

Tails of Aloha

Compelled by compassion
Driven by love
Inspired through hope



July 2009

Website: tailsofaloha.com

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Adventures at Kalaeloa

On July 15, United Animal Nations, Emergency Animal Rescue Services, Oahu SPCA, and HSUS, asked for volunteers in Hawaii to assist with caring for approximately 400 animals at Kalaeloa. I jumped at the chance as the State Coordinator of UAN's EARS, and of course, immediately contacted the members of Tails of Aloha.

My sincere thanks and appreciation to Paul Marietti and

Gail Shiraishi for their involvement in coordinating and contacting volunteers to assist us with this ongoing event. It was quite impressive to know that on many days, Tails of Aloha was the largest group of volunteers assisting at the warehouse. Our volunteer group consisted of Warren Hoopii, Sharon Black, Chez Black, Al Perkins, Jaime Psak, Shirley Takara and family, Claire Matsuoka, Lisa Oi, David Lau, Gregg Kamei, Laurie

Cicotello, Keith Sato, Jeff Kang, Shane and Theresa Donnelly, Aprilani McIlwraith, Junie Hayashi, and Ryan Suenaga. Not to be forgotten, our friends with Civil Defense K9 Search and Rescue, Sharon Walden, Deb Wilson and Carrie Narita.



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The days were hot, dirty, and there were odors many of us have never smelled before. But that never bothered anyone at all. Just being next to the animals made it all worthwhile.

The volunteers began giving names to the animals under their care.

Houdini, the dog who would rip open his kennel was one of my favorites, along with Ping and Pong who looked like white ping pong balls with their constant bouncing.

Putting up kennels with zip ties, covering them with tarp, making

a wood roof for the cats, cleaning crates, washing bowls, cleaning poop and pee, among many other chores was truly enjoyable. It was a life changing experience for everyone involved.

All of you truly "ROCK", and I'm thankful to be able to call you friends.



"If we accept that others have a right to peace and happiness equal to our own, do we not have a responsibility to help those in need?"



Meet Babe

Babe was born as part of a litter of three on October 31, 2007. She's a Chihuahua, Poodle mix that was born without any front legs, and was the runt of the litter. Babe had to be bottle fed as she had no front paws. Her favorite toy is the little Chihuahua doll from Taco Bell. It has been patched many times and Babe loves playing with her doll. Watching Babe grow with her disability inspired the Hoopii's to become therapy team members. Babe is also a member of the

Chihuahua Club, which are one of the best dressed dog clubs in town. Watching her smile, and walk is incredible. It reminds us all that we should never feel sorry for ourselves and just learn to adapt to the situation at hand.



Paradox of Life

A paradox is a belief or statement that appears to be contradictory or crazy, but could also be a possible truth. Confused? It is the way we **think** versus the way we **feel**. The times when you've said, "I know I should _____, but I just can't get myself to do it." I used to think that what brought me happiness was my accomplishments, wealth, power, etc. To have a good job, to have someone you love, to have a house, and with "everything" something was missing. My concept of happiness was preventing me from getting what I truly needed. Here's my theory...

- *There is no way around suffering. We all have to deal with it from time to time...suffering exists.
- *Take responsibility and understand your suffering. You are not a victim of life...suffering has causes.
- *Happiness is always a possibility, although it may not be easy to be happy...happiness is possible.
- *Be mindful and thankful of your experience...there is a path to happiness.
- *Listen to the wisdom of your body and emotional self..your intellect is not enough to help you understand who you are and what you truly need.
- *Suffering and happiness will come and go many times over the course of your life...nothing stays the same.
- *Happiness will always be elusive as long as you believe your emotional state is a result of your current circumstances...why you are suffering has nothing to do with the circumstances of your life.
- *Peace of mind and self-discovery go hand in hand...cultivate happiness and you will discover who you truly are.
- *The better you understand who **YOU** truly are, the more you'll feel at home in the universe.
- *Everything is as it should be...nothing more, nothing less.

Wishing you all the best in your pursuit of happiness!

In Praise of our Team Members and our Twitter Ohana!

I now realize that the common thread that has made Tails of Aloha as vibrant, magnetic, fun, and the type of organization you simply enjoy being a part of are the team members who are committed to making a difference for all animals in their care. Every team member is totally compassionate about their task at hand, and I can honestly say, they are a bunch of the hardest working people I have ever known. It is akin to being with McGyver...if we don't have the right tools, we improvise and still get the job done, and done very well. There were numerous compliments from others on the fact that we worked well with minimal or no supervision during the set-up process at Kalaeloa. I would be remiss if I did not thank all the organizations and individuals who have generously donated to our program.

I have been truly blessed to have met a diverse group of people who have come together to create a better program for those we serve. Our program has truly exceeded my every expectation, and still boggles my mind at the rate it is growing and expanding exponentially. Paying it forward really does work! And all the work could not have been done without our Ohana from Twitter! Tweets out to each of you! Update....there were approximately 38 dogs remaining at Kalaeloa this Sunday. A majority of them received well deserved baths, although many of them were quite reluctant at the thought of water and soap! The dogs then were entered into our version of the "show ring" in an effort to dry them off and get them some exercise.

"Kill" or "No Kill"

In our recent volunteer work with the Oahu SPCA who has a "no kill" policy, some of the members were questioned about the reason for keeping unadoptable cats and dogs by the general public. It is true that a no kill policy means that these animals will not be euthanized based on convenience to make more space. It is true that some animals are more difficult to adopt, and there are those dogs who can only go to experienced dog owners.

There is no easy answer.

People need to support low-cost spay/neuter programs, volunteer your time, donate, or adopt a pet from the shelter.

Get your vet to become involved in low-cost spay/neuter programs.

Purchase them from a shelter or a responsible breeder. Do your homework before adopting a pet.

