



Tails of Aloha

March 2012

www.tailsofaloha.com

The Story of Ku'u Le'a

By Marie Anne

Finding Le'a

Le'a was left in a box at the Hawaii Humane Society's front desk. The security video shows a man placing the box in a corner and leaving. Le'a was estimated to be 2 years old and a terrier mix weighing 5 pounds and extremely underweight. After being spayed and microchipped she was ready to become the newest member of our family. On our way home, we stopped to pick up a few items such as food, bowls, a collar and leash and a toy skunk. Le'a keeps skunk on my bed and is something that comforts her when she is stressed even to this day.

During the next week, we wracked our brains thinking of an appropriate name for her. She went through four names before I finally went to the Hawaiian dictionary and found Le'a. She answered immediately and that was that.

I was having problems with Le'a being so hyper and having control over her. A friend suggested I go to obedience class. We still continue going to classes since 2009, even after completing our initial program. On March 2010 while at class, the Rottie next to us jumped behind her owner and grabbed Le'a and thrashed her like a rag doll. Le'a was screaming. The dog turned around and I ran in front of the Rottie and she threw Le'a to the ground. Le'a was not moving or making any sounds. The trainer picked up Le'a and handed her to me, and told me to run. I began running to my car which was half a block away! I suddenly noticed a man running along side of me. I didn't know who he was, but he kept telling me to give him my car keys. My initial instincts was not to hand my keys over to a stranger. When we got to my car he told me to hand him my keys and he would drive me to the vet. I gave him my keys and got in the passenger seat with Le'a. In hindsight, I do not know what I would have done without the help of this man. He was our guardian angel that day. He drove from Honolulu to Feather and Fur Clinic in Kailua and his partner followed in their car. Along the way he told me how to hold my fingers over the bites on her chest and reminded me to call my vet to inform them we were coming

a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization



with an emergency. He was very calm and guided me - he is definitely one of the people who saved Le'a that day - we were truly blessed. When we got to the vet, he went in with me, stayed for a while and then left. I tried to find out who he was through the trainer, I never saw him again, or even knew his name for a year and a half.

Le'a required 24-hour care during the first two weeks. My friends Jean and Mary Jo helped us with caring for Le'a while I was working. Pajamas were the norm for Le'a for the first few months (that was to cover the holes on her neck and chest). The vet later told me that she had not expected Le'a to survive the attack as she had received a punctured lung.

After ten days following the attack we went back to class (on a different day at a different location) with the same organization. We just sat and watch and the next week we participated in the back of the class for about 15 minutes. As she would not eat no matter what I gave her, she ended up being spoon fed home-made meals.

In May 2010 Le'a and I went to the Pet Expo. She had become afraid of large dogs and commotions. As we watched the Canine Good Citizen test, I decided to participate. And guess what, we passed! Then I thought, why not become a therapy dog as there was no better way to share her happiness with others. While going to the booths, I met a familiar face. One of the people who helped save Le'a! His name was Sean and then I asked about the other person who drove me. I finally found out his name was Randy. The best part was they were both an animal therapy team members with Tails of Aloha!

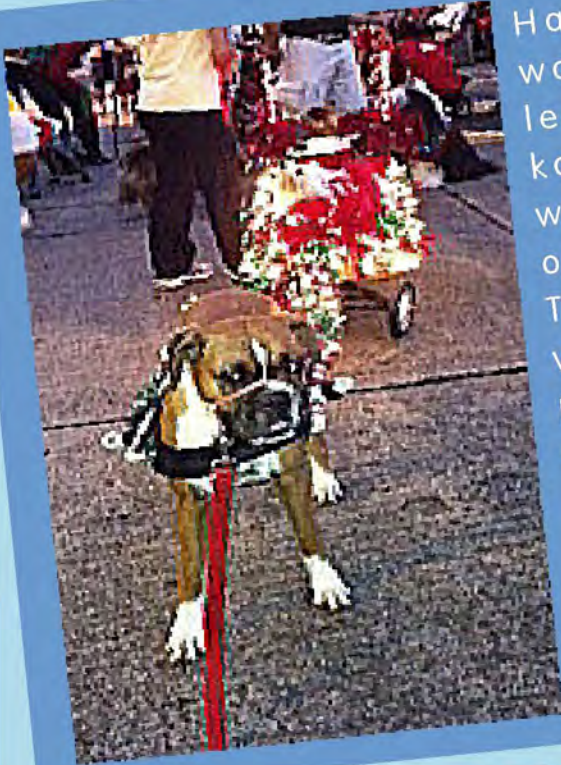
After training with HHS in July 2010, we became a Comfort Dog and began visiting at Ann Pearl. In November 2011 we tested and began visiting at Maluhia with several dogs and many residents in the activity room on the first floor.

In December of 2011 a Holiday party was held at Maluhia and that was when I was reacquainted with Randy, our guardian angel. I finally was able to give him the thank you gift I purchased for him 20 months ago!

Our next goal it to become part of the Reading program that Tails has with the children at schools. As a teacher, I find that fantastic - I work with ESL students, and they can be reluctant readers. To watch them blossom is a joy!

Le'a has many friends, Tim and Deb McGuire (the photographer) are one of her biggest fans. But then so are my chiropractor and hairdresser, the yogurt shop owner, and my neighbor who comes and gets her while I am at work and takes her on walks. I get texts with photos showing me where Le'a is throughout the day.

Kaimuki Parade



Halle the Boxer was our official lead dog at the kaimuki parade with a wagon full of dogs in tow. Thanks to Kaori who took on this project for our program!



Plan to visit us at:

The Pet Expo in May!

The Children & Youth Day in October!

WISH LIST

Clumping Cat Litter
Newspaper
Mosquito Coils
Dray Cat Food
Wet Cat Food
Dry Dog Food
Trash Bags
Bricks
Foam Flooring
Wooden Clothespins
Tarp
Corrugated Roofing
Foam bowls
Birdseed

Seminar with Shari Curren
Founder of Therapet

June 9, 2012

10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m

\$25.00 for Tails Members
\$50.00 for all others

For additional information
contact tailsofaloha@msn.com