



PAW TALES



Volume 2, Issue 1 | Spring 2012

Easter Season and Bunny Rabbits

By Leigh Ann Pennington



THIS MONTH'S ISSUE:

- 2 HPAN Member Profile
- 3 Living with Deer
- 4 Rescue Corner
- 5 IMHA
- 6 Cheyenne
- 8 Mission Statement

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Apr 21 Oak Ridge Flea Market
- Jun 15-16 Secret City Festival
(Tentative)

WHAT'S NEW!!!

In addition to the PayPal secure link on Facebook, donations may now be made via a secure PayPal link on the HPAN blog site. Unlike the link on Facebook, the blog link does not charge usage fees to HPAN. The blog is located at <http://helpingpaws37830.wordpress.com/>.

There is absolutely no reason why I should be writing an article about rabbits. I know almost nothing about them; however, over the last couple of years, Easter season resulted in three "uncomfortable" experiences that made me realize we need to do a better job at protecting these animals.

First, I was listening to the radio one spring day two years ago, a few days before Easter, and I heard a commercial for Cotton-Eyed Joes in West Knoxville. They were advertising their Easter celebration and encouraged families to "come on down" because they were going to be having a drawing for "free" live rabbits. Wow, that seemed like a really bad idea. Would the winner of a rabbit really be prepared to take one home? This seemed very unlikely. And if someone that won a rabbit had the good sense to turn it down, what would happen to the rabbit after that? Seemed no good ending could happen here. I contacted the Tennessee Valley Humane Society in Knoxville immediately, though I anticipated their response. They said there was really not much they could do about this, but I should call Cotton-Eyed Joes and complain, which of course I had already done. The manager at Cotton-Eyed Joes said this had been a very popular event in past years. Please do discourage these types of events if you hear about

them; at least make the call.

Later that same year, I noticed a beautiful black and white rabbit in my backyard. She wandered through and into a few other backyards. Something seemed funny to me about this picture, but it really did not occur to me what had happened until a "rabbit-savvy" neighbor spotted the bunny. She quickly informed me that someone had most likely let their Easter bunny "free." And of course, she informed me that this bunny had no chance of survival on her own. Fortunately, my neighbor was able to charm the bunny and transport her to the Young Williams Animal Center. What a happy ending for this bunny, but I was totally shocked to learn from other "rabbit-savvy" people that this is a very common practice. We all see our share of wild rabbits, but if you see a rabbit that looks too pretty to be outside in your yard, it probably should not be there. Please do take action to



Continued on pg. 7



REMEMBER TO KEEP YOUR PET CURRENT
ON HEARTWORM PREVENTATIVE!

www.facebook.com/HelpingPawsAnimalNetwork

HPAN Charter Member Profile: Patti Mynatt

When I adopted Jake in 2002, I had no idea that I was changing my life in such a valuable and incredible way. Before Jake, I liked dogs in concept but I was mostly a bit scared of them. The only exceptions were our family dog, Dusty who passed away in 1993 and Arthur, a dachshund who decided that you liked him all on his own. You really didn't have a say in the matter.

Jake was 7 weeks old when I brought him home, and 7 ½ lbs. Adopt-a-Pet said my gentle giant was a terrier mix who wouldn't get to be more than 35lb. Ha! My 80lb Irish Wolfhound Terrier mix is not a little guy. He's my best friend.



I brought my Maisy home from Nashville Animal Control in January of 2005. She was abandoned in a parking lot and rescued by a lady with three Malamutes who couldn't keep her. Animal Control said that she is a miniature poodle mix but every time she meets someone, I am told that she is this or she is that. She's been everything from a Shih Tzu, to a Yorkie Poo, to a Bichon Frise. To me, she is just Maisy OK.



