

Tails of Aloha

December 2009

website: www.tailsofaloha.com

Compelled by compassion, Driven by love, Inspired through hope



Hawaii Pet Film Expo

It was one of the worst days this year. The wind and the rain drenched the island. At 9:30 a.m. a few of the members met outside the NBC Exhibition Hall and with arms full and carts overflowing, trekked in to set up our booth for the first ever Hawaii Pet Film Expo. Paul Marietti and Gail Shiraishi with Kimi and Hope, Gregg Kamei with Mijo and Maya, Randy and Mabel Yawata with Precious, Warren and Candy Hoopii with Jiji, Babe, and Hope, Kevin and Miiko Oshiro with Miso, Shane Donnelly and Shamrock, Lisa Yarmey, her family and *. and Bruce McGonigal and his entourage of birds. Lisa Oi stopped in as much as possible as she was assisting at Bark Avenue in the booth behind us.



Below: After receiving a sample of Ice Pops, Precious sat in front of the freezer hoping she would be offered additional samples.



Left: Warren being interviewed by none other than Frank B. Shaner.

Right: One of two calm cats who attended the Expo.



Tails of Aloha - Yokohama



There are several married couples who volunteer with Tails of Aloha, Yokohama. One couple in particular are Mr. and Mrs. Okabe and their two fantastic Shih-tzus, Bishasu and Benten, who happen to be brother and sister. This family of four are expert therapy team volunteers.

Bishasu and Benten were born in the month of September in 1998. You're probably wondering about their strange sounding names. A little background about their names: The Shichifukujin are a group of deities from Japan, China, and India. Only one, named Ebisu, is from Japan's Shinto tradition. Daikokuten, Bishamonten, and Benzaiten are from the Hindu Buddhism. Finally, there are Hotei, Juroujim, and Fukurokuju who came from the Chinese Taoist-Buddhist tradition. In Japan, they travel together on their treasure ship named Takarabune and dispense happiness to believers. Each deity existed independently before their creation together in the 17th century.

Bishasu is named after Bishamonten, whose virtue is dignity, and Benten was named after Benzaiten whose virtue was amiability and who happened to be the only female deity in the group.

Bishasu is a very calm and easy going dog who happens to love volunteering. When sitting on the lap of the resident, he listen intently on their every word. His eyes let them know he understands them perfectly. It is sometimes difficult to get Bishasu back from the residents as they won't let him go!

Benten is also calm and cuddly with the residents. She is a very active dog at home, but when visiting, she sit quietly in their laps for as long as the resident wants them to visit. She has the ability to bring peace and happiness to everyone she visits.

Both Benten and Bishasu are 11 now and the only sign of their aging is a hernia that Bishasu has.

We are all very glad to have Benten and Bishasu as part of our Ohana (family)!

Tails of Aloha - Maui

Kula Hospital on Maui had a blast for their Halloween program! Take a look for yourselves. Even our therapy dogs, Yuki, Benji, Malie, Bella, and Mana, were dressed and loving every minute of it. Our therapy members on Maui, maybe small in numbers, but they are the most dedicated group of members I have come across in. Teri Teruya, Shannon Dominguez, Norene Shim, and Kim Williams, have been doing the work of twenty team members. Thanks for always being willing and exuberant team members who wear their hearts on their sleeve!



