



SAVE OUR STRAYS OF HUNTINGTON BEACH

Stray News

Issue #40

Spring 2011

SOSHB is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the lives of lost and stray pets of Huntington Beach.

2nd Annual Save Our Strays of HB Yoga Event!



cloud nine yoga
studio & school

Have you ever thought about trying yoga but thought you were not flexible, strong or balanced enough? Well, here is your chance to try something new (or not) while supporting your favorite local charity (us!). *The Cloud 9 Yoga Co-op in Huntington Beach is hosting a*

Karma Yoga class on Saturday, May 21st from 2:00pm to 4:30pm to raise money for Save Our Strays of Huntington Beach. After this relaxing class, there will be time to share and enjoy some tea, wine, cheese and fruit as you integrate the movement and breathing practice into your mind, body and soul! This donation-based (whatever you would like to donate), all levels class will be led by Save Our Strays volunteer and Cloud Nine Yoga teacher, Linda Crossley. Just come with an open mind and heart. Please bring cash or check payable to SOSHB. To register for this class, please contact **Linda Crossley at 609-505-4018.**

So mark you calendars now to join the Huntington Beach community at the Cloud 9 Yoga Co-op, (located at 18351 Beach Blvd., Ste H.), for a fun, stress-free way to integrate your mind, body and heart into your love and support of our pets. *Save The Date, Save Our Strays and Save Your Peace Of Mind!*

Watch for These Signs of Illness in Your Senior Pet

Even though older pets can't talk, they will tell you when they're not feeling well. How? By exhibiting certain signs of disease. If you notice any of the following, contact your veterinarian to discuss whether your senior pet should make a visit to see her/him.

- Changes in weight (especially weight loss)
- Decreased appetite or lack of appetite
- Increased water consumption
- Changes in elimination patterns (urine or stool)
- Sudden collapse or bout of weakness
- New lumps of bumps or swellings-or changes in existing ones
- Difficulty breathing or breathing heavily or rapidly at rest
- Difficulty climbing stairs or jumping
- Foul mouth odor or drooling
- Seizure, convulsion or fit
- Persistent cough
- Pain

A Happy Ending

by Anna Monaco

Remember our story from the last newsletter about Rachel and Holly? Rachel had lost her job and her home. She and her sweet dog Holly were living in their car and Holly had stopped eating due to extreme pain resulting from lack of dental care. Stories like this touch our heart and truly make us grateful for all that we have.

Our newsletter story generated a great measure of interest. Save Our Strays members wanted to do more. Calls came in with members asking how they could help Rachel and Holly find a safe, warm place to live. In response to the many inquiries, one of our members personally reached out and contacted Rachel to see if there was something she could do to help. It was wonderful to learn that Rachel landed a new job and found a new home ...and the very best part....they would accept Holly as well! In the past, Rachel had opportunities for shelter but they would not accept Holly. That was not an invitation Rachel could accept. You see, Rachel and Holly are a package. They stay together in the good times and when life offers challenges. Today, Rachel and Holly are safe and no longer call their car their home.

We want to commend Rachel for her courage during the difficult times she has endured. Our hearts are warmed by her loyalty to Holly. We also want to extend our gratitude to all of our Save Our Strays members who inquired about Rachel and Holly. Remember the goodness that is shared through your donations truly makes lives better.

In honor of all our members, we would like to share the following quote:

"No kind action ever stops with itself. One kind action leads to another. Good example is followed. A single act of kindness throws out roots in all directions, and the roots spring up and make new trees" — Amelia Earhart

Keeping Your Membership Current

When we mail you your newsletter, we have a date just below your name. If your date is highlighted, it means it's time to renew your S.O.S. membership. Your membership fees helps to cover printing and mailing costs of the newsletter and misc. other fliers throughout the year.

THANKS to our Sponsors & Patrons!

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SOSHB Membership Information

Save Our Strays offers numerous membership levels. **To join or renew**, please use the form below. Your membership expiration date appears on the address label of the SOSHB newsletter.

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP \$15

Includes a year's subscription to *Stray News* and discounts at SOSHB events throughout the year.

