

Willoughby, Adam@CDA

From: Lynn Nielsen <drlnielsen@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 11, 2019 7:42 PM
To: EngAGE@CDA
Subject: The San Francisco Shanti PAWS program!

Dear Department of Aging,

I am a client of the Shanti program PAWS, as was my sister before she died. PAWS enabled us to care for her senior kitty. My sister had rescued Corazon and her three tiny siblings from a feral mom. Corazon's siblings had died; Corazon herself had been with my sister for about 18 years before she died. Corazon gave my sister solace as she dealt with cancer and cancer-related disability.

I was my sister's caregiver during her illness. During that decade, my dog Warren got me out of the house every day. Since my sister died, Warren has become even more essential to my quality of life. Having Warren keeps me healthy in mind and body. I have lost 3 dress sizes just by walking Warren. He also helps be de-stress. All of these are good for my basic health, as well as mood.

As a PAWS client, I have received pet care essentials including quality pet food and veterinary care. In all honesty, I may have been able to pay for some of these - but only because I will pay for food and essential care for my pets before I will pay for my own food and medical care. There is no doubt that by being a PAWS client I can take better care of myself and my pet.

PAWS service providers are kind and dedicated. They never make their clients line up outside for an hour before receiving services, or feel bad that we are accepting help. Clients are treated with respect. The staff are knowledgeable, the facility clean, the services essential. I hope the Department on Aging will continue to support PAWS.

Sincerely,
Lynn Nielsen-Bohlman
San Francisco senior and PAWS client