Introducing...Miso

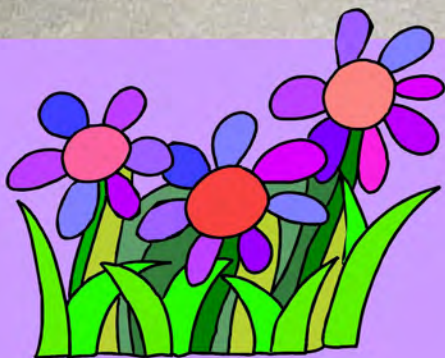
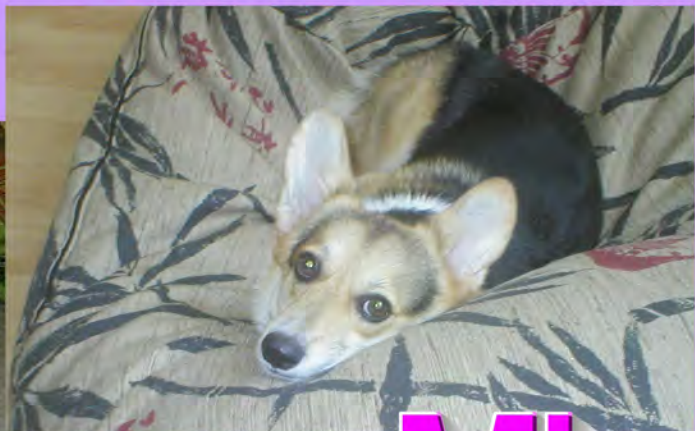
Kevin and Miiko Oshiro are the parents of a wonderful, happy, and spunky two year old Pembroke Welsh Corgi named...Miso! Miso is originally from Hawaii Kai, but now resides with Kevin and Miiko. The Oshiro's thought long and hard before coming up with a cute and quirky name. As Miiko is from Japan, they wanted a short and cute Japanese name. Kevin and Miiko were so happy to have finally found the perfect name, or so they thought until they met two other dogs in the neighborhood with the same name. Who knew?!

Miso is a beautiful tri-color that is absolutely friendly with everyone.

Miso's short legs and somewhat large ears make her smile look even more comical.

Miso's favorite toy is the Nerf Splash Disk frisbee. She's great at catching it and running with it, but returning to Kevin is something they are working on.

We welcome Kevin, Miiko, and Miso to the Tails of Aloha Ohana! We look forward to many fun-filled years with you all.



K9 Kokua

Squeaky is about 14 years of age, and has always been a loved member of his family. Although his family has experienced homelessness a few times throughout the years, they have NEVER thought of giving up their dogs! Their dogs are part of their Ohana.

We noticed a wound on Squeaky's rump and asked the family if they knew how Squeaky received his injury. The family said someone who saw the wound said it was a centipede bite. Although we aren't vets, the wound did not appear to be a centipede bite. It looked as though his anal gland had become impacted and infection set in. As we wanted to be sure it wasn't a ruptured tumor, we asked the family if we could take Squeaky to the vet.

At only 10 pounds, the wound looked really huge. We asked the family if they would permit us to have Squeaky treated by the vet.

The family was worried about the cost as they did not have funds to cover his medical cost. We told the family not to worry and that the medical care would be taken care of. Squeaky's family was very appreciative and were stunned that someone would offer to provide this type of assistance for their dog. We then discovered that Squeaky had been given 4 antibiotic pills by the person who said he had a centipede bite. The family was then informed that human medication and dog medication are not always the same.



Squeaky



We informed the family that human medications can lead to an allergic reaction, seizures, and even death. The family was shocked and horrified as they were unsure whether the antibiotics were for dogs or humans. But they decided not to give any medications to their 4-legged ohana unless it came from the vet. The latest update on Squeaky is that he is healing very quickly! His wound looks much better, and Squeaky is a lot happier. Squeaky takes his medication as prescribed by the vet, without any complaints! He's such a wonderful boy!

To see additional photos of Squeaky, check out K9 Kokua's website at www.k9kokua.org.

Shane's Insanely Delicious Chocolate Chip Cheesecake Bars



2 packages "slice and bake" frozen
chocolate chip cookie dough
2 (8 oz.) packages cream cheese
2 eggs
2 tsp. vanilla
1/2 cup sugar

Crust: Slice 1 package cookie dough
thinly and spread over the bottom of a
greased 9 x 13-inch pan.

Filling: Combine cheese, eggs, vanilla,
and sugar. Mix until smooth. Spread
over cookie dough.

Topping: Slice thin and spread the other
package of cookie dough on top of the
cream cheese mixture.

