

Wags and Purrs Comfort Corner

Rainbow Bridge Remembrance Day



You came into my life one day,
So beautiful and smart,
My dear and sweet companion,
I loved you from the start,
And though I knew the time would come when we
would have to part,
You'll never be forgotten,
You left paw prints on my heart.
-Author Unknown

August 28th is Rainbow Bridge Remembrance Day and this month we're talking about how important it is to the grieving process to take the time to mourn.

As we've mentioned many times before, our pets are family and we treat them as such. Our pets are included in almost every aspect of our daily lives and routines. They're our best friends, confidantes, secret keepers, exercise partners and cuddle buddies. You've lived together, traveled together, played together and cried together. That bond is real and true, and it's important to honor it and allow time to grieve that loss. Never let anyone tell you 'it's just a dog' or 'it's just a cat'. That pet was a part of your life and family for hopefully many years, maybe even a decade.

In our blog post [Grief and Pet Loss](#), we discussed the

Health Tip for the Season

Always remember to schedule routine wellness exams for your pets at least once a year for pets under the age of 6. After 6, pets should be seeing a veterinarian for wellness exams twice a year. Starting at age 8, a pet should have a full baseline blood panel. This way, if a pet does become ill the veterinarian will know your particular pet's baseline numbers.

Training Tip for the Season

Many cats have issues with their carriers because the only time a carrier is used is to go to the veterinarian or to travel, which is a stressful experience for a cat. For the cat, this associates only bad or stressful things with their carrier and therefore makes them want to avoid going in it. Not only is fighting a cat to go into their carrier a stressful and potentially dangerous undertaking, in the case of an emergency, it could

stages of grief and how to honor your own healing process. For many part of that process is to memorialize their pet and there are several ways that can be done.

- Memorial services are a great way to share memories of your pet, grieve with others who also cared about your pet and to say goodbye.
- If your pet was cremated, find a special place to put their ashes. Many pet crematoriums will offer urns or boxes to store the ashes in. Those can be set on a shelf or table with pictures of the pet and maybe a collar or favorite small toy.
- Making a scrapbook or shadow box can honor a pet's memory and help with the healing process as you look at photographs of all the wonderful memories that were shared with the pet.
- Companies now offer memorial stones or markers for a pet memorial, some are similar to grave stones with dates of birth and death and others are simpler with a picture or phrase. It's a personal preference which kind of memorial stone is chosen.
- If you're having difficulty getting over the loss, try a pet loss support group and surround yourself with others who understand what you're going through and will honor your path.

Pet loss is never easy and it will take time to heal. Allow yourself that time and healing process. Memorialize your pet in the way that feels right to you and your family.

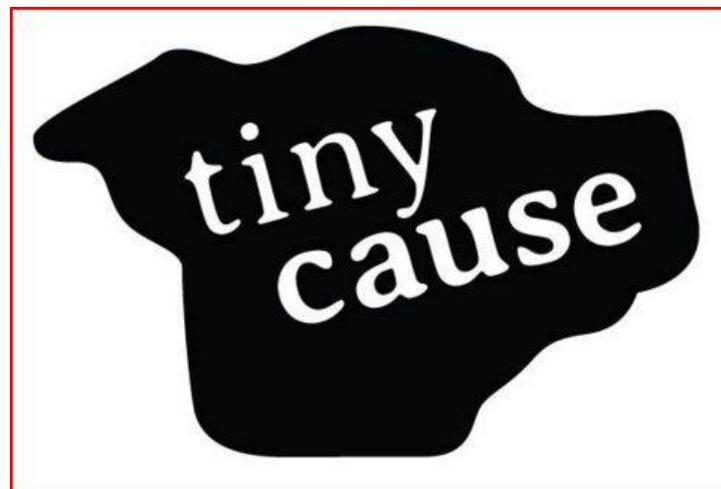
waste valuable minutes or the pet parent or cat could be harmed during the struggle. Train your cat to associate their carrier as a positive place by putting blankets, toys and treats in the carrier and leave the door open so the cat can come and go as they please. They will learn to associate their carrier as their personal space to relax and get away and will go inside much easier.

[Pet Sitter Tip for the Season](#)

Bandanas are a great accessory for dogs. Not only are they stylish, they can provide benefits as well. Pet safe essential oils can be added to a bandana to keep away fleas and ticks.

On hot days a wet bandana can be frozen and the pet sitter can grab it from the freezer and put it on your pet before the walk to help keep them cool.

Featured Rescue of the Month



Tiny Cause Rescue

Tiny Cause started in 2014 in our family's kitchen with our 3 young boys baking natural dog treats to help animals. Who was Tiny? He was our 103 lb Pitbull (yes, named Tiny haha) who loved everyone and lived to end discrimination against his breed. We've donated \$37,500.00 to animal rescues and shelters in his memory. We have a Hip to Snip spay/neuter program that has successfully paid for 142 dogs and cats to be fixed when the owners couldn't financially afford to do so on their own. We hold affordable microchip clinics, Tiny's Fur Family shop in Vandergrift provides a free pet pantry for dog/cat food to those in need as well as full dog grooming services and tons of merchandise that benefits our rescue and is 100% non-profit. We became an actual foster based rescue ourselves since obtaining our rescue kennel license in August 2018 and have taken in almost 100 dogs to date, most from high kill shelters along with owner surrenders. Our main goal is to help as many animals & their humans as possible by providing education, assistance and options to keep dogs/cats out of overcrowded shelters and ultimately being euthanized just for space.

