



## Beginning a New Decade!

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### Successful Adoptions

2013, our 10th anniversary year, began like a lamb -quietly- but ended like a lion with quite a roar!

Almost forty cats and dogs found their forever families (half in November and December)!

Some of our longest fostered animals found their special families. Two cats, 6-year veterans Harley and Minnie Pearl, settled with their perfect "purrson." Our little deaf poodle, Joey, found his special family after more than 2 years in our care. We are excited for all of them!

### What It Takes

Much goes into a successful adoption. We are very conscientious about placing animals into the right family.

Often, when they arrive, animals are not ready to be a good family member. They may be scared or depressed, or have lost their self-esteem.

It doesn't matter if they came from a shelter, a yard, or were abandoned and trying to survive on their own. Their world turned inside out. They had figured out rules that worked for them. But, sometimes, those rules don't make them good family companions and relearning is needed before there can be a successful adoption.

Companions In Waiting spends at least two weeks observing and evaluating all animals.

We study dogs to see if they are house trained, come to their name, know basic obedience commands, have separation anxiety or other issues.

We study cats to see if they like to be with other cats or prefer to be by themselves, if they like to

be held and cuddled, are shy or outgoing. We look to see if they use the litter box consistently and use a scratching post.

We spend time with these animals helping them learn the trust and skills that will ease their transition to their forever family.

We ensure animals are current with vaccinations, and get a blood panel for older animals and ones that have been living outside. If needed, we spay or neuter, have a micro-chip inserted, and get them groomed.

Veterinary expenses make up the biggest share of our budget. We work to find cost-effective ways to provide good care; nonetheless, animal health care is as expensive as human health care. The adoption donation rarely covers all we spend to see that an animal is ready to be a healthy family companion.

Most animals are with us for a long time, especially if they have issues to be addressed. In some cases, even when the animal goes to Adoption Fairs, they are still working on the skills to become a great family companion.

We never know how long any animal will be with us. It may be weeks, months or even years. There is no specific timeline. The animals tell us when they are ready.

Like people, no animal is perfect; but we want them to be the best they can be.

So, having a sense of the animal's needs helps us match the animals with the best family for them. We endeavor to give the new family the best guidelines for a successful transition into their family

We love to hear, "It feels like the animal has always been part of the family." Then we know we've done our job!

# Companions In Waiting

## Wouldn't it be wonderful...

### Wouldn't it be Wonderful If All Animals Were Young?

Wouldn't it be wonderful if all animals were young, healthy, sociable, cute and the perfect companion all their life? Wouldn't it be wonderful if there were no animals that had been mistreated, abandoned, attacked by an animal or human, or had some chronic limitation?

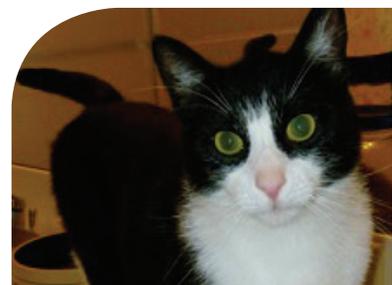
Many animals are young, healthy, cute, social, and "perfect" but many more face physical, emotional, or medical challenges every day.

In addition to healthy animals, we decided to work with those animals that really need the extra helping hand. These animals need people that can see past the problem to the wonderful animal inside: someone who wants to help and give them the home they deserve.

Often, for no reason that they could help, they developed a health issue, like **Riley**. When Riley and his sister were adopted, their diet changed from a wet/dry diet to dry food only.

Normally, this would be fine; but Riley doesn't drink water from a bowl. His adoptive mom did not want to adapt to his dietary needs. But, without enough moisture, he was going into renal failure.

Fortunately, we treated him before things became serious.



Riley

Riley, an affectionate and otherwise healthy guy, needs a wet-food-only diet and a quiet home with little stress. Give him the right diet and he is a great and loving companion. He just wants someone that he can curl up with and love.

