

# PAW TALES



Volume 5, Issue 2 | Winter 2015

## Dear HPAN Supporter,

Now in existence for over 4 years, Helping Paws Animal Network (HPAN) continues to strive to expand financial assistance to fulfill our mission of helping local verified rescue groups with funds for food, shelter, vet services, boarding, and other critical needs for animals that are hungry, hurting, or homeless. In order to effectively meet our mission and serve Anderson and surrounding counties, we rely on the generosity of individuals and businesses for financial support.

This year alone, we were able to help 28 rescues, and many dogs, cats, horses, and even a camel. Many of those animals were placed in loving homes where they are wanted, loved, and will live out their lives returning that love to their forever families. You can see their stories on our blog: [www.helpingpaws37830.wordpress.com](http://www.helpingpaws37830.wordpress.com).

Would you consider making a cash donation? Every contribution makes a difference, regardless of size. Your tax-deductible gift helps us help animals in need. Checks should be made payable to HPAN and sent to our address noted below. Or make a donation online at [www.helpingpawsanimalnetwork.org](http://www.helpingpawsanimalnetwork.org).

We could not do our work without all of you. Everything you are doing is important, makes a difference, and is so appreciated.

Thank you in advance for your support and have a happy holiday season.

Sincerely,

HPAN

Board Officers:  
Janet Kile, President  
Amparo Atencio, Secretary  
Amy Starkey, Treasurer

Board Members:  
Tom Amidon  
Betsy Ellis  
Karin Jessen  
Susan Wells



### THIS MONTH'S ISSUE:

- 2 Sponsored Rescue
- 3 Holiday Toxins
- 4 Summary of Events
- 5 Why we do it
- 5 Thank you Corner



**Helping Hungry, Hurting  
and Homeless Animals**



HPAN is a 501(c)(3) federally exempt charitable organization.  
**Your donations are tax deductible!**  
Our federal tax ID (EIN) is 46-0702089

## HPAN Sponsored Rescue Feature:

# Smoky Mountain Animal Rescue of TN (SMART)

By Vanessa Whiting, SMART Executive Director

You may remember a story that hit the national news back in the spring of 2009. The story was about a pit bull that had been intentionally set on fire in the streets of Baltimore, Maryland. At that time, I was a manager at Baltimore Animal Rescue and Care Shelter, and was notified by Baltimore City Animal Control that a severely burned dog was on its way and to be standing by with a stretcher. I met the A. C. Officer in the docking bay and as she opened the door to back of the truck, I was greeted by the sweetest dog, wagging her tail in spite third degree burns over most of her body. We named her Phoenix, and although many amazing people came together to try to save her, her burns were too severe, which lead to infection. She did not make it. That day, I knew I'd never be the same, and I knew that I would have to be a voice for those who didn't have one.

As I worked for BARCS (a large open door shelter which takes in 12,000 animals per year), it became obvious that some animals were considered not as "adoptable" as others, and they didn't have a great chance: the seniors, the large dogs, and of course, the pit bulls. For many years, I dreamt of a day when I could start my own sanctuary for

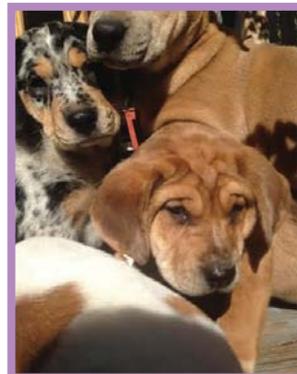
those dogs...the dogs that people tended to overlook.



In 2010, my husband and I relocated to Maryville, where my mother, Shirley Kim, had already been rescuing dogs. Together, we started Smoky Mountain Animal Rescue of Tennessee in hopes of being able to save homeless, abused, and neglected animals in a more official capacity. Our focus has been on seniors and special needs animals. Most of our animals are pulled from open door municipal animal shelters. We provide life-long shelter and care for the animals we take in and are committed to giving them a good life in our homes. They are not kenneled or caged and they have access to large fenced play yards. Currently, we care for over 40 animals, including 2 blind dogs and a diabetic dog, and most of our animals are seniors.



Our most recent rescues were 2 female dogs, Daisy and Sienna, pulled from a hoarder in Morgan County, where there is no Animal Shelter. Emaciated and bloated with parasites, HPAN generously sponsored their vetting once we committed to rescuing them. Once they started putting on some weight, we realized that Daisy was pregnant.



Smoky Mountain Animal Rescue of Tennessee is a 501c3 nonprofit, 100% volunteer, family run sanctuary. We are just a loving family dedicated to helping animals in need.

# Beware of Holiday Toxins for Your Pets

Source: [agrilife.org](http://agrilife.org)

The holidays are a joyous occasion, and often people include pets in festivities. The Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory (TVM-DL) has seen too many cases of pet poisoning related to the holidays.

To keep your pet safe, TVMDL Toxicology Section Head Tam Garland, DVM, PhD, suggests keeping an eye on the following:

## Lethal food combinations:

Maintaining a pet on their normal food is always a good idea. Some foods, such as chocolate, may be poisonous to the pet. Feeding scraps may encourage inappropriate behavior such as begging. Changes in diet, such as table scraps can cause diarrhea or vomiting and thus make a holiday celebration less pleasant for all concerned.



