

PROLOGUE

There we all were, quietly going about our daily business when WHOOSH! – winter hit us with a soggy smack in the face. But winter's not so bad when you can snuggle up in front of a heater and listen to the sound of the rain on the windowpanes.

That's why we've done our best to rescue as many dogs as we can before the cold really sets in. And so, ironically, many new mutts have winter to thank for their newfound warmth and comfort. Some of them are already in their very own permanent homes, while others are awaiting their Mr/Mrs/Miss Right in loving foster homes. Either way, things are looking up for the dogs you're about to meet...

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This month, our newsletter contains the following:

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Meet some of our latest rescues, and the loving family homes they've found...

1. Murphy goes full circle

Murphy was found in Table View, and with his liquid brown eyes and heart-melting expression, a foster immediately whisked him off to her warm home in Observatory. Two weeks later, he found his perfect happy ending... in a home just a block away from the lady who originally found him! Just goes to show that sometimes you need to go full circle before you can find what you're really looking for.



Murphy in his favourite place – in someone's arms

2. Leaving the litter: Otter, Candy and Abby

If you've been keeping up with Lady and her pups, you'll recognise these three bundles of joy. Coming from a litter of nine, Otter was used to being surrounded by other dogs. And it's a good thing too, because he shares his new home with three other canine companions, who were more than happy to welcome him into their pack. Candy and Abby were the last two pups to leave the foster nest, but the wait was more than worth it – both are happy settled in wonderful new homes, and Abby spends every night snuggled up in the bed with her new human brother.



Otter and his new family



Candy



Abby

3. Blackie

Blackie never needed foster care. Something about her special nature seemed to jump right out of her photo (taken before rescue while still in the township, as all of our foster homes were full) and into the heart of a wonderful woman who immediately took her in. And there this sweet, playful girl will stay for the rest of her lucky life, with 2007 African Tails graduate, Licorice, to show her the ways of the (first) world.



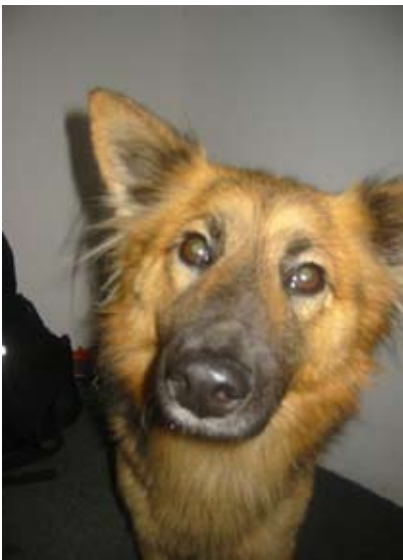
Blackie's original township photo



Licorice, Blackie's new brother

4. Rasta Boo

Boo was brought into CitiVet Sea Point on a Friday afternoon, having been found wondering the streets of Sea Point. His fur was so matted that it had formed long dreadlocks, but his spirit was far from dampened. After just a week in foster care and a much-needed wash, he landed with his Boo-dylicious bum in the but-ter in a wonderful home in Llandudno. *Eyrie, mon!*



Well Boo to you too!

5. Cash crusader

Cash was found wandering around Woodstock by an African Tails volunteer in May. He was about one year old, and had spent his whole life on his own, foraging for food in the fields and dumps. Initially, he was a little nervous, but within a week, he had come out of his shell and found the happy ending he deserved. According to his owner, "he's a super cool dog, very bright, learns very quickly, and already knows to sit before he gets his dinner. We LOVE him and he has fitted straight in as if he was always meant to be here!"



Ooh, a camera! I've never seen one of those before...

6. Jess-ing around

After two months in her wonderful new home, Jess is really settling into the good life. She may have been a little timid at first, but she's now full of newfound confidence and joy, thanks to her loving new mom and dad. And now Jess' parents really are going to be a mom and dad, as they recently discovered that (human) twins are on the way! Talk about a happy family...



Ah! You don't get this fresh sea air in Du Noon!

7. Rocket and Rip

Abandoned at 5 weeks old, these two little cuties are proof of the power of waiting-room advertising. Rescued at the end of 2008, they were taken into foster care by a paediatrician. Soon enough, they were spotted at the office by one of their foster's clients, who immediately adopted them both. Today, they are healthy and happy young boys, who will never have to wait for anything again...



