
Happy Tales

SPRING
2023

A Publication
of Happy Tails
Pet Sanctuary



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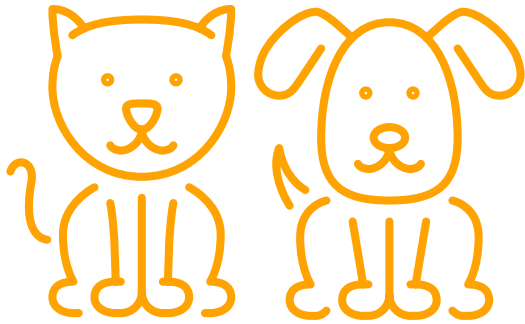
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New website

In February Happy Tails was excited to launch its new website. The board worked diligently with Page Design Group in Sacramento to create an updated look, improved content and easier navigation. Check us out and don't forget to donate to help our cats and dogs! <https://www.happytails.org/donate>.



Welcome Center Assistant Jordan Cooper

“I was excited about the opportunity to work for a nonprofit that puts so much care and love into its animals,” said Cooper who came to Happy Tails as center assistant from VIP Petcare last November. “The fact that the job description turned out to be my ideal work environment didn’t hurt either!”

As center assistant, Cooper’s job is to lighten the load for Center Manager Devyn Everett and Medical Lead Melina Anne. “Combining my experience in veterinary medicine, pet ownership and management into one big “special interest career” is so much fun and, even better, I know I’m making an impact on these cats’ lives. He adds that he doesn’t mind doing everything from administrative tasks to shaving a matted cat. Cooper is also helping Happy Tails become more efficient and organized by digitizing its pre-2000’s files.

And how does he feel about his time at Happy Tails so far? “It’s been great working with all of the wonderful volunteers that make everything happen. There’s so much activity in the center. Everyone has been so kind. It’s made me feel so welcome.”

When Cooper isn’t working at Happy Tails, he relaxes by drawing, painting, writing, cooking – “anything that gets the creative gears turning. I love making things!” And no surprise some of his artwork depicts animals.





A surprise discovery about Sita the cat

From a young age, Sita showed signs of strong independence and a sharp personality. She was born to a feral mom and raised in a Happy Tails’ foster home with her siblings. She was the kitten that embodied the classic “tortitude” that left her foster scratching her head. She wondered why Sita was so tough to win over while her siblings were friendly and affectionate. However, someone did adopt her.

But it was only after being returned four four-and-a-half years later, grumpy and ill-tempered, that staff discovered she was completely deaf. So over the next year-and-a-half they worked to socialize her – first housing her in our sanctuary for feral cats and then moving her to the adoption side of the center. Sita is just as intelligent as she is beautiful and she taught the staff how to effectively interact with her and she became a minor Happy Tails celebrity.

She remained somewhat “opinionated and sassy,” not wanting to be petted or touched too long. Still, the right family came along and adopted her. Staff sent her home with a menagerie of toys, beds, and gifts and nervously waited to see if her new adopters would return her.

Just a week after being adopted, Sita was snuggling and sitting on the laps of her new family.



Volunteer spotlight on Andrea Leigh

If you've spent anytime around the Happy Tails facility on Folsom Boulevard, chances are you've seen Andrea Leigh. She's a tireless volunteer who does a multitude of things to keep the organization going – especially Catnip Garden, our sanctuary for feral cats. In fact, she is Catnip's lead volunteer, managing shift coverage as well as animal intakes and cats that are already there. Andrea also helps Medical Lead Melina Anne with dental work and injections in the main center; traps, neuters and releases community cats; locates lost Happy Tails cats – the list is endless.

“What I like most about volunteering for Happy Tails is that I get to rescue feral cats from the terrible realities they face on the streets. I get to work with them and help them learn to trust people. In some cases, it leads to them being adopted into their forever homes. Seeing a feral or semi-feral cat that's near death come in to the sanctuary and nurse back to health is amazing. But it's bittersweet when they are adopted and leave.”

Andrea, who began volunteering at Happy Tails more than 12 years ago, has had animals her entire life. Her first cat was 15 when Andrea was born! She considered the Siamese who lived to be 22 as her “guardian.” Currently she has several Happy Tails cats and fosters.

Andrea's “day job” is as an IT Project Manager/Senior Business Analyst for UC Davis. She's been in the IT industry, primarily in the health care, health insurance field since 1998. In her free time, she tries to get to the gym, go on hikes or spend a day at the beach. She also enjoys spending time with close friends and their cats, of course!





Iris, the survivor, waits for the right home

Iris is a fun-loving, intelligent girl looking for an adopter that can handle her high energy.

While we don't know much about her history, she's believed to be a year-and-a-half to two-year old possible Husky, American Eskimo or Toy Samoyed. She's also a survivor. When Happy Tails rescued her, she had a slight limp in her back left leg. We learned that before Iris came to Happy Tails, she escaped from her yard and was hit by a car. Thanks to those all-important donations, Happy Tails had images taken of Iris's leg and she was examined by a specialist. They showed her femur was fractured near her knee. The specialist believes the leg isn't causing her any pain. The only medication she is taking are monthly heartworm and flea/tick prevention.

Iris's favorite activity is to play with one or more dog pals – especially an energetic small dog. She enjoys walks and does well on a leash. Her ideal adopter should have a large, securely fenced yard so she can run and play outside. If you are interested in giving Iris a home or anyone of our precious pooches email dogs@happytails.org.



Regular check ups key to your pet's health

Just like we humans, regular medical check-ups are important to maintaining your animal's health. These exams can spot early signs of disease and help monitor your four-legged family member's overall health. They include a thorough history as to how the pet is doing at home daily. Your vet will ask about housing, diet, exercise schedule, medications, and supplements. Pets, especially cats, more than dogs, tend to hide disease very well so any small detail is important to report. And for senior cats, in particular, blood panels can be an early detection of disease.

There will also be a physical exam that includes a look at the ears, eyes, and nose for any indication of disease. And just as important, is an exam of the oral cavity for fractures, infected teeth, oral masses or ulcers. It's also important to evaluate your pet's weight. Fluctuations in weight can indicate a problem.

Remember, a healthy pet is a happy pet!





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Spring 2023

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: Paul Concannon
Treasurer: Jim Sandberg-Larsen
Secretary: Dillon Fleming

Members

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Pat McConahay
Claudia Sandberg-Larsen
Zoe Wu

To adopt a kitten or cat in foster care, please set up an appointment at HappyTailsReferral@gmail.com.

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

Happy Tails

Pet Sanctuary
501(c)(3) Nonprofit
EIN 68-0317260
Phone: 916.556.1155
e-mail: purrball@happytails.org

Happy Tails extends a special thank you to Albert Dungca, newsletter designer.

We are open Thursday, Friday, and Sunday from 12PM to 6PM;
Saturday, 2PM to 3PM for cat adoptions.

You donation helps!

Happy Tails wouldn't exist without your generous donations. For example, \$5 pays for a vaccine or a Canine Heartworm test; \$17 covers a Feline FIV/FelV test; \$40 pays for a feline spay or neuter and \$75 for a veterinary exam.

Please donate at happytails.org