



# Lily's Legacy

## SENIOR DOG SANCTUARY

*Our mission is to provide senior, large-breed dogs, seven years or older, a safe and loving home with personal attention, healthy food, medical care, and exercise.*

Newsletter

Summer 2014

### We're in the news...again!!!

#### "A second chance for elderly dogs"

Alice Mayn has the "animal gene," she said, and has been caring for dogs most of her life....



Pages 1 & 2

### A Message from the Founder

2014 is another year of growth for us and we are blessed with a wonderful crew of volunteers who keep things running smoothly...



Page 2

### We Are Ready for Our Forever Homes...

Please come meet us. We know that one of us is just the perfect addition for your family...



Page 3

### Happy Rescued Tails...

Nothing is better than seeing the smiles and wagging tails of pups that often came to us in deep distress and poor health and find their forever homes...



Page 3

THE PRESS DEMOCRAT • SUNDAY, JUNE 22, 2014

T3

WEST COUNTY • THE RIVER • CLOVERDALE  
GEYSERVILLE • HEALDSBURG • SEBASTOPOL **TOWNS** WINDSOR • SANTA ROSA • ROHNERT PARK  
SONOMA VALLEY • NAPA VALLEY • PETALUMA

**PETALUMA:** Lily's Legacy rescues senior dogs in need, helps them find new homes

## A second chance for elderly dogs



Alice Mayn is the founder and executive director of Lily's Legacy, a senior dog sanctuary in Petaluma.

BETH SCHLANKER / The Press Democrat

By **KATIE WATTS**

PETALUMA CORRESPONDENT

Alice Mayn has the "animal gene," she said, and has been caring for dogs most of her life.

"My parents didn't know one end of a dog from the other," she joked, "but I would bring home strays, and they were okay with it. I have a heart for animals and people in need."

To that end, she has created a nonprofit organization called Lily's Legacy that rescues and finds homes for large elderly dogs.

Who was Lily, and why is this her legacy? She was a golden retriever who had been picked up as a stray in Santa Rosa in November 2007. Mayn adopted her and was immediately taken with Lily's loving personality and loving disposition. "She walked straight to me and gave me a big kiss," she said.

They had four months together before infections and illness took a sad toll but, Mayn said, "she had a special nature of peace, gentleness and love." After Lily's death, Mayn's daughter said, "Mom, Lily was an angel."

(continued on page 2)

## A Message from the Founder

2014 is another year of growth for us and we are blessed with a wonderful crew of volunteers who keep things running smoothly. Year to date, our adoptions are up 25%, and the number of dogs we have been able to save is up 36%. None of this would have been possible without those of you reading this newsletter, our wonderful supporters who enable us to keep the tails wagging here at Lily's Legacy.

**Sponsorship and Fostering.** We are hoping you will consider this for yourselves and spread the word. **We need your help** in these two areas.

**Sponsorship:** Rather than being adopted, some dogs who come to Lily's Legacy remain with us in long-term or forever care, often due to unique health or emotional needs. These old pups enjoy a wonderful quality of life, are well-cared for and loved for the rest of their lives. We can provide this long-term or forever care with your support as their sponsor, helping to cover their medical and everyday expenses.

**Fostering:** If you can foster one of our pups, either long-term or short-term, you will be saving a life we might, otherwise, not be able to save. It goes without saying, the more foster homes we have, the more dogs we can save.

Sweet Ben's foster story is wonderful to read and he is a pup to consider sponsoring. He is now being tenderly cared for in "FOSPICE: Lovingly fostering a chronically ill pup." Ben has kidney disease and needs specialized comfort care.

A frail stray, Ben was rescued from a SoCal shelter, with help from a great team there. Ben stayed cozily at our sanctuary until new Lily's Angels flew across our path:



a supremely compassionate couple who reached out to us to foster a chronically ill senior dog! They met Ben and fell in love, and he moved to his "forever-foster" home, shared with rehabilitating wild birds - Ben's foster mom is an expert in that

field. In addition to unending TLC for Ben, his family gently administers daily subcutaneous fluids, medications, and provides a varied diet. Ben spends lots of time in the fresh air on their beautiful county property. He follows his foster mom on her rounds, caring for the birds. He loves to watch her work! We are so, so thankful to Ben's foster parents for their kindness to him. Their loving care of dear Ben honors his life.



Your sponsorship of Ben and our other long-term Lily's Legacy pups will ensure that they will live out their lives being loved and cared for as they deserve.

## We're in the news...again!!! (continued)

Mayn believes the dog may have been sent to her as just that, and with Lily as her example, she set about establishing the dog sanctuary on acreage in east Petaluma, a place where lost or abandoned senior dogs can have a resting place until the right adoptive home is found

"Lily came with a message," said Mayn, 68. "After she passed away, I got the message: "Don't even think about retiring. You're going to be a very busy lady."

