

October  
2010

# Tails of Aloha



Changing lives,  
One visit at a time

## Children & Youth Day

Although the notice to therapy team members was very short, a huge impression was made on the tens of thousand of attendees at this year's Children & Youth Day held at the State Capitol. Tails of Aloha was placed in the Interactive tent...one of the most popular tents around! Riley, Tobias, Happy and Babe worked their magic with the children, teens and adults stopping at the booth. Hunter, our therapy dog in training, worked really hard on being calm around the children. The photos say it all...unadulterated joy and happiness! Much thanks to Paul & Ann Marietti, John Wadahara, Carolyn Killian, Roselle Wong, Liane Akana, and Warren & Candy Hoopii for doing such a wonderful job at the event.



[www.tailsofaloha.com](http://www.tailsofaloha.com)

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# Hale Ola Kino

By: Miki Nagatoshi

Penny and I have been volunteering as a therapy team member with Tails of Aloha for several months now, and have begun individual visits at Hale Ola Kino on Sundays. We meet our friends in the recreation room for their weekly visit, and then following our official visit, we assist with Bingo! We have even brought in lotion, shampoo, and socks to be used as prizes for the residents. They enjoy the competition and the thrill of winning and getting to say "BINGO!"

It just makes us both so happy to see the smiles on everyone's faces! Penny is always wiped out after each visit from doing her tricks and giving her heart to each resident she meets.

This is the most rewarding that has happened to me as I get to volunteer with Penny and truly share the "Aloha" with everyone we meet!



## Women's Expo

September 11 was a busy day for the Hoopii's as Warren, Happy, and Babe walked the catwalk at the Women's Expo featuring clothing from Cocosor. Babe is becoming quite the Super Model...look at her turned pose. This pose is difficult for most 4-legged dogs, but Babe does it on her hind legs with flair and panache! She is certainly a DIVA that commands attention.





# UH Pre-Med Students



A huge "MAHALO" to the Pre-Med students at the University of Hawaii Manoa for taking the time out to volunteer with Tails of Aloha at Maluhia on October 9. Justin Tao, the team leader for the day, is a bright and outgoing young man who has a bright future, as do all the pre-med students! The compassion, warmth and pure joy from students was evident in their eyes and the smiles on their faces. Don't ever lose your enthusiasm and love for life!





# A Mother and Daughter Therapy Team

Miata was born on December 20, 2004 and did not belong to Kirk and Shirley Wong at the time. Although she lived with the breeder, the Wong's often doggie-sat Miata from the age of four months. Miata soon became a frequent visitor to the Wong residence, and befriended Coco who happened to be the only 4-legged child at the time. Miata officially joined Kirk and Shirley in 2006. Shirley and Miata soon became a team in the show ring. Miata obtained her championship in 2009 and started her new career as a therapy dog with Tails of Aloha.

Ginger was born on July 27, 2008. She was the only girl in the litter of six puppies. Being the only girl, Miata (her mom) let Ginger have her way, bossing her brothers around with her charm. Her greatest enjoyment is eating, chewing and playing ball. She also loves going shopping and out to the beach with. Ginger's outgoing personality makes her the perfect therapy dog!



# Miata



# Ginger





# Spirit



Spirit was adopted at the age of five months from a family who no longer wanted to keep him. He was never socialized, and had never gone out or met other dogs. The wind and grass were wonderful new experiences for him.

Spirit was renamed after Barbara's deceased father-in-law who Barbara loved dearly. He would always say that there was a "Spirit" watching over them. So it was that Chief was renamed Spirit.

It was love at first sight when Barbara met Spirit. He gave her lots of kisses. Barbara did her work and read books about dogs, including some of the Dog Whisperer books. Spirit was easily potty trained, doesn't chew on anything but his own toys and doesn't bark unless he feels the family needs protecting.

Spirit is well traveled, having been on a ferry and airplane several times. He even stayed at the Four Seasons when the Ghighi's celebrated their 20th anniversary! There were two bowls and a pillow waiting for Spirit on their arrival!

Spirit has brought so much love and joy into Barbara's life, that she felt she had to share him with others. Spirit tested as a therapy dog when he was a year old, and loves being a member of Tails!

## Holding Back

When our thoughts of the future distract us from being present in moment, we sometimes begin searching for some thing or situation in the hopes of self actualization. It is like a plumeria tree holding off its blossoms because it would rather grow and bloom in Montana than where it is planted in Hawaii.

There are no guarantees in life. Each time you hold back, you do so at the risk of never fully blossoming. Being in the present moment allows us to take root where we are and open our hearts. It doesn't matter if the conditions are not perfect, or because we might end up moving, or we haven't found our life partner. Yes, it is a scary thought to have to possibly give up what you feel is your cherished dream. But holding back now in the hopes of finding happiness later just doesn't make sense. Don't be afraid to embrace this moment or to fully love yourself, just as you are, where you are.

We often have a habit of presenting life with a set of conditions. Those "ifs and whens" that need to be fulfilled before we will say yet to the gift of our lives. Now is the time for you to BLOOM where you are planted. Don't hold back! Commit to yourself, be vulnerable, unfold fully into the space you find yourself.