



HPPL News

PO Box 273027 Houston, TX 77277 713.862.PETS <http://www.hppl.org>

Homeless Pet Placement League Spring/Summer Newsletter

William the Wonder Dog

Who knows what causes people to take a breed of dog and misuse it? After time, everyone starts to believe the tales of terror. People turn in fear, but lucky for this dog, someone's heart overcame the myths. For on one afternoon, on the side of a road, sat two dogs, one brown and one white. Both were emaciated, but no one stopped to help. The brown dog's back leg was bleeding badly and he was having trouble walking; the other dog had the indentation of a belt strap on her back, but no one stopped to help. Finally, a man pulled his car over and approached the two dogs who were only too glad to see a friendly face.

Both dogs were clearly pit bulls, but they needed help. Without any hesitation, when they were called, the dogs immediately came over and into the car they went. A trip to the local veterinarian determined that antibiotics should help with the wound which had been cleaned and treated. At home, came the bath and a comfy bed. Oh yes, and food and oh, how fast the



William during recovery

food disappeared.

Within the next week, the fosters searched high and low for help, but pit bulls are often not well received. Then HPPL came to their attention and, yes, William, as he was now known, went right in for his next vet visit. This medical evaluation indicated a bad flea infestation along with a severe case of heartworms. The trauma to the leg seemed to have come from an unknown source, but the leg would also have to be monitored for any further treatment. And so the work began on this boy who everyone agreed had a certain charisma to him. He charmed all the people whom he interacted with. This boy was the guy who could dispel all the myths.

William got his shots, was altered and was set up for heartworm treatment. Sadly, at the time he began to recover from this treatment, his leg infection reappeared making him run a high fever and become weak and lethargic. Again, the wound was flushed and stronger antibiotics begun. In spite of the good care, the

wound would not heal. With one more medical assessment came the determination that surgery was now in the cards...possibly even amputation. The infection was clearly resistant and once the leg was opened up, it became clear that the body was trying to absorb the damaged bone but could not. So the lower part of the bone was removed with no ill effects. With one more course of antibiotics and some "cosmetic" surgery to stretch the skin over the wounded area, William was on the road to recovery.



William pleading for a new home

He smiles all the time and is eager to please. He has learned all the good manners a guy needs, but what he is still lacking is a home where he can be the best buddy anyone ever wanted. Sweetness is his most appealing trait. No one knows where he came from or why he was hurt. But, what we do know is that he is a dog who escaped misery and now

is ready for a first-class life. (P.S. The white dog, assumed to be William's sister, is already adopted.)

A Work In Progress

JoJo and a puppy buddy were found on the side of a busy road scrounging for any food scraps they could find. Both dogs were quite thin and JoJo couldn't put any weight on his back left leg. The woman, who saw them, pulled her car over, took out some dog food and they both came running! No trouble for these two guys to jump in the back seat. So, off they went to a safe new place called a foster home. The puppy was taken to the vet, medical work was



JoJo waiting for his medical work

completed and he was adopted two weeks later, but JoJo had lots of issues. Diagnosed with mange and heartworms, he has a long recovery road ahead of him. The veterinarian said his leg had been broken but had healed (with no medical care) and is now two inches shorter than the other one. His gait is funny but does not slow him down from getting food or love. Right now, the prognosis on the leg is still forthcoming; amputation is possible. But

this sweet pup is very outgoing, happy and almost ready to reward a new family with kisses and tail wags!

HPPL Membership

YES! I want to Help

I want to become a member of HPPL, and have checked my membership gift below.

\$1000 Sponsor \$100 Associate \$25 Basic Membership
 \$500 Patron \$50 Affiliate Other \$ _____

I am already a member and I would like to make an additional donation of \$ _____

I want to mail monthly gifts. Send me designated envelopes.

I want to make automatic monthly gifts with my credit card (MC or VISA)

Check Mastercard Visa Account # _____ CVV# _____ Expires _____

Name _____ Telephone _____

Address _____ Apartment/Suite _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-Mail _____

HPPL is a non-profit, charitable organization. Donations are tax-deductible.

