

From the Heart

There are two words in the animal welfare world that are near and dear to my heart. They are... NO KILL. To the board members and me these are two very important words that hold tremendous meaning. I would like to take this time to explain to you what these words mean to our organization and why we are truly no kill. I will also explain why other organizations that claim they are no kill are using these words falsely.

Our organization believes no kill means that there is no reason to euthanize an animal because of behavior issues (bite cases, ferals etc.) treatable/ manageable health issues, age, or breed. The only time HEA considers euthanasia is when an animal is suffering and quality of life no longer exists. Happily Ever After has been blessed by God and have rarely had to make the decision to euthanize. We have had animals pass away naturally, sometimes in our arms. I believe this is God's design for all life put on this earth.

There are times when we tell people we are a no kill sanctuary and they reply, “Oh, like the local shelter.” This really bothers me because places are using these words very loosely. Many of the shelters will say that they haven't put down any adoptable animals coming into their care. One might think this means they are no kill. However, if you analyze this sentence, the key word is “adoptable”. If a cat comes into a shelter and appears to be feral (wild), they will euthanize it. Unfortunately, many cats that appear feral when they come in are just scared. Given the chance they often end up being the most wonderful, loving cats in the world. If a dog comes into a shelter and doesn't pass a temperament test, which means they have to be friendly and compliant from the get go they too are deemed unadoptable and euthanized. If a pitbull enters a shelter, they can be euthanized no matter how wonderful they are, simply because this breed is stereotyped as a danger to society. If a 12 year old animal comes in to a shelter, that 12 year old could be euthanized because it is considered to be less adoptable than the young ones. Yet one more reason an animal may be considered unadoptable

at a shelter would be health concerns. This may be as simple as a treatable cold or flu virus.

None of the animals in these situations would be euthanized at Happily Ever After. In our eyes they are all adoptable and should all have a chance at a quality life in a loving home. With that being said, HEA also has dogs and cats that may not find a suitable home and they are not threatened with euthanasia but get to live out their lives with us at Happily Ever After. Thus Happily Ever After is a no-kill facility; however, that local shelter that claims to be no-kill most likely is not. Be informed, ask questions of these facilities and ask them to define who they are and what they mean when they say they are no-kill. That is the only way they will be held accountable for all the animals they are euthanizing for no reason at all. If you have questions about Happily Ever After's no-kill policy we always welcome questions and are more than willing to explain the way we do things and why. We are here to make a positive difference in the world and know with your help we can.

Believing in a no-kill world,
Amanda M. Reitz
President/Founder

The New Year Brings New Goals

The coming of a new year often brings people to set goals to change themselves and the world around them. This is just what Happily Ever After is doing and we need your help. Happily Ever After's focus is on adoption, education, and spay/neuter. So the question becomes what goals will we have for the year 2008?

In the year 2007, Happily Ever After had 244 adoption, bringing the total since our start in late 2005 to 349 adoptions. Our goal for 2008 is 450 adoptions. In order to do this, we need your help. Think adoption before going out and buying an animal from a backyard breeder. Save a pet and discourage those who are needlessly breeding and bringing animals into the world.

In the year 2007, many shelters were finding themselves in the position to euthanize adoptable animals. This is directly caused by people who don't see the importance of spaying/neutering until its too late, backyard breeders (those who think puppies are fun and cute, those who do it for their kids to see “the miracle of birth”, and those in it for money), puppy-mills (breeding facilities that produce purebred puppies in large numbers who are often over-bred, inbred, and do not receive the proper care and socialization needed), and pet stores who sell pets. In the year 2008, Happily Ever After hopes to help these shelters lower their euthanasia rate by saving animals before euthanasia, educating the public on the disadvantages of purchasing puppies and kittens from un reputable breeders, and discouraging society's belief that animals are disposable.

