

PROLOGUE

Birth. Death. Sunrise. Sunset. Hello. Goodbye. Life is all about beginnings and endings, and the last month at African Tails was no different. New beginnings were created in fosters' arms, happy endings were found in new homes and hearts, and not-so-happy endings reminded us of how lucky we all really are. Here's a look at a few of our latest stories – some that have just begun and others that are already well on their way!

IN THIS NEWSLETTER:

This month, our newsletter contains the following:

- 🐾 **African tales:** Our latest success stories
- 🐾 **Homeseeking hounds:** Looking for a new best friend? He or she is right here...
- 🐾 **Paws for thought:** Can't understand why your dog digs the garden or pees on your favourite rug? It's time to get a new perspective...

AFRICAN TALES

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

1. Who needs Garfield anyway?

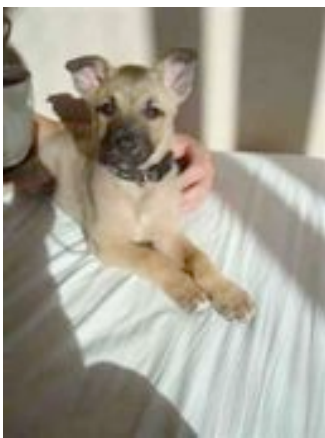
Odie didn't find his famous feline companion, but he did find a wonderful, loving home to call his own. Found in Joe Slovo in January this year, Odie has been waiting for the perfect family, and boy did he find it – complete with a new best friend to share every happy moment he has, for the rest of his lucky life.



Odie (left) with his new best friend Dennis (right)

2. Milo dives into family life

Milo isn't a new rescue – he was found towards the end of last year, but never got his 2 minutes of newsletter fame (we weren't writing them at the time). But this lucky dog has the kind of story that deserves more than 2 minutes of attention. Found at just 4 weeks old, Milo waited three whole months for his forever home – he even went to a home and came back when it didn't turn out just right. Eventually, he found the family of his dreams, with whom he now shares all of life's many pleasures – he's even tried his paw at diving!



Milo in foster care at 9 weeks



Milo today



Just don't chew the snorkel now, boy...

3. Who you callin' Jake?

Remember Jake with the mafia-style underbite from last months' newsletter? Well, he's finally found the loving home he deserves, and a family to call his own. After 2 months with his foster mom, he'd grown pretty attached to his cushy temporary life, but with a gorgeous house and a lifetime's supply of dog biscuits, his new family clearly gave Jake an offer he couldn't refuse... kapisch?



You talkin' to me?



Tell the boss I'll be late today...

4. Love in the tattoo parlour

Pippin spent his first 6 months tied to a barrel in Du Noon. When finally rescued, he was nervous, snappish and uncomfortable around too many people. So we sent him off to rehab with Bernice the behaviourist, and in a few weeks, he was ready to be homed. Today, he spends every day with his new mom at her tattoo parlour, where he welcomes every customer with a smile.



With Pippin's piercing eyes, it's only fitting he ended up in a tattoo parlour

5. Golden girl – thank you for being a friend

This lovely lass was found in Woodstock and taken to one of the doggy pounds, where they were going to put her down. Luckily, one of our volunteers was on hand to intervene and take her into foster care. Being a bouncy puppy with oodles on energy and a craving to be held like a baby, she found a wonderful new home in no time.



Tigger the golden retriever that shrunk in the wash

6. Whiskey – no longer a single-mutt

This month, our resident ladies' man found the one and only lady of his dreams. With everything his good-natured heart desires and her loving arms to hold him tight, he'll never stray (if you'll pardon the pun) from her side.



Whiskey now has every reason to smile

7. Lucky Lizzy

Sweet little Lizzy was spotted during our mass sterilisation in Du Noon, and was promptly swept into foster care by one of the day's volunteers. Just a week later, she was adopted by a friend of her fosters', who welcomed the little girl into the family with open hearts and arms – and judging by this photo, she certainly loves being in them!



