



## Forever Friend Susan Greenberg

A gifted painter with a heart as great as her talent, Susan Greenberg has always had a clear and profound connection to the animals. She describes having a series of pets throughout her girlhood in California — fish, cats, birds, a dog — and remembers the day her father brought home a group of guinea pigs. While the details are hazy, she recalls being drawn to the smallest, most sickly of the bunch. This was the one she asked to care for and keep.

As so often happens for an artist, Susan's path has zigged and zagged in ways she never imagined. Throughout her journey from the East Coast to the Southwest and back again, one constant remained: She had animals by her side. And while she didn't officially begin painting until well into adulthood, her free-spirited, artistic sensibilities led her to work and settle — literally and figuratively — in places others were reluctant to go.



At a time when both the AIDS virus and its patients were categorically misunderstood, Susan became one of the few employees at Philly AIDS Thrift, a store that funds organizations providing services for people with HIV. Guided by a deep sense of the interconnectedness of all individuals, Susan is pulled to issues of well-being for humans and animals alike. Even a debilitating accident (she was struck and seriously injured by an SUV) provided a chance to help others heal. She became a member of Magee Hospital's original brain injury support group.

In 2011, Susan made her first trip to Best Friends Animal Sanctuary, a journey of both distance and emotion as she buried three beloved cats at Angels Rest. She fell in love with the breathtaking splendor all around her, from the deep rusts and maroons of the canyon to beauty of a more spiritual kind: animals experiencing joy and warmth and kindness, some for the very first time.

When Best Friends opened its lifesaving center in New York, Susan was eager to make the trip there from her

home in Philadelphia. Ever the artist, she immediately sensed that though the aesthetic is altogether different from that of the Sanctuary, the essence of Best Friends is unmistakable. This was a place of new life and second chances. An image she created for the facility hangs in the entryway to the cat habitats.

We are so extremely grateful for Susan's exceptional gifts and for her remembrance of the animals through her will and trust. Her legacy will ensure comfort and hope for generations of animals to come, their lives forever changed by her generosity. For Susan today, her own cherished felines — Bella, Muky, Deva, Cimmie and Little Bear — remain a source of love and light, a reminder of the transcendence of the human-animal bond. She plans to make another homeless cat part of the family after her next trip to Best Friends this autumn.

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[bestfriends.org/plannedgiving](http://bestfriends.org/plannedgiving)





### second-chance profile

## For quirky Ruthie, a perfect fit

Her new people describe her as a bit of a couch potato, and the phrase could have been created with Ruthie in mind. With her big round body, dabbles of white and light brown fur, and stubby legs that scurry her from place to place, Ruthie is irresistible.

Still, it can sometimes take longer for pit-bull-terrier-like dogs to find the perfect home. And at around six years of age, Ruthie was already older than some adopters want.

Then there are her quirks. Ruthie loves food. Or maybe she just loves putting things — everything — into that big smiley mouth of hers. When she arrived at Best Friends, X-rays revealed an entire collection of items (probably snarfed up on the street) in her belly, including bottle caps and cigarette butts. The cue “leave it” was quickly added to her training regimen.

Ruthie had been adopted once and then returned to Best Friends through no fault of her own (her person was moving and couldn't take her), but it seemed like finding the right home might be extra challenging. Staff and volunteers loved this adorable, affectionate low-rider and weren't sure why she kept getting overlooked.

Whatever the reason, her luck changed when Mariluz and Kam came to meet her. They had been looking for a small dog, but something about Ruthie's story compelled them to check her out. For Mariluz, it was delight, wonder and enchantment at first sight. Love didn't come until a full five minutes in.

Today, Ruthie is living the dream. Mariluz and Kam remain smitten and Ruthie relishes every walk, every kiss, every couch cuddle and every last treat. Mariluz says, **“It's important to have someone at home who cares about you. Ruthie makes us feel more like a family.”**





## Charting **her own path**

**From a young age, Annabelle Weiss felt called to living a life of responsibility and service.** Just 18 years old when the United States was drawn into World War II, Annabelle decided that as a patriot — and a smart, strong young woman — she would give all she could in the fight for democracy.

She dropped out of college to go to work for the Sperry Corporation, a defense contractor. When the Marine Corps Women's Reserve was established in 1943, Annabelle enlisted and spent the remainder of the war years in North Carolina, first at Camp Lejeune and then at the Marine Corps Air Station in Cherry Point.

There, she met the man she would later marry. The two had a daughter and settled into post-war life in New York City. Not content with simply following the path typically available to women at that time, Annabelle went back to school, earning a master's degree in nursing with a specialization in psychiatric care.

Her own health, however, had begun to suffer. Still in her 30s, Annabelle was diagnosed with thyroid cancer. Though successfully treated, she developed bone and spinal problems that would affect her the rest of her life. It became impossible to continue working on her feet, so with a renewed sense of duty and much aplomb, she launched a new career as a medical biller.