Brothers in arms



Rocket at rest



Rip enjoying an afternoon snooze

8. Tiga

Tiga was rescued from Joe Slovo last year, along with 12 other siblings (well, we weren't actually sure if they were all from one litter, or from two very similar broods). Whatever they lacked on the township streets, they made up for it with oodles of personality and more than enough joy to go around. Today, Tiga lives the ultimate good life, and according to her owner, "she is getting so good on the leash and is an absolute little stunner of a personality. Full of nonsense and very naughty, but that makes her all the cuter. I see what they mean about street dogs being much easier to train!"



Tiga in her favourite chair

9. Not-so-little man Tate

Tate was found with his three sisters in Du Noon, born to a thoroughbred greyhound (we don't know what the dad was, though). We very seldom find anything resembling a breed in the township, so Tate's litter was an unusual discovery. When you find a breed in the township, it's easy to get swindled into paying for them, but this must absolutely never be done, as it will simply encourage further breeding and more resistance to sterilization. Needless to say, Tate and his siblings found homes just as speedily as a fast-moving breed should, and the rest, as they say, is history.



We may be built for speed, but we far prefer a nice nap on the *chaise*...

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1. Casper the friendly dog

Casper is an absolutely gorgeous, friendly, playful Labby cross, who loves to be caressed and gives lots of kisses! He is 7 months old, will be medium in size and is aching for a home to call his own. He has already been vaccinated, dewormed, deflead and neutered so he's ready and waiting to start his brand new life!



2. Allow me to be Franky

Franky was rescued at our mass sterilization in March. He is about 11 months old, great with cats and an all-round great guy to have around. He has already learnt to sit and knows the meaning of NO, plus he is one of the most loving companions any dog-lover could wish for.



3. **URGENT:** Lovely Lady seeks her knight in shining armour

Lady and her babies were rescued during our mass sterilization in March. All of Lady's puppies have now found loving homes, and their sweet little mother is also still seeking her knight in shining armour. Lady is small-medium sized (like a Jack Russell with long legs), and is very sweet and loving. Her one back leg was irreparably damaged in the township, but she moves around just fine on three legs – she even sits for her food!



Are you Lady's knight in shining armour?

4. **Along came Molly**

Molly is the cutest little tiny tot in town. With her adorable wiry fur and her chocolate brown eyes, she was spotted wandering the streets of Epping and whisked away to safety in no time. She is about one year old, great with cats, very sweet and friendly, and ready for a loving new home.



6. Who's that Babe?

Remember the two ladies we were hoping to rescue from Joe Slovo in the last newsletter? Well, one of them is Blackie (see the African Tales section above), and the other is this bodacious Babe, who has been placed a loving foster home and is seeking her own happy ending. She is sweet and gentle and lives for tummy-rubs (not tummy tucks like your average babe), and she's approximately one year old. According to her foster, she's a very fast learner and is just so grateful for everything she gets. This girl urgently needs a home, as her foster can't keep her for much longer.



7. The three mutt-keteers

Shiloh, Sophie and Ella were abandoned in Joe Slovo in May. Luckily, we were on hand to pick them up and take them into foster care. Now, they're about 3 months old, very friendly and playful, and dreaming of a lap on which they can snuggle up forever.



Ella



Shiloh



Sophie

8. Jesse the jailbird (well, dog)

Jesse is an elegant young lady, who was rescued in early May, when her owner in Joe Slovo was arrested. She is very sweet and well-mannered, and is excellent with cats, other dogs and people. She can't wait to have a new person to call her own (preferably someone who doesn't live in a cell).



9. Sandy the wanderer

Sandy was found wandering the streets of Du Noon, with no one to care for or feed her. She'd been roaming the streets for so long that the pads of her paws had been shredded by glass and sharp rocks – so much so that she cried out in pain every time she used her feet to scratch. Now, she is in a loving foster home, where she has already learned to sit and go in and out through a cat flap (she's not a big girl). She is still young – about 1 or 2 years old – and is very sweet and great with other dogs and people. After much-needed treatment, her paws are healing well, and she only has one more journey to make – to a loving home that she can call her own.



10. Mia

Mia is about 1 years old, spayed and vaccinated. She loves cats and is a busy dog, but has the most loving soul ever. She stares at you with those beautiful yellow eyes and you can just feel how much love she has. She will be your most loyal and best friend ever. If interested in Mia, please call Monique directly on 084 608 1604 / Monique.Roberts@ICG.EDU.ZA



If you are interested in giving any of these hounds a happy ending, or if you know someone who might be interested, call us on any of the numbers at the bottom of this newsletter. You can also visit our website (www.africantails.co.za) for more info on these and other dogs.

