



# Helping Homeless Kittens: It Pays to Act Quickly!

When Community Cat Coordinator, Phyllis Becker, learned that a group of 11 cats—2 adult females plus 9 kittens—needed help from Pet Pals, she urged the cats’ caretaker to act as quickly as possible. Kittens born to outdoor cats can be tamed and adopted into loving homes, but only if they have human contact at a young age.

The kind person who had been feeding the cats managed to catch 7 of the kittens fairly quickly. They were about 6 to 7 weeks old and were already hissing and spitting at any hint of human contact. But when Phyllis arrived to pick them up, one tiny guy stood out from the pack. He came forward to lick food off of a spatula and allow a little petting. Little Tristan went to Hadlock Veterinary Clinic for a quick check up and then straight to the shelter, where he was quickly adopted.

Using gloves, Phyllis and her husband Paul moved the remaining six kittens to a big cozy crate. Phyllis fed them baby food from a spoon and gently petted them while they ate. She wanted to start a little bit of socializing since it would be several days before they could get a vet appointment.



Tristan was the tamest of all of the kittens and the first to be adopted. His family says he is doing great!

Photo credit: Deja Webster

Once the kittens had a clean bill of health, two fosterers—one from Pet Pals and one from the shelter—stepped forward to work with them. By this time, they were over 8 weeks old and it was clear that they would not all be easily socialized. Four of the kittens finally went to the shelter but two remain with their foster mom for further socializing.

Meanwhile, back at the feral cat colony, two adults and two kittens were still at large—and the adults were pregnant again! At Phyllis’s urging they were all finally trapped and taken to be spayed and neutered. Too old to be tamed, all four went back to their original home where they remain outdoor cats.

Thanks to Pet Pals, our generous veterinarians, and our collaboration with the shelter, there was a happy ending for all of these cats. Each has been spayed or neutered and all are regularly fed. But, without a doubt, the kittens who were caught early ended up with the best deal—an indoor home and an affectionate relationship with their humans.



Little Leo was lucky enough to be caught early so he could be tamed and find his forever home.

Photo credit: Deja Webster



Three little kittens are happy to be in a warm home as they learn to enjoy human contact

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## WHO'S WHO IN OLYMPIC MOUNTAIN PET PALS

### Board of Directors

Pam Kolacy, President  
385-5694, [twotents@olypen.com](mailto:twotents@olypen.com)

Kate Schumann, Vice President  
385-4896, [kate@olympus.net](mailto:kate@olympus.net)

Kay Adamson, Treasurer  
301-3682, [kjadamson98368@gmail.com](mailto:kjadamson98368@gmail.com)

Randi Winter, Secretary  
379-2695, [rlwintin@cablespeed.com](mailto:rlwintin@cablespeed.com)

Phyllis Becker  
437-9085, [phyllisbecker@cablespeed.com](mailto:phyllisbecker@cablespeed.com)

Carla Ellis  
385-3950, [carla@cs.duke.edu](mailto:carla@cs.duke.edu)

Connie Graham  
379-1798, [connie@accmeals.com](mailto:connie@accmeals.com)

Donna Regester  
385-1385, [dregester@gmail.com](mailto:dregester@gmail.com)

### Program Contacts

#### COMMUNITY CAT PROGRAM:

Phyllis Becker, program coordinator,  
and area coordinator for Chimacum and  
Marrowstone Island, 437-9085

Donna Regester, Port Hadlock, 385-1385

Connie Graham, Port Townsend, 379-1798

Carol Winjum, Brinnon, 796-4705

Terrie Burnston, Quilcene, 765-3889

**NEWSLETTER:** Ginny Messina and  
Carla Ellis

**PETS TO PEOPLE:** Carla Ellis

**READ TO ROVER PROGRAM:**

Kate Schumann and Carla Ellis

**SPAY/NEUTER ASSISTANCE:** Pam Gray  
385-7263, [pamgray@olypen.com](mailto:pamgray@olypen.com)

### Board of Advisors

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Olympic Mountain Pet Pals is a 501(c)(3) (non-profit) organization whose mission is to prevent the birth of unwanted pets and feral cats through our spay and neuter programs. We are funded by donations and grants.

