



HAPPY TALES

Fall 2018



Celebrating 25 years
of providing care to cats and dogs in need

Founder's story

"Saving one cat will not change the world, but that one cat...the world will change forever"

A dear friend and fellow cat-lover gave me the above saying printed on a rock that sits on my desk. To me it says everything I strived for in creating Happy Tails. In the beginning, I didn't know what I was doing. However, I think that ignorance was bliss and actually helped us succeed.

In the summer of 1993, I was writing a magazine article about so-called "throw-away" animals and why people throw them away. I didn't know where to start until a friend told me about a colony of feral cats living down by the river. I drove to the area to see them. I was so surprised by how many cats' heads peeked up through the grass and from behind the rocks. They checked me out while I did the same to them. I then got back into my car, drove to the nearest market and bought jugs of water, plastic bowls and dry cat food. Returning to the colony, I received a much warmer welcome from the 100 plus felines. Several of the tamer cats ran out to me while I filled several bowls with food and water. Then I sat on a large rock and watched them.

I then reached out to friends for help, including my vet, Dr. Steven Ball, who generously spayed and neutered the cats free of charge! He later asked if I minded paying \$5 to neuter the males and \$10 to spay the females. I knew that was more than fair. However, I couldn't continue paying for all of those surgeries. My daughter told me about an article she read about a no-kill shelter near her. At that time, Sacramento's three shelters were far from no-kill. I visited the Long Beach shelter- and knew I found my calling.

I was determined to open Sacramento's first no-kill shelter for abandoned, abused and homeless cats. I named it Happy Tails Pet Sanctuary because I wanted the organization to have a positive name. Before long (with my husband's support), I obtained a nonprofit status. I knew how to get publicity from my previous business experiences so was able to gather volunteers. When we began, our mission was to help cats. However, within a few short years we found foster home volunteers to take care of needy dogs.

In 2000, we were invited to a luncheon in the Bay Area hosted by Best Friends animal organization. To the surprise of my volunteers, I announced at that luncheon that by the end of the year we would have our own adoption center. Later that year we opened our first shelter location in a shopping center at 56th St. in East Sacramento. This was a good temporary solution but we wanted to go and increase our capacity to help more animals. Cats lived in room-sized enclosures. They were everywhere, including the overhead catwalks.

Lucky for us, a few years later, we received a large bequest and bought our own building on Folsom Boulevard. Now that I look back, I realize that my vision for the future came true. Not only were we able to save those cats at the park, with the help of our volunteers and generous donors, we have saved hundreds of other cats and dogs. For those lucky animals, the world changed forever!

Melinie diLuck



Join me for our open house on September 29th
from 12PM-3PM

Happy Tales Fall 2018

A Publication of
Happy Tails Pet Sanctuary

“Helping Those
Who Can’t Help Themselves.”

Mission: To create a safe haven for
abandoned and abused animals.

- No Kill
- Cage Free

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Adoption Locations

Patricia L. Holmes
Adoption Center
6001 Folsom Blvd.
Sacramento, CA 95819-4613
Wed – Sun, noon – 6 p.m.
(closed Mon & Tues)

PetSmart

1738 Watt Ave. (at Arden Way)
Sacramento, CA 95825
On-Site Adoptions:
Saturday & Sunday,
10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Happy Tails Pet Sanctuary

501(c)(3) Nonprofit
EIN 68-0317260

Phone: 916.556.1155

e-mail: purrball@happytails.org

Website: happytails.org

Happy Tails extends a special thank
you to MailRite Print & Mail and
Heidi Darling Photography

President’s Letter

By President Sarah Tomaszewski Farias

Twenty-five years after Melinie’s vision, Happy Tails is going stronger than ever! In 2017, alone, we took in and found loving homes for more than 600 cats and dogs! We are on track for an even better year in 2018. A unique aspect of Happy Tails is that we are able to focus much of our efforts on animals considered not highly adoptable by other, larger-volume shelters, including animals with injuries or medical issues. Importantly, in many cases, these medical issues can be resolved with appropriate treatment and care and the cat or dog is given a new lease on life! Some other animals we take in have behavioral issues that they can overcome with the right intervention and a little TLC. In this issue of our Newsletter, we highlight some of our recent success stories.

