested South Sudanese. AKI's role is to provide technical support and contacts and assuming we're successful in forming an organization, we'll provide limited, targeted financial support. I believe the time has come to have an animal welfare organization in Africa's newest independent country and to start addressing some of the animal welfare problems—we can't wait! And we plan to do what we can to help make it happen.

• We want 2018 to be the year that the Uganda SPCA purchases property and moves The Haven to a USPCA-owned plot where they can help so many more animals to recover and find homes and teach animal rescuers all over Africa about animal handling, care, sheltering, and high volume s/n, and where the USPCA can become a center of excellence for animal welfare in Africa. Our GlobalGiving project to help raise money for the USPCA Haven transformation is making progress.....but we have to do better if we hope to meet our goal in 2018. We'll be ramping up our efforts to raise money for USPCA land purchase, which we believe can have a significant impact on the animal welfare situation throughout Africa. Please share our GlobalGiving project with your friends who love animals!https://www.globalgiving.org/projects/transform-ugandas-only-animal-shelter-the-haven/

We need your support to help animals in some of the poorest countries!

As always, we send 100% of your donations to our partner organizations to support their priority animal welfare needs. And through the AKI Blog, we always let you know just what your donations have accomplished (you can always send me an email message too). Please click the picture to the right and you can choose your preferred donation method and amount—thank you so much, we are grateful for your help.
You can donate to help animals in any of the countries where we work: Uganda, Tanzania (2 partners), South Sudan, Namibia, Liberia, Ghana, Armenia, Jamaica, Honduras, and Barbados.
AKI always sends 100% of your donations to our partner organizations.

When you shop online at Amazon Smile, please remember to designate Animal-Kind International! Thank you!

Karen Menczer, Director & the AKI Board
karen@animal-kind.org 575-834-0908