



PAW TALES



Volume 1, Issue 2 | Winter 2011

New Helping Paws Animal Network (HPAN)

Paw Tales Blog

By Patti Mynatt



Since April 2011, when HPAN officially formed, we have been able to provide funding to save, feed or care for dozens of animals, through the help of our members donations. The only thing missing was that most of the time, only 1-2 of the charter members got to meet the animals, if we got to meet them at all. It is truly wonderful to hold a puppy who has just been rescued or help a kitten who was abandoned.

The Paw Tales blog at <https://helpingpaws37830.wordpress.com/> is our way of bringing our members closer to animals that they are helping with their donations. Each post will allow you to see and hear the stories – from HPAN funding lifesaving surgery to buying food for a hungry animal with your donations and our fundraising efforts. The blog will be live on 12/23/11.

This blog does NOT replace the Facebook page. The Facebook page is an electronic resource for animals that need foster care or adoption and it is the main source of communication for us in helping animals. The blog is solely for telling the stories of the animals that we have already helped, and provides a resource that is accessible without Facebook for those who

do not have Facebook accounts.

It will take months to catch up this blog with all the animals, their pictures and their stories, so please be patient. I will send out the link to the blog with the quarterly newsletter, and in between I will be adding the animals we have already helped and those that we are helping currently, so you can check in anytime to read the blog.



Kitten Care 101

By Janet Kile

I recently had the pleasure of raising kittens from birth. Here is what you need to know about helping momma and her kittens. Momma cat (Squirt) was a stray that I took in and she blessed me with six kittens.

Before birth, provide an area that is quiet and well away from other pets and loud noises. Also, provide several spots that mommy can use to protect her babies. Squirt moved her babies from one area to another on a regular basis. Keep plenty of food and water well away from the kitten area for mommy.

Continued on pg. 5

THIS MONTH'S ISSUE:

- 2 Max & Yankee
- 3 Hobbes
- 3 HPAN Member Profile
- 4 Stewie's Story
- 4 Making a Difference
- 5 Mia & Buddy
- 5 Kitten Care cont.
- 6 Mission Statement

Upcoming Events

Dec 14 ORAU Craft Show
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.



**REMEMBER TO KEEP YOUR PET CURRENT
ON HEARTWORM PREVENTATIVE!**

www.facebook.com/HelpingPawsAnimalNetwork

Max and Yankee's Long Trip to Happy Homes

By Sarah Beene

On May 12, Helping Paws Animal Network found out about two dogs embroiled in a crisis far too common in today's economy. Having lost her job and her home, and with bills mounting, their owner desperately needed help caring for her dogs.

HPAN initially helped the owner cover fees for the local kennel where she boarded her dogs, but as the weeks stretched on, the team found the dogs, a male named Yankee and a female named Max, a foster home with generous HPAN member Tina Piquet. HPAN covered costs for supplies, grooming and veterinary visits for the two dogs, who, it was discovered, had not been well cared for during their extended kennel stay.

I first heard about Max and Yankee in July when HPAN asked for someone to keep a dog for a week while Tina was out of town. I turned on my best sales skills and convinced my husband that we could handle one week of dog care. And with his begrudging approval, I committed to temporarily foster a brown dog named Max.

Almost immediately, I learned that things were a little more complicated. Tina was struggling to care for two large dogs in addition to her own, Max wasn't getting along with one of her canine hosts, and their owner was growing increasingly hard to reach and noncommittal about her plans for Max and Yankee.

I met Max on a Saturday in June. My first impression was that she was overwrought. Her caramel eyes darted around the yard, sliding past my face but never settling on me. Still, she settled right in, and I was pleasantly surprised with her good manners. She even dutifully ignored our cat, Sydney, as though she instinctively knew that peaceful coexistence with that feline was her ticket to admission.

As her planned one-week stay neared an end, my husband and I were leaving for vacation, and Max didn't really have a place to go. Her owner finally agreed that if I



[Note from HPAN: Patti Mynatt from HPAN visited her often while she was there, so she knew she was still loved and not alone. While Max stayed at Catatoga, they took great care of her and they fell in love with her too. Megan at the front desk especially doted on Maxine. Maxine wanted to stay inside with Megan quite often when Patti came to take her out to walk around. Maxine would walk around and run for a few minutes and then go back to the gate, to return to Megan and inside. She was easily loveable and though she was doted on by Patti, Megan and all the staff, she was ready to go home, back to Sarah. HPAN called Irene almost every day to check on when she was coming and if she could pay for the time. She never responded.]

booked her in a local kennel (Catatoga), she would pick her up while I was gone.

