



Compelled by compassion,
Driven by love,
Inspired by hope

September 2009

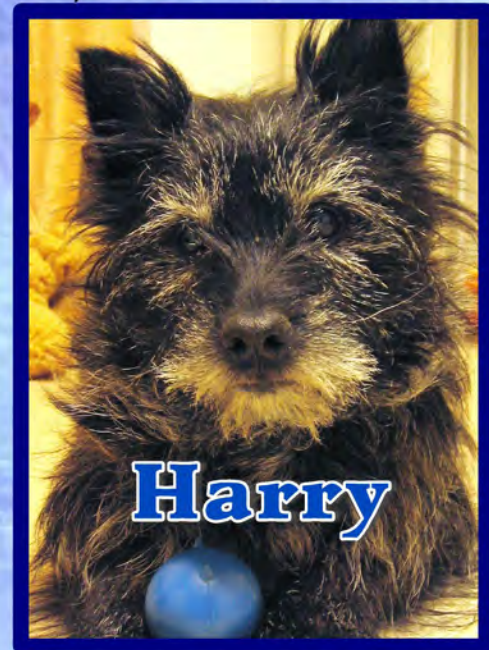
Website: tailsofaloha.com

Tails of Aloha Yokohama

Submitted by Hitomi Sakamoto (Harry's mom)

Hello, everyone! My name is Harry, and I am a member of Tails of Aloha - Yokohama. It is such a great honor for me to be a featured article for the Tails of Aloha news- letter for September.

A little about myself...I am a 10-year old Cairn Terrier. You know...like Toto in "Wizard of Oz". There aren't many Cairn Terriers in Japan as we are not a popular breed here. That why my owner always gets asked, "Is that a dog?" or "You look like a raccoon dog". but no matter what, I greet everyone I meet with a big smile and wags of my tail. Cairns are generally very energetic and courageous. Although Toto was brave enough to follow Dorothy into the tornado to Oz, that's not me! Typhoons and fireworks scare me. And if a tornado hit my home, I would have a heart attack! If my mom asked me to go to Oz with her, I'd have to try and find a way for her to stay in Kansas, on the farm. I don't enjoy running, rushing around or barking. My favorite things to do are chasing the ball, visiting the doggie cake shop, taking a nap, sitting in the cafe', and eating! People who know me describe me as easy going and mellow. I am really impressed with my fellow therapy team members. They are all very talented. When we visit nursing homes, they perform for everyone. I simply sit and watch, and look cute. The one thing I do better than any of my other team members, is give the most wonderful kisses. Yah, I guess I'm a romantic at heart.



Harry

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What do I need to do to get my animal companion registered as a therapy animal?

This is a question we get almost on a daily basis. The answer is simple... socialize your animal companion. Have your animal companion interact with other species, especially children, traffic, crowds, and loud noises. And remember...you need to be relaxed, comfortable, and in control. It is a life-long process.



Now for the time consuming work...

1. Is your dog comfortable with you being greeted by a stranger?
2. Can your dog stay calm when someone with a cane walking with a limp walks by?
3. Will your dog be calm walking towards a group of people, dogs, wheelchairs, and walkers in the mix?
4. Can your dog sit, stay, down, and come on command?
5. Will your dog pass a piece of food if you ask him/her to "leave it"?
6. Will your dog allow someone with a walker to come up to you?
7. Is your dog calm when there is a sudden noise?
8. Can you dog stay calm when close to another dog he/she does not know?
9. Is your dog able to interact with someone in a wheelchair?

If you feel confident that your dog is able to accomplish all the above tasks and you are willing to make the commitment to volunteer at least 2 hours of your time every month, please feel free to contact us at info@tailsofaloha.com



Inu Kennels



Phase II of the build which will be used to foster dogs. Although it is not quite complete, it will be a great asset to our program. The kennel was also built by Paul and Keith.

Neko House

Right: Phase I of the completed Neko House built by Paul Marietti, Keith Sato, and Ryna Ordinado.



Center: Matriarch of the pride, Mama Manju lounging on her piece of carpet.



Bottom: Mama Manju's son, Sherbet, the largest but most timid of the of all.



If you're going to be passionate about something, be passionate about learning.

If you're going to fight something, fight for those in need.

If you're going to question something, question authority.

If you're going to lose something, lose your inhibitions.

If you're going to gain something, gain respect and confidence.

And if you're going to hate something, hate the false ideas that you are not capable of your dreams.



-Daniel Golston

Poisonous Plants Explained

Neurological Toxins

Bleeding Heart - the foliage and root in large quantities is a convulsant as it contains isoquinoline. The plant can also cause dermatitis.

