

# More than puppy love: \$25,000 bequeathed to Animal Services

*Animal Shelter*  
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**SCOTTS VALLEY** — One area animal lover's last wish was that part of her estate go to the dogs, literally.

Margaret Paul died in April at 89, leaving behind her best friend, a black and white spotted terrier named Shilo. But Paul's memory will live on in the form of wagging tails and cold, wet noses given the chance to find a best friend all their own.

The Soquel resident left \$25,000 to the Santa Cruz County Animal Services, the agency charged with caring for the county's homeless animals.

"Margaret had a lifelong love affair with animals and wanted to help find homes for the homeless animals in our community," said Doris White, Paul's friend and Shilo's temporary caregiver.

Two-and-a-half years before her death, Paul had adopted the sprightly dog from the former Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

At 5 years old, some thought Shilo might prove too feisty for then 87-year-old Paul.

"They were somewhat reluctant to give the dog to her because he was an energetic little terrier," said White of Santa Cruz. "Shilo added so much to the last years of Margaret's life ...

and I think that became one of her concerns — that older people be able to take animals to help keep them active."

A New York native, Paul was a lifelong artist who had trained at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City before moving to California and opening a studio with her husband in Sausalito. She moved to Santa Cruz in 1952.

Paul drew every day. Her favorite subjects were the animals she befriended in and around her Soquel Creek home.

"She never had children, and they (the animals) were sentient beings she shared her life with," said White.

Several months before her death, Paul contacted animal services and asked how she could leave something to the agency, said Michael McFarland, shelter general manager.

"We get those calls every once in a while," he said. "This donation was a wonderful surprise."

Shilo, with White's help, will deliver the check to the agency today.

White will be retiring soon and wants to travel. She is seeking a permanent home for Shilo. For information, call animal services at 454-7303.

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Margaret Paul left behind her best friend Shilo, but her memory will live on as Paul left \$25,000 to Santa Cruz County Animal Services.