By the time she retired at 85, Annabelle's physical health had deteriorated further and staying so famously independent began to be a challenge. Approaching 90, she started to feel trapped and hopeless. That's when she met Joe. A trained service dog, Joe was paired with Annabelle through the organization America's VetDogs, and once again, Annabelle's life changed. She regained not only mobility but confidence and optimism. "I became an individual again when I teamed with my dog. I came back to Annabelle," she once mused.

No one can say for sure whether it was this bond with Joe that led Annabelle to her decision. What is certain is that she felt passionate about leaving a legacy that would provide, as she had been given, a life-changing second chance. For the recipients of that tremendous gift, she chose the animals at Best Friends.

“I became an individual again when I teamed with my dog.”



# Best Friends turns 35

# 35

You're probably familiar with the story. Back in 1984, a scrappy group of friends settled in a remote area of southern Utah and decided they would change the future for homeless pets. They were told they were naïve, that their idea would never amount to more than a dream, that killing pets in shelters is necessary and a better way wasn't possible. **But the founders of Best Friends — and people like you — believed a better way was indeed possible.** They rolled up their sleeves and got to work.

At the time, an estimated 17 million pets were killed in shelters every year. It has been three and a half decades of hard work, but thanks to so many, that number is down to around 733,000. And together, by 2025, we will reduce that number to zero nationwide. For those who have been there from the beginning, literally building the foundation of the Sanctuary and shepherding a philosophy of compassion toward animals into the mainstream, the goal has only become more focused: Together, we will Save Them All.

**Today, we're asking you for your memories. Got a story, remembrance or recollection about a Best Friends founder? Please help us mark this 35th anniversary milestone by sending it to [bestfriends.org/35th](https://bestfriends.org/35th) — and know how grateful we are to have you as part of our Best Friends family.**

## LEAVE A LASTING LEGACY FOR THE ANIMALS

By designating Best Friends Animal Society as a beneficiary in your will, you'll be helping rescue and protect homeless pets long into the future. For your convenience, we've provided some suggested language for use in your will. With your legal counsel, feel free to adapt it to fit your individual situation.

### Fixed dollar amount bequest (suggested language)

I bequeath (\$ \_\_\_\_\_,  
or \_\_\_\_\_ percent of the rest,  
remainder, and residue of my estate, or  
the proceeds from the sale of real estate  
that I own located at \_\_\_\_\_  
to Best Friends Animal Society for its  
general purposes. Best Friends Animal  
Society is a charitable organization  
located in Kanab, Utah, and exempt from  
federal taxation under Section 501(c)(3)  
of the Internal Revenue Code.

Tax identification number: 23-7147797

**To make any updates to your planned giving profile or for more information about Forever Friends or Best Friends Animal Society, please call 435-644-2001, ext. 4503, or email [plannedgiving@bestfriends.org](mailto:plannedgiving@bestfriends.org).**



# Quiet strength, striking independence

Like the cats she so adored, Dorothy “Dottie” White revealed a quiet strength and striking independence beneath a soft, sweet exterior.

Born and raised in the Golden State, Dottie graduated from the University of California, Los Angeles, at a time when few women even attended college. When World War II broke out, a deep sense of patriotism and responsibility compelled Dottie to enlist in the United States Naval Reserve, better known as WAVES (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service). For Dottie, it meant the chance to serve her country and remain in her beloved home state.

Specifics about her stint in the military were never made public (Dottie was directly advised not to reveal the confidential nature of her role), but her dedication and abilities clearly impressed her superiors. She received an honorable discharge and earned no less than three medals for her service, including the Distinguished Service Medal.



Following WAVES, Dottie went to work for the California Department of Water and Power, where she remained until retirement. Even

then, she never seemed to slow down, becoming an enthusiastic road-tripper and domestic traveler. A devoted fan of the Los Angeles Dodgers, she rarely missed a game and even played golf well into her 80s, agile and athletic in her own right.

Throughout her life, Dottie remained an avid reader. Most days, she read the newspaper front to back, one of her many rescued cats planted firmly on her lap. Mystery novels were another favorite, particularly those that featured animals, such as the horse-centric stories of Dick Francis.

Over the years, Dottie made several journeys to Best Friends Animal Sanctuary. Her zeal and zest for life will live on here, providing joy and companionship to countless animals, thanks to her great generosity. She was a woman of diverse interests and hobbies, but of all her pursuits, animal welfare may have meant the most to Dottie.

## Your generosity is extraordinary

Because of you, generations of animals to come are ensured a place where they will know love, care and companionship. We are deeply grateful for your extraordinary commitment to homeless pets and incredibly touched by your kindness.