In the year 2007, Happily Ever After spayed/neutered each dog and cat that came into the sanctuary. We also did some local outreach stressing the importance of spaying and neutering. In the year 2008, we hope to have four large-scale low cost spay/neuter days for animals in several communities. These days will be geared toward encouraging pet-owners to grasp the importance of spaying and neutering animals in conjunction with Happily Ever After's mission to bring about a time when all companion animals born into this world will have a quality life in a loving home.

In the year 2007, Happily Ever After received help from hundreds of people in the form of donations and volunteer hours. In the year 2008, Happily Ever After will encourage more people to volunteer at the sanctuary and its events to support the animals. Ways in which pet-lovers can do this are: socialize with the animals, help with maintenance and upgrade projects, participate at special events, help with fundraising, do secretarial tasks, help with daily care, and the list goes on.

If you would like more information on opportunities to help the sanctuary, visit our website at www.happilyeverafterinfo.org.

CHECK-OUT ALL of HEA's Critters at www.happilyeverafterinfo.org or petfinder.com

Hi! I am Murphy!

I am a sweet man! I am 6 or 7 years old. HEA rescued me from a local shelter as my time was nearing the end. I was at the shelter because I don't get along with little animals. However, I have several friends at the sanctuary that I love and I am sure I would like any friends you may have for me. I love to eat and run around! I will run for any toy you throw for me. But to be completely honest, my most favorite thing in the world is getting attention from the human kind. I love to be scratched and will lean into you for love.

Come on over and we can play together. See you soon! Murphy.

Update: I have been at Happily Ever After since August 2006. No one really knows why as I am the sweetest, gentlest man in the world. I have discovered how wonderful a couch is since being at Happily Ever After and would love one of my own. Would you be willing to give me love and a couch of my own? I think that would be super!

 Many Wags, Murphy

I'm Ben!!

I was found as a stray and brought to HEA. I'm a very handsome boy and they are guessing I was born sometime around January of 2006. Ben fits me so well, some call me Big Ben. When I came to the sanctuary I will admit I was pretty scrawny looking but I have turned into a big “muscular” boy! My only downfall, if you want to call it that, is that I am FIV positive. I don't see it as a downfall, I'm one of the healthiest cats around, but I know some people don't see it that way, so that's why I'm telling you ahead of time. I really don't play much but I love to snuggle and get attention from creatures of the human kind. I could sit in a chair and cuddle for most of the day if given the opportunity. Do you want cuddle with me? I would love to cuddle with you!

 Snuggles, Ben

Green Bay's Got it Going On

Happily Ever After was at the hottest place in town the weekend of March 28, 29, and 30. WBAY held its third annual Pet Expo at Shopko Hall. If you haven't heard of this spectacular event before it includes pet food vendors, home-made dog and cat treat shops, doggie day care facilities, veterinarians, animals from all different breed rescues and shelters, a petting zoo, dog shows, and the coolest thing... us, well, the coolest thing is probably dock dogs (where dogs jump into a huge pool and splash everybody) but we are a close second! The dogs and cats of Happily Ever After were a huge hit. Everyone came by to love them up. And when the weekend was over, everyone was tired, but very happy! And the winner of the raffle blanket is Mary Schuh of New London. Congratulations Mary!

Pictures with Santa

For Christmas 2007, many of you volunteered your time or animals for our Pictures with Santa fundraiser at Petsmart in Green Bay. Pictures with Santa raised the sanctuary \$510 from Petsmart Charities! The animals are so thrilled. Thank you for all your help!



Chocolate Challenge

We are putting up a challenge to all you working men and women. We are looking for people to sell Seroogy's Chocolate Bars at their place of employment. We will supply you with a box of variety chocolate bars. Seroogy's chocolate bars are now being sold for \$1.50. Happily Ever After receives .75 for every candy bar sold. Please consider bringing a box to work. You will make your fellow co-workers and the animals happy at the same time.

Who could ask for more?!?!

