

WHY ADOPT AN OLDER DOG?

One by one, they pass my cage,
Too old, too worn, too broken, no way.
Way past his time, he can't run and play.
Then they shake their head slowly and go on their way.

A little old man, arthritic and sore,
It seems I am not wanted anymore.
I once had a home; I once had a bed,
A place that was warm, and where I was fed.

Now my muzzle is grey, and my eyes slowly fail.
Who wants a dog so old, so frail?
My family decided I didn't belong,
I got in their way my attitude was wrong.

Whatever excuse they made in their head,
Can't justify how they left me for dead.
Now I sit in this cage, where day after day,
The younger dogs get adopted away.

When I had almost come to the end of my rope,
You saw my face, and I finally had hope.
You saw through the grey, and the legs bent with age,
And felt I still had life beyond the cage.

You took me home, gave me food and a bed.
And you shared your own pillow with my poor tired head.
We snuggle and play and you talk to me low,
You love me so dearly, you want me to know.

I may have lived most of my life with another,
But you outshine them with a love much stronger.
And I promise to return all the love I can give,
To you, my dear person, as long as I live.

I may be with you a week or for years,
We will share many smiles; you will no doubt shed tears.
And when the time comes that God deems I must leave,
I know you will cry and your heart, it will grieve.

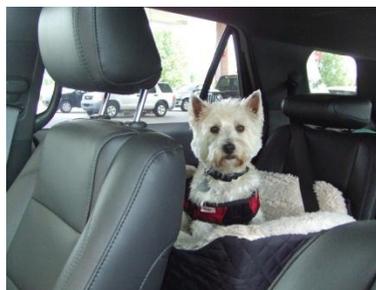
And when I arrive at the Bridge, all brand new,
My thoughts and my heart will still be with you.
And I will brag to all who can hear,
Of the person who made my last days so dear.

- Author - Leslie Whalen, in memory of her dog Tray



13 year old Bailey hasn't been able to find a home.

In August, my 4-year old Rocket and I took a 3-week road trip in my SUV. He sat in his booster seat wearing the safety harness the entire distance....not only for his safety, but so he could see out the window. There were times I would glance over my shoulder to see him looking at the cornfields of Iowa or the mountains in Glacier National Park. I even caught him very interested in the thousands of people and motorcycles in Sturgis, South Dakota. I wonder what he was thinking? I learned very quickly that everything I did outside of the vehicle needed to be done quickly, such as my pit stops. And because of the high temps, even Rocket's pit stops were short. ALL of our meals were tailgate meals out of the cooler. We stayed in motels, but also car-camped many nights. One of his nightly walks was along the banks of the Mississippi. He visited the Badlands and liked the flies at Mt. Rushmore. He was allowed in the visitor centers of the Corn Palace and Crazy Horse. While visiting relatives in Boise, he saw elk for the first time. He and I had a sneezing competition driving through the smoke from the Idaho wildfires. I let a lazy fly travel with us in the car across the plains of North Dakota to keep Rocket entertained. We came home through the Upper Peninsula. I made sure Rocket saw the sunrise and the sunset while on the summit of Brockway Mountain. He sampled his first authentic pasty at the Calumet Heritage Festival, and he



met a young fox on an early morning walk at Tahquamenon Falls. But it wasn't until he put his paws in Lake Superior at Whitefish Bay that he let me know what he liked the best. He played with the waves, ran in the sand, and then wanted me to get down and play. It gave me so much joy seeing him so happy! Coming home, I woke him as we crossed the Mackinac Bridge, telling him our next adventure will be a trip to Mackinac Island!

Some Sources of Financial Aid for Pets

Note: This is not an endorsement. You are responsible for verifying the credibility of any group prior to using them. This list was put together by another group we are not familiar with. But in a crisis, it is a place to start!

<http://www.seefido.com/dog-discussion-forum/general-dog-health-problems-questions-and-answers-f11/financial-aid-for-pet-owners-with-injured-or-sick-animals-t1855.html>

American Animal Hospital Association, AAHA Helping Pets Fund

<http://www.aahahelpingpets.org/home>

The heartbreak happens all too often, a pet owner is unable to afford treatment and their sick or injured companion animal pays the price. If the owner is elderly, disabled or on a fixed income, the cost of care may be too much of a stretch for their pocketbook. Perhaps they have been victimized by crime, property loss or a job layoff and are experiencing a temporary financial hardship" making it too difficult to afford pet care. And some animals, brought to clinics by Good Samaritans, don't have an owner to pay for treatment. Whatever the situation, the fact remains the same, when sick or injured animals are unable to receive veterinary care, they suffer. Through the AAHA Helping Pets Fund, veterinary care is possible for sick or injured pets even if they have been abandoned or if their owner is experiencing financial hardship.

