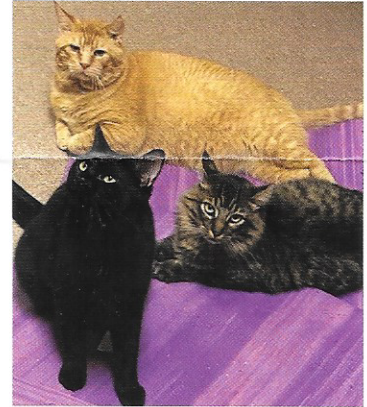**Happy Tails**
PET SANCTUARY

Fall, 2020

Dear Happy Tails Supporter,

As a very difficult year comes to a close, we would like to share some of our reflections, challenges and successes. As you know, the pandemic initially prompted many of Sacramento's large local shelters to find alternative housing for many animals. Happy Tails, which has a history of partnering with many local shelters and rescue groups, jumped into action. For example, in March, alone, we took in 18 dogs from other rescue groups that needed immediate fostering (typically we have five or six dogs in foster care at any given time). Further, throughout the pandemic, Happy Tails continued to work hard to find loving homes for our cats and dogs. To date, we matched more than 450 cats and dogs with loving homes, a number which is comparable to previous years.

Our work has not slowed due to the pandemic and in fact there is greater need than ever. However, Happy Tails' work isn't just about adoptions. It's also about partnering with other shelters, providing relief, when possible, to take their medically fragile, hard-to-adopt animals and give them an extra chance at life, that might not be possible at a larger facility. We increased our help to these partners during 2020, both due to the pandemic and the regional fires. It doesn't come without a cost and that's why we are appealing to you during this season of giving.

Here are several examples of how your contribution helped us this year. We saved the life of Nemean, an injured feral cat that would have died, even if treated and released back into the community. Nemean had the terrible misfortune of stepping on an illegal claw trap that wasn't secured. A Good Samaritan found him and took him to another shelter. Unfortunately, the leg was too injured to save.

After removing the damaged leg, the shelter reached out to Happy Tails to see if we could take him, rather than euthanize him. Unlike other shelters, Happy Tails has a sanctuary where feral cats that can't make it outside or may not be adoptable can live out their lives in a loving environment.

Nemean is thriving in our "Catnip Gardens" where he is making friends and learning to play.

Our staff faces many challenging situations like a mother cat rejecting its babies. A recent pregnant cat taken in by Happy Tails was unable to nurse or care for her babies once they were born due to her own health issues. As a result, these babies had to immediately go into a foster home that could provide bottle feeding and intensive care around the clock. Thanks to the volunteer they are happy and healthy.

Happy Tails also takes pride in rescuing at-risk dogs, like Chewy, from other local shelters. The adorable Pomeranian came to us with anxiety and major health issues, including skin and thyroid conditions. Kim Engstrom from Folsom stepped up to foster the little guy. However, she said she knew from the beginning she wanted to adopt him because "he is so sweet". However, Kim did more than that – she decided to pay for his veterinary bills and medication. "This has been a challenging year, and I wanted to do something positive. Rescuing an animal in need was a way to do that."

One thing is clear, the unconditional love we receive and give to our furry family members is even more important during stressful times. This is where you can help! Our annual budget of $600,000 provided those services we mentioned in the stories we shared. However, as with everything, our costs are increasing...food, litter, cleaning supplies, medical services, to name a few. And the need for our services continues to grow during these difficult times in our region and throughout the country. Your contribution, however large or small, can help us provide much needed medical care, shelter, food and forever homes for abandoned and abused cats and dogs in our community. To conveniently donate, please use the return envelope. We also encourage you to visit our website **www.happytails.org** to learn more about Happy Tails Pet Sanctuary.

Thank you for your support.

The Happy Tails Board of Directors