The Power of the Story

In this issue you will find three distinct stories. Each has their origin from the mind of each individual author. While all three stories are true accounts, they are relayed from different perspectives; one tells about a brief—but stressful separation—and two recount adoption successes. Each story provides a unique and powerful perspective. By that I mean that story telling still overpowers technology. Who doesn’t enjoy telling and hearing a good story? When we go on vacations, it’s not the miles we speak about, but rather, the story of the experience. An article from Psychology Today helps to explain this phenomenon:

“ Our brains still respond to content by looking for the story to make sense out of the experience. No matter what the technology, the meaning starts in the brain. Stories are authentic human experiences. Stories leapfrog the technology and bring us to the core of experience, as any good storyteller knows.

There are several psychological reasons why stories are so powerful.

- Stories have always been a primal form of communication. They are timeless links to ancient traditions, legends, archetypes, myths, and symbols. They connect us to a larger self and universal truths.

- Stories are about collaboration and connection. They transcend generations, they engage us through emotions, and they connect us to others. Through stories we share passions, sadness, hardships and joys. We share meaning and purpose.

- Stories are how we think. They are how we make meaning of life.

- Stories are how we explain how things work, how we make decisions, how we justify our decisions, how we persuade others, how we understand our place in the world, create our identities, and define and teach social values.

- Stories are the pathway to engaging our right brain and triggering our imagination. By engaging our imagination, we become participants in the narrative. We can step out of our own shoes, see differently, and increase our empathy for others. Through imagination, we tap into creativity that is the foundation of innovation, self-discovery and change.”

For more information regarding the power of the story, go to https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/positively-media/201101/the-psychological-power-storytelling.

We hope that Treasured Friends is a part of your and your pets’ stories.

www.treasuredfriendsrescue.org
Dear Auggie,
I suffer from separation anxiety. I am what you call, a Velcro dog. I’m ok knowing my family is in the other room, but when I can’t see them, I panic a bit. Well, actually, I mean that I pant, and I pace, and I cry, and I scratch at the door. Seriously, when they leave me, I’m a mess. What’s worse is it seems that I am the only canine in the neighborhood with this problem. Is it just me?
Signed,
Longing Lab

Dear Longing Lab,
Thank you for your question. I can assure you that you are not alone, and—hang on to your bully stick—it happens to people too. I recently had an experience where both mommy and I were freaking out over a brief, yet traumatic, separation. It was on Easter Sunday and mommy was taking food and me to her brother’s house. She put the food in the back of the car, threw her keys and purse in the front seat and proceeded to help me into the car. (You see, the SUV is just a little too high for me to jump into. So, I have little stairs that help me get from the ground and into the seat). She closed the passenger side door and as she was walking to the driver’s side, there was a strange noise—kind of a chirp—then the doors suddenly locked. The look on mommy’s face was the same one I had on mine—absolute shock! I looked at her, she looked at me, then she took off running to the neighbors’. She had to go to three houses before she found someone home. He was nice enough to let her use his phone to call Onstar (which is one great service, by the way). It seemed like she was gone forever and she could hear me crying all the way down the street. Well, it was getting a bit warm in the car and I was all alone. Mommy was panicked too and sounded like an idiot on the phone with the Onstar representative; she couldn’t recall her password or which phone number the account was under. For a minute there, I was starting to lose confidence in her. However, I could see how shook up she was. She kept talking to me through the window. It was then that I realized that she was suffering from separation anxiety too. That has to be the reason, otherwise she just looked like she was nuts. Anyway, through some kind high tech satellite process, the door locks magically opened. There were lots of kisses from both of us when she opened the door. Now, for us canines, there are training techniques to help us cope better with separation. It can be a stressful condition. So, you might want to search for a good trainer. As for my mommy, it seemed that something called, Merlot, helped. It was the first thing she asked for when we arrived at her brother’s.
I hope this helps. Good Luck.
Your friend,
Auggie

Revolutionary War Time Trivia

George Washington loved dogs and owned many. Most of his dogs were used for hunting. The Marquis de Lafayette sent seven staghounds to George Washington as a sign of friendship. A photo of this breed shows a likeness to what we know today as greyhounds. In colonial times, these dogs were great hunters, but they were bred to hunt by speed and vision; scent was not their main hunting ability. Three of Washington’s staghounds were named, Sweet Lips, Scentwell, and Vulcan.

Washington also owned Black and Tan Coonhounds. These dogs were scent hounds, and those whose names were, Drunkard, Taster, Tippler, and Tipsy. According to one source, Washington bred the Black and Tan Coonhounds with the Staghounds, which may have resulted in Americas first fox hounds.

After the battle of Germantown, a little dog was found on the battlefield, and his collar said that he belonged to General Howe. Washington’s men wanted to hold the dog in retaliation for their defeat at the hands of Howe’s army.

Washington saw the situation from a different viewpoint; and he arranged for a messenger to return the dog to Howe with a two-line letter: (continued p.4)
Alice Canty is 91 years young. Due to poor vision, she dictated the following story to Liz Canty who kindly submitted this heartwarming rescue story from Gracie’s perspective.

Wow, do I have a story to tell! I lived in a house with my owner and she took good care of me. She gave me food and water, and loved me. She called me Bella. One day, she went out and never came back again. I heard them say she went someplace called heaven. Her children came over to the house and I heard them talking. They didn’t want me! They were talking about throwing me into the street.

