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pioneers  
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# SOCIAL SERVICES CORNER

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## ASK THE SOCIAL WORKER: LIFETIME CARE PLANS FOR PETS

**Question:** My 15-year-old terrier, Sandy, passed away last month. I miss her very much. My son told me to adopt another terrier for companionship and to motivate me to continue my daily strolls. I would love to adopt another terrier, but at 88 years old I expect my new companion will outlive me. That worries me, do you have any suggestions?

**Answer:** I am sorry you have lost your companion of many years. I know it is difficult to adjust to such a loss and a new daily routine. I hope you are comforted with fond memories.

It's important to consider the pros and cons of adopting another companion pet. Since Sandy lived into old age, I suspect you gave her a wonderful home and excellent care. Your concern about outliving a new pet also tells me you are very wise about the lifetime commitment an adoption may require — more than 15 years for most pets according to the Humane Society.

I suggest you contact 2nd Chance 4 Pets, [www.2ndchance4pets.org](http://www.2ndchance4pets.org) or (408) 871-1133, to learn more about lifetime care planning for companion pets. This is the process of documenting instructions for the care of a companion pet, formally identifying guardians and setting aside funds for the care of a companion pet. Arranging for a trusted guardian and caregiver may relieve your worries. The information provided by 2nd Chance 4 Pets is free, but it is not a substitution for legal advice, especially if you are considering setting aside funds for a companion pet's care.

Your local Humane Society is another free source for information and advice. Their counselors may help you assess your ability to care for a companion pet by asking:

- Do you have time for a pet?
- Can you afford a pet?
- Are you prepared to deal with special problems that a pet can cause?
- Is it a good time for you to adopt a pet?
- Is your home suitable for the pet you have in mind?
- Do you have a caregiver if you are away?
- Are you prepared to care for your pet for his or her entire lifetime?

I also suggest you discuss your concerns about pet adoption with your son, doctor and veterinarian. They are likely to be aware of your emotional and physical needs as well as your ability to care for a companion pet. Should you need additional information or referrals, please call our Social Service Department toll-free at (888) 994-3863, ext. 2370.

Source: *The Humane Society of the U.S.*, [www.hsus.org](http://www.hsus.org) or (202) 452-1100.

## JOKE OF THE MONTH

**What's the best thing about turning sixty-five?  
No more phone calls from insurance salesmen.**

— *The Friars Club Encyclopedia of Jokes*  
by H. Aaron Cohl with introduction by Alan King

Laughter is known to boost the immune system, lower blood pressure, burn calories and release pleasure-inducing chemicals in the brain.

### Go Green!

Receive the *Social Services Corner* by email.  
Call 888.994.3863, ext. 2370, or e-mail [info@wrmail.org](mailto:info@wrmail.org).

## CONTRIBUTORS

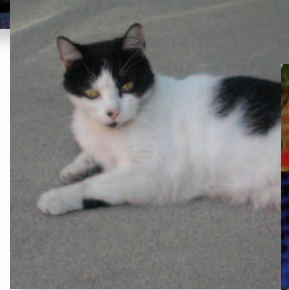
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Renewable resources were used to produce this printed piece.



## YOUR SPECIAL COMPANIONS: MEMBERS' BEST FRIENDS

Thanks for sending in your pet's photo! All of your pets are adorable, but we only had space for these furry friends. Photos clockwise from top: Benji, Blossom and Daisy, Missy, Smokey, Romeo, Lady, Bill, Joey and Bear.



## NEW ADDITIONS TO THE MPPAF'S NATIONAL RESOURCE DIRECTORY

**American Animal Hospital Association Helping Pets Fund (AAHA Helping Pets Fund):**  
[www.aahahelpingpets.org](http://www.aahahelpingpets.org) or (866) 443-5738.

This national, nonprofit organization is managed by the American Animal Hospital Association Foundation (AAHAF). This Fund provides financial aid for emergency and non-elective veterinary care provided by American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA) accredited veterinarians.

**[www.healthypet.com](http://www.healthypet.com)**

This Web site was created by the American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA), a nonprofit professional organization that accredits animal hospitals throughout the U.S. and Canada. It provides many online resources such as an AAHA-accredited animal hospital locator, a Pet Care Library, the *PetsMatter* newsletter and answers to questions regarding pet diseases and illness.



### QUOTE OF THE MONTH

“Don't let yesterday use up too much of today.”

— Will Rogers

### QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS?

Call Karen Wiener, Manager of Social Services at (888) 994-3863, ext. 2390, or write to [karen@wrmail.org](mailto:karen@wrmail.org).