



## In This Issue

Great Expectations..... 1  
 2014 in Review ..... 1  
 Upfront About Health..1  
 Signs of Emergency....2  
 Don't Eat That!.....3  
 Resources ..... 3  
 Rescue Word Search...3  
 Success Stories.....4  
 Successes To Be.....5  
 Our Thanks!.....6  
 Farewells.....7  
 One Family's Tale.....7  
 If You Can Help.....8  
 2015 Adoption Fairs -  
 Come See Us Soon! ....8

## Great Expectations

### 2014 Year in Review

Each year, before Adoption Fairs begin, we always wonder what the year will bring. It's always a new and exciting adventure.

2014 proved to be just such an exciting year. Thirty-six wonderful dogs, cats, kittens and puppies went to their forever homes. Fourteen dogs, eight cats, five kittens and ten puppies found their special families in 2014!

The most unusual part of the year was when poodle mix, Lambchop (néé Juliette), gave birth to eight puppies. The next several months were a bit of a blur with keeping track of them all!

Each adoption thrills us, and this year we found it particularly rewarding to see:

- the tiny puppies grow into lively youngsters; and watch while they chose their forever families.
- a family who came looking for a puppy, ask if they could adopt the mom (because she, clearly, had chosen them).
- a couple invite our long time "veteran" cat Jet, who had been waiting 3 years for his "special" family, to join their family.
- a shy kitty, Nadia, blossom when a lovely couple asked her to join them.

All these things still bring tears to the eyes. We were all truly gratified to see:

- an 11th-hour rescue for Bobbie, the 14-year old Pekingese. Bobbie's family was relocating to Asia shortly. The airlines would only let him travel as

cargo via a longer route, which he had very little chance of surviving. An unscheduled Adoption Event led us to a sweet lady looking for an older dog, and a lovely match was made!

- a long awaited match for Ziggy! This long-haired dachshund mix immediately grabbed admiration with his charm and good looks. Over a year went by. Families inquired, but nothing worked out. At long last, a connection was made with the perfect family. Shortly after moving in, Ziggy's mom phoned to say, "It feels like he has always been here!"



We are happy to share some more great news. After the loss of the trusty old van CIW used for years (sadly, broadsided by a red light jumper), Companions now has its own "Ark". The transport van carries the animals and equipment to and from the Adoption Fairs.

Our matching grant has been met!

Thank you all; and particularly to Christine Falletti whose fund raising efforts carried us over the top!

In 2014, our very busy Board member Ruth Burman wrote almost double the number of thank-you notes for the generous donations received in 2014. All the 2015 calendars found homes, too - we sold out! The animals and the Board are so very grateful to all who helped us.

Watch for new things for CIW in 2015! Keep your eyes on our web site. Carina Merrick decided that it was time to give our web site and our logo a fresh new look for 2015.

And watch the website for new additions to the Adoption Fair Schedule (see last page)... new plans are in the works!

## Up Front About Health Care

As an animal rescue group, we want to see the animals we rescue have long healthy, happy lives with the families who adopted them. We love to hear how they are doing and see pictures of their adventures. We know pet loss is difficult and we grieve along with you when we get the call that one of our Companions babies has gone to Rainbow Bridge.

It is our great hope that all companion animals everywhere get safe, loving homes and live long, healthy lives.

Recently a vet practice got a phone call from a person who thought that it was time for her kitty to go to Rainbow Bridge. They asked her how old was the cat?

*"Seventeen,"* was the answer.

*"What vet had she been seeing?"*

*"Oh, none,"* came the reply.

*"Never?"*

*"No. She always seemed so healthy."*

The story got me thinking - how many companion animals seem so healthy that the families miss taking them in for vaccinations or check ups until one day they wake up and find their pet in distress?