Then there are the "Woodpile Cats", **Teddy, Guy, Handsome, Marble, Precious, and Phoebee**. They are lovely kitties, but so very shy.

They love treats and they like to be petted by gentle fingers. Some even like to be picked up. But shy as they are, they don't do well at Adoption Fairs, so people pass them by. They need someone with the patience to earn their trust. While they may prefer to be with a sibling, they would do well as solos, too.



Handsome, Guy, Teddy



Marble, Phoebee, Precious



Beatrice

**Beatrice and Sam**. These two wonderful puppies came to us as traumatized, terrified young dogs.

Bea, the puggle, was so scared we had to carry her in her crate into a playpen in the yard. It took weeks before her tail would relax and wag, and more weeks before she could come close and lick your hand.

Sam hid at the back of his cage and let his sister, Summer, protect him. Summer took the chance to trust relatively quickly and is now with her "forever" family.

Sam is slowly gaining confidence. We are so happy to see him begin to play like a puppy! Yet, he is still too traumatized to go out on leash.

The two wonderful pups progress at their own rate. Trying to hurry them along only sets them back.

We call all such animals little works in progress.

Then there is **Oni**, a handsome older boy who tested positive for feline FIV (also known as kitty AIDS).

Because we don't know his history, we don't know if he is a carrier or if his FIV is active. He may simply have been vaccinated for feline FIV.

Any cat given the vaccination will always test positive for feline FIV. Now days, we know that with a little care, these cats can live long happy lives with other cats.

Oni loves to get pets, rub up against you, give you head bumps and just be a big teddy bear. We hope a family recognizes what a special boy he is despite his FIV reading.

### Love to Spare

Animals with health or age-related needs can be a wonderful experience for their adoptive family. They have an abundance of love to share despite their personal challenges. *(continued on next page)*



Sammy



Oni



## Success Stories!



Pepper 2

CIW gets many phone calls about animals in distress. Sometimes we are able to help. A lady asked for help with a dog she said she found in sad shape on a beach.

Eventually, we learned he had been a well-loved member of a family, but they could no longer afford his medical care. They had tried to find financial help for the little guy; but, sadly, were unsuccessful. Fortunately, they found our number.

A foster family agreed to care for him. Blood work showed **Pepper** had a thyroid imbalance. Once he got treated, the problem began to correct itself. The foster family decided that this little old fellow had found his “forever” family and he was home for good.

**Rufus** lost his first home when he was 10-years old because his family felt he was “too old”. He found a sweet, gentle caregiver, but she died 2 years later. Living in a noisy boarding kennel, he missed her warm, quiet home dreadfully.

CIW was asked to help. Rufus needed time to recover his self-esteem, but he began attending Fairs for practice. One day, he was spotted by a young couple who wanted a special companion. When they met Rufus, they knew they had found their boy! We know how lucky Rufus was to find this great family. His Mom and Dad think they were the lucky ones to have found Rufus!



Rufus



Angel Baby

Abbey

Bailey

Our long time supporter and friend, Lorie Coon, passed away very unexpectedly, leaving 3 lovely cats. The 3 cats were very sweet but so shy. We were asked to look after the kitties and we did. CIW facilitated placing “the kids” in their new homes.

Angel Baby was her Mom’s baby girl. One of her Mom’s friends asked if Baby could come and be her kitty. We were happy to say “Yes!” Baby is such a sweet little girl.

A wonderful family heard Bailey needed a home and asked him to join their family. His new Dad is an audiophile who enjoys his music in the evening, and Bailey was happy to join him. It was a terrific match; sadly, cut short by Bailey’s untimely death.

His sister, Abbey is a beautiful long haired-black girl. A kind lady heard about Abbey and said she would like to invite Abbey to join her family. We thought it would be a great idea, and it was!

Lorie is greatly missed by Companions in Waiting and by all who knew her.

