



THE BAR LOUIE AT THE HOLIDAY INN WAS CLOSED!



**...where a festive party for friends of
TOUCHED BY AN ANIMAL and
CATS-ARE-PURRSONS-TOO had been planned
for**

*The 36th annual
BOOKS AND BASKETS BRUNCH BENEFIT
celebrated every Spring for the animals and their friends.*

**This year featured a MUTUAL RESCUES theme with
a renowned author, fabulous brunch, gifts, raffles,
prizes, friends sharing stories and ways to
help animals.**

**On the TV screen:
The Governor with BREAKING NEWS:**

"Large gatherings of people close together should not be held this Spring of 2020. Social distancing and Stay-At-Home-Order for at least the next several weeks!"

For a sneaky, uninvited, teeny tiny, microscopic, masked, and camouflaged Coronavirus may try to crash your party!



Hearing that, the possum, sloth, raccoon,
and cat hurried back outside.

The possum dropped to the ground, rolled over, and lay comfortably in place for a very long time, hoping COVID-19 would pass him by.



The sloth hugged his favorite branch
and slept through his disappointment.

The raccoon dashed to the river to wash her paws.

But THE CAT – the cat knew how important this annual Spring FUNDraiser is for all the cats in our home, and those needing rescue in the months ahead, and for the loving people who depend on TOUCHED BY AN ANIMAL to care for their beloved pets when they cannot.



We at Touched By An Animal hope and pray that you and your family are staying safe and secure during this health crisis. If we can help you and your pet in any way, please let us know.





The cat leapt over bushes and gardens, running full speed to her home where a meeting was underway. Once inside, feeling safe with her favorite people, she meticulously washed her paws, face, and fur with limitless sanitizer her mother's genes had provided her, all the while listening intently to the worried discussion of staff and volunteers:

"We have only 3 yearly major fundraisers with opportunities for new people to know us – Arlington Family Pet Expo in March is already cancelled, and now this too? How will people learn about our unique Mission and want to support it?"



"How will we pay our monthly bills? How to maintain our supplies of cat food, litter, cleaning supplies, repairs, vet bills, give to others who struggle with their pet care?"

"How will we build revenue for unexpected rescues and Summer and Fall needs?"

"Without reminding our generous donors and supporters of what we do and who we help, and providing social opportunities for discussion, my worry is that our bank account will deplete over summer so that we cannot say with confidence, "Yes bring us your cat while you are hospitalized, or "Rescue those kittens you see in the alley and bring to us!"



So the cat hurried back to the partygoers' crossroads.
She poked the possum and made the sloth swing, asking for ideas. The raccoon went to wash her hands and returned with pen in paw to create a **NEW INVITATION.**



Proposed the Possum: **STAY-WHERE-YOU-ARE POSSUM PROMENADE** Wear your best Drop Dead Attire to wow friends on social media with videos of you and your pets—**MUTUALLY RESCUING** each other from the solitary cautions of COVID-19. Post and share on the Touched by an Animal Facebook page.



Suggested the Sloth: **DO-NOT-DISTURB SWINGIN' SLOTH SLEEPOVER** in your own bed, for as long as you want— or until your companion animal demands breakfast!



The Raccoon's Recommendation (after a wash-the paws pause):
A WRITER'S RETREAT A self reserved quiet afternoon (or morning, evening, middle-of-the-night) uninterrupted time to recall and write the **MUTUAL RESCUE** stories you have personally experienced, or witnessed, with animal friends — maybe one adopted from **CATS-ARE-PURRSONS-TOO** or experienced while volunteering. When did you **FEEL TOUCHED BY AN ANIMAL** with a profound message? Optional accompaniments : snacks, meditative music, purring cat, sleeping dog, photos of past pets, silenced devices. We would love to read stories about your companion animals. Send via TBA E-Mail or USPS.

The Cat's Contribution: The CAT carefully considered these ideas as she again washed her paws, face, and fur (her best thinking time). The quietly wise cat, and the raccoon with adroit fingers composed this hopeful invitation which we now send to you.



OUR REGRETTABLE BUT NECESSARY UN-INVITE

We ANIMALS WHO TOUCH YOUR HEARTS,

Sincerely regret to inform you that **TOUCHED BY AN ANIMAL** will NOT be holding our annual Books and Basket Benefit on April 26th as previously announced.

Please yourself with a **DIY BRUNCH** (& special treats for your pets) and **BYOBOOK** to enjoy reading to your furry friends.

MUTUAL RESCUE by Carol Novello is available upon request from Touched by an Animal for \$25.

And we are happy to announce that Carol has agreed to speak about her book at our Thanksgiving Benefit on November 22nd.

PYOP: Plan Your Own Program

STAY-WHERE-YOU-ARE POSSUM PROMENADE

DO-NOT-DISTURB SWINGIN' SLOTH SLEEPOVER

RACCOON WRITER'S RETREAT

RSVP: PLEASE return the enclosed card with your considered cost savings by not attending an out-of-your-own-home-event. (Early bird returns very important to us)

March 22, 2020

A personal message from Marijon:

Our companion animals teach us how to appreciate these days of enforced slow-down. They live so well “in the moment,” nudging a hand for extra petting or bringing a toy to entice a game or a leash for a leisurely walk, or cuddling close for a nap. Every afternoon about 3:00 my cat jumps on my desk, sits squarely on my writing tablet at eye level, and clearly communicates that we both need a break for some reassuring rubs and say anything chatter. My other cat, attentive at the window, twitches his ears as he listens to the songs of Spring birds, oblivious to the pessimism of humans. Yes, those of us who have rescued a homeless animal because it needed us, can now appreciate its comforting mutual rescue when we need it!

If you need a **COMFORT CAT** at this time, please call. We may be able to bring one to you, and if needed, a supply of food, litter, carrier, toys, etc., thanks to a generous benefactor’s offer.



Touched By An Animal preserves the nurturing bond between people and their companion animals by helping the Elderly and others maintain this loving relationship and by providing lifetime homes for cats, when needed, in our home, where Cats-Are-Purrsons-Too.

Meanwhile, if you are not experiencing financial strain yourself, as I know many are, especially the elderly and poor people **TOUCHED BY AN ANIMAL** specifically serves, please share what you can.

Currently, we are “sheltering-in-our-place” 60 cats, and supplying food and veterinary care for several in homes. We must plan for unavoidable monthly expenses always subject to the unexpected.

But only 3% of Americans give to animal causes, so please, **IF YOU CAN**, we really need your help now. Only 6 monthly donation envelopes came in the mail over the last 2 weeks, and very little electronically. So, while I worry and care about the good people we know, especially the elderly poor, I also keep asking myself and our small Board, “What more can we do(?) since we do not have the option of going out of business....nor would we.”

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