

AnimalTails

Connecting Animals in Need With People Who Care.

Fall 2022

Sweet Lady Has A Long Road Ahead of Her

Lady began her life chained up outside. **Starving, lonely, and unloved, she knew nothing of the life that all dogs deserve, one in a warm house with a loving family.** Despite all of this, Lady is a very sweet and loving girl!

By the time Lady was rescued, she was already nursing her second litter of puppies who were just days old. We knew right away Lady needed emergency help. She was extremely emaciated — we could see all of her ribs and her spine. She needed a lot of nutrition to sustain not only herself, but her puppies as well. She was put on a special diet and fed many times a day to encourage weight gain and nutritional support for the puppies.

Unsurprisingly, as a dog left out on a chain outside who had never received basic care, Lady tested positive for heartworm disease. Heartworm, while expensive, is a disease we can treat, but the drugs used would be harmful to the puppies she was nursing. We decided a quiet foster home, where the puppies could grow and Lady could be kept calm, was best.

As Lady and her puppies settled into the foster home, Lady began to show some signs of illness. She had diarrhea and started to develop a cough. Through a quick fecal test, we learned the diarrhea was from internal parasites, which we quickly treated.

At the puppies' 5-week check-up, our Medical Director, Dr. Patrias, examined Lady. It was determined the cough was from her heartworm disease progressing. We decided the puppies could be weaned early in order to save Lady's life. If we waited any longer, Lady's prognosis would become drastically worse. The puppies went back home with their foster while Lady stayed with us at CHS to receive lifesaving treatments.

Dr. Patrias also noted how large and distended Lady's abdomen was, and she had lost weight despite the nutritional support she was given. This could mean there was fluid built up inside her. Lady's fluid was a result of congestive heart failure, brought on by heartworm disease. Congestive heart failure means the heart cannot pump blood out effectively, leading to fluid building up in other areas of the body.

Dr. Patrias decided to spay Lady and check out her abdomen better. At that time, she drained nearly 1 liter of fluid from Lady's abdomen! This confirmed what she had suspected — Lady had congestive heart



**Your help
gives dogs
like Lady
a second
chance at a
happy life.
Thank You.**

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Cascades Humane Society

1515 Carmen Drive
Jackson, MI 49202
517-787-7387
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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Kerry Klee-Tiesman,
Vice President
Leslie Oliver, Secretary
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Taryn Smith
Ryan Smithson



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

Cascades Humane Society works tirelessly to ensure every animal that comes through our doors receives all the care they deserve. This doesn't stop once they are healthy and ready for their forever home.

Our adoption counselors learn about all the animals available and know what each need in order to be successful in their future homes. They take the time

to talk to potential adopters and find out what they are looking for in a pet. They help facilitate the match making process, suggesting pets and teaching the adopters about the animals of interest. They are trained to do dog meet and greets, to make sure new dogs and current dogs will be lifelong friends.

The results speak for themselves — more than 1,200 pets find their forever homes annually! There is always a mix of emotions as pets leave our building. We are so happy for their futures yet sad not seeing them every day, being the benefactors of the tail wags, kisses, and love.

We encourage all our past adopters to join our Facebook page, CHS Alumni Pets, so we can watch along as they grow old with each of you. We love seeing our past animals happy in their homes, it brings us great joy!

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!



Calendar Contest

Does your pet have what it takes to be a model? Have you always wanted a professional photograph of your pet or pets? The CHS Calendar Contest can do that for you!

In February you can make appointments for just a \$10 sitting fee per pet for the Calendar Contest. At the time of the photoshoot, you can pick your favorite photo to be your entry into the contest. You can also buy photographs at that time! Then, all entries into the contest can have their friends and family vote for one of thirteen spots in the 2024 CHS Calendar. Votes are \$1 each (\$5 is 5 votes, \$10 is 10 votes, etc) and people can vote as much as they want.

Phoenix

Her tiny body emerged from a fiery burn pile barely able to move. The person who found her had no idea there was a family of cats taking shelter in the brush. The mother cat, sadly, did not survive and no other kittens were found. Not knowing what to do, the person did the only thing they could think of to save the life of this poor kitten — they brought her to us.

Dr. Patrias found that two-week old Phoenix had deep second-degree burns all over her fragile little body. Her toes were so badly burned that she was missing some of her nails and her lungs sounded harsh and painful.

