



Best Friends



The theme of our holiday newsletter this year is “Best Friends”—celebrating the gift of friendship, both human and animal. There is probably nothing so precious as friendship in life—the special someone who makes us feel good, who accepts us as we are, who is at our side when things are good and when things are bad.

Animals have friends too. Like us, sometimes they are people, and sometimes they are other animals. We all possess the ability to see the soul of every being and love the goodness of that soul, regardless of species. Dogs love cats, cats love people, people love elephants, elephants love other elephants very deeply.

Pictures are more eloquent than words about the wonder of friendship, so we offer here a small sample of the wonderful friendships we have been privileged to witness and photograph.



ALLIANCE FOR ANIMALS



"When we help animals, we help people."

Donna Bishop,
President

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Dear Friends,

This year our friends have meant more than ever to us. When both of our refrigerators gave out from old age, neighbors Mary and Danny each brought us a new one! Countless wonderful people like Darilyn and Linda and animals like Amber sent us donations from our Wish List, which saved us many a time. Our members and supporters called and wrote to share experiences, and made our Feinsein Challenge a big success.

Hundreds of people took the time to rescue abandoned animals knowing we would find good homes no matter how long it took, and hundreds of adopters found their own best friend at

our shelter. It has been such a pleasure hearing back from our growing family of new friends. Our monthly sustainers helped us keep going, and every donation that each of you sent warmed our hearts and renewed our faith during difficult times. Our friends Mary Ann and Barbara marked 10-year anniversaries as volunteers, and were joined by many other volunteers whom we

thank for all their compassion and dedication. Our Advisory Committee joined with our Board as well as the Executive Service Corps to help us define our vision for the future and achieve our goals.

We anticipate many changes in the coming year. We are committed to keeping our mission for the animals through rescue and adoption and affordable veterinary care for all, but we are also committed to improvement. We have exciting changes in mind for 2007, so watch for news in upcoming newsletters!

We wish you all a very peaceful, happy, and safe New Year!

Warmest regards,

Donna Bishop



Home for the Holidays



Izzie stayed at the shelter for nearly a year until his forever friend showed up to give him a loving home. Brian reports that Izzie is doing great and they have made a very happy match.



Tigger and Boo stuck together through thick and thin so they could get adopted as a pair, and after a long summer at the shelter their wish came true in time for the holidays



Chocolate Kisses was abandoned in a mall parking lot and was being cared for by homeless people. After weeks at the clinic and three foster homes he lives like a king in Rhode Island and has left all the hard times behind him.



Henry Jr. was abandoned in Chelsea. Anxious to save this happy young dog, animal control officers called Alliance to rescue him. A bundle of energy and very smart, Henry went home with Jennifer and Melissa, his two new best friends.

Cinnamon ...the sweetest spice of all



We never knew where Cinnamon came from.

Someone left her at our door and said she'd been

abused. She was emaciated and filthy. It was even hard to tell what kind of dog she was. She couldn't stop trembling.

After fluids, a warm bed, some cleaning up, and a lot of cuddling, we discovered that Cinnamon is a miniature poodle, that she is actually very pretty, and that she is deaf and blind. A vet check and lab tests showed that Cinnamon also has failing kidneys.

At the Alliance we believe that

everyone who can still experience a quality of life should have the chance to live that life. Cinnamon was frail, but she loved to go for walks, she was happy to eat the special kidney diet, and she loved to be cuddled. She had obviously been blind for some time because she knew how to navigate her environment. Being deaf didn't seem to stop her either. We wanted to give her every chance.

But what to do? We didn't feel it would be right to keep her in a shelter, and adoption was unlikely due to her condition. We put out ads for "hospice care," like foster care, only with the knowledge that her days were likely numbered and she would spend the rest of her life with a hospice family.

It was hard to imagine that anyone would be willing to undertake such a challenge. Cinnamon needed daily fluids, medications, a special

diet, and all the precautions required for a dog who is both blind and deaf. Incredibly though, a family contacted us about Cinnamon and came to meet her.

Patty Femino fell in love with Cinnamon as soon as they met. She held Cinnamon in her arms and promised to love her forever.

The Femino family is the best of everything in this world. Mom, Dad, sister, and two dogs all share in caring for Cinnamon. Especially hard was overcoming their fear of needles so they could administer subcutaneous fluids every day, but they all learned. Cinnamon goes on outings, gets lots of snuggling time, and is living a very full life. No one knows how long she has, but we know she has the best friends of all, and the life of love we wish for all living beings.



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Thank You So Much!

Thank you to all of our members and supporters, our generous donors, volunteers, adopters, our "wish list elves," our Guardian Angels, sponsors, and friends.

You are the Best Friends of All.