Send to: Homeless Pet Placement League ♦ P.O. Box 273027 ♦ Houston, TX 77277

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HPPL Mission includes:

- 1) Rehabilitate and foster care of stray and abandoned dogs and cats with placement into qualified permanent homes;
- 2) the spay/neuter of pets belonging to owners unable to assume the cost of surgery;
- 3) humane education to increase the public's compassion for animals in order to prevent future animal suffering and neglect; and
- 4) support to other animal welfare organizations.

It's Easy to Help Animals

Anyone can help us help the animals. Take a look at all the options for you to support HPPL's mission without too much time or effort.

Donation jars can go into any business. Obviously, the best place is at your veterinary clinic. By keeping the jar at the front desk, it's easy for folks to put in a donation. What's more they are fun to make and decorate with animals' pictures and the HPPL mission statement.

Tributes make people feel special and help the animals too. What a great way to memorialize or honor a furry friend or help a human celebrate a special occasion. All of the tribute donations that HPPL receives are acknowledged and then posted on our website.



You can join our **foster parent program** in one of two ways; first of all, step up and offer a dog or cat a temporary place to stay while awaiting adoption. The months ahead are always our busiest time with many calls for help. OR, if you can't take in a pet, how about supporting our animals with a contribution that helps provide quality care or defrays the costs of boarding animals without a foster home.

Everyone grocery shops. And if you use the **Kroger Share Card or the Randall's card**, HPPL benefits directly. Both companies generously donate to HPPL based on the amount of money spent each quarter. So if you don't have either or both of these cards, contact us so we can set you up, and the dogs and cats can benefit.

If you have just a little spare time, how about **signing up to receive volunteer updates**. HPPL has lots of events

that need plenty of hands; if you get our email updates, then you might find yourself at a festival, dog or cat show, or doing all sorts of fun things.

How about **receiving the HPPL newsletter** on line? You could save us the cost of postage, and we will put those spare funds toward medical work for our foster animals. Just go to the website www.hppl.org and look on the homepage for the sign up.

Animals touch everyone's heart and we actually have a **Heartwarmer's Club**. This is an opportunity to make a monthly donation of a fixed amount to sponsor some of our medical work for the dogs and cats. We can set you up



with a way to get this in to us or how about a direct deduction from your account. We guarantee your heart will feel good.

Join Us on the Red Carpet Hollywood Style Featuring Felines and Canines in Film



★ Entertainment

Limited appearance by Myra Logan, a pet communicator from 7:00PM — 8:00PM!

Dr. Charles Dove is a lecturer of film and art history at Rice University as well as the Rice Cinema Director.

Jim Burwell — one of the nation's most established and esteemed behaviorist and trainer of Petiquette

Radar, the Weather Dog, will be present for pictures and autographs.

Sharon McClung — Photographer

Grace Givens — singer and actress

Dawn Greenfield Ireland — award-winning writer and author of "The Puppy Baby Book"

TJ Fu — master origami artists and his colleague Sandy Atha

Caricatures by Texas Tim

Cocktails, Dinner, Auctions plus exciting special guest speakers, entertainment and activities all benefiting the Homeless Pet Placement League! Visit www.HPPL.org.

HPPL Gala — May 9th

Houston City Club

9 Greenway Plaza

Houston, TX 77048

Red carpet rolled out at 7:00PM

I would like to purchase:

- Table for 10 for \$850 — Preferred seating
- Table for 10 for \$1,000 — Premiere table
- Table for 10 for \$2,000 — Nominee's table
- Table for 10 for \$5,000 — Awards table
- Individual ticket(s) \$75 (\$80 at the door)

★ Payment: Check Mastercard Visa (see below for web option)
Card # _____ Exp. _____
Name: _____
Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____
Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

★ Payment options: Mail this form with payment to the address below or pay online at www.hppl.org/MayParty.aspx
Homeless Pet Placement League P.O. Box 273027 Houston, TX 77277 (713) 862-7387. For more information please call our office or visit our website www.hppl.org. The fair market value of a ticket is approximately \$50.00 per person. All other contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Many, many thanks to Avant Garden for hosting the Volunteer Appreciation Party. We also are grateful for the delicious party trays from Prego, The Defenestration Unit, Kroger's and Randall's. We appreciate all of you, especially our volunteers!

