



HAPPY TALES

Summer 2016



Summer Pet Safety Tips & More

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF HAPPY TAILS PET SANCTUARY

Happy Tales Summer 2016

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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Patricia L. Holmes
Adoption Center
6001 Folsom Blvd.
Sacramento, CA 95819-4613
Wed – Sun, noon – 6 p.m.
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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

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Volunteer Spotlight

By Pat McConahay, Happy Tails Adoption Counselor

The media story of a tiny Yorkie rescued from a storm drain caught the attention of Michele Coss. The next thing she knew she was fostering dogs for Happy Tails. "Sadly, most dogs who end up vying for a coveted spot in our system are not celebrities and are not in the news," Michele said. "They are good dogs who, through no fault of their own, end up in a shelter."



Michele Coss

Michele tells the story of a scruffy, little terrier mix named Charlie. He was loved and had a good home. But his owner went into the hospital and never came out – so Charlie wound up in a shelter. "He was confused, shut down and terrified. I remember Charlie with a giggle because for the first few days in my house, all I could get him to eat were carrots. I guess they were his favorite snack."

Michele said one of the most obvious benefits of fostering is the fact that she knows she's saving lives. "The dogs we take into our system from shelters have usually failed their behavior evaluation because they are terrified and shy, and, therefore, can't be placed on the adoption floor. Unless a rescue steps up, there is no other option for the shelter than to euthanize these dogs. Happy Tails is their last chance."

There's also an unexpected benefit from fostering a Happy Tails dog – how it can enrich your family. Michele, a mother of three, discovered the importance of involving her children. "Teaching patience and compassion has been an easy task when the rewards are immediate and come in the form of a dog's love and affection."

Michele says the key to a successful foster experience is patience, a love for animals and a sense of humor. "Like people, they come with their own quirks and unique personalities. All of them are ready to learn, ready to love and ready for a fresh start to their lives."

Michele was born and raised in Phoenix, Arizona and graduated from Arizona State University with a B.S. in psychology and Juris Doctorate. She met her husband of 20 years while in law school. She's an attorney by trade, but stopped practicing when her first child was born. Her eldest daughter is a student at UCLA. She also has a 16-year-old daughter and 13-year-old son. The family has a Chihuahua and a 17-pound cat. Both of her daughters have been junior volunteers at Happy Tails.

"I feel good about our family's role in reducing the alarming number of pets in shelters. I am thankful to have found Happy Tails and to be part of its journey to find happy endings for both dogs and cats."



Cover Boy: Wonka

Wonka was abandoned at PetSmart by a man who demanded they take the kitten. When he was told that PetSmart doesn't take kittens, he got angry, left the kitten on the ground and ran off. Thankfully Happy Tails rescued him. Wonka is a sweet guy who loves to be held.

Cover photo by Heidi Darling, Happy Tails Adoption Counselor

Looking for Love

Gretchen (bottom left)

Tortoiseshell, 10 years

She was very shy her first few years with us, however, she has come around in the last year. She would be most happy in a mellow home.

Puppy (bottom center)

Domestic medium hair, 7 years

This beautiful girl likes to be held but has had a little trouble adjusting to her new environment. She's a bit shy at first but will melt your heart once you've earned her trust.

Walter (bottom right)

Domestic short hair, 5 years

He's a rambunctious boy who loves treats, chasing ping pong balls and playing with center volunteers. He also enjoys quiet moments, kneading a favorite blanket while having his head gently stroked.

Arya, Beatrice & Mr. Magoo

These playful siblings are typical kittens that love to play! Arya is the black and white beauty, Beatrice is the gray peanut and Mr. Magoo is the tux with a milk mustache.



Found in an open field, one of our volunteers was able to catch the mom and these little treasures just a few days after birth. Now they're old enough for adoption thanks to one of our foster moms, Heidi Darling.

For more info on adoptions, visit happytails.org, e-mail purrball@happytails.org or call 916.556.1155.



Heidi Darling Photography



A KCRA 3 **list**

Vote by 8/28

Cast us "Best Local Shelter"

The 2016 Sacramento A-List polls are OPEN now through August 28th. In past years, Happy Tails placed #4 twice and in 2015 #6 of 150 local charities!

Help us place in the top 5 this year! Tell your friends.

[vote on happytails.org](http://happytails.org)

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/Donate
- 👉 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 5 for more info
- 👉 Living trust, estate plan, etc. Visit the "Planning Giving" section of "How you can Help" tab on our site

Keep Pets Safe This Summer

By Diana Garcia, Happy Tails Volunteer

The heat during this season is inevitable and it's important to keep your pets cool and hydrated. Providing a cool place while indoors and a shady spot with a source of cold water for your pets to lounge or cool down in when they are outdoors are essential to keeping them hydrated and happy.

