



Tales from the Heart

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Since 2003 when Companions In Waiting began, many cats, dogs, kittens and puppies have come through our program. Like us, all the animals had events happen in their lives before they came to CIW. I'd like to tell you a story or two or more.

Ptarmigan's story



Once upon a time there was a young cat, the apple of his 1st mom's eye. He went everywhere with her. He slept in her bed at night and beside her on the couch. He always had food in his bowl and a clean litter box. Then when he was just over 3 years old, his Mom put him outside and wouldn't let him back into his home. Occasionally she would open a window and throw out some food. He lost his nice food bowl, his nice warm bed, his person to cuddle with, his place of safety. He was left to find his own way. But he had angels looking out for him and he was determined to survive. Some angels contacted CIW asking if we could help. Some made sure he had food to eat. Some just kept an eye on the little cat to see that nothing happened to him. It took time, but finally he was trapped and brought inside again; and a good thing it was too. When the doctors checked him over, vaccinated and neutered him, they found that one eyelid was turned in and the lashes were rubbing on his eyeball. It was very uncomfortable and would damage his eye if not corrected. Surgery corrected the problem and

his foster Mom made sure he was loved and safe while he recovered. All that was left was to find a family to love and care for him for the rest of his life. Lo and behold a phone call came asking if this little boy was still looking for the right family. The caller said that she had been trying not to get her hopes up but when they met it was clear there was a match made. Ptarmigan moved in and found his safe lap, his safe home and his family to love.

Benny's story

Once upon a time four little dogs were found sitting on a blanket near the edge of a wilderness preserve at Christmas time. They had been left and were patiently waiting for their person to return. That person never came. No one knows why or how long they had been waiting. After they were rescued, one of the little dogs came to CIW. He was matted and dirty but a grooming changed that. We noticed that we couldn't see the iris of his eyes. So off he went to Veterinary Vision and the doctors knew what was wrong. In some dog breeds a dark film forms over the eyeball, eventually damaging the retina and causing blindness. Medicated drops can slow down or reverse the progress of the film. That's what happened for Benny. The drops reversed the progress of the film and Benny regained his sight. Then we found a family with a little female dog who really needed a big brother and Benny fit the bill. When a tragedy struck the family, Benny and



(cont.)

Tales from the Heart (cont. from pg1)

his sister were there to comfort their "mom". Although the film has returned to Benny's eyes, he had many sighted years.

Sophie's story

Once upon a time there was a little female cat. She had been advertised on Craig's List and given to a family who decided when they were moving, they didn't want her. So Dad sent the children around their neighborhood asking if any of the neighbors wanted a cat who had her front claws removed. He also contacted CIW saying that after four years the family had "all become allergic to the kitty".



A neighbor was able to hold the kitty until a foster family was free to take her. Once in her foster home it wasn't long before a lady came and really wanted to adopt her. Unfortunately, just a couple of years later the lady passed away and the little cat disappeared. No one knew what happened to her. Four years passed. We always wondered where she was and if she was still alive. One morning early in '16 the CIW phone rang and a person asked about Sophie's long-gone Mom because a cat had been trapped and the microchip linked her to this person and phone number. It didn't take long to realize that they were talking about Sophie who was now about 16 years old. Sophie came back to CIW! She had serious health issues and we knew that she would probably never be adopted. She went to a foster home that was used to helping cats with serious health issues. Even after all she had been through, Sophie loved getting attention and pets. Near the end of '16, Sophie's health issues became more than she could fight and she went to Rainbow Bridge. We are happy to know that in her last months Sophie was with her foster Mom who loved and cared for her and kept her safe. We are so grateful to the angels who must have helped her when she was out on her own because she could not have survived all that time without help!

Hershey's story

Once upon a time a puppy was adopted by a family. The family found that a puppy was a lot of work and the Dad decided to take her up into the hills and leave her there. Friends of the family said that they would take on the puppy, whom they made a backyard dog.



She lived that way for about 4 years. She was the kind of dog who needed grooming to keep her coat healthy but she never got groomed. Finally the landlord stepped in and helped rescue this little girl and brought her to CIW. Her first stop was at the groomer's who had to shave her down. She was covered in thick mats, fleas and nests of flea eggs. As the kids say, "GROSS!" Her second stop was at the veterinarians'. The doctors discovered that she needed a dental, but the little girl was so anemic they had to wait until her red blood count was better. She also needed to regain her sense of self worth. The vets took care of the dental and time took care of the self esteem. Hershey is the most amazingly intuitive little girl. We knew she needed a very special family as she had already suffered so much. A family with a young daughter came to meet Hershey. The daughter was quiet, gentle and patient — just what Hershey needed, and you could see Hershey and the daughter become a pair. When Hershey went for a playdate with the family the daughter had already made her a bed, and without any encouragement Hershey went to it and lay down. She had found her family and she was home!