Maisy was almost not a part of my family. I really like big dogs and didn't really want a small dog like my 15 lb girl. However, I kept going back to the original email from the rescuer (who found me on a Golden-doodle site, of all places) and looking at Maisy again and again. I knew if I didn't bring her home, her time in this life was limited. Then I saw a friend's (Kimberlee) Oneida poster. It had two puppies looking up and the caption was: "Some things you decide with your heart." Then I just knew. I had to bring her home. If you ever come to my home, I have that vintage ad from Oneida in my foyer. Maisy OK really stands for Maisy Oneida Kimberlee.

A few months later in 2005, I started working with dogs more extensively, specifically with HALT (Humans and Animals Learning Together). See the website at <http://www.vet.utk.edu/halt/mission.shtml/> for more information. It is an incredible program that selects five dogs from Young Williams Animal Center, matches them with teens at risk and for two times a week for six weeks, the teens and the dogs work together. The teens are each training their dogs basic commands, such as sit, down, stay, heel, and even some agility. There are three groups of boys or girls, so the dogs receive six lessons each week from three separate teens, and six opportunities to show affection to these kids. The dogs also have weekend adoption events and most are adopted by the time the program is over each season (there are two classes each year – one in the spring and one in the fall). They cannot go to their new homes until after graduation.

If they are not adopted, they return to Young Williams Animal Center but with a special privilege of being safe from euthanasia and with a HALT dog certificate. Being a HALT dog means that they have been socialized, had some training, been vaccinated, altered and temperament tested. They are usually adopted in the end, often by an adult volunteer from the class. This picture is of Marmaduke during an adoption event. Duke was a big puppy/baby and he was adopted after that class was over.

The kids chosen for this program receive time away from a stressful environment in a country setting with easy training for them and for their dog. They are not allowed to adopt the dogs, as they



live in group homes and/or are not in situations that would be dog friendly. What the teens do take away is a sense of responsibility to their dog, an experience of unconditional canine love and a sense of success in having helped their dog. They also learn about the cost of care, possible jobs working with animals and responsibility for pets.

Working with HALT opened doors me to learn about animal rescue and to venture out to start doing my own rescue. Before helping to form the Helping Paws Animal Network, I had rescued Tabitha, a sweet but malnourished and starving cat with a mouth cancer. Tabitha went to live with a lady who rescues cats as her passion, and Tabby made it another year and grew healthy and happy before the cancer took her. She knew she was loved.



Sam was a dog from the Fayetteville, GA animal control who could have been Jake's Corsican brother. They look so much alike, except Sam was reed thin and he could hide behind a fire pole. I brought Sam home in 2004. Unfortunately Jake was not tolerant of another dog in the house at that time, so I had to work with Great Dane Rescue to find Sam a new home and I got to do a home visit, meet people and make sure that Sam found an incredible forever home with Aaron and Emily Smartt. I camped out a PetSmart with the rescue group at an event and it was there that Sam met his forever family. I miss him still but the joy is knowing that he is happy.

Before Jake, I would never have considered any of this and what a loss to me it would have been. The joy of helping an animal in need is immeasurable.

Joey Blue Eyes was the one helping my need when he came to me in September 2008 during a stressful family time. My mother and my nephew were both deathly ill and no one in my family really knew what to do. I brought Joey home and he helped me focus outside the trauma. Joey is a pure bred mutt. I know both his parents and they are pure bred mutts too. They are the most loveable mutts ever: Dodger and Icey. I have joked that their Hollywood name is Dicey. Bringing Joey home at 5 ½ weeks and 5 lbs was the easiest transition ever and with that, my house was complete. Everyone made it through that fall and I ended up with my very own pack at home. Cesar Milan, watch out! I have fostered other dogs and loved them (Sam, Annabelle, Otto) but Jake, Joey, and Maisy are my family and I am oh-so blessed.



When I came to ORISE in September 2010, finding other dog lovers in rescue was such a blessing. God Bless HPAN!!

