



Sander & Thomas

Belgium

Dear Birth Parent,

We are so excited to introduce ourselves to you although we can't imagine how difficult this period must be for you.

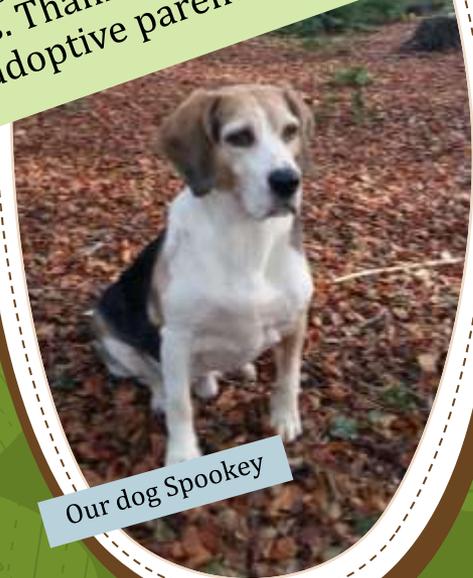
We hope by reading about us and seeing our photos you will get an impression of who we are, where we live, what we do and why we believe adopting your baby would be our dream come true.

We, as future parents, will take care of your child with all our love and support. We hope to have an open relationship with you so that you will always be a valuable part of our family and know how your child is growing and maturing.

Thank you for considering us!

Who are we?

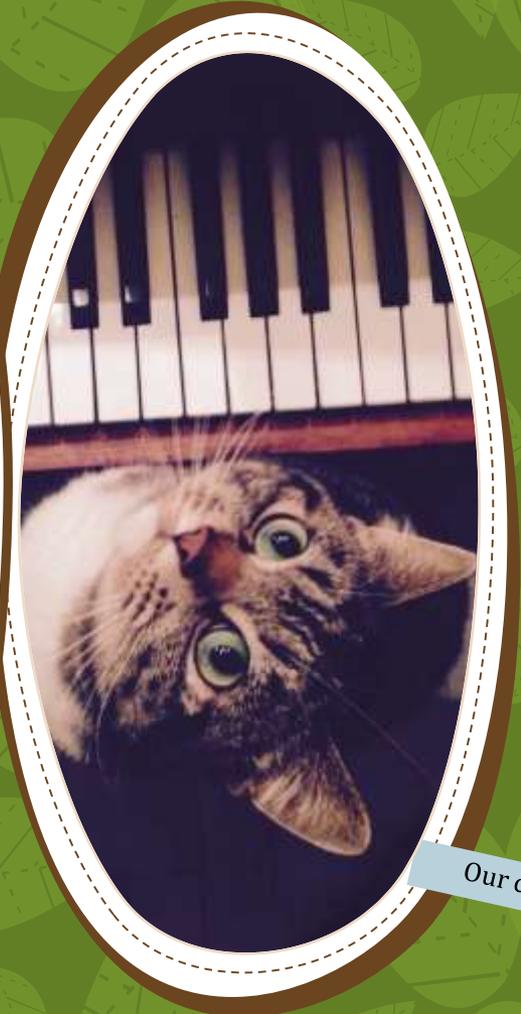
Let us introduce ourselves. We are Thomas and Sander. We live in Belgium together with our pets Spookey and Billy. We would like you to take a look through this album and give you an impression of our lives. Thank you for considering us as adoptive parents!



Our dog Spookey



Together on a trip in Venice



Our cat Billy

We have been together since 2012. We met in 2008. Sander was working at the zoo and Thomas did an internship with the zoo's veterinarian for 3 months. After this internship we stayed in touch on a friendly basis and in 2011 Thomas also started working at the zoo. After a year we fell in love and since that moment we are inseparable. We both have a very strong wish to become parents.



Diving together at work



Gala dinner party in the city



At the beach close to our house



Cooking class



A dolphin presentation at our work together with Sander's best friend Sabrina

My name is Thomas, I was born in a small village in the north of The Netherlands and I am 28 years old.

As the fourth child of six, I grew up in a warm and loving family. I have three brothers and two sisters with whom I am very close. I like to go to the theatre, cinema and festivals with Sander and friends. I am a member of a theatre association and a gymnastics club and we both love horseback riding.

