



A Year in the Life...

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When Companions In Waiting began in 2003, we would write a letter that was a review of each year. When the newsletter began, those “year in review” letters disappeared but this last year deserves one.

What a different year it was for all of us! So many changes happened.

Our dear friends Lynn and Marc Macy of The Pet Place decided it was the year for them to retire. It seemed unbelievable that these wonderful people were going to close the door on the place where Companions did our first Adoption Fairs. It still feels wrong to walk by the empty store and know that we can’t drop in and pick up that “thing,” or meet up with friends and other animal folk, or tell Lynn about the newest rescue or which one of the rescues had found their forever family. We do wish them many happy, stress-free years of retirement.

Pandemic Adaptations

Everything seemed normal in January and February. The first Adoption Fairs happened in February but by March all was not okay. By the middle of March, it was really not okay!! As it turned out, everything about the way we worked had to change. We had to find new ways to do meet-and-greets as all the pet stores were shut down for hosting Fairs. We also had to rethink how to finalize adoptions. We wanted everyone to stay healthy and safe but even wearing masks, going into homes felt unsafe. So much

about this disease was unknown and the advice from those in charge kept changing. We were all scared and rightly so - but we didn’t stay that way!

We found we could do dog meet-and-greets and adoptions in back yards. Slick! Cat meet-and-greets and adoptions were much trickier since the cats are all indoor. Fortunately, one of our foster parents showed us a way to make them happen safely.

In one way, not doing Adoption Fairs turned out to be a boon for CIW. Back in 2012 we were gifted a data base to track the animal information. However Companions began in 2003, so there were almost 10 years of information to fill in for the animals before 2012. This takes undisturbed time, which is often hard to come by. But since we were all confined to home, undisturbed time was in abundance!! Inputting all the missing pictures and

information provided a chance to touch base with many of our families to see how everyone is doing and make sure our files were current. It was so exciting to talk to the families and hear stories of how their furry companions were doing. Some sent pictures. Every picture showed how well-loved the animals are. That makes us so very happy!

Overall, with 2020 being such a chaotic year, in the scheme of things CIW’s year was very successful! Because so many people were marooned at home, many called or e-mailed wanting to adopt animals. Now, 38 wonderful animals have their forever families. Check out their Success Stories at (CompanionsInWaiting.org).



Cowboy at Home

Companions In Waiting

Some Very Special Rescues

Special Rescues

2020 brought CIW some animals needing extra care and some that brought us wonderful surprises. At the start of the year, four of our little rat terrier/dachshund mix rescues were still with us. Then, POOF, all of them found their families. Little Gretl was adopted by the family who had looked at her a year earlier when we felt she wasn't yet ready to join a family. Leisl found her forever Mom who had met her several months earlier when Mom didn't feel she was ready, and Cowboy, who was scared of men, found two wonderful fellows whom he loves to bits and pieces. The last little girl, Brigitta, has fallen for her foster Dad.



Leisl



Sammi

Ten kittens came to CIW last year. Two were found in an industrial driveway one cold March morning. They were so young their eyes were not completely open and they were cold to the touch. Their rescuer saved their lives. One kitten was being chased by a larger animal, another was found wandering in a busy parking lot, and another was found in a back yard. Six kittens were in line to be shot by a rancher because there

were too many cats on his property, then a rescuer stepped up to help. All these wonderful kittens were healthy but were definitely in need of help.

Several little dogs we rescued last year needed some of CIW's special TLC. Pretty little Stevie was a flea-bitten mess when she came to CIW. She needed someone to help her and she got it! Then we met Bo, the little dog suffering from a neurotoxin (like botulin) poisoning. He had been in the shelter, unable to walk, for two and a half months before coming to CIW. He was still very wobbly but every day gained strength and mobility and balance. (He has the cutest little wiggle when he walks.) He also needed medication for his eyes and surgery to repair two hernias.



Bo



Mr. Watson

Watson, a Chipoo elder statesman, was a matted mess of skin and bone, a mouth full of rotten teeth, an ear infection, a jaw that had lost part of the bone due to neglect, and we were concerned about his eyes. The infection from his mouth had spread through his little 7-lb body. It took months of care from the shelter, CIW, and especially his foster family to bring Mr. Watson back to

health. Watson chose his forever family and it was a happy choice all around!

