



Tails of Hope
...a different kind of rescue

The latest and greatest news from Tails of Hope...

Paw Prints

Winter, 2024

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Dear Friends,

With just a few days left in 2024, we wanted to take a look back at the past year. Once again, we dove into fairs and festivals, setting up our merchandise booth at 17 over the course of the year, several of which were two-day events.

We went on two [Shelter Runs](#), one right here in Maryland in the Spring and one in Virginia and North Carolina in the Fall, purchasing food and supplies in the amount of \$17,000.

We held our annual Bake Sale in March, Give a Dog a Dollar in September, and our [8th Annual Holiday Auction](#) in November, raising a total of over \$18,000 combined.

We applied for and received grants from Fetch, Athletes for Animals, and [Two Mauds](#), for a total of \$7,000.

We received many donations from individual supporters and regular donations via our [12 x 12 program](#).

We provided funding for the spay / neuter of 950+ animals at a total cost of over \$85,000.

It hasn't been the easiest year for us, having dealt with weather and volunteer injury issues that greatly affected the income we raise from events. It seems the odds were stacked against us many times, but, with your love and support, we persevered. We're taking a tiny hiatus in January to regroup, but we're coming back VERY soon with a fierce resolve to make 2025 better than 2024. Not for us, but for the animals in the communities we serve.

When we're tired, frustrated, and feel like giving up, they keep us going. But so do all of you! Thank you for being there for Tails of Hope, always...

Kelly and Sue



Until one has loved an animal, a part of one's soul remains unawakened. —Anatole France

ToH Spotlight: Adoptable Dog, Gracie Lou

We thought it would be cool to switch up our ToH Spotlight to feature some awesome adoptable animals we know. Gracie Lou has been waiting for her forever home for, well...FOREVER! She is SO deserving and we know the perfect home is just around the corner. Could it be yours? Read more above Gracie's story, in the words of her incredible foster mom:

Meet Gracie Lou! Part miniature hippo, part couch potato, but all perfection! She is looking for her special someone to call her very own. Before I share her adoption information, I want to share her story.

Gracie Lou has had a pretty hard life - she spent her first five or so years on a chain in West Virginia enduring summer and winter without any of life's luxuries - actually without anything. Not much is known about these years but I'm sure she endured sweltering heat, rain, freezing cold, bugs, boredom, and little food or water. She clearly had many babies during this time - making her life that much harder.

During a storm, as the river she was chained next to rose, a hero saved her and brought her to a local outdoor shelter. Her story started to turn around from there but, because of her breed and probably her age, she was overlooked over and over by rescues for more than a year. She was destined to become a permanent resident.

My family met Gracie Lou while volunteering on a Tails of Hope volunteer trip. When I first met her, she walked up and gave her sweet greeting, a sniff and a handful of licks. We connected and my family wanted to help, but the timing wasn't right because we had recently adopted our third dog.



Fast forward through the winter. She was still at the rescue in the spring and we kept following her story, hoping someone would reach out for her. We decided we didn't want to wait any more for the right time and we offered to foster her to see if we could give her a chance. That was a year and a half ago.

Gracie had clearly never been in a house, had never been on a leash, and probably never walked more than a few feet from where she was chained. She didn't even have calluses on her paws (we can proudly say she has these now!!) She was (and still is) terrified of thunder and hates rain, a really sad fact when you know her past.

She loves unconditionally though and has adapted quite well to living with us. She is my almost constant companion and sits with me while I work each day. In the evening, I get to spend time with my dogs. It's not the perfect life for Gracie or my dogs and she needs someone to call her own that she doesn't have to share (my little

(Continued on page 3)

ToH Spotlight, cont...

monsters bark constantly at her!!). I can't even imagine how much I will miss her when some lucky person adopts her.

