



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

Winter 2013

The Power of Love...

Cooper's story is one to give all of us pause to reflect on the joy and love and laughter these dear senior pups bring into our lives and how blessed we are to have them with us.



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A Message from the Founder

It's been a wonderful year at Lily's Legacy, We have been blessed with the support from all of you



We Are Hoping for Our Forever Homes...

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



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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...



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Undaunted by Adversity...Cooper Wins!!!

While not a true holiday story, this is the story of a miracle, during the season of miracles, and a cause to rejoice.



The ending is everything you would want it to be. In the words of his new mom and dad...

"Dear, sweet, Cooper...There really aren't enough adjectives in the English language to describe just how amazing this angel of a boy is. He believes his time is well-spent being sweet, sensitive...goofy....curious....goofy, mischievous....did I mention goofy? Yes, Cooper is over the top in the goofy department! He's the poster child for the old adage, "laughter is the best medicine."

No one smiles or laughs quite like Cooper does. Is it his impossibly high-set ears, his melt-your-heart huge smile, his signature "I'm-on-my-back-swimming-upside-down-now-pet-me" pose? Could it be his loving brown-button eyes that reveal so much kindness within him? Cooper, the "package," steals the hearts of all who have the pleasure of meeting him. Thank you, Cooper, for reminding us how to live our lives with grace. And thank you, Lily's Legacy, for your great gift of Cooper."

But there is a "before" and that is where the miracle begins...the miracle of Cooper and his indomitable spirit!

For years there was a family dog in Los Angeles whose heart was joyful, even as he was mistreated, physically hurt, poorly fed, un-groomed, denied veterinary care, and sometimes made to sustain himself on scraps and trash scavenged in his house and yard. Then one day, when he was 10 years old, and literally falling apart, his family surrendered him - a big, bedraggled sight, at nearly 80 pounds - to a county shelter. The reason? "Skin condition." His name was "Oso." He was abandoned into a sea of homeless, deserving animals, all in peril. And yet, Oso's spirit shone. It shone so brightly that Oso caught the attention of an Animal Control Officer, Eileen. And though Oso's distended, discolored belly hung to the floor, his fur hung from his skin in tufts, and his eyes burned with irritation from a rampant skin infection, he smiled, came to the front of his kennel to greet passers-by, and wagged his tail. Oso was persistently friendly, and though his age and condition might have equaled "humane euthanasia," Oso was given extra time. Officer Eileen was inspired to advocate, creating her own rescue plea for him. With photos, the plea went into the rescue pipeline, "URGENT! A4417081 friendly, old, horrific condition." Rescue networkers were appalled at Oso's appearance and wondered if a rescue would take a chance on him. One networker wrote to another, "Good luck finding rescue." The plea reached the

A Message from the Founder

It's been a wonderful year at Lily's Legacy. We have been blessed with the support from all of you receiving this newsletter and are so, so thankful.

Our new home is everything we had hoped it would be and more! Our adoptions are up 87% over 2012, attributable to our increased space and our exceptional team of volunteers. These dedicated men and women show up on a daily, weekly or as needed basis to help care for our old pups or work in the field on intake, adoptions, fundraising and the myriad of other aspects of the work necessary for Lily's Legacy and thus our dogs, to thrive.

Many of you were able to join us for our Open House in August and meet our wonderful four-legged residents and see our sanctuary for yourselves. We hope that those of you who were not able to come, will be sure to visit us in 2014 to see first hand the difference you are helping to make for so many needy senior pups.



In October we hosted a second "Music for Mutts" at the sanctuary featuring singer/songwriter Christopher Williams who was touring in the Bay Area from Nashville.



Christopher, a friend of one of our volunteers, was kind enough to entertain us on the lawn on a lovely Sunday afternoon. There are more "Music for Mutts" events planned for summer in 2014. For more musical fun save Saturday, January 18, 2014 for our 2nd Annual "Fun Raiser" in Sausalito, CA.



We still have some big dreams to fill and will need your help to do so. We anticipate that we will be able to purchase our sanctuary property at some time in the next few years. We will be kicking off a capital fund drive in 2014 to raise the funding for our facility expansion to be able to house even more dogs and to purchase our sanctuary so needy pups will have a forever place of safety, love and care where they can stay until adopted or can live out their lives. Your kindness has meant life, love and health to many old pups already. Together, with your continued caring and support, many more dogs will be saved!

Undaunted by adversity (Cont.)

