



## Tails of the Humane Society

August 2010

It has been about a month since I started full time at the Humane Society of Williamson County (HSWC); and what a terrific month it has been! There are so many exciting on-going activities. First of all, we are preparing for the upcoming **2nd annual Bowl-a-thon at Mel's Lone Star Lanes on August 21st**. HSWC is also progressing with the construction of our new Dog Adoption Center as well as the expansion of our public service programs providing low-cost spay/neuter and low-cost vaccinations to our community. However, with all this activity, it is the individual stories of four animals about which I want to share with you today.

The first is a kitten named Toby...

### Toby

Toby is a very young, adorable, white, fluffy kitten. Toby is blind. Toby has no eyes. We don't know if he was born without his eyes or if he lost them due to early trauma in his short life, though no other signs of such trauma exist.



I first saw Toby during my visit to Town Lake Animal Center to meet their Rescue Coordinator Kathryn Sharp. During the visit, Kathryn and I passed by Toby as she mentioned that other organizations did not want to adopt or intake Toby. Upon seeing this sweet, poor kitten, I immediately knew that the HSWC family and network would be able to help. I contacted Gina Benner, our Animal Care Manager, and discussed our ability to take Toby. Thanks to dedicated efforts by Gina and Kathryn, we were able to arrange for Toby to be brought to HSWC.

Danielle Cloud, our assistant Animal Care Supervisor, named Toby and has been fostering him in her home. Danielle has shared stories about

*"Love is not blind; it simply enables one to see things others fail to see." - Anonymous*

how Toby feels his way to food and water and also mentioned how very loving and grateful he is for hugs and petting, as can be expected. Toby is fortunate to be temporarily fostered by Daniel.

We are looking for donations to help this wonderful and special little kitten find his forever home. Toby, being a special needs animal, will require some extra costs for his care, and we at HSWC will expend much effort to present this cute, fluffy, loving kitten to the public in order to find the perfect forever home for him. Please consider sending a donation to help Toby find that home.

## **Rex**



Rex is Pit Bull stray found by a local Good Samaritan. He brought Rex to us because Williamson County Regional Animal Shelter was closed at the time. Rex had an extremely severe case of demodectic mange, a non-contagious form of mange. Rex had absolutely no hair left and a severe case of skin irritations, with infection setting in from his itching and scratching.

Because of previous successes we had with saving and adopting out other animals infected with demodectic mange, we decided to intake Rex.

Rex was immediately provided medical care and shelter. Upon further medical assessment, we discovered that Rex was also stricken with heartworms, for which he received treatment immediately. Since arriving here at HSWC, he has started to recover and his hair is slowly beginning to grow back. As his pain and discomfort have diminished, he has become more playful and energetic. His on-going recovery and transformation is wonderful. I need to express a special thank you to Terry Swanson for donating natural, holistic dog food that continues to help Rex with his skin issues. Many thanks!

We are excited for Rex's continued recovery so that he will soon be ready for adoption. Please come by and visit Rex. You can imagine with his skin condition, he is sometimes overlooked by the general public. Rex would love to see you and would enjoy the socialization.



## **Casper**

During my first week as Executive Director, I was walking across the grounds and saw Casper, a blonde terrier, being unloaded from the van. He had just arrived at HSWC as a rescue from a local shelter. Casper was terrified, frightened of all people and not at all leash friendly. He twisted and turned, then bit through his leash. It took six of us about 30 minutes to re-leash Casper. He was so frightened; he wanted

*Charlene showing off Casper's fresh haircut*

nothing to do with anyone. He wasn't aggressive, just extremely fearful of people.

After going through a medical check and cleanup, our animal care staff decided to put Casper through a gradual socialization process. Eventually, Casper spent a lot of time in our lobby. This people-time allowed him to observe and be around humans in a non-threatening environment. Our dog walking volunteers did a great job with Casper, and he eventually adjusted to fun walks on a leash.

Over the last few weeks, it has been remarkable to see Casper come out of his shell. He became friendly with other dogs and began to accept new people. Casper began looking like a happy, adoptable dog. Last week Charlene Easterbrook, a dedicated volunteer, took Casper to get groomed, giving him the perfect summer and 'ready for a new home' haircut..

I thought one of the best days was when Casper actually took a treat from my hand without cowering in the corner. However, I was wrong. The best day was last Saturday when Casper was adopted and went with his forever family to his new home.

Many thanks to our staff and volunteers for having faith and giving Casper hope.



*Casper and his new Forever Family*

## Hobbes



Hobbes is an interesting story about how our staff and volunteers came up with a creative solution for an extremely difficult situation.

Hobbes is an intelligent and cute cream-colored dog. However, we soon discovered that Hobbes could be dangerously dog aggressive. His prey drive for small dogs was a danger to our other animals, our staff and volunteers, and our community. A disposition committee was convened to consider alternatives. The committee, concerned about the potential danger to the community, decided that Hobbes was not to be offered for adoption through HSWC's program. The committee did decide, however, to allow time to find Hobbes a sanctuary. Hobbes had previous training and as I mentioned he is an intelligent dog. The committee felt there was hope for Hobbes, but we had to balance that desire for hope against the safety of the community.

Eran Albrecht, our Community Relations Manager was able to locate a training facility willing to take in Hobbes. They specialize in situations such as Hobbes'. They only had one condition: that we swap Hobbes for a particular dog with which they had difficulty finding a home.

We performed due diligence on the facility. Last Friday Gina Benner, our Animal Care Manager, drove Hobbes to the new facility. Gina met with the facility director and further inspected the site. Pleased with her findings, Gina released Hobbes to the organization. Hobbes will go through training for controlling his dog aggression and be re-homed to an appropriate family or working situation.

Iago is the dog we received in exchange. He is a German Shepherd and his ears have fallen, so compared to other AKC standard German Shepherds he was being passed over by potential owners at the other facility. Bringing him to HSWC is a chance for Iago to be evaluated as an individual dog. He is a terrific guy and I have no doubt he will find his forever home very quickly. Even on his first day here, while waiting for his medical evaluation, he generated a lot of interest among potential adopters.



*Iago at HSWC*

All in all, it is a happy ending. Hobbes has a bright future in front of him. I want to thank the members of the disposition committee for their time and insight regarding this alternative solution for Hobbes. And a very special thank you to Eran for finding a shelter for Hobbes and to Gina for evaluating Hobbes, Iago, and driving to the other facility for the exchange. Also, I want to thank all of the staff and volunteers who have expressed their support and concern for Hobbes.

Once again, thank you for your support. Whether your support is through volunteer service, in-kind donations, referring HSWC to your friends and family, or monetary donations, we appreciate it all. But most needed is your monetary support to help keep our shelter running. Please consider writing a small check to help animals in similar situations as Toby, Rex, Casper, and Hobbes. We are a private, non-profit organization and 100% funded through private donations and grants. We are only able to help animals and run our no-kill shelter model because of donors, adopters, and supporters such as you. Thank you.

Ron Marullo,  
Executive Director

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