



PAW TALES

Helping Paws Animal Network (HPAN) is excited to announce a quarterly newsletter, *Paw Tales*. Each issue will bring you information about the animals that you have helped, plus upcoming events, pet care tips, and more!

Meet Hogan, a Walker Hound puppy. His mother Molly was found with Hogan and three surviving siblings on a farm in Rutledge. Learn more about his story on page 3.

View more cats and dogs that HPAN has helped at <http://www.facebook.com/HelpingPawsAnimalNetwork>. 'Like' us on Facebook to support the network and keep up with events and needs. You can donate to help animals in need at this site too!



About Us

Helping Paws Animal Network strives to aid local animals (in Anderson and surrounding counties) in dire situations that are hungry, hurting or homeless. We started the network in April 2011 as a group of people who found in each other a love of animals and a desire to help where we can.

We pool our resources to assist verified rescue groups when funding is needed for food, shelter, vet services, boarding, etc. We are not "officially" a non-profit (501c3) organization, but 100% of our money goes toward animal welfare. Donations can be made online at our Facebook site; they can also be made via cash or check directly to Amy Starkey or Patti Mynatt. There are no obligations or expectations of our members, and we provide total transparency where funding is concerned.

We want to help every animal in need, but the needs exceed the means; therefore, we prioritize verified cases based on available funds at the time of the request, and no money is given directly to an individual or individual pet owner. We pay the veterinarian, the kennel, or the appropriate vendor, and/or purchase the required needs, such as food, supplies, or medicine.

We also serve as a network for electronically posting homeless animals and assist with spay/neuter costs prior to homing when needed and feasible.

Our charter team meets once monthly and communicates regularly to assist animals in need and plan events. No funds are spent without full approval of each charter member. Learn more about our charter team on page 4.

Helping Paws Animal Network (HPAN)

Helping Hungry, Hurting and Homeless Animals

Upcoming Events

September 3: Oak Ridge
Responsible Dog Ownership Day

September 10 : K9 Cancer Walk

September 24: Flea Market at Oak
Ridge High School



Each quarter we will focus on one of our members and their rescue experiences. This month, Patti Mynatt shares about her visit to the Newport Animal Shelter on page 3.

Charter member Karin Jessen shares about her work with dog rescue and fostering on page 2.

If you would like to contribute an article, please contact Patti Mynatt at 865-255-0475 or via email at pjmynatt@gmail.com.

REMEMBER TO KEEP YOUR PET
CURRENT ON HEARTWORM
PREVENATIVE!

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Kitten M

Hobbes now, cuddling with his older "brother". (Hobbes is in front).

Hobbes getting ready to 'attack' him from his hiding place.

Hobbes, the kitten formerly known as "M"

Kitten M was abandoned in the parking lot at Wal-Mart in Oak Ridge on a day when it was extremely hot. He appeared to be 8-10 weeks old and was panting very hard and seemed to be dying from heat and dehydration (if he didn't get run over first). Deborah Grubb couldn't just let him die, so she took him, even though her apartment has a very strict no-animal policy, hoping she could find him a home quickly.

A few days later, Sophia Kitts took him in from Deborah since she couldn't keep him at her apartment. At first he was so terrified when she gave him to her that he was shaking uncontrollably.

He very quickly warmed up to Sophia and stole her heart, too. He's a very sweet boy and craves human attention.

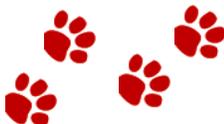
Sophia fostered him briefly until Janet Kile took him to foster until

a new forever family was located. During his stays with Deborah and Sophia, Kitten M got a new name – Hobbes - and a new confidence in himself from the love he received.

From Janet: "Hobbes is an absolute delight and while I am not ready to admit he has found his forever home (I have 6 other cats), I am not looking very hard for it!"