Spring Into Spring with a New Forever Friend

Happily Ever After is teaming up with Petsmart and the Bay Area Humane Society to find homeless pets forever families. On May 3rd and 4th, the animals from HEA and BAHS will be in a large tent in the Petsmart parking lot waiting for you or someone you know to come and take them home! Cats, dogs, and other creatures will be available for adoption. We will be trying to do same day adoptions so be sure to bring your vet's information, your landlord's information, as well as the names and numbers of three personal references! Nothing says "Spring is Here" like the adoption of a new forever friend!

Rummage Sale Season

It's that time of year again. Many people are cleaning out their closets and garages and getting rid of their old stuff. If you are one of those people and are looking for a place to donate those treasures, please consider HEA. We have several rummage sales throughout the summer and fall and are always looking for donations. If you have donations, feel free to drop off the donations at the sanctuary or contact Ken Reitz at 920-609-4491. Another idea... if you or your neighborhood has a rummage sale, please consider donating a portion of your sales to Happily Ever After!

Hang with the Hounds, Cuddle with the Cats

It all happens at Petsmart, and we are expanding our reach. We have been working together with Petsmart in Green Bay for over a year now and we have decided to expand our Petsmart horizons just a little further. You can now see Happily Ever After animals... and staff too, at Petsmart in Appleton. We are currently hosting a table at Petsmart in Appleton the first weekend of every month from 11-3 on both Saturdays and Sundays. And, as always, we are at Petsmart in Green Bay on the second and fourth weekends of every month. We also always have cats in the cat cubbies in Green Bay. So you can check out a few HEA cats all week long and then check out more cats and dogs on Fridays (4pm-9pm), Saturdays (10am-6pm), and Sundays (12pm-6pm). Feel free to stop by and cuddle with the cats and hang with the hounds, or even better yet volunteer some of your time and hang with the animals for a couple hours! Hope to see you at Petsmart soon!



"Laughin'" Taffy

Hey... Taffy here! Yes, I know you have all been patiently waiting to hear about my plight, so here's the news... So far, so good! I had surgery on January 24th at Fox Valley Referral Center. It was a fairly extensive surgery but Dr. Bruce, as everyone calls him, knew exactly what he was doing. They re-routed some stuff and did some cutting and slicing and well, you don't really want to know the details, and actually it makes me woozy just thinking about it, so let's move on. I then went back to the sanctuary, sort of. I was living with founder, Amanda Reitz, so she could make sure I didn't take that stupid cone off my head (I got it off on my own two times, boy, did that make Amanda laugh!), and she had to watch to make sure I was eating and taking my medicine, and most importantly going potty like a normal kitty does. Like I said, so far so good! All is currently in "working order" and I was recently able to join my sanctuary friends. Look for me in rooms three and four of the cat area when you come to visit. I will be the one who jumps on your shoulders when you walk in the room! Thanks for all your support. Because of friends like you, I can find a forever family and live "happily ever after"!



Sweet Success with the Sweet Sale

Happily Ever After held a sweet sale at Premier Community Bank in Marion. Many of you were gracious enough to bake goodies for us. We had sweets coming from all directions. Because of your willingness to bake for the sanctuary, we made \$532.00 for the animals at the sanctuary. Thank you for supporting us by baking or buying baked goods. The animals really appreciate everything you do!

Beat the Heat

On March 15, Happily Ever After teamed up with Dr. John Barnstorff and staff at The Animal Hospital of De Pere as well as Dr. Patrick Warpinski and staff at The Animal House in Green Bay to "Beat the Heat". Low-income families were offered the service of spaying their female cat for only \$60. Many people who called us for help openly admitted that if it wasn't for this low-cost clinic, they would never be able to afford to fix their female cat. The doctors and their staff as well as HEA volunteers did an amazing job. Together we spayed 54 female cats in one day! Potentially that stopped the birth of approximately 635 kittens this spring alone. What a great accomplishment for Happily Ever After and the Northeast Wisconsin community. If you see Dr. Barnstorff or Dr. Warpinski, please thank them for making a difference in the animal welfare world.