Gracie Lou's info:

- Gracie is completely house trained and doesn't require much effort. She's very happy to just be near you or to look out her window and watch the world!
- Despite the life she had, she loves and trusts so unconditionally. She is happy to be in the room with you and rolls immediately on her back for tummy rubs the minute she gets your attention. She is easy to be around and is just happy to have you as part of her life.
- Gracie is happy to go for a 1-2 mile walk or to run around your fenced yard - she gallops like a little hippo!! If you are going for a car ride, she will jump right in and navigate!
- She is very food motivated and has learned to sit. She's so smart and we are sure with someone's time she could learn so much more!
- Gracie loves toys and is so excited to have a new toy with a fresh squeaker!!!
- She is good on a leash but does get excited when she sees other dogs - she may need some help calming her excitement.
- She would also like to have her person close by, she spent too much of her life alone already.
- She would be best as an only dog (or should meet any potential doggy siblings) and should not have kitty siblings.
- She is up to date on shots, spayed, and housebroken.

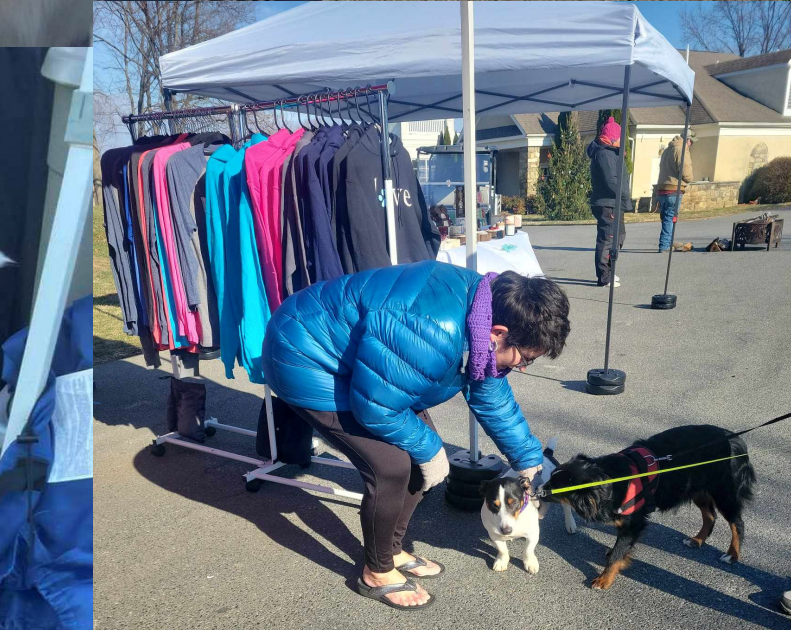


If you are interested in Gracie Lou, please [FILL OUT AN APPLICATION](#).





Recent Tott Events In
Photo Review



12 x 12 Giving

With a new year upon us, will you consider joining our 12 x 12 program, where you sign up to donate \$12 a month for 12 months? We have a core group of donors who have been 12 x 12 members for years now, and we'd love to add some more to the ranks. This program helps us with regular income to support our mission.



For less than \$.40 a day, you can help Tails of Hope continue to provide spay and neuter and shelter funding in areas where it's needed most. A \$12 monthly donation could be as easy as giving up a fancy coffee drink once or twice a month or taking a bag lunch to work. But those little changes in your life make a huge difference in the lives of animals in need.

Our current spay and neuter expenses run anywhere from \$5-9K per month; you can imagine how quickly that adds up and how much your donation could help. Knowing we have that monthly income to depend on means the world to us.

If you're ready to join the 12 x 12 ranks, please visit our [WEBPAGE](#). We would be SO grateful!

Fall Shelter Run

On Friday, November 8, Tails of Hope board members Kelly Gillis, Sue Hempen, Shannon Karcher, and Wendy Mannarino headed down to the Henry County Animal Shelter in Martinsville, VA to take a cargo van and SUV full of food and supplies that YOUR donations purchased.