From a recent letter:

*“Reggie is an amazing animal and a bundle of joy. He’s so smart, sweet, curious, loving and playful. We are grateful to be Reggie’s people as we are totally in love with him. We thank you for introducing him to us and choosing our place as his permanent home. (Mom)*

*Every day I love Reggie more. I keep asking how did I get so lucky? I just thought I’d take a moment and tell you this and to thank you for rescuing these doggies. (Dad)”*

We couldn’t say it better! Reggie was a quite a favorite among CIW volunteers; and everyone is so thrilled to hear what a great success you’ve made!



Reggie

Any glimpse into the life of an animal quickens our own and makes it so much the larger and better in every way.

...John Muir

Read more Success Stories at: <http://www.companionsinwaiting.org/more/success.php>

## Successes To Be



Juliette

### Juliette's Story

Juliette, a gentle 3-5 year old poodle mix, is a terrific little girl who came to us as a stray.

She was very scared, matted, and dirty; but cleaned up nicely. We don't know how she came to be on the streets; we couldn't locate an owner, and no one came looking for her.

We are happy to see she is starting to relax and feel safer.

What we soon learned was that Juliette was going to be a Mommy.

After the puppies are born, she will be spayed. Then, she and her puppies will be looking for their forever families.

Watch our web site for updated pictures of Juliette and her babies.

### Companions in Waiting Van

The van used by CIW to transport animals was totaled by a red-light runner in January. Sigh... fortunately, no one was hurt!

However, we need a van to get animals to Adoption Fairs, vet appointments, and home visits. An anonymous donor is offering to match donations up to \$2000 to help with the purchase of a new vehicle for Companions In Waiting. If you wish to participate in this matching donation opportunity, please call us at 650-328-0474 or put a memo on your check indicating that the donation goes to the new van fund.



Thank you!

### Jet's Story

Jet is a sweet fellow who came to Companions in Waiting as a tiny kitten a few years ago.

Jet and his brother were adopted to a family where they were loved and well cared for; but as they grew older, Jet's brother became assertive. He started beating up poor Jet. Their family decided that Jet would be happier in a new loving home.

This guy has it all: good looks and charming personality!

Could your home be the one to welcome this precious youngster as a loved member of the family?



Jet

### Brownie's Story

Five-year old Brownie was found wandering in a Half Moon Bay neighborhood. Although we circulated information, no one came looking for this cute little guy. The little dynamo really wants to find a family where he can be chief. He does well when he is the only dog. He is uncomfortable with young children.

BTW, he is not an early morning person. If you are not an early morning person, Brownie is looking for you!



Brownie



Polly & Abner

### Polly & Abner's Story

Abner was found as a tiny kitten by himself on a home porch. We don't know how, because he was too young to get there by himself. But it was the right porch because he was taken in and cared for by a nice foster lady.

Abner's friend, Polly, turned up in a playground. Polly was a unsure of people and Abner was beginning to play rough because he didn't have another kitten to

show him how to be a "good kitten." Fate brought them together, and now they are good friends. They are both very sweet kitties!

We can judge the heart of a man by his treatment of animals.

...Immanuel Kant

### Ziggy's Story

Ziggy is a happy 7-year old long-haired Dachshund mix. He loves to play fetch, sit up for treats and he smiles whenever a friendly lap appears.

Ziggy is neutered, micro-chipped, current with his vaccinations, crate trained, and does well on leash. He has lived with another small dog and a cat.

He would be most comfortable in a quieter home without small children and where he can be the focus of your love and attention.

Are you the family for Ziggy?



Ziggy

Read about more adoptable pets at: <http://www.companionsinwaiting.org>

# Companions In Waiting

## With Thanks!

### Partners - We could not do it without you!

None of what we do would be possible without the support of three great communities: Half Moon Bay, Palo Alto, and Menlo Park.

Our partners make it possible to do what we do - rescue and find great matches between animal companions and people. Thank you from the bottoms of our hearts.