FAMILY MEMBERSHIP \$25

Includes a year's subscription to *Stray News* and discounts for the whole family at SOSHB events throughout the year.

PATRON \$50

Patrons receive all the benefits of a Family Membership and are listed in *Stray News* and on the SOSHB website.

SPONSOR

Sponsors receive all the benefits of a Family Membership and are listed in *Stray News* and on the SOSHB website.

Four levels of sponsorship exist:

Sponsor	\$100	Gold Sponsor	\$500
Silver Sponsor	\$250	Platinum Sponsor	\$1000
Diamond Sponsor	\$5000		

SOSHB Membership/Order Form

Use this form to pay SOS dues and/or to order shirts & frames.

Membership:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$15 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family \$25 | <input type="checkbox"/> Silver Sponsor \$250 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patron \$50 | <input type="checkbox"/> Gold Sponsor \$500 |
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T-Shirts: \$10 member \$15 non-member

Select T-shirt color: White Grey

of shirts requested in each size: ___M ___L ___XL ___XXL

Crewneck Sweatshirts: \$20 member \$25 non-member

of shirts requested in each size: ___M ___L ___XL ___XXL

Available in several shades of pure white.

Hooded Sweatshirt: \$25 member \$30 non-member

of shirts requested in each size: ___L ___XL ___XXL

Available in Westie White, Bichon White or Samoyed White.

License Plate Frames: 1 for \$5 2 for \$8

SOSHB will not mail frames. Call 714-442-1446 to arrange pick-up.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State: _____ Zip: _____

Email (optional): _____

Phone (optional): _____

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____ (Add \$5 per shirt for shipping/handling, or call 714-442-1446 for pick-up.)

Mail this form with your money order or check (payable to SOSHB) to:

Save Our Strays of Huntington Beach
P.O. Box 4083
Huntington Beach, CA 92605-4083

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Wheels of Freedom

By Giulia Nuccitelli

Tai “the amazing”, that started to become the saying in her later years. To me she was my “sweet baby girl.” I now reflect upon her life and truly see how amazing she was. Tai allowed us to have thirteen wonderful years with her, as most know she was my bottle baby from two-days old and fighting for her life. She showed us her strength and determination then and brought it back around full circle in her days when cancer started to invade.

August 31, 2010 around 6:20pm, a day and time that I will never forget, Tai had her first grand mal seizure. It happened right after our regular after work run. Tai was a great runner, loved the outdoors and if something moved in the shrubs as we ran by, she’d sniff them out. (While I’m tumbling in the grass from her sudden stop) She never harmed anything, just curious of what lurked in the ivy, usually a small lizard that whipped by us so fast she wasn’t even sure if she saw something. I usually got the cocked head look of “Mom did you see something?” and off we’d go again.

I had noticed on our way back to the truck she suddenly stopped running, looked a little dazed, and confused. I waited it out with her, Tai was so arthritic I sort of put it off to her back end being sore, especially after she started running like a crazy pup again towards the truck. We arrived to the truck, she walked up the ramp, had a seat, belted her in and I remember thinking there is a little white fluffy dog and she isn’t reacting at all. She normally would cry or whine...suddenly she started to shake and convulse. All four legs were doing their own thing, her neck thrust back and her mouth wide open as if she was gasping for air, I don’t think I was ever so afraid in my whole life with Tai. Was it really a seizure? Was she having a stroke or heart attack? At her age anything was possible.

I drove to the Advanced Critical Care in Tustin, they rushed her in, Dr. Kogen one of the many wonderful doctors there came out fairly quickly, said she had calmed down, it was a seizure and it had stopped when medications were given. He went over what he thought it could be, but he kept stressing that it was probably a brain tumor given her age. Tai stayed overnight for monitoring, a series of tests and for the MRI the next day. I remember that early morning call saying Tai had a Meningioma Brain Tumor that was fairly large, the doc kept talking, but echoing in my head was a brain tumor... “we are referring you to a neurologist”...