Taking walks and exercising with pets is vital, but during the warmer weather this should take place in the early morning or evening when the temperature has dropped. Before engaging in any activity, owners should check to make sure that the cement or ground the activity is taking place on is not too hot for their pet. If it's too hot for you to walk barefoot on, it's too hot for your pets.

Avoid leaving pets in the car while you run errands. While it may not feel too hot outside, the inside of cars warm up quickly and leaving the AC on is not a reliable way of keeping your pet cool (see sidebar "No Hot Cars!" Heatstroke is a very common consequence of doing so and could result in the death of a pet.



Leaving dogs in the back of a truck is not a good alternative either, traveling or not. The hot metal can burn a dog's paws, and the sun, flying debris, etc. can hurt the dog as well.

Key signs of heatstroke are listed below. If you believe a pet is suffering from heatstroke, get them to a veterinarian right away, and move your pet to a shady area or air-conditioned area, if possible. Ice packs or cool towels can be applied to their head, neck, and chest, and small drinks of water or letting them lick ice cubes can help.

Heatstroke can be deadly.

Share this image to keep cats safe!



Source: Petfinder and www.PetMD.com

The signs of heatstroke include:

- Restlessness as your cat searches for a cooler spot
- Excessive grooming
- Panting
- Sweaty paws
- Drooling
- Redness of the tongue and mouth
- Rapid breathing
- Vomiting
- Stumbling
- Extreme lethargy
- Unresponsiveness
- High fever

If you think your cat may have heatstroke, head straight to your vet's office. It could save his life!



We made over \$1,000 at our annual summer bake sale at the State Capitol! Thanks to all the bakers and organizers!

A very special thank you to Barbara Price (Bake Sale Manager), Larry Hogan, Mary Ellen Asbedo, Carol Stirnaman, Diane Holland, Zohreh Whitaker, Kathy Craft, Teresa Kahl, Kaitlyn Lincoln, Frances Lincoln, Christina Hoop, Kathy Limon, Brent Matzoll, Susan Cady and Phyllis C.



Safety First When Enjoying the Great Outdoors

By Carol Lunn, Happy Tails Volunteer

Summer is the best time to enjoy the outdoors with your four-legged friend. However, the extreme heat of our often triple-digit weather can be dangerous for pets. Certain precautions need to be taken. Here are some tips when planning a day trip or vacation:

- Keep pets out of direct sun, in the shade, or indoors.
- If you're planning a hiking trip with your dog, take plenty of water, food, a compass, collapsible dog water bowl, doggie booties for protection from hot pavement, and an emergency first aid kit. Even seasoned hikers have accidents, can become disoriented from heat exhaustion, or lost.
- If you take your dog to the water, kayaking or boating, ensure your pet wears a proper fitting life jacket.
- Pool Time – give your dog some pool time in a hard, plastic kiddie pool or a cool shower from the outdoor sprinklers.
- Place some ice cubes in your pet's water bowl.

Remember: Being prepared during the heat of the summer will ensure the safety and well-being of your pets. Have a safe and enjoyable summer!

Summer Pet Safety NO HOT CARS!

A CAR'S TEMPERATURE WILL INCREASE
40
DEGREES IN AN HOUR

80 %
OF THIS INCREASE OCCURS IN THE FIRST
30
MINUTES

How Hot Will It Get?

| Outside Temp (F) | Inside Temp (F) | |
|------------------|-----------------|---------|
| | 10 min. | 30 min. |
| 70° | 89° | 104° |
| 75° | 94° | 109° |
| 80° | 99° | 114° |
| 85° | 104° | 119° |
| 90° | 109° | 124° |
| 95° | 114° | 129° |



Gifts of \$250+ received the past 3 months:

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Helpless, Abandoned & Left to Die

By Katherine P. Sandberg, Esq., Happy Tails Volunteer

Finlay is an adorable, happy little two-year-old Shih-tzu/Terrier Mix who loves to play and go for walks. However, he wasn't always so carefree; indeed, the beginning of Finlay's story is a tragedy and shows the kind of serious damage that can occur when humans fail an animal.

To begin with, Finlay was cruelly locked in a cage and abandoned next to a wall in East Sacramento. Being forsaken by the one person who is supposed to care for you is bad enough, but to add insult to injury, Finlay was suffering from an extreme case of Demodex, which covered his entire body with terrible infected, bleeding sores. The painful sores even spread to his ears and feet. As a result of the condition, he lost most of his hair. Finlay also had a severe yeast infection on his skin to the extent that yellow dust would come off of him whenever he shook. His foster mom Michele said it smelled terrible and looked like pollen flying in the air. She had to have a blanket covering his skin to "pet" and hold him because it was otherwise too painful for him, but he really enjoyed having some love and attention.

