

# HPPL News



Fall/Winter2008

## What We Do

**T**here was no movement, only whimpers. It was really hard to tell if the dog was alive or not. Matted, mangled, malnourished, and muddy, the appearance of the dog did little to help the rescuer know if the pup would even make the trip to the vet. Thankfully, he did and was immediately taken in for evaluation.

Since he was in so much pain, the doctor sedated the dog to examine him. The findings were unbelievable! Xrays showed the source of the excruciating pain; both his left leg and his pelvis were broken. He likely had been hit by a car to cause that much damage. So, two major surgeries were in order to correct those injuries. Next, the heartworm test showed a strong positive result; that meant, when he recovered from his orthopedic work, he would have to undergo the long and strenuous heartworm treatment. This poor guy was in for an extended rehabilitation, but at this point, no one knew how long!

Before surgery could even be performed, Christopher had to be shaved down. The fur was so matted to the skin that there was no way for any of it to be saved. He was filthy and full of fleas so losing the already nasty coat was a plus for him. But with that came the discovery of sarcoptic mange. The bloody red splotches were from the dog's clawing at himself to eliminate the itching. So after the surgeries, before the heartworm injections, he would be treated for mange. Finally, the protocol seemed set.

Christopher came through the surgery fine but still had to be sedated initially so his pin could set and his mending begin. After a week, he could start to stand and walk nervously and tentatively, but walk he did.



Christopher after surgery

For obvious reasons, Christopher was shy and apprehensive when people came to him. In his mind, it was one more poke or prod or stick. He began to draw into himself. Just add in those nasty dips (oh yes, by now, ringworm was diagnosed too!) and no one blamed Christopher for his "attitude."

At last, the time arrived for the heartworm treatment. Christopher had gained a lot of strength and fur, but he was not gaining confidence. Sadly, he struggled with the next part of his healing. His lungs began to retain fluid and he started to go down hill. But HPPL is fortunate to have veterinarians who are quite experienced with rescued animals, and so this too was turned around. At the end of three months, Christopher could be neutered and go to a foster home.

The last challenge is becoming a dog. After all of the stress of being in a hospital for so many months, Christopher had developed a lot of fears: he would need an experienced foster to help him along. His outer beauty had been restored but the inner beauty had to come out. To everyone's delight, a very savvy dog "mom" stepped up. She has spent countless hours working

with Christopher and the veterinarian so that this dog can turn into the fellow that we all want him to be. Each day is a step forward toward finding that special forever home.

We don't have to tell you how many people it has taken and how many dollars have been needed to give Christopher his chance. If you want to help HPPL with what we were founded to do, go to the web site [www.hppl.org](http://www.hppl.org) and

you can make a donation to underwrite Christopher's massive bill. Had he not been saved that day by one of us, his story would have been much shorter and sadder. 🐾



Christopher today



## The Tribute Fund

The Tribute Fund of HPPL can be used to honor living persons and pets or to memorialize those who have passed on, while donating to help animals in distress. After receiving your tribute donation, an appropriate card of acknowledgment will be sent to the person you indicate and your remembrance will be posted on our website. 🐾

## HPPL Information

### The HPPL Mission

The HPPL mission includes:

- (1) the rehabilitation 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.

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**Thank You**  
for helping  
homeless  
cats and dogs

## Happy Endings

Dear HPPL,

It's been nine months since Roscoe joined our family. While he was tentative at first, he has now completely adopted us all as his permanent family. Roscoe's routine includes daily walks or runs if it is cool enough. He also requires playtime enjoying stealing toys from any of our three kids. Roscoe has become a dog of refined tastes and will only do those tricks necessary to obtain treats; otherwise, he expects that we should perform tricks for him! He is very affectionate and likes nothing better than a tummy scratch and a "good boy" directed at him. Overall, he has been a fantastic addition to our household. *Thank you HPPL! Scott*