It is important for us to recognize that Happy Tails could not do what we do without YOU! From the bottom of our hearts we would like to thank all of our volunteers, donors and other supporters – YOU have made a difference in the lives of these animals. With your support, we look forward to continuing to help cats and dogs in the Sacramento community for another 25 years and beyond!

Volunteer Spotlight

Marian Dreyer - A visit with longtime volunteer extraordinaire

One warm summer day about ten years ago, Marian Dreyer was taking her granddaughter for a neighborhood stroll through East Sacramento. She visited the original Happy Tails location on 56th Street. Little did she know Happy Tails would become part of her life. Marian enjoyed visiting the cats and teaching her granddaughter how to approach and socialize with cats. Soon, she found herself volunteering regularly.



Marian has been involved in all aspects of the adoption center from adoption counselor, record keeper, and cleaner. She even served as center manager. She has opened up her home to various Happy Tails cats to live out their final years. She provided such great care to a cat named Sagitta that he lived three years beyond expected. That is truly amazing and so is Marian.

When Marian is not volunteering at Happy Tails, she is out with her husband sailing the seas of the Caribbean. She is quite the adventure seeker and even once came into the company of a shark while snorkeling. Luckily, the shark traveled the opposite direction. She says vacationing on a windjammer is the most relaxing place to be. The ships can go where large cruise ships cannot. Therefore, she and her friends can explore the true culture and authenticity of the Caribbean islands.

Marian has been an East Sacramento resident for 43 years where she raised her sons and now spends time with her four grandchildren. She teaches them the benefits of helping others and recycling. The cutest story she shared was when she and her granddaughter were in line to redeem recyclables. Marian being the kind helpful person she is began to assist the person in line behind her by answering questions and helping to sort her bottles and cans. Her granddaughter observed this act of kindness and began to help too. Shortly after, he granddaughter began to help additional community members in line. The community members appreciated her granddaughters helped and were so moved by the act of kindness they passed on the proceeds of their recyclables to her. What a great way to pass on kindness in our community which what is we at Happy Tails Pet Sanctuary strive to do every day.

Meet our center staff

Venus: Center Manager

She has a B.S. in Organization Behavior and Leadership from the University of San Francisco. Taking care of animals is a passion of hers, as she has volunteered with the Placer SPCA and Folsom Feline Rescue for a combined 10 years! Her first introduction to animal rescue was when feral cats had kittens in her own backyard! She began to trap, neuter, and release them all out of her own pocket. She even fostered them while Folsom Feline Rescue assisted with placing the kittens. Venus also has two cats, Rubio and Talbot that she's had for nine years. She enjoys working at Happy Tails as the staff and volunteers have been incredibly helpful during her transition to her role. Venus shares, "Each day is an adventure. There is never a dull moment at Happy Tails. Just when it gets a little quiet, a community member walks in with a bottle baby that needs immediate attention or a Good Samaritan saved a cat from a busy street. The staff and volunteers go far beyond the call of duty to help the animals, every day I find myself inspired even more."



Melina: Medical Lead

She has been helping animals since she was 15! She started volunteering for a dog rescue in her hometown, Bakersfield, CA, and then went on to study Animal Science at UC Davis. She describes herself as restless in the classroom though, and after two years decided to go to Carrington College's Veterinary Technician program. She has experience in emergency room. She found Happy Tails by happy coincidence, as she was looking to take her experience and work in a shelter or rescue setting. She stayed because she loves the environment, the people, and feels it is where she is most needed. Personally she has her hands full at home with two cats and a dog. We're glad to have her on the team.