### Volunteers Make This Work!

Volunteers provide the backbone that carries Companions In Waiting to success! They are caregivers who also staff fairs, foster pets, socialize animals, clean up, create our online resources, write letters, provide financial and legal expertise, serve on our board, and manage our data resources. Our deepest thanks to the hands and hearts that make this work!



2013 Volunteer Luncheon

### Volunteer Highlight

After an itinerant childhood as an Army brat, Carina came to California to attend college and never left. She got an art degree and served a brief stint in a cubicle. She began working in animal rescue as an animal care attendant at a local shelter. After moving on to web development (starting her own business, [www.filadesign.com](http://www.filadesign.com)), she stayed involved in animal rescue as a kitten fosterer for the Humane Society of Silicon Valley.



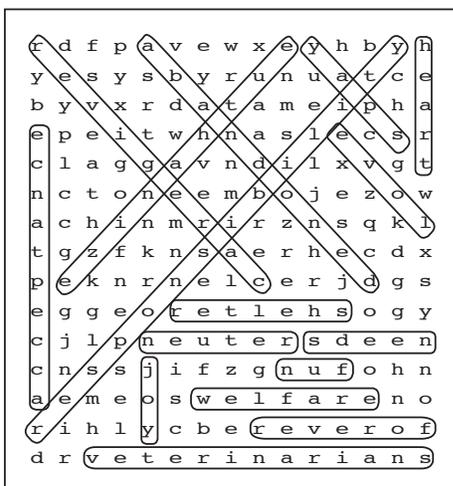
Carina

When Jo needed someone to take over the CIW website, Carina agreed. In addition to designing and maintaining the website, Carina designs new brochures, signs, and cards; and she creates the annual calendar.

Carina can be seen staffing some of the Adoption Fairs, and she and her husband have fostered about 30 cats, kittens, and a puppy for CIW. Since 2011, they have been the "forever family" for Molly, a 12-year old German shorthaired pointer. Carina would like to say a special hello to former foster kitties, Oolong, her mom Abbie (née Jasmine), Beckett and Yeats, and her most recent CIW foster, Domino (née Cinnamon).

Thank you Carina!

Solution to Word Search puzzle on page 3



## Farewells

## Testimonials



### Farewell to Friends

*Several beloved cats crossed to the Rainbow Bridge this year; and a piece of our hearts goes with them.*

*"... what we have enjoyed, we can never lose ... all that we love deeply becomes a part of us."*

*...Helen Keller*



Bella, April 2013



Misty, August 2013



EmKat, February 2014



Bailey, December 2013



Nutmeg, February 2014

We are deeply gratified when we receive letters or calls like these!

### Chica

Both Chica and Veronica are enjoying each other and keeping each other in shape. Chica gets more attention and affection than I do, so do you have room at your place for me?

### Alex

I feel so blessed to have gotten Alex. He and I are truly like a match made in heaven. Alex came with me in the cabin on a very long flight when I moved to Florida. He was as always a very brave and good boy! What a gift he is to me!

### Bismark (Smokey)

Bismark continues to do really well and is firmly in charge of the household. Biz loves his new 25-story view in Denver with lots of windows and much sunlight and warmth.

### Rufus

Rufus arrived in the UK and is doing great. He's over his jet lag, enjoying the cool weather, and running in the massive green space near our house. He's also eating more than ever. The only trouble we have is that we have to wipe his paws twice as much because of all the mud!

### Lucy

Ever since she was rescued from seeking shelter in a drainage ditch, Lucy has been the most grateful and affectionate dog. She is a perfect playmate for her doggie sister, Maxie. Though Steve fell in love at first sight, we waited until Lucy was returned to full health by her dedicated foster mom Jo, before taking her to her forever home. She loves car rides, beachcombing, playing with her hedgehog toy, and most of all, snacks! And she is grateful, always.