If you haven't made a legacy gift, but are interested in doing so, please reach out to Best Friends' planned giving team by calling 435-644-2001, ext. 4503, or emailing [plannedgiving@bestfriends.org](mailto:plannedgiving@bestfriends.org). And if you have already named Best Friends as a beneficiary, but haven't yet let us know, please do. We'd like to express to you directly our profound thanks.



## Beneficial beneficiary designations

When Best Friends Animal Society members contact the planned giving team, many wish to remember the animals in their legacy plans but don't know where to start. One of the most flexible and inexpensive ways you can make a difference for the animals is by designating Best Friends as a beneficiary of your financial accounts.

You can designate Best Friends as a full, partial or contingent beneficiary on many different types of accounts:

- **Retirement, IRA, 401(k) or 403(b) accounts**
- **Brokerage accounts**
- **CDs**
- **Money market, savings, checking or other accounts**
- **Life insurance policies**

Designating Best Friends as a beneficiary can be a simple and cost-effective way to make a lifesaving gift to the animals. Often, no attorney is needed to make a change to a beneficiary, and it can be done with a simple phone call or by filling out a printed or online form with the institution that manages the account you wish to select.

You have many options when choosing your beneficiaries, including specifying the percentage that you'd like each one to receive. You can even designate Best Friends as a contingent beneficiary, a kind of back-up plan in the event that the person or organization you originally selected is unable to use the gift when the time comes.

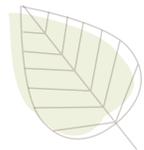
If you choose to list Best Friends or another nonprofit organization as a beneficiary of a tax-deferred account, such as an IRA or 401(k), it will allow you to make an even larger gift to the animals. As a registered 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, Best Friends is exempt from paying taxes. That means the full value will go to helping the animals. And because these accounts are invested, they tend to grow over the years, which could lead to a much more substantial gift than

you may ever be able to give in your lifetime. What an amazing lifesaving legacy this may allow you to leave behind!

Forever Friend Pat Duff says, "Since I did not need IRA money for my own needs, I was delighted to learn I could use it for the good of the animals at Best Friends. All it took was a seven-minute phone call to my IRA administrator, and a check was soon on its way."

For most accounts, all the information you need to designate Best Friends as a beneficiary is our official name, mailing address and tax ID number:

**Best Friends Animal Society**  
**5001 Angel Canyon Road**  
**Kanab, UT 84741**  
**Tax ID number: 23-7147797**



Need more information to complete forms? We are here to help! Please don't hesitate to contact the Best Friends planned giving team:  
**435-644-2001, ext. 4503,**  
**[plannedgiving@bestfriends.org](mailto:plannedgiving@bestfriends.org)**

If you have already named Best Friends as a beneficiary, thank you so very much. Please let us know so that we can thank you and welcome you to the Forever Friends family.



# Your legacy **in action**

Thanks to compassionate and generous people like you, amazing work is going on around the country, from creating interactive lifesaving digital tools to providing local help where it's needed most. Here are a few recent highlights.

## **Community lifesaving dashboard**

As you probably know, Best Friends is committed to bringing the whole country to no-kill by 2025. In July, we launched the community lifesaving dashboard, a groundbreaking digital tool that provides comprehensive animal shelter data at the shelter, community, state and national levels. This interactive tool, the first of its kind, will fundamentally impact the way people mobilize to help save pets in their communities. It's a game changer, because animal welfare organizations, civic leaders and community members in any city, county or state now have quick, easy access to accurate shelter data. Please check it out at [bestfriends.org/2025](https://bestfriends.org/2025) and spread the word to your animal-loving friends.

## **Taking on Texas**

As we work toward no-kill nationwide, Best Friends continues to focus on the five states that make up 50% of the killing in shelters. Number one on the list is Texas, and the city of Edinburg remains one of the most challenging spots for homeless pets in the country. We began working with Edinburg's Palm Valley Animal Center (PVAC) in May 2018 and since July of last year, Best Friends staff have been embedded there, working side by side with PVAC staff. In that brief time, **lifesaving has increased from a 36% save rate to a 51% save rate.** And 350 miles north in Houston, plans are underway to begin building Best Friends' newest lifesaving center, a high-volume adoption and spay/neuter facility. In the Houston metro area, we're also developing community programming to help stem the flow of homeless animals in the many underserved communities.