I appreciate that while fostering is not available for everyone, donating \$1 or \$100 is one way to make a difference to one animal's life in a huge way. It only takes a small amount from a lot of individual people to save one animal. Thank you from Mikey, Soldier, LT, Mr. Rumbles, Hobbes, Molly, Tripp, Dodger, Willow, Buddy Love, Bubba, Oscar, Lucky, Yankee, Maxine, Sadie, Mayfield, Annabelle, Sammi, Diesel...the list continues....

Living with Deer

By Karin Jessen

In 2004, my husband and I moved to Loudon and have 10 acres of woods. Most of the families have acreage, allowing wildlife lots of places to take up residence and still be somewhat removed from humans. We have coon, opossums, snakes, rabbits and many other critters that roam the area where we live.

Our biggest concern is being a deer nursery. For three summers, we had fawns born in our woods, so we have to make sure the dogs leave the fawns alone. This is about a 6-8 week process...until the fawns are old enough to jump the fence. One of my dogs interrupted a deer having her baby. My dog got kicked in the head, which meant another trip to the emergency vet on a Saturday night. Fortunately, all animals involved were fine.

Twice we have found deer that have had their foot caught in the fence...and they are hanging by their foot with two front legs on the ground. Both times, we have been fortunate to free their foot and they have bounded off.



Continued on pg. 5

Rescue Corner: Mikey the Meek Becomes Mikey the Miracle

By Patti Mynatt

Early February 2012: Mikey had a rough life. He was starved, neglected and in fights with the other resident dog over road kill that had been tossed over the fence to them. His owners left them to fend for themselves, without food or water and Mikey was at the point of not fighting back anymore. Mikey was basically being eaten by the other dog and had terrifying head injuries.

Melissa White, from MAD Dog rescue (Making a Difference Dog Rescue)* rescued Mikey from this horrible situation. Someone reported the situation to Melissa and she was able to talk the owner to surrendering Mikey to her. This picture only shows part of his injuries; there are worse pictures of this poor boy that are too graphic to post. HPAN helped pay for his vet bills, and a gracious HPAN member donated on his own as well to help pay for care for this precious boy. He was in Anderson County Hospital for quite a long time healing. The other dog is still in the home and animal control is monitoring the owners.



3/19/2012: Mikey is now doing great and has been a bit of a star with some local teens and adults. Mikey is such a happy boy now and has a little trouble going very far from his food bowl, since living his life before with very little food. He is overjoyed to have food on a regular basis now.

Mikey is out of the hospital. We're not sure if he's in foster care or has found a forever family, but one thing's for sure – Mikey is well cared for and loved.

The picture of him below with the teens was taken at Clinton High school with the BARK club. This club was formed to promote awareness about animal cruelty and raise funds regularly to help abused or neglected pets. They also donated to help cover Mikey's vet bills, a very amazing group of kids.



*MAD Dog Rescue is one of HPAN's primary sponsored rescues.

Take Good Care of Your Pets



Fleas, Ticks & Mosquitoes will be out in force this year. Please remember to keep your pets current on Heartworm Preventative!



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

IMHA - A Deadly Disease

By Amy Starkey

In late October 2009, HPAN member, Amy Starkey, noticed that Thor, her then nine year old English Setter, seemed lethargic and thinner than usual. He had just returned from a week long hunting trip to the Wisconsin woods. "I figured he was fatigued from the hunt and the long trip back to Tennessee, but after several days I knew something was wrong." After taking him to the vet, Amy learned that Thor was a little anemic, so a round of antibiotics was prescribed. After a couple of weeks, Thor seemed to perk up. "We figured he picked up a bug on his trip and was all better." Not long afterward, Thor started going downhill again, and in addition to the lethargy, he became wobbly and would often collapse. "At that point, I decided to take him to another vet."



Three days after Christmas, a myriad of tests proved that Thor had Immune Mediated Hemolytic Anemia (IMHA). IMHA is a condition where the patient's immune system begins attacking his own red blood cells. Thor had a 50/50 chance of making it; most dogs die within a week. There are many theories on what causes IMHA. "In Thor's case, we missed one month of tick preventative and he was bitten by a tick carrying Ehrlichia and Lyme Disease; we think that's what triggered his illness."