Alyssa: The newest member of Happy Tails

She started with Happy Tails in March of this year as our medical assistant. Alyssa completed an internship at Bradshaw Animal Shelter as a medical assistant, which furthered her drive to stay in the medical field. She hopes to one day become a veterinarian! She is truly dedicated to helping animals, as she works for Happy Tails, volunteers monthly at the free vaccine clinic at Bradshaw Animal Shelter, and continues to focus on her studies in her free time. "It's special for me to be here and join as Happy Tails celebrates its 25th anniversary!"



Success Stories

Emmitt Story

By: Amanda Draper

Emmitt was in “Catnip”, our home for our feral cats, before he moved over to the adoption center. He was so shy and timid. He didn’t even like to be touched. When I brought him home, I sat in his room every day – even though he hid the whole time. I just talked to him so he got used to me. One day he crawled into my lap and we’ve been best buddies ever since! She is a love, though she still likes her own space.

Mermaid

“We adopted Mermaid in 2006. Her estimated date of birth was June 1995. We were told Mermaid was living on her own for several years. Happy Tails took her in and we are glad they brought her in from the cold. She was in need of human love. She learned to trust humans again. When she is on a lap, she gives generously her gift of warm, purring love.

By Fred and Lucille DeRose



Almond Joy

I have adopted quite a few cats from Happy Tails. Almond Joy is a special kitty that’s still with me. We think she is about 11-years-old now. Happy Tails founder Melinie diLuck discovered Almond Joy roaming around the parking lot at PetSmart on Arden Way and Watt. Of course, Melinie brought her to the adoption center where she waited quite a while to be adopted because she was so feisty. I finally decided I had room to take her home and I’ve never been sorry. She is a love, though she still likes her own space.

By Nancy Cowan



Munch

He was found in a store parking lot and today he is thriving.



Gifts That Keep on Giving

We rely exclusively on individual donations, grants, bequests, and fundraisers to continue our rescue efforts. Please make your tax-deductible donation to Happy Tails. Other ways to help include:

- 👉 Visit happytails.org/help/donate
- 👉 Gift a monthly donor program to friends or family at happytails.org/help/monthly-giving
- 👉 Go to networkforgood.org – Select “Happy Tails, CA”
- 👉 Use Amazon Smile and select “Happy Tails”
- 👉 Memorial feature on the “Donate” page of our site
- 👉 Car Donation Program – See page 6 for more info
- 👉 Living trust, estate plan, etc. Visit the “Planned Giving” section of “How you can Help” tab on our site

A Wonky Ear

Gronkowski, or Gronk for short, came in as a stray. He'd been hanging around a young family's neighborhood trying to woo the females in the area (he was unneutered). When he arrived, he was underweight with a swollen face, fleas, ear mites and a swollen earflap. Poor guy looked like a car hit him.

He quickly endeared himself to the volunteers and staff due to his easygoing, goofy nature. He was quick to make friends and happiest when touching someone – anyone. Happy Tails medical team cleaned him up and took care of all of his medical needs with the help of Lakeside Pet Hospital. He recovered beautifully except his ear decided to flop downward. Once he was up for adoption, an amazing family scooped him up.

That's where we pick up the rest of the story. Valorie Pruitt said her two children, Kelsey, 10, and Aaron, nine, had been begging for a cat for a long time. Her husband wasn't one hundred percent sure he wanted one. However, the family encountered an unusual situation. "We had just purchased a new vehicle and we hadn't had it more than two weeks when a rat got into the engine and damaged it," Valorie said. "My husband thought that in addition to traps, the scent of a cat might deter any future rats."

Valorie's husband and kids wanted a kitten. However, when she came to Happy Tails adoption center there were no kittens. Valorie also didn't find a dog-friendly cat. Then she saw Gronk. He was friendly and laid back. "I liked his personality. But I wasn't sure what my family would think of his "wonky ear," Valorie said. She went home and told her family. They thought the ear would give him more character. Now he's in a loving new home and named "Harley" to go along with the dogs, Marley and Charlie.