March 29-30, 2008 World Cat Congress (Show)
George R. Brown Convention Center – Exhibit Hall D
HPPL will steward the rings and have an information booth along with cats available for adoption. Check www.hppl.org for more information and volunteer opportunities.



April 19-20, 2008 International Festival "Out of Africa" www.ifest.org
HPPL will have an information booth and we need volunteers to staff it. Check www.hppl.org for details.



May 1, 2008 Mildred's Umbrella Theatre Company presents
Naomi Wallace's *One Flea Spare*
Midtown Arts Center 3414 LaBranch at Holman
Plan to attend as all proceeds from the May 1 performance go to HPPL. More details at www.hppl.org

May 9, 2008 "Join us on the Red Carpet-Hollywood Style" Featuring Felines and Canines in Film.

Houston City Club — Celebrate our four legged friends with guest speakers, entertainment, a silent auction and dinner. Many volunteers are needed to make this happen, so check www.hppl.org for more information.

Month of June Kick off event June 7, 2008 Posh Paws' Cause
Cantoni Furniture 9889 Westheimer, Houston 77042 www.cantoni.com
This month is filled with activities, events and dog adoptions each Saturday.
The gala will be held the last week of June. Email hpplvolunteering@gmail.com to help out.



June 21, 2008 Bow Wow Meow Luau
Hollywood Frame Gallery 5 – 9 PM
Jim Tweedy will have an original art piece available for a prize drawing along with food and drinks.



Clockwise from above: Bear, Phoebe, Rocket & Flash

We are the kennel crew: Billy, Phoebe, Bear, Flash and Rocket. Sure it's great being safe off the streets, and we can't tell you how fantastic our caretakers at our kennels are, but come on, it's just not a home. We are here for a variety of reasons and we have been here for varying amounts of time, but the bottom line is We Want OUT! A foster home would be a good start. We could acclimate to being "sprung." Then, be still our hearts, we could have somebody say, "Be mine!" and off we would go to our permanent homes. Sofas and beds definitely have it all over a cage. So do us a big favor and think about fostering or adopting us or spreading the news that we are really, really ready to walk (well, the cats prefer carriers!) out of here. Check us out at www.hppl.org and learn more about our personalities and see how adorable we all are. If we aren't available (yeah!) then ask about another animal who could use your help.

Happy Endings

We love to hear from you about our adopted animals; won't you send us a note and picture too?



Thomas helping out

I just wanted to give you a quick update on Thomas. As you can tell, by the attached picture, he's made himself right at home! He had a vet visit back in the fall as well, and the vet said he was one of the healthiest cats she had seen in a while - so that was great news. We just love him and he's such a part of our family now - every day we just say what a great kitty he is!

Sincerely, Katherine and Josh

Cleo is doing very well now. She is having a great time with the grandson and various other family members. Thank you for your help. It made all the difference. She is fitting in really well, and we are so happy to have her as a member of our family. Sincerely, Jule, John and Kyle



Cleo smiling about her new home



Ellie May on adoption day

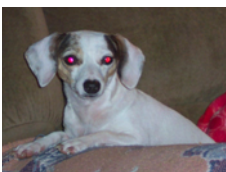
Everything is going really well with our new dog. Ellie May (Now Maddie) likes her new name a lot and comes when called. I walk both Maddie and Kelsey 4 or 5 times a day and she is starting to learn the proper leash walking although this will take some time because there are so many things to smell in the park! They both love to play tag and wrestle (A little rough at first but now very puppy friendly). They fall asleep beside each other after they tire of playing. Kelsey sleeps next to our bed and Maddie sleeps on the couch at night. Kelsey is definitely happier (less bored I think), and Maddie is so sweet that she fits right in. We are so very glad to have her here. Thanks again for all you do and pass that along to the rest of the adoption site volunteers. Sincerely, Phil

After losing our two beloved aged cats within one year and spending months of grieving and missing the pitter patter of little paws, we searched Petfinder and found a HPPL kitty named Friskers. His description as a major lap cat was just what we were looking for. At the adoption site, he was a big bundle of fur and it was love at first sight! Friskers has been a wonderful addition to our family. He is very affectionate and runs back and forth from both of us to get his love. But he still seemed lonely, so we adopted another kitty and it was love at first sight for them too. They have been inseparable ever since. Friskers is quite a character, and we cannot imagine what our life would be like without him. Thank you, HPPL, for bringing Friskers into our lives and for the great work you do in finding homes for homeless pets.

