



Love
Heals 

Dear Friends,

As this tumultuous year ends, we reflect on the journey that we have each been on. The pandemic and the fires have created months of uncertainty in our personal lives, as well as in the nonprofit world. We know the needs in our communities have been immense, and it has been an unsettling, historic time.

Yet, through these months, BirchBark has had the determination and fortitude to ensure **HOPE** remains. We recognize that the human-animal bond and the lives of our most innocent family members are critical facets of our well-being... a bond that must be protected and honored.

BirchBark began as a dream – a vision in which no one would be forced to euthanize their family companion simply due to cost; a belief that in working collaboratively with veterinary partners, comfort and choice would also befall these dedicated professionals.

Our team thanks you – all of our friends, supporters and Veterinary Partners for believing in this dream with us, and for helping us be a unique and critical thread in the safety-net of our communities.

As 2020 comes to an end, please keep dreaming big alongside us with an impactful, year-end gift to our MCGives! Campaign. **100% of your tax-deductible gift goes directly to BirchBark** and if received by 12/31/20, your contribution will be matched by the generosity of our challenge gift donors and the Monterey County Weekly Community Fund.

We are looking forward to a hope-filled 2021: with ongoing success, more lives saved, and a world where all of us, regardless of financial standing, can embrace joy and health. **May you and every life you cherish have a safe and peaceful holiday season.** Together, love heals.

With hugs and gratitude,

Merrienne Burtch

Dr. Merrienne Burtch, DVM, DACVM
President and Founder

Michelle Frampton

Michelle Frampton
Executive Director



Dixie, a rambunctious, 1 year old kitten, had an affinity for eating nerf balls. She required immediate life-saving surgery to remove the blockage and is now home with her family, including her big dog brother. Needless to say no nerf balls for Dixie for Christmas!



THANK YOU for making our Tree of Hope Campaign a SUCCESS!

We began our Tree of Hope Campaign in March. Our goal was to raise \$200,000 to help see us through the challenges of sheltering in place and helping so many in need.

Thanks to your generosity, we have been able to

- Save more than 100 precious animal lives
- Bring life-saving stability to more than 300 human family members
- Support hundreds of dedicated veterinary staff in our 31 hospital partners

Thank you for filling our Tree of Hope with love.



**Pets lead us from
patience to love, then
to loss...
but it's always a
journey worth taking.**



BirchBark Pet Loss and Grief Support Program

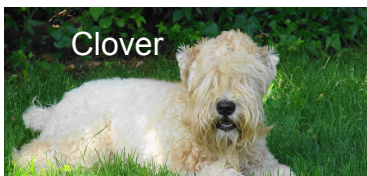
Losing an animal companion can be an isolating experience and one that is not well understood. This program is for anyone grieving the loss of a beloved animal friend.

After being asked by Papillon Center to absorb their pet loss program, we have enhanced our programming to reach anyone in need of counseling in Monterey, Santa Cruz and San Benito Counties with no cost, one on one sessions and future group options.

You don't need to go through this pain alone.

Please call 831.471.7912 or go to www.birchbarkfoundation.org/griefsupport to schedule a time to talk.