Ten days later, I arrived home and called the kennel. Max was still there. No one had heard from the woman I now considered her former owner.

Back with us, a thorough check up uncovered that a desperate need for love wasn't the only legacy of her difficult early years. She was also heartworm positive and has a shotgun pellet lodged under the skin over her right ribcage. HPAN helped pay for her heartworm treatment.

Today, known as Maxine, she's a much-loved member of our family, and we're making up for years of missed treats and belly rubs. We have also learned that her "brother" Yankee also has a forever home.

This month we'll learn if Maxine's heartworm treatment was successful. "Heartworm Negative" will make a great Christmas gift and a happy ending for this chapter of Maxine's life.

If you would like to contribute an article,
please contact Chris Kelley at 865-250-7085
or via email at ck72@comcast.net

Hobbes – Whatever Happened to Him?

By Janet Kile

Well, Hobbes is living in the lap of luxury, terrorizing his brothers and sisters! He has settled in comfortably at my house and basically rules the roost. For those of you who may not know, Hobbes was found in the Walmart parking lot by Deborah Grubb in May. It was an exceedingly hot day, he was panting heavily and at risk of being run over. Deborah could not leave him to die, so took him home even though she lives in a strict no pet apartment complex.

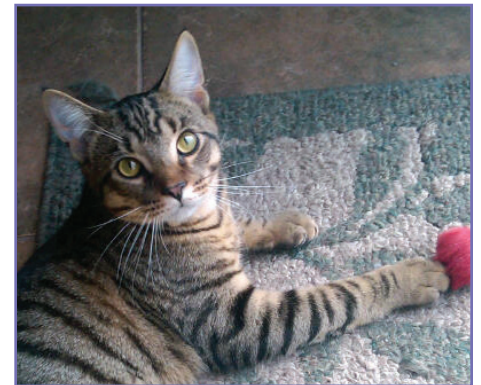
Long story short, she contacted HPAN and Sophia Kitts took Hobbes to foster within a few days. After a few weeks, Hobbes came to live with me and several other kittens and cats. He immediately bonded with two kittens that I kept from Squirt's litter and was happy as he could be.

Hobbes loves attention and follows me everywhere in the house. If he is not sitting in my lap, he is close by somewhere. He adores soft, fuzzy toys. He is shown here guarding his red fuzzy ball from all comers! He carries it around in his mouth, growling the whole time, and taunts the other cats with it. Reach for it at your own peril!

Hobbes' second love is eating! All my cats get canned food as a treat. Hobbes dances around with his brothers until he share is put before him. He eats his in record time, then helps the adult cats eat theirs. I believe he is a pig in disguise.

Hobbes is a success story and an example of what HPAN does on a regu-

lar basis. We save animals. Hobbes fate could have been horrific, instead he is loved, healthy, and cared for. Yea HPAN!



HPAN Member Profile: Amy Starkey

Amy Starkey, one of HPAN's charter members, never thought she'd own seven dogs and a cat all at once. "I always said six dogs would be my limit (5 hunting dogs and a guard dog). Seemed like a good combination to me." But in September 2010, her plans were altered. "I went to Fayetteville, TN to buy a Fila Brasileiro puppy from a guy who had advertised on PuppyFinder.com." The Fila, the national dog of Brazil, is somewhat of a rare breed in America and, although a purebred, it is not recognized by the American Kennel Club. Filas were initially bred to hunt jaguars and to be estate protectors.

Amy and her husband bought their first Fila nine years ago after one of their hunting dogs was stolen out of her fenced-in yard. "Now, our old Fila, Tiger, is slowing down and we knew we wanted to continue owning this wonderful breed." The trip to Fayetteville to pick up their one reserved male ended up being a trip where they acquired two females as well. "Those puppies were living in less than ideal conditions. I could tell they weren't being given the attention they needed/deserved and that the breeder just wanted rid of them so he could move on to the next litter. He first offered me the two females for the same price as the male, but I said 'no.' He then offered them for free if I would take them that day. I was afraid for what might happen to them if I didn't take them, so I made a quick phone call to Tim Ledford, fellow HPAN charter member, and asked if



he would like to have one of the females; thankfully he did.

So instead of making the three hour trip home with one puppy, Amy and her husband brought home three. "Those three hours were a little stressful to say the least. Filas are big dogs! Though the puppies were only 3.5 months old, they already weighed over 20 pounds each...and they slobber a lot...especially when they're stressed out."

It didn't take long for the Filas to settle into their new home. "Zeus and Bella are two of my biggest babies and life on Starkey Farm wouldn't be the same without both of them."