We also met little sister dogs Munica and Tinkerbell who were rescued from a small pen filled with mud, feces and urine. They were matted, filthy messes when they went to the shelter. Each had multiple mammary tumors and Munica was blind and suffering with glaucoma in both eyes. The shelter removed some of the tumors from both girls and CIW removed the rest. Also with the recommendation from Veterinary Vision, Munica's painful eyes were removed. Now, the sisters are healthy, happy sweethearts and Tink is Munica's seeing-eye dog.



Munica & Tinkerbell

All these wonderful animals and more found their forever families in the midst of this horrific pandemic. Because of the generous donations from our supporters, CIW had the means to bring animals like Tinkerbell, Munica, Watson, and Bo back to health before they found their forever families. All animals that are adopted from CIW are spayed/neutered, microchipped, current on vaccinations, have had a veterinary checkover and any needed tests. They go to their new homes as healthy as we can help them be. We are so happy to have been given the resources to make this possible! We all thank you!!

Wish List

Help us take care of needy animals with a donation:

- 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 (Kibbles 'n' Gifts, Pet Food Express, Pet Club, Amazon, etc.)

Amazon users: *AmazonSmile is a simple way to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you find the same low prices, selection and convenient shopping experience, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization.*

Register CIW as your charity; then use the special donation URL, **https://Smile.Amazon.com**. 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 shipping address), as well as the Amazon donation!

Home Alone

We all had to learn how to function last year when everything closed down. Our companion animals had to adjust when they had our full attention or they were adopted during the shut down and have only known having their family at home with them.

Now, as many prepare to go back to work, all of us, animals and humans, have to adjust again. Every pet is different. Keep in mind



that those things that work great on one animal, may not work on another. Sometimes, as our animal companions adapt to changed lifestyles, the techniques or ploys that worked once may need to be revised. Animals *can* adapt to new ways, when patience and caring direction is part of the plan. In an article published by CNN, Dr. Dana Varble, chief veterinary officer for the North American Veterinary Community, noted that some pets need about 4 weeks to adjust to a new routine, while some need up to 6 months. See the full article: **The time has come to start training the pets for your return to work:** bit.ly/HowToPrepYourPet

These are some fun links to other interesting articles to pursue.

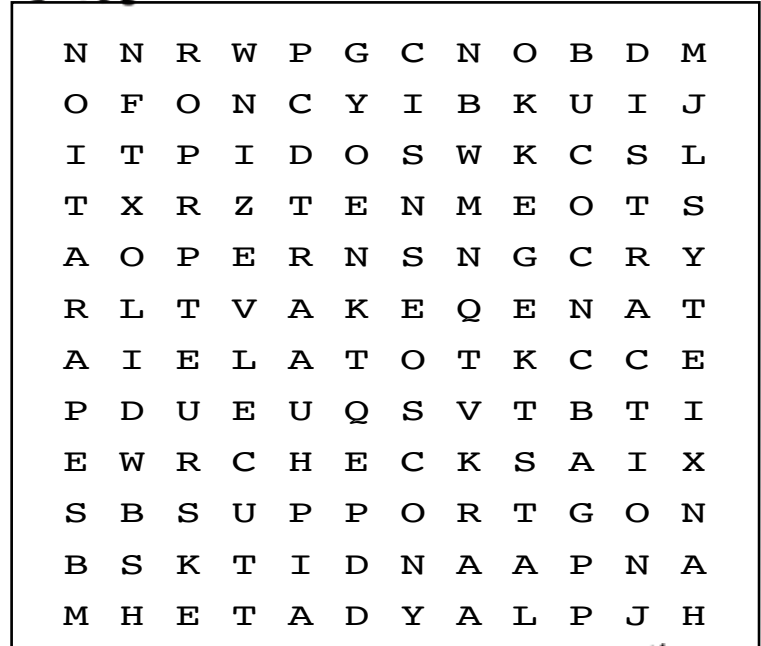
- **A Quiz from the New York Times:** Check out this very beautifully illustrated quiz from the New York Times, **The Lonely Pet Quiz:** bit.ly/LonelyPets
- **A Page from Bissel:** A collection of good tips from a company that knows something about the consequences. **Prepare Pets for Your Return to Work with These Expert Tips:** bit.ly/PetPrepAdvice
- **A Video from ABC7 News:** ABC7 news broadcast a helpful story, **South Bay Area veterinarian offers tips to prepare your pets for your return to work:** bit.ly/SBVetTips

MUTTS by Patrick McDonnell



Mutts © 2020 Patrick McDonnell, Dist. By King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Rescue Word Search



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



This year's puzzle has some thoughts to help you and your best buddies adjust to another new routine.