Lizzy and her human sister, Carla

8. Peanut lands in the butter

We didn't have to look very far to find Peanut (now named Cocoa) a new loving home. After just a few days, her Daschund-loving foster family decided to make her a permanent resident, tipping their sausage-dog-scale to three!



Peanut in her foster/forever home

9. Gutsy Mr Gershowitz

Little Schmegal Gershowitz is another pup that stole his foster mom's heart. Found last week outside Vincent Pallotti Hospital, this quirky little canine immediately made himself at home, even sleeping between his foster parents' cushions at night! And he more than got away with it – he'll be sleeping right there for the rest of his life.



10. Living life to the Max

Rescued from a homeless Ethiopian man, little Max is a reminder of how important it is to vaccinate your animals and – equally importantly – to love them every single day. Three weeks after his rescue, at just four months of age, this special boy was diagnosed with Distemper and unfortunately had to be euthanased. Ironically, Max is one of the lucky ones, who at least enjoyed a few weeks of love and a comfortable ending in his foster's arms.



WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO

1. **Sterilization** – African Tails funds sterilisations on a weekly basis through Animal Rescue Organisation (ARO). 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?

- **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 are always in need of 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 the African members (all our numbers are at the end of the newsletter) if you can help with any of the above requirements!

Giving thanks...

We would 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.

HOMESEEKING HOUNDS

1. URGENT: Casper

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, defleaded and neutered so he's ready and waiting to start his brand new life!



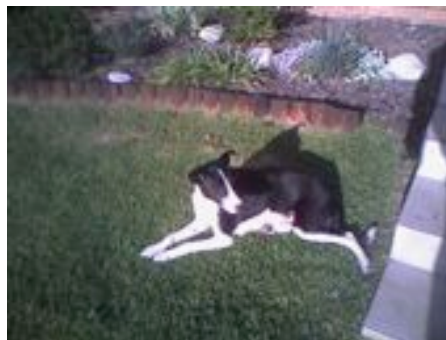
2. Allow me to be Franky

Franky was rescued at our mass sterilization in March. He is about 8 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.

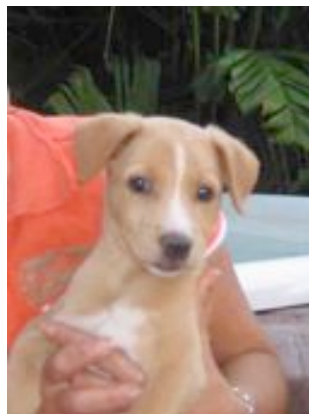


3. URGENT: The Lady bunch

Lady and her babies were rescued during our mass sterilization in March. All but two 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?



Sisters: Abi & Candy are still waiting for someone to cuddle forever

4. Molly – the little dog that can

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. 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



7. The great escape – help these two gorgeous girls leave the township!

These two spayed females are still in Joe Slovo township, and they need to get out *pronto!* If you can foster one (or both!) of them, please let us know asap so they can have the new beginning they deserve.



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



PAWS FOR THOUGHT

Extract from *The Culture Clash* by Jean Donaldson

Imagine you live on a planet where the dominant species is far more intellectually sophisticated than human beings but often keep humans as companion animals. They are called the Gorns. They communicate with each other via a combination of telepathy, eye movements and high-pitched squeaks, unintelligible and unlearnable by humans, whose brains are prepared for verbal language acquisition only. What humans sometimes learn is the meaning of individual sounds by repeated association with things of relevance to them. The Gorns and humans bond strongly but there are many Gorn rules that humans must try to assimilate with limited information and usually high stakes.

You are one of the lucky humans who lives with the Gorns in their dwelling. Many other humans are chained to small cabanas in the yard or kept in outdoor pens of varying size. They have become so socially starved that they cannot control their emotions when a Gorn goes near them. Because of this behaviour, the Gorns agree that they could never be house humans. They are too excitable.

The dwelling you share with your Gorn family is fitted with numerous water-filled porcelain bowls, complete with flushers. Every time you try to urinate in one, though, any nearby Gorn attacks you. You learn to only use the toilet when there are no Gorns present. Sometimes they come home and stuff your head down the toilet for no apparent reason. You hate this and start sucking up to the Gorns when they come home to try and stave this off but they view this as increasing evidence of your guilt.