Do the Can, Can!

Help!!!! Please collect your aluminum cans. It is an easy way to help the animals at the sanctuary. If you want to bring them to the crusher, get the money and send it to us that would be great. If not, just bring us your cans and we will take care of the rest. We would like to raise a minimum of \$50 each month through can collection. Please do your part and collect those aluminum cans!



Education Station...Feline Immunodeficiency Virus

FIV stands for Feline Immunodeficiency Virus. The letters FIV often scare people. We would like to take the time to share with you what FIV is all about and why HEA does not euthanize cats that have this virus. Feline Immunodeficiency Virus is primarily spread through bite wounds and on rare occasions through an infected mother cat to her kittens. Casual, non-aggressive contact between cats does not spread the virus. With this being said, cats in a stable social structure where housemates do not fight are at little risk of acquiring FIV. Cats infected with FIV can live perfectly normal lives for years. (As a side note, one of our past adopters has an FIV cat that is 19 years old.) Like HIV in humans, FIV can lead to a state of immune deficiency. Viruses and bacteria in the environment that may not affect a healthy cat could affect a cat with FIV because of their weakened immune system. Because of this, it is important to keep FIV cats in a healthy and safe environment. This virus can be detected through an antibody blood test. Happily Ever After strongly encourages all households that have cats or are getting a cat to have the veterinarian run this test along with the Feline Leukemia blood test. We are proud to say all of our animals are tested before being put up for adoption. If a cat's test comes back positive for FIV they are kept in separate living quarters while at Happily Ever After. We do believe in adopting these cats out since they can live happy and healthy lives. We are happy to report that out of our six cats that have tested FIV positive, four of them have found loving forever families. Two of them are still here... Titus and Ben. They would love it if you would come visit them and maybe give them a chance at a forever family too!



Kolby and Kaiser Living Happily Ever After

Dear Amanda and my other friends at HEA: I just want you to know how happy I am in my new home.

I can't believe all the room I have to run and play! I miss some of my friends at HEA but I have plenty of love and friends where I am at now. I have a new name now called Kolby. Mary is leaving Tony as my middle name. Mary has this thing about giving her cats names that start with the letter "K". She has had cats named Kjsa, Kado, Kelsy, Kally, Kloe, Kimmy, and now Kolby and Kaiser! Mary's husband Denny named Spot "Kaiser" and Kaiser really likes his new name. And he really likes Denny too! He gets to sit on his chair and on his lap. The dog Hunter doesn't like that much but he just has to adjust. I don't mind the dog at all. We have wonderful food to eat and we sometimes get a pounce treat for doing absolutely nothing. I had a little accident my first day because I couldn't remember where the litter box was. I was afraid I would be sent away over it but Mary was okay with it. She understood I didn't mean it and that I am still learning where everything is. Today, Mary went out and got me a scratching post and some balls to

play with.

Kaiser is getting along just fine. He has gotten a little stuck up to me and doesn't want me to come around when he is in Mary's arms. He gets to sleep on the down comforter right up by Mary's chest at night. I got stuck with being at the foot of the bed but that's okay because the electric mattress pad has more coils at the foot and it is really warm there. We haven't made friends yet with Kally but in time I am sure she will come around. She is about a quarter of my size and she hisses at me and bats me with her declawed paw! I don't hit her back...men should never hit ladies. Besides it doesn't even hurt me at all. It is kind of funny really.

I know you were sad to see your baby go but please be happy for me because Mary loves me just as much as you do. The best thing is that no one cares that we have the FIV virus at all. Both Kaiser and I know that we are going to have the best Christmas ever and many happy new years! We still love you too and maybe sometime you can come and visit us at our new home!

Love, Kolby and Kaiser too

Check out www.happilyeverafterinfo.org for more ideas on how you can help.