



Saving Lives, Sharing Love

Guardian Angel, Pure & Bright, Guard Me While I Sleep Tonight

October 15, 2018

Dear <friend>:

When you or a family member have an urgent or out of the ordinary medical need, to whom do you turn?

At SICSA, we have Guardian Angels.

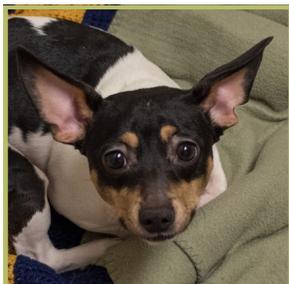
SICSA's Guardian Angels provide funding for our animals who have special medical needs that may otherwise not be met. Needs which often have to be outsourced to other veterinary clinics. So far in 2018, SICSA has expended over \$20,000 to help 58 animals with 73 procedures. Services such as x-rays, ultrasounds, extractions, surgeries, specialist consults, and lots of focused tests and labs. While many of our veterinary partners provide a discount for services, these animals do not have medical insurance, and there isn't any kind of "free care" to cover these needs. Instead, we look to people like you to be their Guardian Angels. Because of you, animals like Bambi are able to get the specialized care they need.

Bambi came to SICSA through our Oops Program. One of nine in the litter, the owners knew they would be unable to provide for mom, dad and all those puppies! The Oops Program allowed the owner to surrender Bambi and his siblings without an intake fee, as long as the owners agreed to get momma and papa dog "fixed." On top of spaying and neutering, the mom and dad pups also had some medical needs which were going unmet. Together, SICSA and the owners developed a multi-pronged plan that included our community spay/neuter program, our Bridge medical assistance program, and our owner surrender process; all geared to provide the owner, pets, and SICSA with a solution that addressed the many needs of this family in crisis.



Bambi, just 3 months old, was a spirited pup who never met a stranger. Almost immediately, however, the intake team encountered challenges with Bambi's care. Bambi had an umbilical hernia from his birth. He also walked with his foot turned under in an abnormal way. Upon examination by SICSA's veterinarian, Bambi was diagnosed with Carpal Laxity Syndrome (CLS), an orthopedic issue which caused his forelimb to curve and turn his foot. Knowing it is better to address all needs which require anesthesia at once, SICSA immediately reached out to Med Vet's orthopedic surgeon for a consultation on the CLS. As result of this consultation, it was agreed that the best course of action for Bambi's CLS was to wait to see if the issue corrected itself during growth. However, a far more concerning issue was identified. A heart murmur was detected.

Heart murmurs are abnormal sounds caused by turbulent blood flow through the chambers of the heart. They are graded on a scale of 1-6, with grade 1 being the least concerning and grade 6, the most. Bambi's murmur was a grade 5. After undergoing an echocardiogram, the cardiologist diagnosed an inoperable condition called Mitral



Mom, Daffodil, Dad, Marvel, Runt, Banjo and Oliver were just some of Bambi's family who were in need of our help.

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Valve Dysplasia. This means that Bambi's heart valve does not close properly, which will eventually lead to congestive heart failure. Symptoms include coughing, difficulty breathing, exercise intolerance, and more. There also isn't a cure for this condition, with most living only two to three years past diagnosis. As a result, at just 4 months old, Bambi's adoption plan went from one filled with long walks, hours of playtime, and years of growing old together; to what we call a Hospice Adoption. Attached to every adoption discussion would be a long medical disclaimer and a difficult conversation about Bambi's future.

***“They were head over heels in love
with Bambi right from the start”***

would need to fully understand that their time together would be limited. How do you ask an adopter to give their heart to an animal, only to lose it two to three years later? But that is exactly what happened.

This past spring, that special adopter walked into SICSA and met with one of our Adoption Counselors, Christina Hutchins. “They were a wonderful family,” remembered Christina. “They were ready to take on all his medical issues! They were head over heels in love with Bambi right from the start.” It definitely was a perfect match for both Bambi and his family.

For Bambi and his family, your Guardian Angel gift wasn't just medical care; it was a gift of time. Because we were able to identify Bambi's condition early, he will receive the ongoing care and support he needs. His life span may not be the twelve to sixteen years we would want for him, but what time he does have will be filled with love, support, and whatever shenanigans Bambi and his new family can find.

All thanks to our Guardian Angels who guard over all of our special cases, like Bambi, here at SICSA.

Bambi is a great example of why your Guardian Angel gift is so vital and important. Your generosity provides resources to SICSA, our community, our families and our pets; which literally bring our mission of promoting the welfare and adoption of companion animals and the nurturing of loving, lifelong relationships between animals and people to life; no matter the circumstances.



**Your Guardian Angel gift literal is
a gift of time,
a gift of medical care,
but perhaps most importantly, a gift of love.**

Please help us raise the funds needed to keep this vital program going by sending your gift today. Our community, our adopters, and our pets are all counting on you!

On behalf of SICSA and little ones like Bambi, thank you in advance for your support!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nora Vondrell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Nora L. Vondrell
President & CEO

P.S. Please make your Guardian Angel donation today by utilizing the enclosed envelope or logging onto our secure website at www.sicsa.org/give. Every gift means that we can continue to help those like Bambi get the love and care they deserve during the time they are entrusted to us.