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Cat Caught in Foot-hold Trap Rescued by Humane Society of Berks County “Lucky To Be Alive”

The Humane Society of Berks County, Berks County’s leader in animal welfare, announced that despite being caught in a leg-hold trap and stuck in a storm drain, a female, gray cat is alive and being treated by area veterinarians. The cat was rescued from a storm drain in Reading’s Hillside Playground by Humane Society officers and by the City Streets Department. “This cat is lucky to be alive at all,” said Humane Society executive director, Karel I. Minor. “We only hope that veterinarians can stabilize her condition and give her the surgery she requires.”

The cat will be held overnight and evaluated in the morning to determine if the cat is feral or a house pet and to see if surgery is possible. The cat will likely require amputation of his front leg. The surgery is expected to cost over \$1,000 and will be paid for out of the Lindy Scholar Emergency Care Fund, a fund established in memory of late Humane Society director Lindy Scholar to provide emergency vet care to injured animals. “We hope caring people will come forward to support the Lindy Fund with cash donations,” said Minor. “We’ve had many expensive emergency cases this year and the fund is running low. This fund is the difference between life and death for many animals.”

This incident also showed why pet owners should be extremely careful before allowing their pets to roam loose. “Leg-hold traps like these pose a real danger to pets, despite the requirements the law places on trappers,” said Chief Humane Officer, Joni LaVigna. “In

this case it seems highly likely that this trap was set specifically for stray animals. People who set these traps for animals could just as easily have caught a child in that trap.” Leg-hold traps are regularly found near homes and within urban areas. In some cases they may be traps forgotten by legal trappers. In most cases they are illegal traps set to trap “nuisance” animals.

For more information about the Lindy Scholar Emergency Care Fund or how to keep pets safe from traps and other outside dangers, call 610-921-2348 or visit www.berkshumane.org. The Humane Society of Berks County serves all of Berks County and surrounding communities. It is a private, non-profit organization funded through donations and service fees. In addition to enforcing Pennsylvania’s animal cruelty laws, the Humane Society offers adoption services, spay and neuter services, humane education, pet behavioral counseling, and helps stray, injured and mistreated animals. The Humane Society of Berks County is located at 1801 N. 11th Street, Reading.

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