### Oro

We received a fun phone call recently from "the proud possessors of Oro" to relate how "fantastically" he is doing. We recall how, during the final adoption process, Jo reminded the couple that Oro has a significant heart murmur. Mike replied, "That's fine. I have one and so does my wife. So, Oro fits right in with our family." Now, Oro LOVES to go to bed – under the covers and sleeps all night long. This morning he even protested to Joan getting him up and out of the bed!!



Companions in Waiting is a 501(c)3 non-profit animal rescue and adoption organization based in San Mateo County, California



Companions in Waiting  
P.O. Box 213  
Half Moon Bay, CA 94019

## 2014 Adoption Fairs - Come See us Soon!

Feb. 1-2	Half Moon Bay Library	Jul. 11-12	Pet Place, Menlo Park
Feb. 7-8	Pet Place, Menlo Park	Jul. 19-20	Kibbles and Gifts, Half Moon Bay
Feb. 15-16	Kibbles and Gifts, Half Moon Bay	Aug. 2-3	Half Moon Bay Library
Mar. 1-2	Pampered Pup, Half Moon Bay	Aug. 8-9	Pet Place, Menlo Park
Mar. 7-8	Pet Place, Menlo Park	Aug. 16-17	Kibbles and Gifts, Half Moon Bay
Mar. 15-16	Kibbles and Gifts, Half Moon Bay	Sep. 6-7	Pampered Pup, Half Moon Bay
Apr. 5-6	Half Moon Bay Library	Sep. 12-13	Pet Place, Menlo Park
Apr. 11-12	Pet Place, Menlo Park	Sep. 20-21	Kibbles and Gifts, Half Moon Bay
Apr. 19-20	Kibbles and Gifts, Half Moon Bay	Oct. 4-5	Half Moon Bay Library
May 3-4	Pampered Pup, Half Moon Bay	Oct. 10-11	Pet Place, Menlo Park
May 9-10	Pet Place, Menlo Park	Oct. 25-26	Kibbles and Gifts, Half Moon Bay
May 17-18	Kibbles and Gifts, Half Moon Bay	Nov. 1-2	Kibbles and Gifts, Half Moon Bay
Jun. 7-8	Half Moon Bay Library	Nov. 7-8	Pet Place, Menlo Park
Jun. 13-14	Pet Place, Menlo Park	Nov. 15-16	Pampered Pup, Half Moon Bay
Jun. 21-22	Kibbles and Gifts, Half Moon Bay	Dec. 5-6-7	Pet Place, Menlo Park
Jul. 5-6	Pampered Pet, Half Moon Bay	Dec. 13th*	Half Moon Bay Library

\*tentative date, visit [www.CompanionsInWaiting.com](http://www.CompanionsInWaiting.com) for additional fairs and schedule updates

## Locations and Hours

Half Moon Bay Library 620 Correas Street Half Moon Bay, CA (650) 726-2316	The Pet Place 777 Santa Cruz Ave. Menlo Park, CA (650) 325-7387	Kibbles and Gifts Strawflower Shopping Center 80 Cabrillo Hwy N #B Half Moon Bay, CA (650) 726-3700	The Pampered Pup Sequoia Station 225 S Cabrillo Hwy, St 106B Half Moon Bay, CA (650) 726-0907
Hours: Saturday 11 am - 3 pm Sunday 1 pm - 3 pm	Hours: Fridays 12 pm - 3 pm Saturdays 10:30 am - 3 pm	Hours: Saturday 11 am - 2 pm Sunday 11 am - 2 pm	Hours: Saturday 11 am - 3 pm Sunday 11 am - 3 pm



If you can help...

Companions In Waiting relies on donations to feed, house, and care for homeless pets.

We are grateful to our supporters who make this possible.

Kindly send donations to:  
Companions In Waiting

P.O. Box 213  
Half Moon Bay, CA 94019

Or donate through Paypal to:  
[CompanionsInWaiting@yahoo.com](mailto:CompanionsInWaiting@yahoo.com)

Or see our Paypal link at:  
[www.CompanionsInWaiting.org](http://www.CompanionsInWaiting.org)