She listened, and although she said she now works 15 hours a day every day, she said, "I've never regretted it." The spacious home seems filled with large, gentle, often graying dogs who are so well-behaved they're never obtrusive.

The dogs she cares for, with the help of many volunteers, must be 7 or older and more than 50 pounds. Not enough people focus on the special qualities these older dogs can offer, Mayn said.

"The perception is large breeds and old dogs are hard to adopt," but that's not so. "We had a dog surrendered to us two weeks ago. We had been told it was unadoptable. We had it one week." The average adoption time is about six weeks.

Volunteer Sahar Bartlett said they have a rigorous adoption process, and Mayn added, "We're very particular. We do home visits and check references."

Mayn currently rents the property though eventually hopes to buy it. She credits her landlord, who lives nearby, for understanding and kindness. "When you call up someone and say, 'I want to lease your property and, oh by the way, I run a dog sanctuary,' most people can't hang up fast enough," she said.

Mayn is licensed for 10 dogs, four of whom are permanent, some with health issues. And though one might think that many dogs create constant barking, that's not the case at all. One newer dog, Hobbes, was the only barker one recent day, and that was partly because he was settling in, Mayn said.

As the dogs settle in, they're given house privileges. Dogs sprawl on the floor of the living room and pad in and out.

"Look how easy these guys are, and so appreciative. What they give back to us far exceeds what we give to them." As if on cue, Greta, a golden retriever, trotted up, carrying a well-loved yellow toy in her mouth.

Where do the funds come from to maintain the sanctuary? Fundraisers are held, grants are written. Another way is contributions. "People from all over the country have donated," Mayn said, "and not always small contributions." Lily's Legacy has a Web page, a Facebook presence and a mailing list.

Close to 30 regular volunteers come to the sanctuary several times a week, and another 30 can be counted on for assistance with special events. Some are younger — Lily's Legacy has a youth program teaching kids how to work with the dogs.

Lily's Legacy has taken in dogs from all over the state. Some are kept at the sanctuary; others are in foster care. Although they have foster homes, more are needed.

Bartlett and her husband are no longer allowed to foster dogs. They have four now, and three are former sanctuary fosters, Bartlett said. "But I can't think of a better way to spend my time than helping these dogs."

Both agree education is key to changing the way older dogs are regarded. "Not unlike humans, older dogs come with a whole lot of built-in wisdom and understanding," she said.

While it can take a while to accept that an older dog may need extra care and will die sooner rather than later, Mayn pointed out a brief poem by an unknown author that's posted on her website.

*It came to me  
that every time I lose a dog,  
they take a piece of my heart with them  
and every new dog that comes into my life  
gifts me with a piece of their heart.  
If I live long enough,  
all the components of my heart will be dog and I will become  
as loving and generous as they are.*

Mayn smiled and said, "I'm just waiting for my whole heart to be dog." Volunteers and donations are always welcomed. For more information, visit [lilyslegacy.org](http://lilyslegacy.org).

## We Are Ready for Our Forever Homes...

**Sunny**, an 8-year-old yellow Labrador mix with a disposition to match her name, is a high-spirited, fun-loving girl. Sunny came to Lily's Legacy when her owner passed away, so she needs lots and lots of TLC. Sunny gets along just fine with humans, other dogs, and cats as well. She needs plenty of exercise and will be a great dog for an active family with older children.



**Lulu**, a Newfoundland - Shar-Pei mix, is just the sweetest thing going. They broke the mold when they made Lulu. She is gentle, easy-going, and great with all people and dogs. She just seems to get along with all living creatures. As she is part Shar-Pei, she is subject to skin and eye irritation so Lulu will need to be adopted by someone committed to her health care and needs. This big, beautiful girl is worth it. She is the perfect family dog. Lulu is kind and loving... she is quite simply a GEM!!!



**Oscar**, a beautiful, black Labrador/Hound mix was surrendered to a shelter and then, happily, found his way to Lily's Legacy. He is thriving in his wonderful foster home which he shares with his foster dad and two dogs. Oscar gets along great with other dogs, and loves to swim and run through the sprinklers. He is super smart and has learned to sit prior to treats & softly takes treats out of your hand. He will wait to eat until he hears "OK." He loves people and will make a wonderful companion to some lucky family.



## Happy Rescued Tails...

### From Annie's and Lily's New Family...

A friend of mine told me about Lily's Legacy, a senior sanctuary in Petaluma. I checked out the website and I immediately fell in love with all those white faced senior Golden Retrievers.