Here are some of the amazing pets that crossed the Rainbow Bridge this year



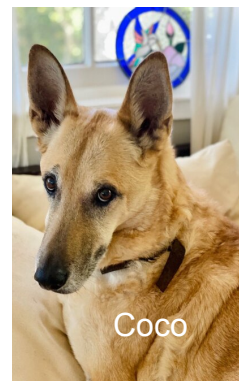
Clover



Major



Giola



Coco



Kona



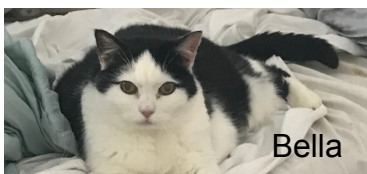
Molly



Lola



Sydney



Bella



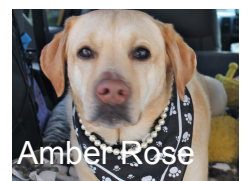
Bodi & Quincy



Pancho Villa



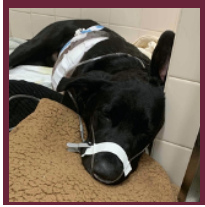
Shelby



Amber Rose

Love Heals as COVID and Fires add Dire Strain to Animal Families

Beautiful Max is a 2-year old Shepherd Mix who found himself in a life-threatening situation after accidentally inhaling a fox-tail. Max's Mom, a front-line nurse serving all of us at the start of the pandemic, became the sole breadwinner for her family when Max's Dad became unemployed as a result of COVID. They were newly financially fractured and in a situation that they never dreamed could be possible.



After exhausting any remaining savings, Max's critical situation became unaffordable for his family. With the help of BirchBark and one of our veterinary partners, Pacific and Santa Cruz Veterinary Specialists, Max did recover – after 2 weeks of hospitalization and removal of a lung lobe.



"These moments have been so horrible for me and my husband. To even think of losing Max, our only "baby," was truly devastating. He is the joy and love in our lives that we need more than ever right now. BirchBark's kindness and support, with every step of everything we went through, has kept our family together. We are eternally grateful for this amazing organization." ...Max's Mom

BirchBark Partner Spotlight



Santa Cruz County Bank is a cherished friend of BirchBark and a community gem. With supportive assistance in marketing promotions and a seamless process of applying for and receiving the much-needed PPP Loan, Santa Cruz County Bank demonstrated their deep understanding and care for its community and even the smallest members that BirchBark protects.

Thank you to the very caring Santa Cruz County Bank Team for helping to keep BirchBark's dream a reality!

Plan Today to Help Forever

By adding BirchBark Foundation to your estate plan, you can help ensure future generations are able to experience the amazing bond between people and their pets.



Many helpful options are available as you consider a legacy of love.

From estate planning, stock gifts and IRA rollovers to 401K beneficiary opportunities, your planned direction will ensure **HOPE** remains.

For supportive documents, or to explore more, please contact Michelle Frampton michelle@birchbarkfoundation.org or (630) 337-0770 or go to our website - birchbarkfoundation.org/planned-giving

If you have already included BirchBark in your estate plan, THANK YOU!

Please send us an email and let us know!



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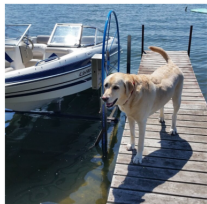


MONTEREY COUNTY GiVES!
Joining Together for Big Ideas

Please donate by December 31st
www.mcgives.com/birchbark

Your donation is 100% tax-deductible and goes directly to BirchBark Foundation, along with matching funds.

Thank you to our MCGives! Challenge Gifts Donors



In Loving Memory of Shane ♥ Michelle & Andy Frampton



James Lawrence Patrick Murphy Memorial

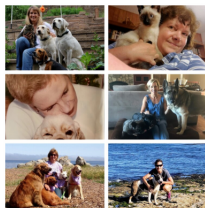


PRINT | SCAN | NETWORK



In sweet memory of Jane Kitty Cat from Phil Mindigo & Robin Gabriel.

Kate DeSalvo



2020 BirchBark Board of Directors

Please consider leveraging your very appreciated gift to BirchBark by donating through MCGives! We have enclosed a pre-addressed envelope that you can use to mail a donation prior to December 31, 2020.

Thanks to our generous Challenge Gift Donors, your year-end gift to BirchBark will be matched dollar for dollar and will receive an additional match from the Monterey County Weekly Community Fund.

Checks must be made payable to **CFMC/MCGives** with BirchBark Foundation in the memo line.
THANK YOU!

MONTEREY COUNTY GiVES!
Joining Together for Big Ideas

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