"Like all little boys, he can get into things quicker than you can blink! Which is what he did one day when he managed to climb up into my chimney flue! For a little guy that always comes when called, this time he was not the least interested in abandoning the cool spot he had found to play in. I did finally manage to coax him to a position where I could grab him, but by that time he was black, both my arms were black, and the clothes I was wearing were black. He did not especially like the bath that followed!"

Please contact Janet Kile if you are ready for a sweet, mischievous boy who wants to love you and be loved.



HPAN Member Profile: Karin Jessen

Karin is one of the charter members of Helping Paws Animal Network (HPAN) and an animal rescuer in many capacities. "I first learned about dog rescue 11 years ago when I was reading a newspaper ad for a local shelter. After doing research, I was totally amazed at the number of unwanted animals in our country. How could be we one of the richest countries in the world and have so many "throw away" pets?

I got involved with a local dog rescue (TVGRR) and have been rescuing, fostering, and placing dogs in their forever homes since 2000. It was a natural progression for me to step up and volunteer with HPAN, an ORAU based group who helps out local animals in need. I have shed many tears for dogs that come in injured, sick, starved, abandoned and neglected and have shed happy tears as I have watched many of them become happy, healthy dogs and go to loving families.

I have fostered over 100 dogs, I adopted one, although I would have adopted many more. I had to save room in my home for needy foster dogs. Although my rescue, Koby, passed away last year, and my white German Shepherd, Kaja, passed away in March, I always manage to have at least 3-5 dogs in my home at any given time. I currently have one golden retriever, Kioko, who will be 12 years old in Oct. and a Siamese cat named Kingsley. I am currently fostering Autumn and Tucker. Autumn will be going to her forever home in Alabama about mid-Sept., once she is recovered from her knee surgery. Tucker will most likely stay with us for a very long time. I have been exposed to the worst and the best of dogs' lives. What is important is making a difference and I can do that one, two or 5 dogs at a time!"





My visit to the Newport Animal Shelter

I went to the Newport Animal Shelter a few weeks ago to take supplies and monetary donations from Helping Paws for 37 dogs that had been rescued from a hoarder.

These dogs were mostly Chihuahua mixes. While I was there taking our supplies and donations, I was touched to see that there were others showing up about every ten minutes with more supplies – maybe a bag of dog food or just a bowl, but it was enough to help.

I met Shadow that day. Her puppies had just been rescued but she was left behind. She was not one of the 37 - just a beautiful black dog that was not wanted. The visit and the truth of the possible fate of many of these animals broke my heart.

I gained greater respect for the shelter workers. They go into work every day, knowing that some of the animals whom



they have cared for and loved might not survive until the next day. I saw compassion and affection for each animal, so that the animals don't spend their days (the last days for some of them) alone, without a friend. I saw workers give that kind of love to Shadow, even knowing that she might not be one of the lucky ones whose forever family takes them home.

It would have been easier to turn their heads away so they didn't see the animals that might not make it. But that was not their response. As I observed and interacted with the animals and the staff, I realized that it's easy to say - 'You can't save them all' but that's not the attitude I saw. I learned from them that even if you can't save them all, you can help many.

That day in Newport, Helping Paws made a difference by helping at least 37 dogs, if not more. We can change the world, one (or 37) animal(s) at a time.

– Patti Mynatt

Rescue Corner



HPAN helps support the work of Melissa White, whose rescue work has saved the lives of countless animals in crisis. She works with rescue groups such as SOS Beagle and Humane Society of the TN Valley.

"I do "All Breed Rescue" with the help of my wonderful friend and partner Sally Lay as well as my girls Brooklin and Vanessa. We have taken on the challenges of dogs on chains, dogs with corrective issues that just need a chance, abused and neglected dogs and dogs with health issues as well as dogs that just need to be matched with a great family.

Not every dog is appropriate for every person, so matching the person to the dog and the dog to the person is our ultimate goal. We are always in need of foster families willing to offer their time to be a stopping place for a wonderful dog waiting to find their family; it can be rewarding and even offer an education in responsibility to teens/preteens.