Sincerely, Caroline and Jose



Friskers and his buddy



Tinkerbelle relaxing

Life is good for me now. I have parents who think I am entertaining, loving, playful, and devoted. I sleep under the covers and have plenty of food, treats and toys. Since finding my new home, I have developed a vocabulary too ("ride", "walk", "shop", and my personal favorite "treat"). I have made camping trips as well as going to the beach. I'm a lucky dog! Sincerely, Tinkerbelle (and Linda and Jim)

When I viewed the HPPL website, the caption for Elmo was "Can I be a part of everything you do?" That is absolutely the case! When we finally settle down at night to watch TV, he cannot wait to be in one of our laps or right beside us on the bed. We suspected that Elmo did not like to be left alone for long and when we would go out of town overnight, upon our return, we would find small toy mice bitten in half and left strategically all over the house. As a result, we decided to take Elmo with us. If he was with us, we could stay longer and not worry about our Elmo. He travels in a carrier where he can stand up and look out the window but after a couple of meows, he settles right down and prefers to listen to Blues music. Now, he is quite the traveler, and he (and us) couldn't be happier! Sincerely, Jerrie



Elmo's got the good life

And here is a note from a foster parent who also knows about a happy ending!

HPPL, I am very glad I found you; you are a great organization and very well managed! I am very impressed and I can't say how much praise you all deserve for what you do. In the future, I would love to help out anyway I can. Keep in touch and I wish you all the luck every weekend! Warm regards, Jacob



Homeless Pet Placement
League, Inc.
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Houston, TX 77277
www.hppl.org

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MASCOT MESSAGE

As most of you know, I am a very social guy. You may have seen me at various HPPL functions (my new picture is at the volunteer recognition event), and if you haven't met me, come on to the May party or any of the other upcoming fun activities (check the HPPL calendar). I try never to miss a party! But, what you might not realize is that when I first joined my family, as a young pup, I had separation anxiety. I know you are probably shocked because I look like the perfect dog (of course, I am NOW!).

People know that separation anxiety is a big time serious behavioral problem and is a huge reason for folks to give up their dogs. What happens is a dog gets really anx-

ious when separated from the person(s) they are bonded to. Mostly, it occurs when folks go away from home, but sometimes it is so bad, it happens when the person goes to another room. I was one of those guys who chewed and scratched a lot. Mom said I shouldn't mention everything I tore up, but let me tell you it was not pretty! Some dogs even jump through windows because their anxiety level goes so high. Then, when the loved one returns, the trouble stops.

There's a theory that dogs that may have missed out on

routine social interaction early in their lives may be the ones that are the most upset. That's like me (and a lot of rescue dogs) because we didn't really have a good



COLBYE PARTYING

start with doting humans. Sadly, some people think we are bad dogs, so they scold us and punish us, but usually this just makes the problem worse. My family was great about my problem. Mom talked to the vet and found out some things to do

to help me. For me, spending time in a comfy crate and having a "sister" (she told me I better mention her!) helped reassure me. But some cases are more

difficult, so it even takes medication to bring the anxiety level down. Another possibility is behavior modification and exercises. Intense physical activities such as long walks (you can use a doggie back pack to make us work a little harder) or agility tasks are two of the best. Dogs also like mental stimulation with command training. All of these solutions are ones that take a committed amount of time and energy from the dog's family members.

Yes, this issue is one that makes people really frustrated, but if folks focus on remedies rather than the troubles, separation anxiety can be overcome. Aren't I the perfect example?