



2015 The Power of Awwwwwww!

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Year in Review

The years in rescue become known by major events or illnesses. There has been the year of the black cats, when it seemed as though every cat that came to CIW was black; or the year of giardia; or the year of ear mites. And so with 2015, which turned out to be the year of unexpected babies. We started out with three 2-day old kittens rescued from a coastside business. The next day their sister was rescued from the beak of a raven. There is nothing as precious as these tiny, delicate babies. These little ones take much work and need a strong will if they have a chance to survive. It is an amazing experience to hold an almost new-born kitten or puppy that doesn't even fill your hand! It's miraculous watching and listening to them nurse on a bottle or on their Mom. Most of our babies survived, grew, and are now with their forever families. Sadly, three never really got a chance to live. Those are the hard ones.

Near year end, one of our rescue dogs surprised us with 3 beautiful puppies. Christmas this year was especially fun with 3 whirlwinds running around! Last year we had up to 15 young kittens and 5 puppies/young dogs in foster care. Their antics always make you laugh and feel happy and are great for your blood pressure and well being. Who needs TV with kittens or puppies in the house?

Unexpected babies weren't the only Awwwwwwws in 2015. We had some amazing animal/human connections.

Our hearts sink when we get a call asking for help rehoming an older animal. The chances of finding a home for cats or dogs over 10 years of age are slim to none, but sometimes slim is enough! Two calls came in very close to each other — both about older kitties needing new homes. At nearly the same time, two other calls came requesting an older kitty that was looking for a home. One call even came before the call about the cat needing help. Just amazing!



Riley meets Mara's puppies

Again near the end of our year we had a call from Coastside Veterinary Hospital. They had a little cat who had been rescued from a dumpster at the landfill. As it turned out the kitty was 20 years old and the family couldn't take it back. The vet's office asked if CIW could help. We were doing an event for Seniors, so we invited

the cat to come and be seen. But who would want to adopt such an old cat, even though she was in good health? Never discount the magic of fate. Along came one of the attendees (who hadn't planned on coming) and this 20-year-old sweetie found her perfect home and a lovely lady opened her heart to a marvelous little cat.

Each animal who comes through a rescue group has a story. Some stories are simple and others are more complex but all the stories have the **Awwwwwww** factor.

Companions In Waiting

Sanctuary and Special Needs Beauties

You may not see many of these wonderful animals at adoption events. They may be too old, traumatized, too shy, or too ill to cope with the stresses of going out of their "safe sanctuary." At CIW, we give them the place, kindness, and care they need. Someday, a few of them may become a special companion to a very special person. Some of them may never get there. Still, they are all stars and we wanted to share their unique beauty with you.

Dharma



We find her to be a gentle soul with soft, soft fur. She lives with kidney failure and needs daily sub-q injections and a special diet. Her mom loves her, but cannot give Dharma the care she needs. She misses her old home. Her appetite isn't the best, but she still loves a nice massage.

Beatrice

Bea, a terribly scared and traumatized young puggle, came to us 3 years ago. It took months before her tail would relax and wag, and more time before she could come out of a crate if people were around. Progress is slow. Currently, she gets along with other dogs, but only a couple of people can approach her to give her those back rubs she really likes.



Woodpile Kitties

Teddy, Guy, Handsome, Marble, Precious, and Phoebee were born to a feral mother 6 years ago. They grew into beautiful, healthy cats, but so very shy and skittish. They love treats and some like gentle



petting. But, they are slow to trust and do not travel well; the few times they've gone to Adoption Fairs were not good times. Such nervous cats would need people with deep understanding and older, if any, children.

José

About 15 years old, this tiny dog came to us after he was found along a road 9 years ago with a broken pelvis that did not fully heal. Thanks to medical intervention he recovered, but has lasting nerve damage to the base of his tail. Still, he re-learned to walk and has some bladder control issues. He loves going for walks and being part of a pack.



Riley



Riley has style! He also has chronic cystitis, albeit fairly well controlled with diet and medication since 2009. We find him to be a loving and very social companion; but somehow, the right family has yet to turn up for Riley. We believe he does better as an only cat — less stress!