Once Upon a Time

"Once upon a time" usually signifies a fairy tale but these stories are true. The events and the animals are real. These are not the only stories we could tell.

We are amazed that these animals are still able to love and trust their humans as whole-heartedly as they do.

We are so grateful to all those people who affected the lives of such animals.

CIW needs a village of people — the foster families, the caretakers, the guardian angels, the doctors, and the forever families — to be successful. The animals deserve the "happily ever after" that they now have and that's also true!!!



Survivors: as tiny newborns, these kittens were found barely alive, after being accidentally shipped in a packing box sent to a local business.

The biggest disease today, is not leprosy or tuberculosis, but rather the feeling of being unwanted, uncared for and deserted by everybody.

Mother Theresa

Outreach

Sometimes, as schedules permit, we enjoy going out and doing animal advocacy and outreach. It's always good to raise awareness about the needs and plights of homeless animals. Kids especially benefit from learning about kindness and care toward animals.



Rescue Ambassadors Jo Hamilton and Riley visit a school

Wish List

Help us take care of needy animals with a donation* or by providing an item or two from our "wish list".

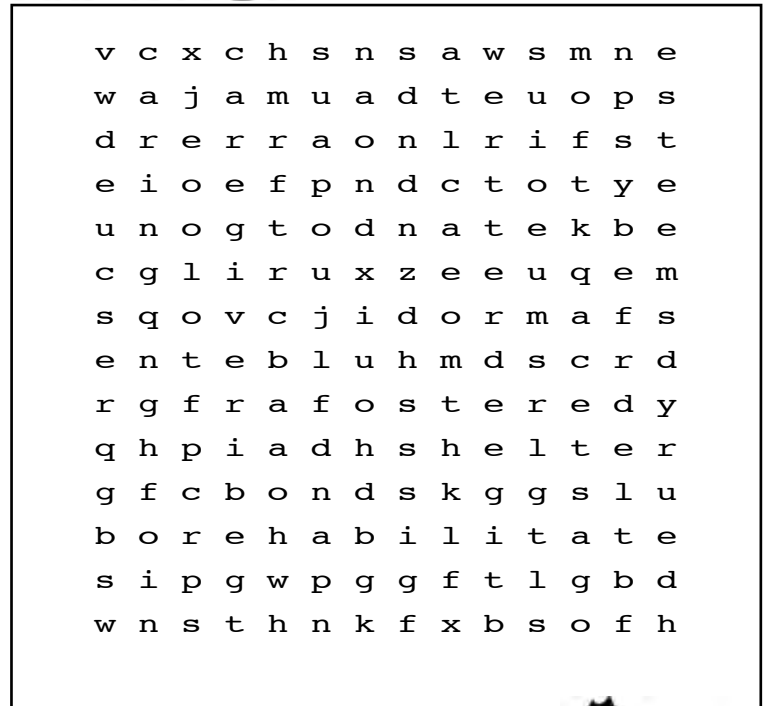
- Canned catfood (prefer: Natural Balance, Weruva)
- Dry catfood (prefer: Natural Balance, Wellness, "the blue bag")
- Cat litter (prefer: Sweet Scoop, World's Best Cat Litter)
- Canned dog food (prefer: Natural Balance)
- Dry dog food (prefer: Natural Balance, Nutro Natural Choice)
- Cat toys (mice, cat dancers, Zoom groom, brushes)
- Dog toys (bully sticks, Holey Rollers, tennis balls)
- Gift cards (Pet Food Express, Petsmart, Kibbles 'n' Gifts, The Pet Place, Amazon*, etc.)

*Amazon Prime users, take note of Amazon's Smile charitable program:

"AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization." <https://Smile.Amazon.com>

Register CIW as your charity; then every time you shop at Amazon, simply use the Smile.Amazon.com URL instead of the normal Amazon URL. And, think! If you shop for Wish List items at Smile.Amazon.com, we get your donated items (which can be shipped right to us, ask for our address), as well as the Amazon Smile donation. Double Win!

