

MCA voted 'Best of the Bay 2016' Animal Rescue!
(San Francisco Bay Guardian -- tied with Muttville, a great senior dog rescue group)



Making Back-up Plans for your Pets



If anything happened to you, what would happen to me?

Making Sure your Pets Are Cared for Whatever Happens to You

Anyone who's ever worked in a shelter can tell you heartbreaking stories about beloved pets who end up in a bad spot when their human guardians can't take care of them anymore. Overnight, a pet who's been curling up on a lap or sleeping in someone's bed can find itself in a noisy, terrifying shelter. Because we usually assume we'll outlive our pets, most of us haven't really thought about what would happen to them if that weren't the case. One of our volunteers recently sent around a "life-after-us" care plan, which had many of us slapping our heads and saying, "Why haven't I thought of that yet?" So, here are some steps you can take to make sure your furry family members are cared for.

Designate your Replacement and an Alternate

Don't just assume a family member will take care of your pets. Instead, identify a committed caregiver. To avoid misunderstanding, you may want to put the caretaking agreement in writing. You should also identify alternate caregivers in case your designated caregiver's circumstances change. If you can't identify a trusted caretaker and an alternate, you might want select a panel of friends or family who will be in charge of finding a permanent caretaker and who will arrange temporary care in the meantime.

Establish Expectations

Put together an information packet that details your pet's medical history and daily care needs. It should specify what standard of living you want for your pet, including medical care and end-of-life decisions. On

>>>> *Continued next page*

Making Back-Up Plans, continued . . .

page 3 of this newsletter, you'll find a basic information chart you can fill out and put in a place it would easily be found, such as in a cupboard by your pet's food, with your important papers, wherever you think best. (You might want to make a copy before you fill it in, so you can update it as information changes.)

Set Aside Funds

Put money aside to cover future expenses for your pet. For example, you can purchase a life insurance policy designating your pet's caregiver as the beneficiary, or make the caregiver the beneficiary of a bank account, payable on your death, so he or she has cash available immediately.

Make it Formal

A well-crafted legal agreement will be much easier to deal with than vague expectations and will make it clear that the bequest is to go to your pet's care. Trusts also can be set up. While they can be more expensive to administer, they add a layer of oversight. The trustee (someone other than the caretaker) will pay the money to the caretaker and can regularly check out your pet's health and living conditions.

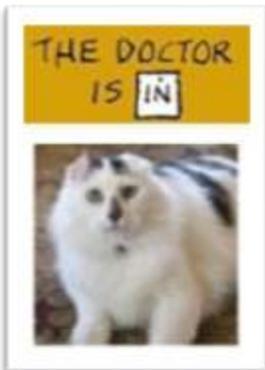
Remember, **if you adopted your kitty from us, we will always take him or her back.**

Honey's adopter died in Georgia, and Honey ended up in a shelter there. Because Maine Coon Adoptions had chipped her and was registered with the microchip company, the shelter called us. We flew Honey (photo on right) back to California and placed her in a loving foster home until we found a great new forever home for her. >>>> Elaine Lyford-Nojima, Director, MCA



Why Dental Care Is Essential

Purrlitzer Prize winning Dr. Mac talks to you today about teeth.



My pals at the Cornell University School of Veterinary Medicine say only about 10% of cats get through life without some sort of dental problem. The primary cause is diet. Cat's teeth evolved to stay healthy by tearing up carcasses and shattering bones. (Yum!) Your miniature tiger, however, doesn't get anything like this daily flossing and polishing when he eats his soft, canned food. (People used to think dry food was better for teeth, but dry food is often swallowed whole because it is too small to chew, and when dry food meets saliva, the high level of carbohydrates in the pellet is released and sticks to the surface of the tooth causing dental plaque to form, which leads to periodontal disease.)

Periodontal disease is the most common feline dental disease, affecting around 85 % of cats older than six. As plaque builds up on the teeth, bacterial toxins accumulate, eventually leading to sore and bleeding gums, loose teeth and destruction of the jaw bone, if left untreated. The bacteria can even spread to the vital organs and be life threatening.

Signs that your cat has dental problems include bad breath, red and swollen gums, pawing at the mouth and refusal to eat hard food. Cats are hardwired not to show pain, though, so even a cat with a very painful mouth may not "tell" you about it.

That's one of many reasons regular yearly checkups are so important. Any licensed veterinarian is qualified to clean, examine and extract teeth. Don't worry. Your kitty will never miss a bad tooth. She will feel better and eat better without it.



*Wrong way to care
for your kitty's teeth!*

Basic Social & Medical Information about my Pets

Name of Pet	Age	Description	Diet	Personality, Social Needs

Name of Pet	Medical History

Vet Name & Phone: _____

Emergency Contacts

Name	Relationship	Telephone #

Special Notes



Yes, I want to
help the kitties!



- \$10 \$25
- \$50 \$100
- Other:** _____

My Name: _____

Do you have a new address? _____

Please make checks payable to **PET Rescue***
(non-profit tax ID No. 27-0225418) and mail to:

Maine Coon Adoptions
2527 Carmel Street
Oakland, CA 94602

*MCA is the adoption branch of PET Rescue, which is certified by Independent Charities of America as one of the Best in America!

Maine Coon Adoptions, a division of
Preventing Euthanasia Through Rescue
2527 Carmel St.
Oakland, CA 94602

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



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