1. **CHOCOLATE** contains theobromine and caffeine, both of which can be toxic to pets; vomiting, diarrhea, heart problems and death can occur if ingested. If your pet should get into chocolates, please call your veterinarian or a veterinary emergency hospital as soon as possible. Be prepared to tell them what your pet weighs, and how much of what type of chocolate the pet ingested.

Baking chocolates and dark chocolates are more dangerous than white chocolate. Some pets can ingest a small amount of chocolate and be fine, other pets may develop vomiting, diarrhea, nervousness, hyperactivity, bloat and possibly death. Chocolates of any kind should not be given to pets. This includes things like chocolate chip cookies, chocolate covered peppermint patties, and other holiday foods and treats.

2. **CAFFEINE** is found in many soft drinks and special holiday drinks, such as sweetened chocolate or coffee. These should not be given to pets.

3. **FRUIT CAKES** may contain rum or other alcohol. Alcohol poisoning is very dangerous to pets, causing a drop in body temperature, blood sugar and blood pressure. Rising bread dough can cause obstruction if ingested. The yeast can also result in alcohol poisoning in pets. Please keep bread dough, fruit cakes, rum raisin cookies and holiday treats of this sort well out of reach of pets. Reminding guests to refrain from sharing human food with your pets is always acceptable.

4. **XYLITOL** is a common ingredient in candy and gum, and other sugarless treats may contain xylitol. Xylitol is extremely toxic to pets, causing liver failure and frequently death.

## Food products used in ornaments:

Homemade ornaments, especially those made of play dough-type material or other salt-based products or food, can be extremely toxic to pets. The salt or play dough ornaments appeal to pets as a tasty treat because of the salt. However, an ingestion of a salt-based ornament can cause an animal's death. Animals ingesting these types of ornaments need to be treated by a veterinarian for salt poisoning.

Pets do not often take a bite out of glass ornaments but it has been known to occur. Pets can step on and break glass ornaments as well. Cuts to the mouth or pads of the foot may be painful and need a veterinarian's attention to remove the glass and close the wound depending upon the severity of the cut.

## Holiday Hazards:

Candles should not be placed where a pet could knock them over. Remember, cats often jump up and knock items off of a shelf or mantle, especially if it is in a location they are accustomed to occupying. A dancing flame can be interesting to felines who have been known to swipe at the flame. Burns may occur but fires may be a bigger danger in the home.

## Plants:

Poinsettia plants and Christmas cactus are often considered the must-have Christmas plants of the season and can cause adverse reactions in pets. Animals that ingest these plants may experience gastric distress, such as vomiting and diarrhea. Generally this is self-limiting. The pet will often overcome this irritation within 24-48 hours. Provide small amounts of water but offer no food

## Holiday Toxins

*Cont. from page 4*

until the vomiting has stopped; this may help settle the stomach. It is always wise to consult your veterinarian anytime your pet has an upset stomach.

Tinsel decorating a Christmas tree or wreath is shiny, lightweight and moves very easily, enticing playful cats. Ingested tinsel can lodge or anchor in the stomach, inhibiting passage through the intestines. It can also wrap around the base of the tongue and cause serious injury and impede the ability to eat or drink. Tinsel can actually cut tissue as the intestines contract. Yarn can behave in a similar fashion. Both tinsel and yarn represent special hazards to felines.

### **Holiday Perfumes:**

Holidays are often filled with guests and the desire to perfume the home. Liquid potpourris may be the choice for the perfume but can contain essential oils and cationic detergents which if consumed can cause chemical burns to the mouth, difficulty breathing, tremors and fever. Dogs may be affected but are not quite as sensitive to these chemicals as cats. Potpourris, whether liquid or dry, should be kept well out of the reach of pets.

Watch for any signs of distress or changes in your pet's behavior during this holiday season. An owner's awareness of possibly harmful decorations and foods is the most effective way to reduce pet toxicity over the holiday.

## Summary of Fall/Winter Events

*Submitted By Amparo Atencio*

HPAN has had a busy fall, and we anticipate the winter season to be as busy. Our networking efforts have run the gamut from setting up displays at a number of fairs and expos, to designing a 2016 calendar, to eating out, and even hosting our first-ever online auction.

The summer ended with our participation at ORAU's **Health and Safety Fair** on August 4. Biscuit, a puppy from the Oak Ridge Animal Shelter, was adopted as a result of her visit to the fair; Amia and Tucker, Karin Jessen's golden retrievers, were highlighted on video to show disabled dogs are able too; and Vickie Caughron and her husband shared information about H.A.B.I.T., Human Animal Bond in Tennessee and brought their former H.A.B.I.T. dog, the gentle Darius. Additionally, HPAN provided refreshments in exchange for a \$1,500.00 corporate donation during ORAU's **United Way Giving Campaign Kick-Off** on August 26, and the **Campaign Close-Out** on September 29.

