
Happy Tales

SPRING
2022

A Publication
of Happy Tails
Pet Sanctuary



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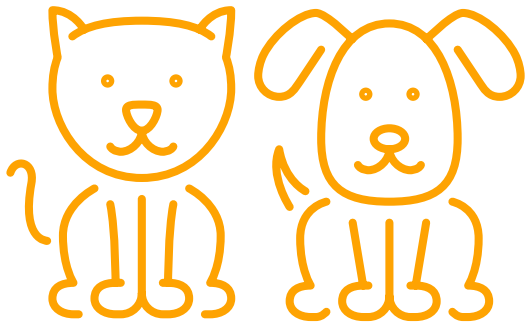
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Greetings once again Happy Tails supporters!

Despite pandemic-related challenges, 2021 was another successful year for Happy Tails with more than 550 cats and dogs adopted into loving homes! We could not do it without your support. In fact, we need your help now more than ever! Here are two BIG ways you can help save even more animals in 2022:



Join our monthly giving program: Happy Tails “Fur-ever Friends” program

All of the animals adopted out by Happy Tails undergo thorough medical evaluations, are treated for any ailments, vaccinated, and spayed/neutered before they are eligible for adoption. Veterinary costs are our single greatest expense, followed by food – we have a lot of mouths to feed! Happy Tails depends on the generosity of our donors. We don’t receive any federal or state funding. Our monthly giving option makes it easy to support Happy Tails financially through a monthly automatic deduction. On our website donors can simply pick any amount they wish to donate, then specify ‘Make my donation a recurrent payment.’ You can pick ‘monthly’ or another regular schedule you choose. As a regular donor, your ongoing gift will provide a steady income for Happy Tails, and enable us to save even more cats and dogs. With your regular donation, you are truly part of the Happy Tails rescue team!

Volunteer!

Happy Tails is in need of volunteers. We are particularly in need of cleaners and adoption counselors at our adoption center on Folsom Blvd. in East Sacramento. If you have special skills in marketing, public relations, finance, or fundraising we are also looking for new board members! While we put our New Volunteer Orientation class on hold during the pandemic, we will soon re-start this initial training class online! Until then, please email htvolunteers.sac@gmail.com to inquire about volunteer opportunities.

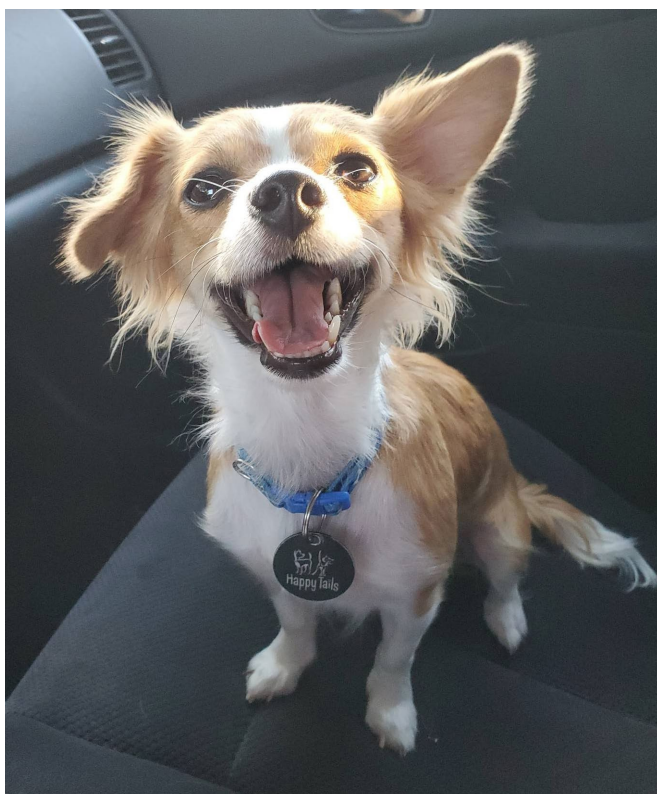
Warmest Regards

Happy Tails Board of Directors

Fostering pregnant pup isn't easy

Stella is an amazing little dog that was pregnant when she came to Happy Tails. Pregnancy and birth can be complicated with dogs. Since Stella was a shy stray, it made the situation even more delicate – requiring an experienced foster to handle the crucial first two weeks. We were fortunate that the person who found her was experienced enough to help Happy Tails until “super foster” April Nguyen could take in this new little family of four. With patience, love and a lot of attention Stella came out of her shell to shine even brighter than the puppies she gave birth to.

April fell in love with Stella and decided to adopt her! “Happy Tails has helped fill the paw-shaped hole in my heart. So many folks worry about being a foster failure, where you end up adopting your foster. But I think it’s a wonderful outcome compared to possible alternatives!” Now Stella is having the time of her life, going from pregnant stray to wearing matching sweaters and being part of a loving family.





