Happy Tails: Charlotte

Charlotte, a stray dog in rural North Carolina, was found on the side of the road, hit by a car, suffering a broken femur. In shock and great pain, she was taken to a local vet by animal control. Without funds for life-saving surgery, she would be euthanized. Upon learning of her plight, Tails of Hope immediately donated $500 to her care. She had surgery that same day.

That night, while she was recovering, Charlotte began vomiting profusely and was clearly very ill. It was learned that she had what appeared to be a large bone lodged in her abdomen. The diagnosis was that she would again require emergency surgery or she would die. Tails of Hope stepped in again, donating an additional $200 to her care. When the surgeon opened her stomach, they found not only a bone, but leaves, grass, plastic bags, and an assortment of garbage. It was clear this poor girl had been on her own for some time.

After a long recovery, Charlotte is now in a loving foster home, where she continues to heal from her physical and emotions wounds. Her foster mom describes her as “a smart, energetic, fun-loving girl!” Much love from ToH, Miss Charlotte!
Good Old Tails

Prior to changing the mission of Tails of Hope in April, 2015, Megan Snyder was our fearless director, helping countless animals out of shelters in loving homes. She branched out to start her own group, Good Old Tails, who focuses on the often-overlooked but always wonderful senior pet population. We wanted to share her story and her amazing group with all of you!

Tell us about the mission of Good Old Tails.
Our mission is to save senior animals who have been abandoned in shelters. Even if we can only give them a real home for a short time, we believe that their last days should be filled with love and that they should be allowed to pass on with dignity in the company of someone who truly cares for them.

What inspired you to want to start the organization?
I had been involved in rescue for years, doing all ages and breeds but mostly kittens and young dogs. On the occasions that I took in an older animal, I always felt like I had made a true save—the 17-year-old beagle that was scheduled to be euthanized, the 12-year-old-shepherd who curled up in the back of her kennel and wouldn’t look at anyone; everyone who was passed by because they were “less desirable”. They always found a home, either with an adopter or with me, and the love and appreciation they showed me just warmed my heart. Tired old souls who just wanted to be with their family again, but who didn’t always have the strength to survive the shelter setting and find a new home. They needed a place to go and I had a place, so I decided to shift my focus to just seniors.

Did you run into any obstacles along the way and if so, how did you overcome them?
Rescue is full of obstacles! The biggest one with senior rescue is that many of the animals we take in do not get adopted, so we are limited in how many we can save. We’re always looking for new foster homes (like all rescues!) but really we’ve just had to make peace with doing as much as we can. You never feel like you’re doing enough, because there is always a need to do more. But getting the word out there and showing people what great pets these old timers make is worth the effort, even if they end up adopting elsewhere.

What kind of feedback have you gotten about what you’re doing in the community?
Very positive! People have a lot of sympathy for senior animals, and have been generous in donating to our more "needy" fosters. Expenses always outweigh income but the support is very much appreciated. We don't do this for fame and fortune, but having someone thank you for what you do makes the job a little easier.

Tell us about some of the animals under the care of GoT. Are there any particularly special animals you’d like to tell us about? Norma is probably our most well-known foster. She is a 14-year-old shepherd mix who was scheduled for euthanasia at a shelter in Virginia. Even after we committed to taking her, they thought she might be better off being put to sleep. I’m so glad we decided to give her a chance! She didn’t need anything other than good food and some joint supplements and she’s in great shape. She is very affectionate and loves meeting new people. GoT and Norma are both very thankful to Tails of Hope for springing her from the shelter!

Tipsy (aka Batman) is a hospice case we took in almost a year ago. He and his brother were teenage cats abandoned in an
Good Old Tails, continued...

(Continued from page 2)

Dave

apartment complex. Tootsie (Batman’s brother) was in great health and was too handsome to go unnoticed, and got adopted a few months ago. But Batman isn’t as strong and has some medical issues so he’ll be spending his remaining days with me. He is by far the friendliest cat I’ve ever met, greeting all new foster cats and the occasional dog who slips into the room. He has no teeth but eats all the canned food he can get. Someone had a really great friend and just left him to die, but Batman would forgive them if he saw them again. He’s just happy to BE.