Rescue Word Search



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

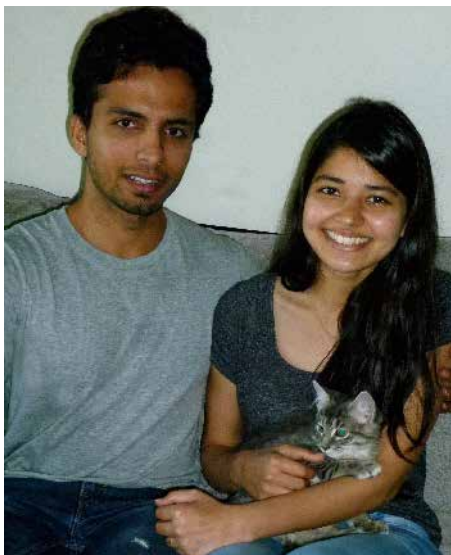


- adoption** - please help me find a forever family
- bonds** - I'll always do my best to make loving bonds with you
- caregiver** - I needed one to keep me off the street
- caring** - I want to be sharing the love
- cuddles** - my happiest time (excepting dinner time, of course)
- esteem** - my sense of well-being makes me a better companion
- fostered** - the kind ones took me in and trained me to be a companion
- manners** - I'm learning manners as fast as I can (help me with rewards)
- rehabilitate** - I was sick and untrusting; now I'm better
- rescued** - the most important day of my life, even tho I did not know it then
- sanctuary** - even if I'm hard to adopt, I am worthy of care and respect
- shelter** - a place to be safe and cared for until I find my own home
- socialization** - I enjoy my training to be a good companion
- strokes** - make me feel good and secure with you

Companions In Waiting

Success Stories!

Angel - A very pregnant Mom cat was rescued and brought into a home. Shortly thereafter she gave birth to 4 beautiful kittens. The girls had long hair and the boys were short-haired.



The kittens loved to play and cuddle and get pets. The boys were always together but the girls enjoyed time each by themselves.

When a lovely young couple came asking if Angel could join their family we were happy to agree. One can just tell from the pictures Angel's family have sent, that Angel is being spoiled rotten and she is just loving it!!! We couldn't ask for anything more!!

Joey - Joey and his brother were with their caretaker from puppyhood until their caretaker passed away 10 years later. The dogs were taken to Peninsula Humane Society. Going from a very quiet home to a noisy kennel environment was very stressful for them. In addition, they each had health issues. Their future did not look good. Concerned neighbors found out about their dilemma; rescuing them and asking CIW to foster Joey. We just waited, and waited, and waited for the right family to feel that Joey was meant to be a member of their family. Then, at one Adoption Fair, a family appeared. Joey's health issues did not faze them and Joey liked the family. He followed the daughter around like long a lost friend. He has a family who loves him and wants to care for him; and he has all his love to give them back. Way to go Joey!!



"Verily, there is heavenly reward for every act of kindness done to a living animal.

~Prophet Muhammad

Tansy & Monkey

- CIW received a call from a plant nursery in Half Moon Bay to say that while they were unpacking a shipment of supplies, they found a litter of 5 very young kittens. In fact, the kittens were less than a week old and still had their umbilical cords. They must have been without Mom's food and warmth for at least 24 hours! Kittens at that age are so very fragile and being away from their Mom for that long, we weren't sure they would survive. But 4 of them did survive and grew into wonderfully sweet, social kittens. Because they came from a plant nursery the kittens were given plant names. Just when they were ready, Tansy and Monkey found the family who were meant to care for, cuddle and spoil these two special kittens. We wish only the very best for the kittens and their family!!



Juan Carlos & Levi - The animals who have the hardest time when they come to us are the older ones like Juan Carlos. It can take a year or more of Adoption Fairs and meet and greets before an older animal finally finds a family with the right heart. Though the circumstances differed, these two dogs had been through neglect and losing their earlier homes before coming to CIW.



Long time friends and supporters of CIW dropped in to an Adoption Fair to say "Hello".

Hearing the two dog's stories, they decided that both the boys needed to join their family and we agreed!!! Now the boys have two Dads who love them to pieces and spoil them beyond belief.

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

Future Success Stories

Bonnie and Bambi's Story

These Chihuahua-Daschund mix puppies were born in the Central Valley. Their caretaker couldn't afford to keep or care for the puppies. He was moving and needed to find homes for the Bonnie, Bambi, and their sisters. CIW was asked to help.