Snickers

A lovely cat's family could not care for her and asked CIW to help find a new family for their healthy girl. We were thrilled to find a willing foster and all seemed well. The vet discovered differently. She found a bad tumor under her tongue, and the treatment would be unacceptably painful and disfiguring. *Oh, what to do?* Snickers' brave foster mom settled the matter by agreeing to love and care for her no matter what, if she was as comfortable as medically possible. The costs were high, and Snickers did not find her forever family; but she was genuinely cherished for all the rest of her days (see page 7, Farewells).

Mara

Mara needs expensive cataract surgery for her to be a "good" candidate for adoption. Currently, she is blind in one eye due to a mature cataract. Her vet also sees a cataract forming in her good eye. If not corrected, she will be blind in a year. The surgery costs about \$4000, which is a big chunk for us.

Mara will be getting the eye surgery so she can find a great family after her recovery. Mara's sunny disposition warms our hearts. **Help Mara see the bright side of life by donating at her special link on www.CompanionsInWaiting.org.** (Please see page 5 for information about adopting Mara).

Heroes!

Do You Have an Animal Hero?

"Bark!Bark!Bark!" Lassie, is Timmy down the well, again?!
"Bark!Bark!Bark!"

It was a rough day with lots of dull errands to be run in the heat. I distractedly ran a stop sign, earning a dark look from another driver (arrgh! my bad!). My back hurt. People behaved less helpfully or attentively than I may have wished. Bad hair day! The store refused my card due to a security alert placed by my bank "for my protection". The 40-minute drive home took 90 minutes in staggeringly slow traffic. As I stepped into the house, I was exhausted and in pain and about ready to fledge into full drama queen mode: tears, hissing, fussing! Then I saw this:



what I call, "Giving Belly"

My cat, "giving belly" ...made me smile and laugh! I bent down to rub that silly tummy and just be affectionate with my kitty. I felt much better after a few minutes of cuddles and purrs. Meltdown averted, I was able to get on with it. Kitty, My Hero!

