

*"Discipline isn't about showing a dog who's boss; it's about taking **responsibility** for a living creature you have brought into your world."*

- Cesar Millan



### ***"I keep him safe and warm at night."***

A disabled homeless man who lives in his RV in Chula Vista, CA called Pets of the Homeless. He called about his dog, Love, a beautiful neutered male Husky Coyote mix who was vomiting and not eating. We learned that the man receives social security benefits and has been homeless for about 10 years. We approved an examination at a participating network veterinarian.

After the exam, the doctor recommended hospitalization. Love was dehydrated and needed fluids. In addition to nursing care, the veterinarian also recommended medications, x-rays, and a heartworm/tic test. We approved this treatment. The nurse called our Case Manager and said that Love had dark black stool, his globulins were high and the heartworm/tic test was negative. We assisted with \$635.00 for Love. The hospital discounted the bill by \$74.45.



The man called and said "thank you, please be sure to say thank you to all the people that donate."

### **"Miss Lilly"**

A disabled homeless man in the Carson City, NV area called Pets of the Homeless. After interviewing the man, we learned that he sleeps outside wherever he can find a safe



spot. He has been homeless for about 3 years. The only type of income he has is SNAP benefits. He called Pets of the Homeless asking for our assistance with his 2 1/2 year-old German Shepherd, Miss Lilly. A few months ago Miss Lilly was hit by a car and fortunately he was able to come up with some money to get her checked out along with some medications. At the time the doctor said Miss Lilly would probably need her leg amputated but the man did not have the funds. He was referred to us by a previous Pets of the Homeless employee. He told us that Miss Lilly was a very active dog but now she was starting to drag her leg. He had researched hospitals in the area that would be

willing to do the surgery for a decent price. We approved an exam since it had been awhile for Miss Lilly at a new partnering veterinary hospital.

After the exam, the doctor recommended amputation and was willing to do the surgery for \$1,000. The doctor recommended and we approved: fluids, injections, anesthesia, amputation, intensive care, bandage, catheter, and medications.

The same day of the surgery, the man came to Pets of the Homeless' headquarters with Miss Lilly and thanked us all for our help. Miss Lilly acted like she never had the leg to begin with. She ran around and greeted everyone. The man continued to thank us and began getting teary-eyed. He told us he was so grateful and that he tried everything for Miss Lilly and was lucky enough to find out about us.

He and Miss Lilly came in again after the holidays to say hello and show us how she was progressing. He expressed once again how grateful he was and said it was the best Christmas he's ever had.

Love and Miss Lilly are just two of the 1,589 pets that we were able to help in 2018. Last year, we did not have to turn a homeless person and their pet away. This was due to a large bequest we received from the Patricia Sharon Trust. Your generosity and hers allowed us to directly pay over \$473,000 to hospitals for emergency veterinary care, spay and neuter surgeries and wellness clinics.

Sadly, this year may be different. Without additional funding from our supporters, we may have to put people on a waiting list for treatment unless the pet has an extreme emergency such as being hit by a car or having blood coming from body orifices.

The need is critical for support from people like you so we can help these pets. Pets that belong to homeless people.

**Help More Pets Like Love and Miss Lilly - Donate Now**

**623.54**Tons of Pet food  
Collected**407**Donation Sites  
Nationwide**19,850**

Pets medically treated

**\$1,127,254**Given in veterinary  
care, food, and crates

## Responsible Pet Owner's Month

February is dedicated to remind us to be responsible pet owners. It is not only Spay/Neuter Awareness month, but it is also Pet Dental Month - all a part of Responsible Pet Owner's Month.