Dave has also been with us almost a year. He isn’t a senior, he’s only about 5 or 6 years old. I saw him on a shelter’s site and they had him listed as geriatric, blind due to age. Perfect! Imagine my surprise when the little ball of muscle jumped off the transport van! Dave is a great snuggler but he has more energy than all the other fosters combined. He loves to play tug and can even fetch indoors where he can hear the ball moving. I don’t think he knows he’s blind and he certainly doesn’t care about running into things. I’m not sure why he’s still with us but I’d love to find him a real home with a family of his own, maybe with some rowdy kids to play with. He deserves all the love and fun!

Crimpy is a handsome, laid-back cat who we pulled from a shelter in Baltimore. He was found as a stray; someone put him outside to fend for himself even though he’s front declawed. He needs medication for irritable bowel disease but other than that is in perfect health; I wonder if his family threw him out because they didn’t want to deal with his "medical issues"? He takes his cheap little pill in a pill pocket every day, he’s easier to take care of than most kids I know. He just wants a home with a family who thinks he’s worth that small effort. Crimpy was adopted but returned when his parents realized he’d need his medication indefinitely—they didn’t think they could commit to the daily task even though they claimed to "love him so much". He’s been bounced around so much and has been so sweet and strong through it all. We need his last move to be his last!

Any upcoming events for GoT?
Because we’re such a small group we mostly stick to local events, and usually participate in the National Adoption Weekends at the Hanover, PA PetSmart. But if you want to meet any of our pets just send an email—we’ll work something out!

Got Old Tails is filling a huge gap in the rescue world by providing a loving place for seniors to crash either until they are adopted or for the remainder of their days. If you’d like to learn more about this very worthwhile organization or any of the animals in their care, please visit their website at http://www.goodoldtails.org/.

Many thanks to Megan for her dedication to this segment of the animal population, and her love and care for animals in general!
Tails of Hope Pooch Picnic in Photo Review!
Tails of Hope Pooch Picnic in Photo Review, cont...
Pet Smarts!

Each of the clues below represents a common dog or cat idiom. The clues are synonyms for the actual idiom (so, the answer to the clue, “Kitty Robber” would be “Cat Burglar”).

Answers, left.

1. There is precipitation comprised of felines and canines
2. Warring in a similar manner to that of kitties and fidos
3. What is the cost of that pup behind the glass?
4. That person’s yap is more repellent than his chomp
5. Yelping in a vertical direction towards the incorrect sapling
6. Inquisitiveness murdered the feline
7. 24-hour canine period belonging to the season that ends on September 21
8. Pup and small horse exhibition
9. Each canine is in possession of a 24-hour period belonging to him
10. Feline in possession of your lingual muscle?
11. Allow slumbering hounds to remain in a prone position
12. The hindmost part is moving the mutt from side-to-side
13. Release the kitten from the sack
14. Puss ’N Boots atop a scorching metal canopy
15. Any time the kitten’s mother is not in the residence, the rodents engage in hijinks
16. One is unable to educate man’s senior best friend in state-of-the-art gimmicks
17. The locks of the pooch that nipped myself
18. The feline that ingested the song bird
19. That resembles an item that the kitty brought in against its will
20. There are multiple procedures to tend to the epidermis of a kitty

Answers:

1. It’s raining cats and dogs
2. Fighting like cats and dogs
3. How much is that doggie in the window?
4. One’s bark is worse than his bite
5. Barking up the wrong tree
6. Curiosity killed the cat
7. Dog days of summer
8. Dog and pony show
9. Every dog has his day
10. Can you get your language?
11. Let sleeping dogs lie
12. The tail wagging the dog
13. The tail wagging the dog that bit me
14. Cat on a hot tin roof
15. The cat that swallowed the canary
16. Cat got your tongue?
17. When the cat’s away, the mice will play
18. The cat that swallowed the canary
19. Looks like something the cat dragged in
20. There’s more than one way to skin a cat
Going Cruelty-Free

It’s hard to believe in this day and age, but many companies still test on animals, a barbaric, unnecessary practice. Here are some things you can do to combat such cruelty:

1. When making sure the products you are using are cruelty-free, consider more than just cosmetics. Bath, hygiene, baby, hair, cleaning, home fragrance, dish, and laundry products can all be potentially tested on animals.

2. Look for the Leaping Bunny symbol, right, on products, which is an assurance that the product you are purchasing has not been tested on animals.

3. Leaping Bunny has a list of cruelty-free companies HERE.

4. Easier yet, you can download a free APP that allows you to scan the barcode of an item while shopping, to determine if it has been tested on animals.