Volunteering for the HSTV, SOS or any other rescue in need of assistance is something that we all enjoy doing. I am extremely lucky to have girls so eager to offer their time and energy to help the animals whenever they are needed."

From Melissa – Molly's story

"Sweet Molly, (pictured below) a momma Walker Hound came to me through a classmate of my youngest daughter Vanessa. Lucas, a young animal lover himself found Molly and her babies while working on his uncle's farm in Rutledge. Molly had moved her pups many times from place to place trying to care for them the best that she could during this time. Two of the babies died. Although she took the best care of the babies, no one was caring for her. She came to me very malnourished and desperately needing some TLC."

"I found a home in Atlanta for Molly with an amazing family and now her babies, Willow, Dodger, Hogan, and Trip are searching for homes as well. Thanks to **Helping Paws** for donating the money to have the Walkers vetted so they can be happy and healthy."





Amy Starkey and Ginger - Amy has been rescuing animals her whole life; when a stray came along, she either kept it or pawned it off on a family member. Once her own animal family grew to seven and she could take no more, she began to advertise homeless dogs and cats in various ways (i.e., in company newsletters, at veterinary clinics, via e-mail, etc.). Finally, in April 2011 she joined other animal lovers at work to form the Helping Paws Animal Network, which is now nearly 40 members strong. Amy is thrilled to have this avenue to help animals who are hurting, hungry, and homeless.



Patti Mynatt and Maisy – As a child, I was terrified of dogs and not fond of cats either. We had outside dogs and if they belonged to us, my fear was smaller but still there. It wasn't until college, when I met a friend's dachshund, Arthur that I began to overcome my fear and see what joy could be found with animals. Then in 2002, I brought home Jake, a 7 week old, 7 ½ lb Irish Wolfhound/Terrier mix puppy from Adopt-A-Pet. He cuddled into my neck and I was a goner. They said he would only grow to be 35lb and he is at 90lb now!! Since Jake came into my life, a passion for animal rescue has overtaken me and I can't stop myself from trying to save the needy cats and dogs that cross my path. In 2005 I brought home Maisy from Animal Control in Nashville. Then in 2007 I started working with HALT (Humans and Animals Working Together). When I came to ORISE in the fall of 2010, I found Karin, Amy, Tim, Sophia and Leigh Ann, among many other animal lovers. We worked together to save a dog in December and after that, it was only a matter of time until we formed Helping Paws.



Tim Ledford and Crazy Daisy – “Sometimes when Daisy wakes up, she has this crazy expression in her eyes on her face and, it is hilarious. The day this picture was made I was doing yard work and she kept bothering me because I wasn't playing enough with her, so we did a crazy eyes picture together. She is a big sweetie; I just love her to death.” Tim has helped out with feral cat colonies and with the University Of Tennessee College Of Veterinary Medicine, helping to find families for homeless cats and dogs. He has a love for animals and a passion for ensuring their safety and health.



Leigh Ann Pennington and Kitty - I have been a dog and cat fan for as long as I can remember, and I currently share my house with five cats. Since 2000, I have tried to improve the lives of companion animals in our community by volunteering with the Companion Animal Initiative of Tennessee (CAIT), an organization housed within the University of Tennessee, College of Veterinary Medicine. Several initiatives that are really important to me include: reducing the number of healthy cats and dogs without homes; making sure that all owned cats and dogs live in a situation in which they can thrive; and helping feral cats in our community.



Sophia Kitts volunteers with rescue transport and occasionally fosters in emergency situations. Her first dog was Harvey the basset hound, who provided her first experience with canines and their extraordinary gift of unconditional love. The last furry family members were Ariel, the Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever, aka the best dog ever, and Beau, the Brittany Spaniel who literally smiled when happy. Sophia is delighted to volunteer with Helping Paws Animal Network. (This picture is of a Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever, just like Ariel.)

**Karin Jessen, the final charter member, is profiled on page 2.*