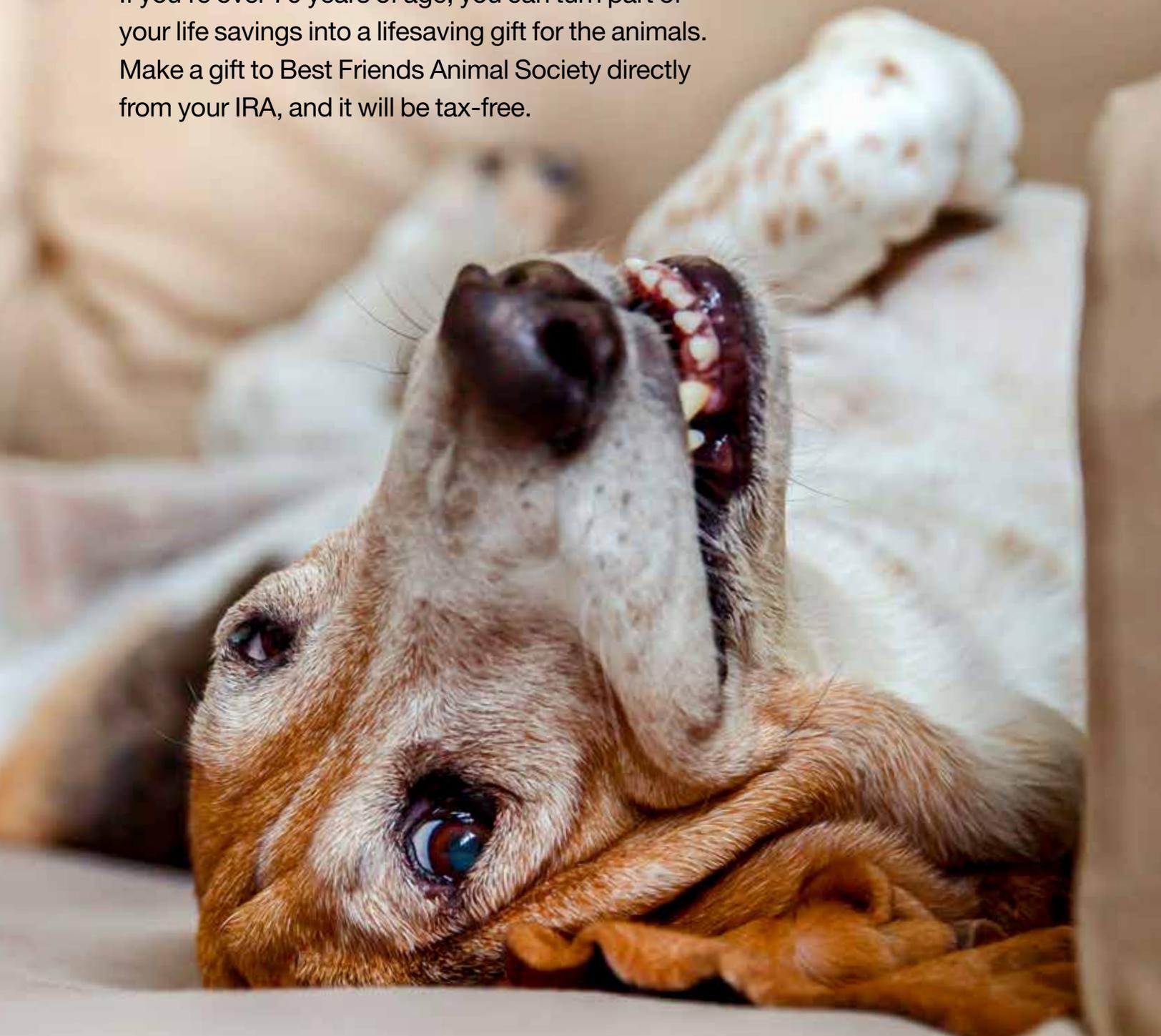
## **Best Friends Roadhouse and Mercantile opens this fall**

We are excited to share news about the grand opening of the Best Friends Roadhouse and Mercantile, a new lodging option in Kanab created to encourage visiting and volunteering at the Sanctuary, and put the Sanctuary on the map for pet-loving people just passing through who have yet to discover its magic. Complete with a dog washing station, dog splash pad, and pet walking and monitoring services, the Roadhouse was designed specifically to accommodate people traveling with their dogs or cats and offer services that allow guests to feel comfortable leaving their pets for the day while they explore the Sanctuary, national parks and all that southern Utah has to offer. Shuttle service from the Roadhouse to the Sanctuary is also provided, helping to reduce the impact of the increasing number of visitors on the canyon and its inhabitants — a win-win-win! **Make your reservations at [bestfriendsroadhouse.org](https://bestfriendsroadhouse.org).**



# Sit. Stay. **Roll over your IRA.**

If you're over 70 years of age, you can turn part of your life savings into a lifesaving gift for the animals. Make a gift to Best Friends Animal Society directly from your IRA, and it will be tax-free.



**SAVE  
THEM  
ALL**

Request your free copy of *A Legacy of Kindness*, Best Friends' planned giving guide, at [legacy@bestfriends.org](mailto:legacy@bestfriends.org) or 435-644-2001, ext. 4503.

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