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Plan B

This year, Companions In Waiting (CIW) celebrates 15 years of rescuing homeless dogs, cats, kittens and puppies, and finding good families for them to love. We try hard to place the animals with families where they will stay for the rest of the animal's life.

CIW is usually very fortunate in having few animals we had placed with families come back to us.

That was until October 2016 when 8 cats came back to us in 5 months. Often, this was due to deaths in the family with no provisions made for the cats.

The reasons such animals lose their homes with no caring plans in place have included:

- death in the family
- caregiver health constraints
- new allergies
- new children
- divorce
- a move to a place that does not accept pets

It was overwhelming for us; especially the time we had only 24 hours to find foster care for 4 older cats before they would be sent to a shelter.

We began to wonder how many families don't have plans in place for their companion animals should anything happen.

These animals can't speak for themselves. They rely on their caretakers for every part of their existence and well being.

We rescued indoor cats who were put outside when their owners passed away or moved,



Cookie's Dad made a Plan B!

leaving them to fend for themselves. Most such cats don't survive. A few lucky ones find a guardian angel to rescue them (like Sophie, Arrow or Princess).

Homeless dogs most often end up scared in overcrowded, noisy shelters. Because they don't understand what is happening, they may act out or close down. They may be elders or have medical needs (like Joey, Middy, and Rufus).

Too often, they do not make it out of the shelter alive. It is not a happy picture to paint, but this can be changed.

We call it having a "Plan B" in place.

It might be as simple as asking a trusted friend, relative, or special neighbor if they would be your Plan B person.

Making a Plan B means naming the person(s) who would take your companion animal into their home and care for it if anything happens to you.

Remember to let those significant people in your life know the plans you have put in place for your companion animals in case you are not there to care for them. We encourage you to make provisions for care in your will or estate plan.

We feel that everyone should experience the joy of having a four-footed companion if they choose. It is important to make thoughtful and considered decisions for your companion ahead of time.

Planning, Oh My!

Estate Planning with Dogs and Cats

Our dogs, cats and other pets are so close to our hearts, it's difficult to think about the day when they'll no longer be with us. But what if something happens to us first, and we're not around to take care of them? When preparing your will or trust, what is the best way to plan for your pets' future after you're gone, and what should you include in your will?

In the event that you pass away first, your animals will need immediate care and love. We've compiled some helpful tips for estate planning with pets in mind.

Arranging for caregivers for dogs, cats and other pets

You'll want to choose both emergency and permanent caregivers for your pets. Here are some tips:

Ask a few trusted friends or family members to act as emergency caregivers. And you'll want to arrange for more than one caregiver, just in case someone isn't available. Give them feeding and care instructions for your pets, contact information for your veterinarian and a key to your house.

You'll want to let the rest of your family, friends and loved ones know how many pets you have, and that contact information for your emergency caregivers is available. Keep this contact information in your wallet and somewhere in your home where it's easy to find.

To ensure long-term care for your four-legged friends, you'll need to name a permanent caregiver. Be sure to choose someone you know will be able to provide your pets with a good home, someone who can give your pets the kind of attention and care they're used to.

If you don't have someone in mind as a permanent caregiver, give detailed instructions to your emergency caregivers regarding how to find a new home for your pets. If you adopted a pet from an organization, be sure to check your adoption agreement for clauses requiring your pet to be returned to their care.

Talk about your wishes and the needs of your pets with your potential caregivers. If you have multiple pets, decide whether

they should stay together or be placed with different caregivers. Keep in touch with your caregivers, so that you can make other arrangements if their circumstances change and they are no longer available to serve in that capacity.

When designating a permanent caregiver, you should include a backup option. Although it may seem like a good idea, avoid naming an organization as your permanent caregiver (unless otherwise stipulated in your adoption agreement). While some animal welfare organizations may have temporary space available, they generally can't offer the kind of long-term care your animals will need. Your pets are your companions, and they're used to living in your home. Think about placing them where they'd be the most comfortable.