For more information about Olympic Mountain  
Pet Pals, visit our website at [www.ompetpals.org](http://www.ompetpals.org)

## From the President

I'm trying to alternate "cat" and "dog" columns for the newsletter – partly because it is an opportunity to show you photos of my own adorable pets to accompany the column.

Since this is a "cat" issue, it is very appropriate for this column to recognize one of our Pet Pals founding board members, Ginny Messina, who is leaving Port Townsend to pursue great new adventures nearer to the East coast.

Ginny joined the board as we transitioned from JCASA to Pet Pals in 2001 as a representative of the newly formed local feral cat group. Since then she has worked tirelessly for our organization, creating and editing our newsletter, generating copy for our promotions and events, tending our social media presence, fundraising, and sharing her considerable expertise about community cats.

Ginny walks the walk, volunteering at the local shelter and rescuing many homeless kitties. These former strays can't believe their luck as the Messina home boasts



Pam and her cat, Ollie

a state of the art cat enclosure that allows the feline gang to be outside but still safe from cars and predators.

Ginny is also a highly respected dietitian who is always busy writing books and articles, editing, publishing, traveling, and advising others on vegan nutrition as The Vegan RD. She truly demonstrates a compassion for animals in her work and in her life that is an inspiration to us all. Although we are excited for this new chapter in her life, we will miss her terribly as a member of the Pet Pals Board of Directors and of the Port Townsend community.

Thank you, Ginny, for your expertise, your friendship, and the work you do every day to make the world a better place for our animal friends.



Ginny at her Farewell Party

- Pam Kolacy



# How Our Programs Make a Difference

Our dedicated and compassionate Spay/Neuter Coordinator, Pam Gray, provides the Pet Pals board with reports of some of the issues she encounters each month as she assists the clients of our low-income spay/neuter program. We've found that many folks who have small or virtually no resources are kind enough to take on abandoned dogs, cats, puppies and kittens. But then they find that the cost of spay or neuter plus medical care is well beyond their means.

Some examples from Pam's files: "Kitten was thrown out on the road by the Visitor Center on Beaver Valley Rd and rescuer needs help with spay/neuter;" "Fiancés' mother picked up a cat from a homeless guy in the Safeway parking lot and gave it to her;" "Unemployed mom whose house is in short sale/possible foreclosure wants to get 2 year old cat spayed;" "Client has no income, lives and cares with a father who has Alzheimer's and a friend gave her a cat in heat;" "Client is couch surfing with her male black lab, no income;" "Got a pit bull from a stranger and wants to get him neutered."



Photo credit: Deja Webster of  
Deja View Photography

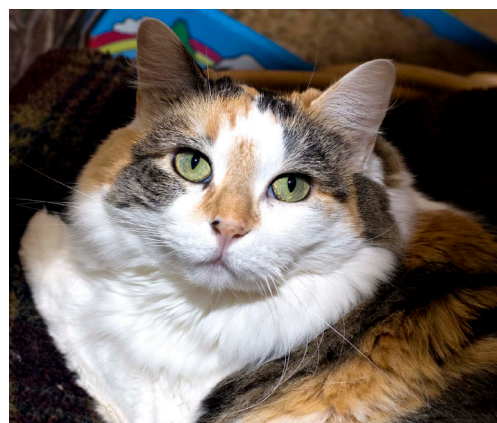


Photo credit: Deja Webster of Deja View Photography

The good news is that these people all want to do the right thing and have fortunately been connected with Pet Pals. Working through Pam and our amazing local vets, they arrange to have the animals spayed or neutered. Sometimes, other medical problems are addressed with a subsidy from our Ginger's Fund program.

