

# AnimalTails

Connecting Animals in Need With People Who Care.

## Miso's New Beginning

Late one winter afternoon, a woman appeared in our lobby with a box. Unfortunately, this is not an uncommon sight for us. This usually means that there is an animal needing to be surrendered to us, either by their owner or as a stray. This time was no exception. When we peeked into the box, we saw an adorable 4 month-old kitten. She was a very soft dilute torti, but we could tell something was wrong.

Having been found in the wheel well of someone's car, we weren't sure what to expect. The kitten had diarrhea crusted on her bottom and it was red and inflamed. Her eyes were sunken-in and we noticed her ears were exceptionally dirty. Plus, her tail was limp and she was walking funny. Our veterinarian had gone home for the day so we cleaned her up the best we could and a staff member took her home for the evening.

The next day, the kitten, now named Miso, had a runny nose and eyes that were crusted over. This was a sign of an upper respiratory infection. She wouldn't lift her tail, leading us to wonder if she had a spinal injury. We noticed she had full body tremors, possibly from a toxin ingestion, neurological damage from a trauma, or a congenital condition. Our veterinarian, Dr. Patrias, checked Miso out and gave her a steroid in case of a spinal injury (to decrease inflammation), a pain medication, and an antibiotic in case of a toxin.

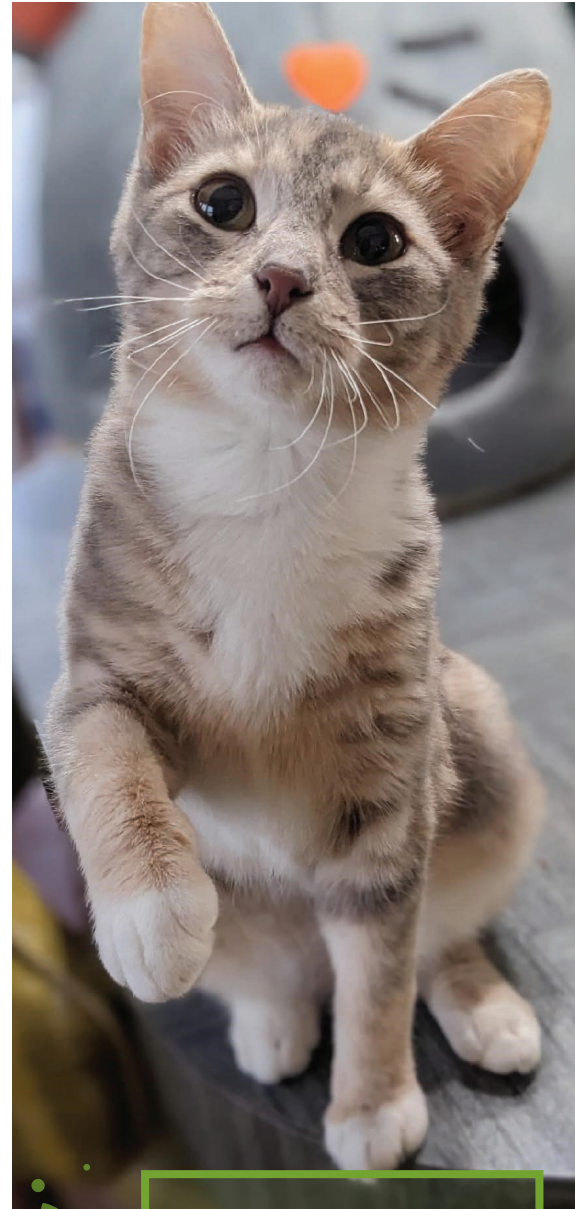
After about 5 days, Miso continue to have diarrhea that ran down her tail and legs. She needed to be bathed multiple times a day to prevent sores. Additionally, she was dehydrated and continued to have the body tremors as well as the redness and swelling around her rectum. Dr. Patrias prescribed a couple probiotic supplements for the diarrhea (to rebuild the good bacteria in her gut) and a medication in case she had microscopic intestinal parasites. Still not improving and now not eating, the next day Miso was given subcutaneous fluids and another antibiotic for treating the bad bacteria found in her gut. Miso's foster tried a variety of food to spike her interest but had no luck.

Unfortunately, the next day Miso was lethargic, still having diarrhea and tremors, and was now experiencing spasms in her abdomen. Dr. Patrias gave her more fluids, B12 for nutritional support (particularly helpful for diarrhea), a medication for nausea, and continued the steroid for a possible spinal injury. She gave Miso's foster some fluids to give her at home. Later that night, Miso finally ate something!