BRAKING NEWS

WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO

- 1. Sterilization** – African Tails funds sterilisations on a weekly basis through Animal Rescue Organisation. We have performed 4 mass sterilisations so far, and have successfully sterilized around 500 dogs.
- 2. Feeding** – currently feed 150 starving dogs a day within Joe Slovo & Du Noon informal settlements
- 3. Rescue and re-homing** – successfully re-homed over 160 dogs and puppies since our inception. The process includes a site visit, official documentation and ensuring that the dog is sterilized, healthy and up-to-date with all vaccinations.
- 4. Education** – presently focusing on educating the urban, economically mobile public about the situation in the townships. We have also recently started educating the Du Noon/ Joe Slovo community about pet care and basic animal behaviour.



HOW CAN YOU HELP?

- **NEW! Sponsor a dog in foster care** and help it on its way to a happy ending. For only R200, you can cover a dog or puppy's food and medical care treatment while in foster care, helping it look its best when a potential new owner comes along (we all know how important first impressions are...) We will send you regular 'pupdates' on his/her progress, and once a home has been found, you'll receive a thank you letter with photos and info on his/her recovery. You can even keep in touch with the new owner, and watch your beneficiary brak grow up! Just reference the dog's name and the word "sponsor" (eg Babe sponsor) when you make the payment, and email contact@africantails to let us know.
- **Kennels (2nd hand or new):** With the rainy winter months ahead it has become a priority as many of the dogs have no shelter.
- **Bakkie:** We're urgently looking for a Bakkie to be sponsored, which we will use in Du Noon to reach all the animals that need to be dipped, de-wormed, treated and saved. The roads in Du Noon are not conducive to standard cars, so a Bakkie would be a dream – if you can help please contact us asap.
- **Food:** We always need dog food donations for the daily feeding of township dogs. We have food collection bins at Citi Vet Sea Point (Main Rd), Citi Vet Tamboerskloof, Tangles Sea Point and Green Point Vet (High Level Rd). Pinelands Pets, 43 Morningside Road and Pikkies Pet's Paradise, 292 Ottery Road, Ottery.
- **Fosters:** While we look for permanent loving homes for the puppies/dogs, fosters homes are essential.
- **Funds:** The more money we make, the more dogs we can save... our banking details are:
Nedbank Sea Point
Account name: African Tails
Current Acc no: 1069401978
Branch Code: 10690913
Please email proof of payment to contact@africantails.co.za
- **Other:** If you can help us with anything else we mentioned in this newsletter – be it the calendar sponsorship or sales, medical equipment or services for the sterilizations, leashes/collars, blankets, cushions or even just spreading the word to a larger audience, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Please call any of us (numbers at the end of the newsletter) if you can help in any way!

Giving thanks...

Earlier this year, Jared Wingate-Pearse (of Investec) ran the London marathon to raise money for African Tails. Jarrod raised a whopping R 12 000 with Investec donating R 6000 to the cause, so a total of R 18 000 was raised through this wonderful, inspirational initiative. All our dogs want to say a big, barking 'THANK YOU' to Jared and Investec, as well as to Tristanne Farrell and David Sylvester, who assisted him. Here's what Jared had to say about his experience:

"The London marathon was an amazing experience for me. It was probably the most painful and most difficult thing I have done in my life, but nevertheless an amazing experience. The whole of London comes alive on that day, and really gives you that push you need to get through the race. I wont lie – it was very difficult, and with cramps starting before the halfway mark I knew I had to bite my lip and get through it. Nevertheless, I crossed the finish line in 5hr and 11min.

When I knew that I was running the London Marathon, it came with a requirement that I had to raise money for a charity. As this was my first charity fundraising project I decided that I would try to get a couple of nice prizes and have a couple of raffles in my office and for family and friends. I was kindly donated a couple of Photo/DVD HP printers which I raffled off then in my second raffle I was kindly donated a Graham Springer wildlife photograph in a lovely wooden frame valued at R3000.

I then organised another fundraising activity – a lawn bowls day at the Fish Hoek bowls club with friends and work colleagues. I had it on a Sunday afternoon, which was lots of fun, followed by a braai and a couple of drinks. Lastly I received some lovely donations by spreading the word of what I was doing and about African Tails, the charity I was running for. All in all was very successful.”