Attention - When you arrive home, spend quality time with your pets with concentrated cuddling, going for walks, and sharing favorite games.

Anxiety - Try leaving a radio or TV program playing to provide familiar or comforting sounds.

Breaks - Try short trips away from home so they learn to trust you will return.

Checks - Check with your neighbors; ask if they notice adverse behavior like yowling or barking.

Connect - With a video cam and talk to your pet.

Distraction - Play YouTube pet entertainment videos (yes, that's a thing!)

Observe - If you notice accidents or scratching or chewing in your absence, make changes or ask a vet for advice.

Playdates - Line up friends, neighbors, or dog walkers to visit pets and provide dog walks, or set up times with doggie daycare services.

Separation - May lead to anxiety; being patient and loving may avoid making their anxiety worse.

Support - Ask the vet about anti-stress products, e.g. Feliway, CBD oil, Zylkene, even Prozac in tough situations.

Treats - Especially toys like interactive treat dispensers relieve boredom.

Companions In Waiting

Success Stories!

Cowboy - In October 2018, five 6-8 month puppies and their Mom were rescued from a mobile home park. The puppies had no in-home training. They were little "wild" things when it came to the manners that make them good companions. They had to unlearn all their old inappropriate behaviors and learn new ones. Cowboy had extra challenges to overcome. He liked women and kids but was so scared of men.



That was until he met his forever family. The caller was told that Cowboy was afraid of men, but he asked if they could come and meet Cowboy anyway. Well, you could have knocked us over with a feather! Two fellows came to meet Cowboy and Cowboy liked them!!!! He allowed himself to be picked up and cuddled by both the men during that first visit. He had never done that before with any man he just met!!! Cowboy had found his family and we are all so excited for this little boy who has overcome so very much!! We can only predict wonderful things to come for this new family!!!

Until one has loved an animal, part of one's soul has remained unawakened. ~ Anatole France

Penny - Penny was adopted as a kitten and all was well until the family split up. Penny stayed with Dad. Then, his job changed making it difficult to care for for this pretty kitty. He called CIW for help. Penny hated getting into a carrier and coming to the Adoption Fairs. So we decided that she didn't have to come.



No one asked to meet her, so she was in a foster home for a long time.

This year, just when Covid 19 broke, a young couple asked to meet Penny. Only, we hadn't yet figured out a safe way to do cat adoptions; so they

agreed to wait. The couple were patient and stayed in touch.

Finally, we figured out a way for the family to meet Penny. Penny thought they were pretty cool!!! The couple thought Penny was just what they were looking for in a companion kitty.

Penny took no time to make herself at home with her forever family. She draped herself over the arm of the sofa that first night. She goes for walks with her Dad twice a day. Penny thanks them for their patience and her family thank her for joining their family. Good things take time!! This is such a good thing. Yahoo!!

Ace (was Harry) and **Guiness** (was Jackie) - Living on a ranch can be hard. Animals are often seen as expendable and if there are too many, the extras are exterminated. Luckily, the kittens' rescuer stepped in just in time and called CIW for help in finding families for the kittens. The kittens needed to be bathed, spayed/neutered, wormed, and vaccinated as well as microchipped.

Mostly they needed to get used to people and human touch. They took to it all like ducks to water. These were two mellow kittens who liked to cuddle and hang out together. A young couple asked if the kittens were still looking for their forever families. When they learned about these kittens' personalities, they decided that these two were right for their family.



When they finally met Jackie and Harry, the kittens cemented the choice! Interestingly, a few months earlier, the kittens' Dad had a dream about a little black female kitten and a bigger black male kitten joining the family. Dreams do come true!! Happy lives to you all!!!

Bella - In early December '20, a long time dear friend and CIW supporter passed away and left behind 4 wonderful cats, who came to CIW. One of the girls was beautiful, 10-year old Bella. Bella is initially a little on the shy side but loves to be with her person. She loves pets and although she doesn't like to be picked up, she likes to be near you.

Bella's foster Mom's family came for visits and met pretty Bella. After a long happy life, their previous kitty had passed to Rainbow Bridge and they felt they were almost ready to invite a new kitty to join their family.

After several visits, the family realized that they had fallen under Bella's charm and would love to have her be a member of their family.

We thought that would be great. Foster Mom could continue to visit and Bella would have daughter, granddaughter and Dad to love her and look after her. We're sure that Bella thinks that would be just the right proportion of lovin'! Don't you think? We wish you happy times for many years!



