

Happy Tales

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A Publication
of Happy Tails
Pet Sanctuary



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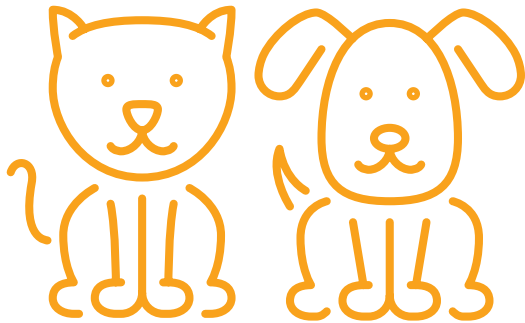
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Greetings Happy Tails Supporters!

If you've driven by our adoption center and sanctuary on Folsom Boulevard in East Sacramento you may have noticed something different. We have a new sign! We revamped our Happy Tails logo in 2019 to include a dog, in addition to our cat with the 'happy tail'. We are excited to now have our canines represented on our sign. In this Newsletter, you will learn we have had a very busy year, taking in nearly double the number of dogs we usually do. We are extremely proud of our ever-growing dog foster program!

For all of us 2020 was a challenging year. However, I think you will agree after reading the stories in this issue that the Happy Tails volunteers and staff remained just as committed and busier than ever! Looking ahead, we are excited to help even more cats and dogs find loving homes. Food and vet bills are always our biggest expenses. As a nonprofit we are solely funded by donations. We know with the pandemic many of our regular supporters are struggling. For those of you who can, please consider being part of the Happy Tails team through your donations. You can donate at any time on our website. And, mark your calendars for another way to support us on The Big Day of Giving, May 6th!

Warmest Regards,

Happy Tails Board of Directors

Adoptions going well during pandemic

by Venus Hocking and Kim Devincenzi

When COVID-19 impacted our lives a year ago, many of us were filled with uncertainty. Happy Tails, like all other organizations, had to close to the public. The staff and volunteers took that time to organize resources and direct them to the most critical tasks. The leadership team developed COVID-19 procedures to safely continue adoptions and rescue intakes while complying with the Sacramento County health order. Since dog adoptions have always been outside the facility, they safely continued the entire year. We had a record number of dog intakes and adoptions last year. Happy Tails found forever homes for 76 dogs compared to our average of 45 annually. A positive outcome from the shelter-at-home order was that more people became dog foster volunteers. Working from home gave people more flexibility and time to fosters. That outpouring of love in the community made a difference in the lives of those dogs, that needed a chance at a good life.

In June 2020 Happy Tails launched cat adoptions by appointment at our Folsom Boulevard Adoption Center. Appointments were conducted one adopter at a time with thorough sanitizing between each appointment. Cat adoptions were quite successful even though the center was closed for a few months. We matched the number of adoptions from the previous year at 693 cats. Happy Tails owes a big thank you to the amazing volunteers who braved through the pandemic and continued their dedication to our mission.

Each volunteer had to learn new protocols and stay flexible as Sacramento County health orders changed. Our amazing volunteers kept Happy Tails moving forward. We could not have had such a successful year without our donors. We are so grateful to have wonderful donors and partners in our community who believe in our mission to provide compassionate care

to cats and dogs in need, and work toward ending pet overpopulation.

Happy Tails continues adoptions by appointment only. For information about adoptions, please visit our website happytails.org.





Snowball and Corky Buddy – A shelter love story

by Venus Hocking and Melina Anne Pembor

The sweet love story of Snowball and “Corky” Buddy started in 2018 at the Happy Tails adoption center. Corky, a 10-year-old male met Snowball when he was returned to the shelter and placed in a room called Baker’s Corner. At the time, Snowball was an independent, playful 3-year-old female. After a few months of settling in, staff noticed Corky would always sleep one level below Snowball on the same cat tree. It turned out that it was no coincidence--he’d become enamored!



Snowball initially rejected Corky’s affection, but he stubbornly persisted, constantly showering her with affection. Eventually Snowball could no longer resist Corky’s charm and she finally opened her heart to him. Corky habitually groomed her until she dozed off, then watched her sleep with a loving gaze, as if her sole protector. Snowball soon began to do the same for him, and they would curl into each other as they lay together for a nap.