I consider myself friendly, open, helpful and caring. I am very creative and have a lot of energy for the things and people I love. Working with animals and children is something I have always wanted. It's amazing to share this passion with Sander.

We have a lot of nephews and nieces and also a lot of friends with kids. I love baby sitting! As long as I remember, it is my dream to become a father with Sander, we are a good match and will be wonderful parents.



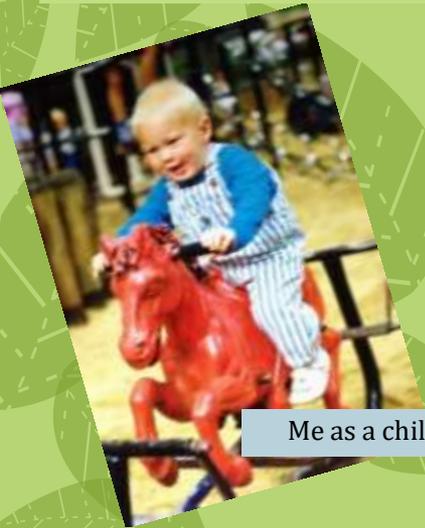
With my niece Zoe



At work



With penny the red panda



Me as a child



Together with my siblings



Babysitting my niece and nephew

Biking with my best friends Rewan and Aurelie



Swimming with my niece



My mother and I



Theatre production Romeo and Julia



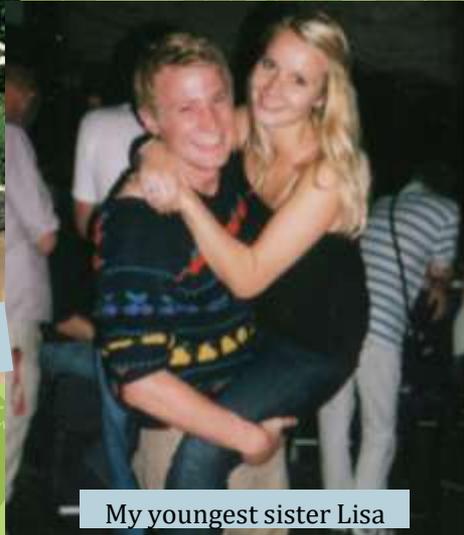
Reading a book about firemen



With my brother Sietse and his son Silvijn



Together with my friend Wouter



My youngest sister Lisa

My name is Sander and I was born in Rotterdam, The Netherlands and I am 37 years old. Together with my brother, Steven, and my parents, Joke and Cees, I lived a carefree youth. When on vacation we visited a lot of Europe and New York. I studied animal science and focused on research. I ended up in Belgium, where I have lived for 11 years. My family lives close by and I visit them quite often. My brother is the father of twins 'Britt and Timo' whom I love very much. Being their godfather, I try to spend time with them as much as possible. I like to help, coach and guide others. I love my work as a manager in a zoo, where I am responsible for the animals and the people I work with. I consider humor and laughter as important things in life. I like cooking, reading, going to theatre, fitness, celebrating Christmas, listening to music, and I play the piano. Being a gay man, I never could have imagine that one day I would be a father myself. I am so excited to start this incredible journey and eventually raise a child together with Thomas.