Animal lovers and supporters made a difference all fall season. Supporters came to the HPAN booth at Grace Lutheran Church's **Pet Fest and Blessing** on October 3; the **Howl-O-Ween Pooch Parade and Pet Expo** at UT Gardens on October 25; (Amia and Tucker made another appearance at the Pooch Parade, dressed up as Super Dogs); and the **ORAU Holiday Craft & Gift Show** on November 18. Also this fall, supporters chowed down at the North Peters Road location of Panera Bread for HPAN's first **Panera Bread Fundraising Night** on October 22, while others baked for the cause during the annual **Halloween Bake Sale** on October 28.

We rang in the holiday season by setting up at the **Jackson Square Fair** on December 5 in celebration of the newly renovated square, and we marched in the **Oak Ridge Christmas Parade** on December 12. As always, we welcomed all supporters and their pooches to stop by our booth and walk with us through the parade route.

Our fundraising creative juices were flowing with the design of our first ever calendar and Facebook online auction. Calendars are available for sale during all our booth appearances and on our website, [www.helpingpawsanimalnetwork.org](http://www.helpingpawsanimalnetwork.org). The **Facebook Auction** was a resounding success, running from November 1-15 and raising more than \$3,000 in that timeframe!

We elected a new Board this year, introducing **Tom Amidon** and **Susan Wells** as our newest members and expressing our sincerest gratitude for the service of outgoing members **Kerri Cox** and **Leigh Ann Pennington**. The Board voted to continue the officer roles for **Janet Kile** as President, **Amy Starkey** as Treasurer, and **Amparo Atencio** as Secretary.

HPAN continues to expand its reach, with increasing numbers of regular supporters utilizing payroll deduction and additional rescues seeking our help. Currently, we have 34 regular supporters, an increase of 6 from last year. We recently added two new sponsored rescues: the John R. Hamil Animal Wellness Foundation and Wayward Plotts.

## Thank You Corner

As always, I want to tell you how thankful we are for the work you do in our community! Your efforts keep our heads above water so that we can continue to help the animals here in our area! THANK YOU FOR THAT!

~ Wendy, East TN Pit Bull Rescue

Thank you SOOOOO much!!! Woo hoo! :)

~ Vanessa, Smoky Mountain Animal Rescue

THANK YOU TO THE MOON!!!

~Carla, Fighting for the Bullys Rescue

Thank YOU!!!!!! Awesome, fantastic!!!

~Darlene, Animal Wellness Foundation

Thank you so much!!

~Hope, Roane County Paws

You are the best! Thank you.

~Jeannie, Friends of Oak Ridge Animal Shelter

Thanks so very much! We got all the sick babies out and I am so happy. AGAIN THANKS.

~Kimmey, Loudon County Friends of Animals

Thank you for all you do for the rescue groups and the shelter. You have made it possible for many more animals to get the help they need.

~Shirley, SARG

Thank you so much! We are so grateful. We really appreciate the help with a special needs senior.

~Linda, Labrador Retriever Rescue of East TN

Thank you so very much! So many cats thank you too!

~Kara, Feral Feline Friends of Knoxville

Thank you so much! We appreciate your help and support for Hank.

~Cindy, Animal Wellness Foundation

Thank you so, so much! This is such a help to our little rescue.

~Lindsay, Wayward Plotts

## Why We Do What We Do

*By Betsy Ellis*

It all started with Bubba, the English Bulldog. In April 2011, he was the latest of a string of companion animals listed on the internal newsline at Oak Ridge Associated Universities needing help finding a forever home. But he also needed bathing, vet care and neutering before he would be ready to go to a rescue or a forever home. The money flowed in as it always did to cover Bubba's vetting. There was money left over that went into the "Bubba Fund." And from that Helping Paws Animal Network (HPAN) was formed.

Bubba's situation isn't unusual. He was a perfect candidate for rescue or adoption. With a bit of vetting he would be ready for a forever home. But many rescues are short on funds to do the vetting. Providing funds to help companion animals struck a chord with the group. So the idea to provide funds to rescues to "help hungry, hurting or homeless animals in need" was born.

We strive to aid local animals that are in dire situations in Anderson County, TN and surrounding counties. We assist verified rescue groups when funding is needed for food, shelter, vet services, boarding, spay and neutering. We pay the veterinarian, the kennel or 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 on our Facebook page.

Bubba found his forever home in May 2011. Since starting the "Bubba fund," HPAN has donated over \$70,000 to animal rescues. Not only have we helped many dogs and cats but also horses and a camel. One of our recent requests for help is typical. Buster and Rascal were abandoned in a rural area and left alone on a property after the owners were evicted. They were found living under the abandoned house. At Risk Intervention (ARI), a rescue in Knox County, took the dogs in and asked HPAN to help cover their vet exams, vaccines, testing, and neuters. We did and now they are rescued, healthy, and loving life!



*All the money that is donated or raised goes straight to helping animals in need. HPAN is a non-profit organization with a 501(c)3 status from the IRS so all donations are tax-deductible.*