Donations

Monetary donations are always in need for vetting/rescue expenses, spay/neuter program, refilling the pet pantry, transporting costs and so on. Every penny truly adds up and we greatly appreciate every single donation that is made.

Our paypal is darlaheld65@gmail.com

Our mailing address for checks is –
Tiny Cause
131 Columbia Avenue,
Vandergrift, PA 15690.

We are blessed to have PAWSOME supporters, volunteers, fosters, transporters etc which is how we continue to make a TINY difference daily!!

During the month of August, Comfort at Home Pet Services will be collecting donations of blankets, toys, food, treats and cleaning supplies for Tiny Cause Rescue. If you have a donation, please mark it Tiny Cause and leave it out during your Comfort at Home Pet Services visit. If you need to schedule a pick up of items, contact Jen Sybol.

Featured Pet



Jasper

Jasper has been at Tiny Cause Rescue for 5 months and would love to find his family!

Jasper came to Tiny Cause as a shutdown feral puppy and will require patience, patience and more patience! While he is feral no more, he is still very timid and will need a patient and understanding home. Jasper is non-aggressive but he doesn't care for loud noises or crowds.

He has come SO far since he first arrived thanks to his amazing foster mom and socializing volunteers.

Here is what his foster mom wrote about him:

"Jasper is a timid puppy. He loves to sit and cuddle with you but on his time. He doesn't care for loud noises or people. Jasper will need a home with other dogs - he loves them of all no matter the age or size. He is good with cats also. Jasper is 95% house trained. He would do better with a fenced in yard because he isn't fond of the leash or being tied out. He is crate trained. Jasper likes to play with toys and run around the house. He needs someone who is very understanding and will give him the time he needs to warm up to you. He doesn't just come right up to you, it will take some time for him to build up the trust but once he does he will be your best friend."

Jasper is guessed to be a Labrador/hound cross and approximately 10 to 11 months old. This shy guy didn't have the greatest start in life and is waiting for that special family to help him become the best friend we know he can be!

August Birthdays



These pets will be celebrating a birthday in the month of August!

Jax Cieslak
Roman DiMatteo
Aida Diorio
Zeke Diorio
Morty Wiles Ellis
Trico Escalante
Rory Gottschall
Phil Kienholz
Lea Massarelli
Pia Moreau

Happy Birthday, all! Paw-ty hard!

Healthy Homemade Treats for the Season

Apple Cinnamon Delights

Ingredients:

4 cups unbleached white flour
1/2 cup all natural applesauce (no sugar)
1/2 cup vegetable oil
1/4 cup honey
1/4 cup water
2 eggs
1/4 cup wheat germ
1 Tbsp ground cinnamon
1 tsp baking soda

In a large bowl, mix all the ingredients. Knead the dough on a floured surface. Roll out the dough to 1/2 inch thickness, and cut out shapes with a cookie cutter. Put the cookies on a baking sheet, 1 inch apart. Bake at 400 degrees for 8-10 minutes. When done, the cookies should be firm to the touch. Turn the oven off, and leave the cookies in for 1-2 hours to harden. Makes Approx. 80 two-inch cookies.



Homemade Organic Spinach and Chicken Cat Treats

INGREDIENTS

1/2 pound steamed organic boneless and skinless chicken thighs
1 cup fresh organic spinach leaves
1 cup organic quick-cooking oats
1 organic brown egg
1 tablespoon organic catnip
1/4 cup flour

DIRECTIONS

Preheat your oven to 350°F. Steam the boneless and skinless chicken thighs until cooked through. You can swap for boneless and skinless organic chicken breasts, salmon, or tuna with cat-loving results too. Let the chicken cool for 20 minutes before the next step.

Place the chicken, oats, spinach leaves, egg, and catnip in a blender or food processor, and pulse on low until the mixture blends together. It should still be a bit chunky but also smooth, similar to the texture of wet sand. Pop the mixture into a bowl and add the flour. You can also add a dash of salt or



sugar to mix up the flavor. Use your hands to knead the dough until it's no longer sticky, then place on a flour-dusted work surface.

Use a rolling pin to create a rectangle of dough around 1/2 inch thick. With the help of a pizza cutter or small cookie cutter, create small shapes for the finished treats.

Place the kitty treats on a parchment-lined sheet tray, and bake for 20 minutes. Remove from the oven, cool until room temperature, and then toss to your cat.

Check out our latest blog posts



[Grief and Pet Loss](#)



[Pet Care Specialists and Grief](#)



[Are you emotionally ready to be a pet sitter?](#)