Whoever had Finlay before Happy Tails rescued him let him suffer for a very long time.

Finlay's heartbreaking "before" photos are extremely difficult to look at. Demodex (also commonly referred to as mange) is a skin disease that is caused by mites that can be quickly and effectively treated at its initial onset. Whoever had Finlay before Happy Tails stepped in to rescue him let him suffer for a very long time for the condition to get as bad as it did. Finlay's former owner's conduct – both the obvious long term neglect and then the abandonment of a helpless little dog in a locked crate – is inexcusable.

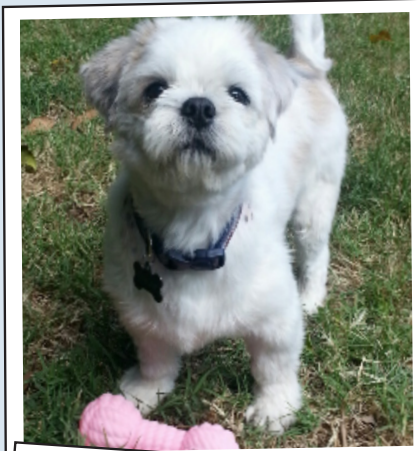
Many stories like Finlay's don't end well. Fortunately, that isn't the case here. As luck would have it, a Happy Tails volunteer found Finlay and took him to Front Street Animal Shelter. However, due to the severity of his condition, that shelter was unable to give Finlay the care he needed. Happy Tails jumped right in to foster Finlay, and the rest is history.

Finlay's Demodex is gone now, and he doesn't let his tough start hold him back. With the help of Happy Tails and foster mom Michele (she's featured in our Volunteer Spotlight on pg 2), Finlay found his forever home. Finlay now lives in East Sacramento with another canine family member and his two foster dads. They even included their first dog (Finlay's sibling) in their estate plan!

His dads also have a vacation home on the coast, so he enjoys playing with his four-legged sibling at the beach. It's safe to say that Finlay has moved past his rough beginning. In her plea to the Happy Tails board to take Finlay, Michele stated, "He's exactly the kind of dog that Happy Tails looks to help, a true rescue. I really feel like he deserves a shot at a good life and people to love and care for him." That's exactly what Finlay found with his new family.

Thanks to Happy Tails and Michele, Finlay is going to live a really great life!

Your donations are critical to these life-saving and expensive treatments. Help us continue these rescue efforts for many other animals in desperate need of care like Finlay by donating to Happy Tails.



Sweet Seniors Looking for Love

Blair

Tortoiseshell, 15 years (right)

This domestic long-hair torti has the sweetest face you've ever seen and so desperately wants to live out her elder years in her forever home. Won't you consider taking one of our wisest, sweetest cats home with you?



All photos on this page by Heidi Darling Photography



Tom Cat (left)

Domestic short hair, 9 years

Tom Cat had a rough start to life and wound up in one of our feral colonies. He was brought into the shelter for medical treatment due to eye infections. Tom Cat tamed quickly, going from a hissing, snarling ball of teeth and claws to a mellow, happy boy who yearns to be a lap cat. He loves playing with kitty toys or just lying against one of the shelter volunteers being petted. He may look rough and tumble but he has a golden kitten's heart and opens up quickly to a soft voice and a gentle touch. When Tom Cat is happy and content, he will hum for you.

Luko (right)

Siamese/Himalayan, 9 years

This beautiful Siamese mix came to us from a park where he'd been abandoned, suffering from severe mite infestation and dental problems. Despite his hard life, Luko has captured everyone with his sweet, loving nature and his incredibly patient temperament. Luko would prefer a mellow home with someone who can give him all the love and chin scratches he wants.



For more info on these felines or others looking for a home, visit happytails.org, e-mail purrball@happytails.org or call 916.556.1155.

Your Support is Critical to Saving Lives

Happy Tails Pet Sanctuary has been a volunteer-run organization since 1993. Nearly 100% of your donation goes to the direct care, feeding and sheltering of our animals. Please help us continue to "help those who can't help themselves."

Enclosed is my tax-deductible gift in the amount of: \$35 to help test and vaccinate
 \$50 to help spay or neuter \$100 to help feed, shelter and provide medical care Other — every little bit helps!

Please make your check payable to Happy Tails Pet Sanctuary, 6001 Folsom Blvd., Sacramento, CA 95819-4613.

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