Provisions for pets in a will or trust

You can help to ensure that everything goes smoothly by incorporating your wishes for emergency and long-term care for your animals in your will or trust. Making formal

arrangements will bring you peace of mind and reassurance that your pets will be properly looked after. Remember, it's important to set up emergency care as well as permanent care for your pets, since long-term arrangements can take some time to implement and your pets will need immediate attention in the event that something happens to you.

While preparing your estate planning trust, you'll want to include authorization for the use of funds from your estate for your pets. This money can be used for their care and any other costs that may arise, such as the cost of transportation to their new home. Consider setting up a trustee, which can add an additional layer of oversight and care for your animals.

Planning provisions for your pets requires some important decision-making. If you have any questions, consult a legal expert who can assist you with deciding what to include in your will. That person can also help you

figure out what kind of estate planning with your pets will be most effective. And don't forget to leave copies of your will or trust with your executor and chosen caregivers.

Reprinted with permission from Best Friends: Save them All
<https://bestfriends.org/resources/estate-planning-dogs-and-cats>



Canine Influenza

Two strains of canine influenza seriously affected dogs this year. Signs include coughs, sneezing, and possible fever. Most dogs get over the mild form in 2-3 weeks. 10% of cases result in death from the severe form. Both strains are very contagious and may be contracted from a sick dog or germs left in areas visited by a sick dog. These germs can persist on surfaces for 4 weeks. Neither strain affects humans, though one may infect cats.

Avoid taking your dog to places possibly visited by sick dogs (e.g., doggy day care, pet food stores, kennels, and dog parks). If your dog has a cough, a vet visit is in order. The vet may test for the virus and prescribe medicine. Support a sick dog with good nutrition, plenty of water, and a quiet, isolated place to recover. Decontaminate any places visited by other dogs.



Good news: Vets have vaccines! But, not all dogs may need it. If your dog has a stay-at-home lifestyle, there is less chance of catching the flu. Social dogs have a higher risk. Your vet should advise on whether or not to vaccinate Fido.

<https://www.avma.org/public/PetCare/Pages/CanineInfluenza.aspx>

Wish List

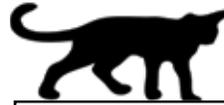
Help us take care of needy animals with a donation* or by providing an item or two from our wish list.

- Canned cat food (prefer: Natural Balance)
- Dry cat food (prefer: Natural Balance, Wellness, the "blue bag")
- Cat litter (prefer: S'wheat 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 (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 donation!

Rescue Word Search



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



AFFECTION - you make me glow all over!

CAREGIVER - without one, life sucks.

DEVOTED - I'm so glad to be your devoted companion.

FURBABY - my heart awoke the day I knew I was a "furbaby".

HUGGABLE - you think I'm your huggable one.

LONELINESS - it's a fact: Pets reduce loneliness.

LOVE - you make me feel wiggly inside.

LOYALTY - no one does it better!

PLANNING - please ensure I will always be cared for.

SNUGGLY - let me curl up with you.

STRESS - it's a fact: pets reduce stress.

TRAINING - give me a chance; help me do it right.

TRUST - I depend on you and you depend on me.

WHISKERS - tickle you.

Success Stories!

Elwood & Jake - A litter of kittens was seen at the College of San Mateo. Instead of living as unloved scroungers, some of the staff wanted to help the young mom cat and babies. They trapped them and took them to a safe foster home.



All these beautiful kittens were soon socialized, vaccinated, spayed or neutered, and microchipped.