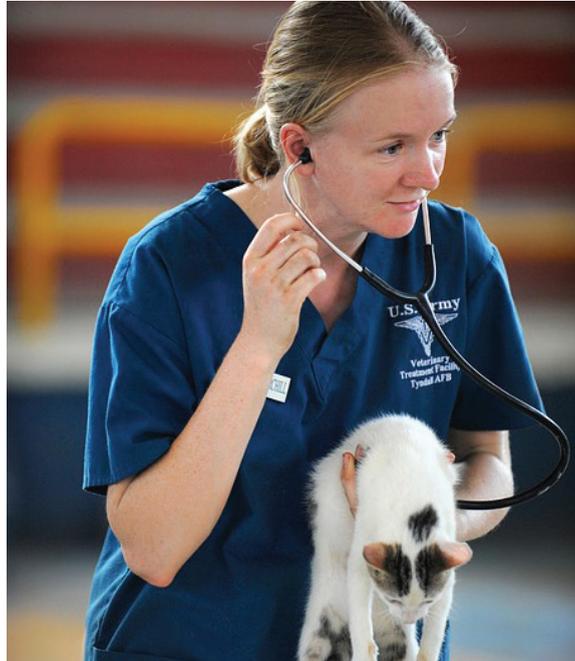
Vets often hear, "I didn't know he was so ill!" That's partly because pets are so good at hiding early signs of illness. Later, illnesses may manifest outwardly with bumps, sores, hair loss, foul breath, limps, or changes in behaviors (snaps or growls from a normally gentle animal, or changing bodily functions, e.g., urinating inappropriately).

Veterinarians have different views of how often a companion animal should have a check over; but a good rule of thumb is to take your companion animal to see the vet as often as you take yourself or child in for a checkup. And oldsters may need more frequent attention because dog and cat bodies age at a faster rate than the human body.

At Companions In Waiting we are always looking for cost effective ways to care for the animals. My Mom would always say, "A stitch in time saves nine." We think that applies to health care as well as to clothes. First thing, our animals get a health check and vaccinations. Older animals also get a blood panel to see if they have any hidden problems to attend to during foster care.

A yearly visit to a vet can catch early onset of many conditions, when they can be treated more easily, giving your companion animal many more healthy, happy years.

For example, some dog breeds like Lhasa Apsa and Shih Tzu, may have a film form over their irises, leading to blindness (even in dogs as young as 3-years). Caught early, simple prescribed drops can stop the film from forming and can even dissolve it so the dog has normal vision.



A simple check of a cat's urine can find crystals that form in the bladder; which if not treated, can cause a urinary blockage. Such blockages can lead to more serious infections and even death. Symptoms of bladder problems can look like inappropriate peeing or many trips to the litter box with little result. A urinalysis can detect infection and crystals. If positive, a round of meds and/or change in diet may save a lot of aggravation and expense!

These are examples of some conditions that a vet could notice that a family might not see. When the condition becomes serious enough to see, it can also be expensive to resolve.

Any change in your pet's normal behavior that continues for more than a few days should be checked.

The American Veterinary Medical Association reports that vet visits have been dropping as caregivers skip checkups and vaccinations. The Association notes, *"A yearly visit to your family vet is as essential as food and love. Pets would be healthier, live longer and, overall, pet owners could actually save money."*

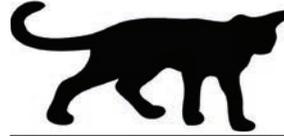
## Signs of a Pet Emergency

If your pet has any of the symptoms below, we urge to to get it checked. Watch for:

- Bleeding
- Bite wounds or abscess
- Bloating, painful abdomen
- Bloody urine or stool
- Burns
- Collapse
- Diarrhea (bloody, watery or more than once)
- Difficulty breathing/shortness of breath
- Hives or swollen muzzle
- Lethargy/weakness
- Loss of appetite
- Pain
- Pale gums

(continued on next page)

## Rescue Word Search



(continued from previous page)

- Restlessness and panting
- Seizure, staggering or loss of balance
- Sudden lameness
- Temperature of more than 102 degrees (with rectal thermometer)
- Unable to urinate or have bowel movement (straining)
- Vomiting
- Changes in behavior or disposition
- Labor contractions of more than 1 hour or more than 10 min. when fetus is visible

Remember, some vets will freely give advice by telephone. If there is a 24-hour veterinary service in your area, it can be helpful to look up the phone number and address to have handy.

*It is health that is the real wealth and not pieces of gold and silver.*

*...Mahatma Gandhi*

### Don't Eat That!

If your pet swallows any of the following substances, contact your veterinarian:

- Anti-freeze
- Chocolate
- Bones/foreign objects (socks, toys, pacifiers, rocks, string, plastic)
- Grapes/raisins
- Lilies (cats)
- Marijuana
- Wild mushrooms
- Poisonous plants
- Tobacco
- Human medications (Tylenol, heart medications, mood-altering drugs)
- Xylitol (sweetener used in chewing gums, mouthwash and low-cal sweets)
- Onions/garlic

### Resources

Consider asking your veterinarian about health insurance; and you can ask them to suggest helpful pet health books. The veterinarian may also be able to suggest organizations that help with pet care expenses.