Thor was kept in critical care for a few days while he received medication, prescription food, and lots of vitamins. However, during the next five days, Thor continued to go downhill. His packed cell volume (PCV) count dropped to levels that the machine couldn't even read "Thor had dropped to 35 lbs. and wasn't eating well, so his vet encouraged me to take him home where he could be most comfortable, telling us that he may not live through the night. She taught me how to prepare homemade foods that would be good for him and instructed me on how and when to administer all his drugs. She also made me promise to keep him inside and warm. Because Thor's blood showed the ability to regenerate red cells, I had hope that he might pull through. I just couldn't put him down at that point."

After several days of cooking up boiled chicken and beef, rice and potatoes, Thor began to show a little more life. "We followed his doctor's orders precisely, giving him his medicine exactly on schedule. At that point, he was on steroids, chemotherapy, antibiotics, and aspirin. The only noticeable side effects were swelling and hair loss. His poor feet were totally bald, and his remaining hair turned very coarse."

In Amy's research on IMHA, she ran across a holistic remedy for the disease - blue-green algae, marketed as BioPreparation. Thor's doctor agreed that he had nothing to lose, so she said to go for it. Within two weeks of taking the algae, Thor's PCV increased dramatically. "I couldn't believe the difference! I had found a miracle remedy! We were able to reduce Thor's chemo over the next few weeks and stop his antibiotics. We tried weaning him off the steroids, but his PCV began to drop again, and has since been on a very low maintenance dose."

Continued on pg. 6

Living with Deer

Continued from page 3

Unfortunately, not all deer are so lucky. A young deer tried to jump the fence, but crashed into it. Since she could not move we took her to the UT Vet School. She died on the way. I have seen deer hit by cars and stopped to help, but some have died while I was sitting there. One young deer got hit and I could tell he had no use of his back legs. I put him in my car and took him to my vet. Unfortunately, he died on the way to the vet.

When researching the best way to help/or not to help wildlife, the protocol is to let nature take its course. Although I generally agree with this, it is hard to not help. I would rather take a deer to the vet and let the vet euthanize if necessary. Deer and all wildlife can carry diseases and parasites that are transmittable to the humans and domestic animals. So transporting a wild animal can have serious consequences.

Thor's progression has been slow but sure over the last two years, and he still has to have monthly blood checks. "It has definitely been a commitment to put this much effort into taking care of Thor, and it has been very costly, but we did what we could. I guess he'll never be IMHA-free, but he's happy and he doesn't know there is anything wrong with him. He just knows that he gets an algae capsule three times a day wrapped up in a treat."

Amy's take-away lesson in all this is to NEVER miss a dose of Frontline Plus. "Remembering one monthly dose would have saved us thousands of dollars over the last two years, and would have kept Thor from being sick. I'll never let that happen again." Amy is quick to share Thor's story with other pet owners. Both dogs and cats can be subject to IMHA. Google IMHA for more information on this deadly disease.

Cat Behaviors

Submitted By Patti Mynatt

If my ears are flattened, I am either annoyed or frightened. Twitching them backward and forward usually means that I am either anxious or worried about whatever I hear or am looking at. Another way you can tell something worries me is if I flick my tongue once or twice around my lips.

If I am laying down with my eyes closed, but with my tail flicking slightly at the tip, I am really awake and spying on you. I can keep it up all day. Eyes wide shut.

If my back is arched high, and my ears flattened, I will scratch whatever I can reach, if you doubt that, look into my hugely dilated eyes, all the better to see you with. My slightly open mouthed snarl, all the better to bite you with, so get out of my way!!

Slinking low to the ground means I am frightened, or I'm stalking something. I may even press right down to the ground, my fur will stand up, and my ears may be pinned back. Cute Eh! Gotta love me.

Rubbing up against your legs with a little hop and a purr means hello, I love you. Pay attention to me.