We want everyone to be good stewards of their animals and in turn receive the love and support from dogs and cats that sometimes make an enormous difference in their lives. Pam goes the extra mile when necessary, helping clients fill out applications and sometimes coordinating a trip to the vet clinic.

In 2014, we fixed 128 dogs and 200 cats of local residents at a total cost of \$24,203.33 – almost one animal per day for the entire year! As of August 2015, we have fixed 81 dogs and 96 cats for a total of \$12,917 - with some large bills to come as we work with clients who have multiple pets.

We are proud to be a resource for local residents and thankful to our donors for making this program possible.

## Thank You

### Olympic Mountain Pet Pals Thanks These Local Businesses for Their In-Kind Contributions:

- **Kathy Stanger of Macs Macaroons** for making our READ to ROVER scarves and tasty dog treats
- **Lucky Dog Training Center**, owned by Georgia Towle, for therapy dog testing
- **OlympusNet**, owned by Kate and Ned Schumann, for hosting our website
- **Olympic Mailing Service**, owned by Caroline Stuckey, for handling the mailing of our newsletter.
- **The Food Co-op** for carrying our Pet Pals Palate Pleasers cookbook and including us in their Beans for Bags program.
- **Uptown Dental Clinic** for including us in their patient donation program.
- **Helmsman Financial** for help with our accounts.

### Thank You to the World's Best Veterinarians!

Our spay/neuter programs depend on the generous help of our veterinarians and their staffs:

**Dr. Ginny Johnson, Dr. Cindy Alexander and Dr. Melissa Steinmetz** of **Hadlock Veterinary Clinic**,

**Dr. Jeff Highbarger** of **Chimacum Valley Veterinary Hospital**,

**Dr. Madelyn Curll** of **Oak Bay Animal Hospital**

# Meet Our New Vets

Our wonderful veterinarians are at the heart of our efforts to end pet homelessness. We recently welcomed two new veterinarians to our spay/neuter programs.

**Dr. Melissa Steinmetz** joined the staff of Hadlock Veterinary Clinic this past June. She is a Washington State native who attended Washington State University for both her undergraduate degree and her doctorate in Veterinary Medicine. “I’ve wanted to be a veterinarian since I was old enough to know what it was,” she says. Her professional interests include behavior, internal medicine, geriatric care and exotic and wildlife medicine.



Dr. Curll

Dr. Steinmetz’s own animals include Luke, a husky/lab mix and Obi, an Anatolian Shepherd; cats Sputnik, Mir and Leroy; two parakeets, Honey Badger and Optimus prime; and a hamster, Zuzu. In her free time she enjoys hiking, camping, traveling, crafting and gardening. She is a lifetime member of the Girl Scouts.

**Dr. Madelyn Curll**, who owns the Oak Bay Animal Hospital in Port Hadlock has been involved with Pet Pals for a number of years as part of our Ginger’s Fund program. She recently joined our spay/neuter program as well. Dr. Curll graduated from Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine in 1981 and has worked in the Seattle area at the Lake Forest Park Animal Hospital and on Bainbridge Island. She has extensive knowledge of veterinary medicine, surgery and dentistry.



Dr. Steinmetz

## Dogs Off-Leash: Keep Them Safe

An email from Pet Pals supporter Sheila Piccini, who owns Secret Gardens Nursery, recently alerted us to one of the dangers that curious dogs can encounter. Sheila’s dog Joleen nearly died after eating a poisoned rat. The rat had died after eating a common poison called *zinc phosphide* that someone in the neighborhood had put out. (Secret Gardens doesn’t use rat poison since the resident barn cats keep rodents under control.) When Joleen gulped down the recently deceased rat, she became deathly ill immediately. Fortunately, she received emergency care in the nick of time. With this type of poison, a few minutes could make the difference between life and death.

Dogs enjoying a run on the beach may encounter another life-threatening hazard if they snack on dead salmon that have washed up on the sand. Salmon Poisoning Disease is a fatal disease of dogs who eat raw salmon infected with a bacteria called *Neorickettsia helminthoeca*. It’s specific to the Pacific Northwest.