From there, thankfully, Miso continued to make progress! Her tremors subsided, she became playful, gained some weight, and her diarrhea improved to just loose stool. She was still getting her stool on her tail and back end because her pelvis was tipped down and her tail was so limp. The vet was unable to determine if she could even feel her tail at this time.

Three weeks after her arrival, the medical staff decided it was best to amputate her tail. She hadn't moved it at all and it was getting in her way. While her amputation went very well, Miso struggled under anesthesia. We gave her plenty of time to recover and feel stronger before spaying her.

It was no surprise that over the course of Miso's progress her foster mom fell in love with her. Miso is now living a happy and healthy life in her forever home.



**Your help  
gives cats  
like Miso  
a second  
chance at a  
happy life.  
Thank You.**



Cascades Humane Society

1515 Carmen Drive  
Jackson, MI 49202  
517-787-7387  
[www.chspets.org](http://www.chspets.org)

#### HOURS OF OPERATION

Tuesday – Saturday  
Noon – 6 p.m.

Sunday – Monday  
Closed

#### OUR MISSION

Connecting animals in need  
with people who care.

#### OUR VISION

A community in which all  
pets have loving homes  
and are treated with  
compassion and respect.

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Follow us!

*Cascades Humane Society is an independent 501(c)(3) organization. CHS relies primarily on the generosity of individuals, foundations, corporations and special events to support our services and programs. CHS receives no funding from federal, state or county government, or other national or state humane organizations.*



## Letter From the ED

We are so grateful for spring! We love the warmer weather, the birds chirping, and the dogs getting to spend more time outside.

With that also comes full cages. This is traditionally kitten season. Cats that are not spayed go into heat as soon as the weather gets warmer, typically around February and March. The gestation period for a pregnant cat is only 60 days, making the start of kitten season usually around April or May. Cats can have more than

one litter per summer, as they are ready to go back into heat again quickly after giving birth. Kitten season can last through October or November easily, and it is not completely out of the question for cats to have kittens year round.

If you find yourself with kittens of your own needing to be surrendered, or a cat, please be patient with us as scheduling could be tight during this time. Consider using our low cost services to spay and neuter your cats in order to decrease this unwanted population coming into shelters. Spring and summer are usually months where donations are lower and the need is greater due to these unwanted litters coming in. If you have the means and are able, please consider donating! Thank you!

Enjoy the weather! Get outside and take yourself (and the dog) for a nice long walk!

Heather Leszczynski  
Executive Director

# SAVE the DATE

As a non-profit that does not receive any government funding, our events help us afford the care of our animals. Mark your calendars for this awesome upcoming event!



#### Paws in the Park

Paws in the Park, presented by Lammers Heating and Air Conditioning, is our annual dog and family-friendly fundraiser on Saturday, June 3rd at Cascades Falls Park.

You can choose to run or walk our 5k, do the 1-mile Woof Walk, or your kids can run the short Doggie Dash. Ultimate Air Dogs will be back this year, the premier dog dock diving experience. You can enter your dog to test their skills out and see how far they can jump! Paws in the Park would not be complete without food available from the Jackson Breakfast Rotary, vendors, kid activities, and games. Lastly, Paws in the Park will have a low cost vaccine clinic, taking clients on a walk-in basis. For more information, go to [www.chspets.org](http://www.chspets.org).



## Fostering is a Selfless Act of Love

Fosters are vital to any rescue or shelter, helping heal pets, alleviate stress, and make room for other animals in need of placement.

Fosters are needed for a variety of reasons. Expecting or nursing moms need a place where they can feel comfortable to take the best care of their litter. This is a long-term foster placement as the puppies or kittens need to be in the home until 8 weeks of age, when they can be spayed or neutered prior to adoption. Sometimes kittens and puppies have lost their mothers or are not nursing well and need an extra human hand. This is probably the most intense but most rewarding foster situation. These youngsters will need around-the-clock care and feedings until they are several weeks of age. Lastly, fosters are needed for adult cats and dogs to give them time out of the shelter or as a place to recover from illness or injury.

This past winter we received a call that a mother pitbull and her newborn puppies were in need of placement at a shelter. We wanted to help but we knew we needed a foster home. The puppies were too young to be in a shelter and the mom and puppies deserved to start their new lives in a comfortable home. The foster's task was simple: Give mom (now named Roxy by her fosters) and her pups a safe place to grow while giving them lots of love and socialization.