San Francisco Bay Area and a Lily's Legacy Rescue Angel saw it. We knew Oso, who then got his new name - Cooper, was a Lily's Legacy dog. Transportation was arranged and Cooper left the shelter alive!

Cooper's first days in rescue saw him medically evaluated, and groomed. Much of his fur – some matted with trash and hard candy – came off with bathing; the fur was already detached, but stuck to his irritated skin with sticky dirt and grease. Some of the thicker grease was painstakingly removed with dish soap and a blunt knife. A bladder infection raged. A misshapen ankle was ruled an old shatter injury, healed without medical care, and blood work revealed a thyroid imbalance and Cushing's Disease, an adrenal gland disorder, the most advanced case our veterinarian had seen. Still Cooper's tail wagged, sometimes beginning to thump before his eyes opened in the morning.



Cooper Then

Everyone who met him adored him, and he loved everyone he met. Days became weeks in a foster home where Cooper thrived with his foster people and dogs. With medication and proper care, Cooper's body began healing. Then some friends of Lily's Legacy learned Cooper's story, and said, "Bring him home to us." Cooper was adopted, and lives on a horse ranch in the wine country, with his human parents and three dog siblings. He walks every day with his family, hitching a ride in a giant stroller when he tires. Everyone he knows has been changed by him, and he is cherished.

and said, "Bring



Cooper Now

And Cooper's tail wags!

Safety First For Your Pets Over the Holidays

Aaron Wentzell, DVM
Fairfax Veterinary Clinic

It's hard to believe that the end of the year is here. The hubbub of the holidays can be a stressful time and it can be a stressful time for our pets, too. So with the holidays upon us, take a minute to think about some of the hazards and stresses for our pets.

For many of us, much of the pleasure of the holidays is food related, but it's a bad idea to share these things with our pets. Meats and rich or high-fat foods can trigger stomach and intestinal upset, sometimes causing potentially serious conditions such as pancreatitis and gastroenteritis. Every year in our veterinary clinic, we see an increased incidence of these conditions around the holidays. Please avoid the sweets too. As you may know, chocolate is toxic for dogs. Many artificial sweeteners can be toxic as well. And of course the excess calories are just as detrimental for our dogs as they are for us.

The holidays are a time for parties and activity. Some dogs are very social and enjoy the extra attention and commotion. Others, especially the old or infirm, find the break from their routine to be particularly stressful. Be sure your dog has a quiet place to go to get away from the bustle of parties and houseguests. Also, ask your well-intentioned guests to refrain from giving treats and table food to your pups. If you have a resourceful dog, be wary of him or her finding a way to steal food that will ultimately result in a trip to the veterinary emergency clinic.

Decorations pose their own unique set of hazards. Ornaments are beautiful, but may look like a toy to a dog. We've seen more than one patient needing surgery to have an ornament removed after ingesting it. Be sure that ornaments are out of reach and that your Christmas tree is secure so your pets can't knock it over. Also be sure that lights and extension cords are inaccessible so your pets don't get tangled in them or electrocuted by chewing them. Even natural decorative plants such as Mistletoe, Poinsettia, and Holly can all be toxic if ingested.

I always look forward to this time of year, for the traditions, the decorations, and a chance to catch up with family and friends. I have seen too many holidays ruined for patients and clients at our veterinary hospital because people forgot to look out for their dogs or cats during all the hubbub. Keep these tips in mind, be watchful, and I hope you and yours have a wonderful holiday season and New Year.

We Are Hoping for Our Forever Homes...

Rusty, a cute Golden Retriever mix, has had a hard year with the passing of his human mom and dad and his longtime canine companion. This big handsome boy is gentle, good with humans and dogs alike, but not a fan of cats. Although he has plenty of spunk and enjoys a short walk, he is also happy just to hang out by your side. Rusty loves to be brushed and petted, particularly while sprawled on the couch. He is healthy for his age, housetrained, and neutered. Rusty's the perfect companion pup, and deserves a comfy home where he can love and be loved. Is it yours?



Mickey is adorable! Sweet, loving, and oh, so anxious to please. She spent six long weeks in a shelter and has now recovered from that unfortunate experience. She is enjoying life again here at Lily's Legacy and is so very easy to have around. Mickey is happy to cuddle, give kisses, go for walks, and just hang out with you. She is healthy, spayed and ready for a loving forever home. This sweet girl will make you laugh and charm her way right into your heart! Can you give Mickey her very own forever home for the holidays?