How many times do our animal companions rescue us from ourselves?

~~~TLB

*"No one appreciates the very special genius of your conversation as the dog does."*

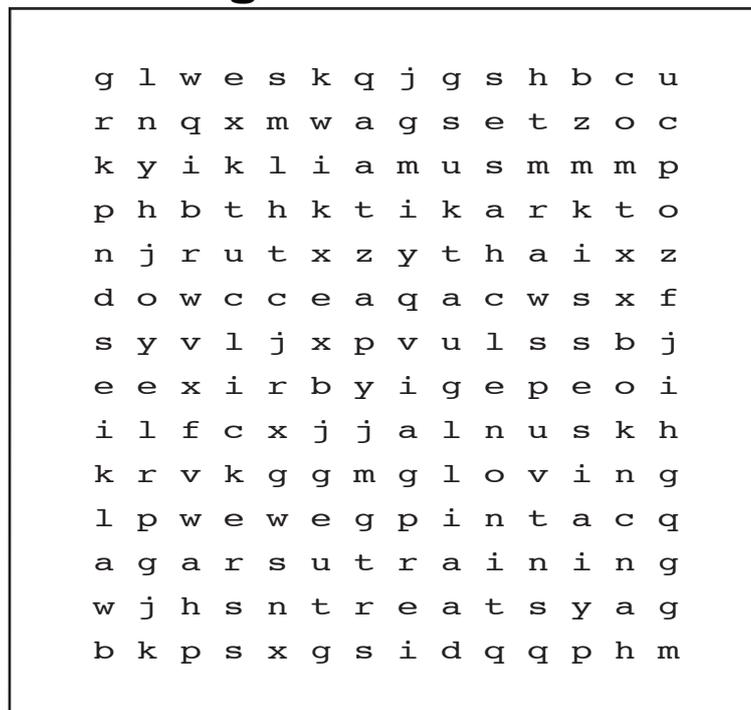
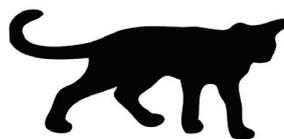
*...Christopher Morley*



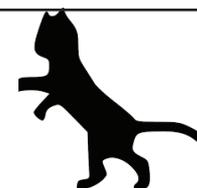
Bailey - "Place your bets!"

Do you have a funny picture or special story about your own animal hero? Share your Companion's tale with us: [www.Facebook.com/CompanionsInWaiting](http://www.Facebook.com/CompanionsInWaiting). If you need help with a contribution, email our Facebook Guru, Tina, [tinamossbeach@gmail.com](mailto:tinamossbeach@gmail.com)

# Rescue Word Search



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



- catnip** - lots of cats over 6 months old like a little 'nip.
- chases** - dogs love chasing stuff! often cats like chasing treats or laser lights.
- clickers** - a fun addition to your training routines.
- games** - big fun for younger pets, big laughs for you!
- loving** - a way to thrive and enjoy life.
- kisses** - and hugs, blinkies, wiggles, wags, purrs, head bumps - it's all good!
- petting** - few dogs or cats can resist being petted in their favorite spots!
- playtime** - so fun! (reduce stress, excess weight, and increase well-being).
- snuggles** - make you smile!
- training** - awesome ways to change behaviors and strengthen bonds.
- treats** - YUM! And, useful in training; great in play and games, too!
- wags** - one way your dog communicates joy.
- walkies** - *Oh, Boy! Walkies!* And, so healthy for dogs and people, too.
- warmth** - life-enhancing moments you and your special companion(s) share.

# Companions In Waiting

## Success Stories!

**Ziggy** - a long-time volunteer favorite, for some unfathomable reason Ziggy's family didn't appear. This wonderful little guy enjoyed the Fairs, but hated being in the pen. His happy personality made everyone around him happy. Ziggy loved going for walks. His ears and his tail went up and he strutted right along but he had no one to strut with. Then, a wonderful couple asked about Ziggy. When they all met, you could tell that there was a family in the making. Recently, Ziggy's Mom called to say that after a year together, they are even more enamored with each other.



**Hershey** - her first family decided they did not want a puppy and passed her along. Hershey ended up living most of her life alone in a backyard. The landlord felt sorry for this sweet little dog and worked out a plan to have her move to CIW's care. She was cleaned up of the fleas, eggs, foxtails and the mats. A trip to the vet proved she was healthy; and time in a social environment let her gain her self-esteem back. Over the next few months, one could see Hershey's confidence return. One day a lovely family came to meet Hershey. They were quiet and gentle - just what Hershey needed. The daughter made a bed for Hershey. What was so special was that Hershey knew it was for her! In a message from her new family, Mom said, "We feel like the luckiest family ever!"



*"Animals are such agreeable friends - they ask no questions; they pass no criticisms."  
~George Eliot*

**Tiger Lily** - (Lily for short) survived but had a sad story. She was found in a dumpster at the landfill in Half Moon Bay. A kind woman brought Lily in her arms to Coastside Veterinary Hospital with no trouble as she is so easy going. The vets recognized the cat and contacted the family; but they were not able to have 20-year-old Lily rejoin their family. The vets gave Lily a clean bill of health and contacted CIW to see if we could help her.



CIW was doing an event at the Senior Center. One of the attendees came and asked about Lily. After hearing Lily's story she said that she thought Lily and she were meant to be together.

As for any concerns about Lily's age, her new Mom's response was, "It doesn't matter if I have Lily for 3 months or 3 years, I'm going to give her the best life I can give her." Perfect!!!