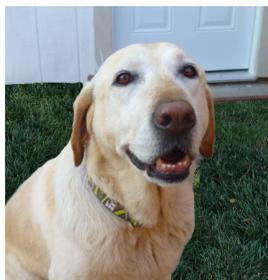


Long story short my husband and I fell in love with Annie, an 8 year old Golden, and her constant companion, Lilly, a 13 year old Flat-Coated Retriever mix. I emailed Alice about the girls. She told me they had been together for the last 8 years and she would not separate them. A few emails and a home visit later, off to Petaluma we went to fetch our girls. They were even prettier in person & are both angels. They love chasing tennis balls and swimming!

Annie and Lilly have brought such joy to our family. Seniors have so much to offer. They have settled in very well and are happy with their 15 year-old terrier mix brother, Nugat. We are so thankful for Lily's Legacy for helping so many forgotten seniors, many with serious health issues. God bless all of you for taking care of these precious angels and for bringing them into our lives.

### From Bruno's New Dad...

A few months ago, I opened an email from a friend who volunteers at Lily's. There was Bruno, a beautiful 7-year lab, looking at me with hope in his eyes. He had arrived at Lily's after being chained up on a porch and neglected for quite some time. We were not in the market, having settled into a life "after" dogs, but something about his eyes got me up and out of my chair. On my way out the door, Susie said, "Go look, but don't bring a dog home." It was love at first look. Bruno came home with me that day, and immediately worked his special magic on Susie. We



he sits down and rests as close to us as possible. If I go out to get the newspaper or mail, he is right next to me. He never runs away, even in the vineyard in Rutherford. He actually comes when called and sits when told to sit! And he wags his tail CONSTANTLY. He is a very happy boy. The grandkids love him, as does Casper, our daughter's 7-year old lab. It's as if he has always been part of our family. We love Bruno and he certainly seems to love us. Thank you again for bringing him into our lives.

want you to know how much we are enjoying Bruno. He is the best! At home, he simply follows one or the other of us around. If we sit down,

### From Mackie's New Mom...

Lilly, my 7-year old Flat-coat retriever, and I lost our dear 15-year-old Rufus, and missed him terribly. Lilly had spent her entire life with him. She needed a dog companion. I had planned to adopt a puppy to fit our family; Lilly, five cats & me, a retired lady. I planned to adopt a new puppy. But the "puppy" turned out to be a seven year old. I found Mackie, a beautiful face, online. He had been saved by Lily's Legacy. I called and learned that his picture had just been posted! So Lilly and I drove to Petaluma to meet Mackie, a tall, stately, beautiful, child-like black Flat-coated Retriever mix. NO "puppy" for us, Mackie went home with us to start our new adventure. He loves car rides, cuddles with Lilly and me, and snuggles with the cats. He stands by my chair, lovingly leaning his head on me. He runs along the shoreline with Lilly, and races through the yard with Lilly and Jane, the dog next door. Mackie is a joyful spirit indeed.



Mackie survived everything to make it to his forever home. I could not have imagined or hoped for one so precious. Thank you, Rufus, for making sure we found just the right fellow to heal our hearts. Thank you, Lily's Legacy, for saving Mackie and preserving this beautiful spirit for us to enjoy. Thank you, Mackie, for mending our hearts.

Lily's Legacy Senior Dog Sanctuary, Inc.  
PO Box 751002, Petaluma, CA 94975



Pollyanna  
Adopted January, 2014



Waylon  
Adopted April, 2014



Beau  
Adopted April, 2014



Desiree  
Adopted May, 2014

A H A V E N F O R S E N I O R D O G S

All of us thank you and hope you are having a fun, fun summer!

Our Board of Directors includes Alice Mayn, Founder and Executive Director; Laurel Stanley, Lawyer; Patty Gable; Allison McLanahan; Aaron Wentzell, DVM and Marc Korody. All of us – and all of the dogs – thank you wholeheartedly for lending a hand to our efforts and helping us save the old dogs and give them the love and care they deserve!

Contact: (415) 488-4984 or (707) 787-7010, [lilyslegacysds@gmail.com](mailto:lilyslegacysds@gmail.com), [www.lilyslegacy.org](http://www.lilyslegacy.org)

Lily's Legacy Senior Dog Sanctuary is a 501(c)3 Non-profit Organization



Buster - Adopted June, 2014

**How to Donate...**

- By check in the enclosed envelope;
- By Visa or MasterCard - either with the enclosed authorization or on our secure website;
- By PayPal on our secure website:

[www.lilyslegacy.org](http://www.lilyslegacy.org)



Jake - Adopted May, 2014



Annie - Adopted June, 2014



Hanging out in the pasture at Lily's Legacy



Max - Adopted March, 2014