

A Memorial Fund for
Beloved Pets through
the

College of
Veterinary Medicine
and
Biomedical Sciences

Miki Society for Companion Animals

Colorado
State
University

Contributions Can Memorialize or Honor a Companion Animal

The Miki Society offers an opportunity to memorialize pets while contributing to research that helps all companion animals. Funding from private sources is essential for companion animal medical programs as government funding is not available.

Most Miki Society donations come as a result of the death of a pet. When a companion animal is lost to disease, old age, or is the victim of an accident, the grieving process that occurs is a difficult one often shared by the pet's owner and family, their friends, the pet's veterinarian, and even fellow breed fanciers. The College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences established the Miki Society for Companion Animals as a dynamic fund through which people can memorialize a pet with a charitable donation.

Companion Animals Benefit from Miki Society Gifts

Miki dollars go to research applied to a wide variety of diseases in companion animals, especially projects with an immediate impact on the care of companion animals. Each year, a committee selects which proposals to fund through the Miki Society, bringing us closer to understanding, preventing, and curing illnesses that cut short or reduce the quality of life for our pets. In recent years, Miki Society grants have funded:

- **Taxol** – Taxol is the first new effective cancer drug on the market in at least 10 years. The drug has great potential for advancing human and animal cancer treatment, but has problems that limit its use. A research team at Colorado State's College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences investigates new Taxol formulations so that animal cancer patients get the maximum benefit of the drug with the smallest risk possible.

- **Kidney failure** – A research team at Colorado State examined ways to make the kidneys less susceptible to failure while an animal is on treatment. This included dietary factors and medications that allow the kidneys to better handle drugs and procedures that can compromise the health of the renal system.

- **Toxoplasma** – Several strains of *toxoplasma gondii* have a preference for the eye, where they can cause severe damage, including blindness. A Miki-funded project characterized toxoplasma strains so researchers could develop improved treatments and also explore prevention through vaccination.

- **Heart Disease** – The cardiac research team at the Veterinary Teaching Hospital is conducting a study on cardiomyoplasty to improve cardiac efficiency for dogs with cardiomyopathy, a deterioration of heart function. In cardiomyoplasty, a back muscle is used to aid the heart in its work.



Miki

The Story of Miki

The College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences created The Miki Society for Companion Animals in 1988, shortly after the death of its namesake.

Miki was the first cat in the world to receive a bone marrow transplant for a rare and fatal disease found in both cats and children. The disease, mucopolysaccharidosis (MPS) VI, is a devastating illness that takes hope and life from the very young. Miki's transplant was the first ray of sunshine to many seeking to shed light on this insidious disease.

Miki died three years after his transplant, becoming the longest surviving cat with MPS. His spirit, and the pioneering medical research in which he participated, left behind a legacy which seeks to improve animal and human health through on-going research.

Miki Means Hope

When someone loses a beloved companion animal, it is difficult for them to see past the grief and pain. Yet, as is often the case in our lives, from the depths of such sorrow grow the seeds of hope.

Hope is what the Miki Society for Companion Animals is all about. Hope that one day research will lead to new answers for vaccinations and prevention. Hope that one day our companion animals will live longer and healthier lives free of many of the devastating illnesses that affect not only them, but often their human companions as well.

The Miki Society is about hope, but it is hope based on action. Through the Miki Society, research is funded at Colorado State University that makes a difference in the lives of our pets. You can help the important work underway by making a contribution.



How Does the Miki Society for Companion Animals Work?

The Miki Society is unique in how gifts are made, mainly to memorialize a companion animal. The Society is set up as follows:

1) The veterinarian, pet owner, or friend sends a gift in the pet's name to the Miki Society for Companion Animals. For the veterinarian, the amount often is equal to the euthanasia fee if the pet had to be put to sleep. However, gifts of any amount are welcome. In addition to memorializing pets, people who simply want to help other animals often honor living pets.

2) The gift is sent to the Colorado State University Foundation along with the gift form (attached).

3) Upon receipt of the gift, the College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences sends a letter to the pet owner acknowledging the veterinarian's or friend's gift in the animal's name. An acknowledgement also is sent to the veterinarian, friend, or pet owner making the gift.

Each gift is allocated to the area of the donor's choice (see gift form). These include canine, feline, and equine research. Or gifts may be made to where the need is greatest.

Please Direct Your Questions To:

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Contributions may be tax deductible under provisions of state and federal income tax laws, but donors should consult their tax accountant or adviser to determine the proper treatment of such contributions.