The following websites are not intended to replace expert medical care, but may be useful to animal caregivers:

*Veterinary Medical Information for Dogs and Cats*

<http://www.vetinfo.com/>

*Humane Society Resources* (includes financial help section)

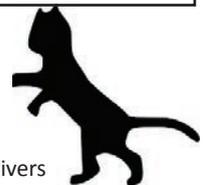
[http://www.humanesociety.org/animals/animal\\_resources.html](http://www.humanesociety.org/animals/animal_resources.html)

*WebMD - Pet Care Essentials*

<http://pets.webmd.com/>

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| n | i | n | s | s | m | p | a | d | v | n | t | j | r | t |
| c | r | u | h | v | x | i | f | a | y | a | b | q | o | p |
| o | e | t | o | l | a | h | f | y | d | i | y | y | j | d |
| k | t | r | t | y | k | s | e | c | d | r | s | g | d | v |
| b | l | i | s | f | h | n | c | a | l | a | f | x | y | t |
| a | e | t | s | r | g | o | t | r | d | n | z | q | h | q |
| x | h | i | l | u | g | i | i | e | q | i | p | l | a | y |
| n | s | o | a | o | g | n | o | w | e | r | l | c | a | x |
| z | n | n | t | a | q | a | n | y | k | e | a | s | v | s |
| l | s | n | n | d | g | p | j | f | f | t | z | r | z | z |
| u | t | j | e | h | w | m | y | d | i | e | x | k | c | t |
| w | d | m | d | b | b | o | o | m | o | v | f | a | x | m |
| s | m | a | x | e | x | c | e | s | i | c | r | e | x | e |
| s | p | u | k | c | e | h | c | b | k | l | t | o | c | y |
| n | o | i | t | a | n | i | c | c | a | v | s | o | s | q |

Find the words hidden in the puzzle using the clues shown below. Solution on page 6.



affection - cements the bond between pets and pet caregivers

checkups - save money by identifying problems early

companionship - enriches lives

daycare - doggie daycare may reduce pet stress and increase owner well-being

dentals - prevent pain, diseases, and tooth loss

exams - regular exams are a great time to review preventative measures

exercise - reduces stress, excess weight, and increases health and well-being

nutrition - provides the cornerstone to good health

play - provides an outlet for excess energy and an opportunity to bond

shelter - provides safety, security, and comfort

shots - alleviate common diseases: infections, inflammations, diabetes, etc.

toys - make a younger pet happy and helps them avoid inappropriate behaviors

vaccination - provides immunity to many serious diseases

veterinarian - will skillfully look out for your pet's well-being and health.

## Success Stories!

**Lamb Chop** (was Juliette) - A white poodle mix was abandoned in the Central Valley. She was very neglected: dirty, matted, and smelly. And if that wasn't enough, she was pregnant! The vet felt 4 puppies, later an x-ray showed 6 puppies. This was just getting better and better. On the big day, all were surprised by 8 puppies! She was a wonderfully attentive mom, and all grew into healthy, happy puppies.

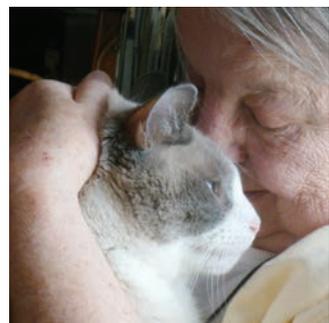


Once it was time for Juliette and her babies to find their "forever" homes, Juliette was spayed, vaccinated and microchipped. A nice couple

came looking to adopt one of the puppies. When they met the mom, they changed their minds about a puppy and invited her to become a part of their family instead. Lambchop, you have been a terrific mom and we couldn't be happier to see you go to such a great home! Read about what happened to each of the puppies at <http://www.companionsinwaiting.org/more/success.php>

*"Puppies are constantly inventing new ways to be bad. It's fascinating. You come into a room they've been in and see pieces of debris and try to figure out what you had that was made from wicker or what had been stuffed with fluff."*

*...Julie Klam, "You Had Me at Woof: How Dogs Taught Me the Secrets of Happiness"*



**Oni and Sam** - In 2014 we wrote about special needs animals, including Oni and Sam. We are happy to say these special animals are home!

Oni tested positive for feline AIDS. Though it doesn't always mean a cat is infectious, it made it hard for many people to consider Oni as a companion. Finally, a lady with a very loving heart opened her arms to Oni.