At work



Ice skating during Christmas



My younger brother and I



My family



Our friends Geertrui and Sabrina



My brother and his twins and me

On a trip to Paris with my mother



Timo and Britt with Spokey



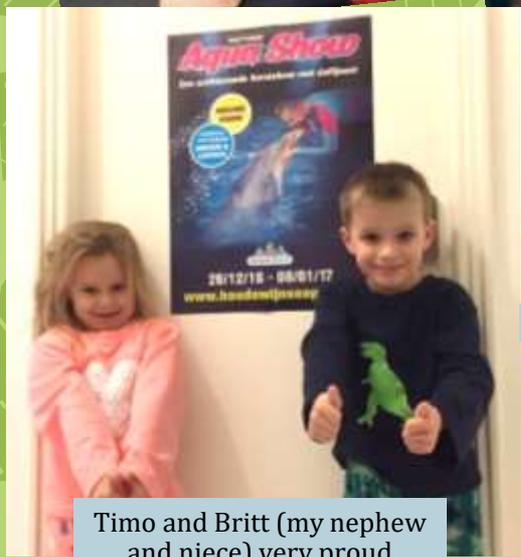
Our friend An



At a party with friends



I love to play the piano



Timo and Britt (my nephew and niece) very proud



My dad



My friend Kim

Thomas' mother often comes for a visit



We live in a small town in Belgium, which is located in Europe between Holland, France and Germany. The native languages are Dutch, French and English. Bruges is a cozy and romantic old city. With its small canals and narrow streets Bruges is a famous place to visit for tourist from all over the world, including Americans.



It is an amazing place to live with a lot of theaters, cinemas, swimming pools and cultural events with activities for adults and children. We live very close to the coast, where we often go to relax or walk with our dog. Besides the beach we also have a lot of forests around the city.



Time at the beach with Thomas' mother



Spooky at the beach



Hiking in the woods with our family



Together with Sander's father, his wife and friends



The playground next to our house



Our street



The park across the street

The neighborhood we live in can be described as quiet and child-friendly. We live in the center of Bruges, as a result of the narrow streets there is little through traffic. There are a lot of schools and lots of children. Located across our street is the city's largest park with a big playground. It is a very safe place to raise a family.



Child events in the park



We live in a terraced house that we rent. The house consists of a living room, dining room, kitchen, two bathrooms. On the first floor overlooks a small garden. On the first floor there are a bathroom and two rooms, one of which is our second living room where we watch television and read etc. while the other serves as a guest room. The room we are currently using as a guest room will be your future baby room. On the second floor there is another bathroom, dressing and our bedroom.



Our house and Sander in our car



Living rooms



Our kitchen, Sander loves to cook



Our bedroom





Future baby room



Our garden

Let us introduce you to our housemates. Spookey is a 10-year-old beagle. He has a very stubborn, sweet and friendly character and is very easy going. Spookey is very popular with children (and adults) of all ages; they love to walk with him. We often take him to the beach near our house or the forest. Billy is our 5-year-old cat. He is always hungry and literally does anything for food. He loves relaxing and taking a nap on our lap. They often play with each other and sleep on the same pillow sometimes.



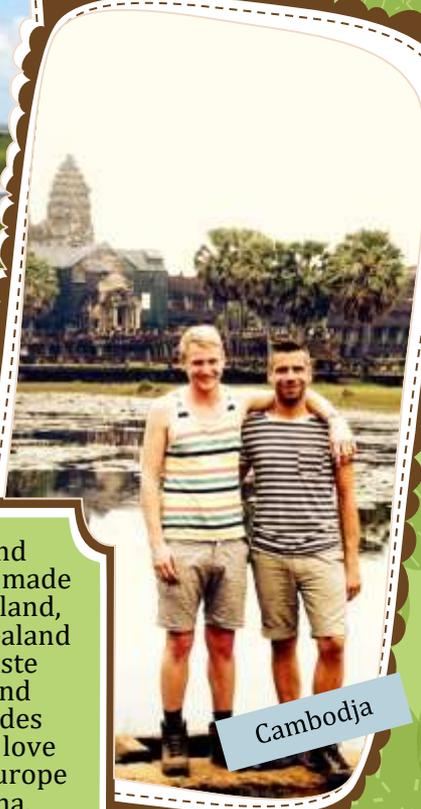
Our housemates



Backpacking in Vietnam



Our camper van in New Zealand



Cambodja

We both love to travel and explore the world. We have made incredible journeys to Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, New Zealand and China. We love the taste from different cultures and meeting new people. Besides these big journeys we also love to go to different cities in Europe such as London, Barcelona, Rome, Vienna, Paris, Stockholm, Valencia and Venice. We hope our next journey, for sure the biggest journey of our lives, will be to the USA.