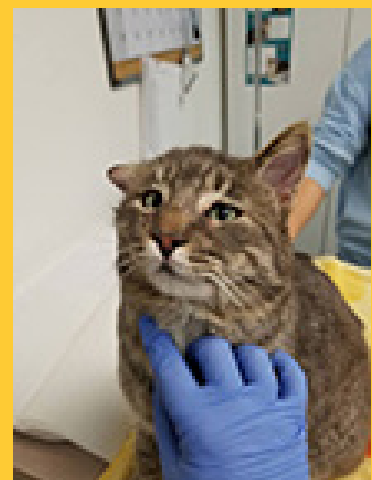
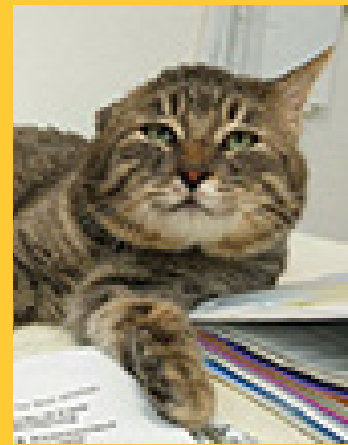
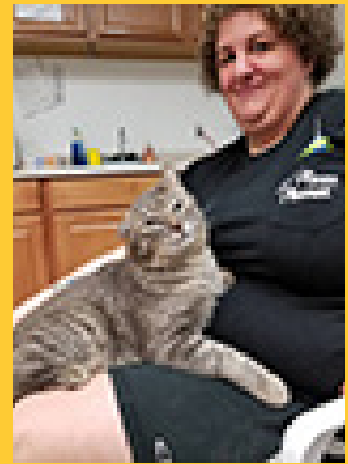
"We're very happy we got him. He fits in very well and his injuries give him character and we haven't had any more issues with rats!"



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(888) 205-3420 happytails.org



Happy Tails Dog Foster Program

Coordinator Kelly Cunningham

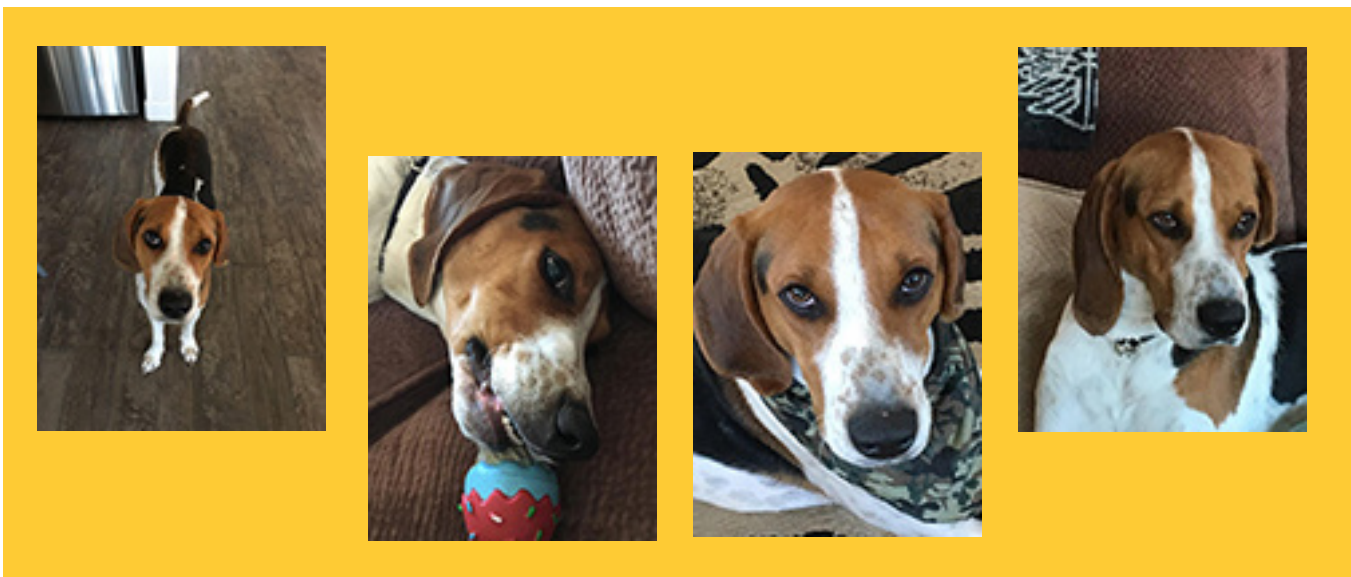
Since we only have cats available for adoption at our Adoption Center in East Sacramento many people are often surprised to learn that we have a foster dog program. We love dogs too! Please check Facebook for a current listing of our adoptable dogs.