Sam, a very traumatized puppy from Northern California, was rescued with his sister, Summer. Summer quickly learned to trust, but Sam was slow to heal. After a time, the young couple who adopted his less fearful sister, realized they were ready to take on Sam, too. The results are so heartwarming! Sam and his sister have truly blossomed under the guidance of the new caregivers. They make a wonderful family.



**Jet** - He and his brother came to us as kittens in '09. They found a lovely family and all should have been perfect. But that is not what happened. In time, Jet's brother became aggressive towards Jet. Jet tried to let the family know he was unhappy, and finally they understood. Jet came back to CIW to find his new forever home.



A handsomely elegant cat, people "oohed" and "aahed" and said how sweet he was, but no-one invited him to join their family. Then along came a young couple who were looking for their first kitty. They met Jet and heard his story. After a brief talk, two heads poked around the corner and said they would like to invite Jet to join their family! Now he has his own home to run around in and two people to give him lots of lovin'. There's nothing better, is there?



A tale of two Lucys, **Lucy D & Rainbow Lucy** - As a puppy, Lucy D lived closed in a room as her owner worked long hours. She didn't realize the time and attention a puppy needs. Luckily, she was persuaded the puppy needed a family who could give her much needed attention. Lucy D found a perfect person! She is retired with time to spend with this needy pup. Life is beautiful.

Rainbow Lucy's first family decided they could no longer keep her. Lucy was very scared and unsure, but it wasn't long before she was back to being a sweetheart... although, she let it be known she wanted to be an only cat. A great couple came to an Adoption Fair looking for a kitty. They looked at all the cats, but kept coming back to Rainbow Lucy. And she found the family that was meant for her!



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

## Successes To Be

### Barney and Fred's Story

These very affectionate boys were found in a back yard on the coast side. They were too young to be out by themselves and no mom was seen. The boys were very clean and healthy.

They wanted to be with people and purred when you looked at them! We are sure they were abandoned. Luckily, the lady in whose back yard the boys were found contacted CIW. Now they are being cared for and are safe.

They tested negative for feline leukemia and FIV. Both got their vaccinations and are neutered and micro-chipped.

We hope they soon will find the forever family meant for these two really charming boys. That would be perfect!



Fred and Barney

### Elsie and Janie's Story



Janie

Elsie

Janie was born on a ranch in Half Moon Bay. Her mom and siblings disappeared before they could be rescued. So Janie is the only lucky one. Janie's best buddy is Elsie. Elsie was also rescued from a ranch barn in Half Moon Bay. Her mom took very good care of her, but we wanted to give her a chance at a better life than being a barn cat. Barn cats have to survive raccoons, wild cats, coyotes, hawks and other predators.

Both girls are sweet and very loving. These gentle kitties tested negative for FIV/FELV. Both are spayed and micro-chipped and are current with vaccinations. Wouldn't it be fun to invite Janie and Elsie to become part of your family?

### Bailey's Story

Bailey is a "young" 9-year old Jack Russell Terrier. Bailey had been adopted from another rescue group 6 years ago by a young couple and all was well for several years. Then a baby joined the family. Bailey was very nervous around the baby especially when he started to crawl and walk. Bailey is a great little girl who needs a family with no small children and people experienced working with Jack Russell Terriers. She is spayed, micro-chipped, and current with her vaccinations. She likes some other small dogs and plays with them when introduced slowly. Bailey enjoys going for walks. She is crate trained for night-time. She likes people once she gets to know them. Bailey needs to take things slowly but she is *so* worth it. Are you the family for Bailey?



Bailey

### Trixie and Lulu's Story

Trixie was rescued from a truck company yard and is still a little shy. She is learning that people can do nice things like give a warm bath, brush, cuddle and pet. She loves attention and being brushed. Trixie is learning to walk on leash. She is vaccinated, spayed and micro-chipped. She's a happy girl who is gaining confidence all the time.

Not long after she came to her foster home, she met her best friend Lulu.

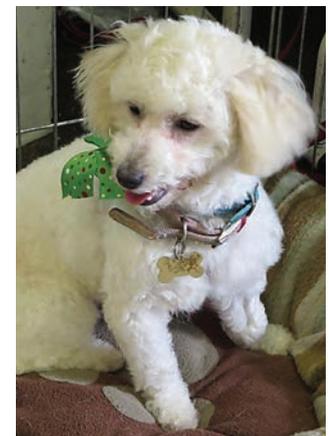
Lulu was picked up as a stray in a Central Valley town. Although "found dog" reports were widely posted, no one came looking for this sweet little puppy. Lulu has been spayed, vaccinated and micro-chipped.