Rescue Corner: Stewie's Story

By Tim Ledford

My family and I recently had an opportunity to play host to a special guest by the name of Stewie. Stewie is a Bull Terrier, or what some people might recognize as the "Spuds Mackenzie" dog, because of the star of the old Budweiser beer commercials. A Bull Terrier by the name of Willie also gained celebrity as General George Patton's dog in World War II. Despite the notoriety the dog received in the beer commercials, the breed isn't really that common. In fact, if you Google Bull Terrier, you will most likely find more links to a breed commonly referred to as the Pit Bull.

The name Bull Terrier makes the dog sound more ferocious than they really are. Bull Terriers are relatively short in nature, but average a sturdy 50 pounds or so in weight. I can assure you those 50 pounds are all muscle. Stewie was built like a fire plug. The breed originally derived from a bulldog and terrier mix, along with other breeds mixed in throughout the years. Despite their tenacity in hunting wild game, Bull Terriers were a disappointment in the fighting pits, but were adored by British royalty for their unusual features and lovable personalities. The most recognizable feature of the Bull Terrier is the "banana shaped" head, which gives it a distinct characteristic unlike any other dog. The Bull Terrier is a playful breed, and is said to be like "a child in a dog's suit" because of its friendly disposition and willingness to play for long periods of time.

Stewie came to us as a rescue from a local shelter by Melissa White. While Stewie is the hero of this story, many thanks should be given to Melissa for letting us have Stewie for a short time. There's really no telling how many dogs Melissa has rescued from imminent death. I met Melissa on a Saturday morning to pick up Stewie at my vet's office. Most dogs are hesitant when they meet strangers, especially one with Stewie's background, but he and I immediately developed a rapport. I credit that more to Stewie's lovable personality than my own skill, as he instantly charmed everyone in my family, including our other dogs.

I was talking about Stewie in the office one day, when a co-worker and fellow HPAN member, Margaret Lyday, heard me. As it turns out, she and her fiancé Mitchell were looking for a Bull Terrier to rescue. Mitchell had a much loved Bull Terrier for years before he passed away, and the time had come to find another. Margaret is a firm believer in rescuing animals instead of buying from breeders. So, as fate would have it, we introduced Stewie to Margaret, Mitchell and their dog Rollie, the four hit it off, and Stewie found his forever home.



We were privileged to have Stewie for about a month. One issue with being a foster home for a dog or cat is that you immediately become attached to the pet. However, you have to keep in mind that there may be better situations for the pet other than in your home, and this was the case with Stewie. Still, we were fortunate to have Stewie for the short time we did, and feel great that he has found a loving home with people who will take care of him forever.

It should be noted that Stewie had some very serious health issues, including heart worms. Those issues have largely been resolved now, thanks to the generous support of the Helping Paws Animal Network. While numerous people helped Stewie become healthy again and find a good home, without HPAN, Stewie's condition would've been much worse. This is only one situation in which HPAN has had a positive impact on an animal's drastic situation, so thanks to you for your selfless contributions.

Making a Difference

By Leigh Ann Pennington

In February 2000 I joined a newly-formed, volunteer-based, initiative called Nine Counties. One Vision (9C1V). This group was composed of citizens from Knox and its eight surrounding counties that wanted to be involved in creating a common agenda for the future for East Tennessee. 9C1V began gathering ideas from citizens in the region on how to make the area a better place to live and work. A total of 8,827 ideas were gathered. Animal welfare ranked fifth on the list of concerns. At that point, I knew I had found my volunteer activity for the near future, working with the 9C1V Animal Welfare Task Force, co-chaired by Dr. Michael Blackwell, the former Dean of the University of Tennessee, College of Veterinary Medicine.

Continued on pg. 6

Mia & Buddy - 2 Rescues Enjoying Their Forever Homes...

By Shannon O'Grady (Daughter of Mary Pigeon, one of our members)

My husband and I have called ourselves "crazy cat people" for years. First we had Ike and Tina, then Ike and Turkish, and now Turkish and Mia. Our last dog, Bandit, is a distant memory.

We adopted Mia from the Humane Society of the Pikes Peak Region about four years ago. I've been volunteering there for a couple years, helping to match people with pets while resisting the urge to bring any more animals home, never mind a dog.

You can imagine where I'm headed here.

We are now the proud owners of a 6-year-old Japanese Chin Spaniel. Sweetpea had been at the shelter for three weeks when I decided I couldn't take it anymore. I convinced my husband that we were back to being "crazy animal people" and we brought him home, rechristening him Buddy.

I had some concerns about making Buddy part of our family, primarily because of the cats, but he completely ignored them, even avoiding eye contact. First hurdle cleared!

