



HPPL Newsletter

PO Box 273027 Houston, TX 77277 713.862.PETS

Homeless Pet Placement League Fall/Winter Newsletter, <http://www.hppl.org>

A Community of Caring

His eyes were bright as he stared at the woman with a look that said, "I just know you will help me get through this." If ever there was a puppy that could fight for his health, Herman was it. And this guy had plenty to fight. At first, he clearly had mange and needed some good nutrition since he was so thin. Both easy fixes so the rescuer thought as she began quality food and dips, but after a short period of time, he looked pathetic and felt worse. Almost no hair, horribly infected wounds on the skin, distorted features and he couldn't breathe... each breath was an effort. No more going it alone, this pup needed expert treatment and HPPL's veterinarians always give that.

Upon examination, the veterinarian laid out a plan that would take quite a long time to get him well, but she assured everyone that Herman would triumph. Poor fellow had a double whammy of being out on the street with poor nutrition and lots of infections and also bad genes that caused his nasal passages to be too narrow, thus the difficulty breathing. Herman has some genetic heritage from not only the pug breed, with its mashed in face and too-short nose, but also from something else that gave him even more of a distorted (although very cute!) face and nose. But his spirit was there, so the process be-

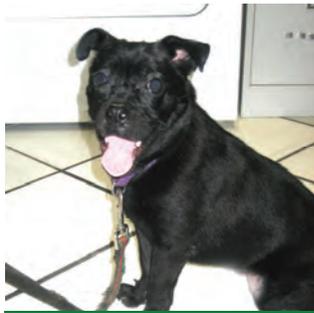
gan with special mange dips every two weeks until he passed two negative skin scrapes and several different medicines on a set schedule to help attack the infections and reduce his nasal swelling. Unfortunately, he would feel worse after the dips. But, as soon as possible, he would have his neutering, and at the same time, the veterinarian would do a special laser surgery on his nasal passages to allow him to breathe better.



Herman fighting Mange

It has taken time, but look at Herman now! Beautiful black fur all

over his happy little body dancing around when he gets attention from anyone! He breathes like a regular dog and has lots of energy and playfulness. His eyes shine like little stars and he can win you over with just one glance. It was a tough few months, and along the way, another problem surfaced: he has a weakness in his feet, also genetic, so he can never become overweight.



Herman Today

And after starving, of course, he now loves to eat, so his new family must keep him well exercised. Yes, he still is a bit funny looking, but it's a good funny making everyone smile.

Obviously, it takes a community of care to help a dog like Herman. Each piece of the puzzle is important: the foster parent, the program manager, the veterinarian and the people who donate to underwrite the extensive medical care. Now, the final piece to make the puzzle complete is Herman's forever home!

EVENTS

Please join us for some upcoming events to help the animals! We are still working on details but log on to the website www.hppl.org and you will find the latest information.

✦ Ten Thousand Village Shopping Night is **Friday, December 11 (6 – 8 PM)** and HPPL receives part of the proceeds.

✦ Border's Books Holiday Gift Wrapping on Kirby Blvd. is **Saturday, December 12 and Sunday, December 20.** HPPL receives all the "tips."



✦ Santa Photos at South Shepherd PETCO **Saturday, December 5 (11 AM – 4 PM)** and Bay Area Blvd. PETsMart (TBA). Come be "Santa" or a "Helper" so HPPL receives part of the picture's cost.

✦ Houston Cat Club's Charity Cat Show is **Saturday, January 9 and Sunday, January 10** at George R. Brown. HPPL staffs a booth as well as helps steward rings. It is fun and it's a great fundraiser.

HPPL's GOOD WORK

January 1–October 25, 2009

Intake: 199 animals

Major Medical: 30 (includes treatment of heartworms, distemper, pneumonia; surgical biopsies, and orthopedic procedures, laser surgery)

Adoptions: 195 animals

HPPL SPONSORSHIP

Please take a moment and either fill out the form below and send in or "go green" on the website www.hppl.org and click on the Network for Good icon. Let's help HPPL move into another year of providing stray animals a second chance.

I have checked my gift below.

\$25 \$50 \$75 \$100 \$250 \$500 Other \$ _____

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

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

Mastercard Visa Account # _____ CVV# _____ Expires _____



Name _____ Telephone _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Apt/Suite # _____ 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

GOING GREEN—Part of HPPL's goal for its twentieth year is to GO GREEN. You can help us by providing us with your email address. Just log on to the website and sign up via the homepage. You will then receive our monthly eNewsletters so you know what is going on with the animals and the events.

HAPPY ENDINGS

Fezzik (formerly Mini Me) — I just wanted to write and give you an update on how Fezzik (named after the giant in the movie *The Princess Bride*) is settling in. He's doing really well; his favorite places to sleep are still the window sill and kitty bed in our office, but he's getting quite comfortable with the rest of the apartment now,

too, and comes out to play and explore when we're home. He also seems to like Amelie (his "sister"), even though she has not quite warmed up to him yet. It gets a little better every day, though (she's watching him bat a mouse around right now), and while it's possible they'll never be best friends, I think they're fine occupying the same space and sharing us.

Thank you, Anne and Andrew

Bonnie — Bonnie (AKA Boo Boo) is doing great. She and my two cats get along so well. She loves the dog park in Clear Lake and the beach in Galveston. Here are pictures of her ready for her adventures.

Thanks, Jonathan



Sabrina...was the cover dog of the summer newsletter

Sabrina had many months of recovery and lots of medical work, but this picture makes it all worthwhile. After the newsletter article, she also went to Texas A&M for evaluation on her leg and spent several weeks in a splint. Then it was time for that new home. Looks like she is going to get plenty of love and attention as her new mom writes: All is wonderful. Sabrina has settled in well. She's sleeping on a big pillow the kids and I found for her. We've taken a

lot of walks together, all kids and all dogs. It's been great family time and has allowed for bonding for everyone. She loves to be petted and there are plenty of hands to do just that. She spends the evenings in the kitchen keeping me company. And she seems to really like our Sunday morning tradition where dogs get a small piece of cheese while breakfast is cooked. The other dogs like her very much. She is so peaceful and gentle that the little dog has taken to her right away and tries to engage her in doggy play. She's not quite sure how to do that yet, but I suspect she'll figure it out. We love her very much and are very excited to welcome her to the family. This is a wonderful organization that takes such good care of animals in need.

Very Kind Regards, Kasey and kids

The Power of One! — Annie Velasco is eleven, and she decided to organize a silent auction, bake sale and raffle for her friends and community members. Then she would donate the money raised to two organizations close to her heart. Since Annie's grandmother

died of heart disease and she loves pets, she designated her funds to the American Heart Association and HPPL (which she researched on line!) This incredible young lady raised over \$1,600 and in August brought HPPL its share. Annie says, "I hope I can continue to fundraise in the future." HPPL is so proud to know "Awesome Annie" as she is a testament to what just one person can do. The animals thank you, Annie!