These two girls have not stopped playing, sleeping and being together since then. It is so very sweet to see.

We would love to see these two girls stay together. Is your home the one to invite two sweet little girls to join the family?



Trixie



Lulu

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

# Companions In Waiting

## Our Thanks!

### Partners - The Essential Ingredient!

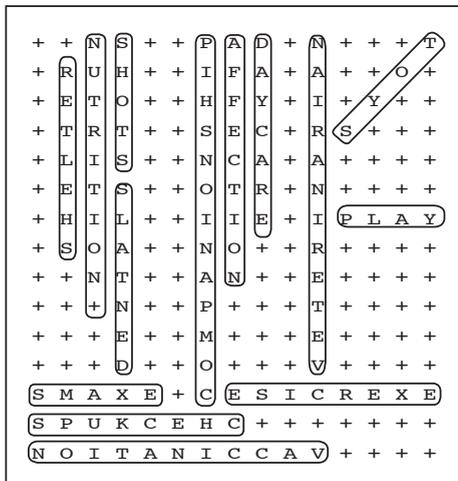
Our partners in Half Moon Bay, Palo Alto, Menlo Park, and Redwood City continue to amaze us with their commitment to animal welfare and helping rehome the many lost and forgotten animals in their communities.

The job of rescuing and finding great matches between animal companions and people simply could not be done without their continued support.

Thank you from the bottoms of our hearts. ♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥



Solution to Word Search puzzle on page 3



### Volunteers - The Best!

People with big hearts make wonderful things happen. Companions In Waiting volunteers, with their many talents, give generously of their time, creativity, and energy. They build the bridges that allow loving companions to find our foster dogs and cats.

We could not help a single animal without the dedication and commitment of the many hands that help. Thank you, every one of you!



Giving Walkies at Adoption Fairs

### Notes from an intern

by Marguerite Fischer



Every year the junior class at my high school has an internship project and each student finds a job shadow or a service work site for a week to gain experience and exposure to the work world.

Since I like animals and my family actually has rescue cats (from CIW), I wanted to see if I could help out for the week and see more of what CIW does. In October I went to four adoption fairs on the two weekends. During

the week, I went to one of the foster homes to help feed all the animals, walk the dogs, and do some kitten conditioning. One of the things that really stuck with me from the whole week was learning about each animal. Some of them had been abandoned or just hadn't had the best experiences previously, but seeing how they are all cared for and how much progress they make was really uplifting. For example, one time I was walking a dog who had a bit of a history of not getting along with other dogs since she wanted to be the alpha (and could be forceful about it). Still, we were able to walk right past another dog who was off leash with only a little growl; she may not have been completely comfortable, but she didn't let it get to her, she kept walking and everything was fine.

Hearing how far some of these animals have come and getting to talk to the people at CIW was an eye-opener, and overall just a great experience. I'd say the only downside is now I want to adopt more animals!

## Farewells

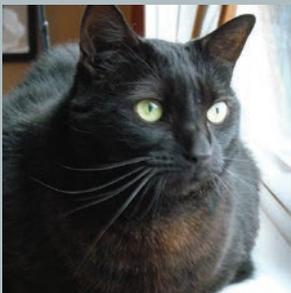


### Farewell to Friends

*Every companion animal that passes through CIW's doors leaves pawprints imprinted on our hearts. We share the sorrow when such a loved one passes on.*

*"There is no remedy for love but to love more."*

*...Henry David Thoreau*



Popo Mica October 2013



Henry February 2015



Five (Buster) October 2015



Beanie (Batman) April 2014

## One Family's Tale

**Shiloh** - Two years ago, my kids and I started talking about getting a dog. Life was complicated but I thought we had months to get comfortable with the idea before making a commitment. We'd check out different rescue groups and meet lots of pets. We'd think very carefully and cautiously.

Yet, one Sunday morning, soon after our search commenced, we were out for a walk in downtown Menlo Park and passed by The Pet Place. CIW was in the shop so we stopped in. We were immediately drawn to Shiloh. We could see that she was timid and shy, but she was gentle and beautiful and there was something very endearing about her.