The case of Tucker is one of our recent success stories. Our foster volunteer, Patty, signed up to host an American Fox Hound, a breed she had not worked with before. Patty is a dog trainer and has experience we needed to get Tucker ready for an adoptive home. A Good Samaritan family found Tucker while hiking in the Sierras. He had a deer antler embedded in his skull and frostbite on his appendages. He was also severely malnourished and underweight.

The family took him home, scanned him for a chip and searched unsuccessfully for his owner online for months. They got him on the road back to health. His wounds healed except for one of his soft droopy hound-dog ears. The frostbite was so great that half of one ear was amputated. We think this gave him “character” and it did not affect his hearing!

The finders contacted Happy Tails through a volunteer to help him in the last part of his journey – getting him ready for a new home. They asked just at the right time, as Patty’s home was open. Full of puppy energy and with no perceptible training, Patty taught him the foundations. After lots of patience, diligence and treats, he mastered basic obedience skills and potty training.

Tucker was ready! Although we acquire most of our dogs from local shelters to help with overcrowding, we do occasionally accept special dogs like Tucker. The more large dog foster homes we have, the more we can help hounds, shepherds, Labradors and other large breeds. Consider fostering and let a little (or a lot) more love into your life. As for Tucker, he found a great family in Sacramento that committed to continuing his training and became the dog we knew he could be!





ANNIVERSARY

6001 Folsom Blvd.
Sacramento, CA 95819

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Open House and Events

Come out and help us kick off our 25th anniversary year at our Open House on September 29, 12-3pm!

The Open House will be fun for all ages with live music, games, food, art, beer, wine, and great raffle prizes. You may even meet the newest member of your family as you mingle with adoptable dogs or take a tour of the adoption center.

In association with our Open House we are selling raffle tickets both ahead of the event (available at the Center) and at the event. The raffle includes lots of great prizes including A CRUISE VALUED AT \$3000 and an iPad. Your purchase of raffle tickets will do directly to helping us save more animals (\$5 each or 5 for \$20)!! Winners do not need to be present at the event.

We look forward to celebrating 25 years of successes with you at the Open House and at anniversary events throughout the next year.

Make sure to check our website for more great events.

Meowga with The Yoga See Collective
1400 E. Street, Suite B, Sacramento
Saturday, October 6th
2:30-4:30pm
Register in advance. Class-size is limited.

Sactown Union Brewery
1210 66th Street, Sacramento
Saturday, November 17th
5:30 - 9pm

Paint and Sip hosted by Art Shock
Early December
Location TBD
Watch our website for updates!

More events will be added. Additional information about these and other upcoming events can be found at <http://www.happytails.org/about/event-calendar>



ANNIVERSARY

Open House

Saturday, September 29th
Noon - 3pm

Happy Tails Pet Sanctuary
6001 Folsom Boulevard, Sacramento, CA 95819

**GREAT RAFFLE PRIZES, ART, LIVE MUSIC, FOOD,
TOUR THE ADOPTION CENTER
& MINGLE WITH ADOPTABLE ANIMALS**

Make sure to check the events page on our website to join us for additional upcoming events:
www.happytails.org/about/event-calendar