These girls are sweet puppies, but a little timid and shy. They love to play; and once they get to know people, they love the attention. These girls are just great indoor companions with good manners and they have learned to walk on leash. Both are spayed, micro-chipped and current with vaccinations. Now all that's left is to find a forever family for them to love. Is that your family?



Bambi and Bonnie

Bandit's Story

A litter of kittens was born outdoors in the garden of a nice house in Los Altos Hills.

The mother cat kept her kittens in a planter even though it was very cold outside. The family rescued the kittens and worked with them until they were playing and purring merrily. The mother cat kept watch over them from the deck outside. We would love to have Bandit find a new home with one of his littermates.

Why not let these happy kittens make you happy, too?



Bandit (let him steal your heart!)

Olivia and Ricky's Story

Hi there, I'm Olivia. Even though I look a lot like my brother Ricky, I make sure my femininity shines. Beauty sleep? Check. Dignified posture? Check. Reserved, proper manner? Double check. It's true, I often lose myself in the midst of a wand toy play session, but I really love just being loved by you. Your caresses make my coat shine and head massages make my day. Oops, am I purring too loudly? I guess I don't maintain all ladylike traits when I'm really having a good time. Do you need a diva to pamper?



Olivia and Ricky

Both are healthy, current with vaccinations, spayed and neutered. They have tested negative for feline aids and leukemia and are microchipped. They are all set to find their "forever" home.

Betsy's Story



Betsy

Betsy was picked up as a stray and taken to Palo Alto Animal Services.

We don't know her specific history or how it happened, but somehow, she lost her family.

She is microchipped, but her first family never came looking for her. They no longer live at the home registered with the micro chip company. Because of this, Betsy is clear for adoption to a new, loving family.

She is a white with tan Maltese Terrier mix.

This little 7-year old sweetie has been spayed. She is now up to date with her vaccinations. She is waiting for a new family to cherish and hopes to find it soon. Will you be the family to bring life and joy back into her eyes?

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

Companions In Waiting

Gratitude!

Partners - The Essential Ingredient!

Our partners in Half Moon Bay, Palo Alto, Menlo Park, and Saratoga 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 to: Kibbles'n'Gifts, Half Moon Bay Feed & Fuel, Coastside Vet Clinic, Saratoga Pet Salon, Peninsula Pet Hospital, The Pet Place, City of Palo Alto Animal Services, and Adopt a Pet.com.



Thanks to your support we can congratulate the 31 companion animals and their forever families who found each other in 2016.

Solution to Word Search puzzle on page 3



Volunteers - You Make It Happen!

Volunteers bring the most amazing contributions to animal welfare at Companions in Waiting. 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.

We need more volunteers to reach our goals and achieve a safe, secure place for as many animals in need as we possibly can. Sanctuary and foster homes are especially important to serve these needy animals.

I expect to pass through this world but once; any good thing therefore that I can do, or any kindness that I can show to any fellow creature, let me do it now; let me not defer or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again.

Stephan Grellet

Intern's Spotlight

When I first got the idea to volunteer at Companions-In-Waiting, I begged my mother until I jumped up and down to, "Call, CIW, Call CIW!" I jumped while she was on the phone until I was told to "cut it out" because my mom couldn't hear what was being said. Ever since then, it's been a highlight of my week, maybe month, when I go to CIW.



Sometimes, when I volunteer, I bring Hershey [a CIW alumnae]. It warms our hearts to see my dog with her old friends. I'm so happy when I'm there. I usually walk some dogs and play with some cats who need a little lovin'! Then I hang more with the dogs, training them, or getting some more of that crazy energy out. I always love finding out when a new dog -- one that I knew always had a chance -- is getting a home. But my favorite part is seeing the tiny kittens. Sometimes, when I'm lucky, I get to feed the babies with a little bottle. It's an amazing feeling when you know you done one step in getting them to be the huge, healthy cats they become.

It doesn't feel like a job, going to volunteer. It's like a privilege and that's what I'll always think of it as.

Grace Malizia, age 12 (owner of Hershey,)

Farewells



Farewell to Friends

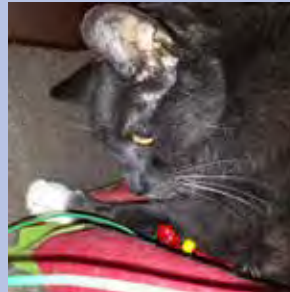
"Perhaps they are not the stars, but rather openings in Heaven where the love of our lost ones pours through and shines down upon us to let us know they are happy."