5. Shopping at online sites such as crueltyfreeconsumer.com, vitacost.com/cruelty-free, whiterabbitbeauty.com or drugstore.com/crueltyfree, will allow you to be sure you’re buying products that are Leaping Bunny-certified. And, BONUS, a percentage of the purchase price will be donated to the Coalition for Consumer Information on Cosmetics (CCIC), who compiles the lists of cruelty-free products and companies.

6. Just learned that a favorite product is testing on animals? It’s happened to us all, and boy, is it a big letdown. You can ask the company who manufactures the product to go cruelty-free. Download a sample letter to use HERE.

Thankfully, there are so many wonderful companies out there who never test on animals, and whose products are amazing! Here are a few of our favorites:

Kelly’s Picks
Aubrey Organics—B5 Design Gel
Burt’s Bees—Lemon Butter Cuticle Cream
Madison Reed—Hair color
Method—Gel Hand Wash, Juicy Pear
Mrs. Meyers—Basil Everyday Cleaner
Wen—Six-Thirteen Cleanser

Sue’s Picks
Kiss My Face—Coconut Milk Bar Soap
Method—Landry Detergent
Mrs. Meyers—Hand and Dish Soap
Seventh Generation—Disinfecting Wipes
Tom’s of Maine—toothpaste
Yes To—Facial Wipes

Share some of your favorites with us and with family and friends—we’re always on the lookout for new products that are just as kind to animals as they are to us!
A Second Chance at Life!

A large part of Tails of Hope’s mission is to provide medical sponsorship to shelter animals in need. Shelter resources are quite limited, and animals who are ill or injured are often euthanized because there are no funds to provide for their care. We firmly believe that these animals deserve a second chance at life, and want to be there to help the ones who need it the most. Here are just a few of the animals for whom we’ve provided medical assistance over the past few months.

We couldn’t fulfill this part of our mission without your support. While some of the images are hard to look at, we feel it’s important to share their stories. To read more about some of the animals we’ve helped or to make a donation to our current TLC fundraiser, please click HERE. We need to keep replenishing the coffers in order to continue helping these precious souls.
Dear Friends,

As we approach the holiday season, particularly Thanksgiving, we are again reminded that Tails of Hope is truly blessed. The moral, financial, and emotional support we continue to receive is so humbling.

So many folks and businesses stepped up to help us with our Shoes for Shelters Drive, most notably Target, who donated several thousand pairs of shoes to us, making this a very successful drive indeed. We have finished collecting for this year, and are so pleased and proud to announce that we have collected a whopping 5,000 pairs of shoes! Special thanks to Shannon Karcher, Dosha LaRosa, Aneisha Persaud, and Bonnie Rubin for spending a Sunday afternoon with us bagging many of those shoes in preparation for pick up!

Tails of Hope was also once again blessed to be a beneficiary of the Martin Klaiber Memorial Gold Tournament on September 26. The very generous donation we’ve received from the tournament will be instrumental in allowing us to continue the medical sponsorship and spay and neuter part of our mission. From the organizer and founder, Stephanie Klaiber, to the sponsors, volunteers, and players, you have our most heartfelt thanks!

We got to celebrate with lots of Tails of Hope folks and their pups at the First Annual Tails of Hope Picnic on October 15 (see photo spread elsewhere in this issue). What a wonderful validation of our mission! Seeing all of those well-loved dogs who would have otherwise been statistics was so heartwarming and meeting all of their people made our day! We hope to grow this event each year—if you weren’t able to attend, we hope you can make it next year!

When we start to feel down and overwhelmed by the sheer number of animals in need, you’re there to encourage us. You cheer us on, and you share our posts, our joy, our excitement, and our defeats. The saying “It takes a village” is especially true in the world of animal rescue and advocacy, and we are proud to have each one of you as a part of our village.

We wish you and your family (furry and human!) many blessings and much happiness during the holiday season and throughout the year!

Warmly,

Kelly and Sue

Brave Dogs

Brin, a mixed breed dog, was found in 2010 starving and wandering alone in Afghanistan. British soldiers took him into their base near Helmand. When the dog showed a particular knack for sniffing out danger, they brought him along on patrol.

While on one of these rounds, Brin took to a road near Lashkar Gah and suddenly started barking. He reportedly alerted two soldiers to a hidden bomb that could have killed them. Soon after, Brin was captured by the Taliban during a raid, but was once again rescued by British soldiers.

After a campaign to get him out of the war-torn country succeeded, Brin was shipped to England, where he was adopted. "Brin has been through so much, but this never stopped him being loyal, loving, and brave," his new person said.

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