Dogs love the freedom of running off-leash which can be great exercise as well as mentally stimulating. Just make sure your dog is always within eyesight and that he or she will come when called—and that you stay alert to anything that could turn into a deadly encounter.



A good recall is important for safe off-leash runs on the beach



# Fall Gardening Helps Local Animals



Gardening for animal lovers

Once again, our friends at Secret Gardens Nursery are holding a plant sale to raise money for local animal groups, including Pet Pals. All plants will be 20% off whether or not you donate, but with a small donation, you'll reap even more savings.

Donate \$10.00 and receive an additional 10% off or 30% off on all plants.

Donate \$20.00 and receive an additional 20% off or 40% off all plants

Donate \$40.00 and receive an additional 40% off or 60% off all plants.

When you make your purchase, you can specify that you'd like the donation to go to Pet Pals. Donations and discounted plants must be paid for by cash or check. This sale will last until the end of the year and once you make your donation you can return to buy plants as many times as you like and receive your discount. It's a great way to help animals while you brighten up your end of the year garden.

## Call for *READ to ROVER* Volunteers in Brinnon and Quilcene

Having learned about the successful READ to ROVER programs in Port Townsend and Chimacum, residents of Quilcene and Brinnon have started exploring how they can start READ to ROVER programs in their school districts. Their school administrators are excited about this idea.

However, key to making this happen is recruiting local volunteers who are interested in participating. If you live in one of those areas and would like to share your love of reading and your love for your good dog with young kids, please consider getting involved. Pet Pals will provide the therapy dog certification and the insurance necessary.

If you are interested in becoming a READ to ROVER volunteer team in the Quilcene or Brinnon schools, please contact **Lisa Aniballi** at (360) 821-9297 or by email at [lisaaniballi@hotmail.com](mailto:lisaaniballi@hotmail.com).

Finally, we can use additional READ to ROVER teams at Grant Street Elementary School in Port Townsend. To participate in one of our existing READ to ROVER programs, contact Kate Schumann at 385-4896.



Rudy and Phyllis make reading fun

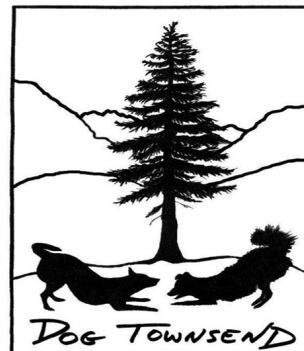


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# Jefferson County Realtors Support Kids and *READ to ROVER*



Second graders at Chimacum Creek Primary School are excited to be wearing their new bright *READ to ROVER* tee shirts.

**K**im Pratt, who coordinates the program for the Chimacum School District thought the cheerful shirts would be a great way to build a community of proud and enthusiastic readers at the school. Her idea became a reality thanks to her fund-raising efforts and the support of the local community, especially the Jefferson County Association of Realtors for funding the shirt project in the 2015-16 school year.

Two years ago, with the help of Elma Berry and Ginny Albrecht (volunteers extraordinaire), solicitations for the project were made to various local businesses. The response was truly amazing. Donations came in from all over! (See our website for a full list of 2013-14 sponsors.)

It only took one Friday's *READ to ROVER* experience for Karen Newman, President of the Friends of Chimacum Schools, to become a fan of the program as well as the generous sponsor of the tee-shirt project for 2014-15.

Last spring, Kim organized a presentation about the *READ to ROVER* program for the Jefferson County Association of Realtors. She brought along several of our therapy dogs to show how well they behave (aside from some drool since it was a lunchtime event). The event included a cake auction, held by the realtors, to raise money for this year's shirts.

So if you see kids around town wearing red shirts with the *READ to ROVER* logo, ask them how much they like reading with dogs at school. And, if you know a local realtor or other "friend of the Rovers", thank them for their support of young *READers*.