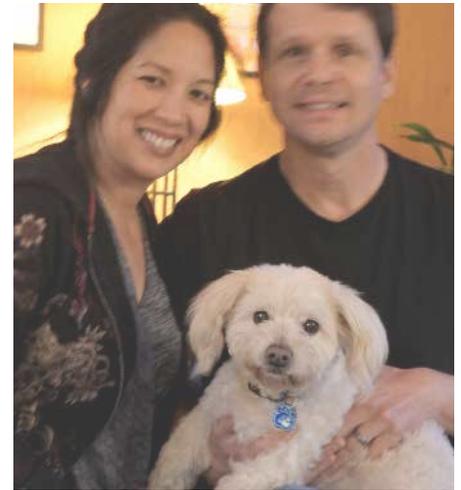
"Dad" was looking for two kittens who wanted him. One orange kitten curled in his lap and purred and purred. The other sat under his chair and purred and purred. The boys won his heart and a forever place in a happy family.

Gilbert - Gilbert was picked up as a stray in San Jose. At the shelter, he was one of many scheduled to be euthanized.

A friend of CIW wanted to help. She took him and called CIW.

We discovered that Gilbert was a real little gentleman. All he was looking for was a person that could be his, someone who would love and care for him. We figured that it wouldn't take long and it didn't.

A lovely couple came looking for their perfect companion and when they met Gilbert, they knew their search was over. They had found what they were looking for - a sweet little boy!



"...he will be our friend for always and always and always." ~ Rudyard Kipling

Sizzi - Sizzi was one of five kittens born in a home to a feral mom cat. The mother found a caregiver, so the kittens had lots of time with their mom cat and their foster family. They learned how to purr, play and cuddle.



In other words, they learned how to be wonderful companion kittens. Each was spayed or neutered, vaccinated, and given a microchip.

The youngsters just needed to find their forever families.

Then, just at the right time, each kitten found their forever family. Sizzi's family called, and everyone met for a play date.

Now this gentle kitten has a gentle little boy

to grow up with. His boy picked a new name for his new kitten. They call him Sizzi - a cute name for a cute kitten from a sweet little boy.

Skye - At six months old, Skye was rescued from a crate in a front yard where she had no shade, food or water in a central valley town.

Skye's first family decided that there must be a family out there who were looking for this little sweetheart to join their family.

Skye was a sweet and fun-loving puppy. Once she learned her in-home good manners and was vaccinated, spayed, and microchipped, she was ready for that family.

It took no time at all to find her perfect family. Skye now has two kids to grow and play with, and a Mom and Dad to care for them all. No puppy could want for more!!



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

Future Success Stories

Luna's Story

Companions in Waiting saw a ton of possibilities in this 2-year old dog.

She had a behavior problem, but we've seen ~so~ much improvement. She walks beautifully on leash! Still, she comes from herding dog stock, so can be a bit nippy when excited.

Luna completed training at the Dog House in Gilroy, learning family manners, sharing, and life skills. Seeing stellar results from The Dog House Inn in the past; CIW gave Luna the same chance to be an all-star. She is ready to go to her forever family.

Luna's ideal family would provide her a "job" (like agility training), and have her as the solo animal companion in the family.



Luna

Princess' Story

Princess has quite a story to tell. Her first owner had her for a while and then put Princess outside. Princess found a new home with a man and his daughter and everything was fine for a few years. Then they had to move and had to leave Princess behind outside. He wanted Princess to be safe so he contacted CIW, and we were able to help.

Princess is a beautiful, little 8-year old tortoiseshell. She holds up her end of conversations! She is happy being an indoor cat. Are you looking for a sweet conversation partner to be part your family?



Princess

Ninja's Story

I spent my early years with an elderly lady who loved me a lot.

When she passed away, there was no one to take care of me.

I found myself on the streets. It was hard. I birthed 5 or 6 litters of kittens over a period of just a few years.

Now I don't have to worry about having kittens anymore! CIW ensured I am ready for a new family, complete with microchip and all my shots, too.

It's taken me a while to learn to trust again, and I am still very shy until I get to know you well.

I hope to find a forever home with someone patient, gentle and understanding who will pet me often, play with me when I feel frisky, and (hopefully) want me to sleep on their bed. I do like a bit of a snuggle at the end of the day.