The first few weeks were a challenge, though. Since Buddy had been kenneled for several weeks, getting walked maybe twice a day, his housebreaking skills needed to be refreshed. After several days of reinforcing the difference between inside and outside, we were still having problems.

The vet recommended blood and urine work, which didn't find anything significant. But an X-ray discovered a nasty bladder stone. Buddy was certainly uncomfortable and probably had been in pain for quite a while.

Surgery removed the stone, but now Buddy needs to be on a special diet to prevent a recurrence. A small price to pay for the best little dog in the world! He's happy and healthy and loves everyone. My neighbors compete for the honor of watching him when we have to be gone for the day.

Buddy's medical issues might explain why his owners didn't come looking for him. Maybe they didn't want to deal with it or just couldn't afford it. I'm grateful that my husband and I had the resources and time to rescue him. It's a wonderful feeling.



Kitten Care 101

Continued from page 1

Immediately after birth, kittens will begin to nurse and will stay close to the mother cat. Kittens have to be warm to nurse, so if any roll away from mommy and are cold, warm them up before putting them next to her. Staying close to mommy ensures they are fed, safe and are kept warm as kittens are unable to retain body heat for the first few weeks. Kitten food is especially good for nursing mothers as it provides extra calories and nutrients that they will all need. During the first week, it is acceptable to hold the kittens, but do so only for a short time. Allow them to become accustomed to your scent and to being around humans. The mother cat will be very protective of her kittens for several weeks, so a few minutes per day should be sufficient in establishing the kitten to human bond as well as getting them socialized. Kittens socialize within the first 10-14 days, so spending time with them is important.

Regular vet checks beginning when the kittens are three weeks old is an integral part of having healthy kittens. Kittens will need to be dewormed at least once and probably twice. The "worms" are typically roundworms or pin worms. They are passed to the kitten through the mother's milk. This should be followed two weeks later either by a second dose of medication or a fecal test to insure that all the worms have been killed.

It is important to be attentive to the kitten's behavior, because small kittens can fade very quickly if not treated right away. If a kitten becomes sluggish, quits playing, and sleeps more than usual, then he is probably

sick. He may also quit eating, and this is very dangerous since his liver may then shut down. If you notice that a kitten has quit eating, take the kitten to see your veterinarian as soon as possible.

My best advice if raising kittens is to work with your vet prior to birth to ensure the best care for your kittens. From completely helpless, immobile, deaf and blind to able to see, hear, run, jump and play in just four short weeks is amazing and fun to watch! Have a great time raising your new kittens!



Our Mission

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. 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. 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 a charter majority. Charter team members are: Patti Mynatt, Amy Starkey, Leigh Ann Pennington, Karin Jessen, Sophia Kitts and Tim Ledford.

Making a Difference

Continued from page 4

Over the next five years, the 9C1V Animal Welfare Task Force focused on three areas, humane education, sterilization of companion animals, and animal welfare legislation. The initial charter of 9C1V called for “sun setting” of all working groups under the 9C1V name within five years, but thanks to the support of Dean Blackwell, in 2005 our group was brought under the leadership of the UT Vet School. We continue to work diligently in 2011 as the Companion Animal Initiative of Tennessee (CAIT), <http://www.vet.utk.edu/cait/>. Our mission is to reduce the state’s surplus of homeless cats and dogs by taking a proactive approach and promoting humane education throughout the state, thus improving the lives of all companion animals in Tennessee.



Some CAIT activities are centered on the vet students, exposing them to the problem of pet overpopulation and solutions they can take with them into their communities as practicing vets. CAIT has also developed a Shelter Medicine curriculum to expose vet students to the realities of shelter medicine and the problems faced by homeless and mistreated animals.

Some CAIT activities are centered on our community citizens and companion animals. Through a program called “Feral Fixin”, CAIT sponsors one-day spay/neuter clinics at the UT vet school for feral cats in our community. To date, over 1600 cats have been sterilized through these events. CAIT is also helping the pets of our human homeless population, using a mobile vet clinic to go monthly “under the bridge” in downtown Knoxville to provide care for these pets. During 2010, over 189 animals and 116 owners received services through this program.

The last 11 years of working with this group has helped me gain perspective on how difficult the problem of pet overpopulation really is. When I first got started, I thought it would be easy. I have also come to realize that there are many amazingly dedicated people working very hard to improve the lives of companion animals in our community. Interacting with all these dedicated individuals makes me feel confident that some day we will solve this hard problem and all healthy cats and dogs will have loving homes. I hope it happens in my lifetime.

**Helping Hungry, Hurting
and Homeless Animals**

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