**Misty and Rusty** - Our wonderful dog groomer is an avid animal person and dog and kitten rescuer. She rescued a litter of four kittens from a barn in the Central Valley. She was happy to rescue them but needed help finding them homes. The 4 beautiful kittens came to CIW. The kittens were eager to be held and petted and so playful! It wasn't long before two of the kittens caught the



eye of a Mom and her two children. They thought that Eric and Tina were meant to be members of their family and we agreed. Eric is now called Rusty and Tina's new name is Misty. We wish you all many happy years to grow up together and make many happy memories!

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

# Future Success Stories

## Puppy's Story

Originally Puppy was rescued from a situation of neglect. Now he just wants someone who will take him for walks and let him sit in their lap. But, what does a wonderful 11-year-old little boy do when his person passes away and no one can care for him? Leo (aka Puppy) is in just that situation. He had been adopted from a shelter 4 years ago and was the constant and loving companion to an elderly lady. Puppy gets along well with small dogs and is great with people (don't know about children). He is a great little indoor companion and will let you know when he needs to go out to potty. He is current with his vaccinations and is neutered. Can you provide the next lap for this Puppy?



Leo (aka "Puppy")

## Mara's Story

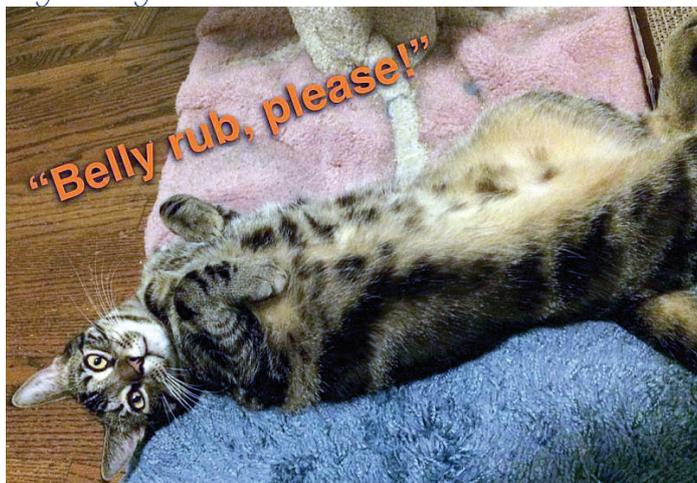
Mara was found in a bay front park, matted and infested with fleas; she loved getting cleaned up. The vet noted it was clear she had been through several pregnancies; not all of them easy. And, she has cataracts. She is just so sweet and affectionate — a really good dog — and we can't have her going blind! So you bet we will find a way to get her surgery!



Mara

Yet, Mara surprised us. Without warning, she gave birth to 3 stupendously cute puppies! (See the story on our website). Mara is spayed and recently had uterine cysts removed. She got microchipped and vaccinated. She just needs time to recover from upcoming eye surgery. Then, some lucky family is gonna get the best dog ever!

## Ricky's Story



Ricky

Ricky was part of a litter of kittens in the Central Valley. His prospects were not very happy until they were rescued. The kittens' rescuer watched the kittens grow into beautiful, sweet, playful kittens but she needed help finding "forever" families, and CIW is working with her to find great homes for these wonderful cats. Ricky loves rolling over for belly rubs and is very outgoing. He is quite healthy, neutered, current with his vaccinations, and tested negative for feline AIDS/leukemia and is microchipped. He is all set for you! CIW would like to see him be adopted with his sister, Olivia. Why not let this happy pair make you happy, too?

## Mignon and Pierre

Mom cat was rescued from a neglect situation shortly before the kittens were born. The kittens were born in a home in early May. They are sweet, healthy, social kittens. They love to play with each other and their toys. Both are spayed/neutered, vaccinated and microchipped. This sister and brother impressed us with their big purrs and big appetites for affection. Mignon and Pierre are ready to find their "forever" family. Has your family been looking for beautiful young cats to complete your family?



Mignon



Pierre

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. ♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥

### Volunteers - You Make It Happen!

Volunteers bring the most amazing contributions to animal welfare at Companions in Waiting. They do it all – everything! They work fairs, provide foster care, create our online presence and print publications, write thank you letters to donors, provide accounting and legal services, create data tracking files, serve on our board, build habitats, host neighborhood adoption fairs, walk dogs, help with socialization, animal care, and, even, with scooping poop! Thank you to the Cat Whisperers and Dog Gurus who work their special magic.