Ninja

Alfie's Story

Alfie was picked up as a stray after being hit by a car. He had no broken bones, but lots of cuts, abrasions, bruises, and tooth fractures. He was taken to Palo Alto Animal Services.

No one came looking for this very cute little guy. Alfie was very scared.

The staff at PAAS felt that Alfie needed to be in a situation where he could learn to trust hands and people. He is neutered, current with his vaccinations including influenza, is microchipped and healthy.

He is a sweet little guy who gets along well with other small dogs. He is learning to be kind with cats but is not there yet! He loves to go for walks, and will happily curl up beside you or on your lap. People who may be interested in meeting Alfie must understand that right now, Alfie must be allowed to set the pace of contact. Pushing him to accept someone only sets him back and makes him more scared. Once he gives his trust to you, you can cuddle, hold and pet him.



Alfie

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

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.

We could not do the job of rescuing and finding great matches between animal companions and people without their continued support.

Thank you from the bottoms of our hearts to: Kibbles'n'Gifts, 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 44 companion animals and their forever families who found each other in 2017. 9 dogs, 2 puppies, 14 cats, and 19 kittens found the wonderful homes.

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, walk dogs, help with socialization, animal care and, even, with scooping poop!



Volunteer Patty Socializes Dogs

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.

Dog Walking and Cat Cuddling is Fun!

Getting "walkies" makes the dogs very happy! The dogs get so excited and love the exercise, socializing, fresh air, and the opportunity to check out the neighborhood. And, it's a fun and healthy activity for people, too.

Do you know anyone who may want to be a volunteer dogwalker or kitty cuddler? We are pleased to offer this opportunity to both kids and adults.

Are you retired? Do you have kids that love animals and like to get out? Let us know if you would take our dogs out for a stroll around the neighborhood or come and give our cats some strokes.

It would work out best if such volunteers would to commit to, say, once a week for at least a month (although, more is fine, too).



Volunteers Bruce and Nancy Walk Dogs

Rainbow Bridge



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



Middy - May 2017



Ziggy May 2017

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



Boomer - Jul. 2017



Aiden - Mar. 2018



Celine - Aug. 2017



Theo - Mar. 2018



Cloudy - Jan. 2018



Dharma Jo - Jun. 2017



Popo - Nov. 2017



Lola - Nov. 2017

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

Adoptables!



ninja princess emma phoebe teddy rosie & poppy luna betsy alfie

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

2018 Adoption Fairs - Come See Us Soon!

Feb. 3-4	Kibbles and Gifts, Half Moon Bay	Jun. 30-Jul.1	Kibbles and Gifts, Half Moon Bay
Feb. 9-10	Pet Place, Menlo Park	Jul. 6-7	Pet Place, Menlo Park
Mar. 3-4	Kibbles and Gifts, Half Moon Bay	Aug. 4-5	Kibbles and Gifts, Half Moon Bay
Mar. 9-10	Pet Place, Menlo Park	Aug. 10-11	Pet Place, Menlo Park
Mar.30-Apr.1	Kibbles and Gifts, Half Moon Bay	Sep. 8-9	Kibbles and Gifts, Half Moon Bay
Apr. 6-7	Pet Place, Menlo Park	Sep. 14-15	Pet Place, Menlo Park
May 5-6	Kibbles and Gifts, Half Moon Bay	Oct. 6-7	Kibbles and Gifts, Half Moon Bay
May 11-12	Pet Place, Menlo Park	Oct. 12-13	Pet Place, Menlo Park
Jun. 2-3	Kibbles and Gifts, Half Moon Bay	Nov. 3-5	Kibbles and Gifts, Half Moon Bay
Jun. 8-9	Pet Place, Menlo Park	Nov. 9-10	Pet Place, Menlo Park
		Nov.30-Dec. 2-3	Pet Place, Menlo Park

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

Locations and Hours

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

Hours: Fri. 12 pm - 3 pm
Sat. 11 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