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

Future Success Stories

Maxwell & Taylor's Story

Maxwell was brought to Palo Alto Animal Services as a 4-month-old kitten. Taylor came from the Humane Society as a young kitten. Maxi and Taylor were adopted by a lovely lady and lived very happily until their Mom passed away recently.

Taylor acts like Maxi's Mom. We decided that Maxi and his adopted mom cat, Taylor should stay together. Taylor is a lovely kitty who is initially shy until she trusts you. She has the sweetest little chirp. She will give you head bumps when she's ready to have you pet her. Maxi is a big hunk of love. He loves petting and play. When he trusts you, he loves a tummy rub. Both cats are current on vaccinations and have tested negative for feline aids and feline leukemia. Both are spayed/neutered and microchipped. Has your family been waiting for two wonderful cats like Taylor and Maxi?



Valentino's (Tino) Story

Tino was picked up as a stray and taken to the San Martin Shelter in Gilroy.

No one came looking for Tino; yet he is truly the *ultimate* cuddle companion! He believes he was born to snuggle!

This 5-year old sweetie was suffering from gastroenteritis, but medicine soon resolved the problem.

When Tino is feeling happy, he twirls around and catches his tail. He has tested negative for heartworm. He is current with his vaccinations, is neutered and microchipped.

He is a little boy who just wants a lap to curl up in and someone to love and care for him. He rides really well in the car and is a great companion! Have you been looking for a special companion like Tino?



Munica & Tinkerbell's Story

Munica and her sister Tinkerbell were rescued from horrific conditions.

Both girls were living in a very small pen. They were covered in matts, mud, feces and urine. Each had to deal with significant medical issues.

They were rescued and brought to a shelter. Thanks to the shelter and CIW, their medical issues have been resolved and now these sweet sisters are ready to find a forever family who will love and care for them.

The 7-year-old sisters are Poodle and Maltese mixes. They are very dependent on each other. Due to her earlier ordeals, Munica is blind. Fortunately, this special-needs dog has a seeing-eye sister to help her. Tinkerbell leads the way with Munica close behind. They are both healthy, spayed, current with their vaccinations, and microchipped. They love to go on walks and enjoy car rides.

Please note, both girls **MUST** be adopted together. Has your family been waiting to adopt two wonderful sisters to love and pamper?



Tristan & Dougie's Story

Usually, we rotate new animals through this column each year. But, we just have to give brothers, Dougie and Tristan another go in the spotlight. They were trapped at the college of San Mateo. Being a little older than the other rescued kittens that had been trapped they were taking longer to socialize.

Dougie is the shy brother while Tristan is more outgoing. Tristan loves strokes down his back while Dougie enjoys tummy rubs.



They both like to play with toys, like ribbon sticks.

Both boys are neutered and current with their vaccinations. They tested negative for feline AIDS and leukemia.

These cats are a bonded pair and want to stay together. Is yours the family for two very handsome and wonderful brothers? Ask us about these great cats!

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

Companions In Waiting

Gratitude!

A Shout Out to Partners!



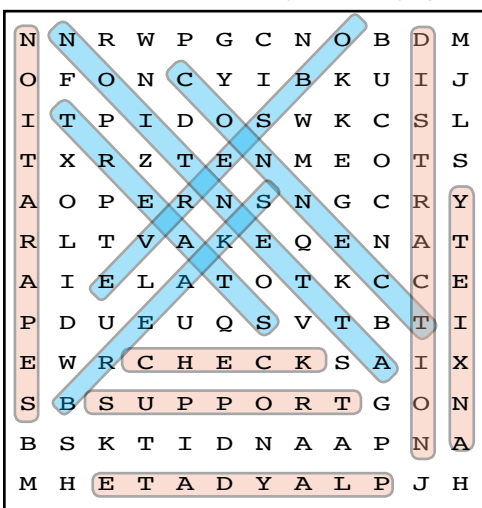
We are grateful to the organizations who provide support to our animal rescue. These companies' commitment to animal welfare and helping rehome lost and forgotten animals touches us deeply.

These companies and organizations provide vital services and support to each animal we serve. Our deepest thanks to:

- Kibbles 'n' Gifts
- Coastside Vet Clinic
- Tanya Rebarchik, Critter Comforts
- Peninsula Pet Hospital
- AdoptAPet.com
- Pet Food Express, Sequoia Station

Special thanks to artist Patrick McDonnell, et al., for the use of his touching comics in this issue.