We ended up spending several hours in the shop, talking to Jo, learning about CIW, holding Shiloh. I was able to share more about our family and changes we were going through. At first I thought this might leave CIW inclined to think we wouldn't

provide a good home for a pet. But Jo seemed very willing to talk and learn more about us. She seemed to know better than we did that Shiloh had a purpose and could make a difference for us. As we talked, Shiloh stole our hearts. She eventually settled into my daughter's arms and fell asleep. We left the shop knowing that something very special had just happened.

CIW needed time before they could adopt Shiloh out to a forever family. While we waited, we visited Shiloh, and eventually Jo gave us good news. On Feb. 21, 2013 Shiloh came into our family and our hearts forever. She has loved us unconditionally, as we do her. We are so grateful to Jo and CIW. Happy Birthday, Shiloh!

*...Christine Gertner*

*Dogs are not our whole life, but they make our lives whole.*

*...Roger Caras*



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



### 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

### Call for Volunteers

To learn more about the many ways to volunteer your time and talent, call us at (650) 328-0474 or email:  
[CompanionsInWaiting@yahoo.com](mailto:CompanionsInWaiting@yahoo.com)

## 2015 Adoption Fairs - Come See Us Soon!

|            |   |            |                                  |
|------------|---|------------|----------------------------------|
| Feb. 7-8   | Kibbles and Gifts, Half Moon Bay  | Jun. 12-13 | Pet Place, Menlo Park            |
| Feb. 13-14 | Pet Place, Menlo Park   | Jul. 11-12 | Kibbles and Gifts, Half Moon Bay |
| Feb. 21-22 | Half Moon Bay Library   | Jul. 17-18 | Pet Place, Menlo Park            |
| Mar. 7-8   | Kibbles and Gifts, Half Moon Bay  | Jul. 25-26 | Pet Food Depot, Redwood City     |
| Mar. 13-14 | Pet Place, Menlo Park   | Aug. 1-2   | Kibbles and Gifts, Half Moon Bay |
| Mar. 21    | Pet Food Depot, Redwood City  | Aug. 7-8   | Pet Place, Menlo Park            |
| Apr. 4-5   | Kibbles and Gifts, Half Moon Bay  | Aug. 15-16 | Half Moon Bay Library            |
| Apr. 10-11 | Pet Place, Menlo Park   | Sep. 12-13 | Kibbles and Gifts, Half Moon Bay |
| Apr. 12    | Pet Food Depot, Redwood City  | Sep. 18-19 | Pet Place, Menlo Park            |
| Apr. 18-19 | Half Moon Bay Library   | Oct. 3-4   | Kibbles and Gifts, Half Moon Bay |
| May 2-3    | Kibbles and Gifts, Half Moon Bay  | Oct. 16-17 | Pet Place, Menlo Park            |
| May 8-9    | Pet Place, Menlo Park   | Oct. 24-25 | Half Moon Bay Library            |
| May 16-17  | Pet Food Depot, Redwood City  | Nov. 7-8   | Kibbles and Gifts, Half Moon Bay |
| Jun. 6-7   | Kibbles and Gifts, Half Moon Bay  | Nov. 13-14 | Pet Place, Menlo Park            |
| Jun. 20-21 | Half Moon Bay Library   | Nov. 21-22 | Half Moon Bay Library            |
|            | <i>visit <a href="http://www.CompanionsInWaiting.com">www.CompanionsInWaiting.com</a> for additional fairs and schedule updates</i> | Dec. 4-5-6 | Pet Place, Menlo Park            |

### Locations and Hours

|  |  |   |   |
|--|--|---|---|
| Half Moon Bay Library<br>620 Correas Street<br>Half Moon Bay, CA<br>(650) 726-2316 | The Pet Place<br>777 Santa Cruz Ave.<br>Menlo Park, CA<br>(650) 325-7387 | Kibbles and Gifts<br>Strawflower Shopping Center<br>80 Cabrillo Hwy N #B<br>Half Moon Bay, CA<br>(650) 726-3700 | Pet Food Depot<br>1281 Veterans Blvd.<br>Redwood City, CA<br>(650)-364-5200 |
| Hours: Sat. 11:30 am-3pm<br>Sun. 1 pm - 3 :pm                                      | Hours: Fri. 12 pm - 3 pm<br>Sat. 10:30 am - 3 pm                         | Hours: Sat. 11 am - 2 pm<br>Sun. 11 am - 2 pm   | Hours: Sat. 11 am - 3 pm<br>Sun. 11 am - 3 pm                               |