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In Memoriam: Walt Boeninger

By Martha Kudlacik



Last March, our dear friend Walter Boeninger passed away, leaving behind his wife, Janet, and warm feelings of respect and appreciation that we at Mickaboo would like to share in his honor.

Walt came to his love of birds early, as many people do, getting a budgie when he was young. After he and Janet were married, they inherited Captain the cockatiel from a friend who was moving away. Captain had a great life with them for 29 years!

After Captain passed away, Walt applied to adopt a bird through Mickaboo in 2009. Having seen the films "Paulie" and "The Wild Parrots of Telegraph Hill", Walt and Janet chose to adopt the blue-crowned conure pair Jaden and Gracie. Walt was gentle and calm with them, and they taught him a lot about how to prevent egg-laying and displaced aggression.

Then came the cockatiels - little did he know what a ride he signed on for...

Walt was possibly one of the kindest people we've ever welcomed into our rescue family. He had a gentle disposition and he was easy to be around. Perhaps that is why he (hardly) hesitated when asked to be interim co-coordinator of the cockatiel team in 2010. We shared a lot of rides – picking up surrendered birds, dropping off birds to our avian vets, delivering birds to foster homes, and a lot of head-scratching about what to do with all these birds. Some were fortunate enough to be fostered and adopted by him to live the good life in a quiet part of San Jose.

In addition to his coordinating work, Walt's career with Hewlett-Packard came in handy in making sure our digital newsletter was well-formatted every quarter.

It would often surprise people to learn there was also a very fast and lively side to Walt. He was passionate about race cars, owning a Shelby Mustang (as well as other fun cars) and being part of the Northern California Shelby Club for many years.

We treasure all of our [memories](#) with Walter. He is missed by our Mickaboo family.