I chose the radiation treatment for Tai, which consisted of 16 days of being under a general anesthetic and 10 minutes of radiation. For 16 days, Tai went in, had her treatments, and came out giving us all her “boxer butt wiggle” and ready to hit the park. No seizure afterwards was as big as her first one. Here

at the house we clued into early signs of a seizure coming on and would lay her down comfortable so she wouldn’t be walking and just fall over. We rode them out together and once they were done, she’d get up and walk around like nothing had happened. We’d feed her some sweet potatoes, get her insulin levels back up and off she’d go again. For nighttime or driving around in the truck, I had made a collar for her with bells so we could hear her if she was out of sight. They had their own little tune, they’d sound, we’d run with the medical bag and ride out the storm with her.

December 26, 2010 she went into a state of continuous seizures that kept her in critical care for two weeks. Through this period Tai lost the ability to walk on her own again. Her neurologist said it was normal due to the medications she was on to stop seizures and she would regain walking in about 2-weeks, Tai didn’t. This was perplexing because every time I would pick her up to go outside she would stand on her own, support herself in my arms, and push off with her legs. I was confused but every doctor I took her too said it was either her arthritis or the brain tumor had affected her ability to walk.



I knew Tai would never give up so quickly, from two days old she was a fighter, she wasn’t going to give into this. I sent out an e-mail asking if anyone knew of a place that rented out doggie wheelchairs. The email raced through cyberspace and due to a mutual contact, was forwarded to Save Our Strays of Huntington Beach. Communication began right away. After contacting Karen, President of Save Our Strays, who was instrumental in me getting my second pup, she put the wheels in motion, so to speak. She suggested soliciting for donations rather than renting since it had to be a customized chair. She immediately sent an email out to the generous supporters of SOSHB. Before I knew it, Save Our Strays had raised enough money to buy Tai her own RED chair.

What a happy day for all of us. We were told it may take a while for her to get used to walking in it, nope, I placed Tai in her chair, I barely released all the brakes, and Tai was headed straight for the kitchen. She had freedom again to roam about the house and go to the park!!! She was able to drink and eat in an upright position and let us know exactly what she wanted by walking over to things. Although an adjustment period for all, we saw that her brain was still working fine! Sharp and alert to it all.

We worked with Dr. MacDonald at Stonecreek Animal Hospital to reduce Tai’s medications so that the dopiness for the anti seizure medications would allow her more mobility. It was working, Tai was beginning to walk herself into the vet in her chair and head straight to her “room” for

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daycare. For our trips to the park, I'd say let's go home and Tai would run past the truck. What joy it brought!

With the changes we were seeing we all were encouraged and thought Tai would be with us for some time still. One day I noticed blood in her urine, instinctively I knew this wasn't a bladder infection, I called Dr. MacDonald and made an appointment. We ran every test possible. The weekend wait for the results was tough but we kept on "wheeling". Monday evening came around and I got the news, tumor in the bladder, large, intertwined and well...I fought back the tears and said I'll take her home and think of what do to next. This, was the reason for Tai not walking, not the brain tumor, the soreness on her back was from the cancer in her bladder. If only they could talk.

I had taken a week off work to spend with Tai to keep rehabilitating her with her new wheels, instead over the next few days I watched Tai slowly fade, she slept all day, her chair, she'd just look at, no desire to walk, my heart sank, it hurt for I knew my sweet baby girl was leaving me soon. Tai passed away a few days later, peacefully surrounded by all of us who loved her. I do know

that the freedom she was able to have with her new wheels once they arrived made her a happy pup again.

I was fortunate that from the day of Tai's first seizure to the day Tai passed away, I was with her every day. She came to work with me and if I had to run somewhere and she wasn't able to come I had sitters everywhere, and wonderful veterinary places that would watch her for a few hours.

Tai has left us all with many memories, many great happy stories to tell (many funny ones) and learn from. She touched many hearts and truly filled thirteen years of my/our lives with a joy no one human could do, for animals have a way of touching that place within our hearts that they only hold a key for.

Although my heart aches deeply for I miss her so, it also smiles when I think of all who supported Tai. When specialists had given up on her, Save Our Strays members and donors, you gave her freedom, and you gave her joy. What special people you all are. I'd also like to thank Dr. Stacy Bauman and Dr. Anne Lai from the Animal Hospital of Irvine who cared for Tai for over 8 years.



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