~Author Unknown

Every companion animal that passes through CIW's doors lives on in our hearts.

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

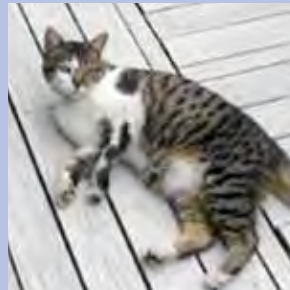
~Alfred, Lord Tennyson



MeeToo - Oct. 2015



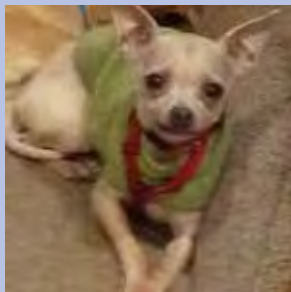
Alexander - Dec. 2015



Tobie - Feb. 2016



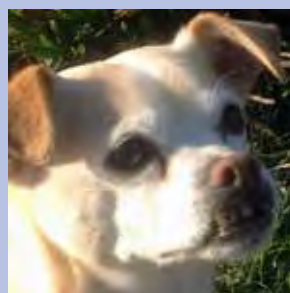
Rufus - May 2016



Georgie - Apr. 2017



Priscilla - Jun. 2016



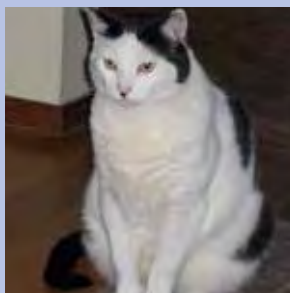
Peppi - Aug. 2016



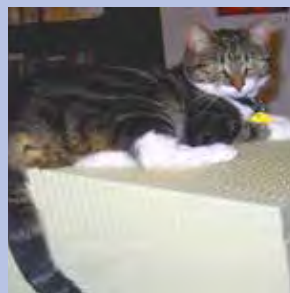
Oro - Aug. 2016



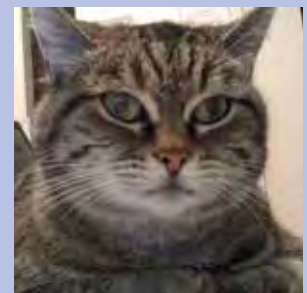
Junior - Jul. 2016



Nick - Jul. 2016



Pyewacket - Sep. 2016



Sophie - Dec. 2016

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



2017 Adoption Fairs - Come See Us Soon!

Feb. 4-5	Kibbles and Gifts, Half Moon Bay	Jul. 8-9	Kibbles and Gifts, Half Moon Bay
Feb. 10-11	Pet Place, Menlo Park	Jul. 14-15	Pet Place, Menlo Park
Mar. 4-5	Kibbles and Gifts, Half Moon Bay	Aug. 5-6	Kibbles and Gifts, Half Moon Bay
Mar. 10-11	Pet Place, Menlo Park	Aug. 11-12	Pet Place, Menlo Park
Apr. 1-2	Kibbles and Gifts, Half Moon Bay	Sep. 9-10	Kibbles and Gifts, Half Moon Bay
Apr. 7-8	Pet Place, Menlo Park	Sep. 15-16	Pet Place, Menlo Park
May 6-7	Kibbles and Gifts, Half Moon Bay	Oct. 7-8	Kibbles and Gifts, Half Moon Bay
May 12-13	Pet Place, Menlo Park	Oct. 13-14	Pet Place, Menlo Park
Jun. 3-4	Kibbles and Gifts, Half Moon Bay	Nov. 4-5	Kibbles and Gifts, Half Moon Bay
Jun. 9-10	Pet Place, Menlo Park	Nov. 10-11	Pet Place, Menlo Park
		Dec. 1-2-3	Pet Place, Menlo Park

Visit www.CompanionsInWaiting.com for additional fairs and schedule updates



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

Locations and Hours

The Pet Place
777 Santa Cruz Ave.
Menlo Park, CA
(650) 325-7387

Hours: Fri. 12 pm - 3 pm
Sat. 10:30 am - 3 pm

Kibbles and Gifts
Strawflower Shopping Center
80 Cabrillo Hwy N #B
Half Moon Bay, CA
(650) 726-3700

Hours: Sat. 11 am - 2 pm
Sun. 11 am - 2 pm