The basic cat sounds are purring, meows and hisses.

Cats can readily vary these sounds, thus seeming to talk. A cat meeting with another cat can emit more than fifty different sounds for communication which vary in tone from harsh to acute. A cat forms words that assume a precise meaning for other cats.

Cats have a sweet sound, the Purr, which it uses to express joy, momentary well being and affection for its owner. It is a musical sound repeated at length when the cat is happy. Purring also occurs in cats that are injured and in pain. When a male cat holds his tail bent forward towards his head, he is proclaiming to all the world that he is King of the Street! He stands there lashing his tail back and forth showing how angry and tough he is standing in the driveway.

Flicking the tip of my tail means that I am excited about something, like that mouse wire moving under the desk.

Moving my tail quietly from side to side means that I am in a happy and possibly teasingly playful mood.

One quick flick of my tail means hello to you, with the same greeting used for my closest cool cat friends.

When I rub my chin over everything in the house, including you, O' Great Food Dispenser, you'll be happy to note that I am telling you that:

IT IS ALL MINE !!! INCLUDING YOU !!!

Do we remember cruelty?

The knowledge attained by a cat by means of observation or trial and error is retained for its whole life. According to the research work done at University of Michigan and the Department of Animal Behavior at the American Museum of Natural History in the USA, the memory of cats is about two hundred times more than that of dogs. The memory of cats is found to be more than Monkeys and Chimpanzees. Like human beings, cats have both long term and short term memory.

From: <http://rulingcatsanddogs.com>

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 or on our blog 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.

Helping Hungry, Hurting and Homeless Animals

Bunny Rabbits

Continued from page 1

assist in rescuing this poor creature; perhaps start by calling your local humane society, animal control officer, or even better a friend or neighbor that knows about rabbits.

Finally, last year, on the Friday before Easter, I was in the Pet Supplies Plus store on Kingston Pike in West Knoxville. As I brought my kitty litter to the checkout, I was totally shocked to see the number of rabbits crammed into a small glass cage. These bunnies were three deep in some cases, without one inch of open ground in that cage. I immediately called the manager of the store over and complained about their environment. At least three other shoppers agreed with me and asked the manager to provide more space for them. She indicated she had no other housing available for them, but "don't worry, by the end of the day tomorrow they will all be sold." Was this supposed to make me feel better? It did not. I so wish supply and demand economics would work here. We know the supply of rabbits is unlimited, so the only way to eliminate this impulse buying is to reduce the demand for Easter bunnies. This article is my attempt, in a very small way, to do just that. Please do speak up if you see this situation in a store; you will be amazed how others will support you.

Now, if you are truly interested in making a rabbit your family pet, it can be very rewarding. My college roommate had a pet rabbit in her family for 10 years by the time she was in college. I never got a chance to meet her beloved pet rabbit in person, since he lived in Chicago and we were in Knoxville at that time, but I truly enjoyed pictures and stories about him. It is very interesting to learn about how engaging a pet rabbit can be. She convinced me that rabbits can make great pets in the right situation.

Thanks to the Internet, there are so many easy-to-find resources about pet rabbits. Kellye Sliger, who does know about having rabbits as pets, pointed me to a great web site at: <http://www.petfinder.com/before-pet-adoption/rabbits-as-pets.html>. The national House Rabbit Society has a comprehensive web site for potential owners at www.rabbit.org.

Finally, a neat campaign a few years ago was launched to educate people about the issue of "Easter Bunnies." This campaign is called Make Mine Chocolate, <http://make-minechocolate.org/>. This site has a great interactive tool to help a family decide if they should bring a rabbit into their family.



Thanks for reading my bunny tales. With six cats, I don't think I will be adopting a bunny anytime soon-just no place for another litter box in my house. But if you are thinking about adopting a bunny, please do your homework first, and secondly, please adopt from a local shelter or reputable bunny rescue. No need for Pet Supplies Plus to sell bunnies at all; their name implies they sell pet supplies, not pets.