You are also punished for watching videos, reading certain books, talking to other human beings, eating pizza or cheesecake, and writing letters. These are all considered behaviour problems by the Gorns. To avoid going crazy, once again you wait until they are not around to try doing anything you wish to do. While they are around, you sit quietly, staring straight ahead. Because they witness this good behaviour you are so obviously capable of, they attribute to "spite" the video watching and other transgressions that occur when you are alone. Obviously you resent being left alone, they figure. You are walked several times a day and left crossword-puzzle books to do. You have never used them because you hate crosswords; the Gorns think you're ignoring them out of revenge.

Worst of all, you like them. They are, after all, often nice to you. But when you smile at them, they punish you, likewise for shaking hands. If you apologize, they punish you again. You have not seen another human since you were a small child. When you see one on the street you are curious, excited and sometimes afraid. You really don't know how to act. So, the Gorn you live with keeps you away from other humans. Your social skills never develop.

Top Ten Behaviour Problems of Pet Humans on Planet Gorn

1. Watching TV
2. Use of water-filled porcelain bowls as elimination sites
3. Listening to music other than Country & Western
4. Talking to other humans
5. Smoking
6. Sitting on chairs ("How can I get him to stop sitting on CHAIRS?!")
7. Toothbrushing
8. Eating anything but (nutritionally balanced) Human Chow
9. Shaking hands to greet
10. Smiling

Finally, you are brought to training school. A large part of the training consists of having your air briefly cut off by a metal chain around your neck. They are sure you understand every squeak and telepathic communication they make because you sometimes get it right. You are guessing and hate the training. You feel stressed out a



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saving our street dogs

lot of the time. One day, you see a Gorn approaching with the training collar in hand. You have PMS, a sore neck and you just don't feel up to the baffling coercion about to ensue. You tell them in your sternest voice to please leave you alone and go away. The Gorns are shocked by this unprovoked aggressive behaviour. They thought you had a good temperament.

They put you in one of their vehicles and take you for a drive. You watch the attractive planetary landscape going by and wonder where you are going. The vehicle stops and you are led into a building filled with the smell of human sweat and excrement. Humans are everywhere in small cages. Some are nervous, some depressed, most watch the goings on from their prisons. Your Gorns, with whom you have lived your entire life, hand you over to strangers who drag you to a small room. You are terrified and yell for your Gorn family to help you. They turn and walk out the door of the building. You are held down and given a lethal injection. It is, after all, the humane way to do it.

This nightmarish world is the one inhabited by many domestic dogs *all the time*. Virtually all natural dog behaviours – chewing, barking, rough play, chasing moving objects, eating food items within reach, jumping up to access faces, settling disputes with threat displays, establishing contact with strange dogs, guarding resources, leaning into steady pressure against their necks, urinating on porous surfaces like carpets, defending themselves from perceived threat – are considered by humans to be behaviour problems. The rules that seem so obvious to us make absolutely no sense to dogs. They are not humans in dog suits...

It is as inherently obvious to dogs that furniture, clothing and car interiors are good for chewing as it is inherently obvious to you that TV sets are good for watching. If I reprimand you for watching the TV, your most likely course of action is to simply watch TV when I'm not around... Housetraining is another classic example... Owners interpret dogs who "refuse" to eliminate on walks and then go on the carpet when the owner leaves the room to answer the phone as "getting back at them". Absolutely not so. The dog has simply learned to go to the bathroom on an obvious toilet – the carpet – when the attacker is not present. He behaves obsequiously on the owner's return to try and turn off the punishment that inevitably occurs when certain context cues (owner plus poop on rug) are present. It is clear from his terrified, submissive posture that the dog would dearly love to avoid that punishment if only he knew how. If someone punished you in a certain circumstance, you would beg for mercy too, regardless of whether you had any clue as to why they were about to punish you. It's Orwellian what we do to dogs.



Have a great month, and for brak's sake, pass this newsletter on to everyone you know!

Lots of puppy love and African Tail-wags

THE AFRICAN TAILS PACK



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