### Many Ways To Be A Part of Something Good

If you have some time, space, love, and/or skill to share, we could use your help in our all-volunteer organization.

**Foster homes** are always in short supply and that lack means we sometimes have the very sad job of telling someone we cannot help the animal they bring us. If you think you could temporarily help an animal in need of shelter and care, please contact us.

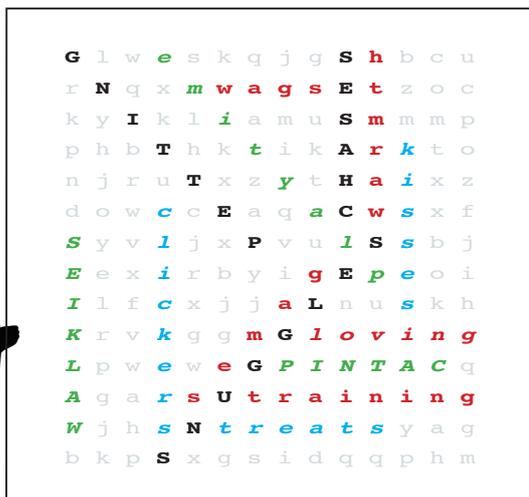
**Playtime** - we like to see some of our foster dogs get more leash time and play time and some of our foster cats get more lap time and cuddle time. Help us prepare a pet for a new forever family.

**Fairs** - help at local adoption fairs or host one. Sometimes, CIW does special adoption fairs, schedule permitting. If you live in an animal friendly area, perhaps you could host an adoption event.

**Cleanup** - litterbox/poop patrol (*we know: it's not for everyone*).

**"THE BIG ONE" - Coastsides adoption fair overnight care.** We need a dedicated person or family in the Half Moon Bay area who can care for some of the animals overnight on those weekends with 2-day Coastsides Adoption Fairs. This would be one to two weekends a month when some of the animals fostered in Menlo Park travel to fairs in Half Moon Bay.

Solution to Word Search puzzle on page 3



# Farewells



## Farewell to Friends

*"Perhaps they are not the stars, but rather openings in Heaven where the love of our lost ones pours through and shines down upon us to let us know they are happy."*

*~Author Unknown*

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



Snickers - Aug. 24th, 2015



Klondike - Oct. 2014



Josie - Oct 1st, 2015



Whisper - Oct. 2nd, 2015

*"God's finger touched him and he slept."*

*~Alfred, Lord Tennyson*



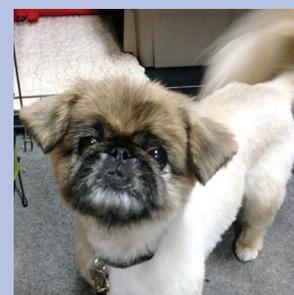
Beau - Jan. 8th, 2015



Omar - Apr. 7th, 2015



Taro Chip - Oct. 9th, 2015



Bobbie - Nov. 28th, 2015



Tom - Apr. 16th, 2015



Sampson - May 10th, 2015



Maggie - Jan 7th, 2016



Three very young kittens\*

\*image adapted from original: CC BY <http://www.wikihow.com/Care-for-Newborn-Kittens>

# Companions In Waiting

2016 edition

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

Puppies 1-year Reunion Party



## 2016 Adoption Fairs - Come See Us Soon!

|            |                                  |            |                                  |
|------------|----------------------------------|------------|----------------------------------|
| Feb. 12-13 | Pet Place, Menlo Park            | Jun. 18    | Pet Food Depot, Redwood City     |
| Feb. 20-21 | Kibbles and Gifts, Half Moon Bay | Jul. 9-10  | Kibbles and Gifts, Half Moon Bay |
| Feb. 27-28 | Half Moon Bay Library            | Jul. 15-16 | Pet Place, Menlo Park            |
| Mar. 5-6   | Kibbles and Gifts, Half Moon Bay | Aug. 6-7   | Kibbles and Gifts, Half Moon Bay |
| Mar. 11-12 | Pet Place, Menlo Park            | Aug. 12-13 | Pet Place, Menlo Park            |
| Mar. 19    | Pet Food Depot, Redwood City     | Aug. 20    | Pet Food Depot, Redwood City     |
| Apr. 2-3   | Kibbles and Gifts, Half Moon Bay | Sep. 10-11 | Kibbles and Gifts, Half Moon Bay |
| Apr. 8-9   | Pet Place, Menlo Park            | Sep. 16-17 | Pet Place, Menlo Park            |
| Apr. 16-17 | Half Moon Bay Library            | Oct. 1-2   | Kibbles and Gifts, Half Moon Bay |
| May 7-8    | Kibbles and Gifts, Half Moon Bay | Oct. 7-8   | Pet Place, Menlo Park            |
| May 13-14  | Pet Place, Menlo Park            | Oct. 15    | Pet Food Depot, Redwood City     |
| May 21-22  | Half Moon Bay Library            | Nov. 5-6   | Kibbles and Gifts, Half Moon Bay |
| Jun. 4-5   | Kibbles and Gifts, Half Moon Bay | Nov. 11-12 | Pet Place, Menlo Park            |
| Jun. 10-11 | Pet Place, Menlo Park            | Dec. 2-3-4 | Pet Place, Menlo Park            |

Visit [www.CompanionsInWaiting.com](http://www.CompanionsInWaiting.com) for additional fairs and schedule updates

## 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                               |



### 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)