Our veterinary team placed her into an incubator for oxygen for 6 hours, applied SSD cream (used to prevent and treat wound infections in patients with severe burns), and a special ointment to her eyes. She was also given antibiotics, fluids, and pain medicine. Luckily, Phoenix ate well from a bottle and she was placed with a staff member who could give her around-the-clock care and take her to CHS daily for check-ups.

Just three days after being rescued, Phoenix lost 1/3 of her tail. The middle 1/3 was curled under with only bone and char remaining and the 1/3 closest to her little body was swollen. Unsure what would happen to her tail, we continued to treat her burns and manage her pain.

The next few weeks were hard. Even though her appetite was healthy, she struggled between constipation and diarrhea. We administered an enema when the constipation was bad and probiotics were added to her daily regimen to help with her stomach issues.

Two weeks after her rescue, Dr. Patrias debrided her burn sites (removing damaged tissue), and was pleased to find healthy granulation tissue underneath! She made Phoenix a special burn spray that would continue to help her wounds heal and keep her out of pain.

Three months later, we noticed Phoenix's tail was not healing properly. Dr. Patrias decided it was best to remove what was left of her tail. The burn spray along with continued pain medication, antibiotics, nourishment, and TLC is what Phoenix was prescribed for the foreseeable future.

From the very beginning, Phoenix had her odds stacked against her. It is a miracle she survived such a tragic accident. The Phoenix is a symbol of renewal and rebirth. Just like a Phoenix, our girl rose from the ashes. Phoenix's story is not over yet, but we know she is strong and will pull through. **Thanks to the quick thinking of the person that found Phoenix along with the dedicated CHS staff, Phoenix has a chance to live a full life.**



Sweet Lady Has A Long Road Ahead of Her

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failure. While draining the fluid, Dr. Patrias found heartworms swimming in her abdomen.

This was cause for alarm. It meant there was such a high number of heartworms in Lady's small, fragile body that they were able to escape her heart. Lady had a much more advanced case of heartworm disease than her happy-go-lucky and loving attitude suggested. CHS treats dozens of dogs for heartworm disease each year. Lady's case was one of the worst we have ever seen.

Later that same evening, staff noticed Lady wasn't acting like herself. Our medical team, even though it was after-hours, came back in to tend to Lady. She was given fluids, medications, and supportive care to manage any pain or discomfort she was in. Lady was immediately put on strict cage rest as to not exasperate her heart condition any more. Lady's heart needed to improve in order for us to be able to start her on traditional heartworm treatment.

Lady still has a long road ahead of her, however we remain optimistic the medications for her heart will allow it to heal enough to continue the heartworm treatment. In the meantime, we will keep going with her strict regimen of food and medicines, and of course, giving her much love and adoration. Lady remains sweet as ever and quite the fighter!



Transitioning a New Cat



Bringing home a new pet to the family is an exciting time! While this is a fun time for the humans, it can be overwhelming for the dog or cat. This is especially true of adopting a cat or kitten from a shelter or humane society, as they may have lived in a cage or a small area for several days or even weeks. They become very accustomed to this, and feel most comfortable in smaller spaces.

We strongly suggest you limit your new cat or kitten to just one room in your house for at least 2 weeks. This will allow your new pet to adjust to the new

sights, sounds, smells, and people in his or her life. Slowly allow your new cat to come out and investigate the other parts of the house, not leaving them unattended until you feel certain they are comfortable.

The cat or kitten will also learn where to find food, water, and the litter box. Most cats will hide for at least several days if they are not given this slow transition. You will miss precious bonding time, and if they do not know where the litter box is (or feel safe accessing it), they may go in other places in the house.

If you have other kitties, they can initially meet each other by smelling under the door for a time so they become familiar with the new smells before the actual introduction. You can also swap bedding or toys. Once they know about each other and have the opportunity to get acquainted through smell, they can see each other. You can do this through a screen if you have one, or by letting them occupy the same space.

You can feed them their favorite food or treats near each other so they associate the good feeling they get from the food with the new cat in their life. You can also make sure each has been played with so they have gotten some energy out prior to meeting. Don't be alarmed if there is some hissing or vocalizing, that is completely normal communication! **It may take some time, but if you go slowly they will more than likely get along just fine!**

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

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

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