Roxy was a great mom and the fosters enjoyed getting to know her and watching her adorable puppies grow and explore the world. It is a rewarding experience to be a part of such a special time in their lives.

CHS wants to make fostering as easy as possible. This includes making sure everyone has a safe enclosure, nutritious food, pee pads, dishes, vaccines, parasite preventatives, and anything else needed.

Roxy and her puppies will be spayed and neutered when they are old enough to be weaned. The puppies will then stay to be placed up for adoption. Roxy, however, will not be. She found her forever home!

But don't let that deter you from fostering! Foster's don't always adopt and while we love it when they do, we also like it when they don't so they can continue to foster for us!

It takes time, devotion, and a lot of care to be a foster, but it is so worth it! **So what are you waiting for? Visit our website [chspets.org](http://chspets.org) or email the volunteer coordinator at [volunteer@chspets.org](mailto:volunteer@chspets.org) to learn more and get started!**



## Ditching the Dish

Mealtime is a ritual for many dog owners. We come home from work, scoop some kibble into a bowl, and let our dogs have at it. However, this is missing out on the best time to bond and train with our dogs! Hand-feeding a dog makes a positive association with hands and food, builds good bite inhibition for puppies, and increases confidence in shy dogs. Mealtime is a great time for your dog to learn because they are hungry and therefore will be highly motivated to listen and problem solve for food rewards! Using their meals as training time eliminates the need for as many high-calorie, fatty treats and ensures that dogs are not gorging themselves. Even when we don't have time to sit with our furry friends it can still be a great time for them to use their brains and get tired out! Chew toys that can be stuffed (like Kongs), snuffle mats, and puzzle feeders are all great alternatives to a traditional bowl.





## House Training Your Newly Adopted Dog

Bringing your dog to a new home is the perfect time to set your rules and expectations: New house; new rules! The best way to ensure you have a well house-trained dog is to prevent them from having an accident in the first place.

### What you'll need:

- A long-term confinement area: This space is used when your dog is left home alone for longer periods. The dog should have access to fresh water, their crate with a bed and a kibble-stuffed chew toy (like a Kong) on one side, and a place to potty on the other side. A gated off kitchen or large bathroom work well for this.
- A short-term confinement area: This is the space to use when you are home but you cannot actively watch your new best friend.
- Tasty treats: freeze-dried liver, hot dogs, or soft chewy treats are awesome but whatever your dog LOVES will work!

### What to do:

- Take out your new dog every hour (on a leash) when you are home. Every time they go potty, reward them handsomely with a tasty treat
- If you cannot watch your new pup while you are home, put them in their short-term confinement space with a stuffed chew toy. This toy is important, chewing is a great stress reliever for dogs and the consistent release of a food reward will teach them to relax. You can use a portion of their daily kibble by softening it with water and then freezing it.
- When you must leave your furry friend home for a longer period of time, put them in the long term confinement area. As you get to know your new pup you will begin to notice patterns in when they have to go potty and in no time your new pup will learn to hold their bladder for when you get home so they can get a free reward! You can phase out the confinement areas as your new dog learns to hold their bladder.

## WISHLIST

Cascades Humane Society needs donations to help run our facility and take care of the hundreds of animals that come through our door.

### **DROP DONATIONS OFF**

1515 Carmen Drive, Jackson, MI 49202

### **HOURS**

Tuesday-Saturday  
12 p.m. – 6 p.m.

517-787-PETS

- Cat and Dog Food
- Non-clumping Cat Litter
- Aluminum Baking Pans
- Liquid Laundry Detergent
- Bleach
- Heavy Duty Leashes
- Hand and Dish Soap
- Heavy Trash Bags
- Dog and Cat Toys
- Dog and Cat Treats

## YOUR IMPACT



**1,287**

Pets Adopted  
Dogs: 461 • Cats: 784



**1,400**

Spay/Neuter Surgeries  
Performed

**1,062** Owned Animals,  
**338** Feral/Free  
Roaming Cats



**11,387**

Pounds of Food  
Distributed Through Pet  
Food Pantry Program



**22**

Pets Reunited With  
Their Owners

- Distilled Water
- Returnable Bottles
- Paper Towels
- Monetary Donations
- Volunteers
- Exam Gloves