Their post of gratitude read: ***"We want to thank Tails of Hope for spending the last several months collecting donations for us and then driving 4 hours to get them to us! It truly takes a village. None of us could do what we do, alone. For that, we are so thankful for you and your support! The 4 legged babies say thank you!"***



After unloading the van there, we trekked on to our next destination in Spruce Pine, NC, to visit the Mitchell County Animals Rescue, whose community was devastated by Hurricane Helene. Along the way, we stopped at 4 different Tractor Supplies to restock for the second shelter.

Fall Shelter Run, cont.

With the help of an incredibly generous donation of \$7,000 from the [National Humane Education Society](#), we were able to purchase a large number of igloo dog houses for the shelter to distribute to the community, for folks who are still displaced from their homes (of which, sadly, there are many).



We were also able to provide them with a monetary donation to use for their ever-changing needs. While we were there, a woman came to pick up a dog house for a family in need. We filled their community storage locker with much-needed pet food, livestock food, litter, and more.



Their thank you read: ***"Huge THANK YOU to Tails of Hope and the National Humane Education Society for the amazing donations today. The animals and people of our community thank you!!"***

We are SO incredibly grateful to all of you and the NHES for making this possible. We wish you all could be there with us so you could see firsthand what a difference your generosity makes.





These are just a few of the furry faces YOUR donations helped us spay / neuter during November & December. Almost 75 animals, to the tune of \$6500, will no longer contribute to the pet overpopulation problem.





According to a new study, U.S. veterinarians performed 2.7 million fewer spay and neuter surgeries in 2020 and 2021, due to the COVID pandemic. This will have far-reaching consequences for the overpopulation issue; we have a LOT of catching up to do!



Holiday Auction—That's a Wrap!

After months of legwork, one week of bidding, and over 300 items, we're happy to report that our 8th Annual Online Auction was a success! While we didn't reach our \$15K goal, we did raise over \$11,000 for our mission.



Please take a moment to check out our [Auction Donors](#), who donated some really amazing items, and consider patronizing their business.

Thanks too to everyone who placed bids, and all of the Tails of Hope "Elves" who worked so hard behind the scenes!

If you didn't have a chance to bid, you can still make a donation to the Auction that will count towards our bottom line. Just visit our [Auction Page](#) and click on the "Donate" button in the top righthand corner.

Tails of Hope Receives Grant

We are thrilled to report that we applied for and received a \$5,000 grant from [Two Mauds](#), to be used for spay and neuter funding in Appalachia. This will cover our spay and neuter mission for about a month, and was a much-needed addition to our fundraising efforts this year.

TWO MAUDS



Two Mauds, Inc. is the inspiration of Dallas Pratt, 1914 - 1994. Dr. Pratt had an accomplished career in psychiatry, including 5 years in the military. He was known as a progressive in the field of mental health in the 50's & 60's and displayed a compassionate spirit to anyone he felt was misjudged. He extended this compassion to animals and was a staunch believer in the human-animal bond. This philosophy led him to author two books in the 1980's on the subject of animal experimentation. Again, Dallas was ahead of his time and was perhaps the first highly credible voice against biomedical research in the modern animal rights movement.

Dallas established the Two Mauds foundation shortly before his death. It is named for his beloved childhood governess, Maud Duke and his first Scottie terrier. Dallas was very precise and specific in that he wanted the foundation to support innovative programs that directly prevent or alleviate the suffering of animals and that are carried out by smaller organizations.

This is the second grant we've received from Two Mauds, and we're very grateful for their continued support. They recognize the incredible need for this service in Appalachia and they're eager to support smaller organizations like us.



Bark-cuterie & Char-cat-urie Fundraiser

February 14, 2025

Spring Shelter Run

TBD

March, 2025

ToH Bake Sale

Mt. Airy MD

April 5, 2025, 9:00am-3:00pm

Crofton Festival on the Green

Crofton, MD

April 26, 2025, 10:00am-3:00pm

Towson Spring Festival

Towson, MD

May 3-4, 2025

Contact Us



Tails of Hope

www.tails-of-hope.org

Facebook

Instagram

X

suetailsofhope@gmail.com

kellytailsofhope@gmail.com