The second time's a charm

Gorgeous Grover came to Happy Tails in May of 2021 and quickly won over everyone's hearts. He had a limp in his right hind leg. The vet determined it didn't need to be treated with surgery, but could be managed with medications and several accommodations. For example, he was given a shorter cat tree to climb. Grover was adopted. But that home didn't work out and he wanted to come back to Happy Tails for another try at his forever home. A longtime volunteer adopted him, proving that if one home doesn't work out, another one will – especially when you're talking about Grover who loves to give "hugs"!



Taking your pet home

You've just adopted a cat or dog and you're on your way home from the shelter – excited about your new fur-friend. To make it a successful adoption for both you and your pet remember there is a transition period. These animals are often abandoned, abused or surrendered by someone so they often need patience and training when introducing them to their new home. Here are some tips to keep in mind. First, we'll tell you about taking your kitty home and then your pup.

Your new cat may be one of those rare animals that makes himself/herself right at home anywhere. If so, you're lucky! Most cats take time to adapt to new



(Pictured is Happy Tails kitty Kenny with resident dog Skeeter)

people and environments. This is especially true of rescue animals that may have had frightening experiences. They need some transition time so be patient, tolerant and loving. They may want to hide, hiss or swat at you. However, don't chase or scold your kitty. Their behavior will improve as they grow accustomed to their new surroundings. Make sure they are eating and using the litter box.

Introducing your cat to the house: Confine him/her to one room – usually a bathroom or spare room – for a period of time. This varies from a few hours to several days depending on the cat. Limit hiding places, but find a covered spot so they can watch you. Visit with her a lot and start playing when she comes out to meet you.

Dog tips

Dog proof your home – making sure anything you don't want potentially chewed on or played with is out of your new companion's eye level.

Check your yard. Most new dogs are stressed while adjusting to a new home. It's common for them to look for weaknesses in your fence. Be sure you do a thorough check of your fence, your plants, and remove anything that is unsafe for your dog.

Don't let Fido get bored! A bored dog is a destructive one. Enrichment toys can help, but not as much as physical exercise. Throwing a ball, going on walks and taking a trip to the dog park are healthy and safe ways to get your dog's "wiggles" out while also bonding. It's a win/win!

Once you have a routine with your new dog, expect that it can take up to six months before your rescue pet begins to feel at home. Some dogs are happy as soon as they reach your home, some are a little shut down until they know you're a permanent home. Just be sure to listen to body language and the needs of your dog.

Happy Tails wishes you and your new pet many years of happiness!



Volunteer spotlight – Arianna Pier

Arianna Pier typifies the dedication of our volunteers. She’s been with Happy Tails for more than a decade and gives of her time in multiple ways. Not only does she enter adoption and medical data into our system, she serves as an adoption counselor, which is her first love. “I enjoy helping people find a new family member, a cat they will love and treasure for years. I try to learn as much about the cats as I can so I can make the perfect match.”

She also enjoys giving visitors tours of our cage-free shelter and seeing how much they enjoy just being around the cats. “I love the look on people’s faces when I tell them they are free to pet the cats as long as they want.”

One of Arianna’s most memorable adoptions was her first. The adopter had laryngitis so the entire interview was done on paper. Arianna introduced the woman to a 15-year-old cat named Tiffany and it was love at first sight. Tiffany’s “mom” wrote letters from the cat’s point of view and “they were so fun to read! This adoption was a perfect example of the positive work we do here at Happy Tails.”

Arianna has had pets all her life. Her mom told her she liked to sit on the cat when she was a toddler. “Thankfully I got over that habit.” Her family always had at least three dogs and three cats and since she lived in the country, llamas to eat the grass in the pasture. She’s adopted four Happy Tails cats and fostered one. “I like the weird ones because they are less likely to be adopted.”

In addition to volunteering, Arianna also loves working on craft projects. And true to her dedication to Happy Tails she’s donated some of her jewelry pieces to Happy Tails fundraisers – another way she shows her dedication.

Visit Happy Tails and pet the kitties!





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Spring 2022

A Publication of
Happy Tails Pet Sanctuary

Mission statement

Happy Tails values the life of every cat and dog by providing compassionate care and cage-free shelter for homeless animals and working toward ending overpopulation and mistreatment.

Board of Directors

President: Sarah Farias
Treasurer: Kim DeVincenzi
Secretary: Paul Concannon

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Cat Adoptions by appointment only. To request a pre-screening email full name and phone number to centerassistant@happytails.org.

Dog Adoptions – Please start with the application on our website happytails.org

Happy Tails

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Please donate at happytails.org