Below are some important tips and reminders to help us all be responsible pet owners:

1. Take your pet to a veterinarian on a regular basis. Be sure his vaccinations are up-to-date. Use proper flea and tic prevention.
2. Have your pet spayed or neutered as soon as your veterinarian recommends it to prevent unwanted litters and adding to the number of pets in shelters.
3. Feed your dog or cat a nutritious diet. Be sure to ALWAYS have fresh water available for your pet. Feed your pet the proper amount for her size. Give healthy treats, too, but not too many! No table scraps! Keep your pet fit and trim!
4. Spend quality time with your pet. Take a daily walk - your dog needs to expend his energy, it's an important part of his daily life. Play with your dog as part of his daily routine. Train your dog to sit, stay, heel and try to teach him unique tricks, too!
5. Abide by your local laws! Have your pet licensed with your local city or county. Keep your dog leashed. Clean up after your pet! It's not only considerate to others, but it's helps prevent the spread of disease.
6. Identification for your pet is extremely important. Have your pet micro-chipped and be sure he has proper tags with his dog license and your contact information. If you move, contact the micro-chip company and update your contact information!
7. It is recommended you brush your dog's teeth daily. AVDS reports that 80% of dogs in the U.S. develop oral disease by 3 years old. This can affect your pet's heart, kidneys and liver. Buy that special toothbrush and brush away tartar!
8. Pet proof your house. Move electrical cords out of reach. Block off areas that contain toxic house or garden plants. Keep garbage and other poisonous cleaning agents and anti-freeze out of reach! Keep your yard secure and inspect your fence regularly. Set your house rules and have all family members stick to them.
9. Pets like to have their own "area." Designate a bed, mat, dog house or kitty condo just for them.
10. Groom your pet. Bathe twice a month. Brush a few times a week or as necessary. Keep your pet's nails trimmed. This can be tricky and can easily harm your pet if done improperly. Consult with your veterinarian on the best practice or have it done professionally.
11. Socialize with your pet! Go to the dog park and let your pet make new friends.
12. Be prepared for a disaster. Have a plan for your pet, too. Make an

emergency kit with clean water, food, medications, copies of vaccination records, a photo, and first aid.

13. Have an emergency contact listed for your pet in case you should become ill.
14. If you are looking for a new pet, pick the right one. Recognize the commitment. Examine your daily lifestyle, physical activity and finances. Rescue a shelter dog! Consider adopting an older pet!
15. Praise your pet. Be there for them. Remember the saying, "Aspire to be the person your dog thinks you are." Pets provide unconditional love.



## Thank you to our new Donation Sites

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Dog House of Chicago - Des Plaines, IL  
Zia Pet Hospital - Rio Rancho, NM

### **EXCITING ANNOUNCEMENT!**

*We have made reporting easier!*

Donation Sites and Volunteers can now report donations and volunteer hours directly on our website. Click below and save the link for ease of use in the future. Set yourself a calendar reminder to click and report monthly. Try it now!

### **Donation Site Reporting**

### ***Send a Valentine to your Sweetheart with a Pets of the Homeless Donation***

Put aside the flowers and chocolates this Valentine's Day. Donate to Pets of the Homeless in honor of your loved one or in memory of a special pet. We'll send a Valentine's Day card to your sweetheart. Simply donate via the link below and notate your Valentine wishes. Please send us your request ASAP so that we may send your Valentine in a timely manner.

### **Send a Valentine to my Sweetheart**

*My True Love has  
4 Paws*



Send a Pets of the Homeless Valentine Donation



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## Continuous Improvement - Please Provide Your Feedback

Pets of the Homeless takes pride in its programs, mission and methods of communication with our supporters.

If you haven't already done so, we ask that you please take **less than 5 minutes of your time** to complete the following survey which will be used to improve our customer service, and be sure your needs are being met.

## Start the Survey

*Thank you so much for your time. Your feedback is very important to us.*

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### Did you know?

**From 2015 through 2018..**

**61% of the pet owners Pets of the Homeless helped were homeless women.**

**29% were homeless and disabled.**

**6% were Veterans.**

**9% were employed and homeless.**

**28% live in their vehicle, while 14% live on the streets.**

**23% heard about us from another homeless person.**

*Thank you to Silverlake Medical Center in Los Angeles, CA who collected over 445 lbs. of pet food and supplies during the holidays. These donations were distributed at a wellness clinic in the Skid Row area.*

**The average length of time the person was homeless was 2 years and 4 months.**



*Feeding Pets of the Homeless is the only national animal organization focused completely on feeding and providing emergency veterinary care to the pets of the homeless.*



GIVE A DONATION



DROP OFF FOOD



BECOME A DROP  
OFF LOCATION



VOLUNTEER

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Keep in Touch



Feeding Pets of the Homeless  
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