Solution to Word Search puzzle on page 3



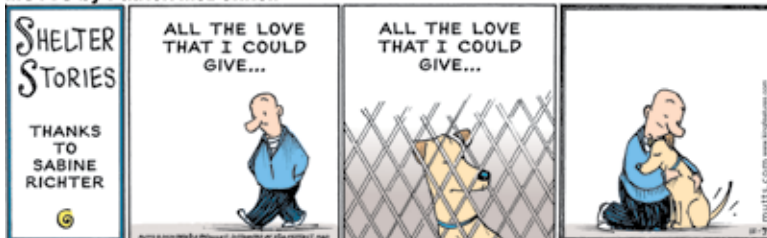
Volunteers Get it Done! ❤️

As a 100% volunteer organization, imagine how many ways there are to contribute. Volunteers enable CIW to reach our goals and achieve a safe, secure place for as many animals in need as we possibly can. We could not do it without the support of volunteers who:

- Provide foster homes and sanctuary homes
- Create our online presence and print documents
- Write thank you letters to donors
- Provide accounting and legal services
- Create data tracking files
- Provide guidance on our board
- Help with socialization, animal care, and walking dogs
- Help with mailings
- Work on adoptions

Thank you from the depths of our hearts for all the loving care

MUTTS by Patrick McDonnell



Kitten Cuddlers and Dog Walkers

Learning to trust isn't always easy, but a bit of loving goes a long way. Many kittens and cats become more trusting and open when a volunteer gently strokes their fur, talks kindly to them, or holds them in their arms. Such loving conditioning helps them trust people and makes them adoptable more quickly!



Kitten Snuggler

Do you think you could enjoy giving CIW dogs a stroll around the corner? Or, perhaps even a bit of a jog? Whether walking or running, CIW dogs would adore going out with you and exploring the neighborhood.

We offer these opportunities to both kids and adults. Children under 18 are welcome to volunteer with a responsible adult. We find it works better if volunteer walkers commit to, say, once a week for at least a month (although more is fine, too).

Rainbow Bridge

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



Andy 7/2016



Bandit 8/2020



Ben 2017



Bijou 8/2019



Blackie 1/2020



Bruno 5/2020



Cali 9/2020



Calvin 9/2020



Daphne 11/2016



Dolly 10/2020



Eddie 11/2020



Hanna 2017



Herbie 8/2020



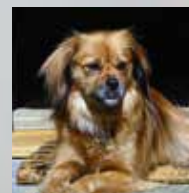
Jake 3/2013



Jose 6/2020



Lena 9/2020



Lexi 8/2019



Murphy 10/2019



Pepper 6/2020



Robin 12/2020



Rontu 12/2019



Sadie 2020



Sera 12/2019



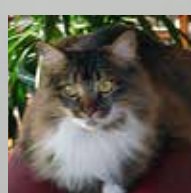
Simcha 2/21



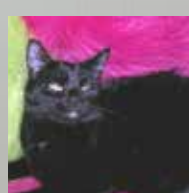
Skeeter 8/2020



Sunny 7/2016



Sushi 1/2021



Thunder



Tiger 4/2021



Twinkle 5/2020

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!



Tristan



Dougie



Isabella



Munica



Tinkerbelle



Zoe



Tino

If you can help...

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

We are grateful to supporters who make this possible.

Kindly send donations to
Companions In Waiting
P.O. Box 213
Half Moon Bay, CA 94019

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



Adoption Fairs

When Covid restrictions are lifted, we hope to resume a regular schedule of adoptions fairs. Look for us in 2021 at the following locations. For upcoming fairs and schedules, see www.CompanionsInWaiting.com

Meanwhile, learn more our Adorable Adoptables online: <https://www.CompanionsInWaiting.org/adopt/>

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

Half Moon Bay Library
620 Correas Street
Half Moon Bay, Ca
(650) 726-2316

Pet Food Express
Sequoia Station
1099 El Camino Real
(650) 364-7777
Redwood City
or 372 Woodside Plz.(650)
298-9999
Redwood City, CA

Gleim Jewelers
111 Stanford Shopping Ctr.
Palo Alto, CA
(650) 325-3533

Coming Soon...

Be on the look out for our upcoming calendar fundraiser! You should get an announcement postcard soon!

Or, contact us directly to order your calendars! (see contact info in blue box).