Somebody took me to animal control and they put me in a cage. Ugh! And that animal control took me to another, different animal control. They were very good to me. They gave me food and water and had the doctor check me out. He thought I am about 5 or 6 years old. I could have told them that, but they didn’t understand me. The lady at animal control called a volunteer from Treasured Friends and told them about me. The volunteer knew a lady whose cat went to heaven and she was very lonely.

One day the volunteer took me to her house. I thought that was where I was going to live. Then she put me in a carrying case and into her car. The next thing I knew, I was in an airplane going to a place called Florida. It was cold out when we left. When I got off the plane it was warm out. She took me to my new home, which they call a condo, on the second floor. My new owner had everything ready for me. Food, water, and lots of toys! There was a comfy bed lined with lambs wool. I checked out the whole house. She has a screened porch which they call a lanai. The thing I like best is that there is a cat door so I can go outside (on the lanai) anytime I want to! My new owner calls me Gracie. I started answering to that right away.

I have a good time on the lanai watching the birds. They have awfully big birds in Florida! They are called ibis, egrets, anhingas, osprey, and bald eagles! I have a good time watching people on the golf course in their little carts. They take a big stick and hit a little ball! I found out they have something called hurricanes here. When that time comes, my new owner will take me to Michigan. I can’t go outside there because her deck is not screened in. She has a big house with 48 windows. I will be able to see the birds and watch the chipmunks play in the back yard.

Gracie—a very happy feline.

Note from Liz: No matter how old or young you are, unexpected circumstances can affect you and change your life. Please make sure that you have someone ready to take your pets if you become unable to care for them.

TF wishes to thank our veterinary partners: Westchester Animal Clinic, Animal Medical Center (Sauk Village), Glenwood Village Pet Hospital, St. John Animal Care Center, Hanover Veterinary Hospital and Coyne Veterinary Center.
Thank you to Griffith Meats, Amici’s of Highland, and Adam’s Auto for hosting donation jars.
Thanks to ALL of our loyal supporters. Without you we would not be able to continue our mission of finding homes for stray and unwanted pets. If we have missed anyone on our donations page, our sincere apologies. Please let us know so that we can correct it for the next edition.
We adopted Whitey (now known as Edward) after meeting him at the Highland, IN. PetSmart. We weren't planning on adopting a cat yet, but we bonded instantly and couldn't leave him behind... we knew we needed to give him his “forever home”.

Edward is our first pet together, and we couldn't have asked for a better cat! He is definitely the “king of the castle” and we love being able to spoil him. We purchased a cozy bed just for him and a rug that he loves to lay on – of course he's taken over OUR bed and couch as well, but we don't mind sharing!

Edward has brought so much love and joy into our lives. He loves cuddling with us, and purrs louder than any cat we know! Although he looks like a tough guy, he has the sweetest little meow you can imagine. We can't wait to come home to him everyday, and on the days that we're lucky enough to work from home, Edward loves sitting on our lap and “helping” as well!

Some of Edward's favorite things to do include sitting on his perch in the front window watching the birds and squirrels (and modeling for the cars passing by), taking road trips with mom and dad, running around the house, playing with ice cubes (forget his fancy toys), and of course – EATING! He's finally starting to get a little belly!

Edward enjoys visiting with his cousins (two younger kittens, a Labradoodle, and a Shih Tzu) but we can tell he loves being the only cat at home...for now! He has the run of the house and definitely calls the shots! After everything he's been through, we wanted to give him all of our attention and affection.

We can't thank you guys enough for rescuing our sweet boy and bringing him back to health. Although he only has one eye, he still manages to get around just “purrfectly”! We will forever be grateful to Treasured Friends for helping us find Edward!

Katie Franciski

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**Revolutionary War Times Trivia (con’t)**

“The General Washington’s compliments to General Howe, does himself the pleasure to return [to] him a Dog, which accidentally fell into his hands, and by the inscription on the Collar appears to belong to General Howe.”

This story of kindness is fully documented as a draft of the note that still exists. It was written by Washington’s aide, Alexander Hamilton, and can be found in the [Washington Papers at the Library of Congress](http://americacomesalive.com/2012/09/11/a-dog-on-the-battlefield-and-the-character-of-george-washington/).


Happy 4th of July. Treasured Friends wishes you and your pets a safe Summer.
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Kamie Plys  
William Cohen  
Cheryl Ashe

Did You Know?
Fireworks can be so upsetting that more dogs and cats run away from home on the 4th of July than any other holiday; thus, it’s really important to keep your pet safe. In Indiana, where fireworks are permitted all year around, you may have noticed that people fire them for all kinds of reasons, including sports team victories, birthdays, picnics, full moons, not full moons—it seems to happen every week in some neighborhoods. Upset and frightened pets can be a weekly challenge. Here are some widely recommended tips:

1. Keep your pet inside during fireworks with windows securely closed and remove items that your pet might destroy or chew.
2. Take your pet for a walk to exercise and relax and go potty prior to the starting of the firework activity.
3. If your pet is an absolute wreck with loud noises, see your Vet; there may be other ways to reduce your pets fear.
4. Microchip your pet and make sure the information is current.
Looking for easy ways to help our Treasured Friends?

We have many ways to make it easy to donate, including Paypal, the donation link on our Facebook page, checks, and onsite contributions at PetSmart (weekends). Don’t forget you can also donate supplies (see page 4). Be Green—Get newsletter online or Send us your email address; you can still donate via PayPal, and do not need a PayPal account!

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