



HPPL Newsletter

P.O. Box 273027 • Houston, TX 77277 • 713.862.PETS • www.hppl.org

Homeless Pet Placement League Fall/Winter 2011 Newsletter



How Does it Happen?

HPPL rarely knows the answer to this question, but what we do know is that with friends like you, we can provide the solution to the problem.

How did a small, friendly kitten end up needing a leg amputation? One morning, a woman heard a tiny cry; she knew at once that it was a kitten's plea for help. Wandering around her yard, she finally spied the orange boy. When she called to him, he managed to drag himself over and look at her—the hope for help in his eyes. Being a long-time HPPL rescuer, she immediately called and asked if this guy could see our veterinarian. It was clear there was serious damage to the right rear leg, and he was pretty wobbly with the three good legs. A day later, purring all the while, x-rays taken, Liam was being scheduled for surgery. The leg was unusable, damaged beyond repair neurologically. In fact, the clinic staff laughed as the kitten played with a ball in his cage but put the “bad” leg out through the bars as if to say, “You can have it!”

In 24 hours, it was removed. Healing the broken pelvis would come from limited activity and bed rest. Liam found his foster home a place of TLC, good food, and careful monitoring—thankfully—since four days after surgery, another obstacle arose. Liam was struck with fever and lethargy, indicating some infection. The clinic staff was glad to tend to this sweetie, but he wasn't too thrilled with the flushing of the wound and the injections. Pills, ointments, and no fun for days is just not a prescription a kitten wants to hear. And much to his dismay, at his next check up, there came more medicine and a new “cone”. What's a guy to do? Well, Liam decided he would just need to play in his bed and meow until foster mom would pick him up and pet him. In no time, he was healing and introduced to other kitties. As he was allowed a bit more activity, he learned balance and began to do the bunny hop. After three weeks, stitches came out; two weeks later, the x-rays showed the pelvis was healed. Like most kittens his age, Liam is now running, climbing, growing, and living life to the fullest, waiting for his “fur”ever home.



How did an adorable puppy end up almost hairless with pus and blood draining from the wounds covering her body? The woman who found her was shocked at what she saw on the side of the street. This little girl had a thin rope tied around her neck, but she had probably pulled it loose and gotten away from the place where she was tethered. Rushing this kid to an ER clinic, the woman was dismayed when she was told that the mange was so bad and so contagious that the best thing to do would be to euthanize this puppy. However, being a former HPPL adopter, the woman knew who to call.

Yes, HPPL's vet had the answer. Proper medication for both the mange and infections and quarantine from other animals would make Melissa as good as new. This life would be simple to save! In just a month, this sad girl turned into a happy, playful little lady. She no longer had the “smell” of infection and the scratching soon stopped. The fur came in slowly at first, and then a beautiful coat emerged. Her foster parent says Melissa comes up, puts her

head on her knee and looks up; who can say “no” to a pet then! In spite of her difficult start in life, she is gentle (loves other dogs and cats) and tries hard to please. Surely, her loving, permanent home is just around the corner. None of us know Liam's or Melissa's background, but we do what it took to save them and get them ready for a new life. **Their medical rehabilitation was costly, but worth it; listen to a kitten's purr and look into those sweet puppy eyes and you'll know it's true.**



TRIBUTES



In Memory of Pets

Jake • from Ken Sanders & Rick Renshaw
Diego • from Nancy Davidson
Colbye • from Debby Ryan

In Honor of Pets

Boots • from Suzanne St. Michael
Gyan • from Gail Wellenkamp

In Memory of People

Olga Gerukos • from Norma Richardson
Herb Asel • from Norma Richardson
Charles Jackson • from Norma Richardson



In Memoriam: Colbye, HPPL Mascot

Recently, Colbye's incredible life came to a quiet and peaceful ending. And you know, what a life it was! He was a fighter, overcoming every obstacle put in his path. From the moment he was enrolled in HPPL, a puppy with parvo, through his years dealing with diabetes and the ultimate loss of his eyesight, Colbye never lost his gentle spirit, his affectionate nature, or his flair for fun. The expectations for a long life were slim, but Colbye outlasted every prediction. And in that time, he forced everyone who knew him to smile when he was around, and he taught us all that in spite of physical limitations, a life filled with love is all a guy needs. Colbye served as the mascot for HPPL and was always excited to be at an event. Tail wagging, appropriately costumed, and ready for hugs, he showed people what HPPL stands for as he

represented the rescue community well. No matter where he was, everyone took the chance to reach out and pet his soft fur and oftentimes, receive a doggie kiss in return. And Colbye was not above taking a treat from them either! The loss of HPPL's beloved friend opens up the mascot position. If you have a candidate for this spot, visit www.hppl.org/hpplmascot.pdf for criteria and an application. (Deadline for submission is January 31, 2012.) Colbye's time with us was not long enough, but his presence will always be right beside us. Rest well, dear guy.

HPPL Happy Endings



Welcome Home Tara!

Hi HPPL,
I just wanted to share a picture of my new baby, my Tara (formerly Bonzai). She has to be one of the BEST kitties in the whole wide world. I just love her to pieces! She is so gentle and loves to cuddle. No issues with the dog either. I just wanted to thank you for saving her. I will take great care of her always. Best, Kellie



Welcome Home Bonny!

Dear HPPL,
Bonny's been in our home for almost two months, and we couldn't be happier. She was nervous at first, so we tried to make sure she had a safe place in her kennel and got plenty of exercise and love. She's really getting used to

going on walks and loves to meet up with other dogs. She's adjusted so well, and seems to be really comfortable with the house and our two cats. She will even let the little girl cat sleep in her bed with her! Our family has really melded together so well. We couldn't be happier with her and we're so glad she's treating this place like her home, because it definitely is. It's so cute to see her little face there when we come home. Regards, Sara and Gabriel

Ways to Help

Visit www.hppl.org for more information:

Holiday Pet Photos: Santa photos are fun for both pets and volunteers. If you are interested in taking photos, acting as Santa, or assisting throughout the month of December, let us know.

Book Wrapping: HPPL likes to make the season merry by wrapping gifts at local bookstores. We provide the materials, so just bring a smile and a little wrapping talent.

Volunteering: At a moment's notice, HPPL receives invitations to festivals and public events. If you enjoy being out and about, sharing our mission, sign up to volunteer and we will contact you.

Book Drive: Need to unload books, CDs, DVDs and VHS tapes? Our book drive continues through the next several months. Pick up is available, so let us take these items off your hands.

HPPL's Been Busy

January 1 - October 31, 2011

Intake: 185 animals • Major Medical Procedures: 38

Adoptions: 192 • Free Alterings: 159

HPPL SPONSORSHIP

Please take a moment to either complete and mail this form or "go green" by visiting www.hppl.org and clicking on the "Network for Good" icon. Let's help HPPL move into another year of providing stray animals a second chance.

- \$25 Basic Membership
- \$50
- \$75
- \$100
- \$250
- \$500
- Other \$_____

- I am a current member making an additional donation of \$_____.
- I want to mail monthly gifts. Please send designated envelopes.
- I want to make automatic monthly gifts with my credit card:

MC VISA Account # _____
CVV# _____ EXP _____

Name _____ Phone# _____

Address _____ Apt/Suite# _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-Mail _____

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