Angels 4 Animals

<http://www.angels4animals.org>

Non-profit organization and a program of Inner Voice Community Services, has a mission to serve as the guardian angel of animals whose caretakers find themselves in difficult financial situations. At Angels4Animals we believe that animal owners should not have to say goodbye to the animals that they love. Our work is accomplished in conjunction with veterinary clinics across the country, eager to assist as many animals, and their owners, as possible. Our services range from financial aid to complete treatment to those pets and pet owners in need.

Care Credit

<http://www.carecredit.com>

Quote:

A credit card company for health care, including veterinary care. "CareCredit, the leader in patient/client financing, has helped more than 3 million patients/clients get the treatment or procedures they needed and wanted. With a comprehensive range of plan options, for treatment or procedure fees from \$1 to over \$25,000, we offer a plan and a low monthly payment to fit comfortably into almost every budget.

Feline Veterinary emergency Assistance (FVEAP)

<http://www.fveap.org/sys-tmpl/door>

"The NEED & The HELP: Seniors, People with disabilities, People who have lost their job, Good Samaritans who rescue a cat or kitten - any of these folks may need financial assistance to save a beloved companion." The Feline Veterinary emergency Assistance Program is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization that provides financial assistance to cat and kitten guardians who are unable to afford veterinary services to save their companions when life-threatening illness or injury strikes.

Help-A-Pet

<http://www.help-a-pet.org>

Our efforts focus on serving the elderly, the disabled, and the working poor. For lonely seniors, physically/mentally challenged individuals and children of working parents, pets represent much more than a diversion.

IMOM

<http://www.imom.org>

Mission Statement: Helping people help pets. To better the lives of sick, injured and abused companion animals. We are dedicated to insure that no companion animal has to be euthanized simply because their caretaker is financially challenged.

The Pet Fund

<http://thepetfund.com>

The Pet Fund is a registered 501(c)3 nonprofit association that provides financial assistance to owners of domestic animals who need urgent veterinary care. Often animals are put down or suffer needlessly because their owners cannot afford expensive surgery or emergency vet visits. Companion animal owners must often make the difficult decision to put an animal down or neglect urgent medical needs because of the costs involved. The purpose of the Pet Fund is to work towards a future where decisions about companion animal medical care need never be made on the basis of cost.

United Animal Nations

<http://www.uan.org/lifeline>

The mission of LifeLine is to help homeless or recently rescued animals suffering from life-threatening conditions that require specific and immediate emergency veterinary care. We strive to serve Good Samaritans and rescue groups who take in sick or injured animals. In certain cases, LifeLine can also assist senior citizens and low-income families pay for immediate emergency veterinary care.

UK Assistance with Veterinary Bills

<http://www.petloversonline.co.uk/financial.htm>

Most of us can cope with the financial commitment involved in the day to day care of our pets. However, how many of us come out in a cold sweat when our pet is ill or injured and we know we have to take it to the vet? Most of us are fortunate enough to be able to afford it but, some of us who love our animals dearly cannot. Unfortunately we do not have a PDSA or a RSPCA Centre within our area, but there are a few charities who may be able to help.

HandicappedPets.com

<http://www.handicappedpets.com/Articles/help/>

From time to time, HandicappedPets.com recognizes a caretaker of handicapped pets that need some special attention, and a little extra help. There are those who are so selflessly dedicated to their animal families that they give up a little more than they can afford.

GENERAL:

The Animal Foundation: <http://www.theanimalfund.com>

Help-a-Pet: <http://www.help-a-pet.org/index5.html>

In Memory of Magic: <http://www.imom.org/>

United Animal Nations: <http://www.uan.org/lifeline/resources.html>

The Pet Fund: <http://www.thepetfund.com/>

Cats: <http://www.fveap.org/sys-tmpl/door/>

DISEASE SPECIFIC:

Diabetic Pet Fund: <http://www.petdiabetes.net/fund/>

Special Needs cats: <http://www.catsin crisis.org/crisisFund.html>

Feline kidney disease: <http://www.catsin crisis.org/mesaFund.html>

Feline heart and thyroid: <http://www.catsin crisis.org/stripesFund.html>

Feline neurological disorder: <http://www.catsin crisis.org/gillieFund.html>