Snowball and Corky Buddy were inseparable for more than two years, sleeping eating and playing together. Unfortunately, in 2020, Corky Buddy developed complex health issues and despite receiving veterinary care he continued to decline. There was a short period where the pair was separated, and both would gaze across the center and call to each other longingly. Thankfully, they were reunited. The pair spent the last several months in an enclosure of their own, comforting each other right up to the day Corky Buddy was ready to say goodbye. Their unique and loving bond made them the envy of the center, and we can only hope that we all find a love as strong and pure as theirs. More good news – Snowball went to her forever home in February.

Max's big comeback

by Kelly Cunningham

With Champ and Major in the White House, we are hoping more people will consider a shelter dog, and perhaps even a rescue German Shepherd Dog! Max came to us from the Yolo County shelter. His spirits were astoundingly good for having been abandoned in a yard and battling skin issues from lack of care and good nutrition, as well as being significantly underweight. With care, including medicated daily baths, antibiotics, a good diet and socialization with his dog housemates, he's now getting ready for adoption. Max needed to build muscle through regular exercise and guidance to know what his "work" should be in the home. We are grateful that Val and Phil are willing to host and work with German Shepherd Dogs and other large breeds, especially the ones that need more than the local shelters can provide. Join our foster dog team to share your home with one of these special canines!



Photo by Jennifer Crawford

Kitten season arrives!

By Happy Tails Medical Team

It's getting to be that special time of year known as "Kitten Season". While kittens can be born year-round, the majority of litters are born from March through October. They usually come in two to three "waves". That's why it's called Kitten Season" and it can be difficult to find the baby furballs to adopt in the winter months. This is due to several factors, including milder weather. Cats that are pregnant or have kittens are more likely to go into heat at that time. A cat's gestation period is about 60 days and queens, as they are called, can get pregnant again as early as a week after giving birth.



Volunteer brings artistic talents to Happy Tails

Volunteer Zoe Wu loves to draw and paint cats and Happy Tails felines are among her favorite models. A volunteer in Catnip Garden our sanctuary for feral cats. She has painted a couple of signs to remember the long-time residents that have crossed the rainbow bridge. “My latest project involves a spunky tabby girl named Wilma,” Zoe said. “She recently moved into her own room because other cats stressed her out. She quickly proclaimed the room hers, including a specific chair. She became anxious when people sat in her chair so I made a sign to let people know it was hers.”

Zoe began volunteering as a cleaner in Catnip about three years ago. She’d just moved to Sacramento to begin a new job after graduate school. “I’ve always been a cat lover and used to volunteer with a local no-kill cat shelter in Houston. I was excited to discover Happy Tails in Sacramento and knew right away I wanted to volunteer here.” Not only that, she fostered and later adopted, Junebug, now seven-and-a-half years old.

“I love cats that have a bold personality and she is the poster child for big personality!” Zoe said the adjustment wasn’t easy, but she and Junebug both hung in there and today she “keeps busy running a household of two, greeting delivery people, telling off neighborhood cats and going out on a leash to enjoy the sun.”

When she isn’t tending to Junebug, Zoe works as an engineer on water/wastewater projects, reads legal fiction and bikes the American River Trail. She’s grateful to the Happy Tails volunteers who nurtured Junebug before she took her home. “I’m so happy Junebug chose to spend her life with me.”

The joy of fostering kittens

by Jennifer Crawford

One of the biggest rewards of fostering is helping frightened, shy, or nervous cats build their confidence so they are ready to find their forever homes. Every shy or scared cat has its own unique circumstances and our goal is to find their boundaries and help them communicate each time we interact. This can be through giving treats until they're confident enough to take the food directly from our hands. It can be in the form of play, where we use interactive toys to encourage the nervous ones to come out of their hiding spots and play in the middle of the room. And sometimes it is in the form of petting, whether reaching into their hiding spots, or luring them onto a lap with treats or toys. That way they begin to equate human hands and voices with something positive.

Every cat is different and requires different socializing techniques. Tina, for example was nervous when she came to us. We started with reaching into her hiding spots and offering her gentle pets since it was apparent that she did love the attention. Later we put her on our laps and petted her to help her make the connection between the two. It didn't take her long before she was coming out of her hiding caves to demand pets and attention.

If you have a little extra patience it's rewarding to see these little furballs go from shy to social and find their own loving homes.



Big Day of Giving

Mark your calendars for the Big Day of Giving, May 6. It's a program of the Sacramento Region Community Foundation's initiative to grow local philanthropy. Big Day of Giving is an annual 24-hour community-wide movement that unites the region's nonprofit sector to help raise funds for local organizations. Since 2013, the giving day has generated \$52 million for more than

600 local nonprofits and Happy Tails is one of them! Just go to our website happytails.org.





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Spring 2021

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

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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