

## **Happy Tails, Inc. Membership Requirements**

Membership is open to any individual or organization interested in the objectives of Happy Tails, Inc. Membership shall neither be rendered nor denied on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex or physical handicap. Full, voting membership shall be open to any dues paying person or organization.

A person or organization shall not be a member unless approved for membership by the Board of Directors, which may reject any application for good cause. Good cause shall include, but not be limited to: Prior convictions of criminal violations or citation violations for animal cruelty, animal neglect, or associated violations of law; any such pending charges against a person seeking membership; prior actions taken by any governmental agency, or organization authorized to do such by any governmental agency, involving civil actions resulting from neglect and/or cruelty to animals, and/or any allegations of such. Any such person/organization may reapply for membership should such charges, criminal or civil, be found to be without merit, after a final judgment and/or appropriate finding.

All membership applicants must agree to the objectives of Happy Tails, Inc, as set forth in Article II of the Bylaws of Happy Tails, Inc, as stated below:

This Corporation's mission is to reduce the number of abandoned, stray and feral cats by caring for them and seeking suitable homes when able. We strive to help families keep their pets in home with programs to assist in caring for the pet and by promoting responsible pet ownership and education in our community.

The specific objectives and purpose of this organization shall be to:

1. Offer easily accessible information to the public about the importance of spaying/neutering their pets to help control the pet population.
  2. Operate a pet food pantry to assist families with financial hardships in feeding their pets so as to keep them in their homes.
  3. Operate a fund to help low-income families spay and neuter their pets
  4. Operate a TNR (trap, neuter, return) program for stray/homeless/feral cats
- (e) Other programs, functions, operations and pursuits as needed to further pursue the goals of helping to keep pets from being abandoned or homeless.

All members in good standing with Happy Tails, Inc. and current with their dues, shall be entitled to cast one (1) vote at any general meeting of Happy Tails, Inc. for the purposes of all motions, and/or elections properly before Happy Tails, Inc. Any organization that applies for and is approved for membership shall be entitled to cast one (1) vote at any general meeting of Happy Tails, Inc. for the purposes of all motions, and/or elections properly before Happy Tails, Inc.

Happy Tails, Inc. shall keep a written roll of membership, indicating the desire of such person(s)/organization(s) to become a member, and the approval thereof by the Board of Directors. Such writing shall include a request to become a member, the date thereof, a notation as to the approval by the Board of Directors of such membership, and the date of such approval.

Membership dues shall be payable on or before the last day of April of each year. No member may vote, conduct any official business, or hold office in Happy Tails, Inc. whose dues are not paid for the current year. During the month of March the Treasurer shall send to each member a statement of his/her dues for the ensuing year. Dues shall be listed on the membership application. New members who are approved and pay dues after April 30 will automatically have dues paid for the balance of that official year. The amount of the membership dues may be changed only by the Board of Directors.

Membership classes and dues amounts are as follows:

Sylvester Friends - \$30 (Provides litter for a week)

- Facebook meow (shoutout)
- 1 vote at membership meeting

Garfield Friends - \$50 (Feed 1 cat for a month with 1 box Forti-Flora)

- Facebook meow (shoutout)
- 1 vote at membership meeting
- 1 Happy Tails Sticker

Pink Panther Friends - \$75 (Provide microchipping for 50 rescue cats)

- Facebook meow (shoutout)
- 1 vote at membership meeting
- 1 Happy Tails Sticker
- Receive ½ off the cost of microchipping your pet at our 2025 microchip clinic
- Name or logo on our microchip clinic poster (please email your logo if membership is for a business)

Hello Kitty Friends - \$150 (Pays for 1 TNR cat)

- Facebook meow (shoutout)
- 1 vote at membership meeting
- 1 Happy Tails Sticker
- Bring your pet to our 2025 microchip clinic for 1 FREE pet microchipping
- Name or logo on our website as a sponsor (please email your logo if membership is for a business)

Cheshire Cat Friends - \$250 (Sponsor a rescue cat's full vetting)

- Facebook meow (shoutout)
- 1 vote at membership meeting
- 1 Happy Tails Sticker
- Bring your pet to our 2025 microchip clinic for 1 FREE pet microchipping
- Name or logo on our microchip clinic poster
- Name or logo on our website as a sponsor (please email your logo if membership is for a business)

If membership is not granted, said dues shall be returned. Members who have not paid their dues shall be considered delinquent and ineligible to vote on any matters put before the Members of Happy Tails, Inc. Any individual/organization removed from the membership role for failure to pay dues who reapplies for membership must remit the full amount of the delinquent dues along with the current amount due, if applicable. Said dues will be returned if membership is not granted.

Membership in Happy Tails, Inc. may be terminated in one or more of the following manners:

- Resignation – Any member in good standing may resign from Happy Tails, Inc. upon written notice to the Secretary, but no member may resign when in debt to Happy Tails, Inc.
- Lapsing – A member will be considered as lapsed and automatically terminated if such member's dues remain unpaid sixty (60) days after the last day of April. In no case may a person be entitled to vote at any Happy Tails, Inc. meeting whose dues are unpaid as of the date of that meeting. However, the Board may grant an additional sixty (60) days of grace in meritorious cases.
- Expulsion – Any member who is convicted of any criminal action resulting from neglect and/or cruelty to animals, or who has a final determination that animals are to be permanently removed by appropriate governmental agency, or organization authorized by such agency, when such removal is predicated upon a finding of cruelty and/or neglect, and/or abandonment, shall be expelled as a member upon a final determination of such. Any current member being charged with a criminal act resulting from cruelty, neglect, and/or abandonment of animals shall have such membership suspended, and all entitlements of such membership suspended during the pendency of any such action. Membership may be reinstated with full entitlement upon a finding

that such charges were unfounded by the appropriate government agency involved or as a result of a court's judgment, upon the Board being notified by the member. At termination of membership, the person must relinquish all Happy Tails, Inc. property and records.