

Tails of Aloha

January 2010

Website: www.tailsofaloha.com

Compelled by compassion. Driven by love. Inspired through hope

Therapy Cat...Meriadoc

My name is Meriadoc, and I am named after a hobbit from the Lord of the Rings. But you can call me Meri, all my friends do. I was born September 16, 2003. Someone found me, abandoned on the day I was born and brought me to my mom Christine Clairmont, who happens to be one of the best vet tech around (as far as I'm concerned). She nursed me and cared for me, and I've been with her ever since. I moved to Hawaii in November 2008 with my mom and dad, and my three siblings (all four-legged). Shortly after moving to Hawaii, my parents adopted another 4-legged sibling. Yep, I have a Hawaiian sibling!

I used to do therapy visits at a veteran's home in New Jersey, so I was really happy when my mom decided to sign us up to do therapy in Hawaii. I simply adore being petted and I get to ride around in a plush stroller, that was purchased just for me!

When I'm not working as a therapy cat, I enjoy basking in the sun, playing with my siblings, getting wrapped up in yarn, and watching the birds through our huge window.



Meri





I enjoy reading a good book (actually my mom does the reading and I just lay on the book she's trying to read.)

My mom also enjoy's dressing me up. I'm really not too excited about it, but I play along. I enjoy getting into trouble from time to time. My nickname is Houdini because I am able to get into things I'm not supposed to, like cabinets and food containers (I have a serious sweet tooth.)

I'm looking forward to more therapy visits at Maluhia, and hoping to be able to visit more places in the months to come. Burp...oops!



Leeward Coast Project



Tails of Aloha is proud to announce that for 2009, over 2,500 pounds of cat and dog food was furnished to the animal companions residing on the beaches of the Leeward Coast!

Now, that's an accomplishment we can be proud of!

Rehoming Project



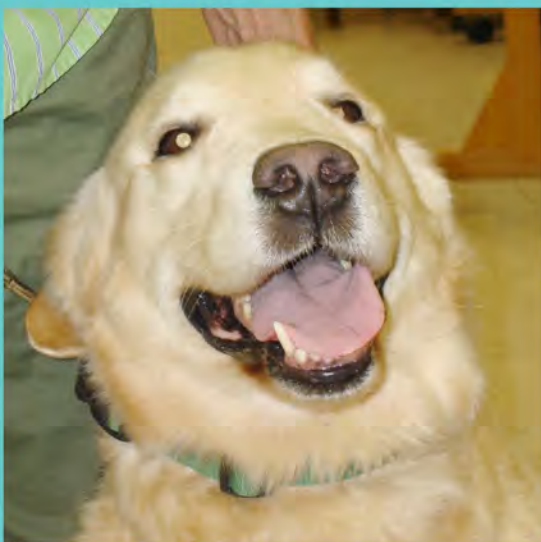
We were quite instrumental in rehoming animals for 2009. Our program was able to rehome a total of 25 animals!

A fantastic feat for an animal therapy organization.



Kirby the Silky Terrier is our first placement for 2010. He was fostered by Tails of Aloha for a few days until a suitable home was found for him. We are happy to report he is happy with his new family.

Meet Hailey



Hailey is the newest addition to Kathy Summers Ohana. She will be assisting Kathy along with Willy at schools and hospitals on throughout Oahu.

Welcome Hailey!



Greening of Tails

Our sanctuary has been hard at work lately. The red earthworms have been busy taking care of the newspaper as well as the vegetables and fruits from the kitchen.

Used hay and the animal waste are part of the compost heap.

Solar lights have been placed around the sanctuary in an effort to reduce electrical cost.

We are making every effort to recycle and reuse.



Leadership

You do not lead by hitting people over the head -- that's assault, not leadership.

Dwight D. Eisenhower

Let us always seek to lead by example. Let your love and compassion determine your actions. Keep away from the urge to be demanding or harsh, and remind yourself to love people as they are.

**Mahalo to everyone
for a successful 2009!**



Rainbow Bridge

It was quite disheartening to hear of the passing of Louie, the Bichon Frise who worked with his mom, Roselle Wong. Louie was one of the first set of dogs to start with Tails of Aloha so many years ago.

When my therapy dog, Phiglio, first met Louie, she fell head over heels in love with him. It didn't matter that he was a Bichon and she was a Labrador...no, it was true love. Louie even had a designer outfit made for Phi as a show of his affection towards her.

I believe that Louie understood what was happening to him and he understood that it was a natural process that none of us can escape. Louie passed as he had lived, without fear, taking each moment as it came and welcoming death as the release of his spirit. Louie offered an important lesson in being in the moment, even when it is the last. There is a cycle of love and death that shapes the lives of those of us who choose to travel in the company of animals. It is a cycle unlike any other. Our grief, no matter how powerful it may be, is an insufficient measure of the joy we have been given. It is a fragile circle we have chosen.

Louie, we won't be seeing you ride up in your red BMW, or ride in your special wheelchair, but you will remain in our hearts always.