Kim Pratt and Chimacum Creek Principal, Mark Barga, enthusiastically support *READ to ROVER*

## DONORS

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Carolynn Moody  
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## IN HONOR OF...

**Best Sister Barbara Perolini**  
Kathy Krause

**David Krabill**  
Jane Krabill

**Jim Sherwood**  
Jim and Noreen McCarron

**My cat Amy**  
Sandy Guinup

**My daughter Rhonda Scharf's Birthday**  
Eva Ahlson

**Smoke, my beloved**  
Maria Holtgrave

**Ted Barkhoefer and Pam Rogge**  
Linda Martin and Mike Cornforth

**Violet Schroeder's 90th Birthday**  
Jan Schroeder

## IN MEMORY OF...

**Michael Gohn**  
Candice Gohn

**Asia, Becky Shipley's READ to Rover dog**  
Carla Ellis and Rick Floyd

**Champ, our beloved dog**  
Kenneth and Christine Hohman

**Chester Wallydoodle, the Mayor of Uptown, beloved dog of Malcolm Dorn**  
Lilianne Glast

**Christina and Brad's beloved dog, Simon**  
Lilianne Glast  
Janet and Mike Mortenson

**Cocoa, beloved Labrador dog of Stan Goddard and Beth Mackey**  
Shirley and George Williams

**Cutter, mascot of the Commander's Beach House and friend of Sunny and Sammy**  
Janet and Mike Mortenson

**Feebe, the neighborhood cat, of Dianne Diamond**  
Karen and Tony DeLorenzo

**Gambit The Prince, my beloved cat**  
Stephen Morris

**Jake, beloved dog of Dana and Gary Lawn**  
Carolynn Moody

**Joy, beloved dog of Barb and Terry Fogerson**  
Pamela Rogge and Ted Barkhoefer

**Catherine and Frank McNabb's beloved dog Kaiju**  
Pam and Keith Kolacy

**Mickey (Mr. Mickers) beloved dog of Carolyn and Larry Hess**  
Phyllis and Paul Becker  
John and Donna English

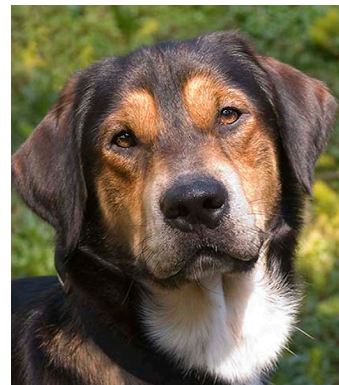


Photo credit: Deja Webster of Deja View Photography

**Morgan, beloved dog of Bill and Kay Darlington**  
Carolynn Moody

**Dr. Ginny Johnson's beloved dog, Mori**  
Ginny and Mark Messina  
Randi and Lindsay Winter  
Donna Regester

**Nash beloved dog of Gabrielle LaRoche and Thom Wylie**  
Pamela Rogge and Ted Barkhoefer

**Nellie, beloved dog of James Ellis**  
Carla Ellis and Rick Floyd

**Nicholas, our beloved cat**  
Jay and Cheryl Lowenstein

**Our beloved cats Frieda and Chloe**  
Karen and Tony DeLorenzo

**Sadie, beloved dog of Bob and Deb Williams**  
Judith and Ken Collins

**Samantha, beloved cat of Donna Regester**  
Phyllis and Paul Becker

**Beloved Suki of Tom and Linda Dacon**  
Karen and Tony DeLorenzo

**Vasi our beloved dog**  
Linda and George Hayes



# Double Your Impact in Helping Homeless Animals

Once again, Pet Pals supporters have an opportunity to see their donations doubled. A group of local citizens has stepped forward to match donations made by the end of the year. As we go to press, we have a commitment of \$3500.00 in matching funds. Please support Pet Pals as generously as you can. Your donations will help twice as many animals next year.



photo credit: Ned Schumann



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Deja View Photography

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