Rhubarb - whether cooked or uncooked, the leaves are can lead to convulsions and coma.

Yew - The foliage can cause seizures, dizziness, dry mouth, vomiting, and gastrointestinal problems. Death can be sudden and without symptoms.

Cardiovascular Toxins

Azalea - all parts of the plant can cause nausea, depression, vomiting, coma, difficulty in breathing and cardiovascular collapse. The entire rhododendron family has the same effect.

Castor Bean - The entire plant is poisonous. The seeds contain the toxin toxalbumin. It will cause death and the plant can also cause dermatitis.

Foxglove - The entire plant will affect the cardiovascular system because of the cardiac glycosides digitalin and digitoxin.

Larkspur - The cardiovascular system is affected by the alkaloids in the seeds. It can also cause dermatitis, depression, and gastrointestinal upset.

Lily of the Valley - The entire plant can cause an irregular heartbeat and mental confusion. The gastrointestinal tract can also be affected by the glycosides convallarin.

Organ Failure Toxins

Daphne - The gastrointestinal tract and kidneys can be affected by the coumarin glycosides in the berries. The plant can also cause dermatitis.

Grapes/Raisins - A few handfuls can cause acute kidney failure. Symptoms include abdominal pain, lethargy and vomiting.

Lantana - The immature berries produces the toxin lantodene which is an atropine-like toxin. It affects the lungs, kidneys, and nervous system.

Lily - All species of Lily have been known to cause kidney failure, particularly in cats.

Mushroom - The amanita species is known to cause abdominal pain, depression, lack of appetite, drooling, liver damage, kidney damage, vomiting, bloody diarrhea, convulsions, coma, or death.



Poisonous Plants Explained (continued)

Gastrointestinal Toxins

Angels Trumpets - The entire plant will cause vomiting and nausea.

Amaryllis Bulb - The bulb can cause an upset stomach, lethargy, hyperactivity, coma, or shock.

Apple Leaf Croton - The entire plant contains ricin. This causes severe hemorrhagic gastroenteritis and degradation of the kidneys and liver.

Avocado - The fruit, pit, and plant contains persin which causes damage to the heart, lungs, and other tissues. One of the symptoms includes difficulty in breathing.

Clematis - The entire plant can cause diarrhea, vomiting, nervous system damage, oral ulceration and dermatitis.

Dieffenbachia - The entire plant will cause severe ulceration of the mucus membranes in the mouth and gastrointestinal tract, asphyxiation, tremors, loss of balance, death.

Elderberry - The entire plants produces a cyanide-like toxicity which causes diarrhea and vomiting.

English Ivy - The saponins in the berries and leaves upset the digestive system. The plant also causes dermatitis.

Iris - The tubers has a toxin called glycoside iridin which causes severe gastrointestinal tract problems. The plant can also affect the skin.

Mistletoe - The leaves, stems and berries can be fatal to puppies. Gastritis may occur due to the toxalbumins. It can also cause dermatitis.

Narcissus, Daffodil, Hyacinth - The bulbs can cause digestive upset which include nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea.

Nightshade - All parts, especially the berries contain saponins which will cause neurological seizures along with cardiac dysfunction.

Oak - The acorn and foliage can cause gastritis. Symptoms may include loss of appetite, constipation followed by diarrhea, blood in urine. The symptoms will appear days or weeks after ingestion.



Phi says..."don't forget to visit us at the Hawaii Pet Film Festival on November 14 from 10:30 to 4:30 at the NBC Exhibition Hall! She's counting on you to save her from the shark!

A Rx for Feeling Better

Here I am standing on my soap box...touting the benefits of animal therapy. The healthcare community really needs to take a serious look at animal assisted therapy at a valid treatment modality. As a pet team member I am sure you have witnessed first-hand how those we visit are changed in a positive manner. Physical pain is lessened, blood pressure is lowered, outbursts are redirected to a calm state, residents who dislike rehab become motivated to participate in their rehab schedule, eye that are normally closed, suddenly open and a smile can be seen. I consider these to be all little miracles. I know this to be true as staff and family members have told me this personally.

At a time where everyone seems to be interested in alternative treatments that compliment our current medical treatment, we are waving our hands and shouting, "We're right here!" I truly hope that our healthcare leaders begin to realize and embrace that fact that therapy teams are a cost-effective approach to improving healthcare. My sincere thanks to each and every team member who has made our journey toward a better society through animal therapy a reality. Mahalo Nui Loa!