Hiking in China



Diving in Thailand



Celebrating New Year's Eve in Paris

Preparing for a dive in Thailand



Thomas about Sander

I have always had a good connection with Sander. He is an amazing partner, friend and person. He is caring, warm, responsible and funny. I can truly say that Sander is a great manager and one of his strengths is to handle stressful situations as if nothing is going on. We share the same passion at work but besides that we also have a lot of the same interests such as travelling, culture, movies, swimming and horseback riding. We spend a lot of time together and have a lot of mutual friends. He is great with children, at work but also with the children of our family and friends. He will be a great father when we are lucky enough to adopt.



Together at work

Sander about Thomas

I have known Thomas since 2008. He is a very warm and passionate person. Thomas really cares about people. He is always willing to help friends and family. He likes to spend his free time with them. At work he is an energetic caretaker, who really loves his job. Within the team he is a team player who can motivate and encourage other team members. His contact with children is sincere and they really love him. At work he runs a special program for disabled children with so much enthusiasm and dedication. Besides the program he plays, as a person, an important role in their lives. In our relationship he is the creative and positive person. He is a great person to live with and I am sure he will be a father who will truly love and take care of your child endlessly.



We both like horsebackriding

Zookeepers

We both work at the same zoo with marine mammals and pelicans. Sander started as a researcher and is currently the zoological manager of the whole department. Thomas works as an animal caretaker.

We are both very passionate about our profession. Besides taking care of dolphins, sea lions, seals and pelicans, we have interactive contact with our visitors on a daily basis. This contact varies in interactive programs, schoolchildren, therapy children and summer camps.

We are very lucky, we can take the opportunity to go on parental leave for at least three months to spend time with your child. After these months Thomas will be able to take an extra day off each week, we will work more independently from each other so your child will always be with one of us. When we both have to work we have selected a great daycare nearby our work and also family and friends are willing to babysit.



Blind children visiting the zoo



Sea lion presentation



Our six colleagues



Press at work



Ultrasound on a pregnant dolphin



Summer camp pelican interaction

We have lots of young nieces and nephews. Twins, Timo and Britt, who are 4 years old. Silvijn 2 years, Julian almost 1 year and Zoe she is almost 1 year old. All of our brothers and sisters, as well as our parents, are thrilled to become grandparents, uncles and aunts. They all show their full support and will be able to help us all the way through this exciting journey.



With Timo and Britt in the zoo



Timo and Britt in a rollercoaster for the first time!



Taking a walk with Zoe



Together Timo and Britt and the rest of Sanders family



Thomas' mom, Silvijn, Zoe and Julian



Timo and Britt



Babysitting Silas and Sen



We are lucky to be surrounded by wonderful friends. Here you can see our closest friends. Some we know since our childhood and some we met living in Belgium. Our Belgian friends all have young children and we are very close with them. We love to baby sit. We also have friends who adopted children from the states, it is great to share our experiences. They are all very exciting for us to build our family and we can not wait to let our children meet each other!

Our friends An and Stijn with their kids



Our friends Bas and Hielke, they adopted 'Max' from the States



Our friend An Sofie



Thomas playing with Silas, Jinthe and Iben



Sander with Sen in an amusementpark



The birth of Silas, the son of Sabrina and Saskia



Silvijn, Timo and Britt



Easter with Thomas' family



Birthday party in park



Halloween party at work



Dinner on New Year's Eve with friends



Our tree



Home baked birthday cake



Christmas with friends

We love the holidays. Our favorite holidays are Halloween and Christmas. We think it is very important to spend these days with family and friends.

We try to celebrate our birthdays every year. We do this at home or, when the weather is good, we take all our drinks and snacks outside to the park. We have already planned to celebrate real American traditions such as Thanksgiving Day.

Dear Birth Parent,

We are open to adopting a child of any race and gender. We have chosen the USA because of its openness and the possibility to be in contact with you before and after the birth. We have tremendous respect for your difficult decision; that you are able to put the interest of your child first says a lot about you as a person . We just want to say that if you choose us we will take care of your child in the most loving and warm way we can.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact us. We wish you much strength in making this decision.

Please contact our adoption agency Forever Families Through Adoption at www.foreverfamielsthroughadoption.org or #914-939-1180, toll free number #866-922-3678, or our adoption attorney Michael Goldstein #1-800-582-3678 for more information.

Sincerely, Thomas and Sander