WELL DONE FOR PERSEVERING JARED IT REALLY PAID OFF!



If you too would like to raise money through an initiative such as Jared’s, please give us a call. As always, we would also like to say an enormous thank you to all our fantastic fosters and volunteers, our wonderful behaviourist Bernice Jaffe, VetClin in Blouberg, Hillside Veterinary Clinic in Wynberg and Dr Reena Cotton and the fantastic staff of CitiVet Sea Point.

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Should dogs live inside or outside?

“I am looking for an outside dog!” This is a statement heard over and over again by adoption staff at Animal Welfare Organisations. Is this a new breed or a special breed or yet another misconception on dog’s behaviour by humans?

Dogs are pack animals and as such they not only need but also want to be in a social group. Dogs in the wild do not live outside in isolation; they form a pack, dig an underground den and live with the pack inside this den. (Heaven help them if they try digging their own den in our well manicured gardens) To deprive a dog of their pack is seen by the dog as a punishment. If a member of the pack needs to be disciplined the pack leaders as a punishment chase them out of the den.

Now transfer this to a domestic dog. By making the dog live outside, separated from the family which is his pack, is seen by the dog as a punishment. This can lead to behavioural problems such as excessive barking



(calling for the pack), boredom, which can lead to destructive behaviour, or separation anxiety. A dog that lives permanently in the backyard will get to know every square centimetre of that yard and soon become bored. In fact, banishing him from the house for a short while can be used as a good training method, but not as a permanent way to live.

Many people believe that large dogs should live outside while small dogs live inside. (Where does this leave midsize dogs?) This is again a misconception, because small dogs think or behave the same as large dogs. Does a man who is 6ft 4ins think differently to a man who is only 5ft 7ins?

Many people believe that a dog outside is the best protection against burglars. Wrong again! If they are not allowed inside they do not recognise the house as part of their defended territory. Since dogs have no concept of property, they do not guard it, but they will protect packs and territory. But why should a dog protect a pack it is separated from? How many times have you read in the paper, "I don't understand why we were burgled? My dogs were in the yard and did nothing!"

Also a barking dog can be a burglar's best friend. If a dog living outside barks excessively, the owners inside soon become oblivious to the barking. The constant barking will irritate the neighbours but it can also mask any noise being made by the burglar. Poisoned meat or a knife can easily silence a barking dog!

A dog's hearing is vastly superior to that of a human. If allowed to sleep inside, they will hear any noise long before we do. They will start to bark or growl, hence sounding the alarm. The barking is a warning "I am here and if you enter I will protect my pack". If it is in the middle of the night a barking dog awakes the owners and the alarm is given. No burglar will risk entering a house with a dog barking inside as firstly the alarm has been raised and their presence is known, secondly they do not know how big or vicious that dog is and fear being attacked and possibly badly bitten.

If a dog is made to live outside they can be hesitant to protect their owners as the fear of punishment for crossing the threshold can be greater than the instinct to protect the pack leaders!

People often ask "But what about me being at work all day and leaving the dog outside?" This is quite different. The dog believes that the pack leaders are off hunting. This belief is reinforced when the owners return, as that is when they usually feed the dogs.

If he is allowed inside the house when the owners return home, he recognises it as part of his territory and will guard it.

Then there are shorthaired dogs like Boxers, Rottweilers or Staffies who, due to non-existing insulation, suffer badly in our cold and wet winters when left outside at night, even with a wooden kennel. One consequence of this would be the early onset of arthritis and rheumatism.

To get the best from your dog as a companion and protector he should be treated as a member of the pack and allowed to share the den.

 **SITE OF THE MONTH** 

<http://www.ttouch.co.za/files/companion/howto.php>

Did you know that the tip of a dog's ear is a pressure point for shock? So if they've had an accident you can actually prevent them from going into shock just using a technique known as Tellington Touch. Check out the above website for more info...





And that's it from us... Have a great month, and for brak's sake, pass this newsletter on!

Lots of puppy love and African Tail-wags
THE AFRICAN TAILS PACK



063-755-NPO

Janna Joseph (082 441 9370)

Yael Fialkov (082 422 1553)

Neil Ismay (082 563 8726)

Lola Cox (082 450 9804)

contact@africantails.co.za

www.africantails.co.za