Gigi, Gigi is a 7-8 year old spayed Boxer, a healthy, strong, medium-sized girl at about 65 pounds. Gigi is goofy and affectionate - a bundle of energy. She was found as a stray with older senior Boxer, Macy. Gigi is in a wonderful foster home with Macy, and dog foster siblings. Gigi does well with Macy, and takes other dogs on a case-by-case basis. Gigi will thrive as an only dog, or with a mellow older dog with whom she connects. Cats are a maybe - also case-by-case. Gigi is housebroken, is a good girl around the house, and loves a routine of exercise, play, and rest. She gives kisses, and shakes with both paws at once - adorable! Is Gigi your forever girl?



Happy Rescued Tails...

From Harley's New Dad...

Harley joined our family in September 2013. We have always "rescued" dogs, having a special place in our hearts for senior dogs.

Harley, a 10 year old lab, has filled our hearts and home with unconditional love! He is a constant companion, following us from room to room, tail wagging and big brown eyes staring! He joined our people and dog family with ease and grace. He loves his companion, Suzie, (an 8 year old beagle mix) and our 3 active grand-kids.



He loves long walks (he is wonderful off leash!), doggie treats of any kind, and snuggling up next to us. He has adjusted so easily to his new home like he has always been with us!

He has reminded us how good it is to get out and enjoy the day and then come home for a satisfying meal followed by a nap! We have learned that when we "rescue" older dogs, we become full of gratitude for the way our lives change for the better. We only wish we had known Harley as a young dog, because he is such a gentle, loving guy.

We are so grateful to Lily's Legacy for bringing us together!

From Phoebe's New Dad...

It all began when my wife came home from a volunteer meetings at Lily's Legacy. "I have just seen the cutest, most precious dog," she said, a Chocolate Lab named Phoebe. We think she was used as a backyard breeder. She has a wonderful, quiet disposition and she would fit in nicely with our other dogs. I would like for you to meet her. Perhaps we will bring her home."

Now, we already had two wonderful Lily's Legacy dogs, Sunny and Cooper, and our senior dog, Harley, a long-time family member. A fourth dog really wasn't on my radar, but it couldn't hurt to meet Phoebe.

Indeed, she was an ever-so-kind girl just looking for a nice lap or two to call home. She was a little shy, especially around men. But I was sure her "shyness" would pass if she became part of our family. We took her right home and she immediately took on the role of chief lap warmer!

Phoebe was accepted right away and she integrated seamlessly into our tribe, now all 16 legs and 4 wagging tails o' love! She especially enjoys going on walks. Since we have had Phoebe, she has become much more relaxed and confident. Perhaps for the first time, she's learning what it's like to be an esteemed member of the family. Her "shyness" is almost all gone. If tail wagging is an indication, Phoebe is a



happy girl and she has brought so very much joy into our lives.

From Macy's New Family...

With the holidays in mind, our family is thankful to Lily's Legacy for giving us the opportunity to have Macy in our lives. She is old, deaf, often incontinent, stares at walls, gets stuck in corners, and has trouble getting up and down. Yet sweet Macy brings a smile to all who know her. Despite her troubles, she meets life with stoic grace and no complaints. She reminds us to slow down and enjoy our lives, taking nothing for granted. Life changes quickly and we never know what might happen. Rather than worry about how long she will be with us, we are thankful for the time we have. Macy is a wonderful soul who reminds us we can find beauty and peace, even in the struggles of old age. Our little "pack" was incomplete without our sweet girl!



Shortly after receiving this submission from Macy's family, we learned she had passed peacefully over Rainbow Bridge. Macy was rescued from a shelter - geriatric and frail. With excellent, tender veterinary and foster care, she was able to go hiking in the sunshine. Macy was adopted by her uniquely compassionate family, who became her forever pack. She was loved, and loved in return. After she crossed Rainbow Bridge, her dad wrote to us, "Thank you for finding Macy so she could become part of our lives. She will always be in our hearts."

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

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Layla - Adopted November 2013



Moki - Adopted October 2013



Wilson - Adopted November 2013

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 wish you the happiest of holidays!

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, lilyslegacysds@gmail.com, www.lilyslegacy.org

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



Max - Adopted June 2013

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



Coco - Adopted October 2013



Belle - Adopted October 2013



Hanging out in the pasture at Lily's Legacy



Kenai - Adopted September 2013