Roscoe with a toy



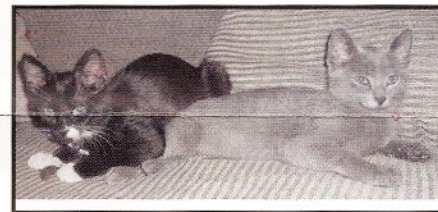
Dante and Lindsey

Dear HPPL,

Since joining our family, Dante has become quite spoiled! She loves her daily walks and her "cookies." We can't spoil her enough. Daddy likes to brush her every evening, Mom likes to give her doggie massages, and Lindsey loves to snuggle with her. Oh yes, Dante has become quite the shopper; whenever we go to PETCO, she picks out the toy she wants. Dante has brought much joy to our lives and our family couldn't be happier. We love our girl who had the most miserable of starts and now knows a life of love. *Sincerely, Tricia, Bill, and Lindsey*

Dear HPPL,

Little did I know in April that two sweet little kittens were entering the world and were soon to enter my world. In early June, I found Mickey, a sickly 5-week-old tuxedo kitten I tried everything to find him a home over the course of the next five weeks, but to no avail. Meanwhile, he was growing more and more rambunctious and destructive, so I began searching for a female friend, in the hopes that she would be, not only a lifetime companion for Mickey and me, but also a positive influence on him. I spent many hours perusing the profiles of adorable female kittens in Mickey's age range, but none of them really screamed, "I'm the one for you!" — until I came across "Audrey," an all-gray kitten with a sweet little smirk on her face and a description that seemed too perfect to be real. After several e-mails with her foster, the more convinced I became that she was exactly what I'd been hoping for. The foster guided me through the entire process and quelled my fears during the first week after the adoption. By the end of week one, my two kittens were snuggling up together, grooming one another and even playing together! Sylvia Audrey, as I renamed her, is unlike any other cat. From chasing her fur "mousies" to helping me check my e-mail to tickling me with her whiskers and waking me up with her heavy purring to let me know it's time for her and Mickey's "breakfast," she has brought such joy into my life! I have to thank her foster mom, and all the HPPL fosters, for their commitment to helping these wonderful animals find their way home — your efforts extend so far beyond the lives of the animals you save, all the way to the lives of the humans those animals have saved! Please know that you are in our thoughts daily and our hearts eternally. *Thank you! Carla*



Mickey & Sylvia, couch potatoes

Dear HPPL,

Silvie, now named Bunny because she reminds me of a bunny with her pink nose, ears and soft white fur, is a great addition to my life. She loves to be in my lap for hours and has recently become quite the playful girl. She runs around and chases her tail and likes for me to play with her and her toys. The vet said she has finally come out of her shell and is comfortable. Often when friends come over, they love on her and she will sit and be petted. She is the perfect baby and I love her so much. Thank you for recommending her. *Sincerely, Brittany*



Bunny & her mom



## YES! I want to help

- ☐ \$25 vaccinations  
☐ \$50 cat intake  
☐ \$75 dog intake

- ☐ \$100 two weeks of boarding  
☐ \$200 heartworm treatment

- ☐ \$500 orthopedic surgery  
☐ Other

☐ I want to make automatic monthly gifts with my credit card (MC or Visa).

☐ Check ☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa Account # \_\_\_\_\_ Expires \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ Apartment \_\_\_\_\_  
 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**

### IF IT WEREN'T FOR ...

She tried to stand up when she heard the kind voice, but she was too weak being severely dehydrated and malnourished. The kitten in the box, although about five weeks old, weighed a mere nine ounces. But saved by an HPPL volunteer, the baby girl was going to have a chance to grow into a beauty.

The kitten didn't put up much of a fight when she got the two sudsings to remove the multitude of fleas and the dried blood from their bites. With her wet fur, it became obvious just how skinny she



**Her first night**

truly was; each rib showed. Next, the parasites and eye infection had to be treated. Then it was time for food, but Fiona didn't have the energy to lap so she had to be syringe fed. Finally, warm, dry and exhausted, she slept soundly, waking every few hours for some food that she could barely lick. Clearly, her little life still hung in the balance.

By the next day, amazingly, she could stand and walk a few steps. She even used the litterbox and climbed out. When checked on, she would raise her head and sometimes briefly sit up. But her state remained touch and go. Remarkably, within the first two days, a huge gain of one ounce occurred, so off she went to the veterinarian. After being treated with fluids, antibiotics and other medication, she settled into the routine of sleeping, eating, growing stronger and beginning to play. By the end of the first week, she had doubled her weight and was looking more like a healthy kitten.