Bake at 375 degrees for 35 minutes.
Slice while still warm....

Pedigree Foundation

Many thanks to Pedigree for their recent
matching donation to our dog kennels.
The funds received by Pedigree will allow
us to expand Ilio Hale!
Okay teams members, get ready to start
building and painting, once again!

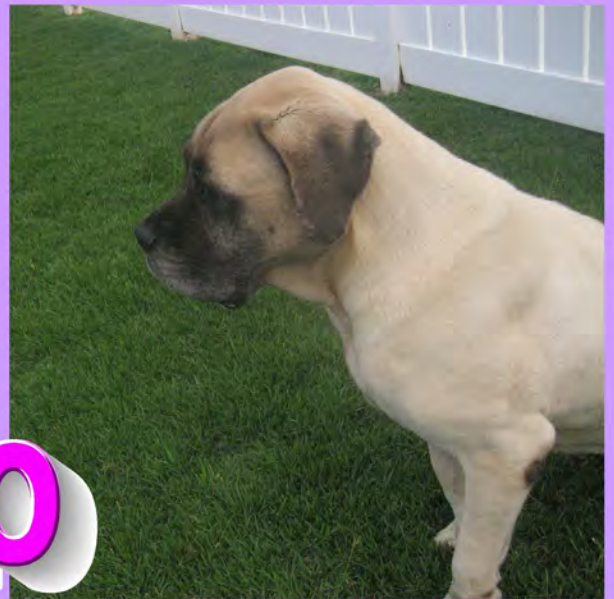
Mahalo, Pedigree Foundation!



Never, never be afraid to do what's right, especially where the
welfare of a person or animal is at stake. Society's punishments
are small compared to the wounds we inflict upon our soul
when we look the other way.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Rehoming



Coco

Coco is a six year old English Mastiff who is losing her home through divorce. She is a great family dog, and an excellent watch dog. If you have a big yard and are willing to share your home with Coco, please contact us immediately at info@tailsofaloha.com.



Smokey



Smokey is a neutered male cat who is seeking a forever home. He's a big boy, at approximately 15 pounds. Smokey would prefer to be the only cat in the home. He's never had a place he could call home, and we're hoping to find him a great home. We think he's around six years old and he enjoys being with people. For more information, contact us at info@tailsofaloha.com.

Message to the TOA Ohana...

I happened to be watching Iron Chef...and found my 'Aha, moment' for this article. The program was seeking a new Iron Chef. A few of the judges on the panel were the current Iron Chefs. The criteria that each Iron Chef used for selecting the next Iron Chef was basically the same. Their thoughts were that a person cannot attain Iron Chef status unless they had perfected the basics of their trade. That's when that darn lightning bolt stuck me, and I knew what I had to write about. So, as the year draws to a close, I wanted to remind each member to think about the basics of true success.

Most people think of money, financial independence, power, and recognition when the word success comes to mind. These are the desires that drives us and often dominates our life. The desire for success often takes many forms. If you are athletic, your goals is to perform better than your competition. If your passion is business, your goal may be to reach the pinnacle of your industry. I don't mean to say that these are not worthy pursuits, but there is another, deeper kind of success.

Happiness is the key to success. If you love what you are doing, you will be successful.

Herman Cain

Don't confuse fame with success. Madonna is one; Helen Keller is the other.

Erma Bombeck

The other type of success is personal success. The manner in which we conduct our business, how we interact with others, how we deal with negativity, and most importantly, how we think of ourselves is crucial. Each has an effect on any achievement we strive for, no matter what level we may be on at this particular point in time.

Remember the basic human principle..."Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." I've known numerous high achievers during my lifetime, and have come to the belief with every fiber of my being, that living by this principle is the true secret of real success.

Be kind, be compassionate, be the best human being you are capable of being, and you will undoubtedly be successful! Remember, being kind does not mean you are weak (otherwise your therapy animals would not listen to you).

Hope the end of this year resolves many wounds and issues for everyone, and that 2010 is the beginning of a positive transition for us all!