After two weeks of total TLC, Fiona had gained a pound, tested negative for feline viruses and was ready to meet the other kittens in the household. It didn't take long for her to become involved in everything she saw going on. Adoption day



**Fiona fully recovered**

was just around the corner for this now beautiful girl. This precious baby's story is epitome of what HPPL and its volunteers do. Founded to work with animals that others would turn away or put an end to, HPPL proudly shows off Fiona as a picture of just what can be done to save an abandoned animal's life.

### ONE DOG AT A TIME

Phoebe is lucky 13! In the last seven years, HPPL volunteers, Barb and Darlene have taken 13 dogs from the kennel and fostered them. For whatever reason, HPPL sometimes ends up with dogs (and occasionally a cat) in boarding. As you can imagine, this is hard on the animal and costly for the organization. But these two special



**Phoebe**

people have committed to helping in a unique way; they step up to help the dogs that need to be in a home to learn better socialization and some basic obedience training. But as they say, "We don't see much difference in taking a kennel dog over one right off the street.

(And we have rescued plenty of those too!) Usually, they are healthy and ready for adoption, but they have the same needs. Most of the time, the dog is excited to be in a home and happy to get attention. We have found them eager to please, so they bond faster because they are so glad to be in a home." Amazingly, some of the dogs have been adopted within the first month and some have taken up to six months. But whatever it takes is what these foster parents are committed to. Barb and Darlene usually wait a little while to make sure all is well with the dog and its new environment, and then they find out and decide about taking another lucky dog home. At the end of one dog's stay, they say, "We are happy they found their forever home, but sad because we know we are going to miss them." But over the years, Barb and Darlene have found "what a difference a little love and attention and training can make in a kennel dog's life. It can prepare them for their next big adventure in their forever home." Like these two volunteers, maybe, you can start your own list of dogs you have taken to foster; just look at the homepage of the website [www.hppl.org](http://www.hppl.org) to select one who needs you.



**Homeless Pet Placement  
League, Inc.  
P.O. Box 273027  
Houston, TX 77277  
www.hppl.org**

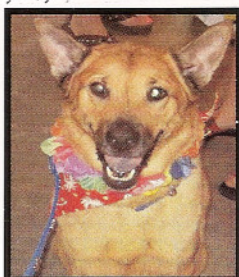
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## M a s c o t   M e s s a g e

**Y**ou won't believe it, but my mom found a dog right around old Hurricane Ike time. She is a real cutie: a nice black lab mix with pretty white teeth and a smile that makes you melt. Even though Tina (yeah...Ike and ....) is so much fun and we all like her, mom said she probably had an owner because she had a collar on, but...no tags! No signs went up, nobody in the neighborhood knew her, and no one at the dog park close by had seen her. I had to ask myself: who is this dog? We would know if only she had a microchip, a tiny device that identifies a pet's owners and home.



Colbye partying

foster dogs and cats for over a year now, and we are the secondary contact on all these guys and gals.

So contact your veterinarian or HPPL and find out about having your kids microchipped. It is fast and easy and doesn't hurt one little bit. They may be little, but they sure do give a big peace of mind about a beloved pet's safety. 🐾

## Mark your calendar

On Friday night, December 5, 2008 from 6:00-8:00 pm, HPPL will be the recipient of 15% of the net sales at Ten Thousand Villages in Rice Village. Please plan to join us to start your holiday shopping and to support HPPL at the same time. This unique evening will not only benefit the HPPL foster care and mobile adoption programs but it will also assist artisans in low income countries. No doubt this even will be a big win-win for everyone involved. Colbye, our mascot and many other HPPL friends will be there serve refreshments and chat about our mission. Ten Thousand Villages is located at 2424A Rice Blvd.

Throughout the month of December, HPPL will have other events and opportunities for you to participate in. It's always fun and festive to join in, so please check the website [www.hppl.org](http://www.hppl.org) to see what's going on and how you can get involved. Remember, all we do is for the furry ones!