

Olympic Mountain PET PALS

Dedicated to better lives for companion animals.

Promoting
Spay & Neuter in
Jefferson County
Spring 2017



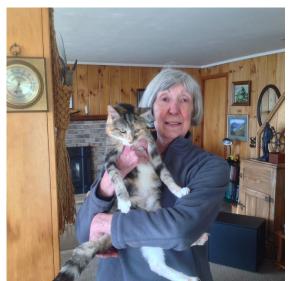
Carol Winjum Retires From Feral/Community Cat Program

MPP started its Feral Cat Program in 2001, seeing the need for a TNR (Trap-Neuter-Return) Program to humanely control populations of feral cats in Jefferson County. Carol Winjum of Brinnon joined the program in 2003 as representative for her area. Since then, she has facilitated the spay/neuter of 310 cats, noting that most of the cats were TNR'd during the earlier years. She lent traps to people, coached them on how to trap the cats, and transported many trapped cats to our participating veterinarians and back to Brinnon to be returned to their place of capture.



Carol with Goldie and Blackie photo credit: Cathy White

Carol recalls that
"One morning, she,
Terrie Burnston
(rep from the
Quilcene area) and
Phyllis Becker (rep
for Chimacum)
all appeared with
trapped cats at
Hadlock Vet Clinic,
and the vets and staff
generously agreed to



Carol and cat, Molly photo credit: Cathy White

get them all spay/neutered in spite of their busy schedule."

Calls to Carol for help with cat issues have declined in recent years, and with that in mind, Carol has announced her retirement from the program. She is quick to add that she is willing to help if needed and will alert other program volunteers to situations that need attention.

We thank Carol for her years of service to the welfare of cats in the Brinnon area.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

| Carol Winjum Retires From | |
|--|---|
| Feral/Community Cat Program | 1 |
| From the President | 2 |
| Pet Pals is Grateful for Community Support | 3 |
| Thank Yous | 3 |
| READ to ROVER Teams Contribute to | |
| Chimacum Choice | 4 |
| | |

| Becoming a Pet Pals Therapy Dog Team5 | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Remembering Nels "Oke" Lindh5 | |
| Donors6 | |
| In honor of7 | |
| In memory of7 | |
| Feral Cat Becomes "Lion" 8 | |

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Donna Regester, Port Hadlock, 385-1385 Connie Graham, Port Townsend, 379-1798

Terrie Burnston, Quilcene, 765-3889

NEWSLETTER: Carla Ellis

PETS TO PEOPLE: Carla Ellis

READ TO ROVER PROGRAM:

Kate Schumann and Carla Ellis

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Olympic Mountain Pet Pals is a 501(c)(3) (nonprofit) organization whose mission is to prevent the birth of unwanted pets and community 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

From the President

 ■ hen we adopted our dog, Mingus, from the local shelter, he was just about out of time. We received some information on his background, and it turns out he was one of the many pets who are purchased, and then for some reason are "gifted" to a friend, relative or stranger, and finally end up at the shelter. Gus was a good dog but after trying to readjust to three different homes and then the shelter, he was starting to exhibit some behaviors that made him less adoptable. Luckily, he found a family who saw his potential and was willing to work with him so his true sweet nature could win out. This is a very common story – so many animals end up at the



Pam and her dog, Gus

shelter or abandoned because their owners did not give much thought to the time and financial investment involved in pet ownership. They may have thought it would be "fun" to have puppies or kittens and then found themselves at a loss for how to "get rid" of them. In some cases, spay/neuter was simply not on the radar or not affordable.

Our serious efforts to curb the overpopulation that leads to this type of scenario are reflected in our 2016 annual report. Since 2001, we have funded spay/neuter procedures for 6,936 animals in Jefferson County. Our programs cover low income family pets as well as homeless community cats. The number of births prevented is staggering and is a primary reason our local shelter does not need to euthanize animals due to lack of space. We are happy to provide a helping hand for those who want to be responsible owners but cannot afford these procedures for their pets.

The complete annual report for 2016 is posted on our website: ompetpals.org. It shows the number of animals served and gives a capsule view of our very successful outreach programs (Read to Rover, Pets to People) and the many partnerships we have enjoyed this last year.

Speaking of partnerships, we urge you to support our local shelter by licensing your dogs. Not only will you contribute to the shelter's operating expenses with a small personal expenditure, licensing means if your dog goes astray, chances are much better your friend will be returned to you. A sustainable local shelter is of utmost importance to those who care about animals.

As always, I want to express our sincere appreciation to our supporters. When we began our mission, we didn't know the depth of the ongoing need for this service in our community. We are also excited about the impact of our Read to Rover program at local schools and Pets to People at senior facilities. We love our volunteers and therapy dogs who give so much of themselves to foster the animal to human connection. Whether you support our mission by volunteering, making memorial donations, caring for community cats, helping publicize our programs, or responding to our twice a year fundraising appeals, you make it possible for us to help local people and pets. Thank you so much!

Pet Pals is Grateful for Community Support

O lympic Mountain Pet Pals is extremely gratified by all the support we receive from local community organizations.

First of all, we're thrilled to receive a new grant for 2017 from the **HTB Family Fund** to support our Low-income Spay/Neuter Program. This grant will provide an additional \$7,000 to our budget for veterinary services. Last year's grant allowed us to spay 30 female dogs, neuter 27 male dogs, spay 24 female cats, and neuter 31 male cats for low-income households. The total impact was 112 animals that have been prevented from contributing future unwanted litters and that can benefit from improved health prospects for the rest of their lives. This new grant will enable us to continue this vital work. Pet Pals is extremely grateful to the HTB Family for their ongoing support.





Pet Pals board member, Kim Pratt, accepts a generous donation from the Wild Clovers Dog 4H Club

We also thank the **Quimper Unitarian Universalist Fellowship** for designating the offerings from their January 8th service for us. The congregation generously contributed \$897. Read to Rover dog, Sunny, especially enjoyed attending their morning service that featured composting.

We are also grateful that the **Wild Clovers Dog 4-H Club** chose the Olympic Mountain Pet Pals as a fund raising community service project after researching our programs. They sold their hand made leashes, dog biscuits and training bags at the Chimacum Arts and Crafts Fair and donated \$525 to Pet Pals.

Thank you to Sheila Piccini, owner of **Secret Gardens Nursery**, who offered a fall sale that provided special discounts for customers who included a donation to Pet Pals when they made their purchases. Thanks also to our supporters who made donations in response to her offer. Pet Pals has received \$450 as a result.

Thank Yous

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 including us in their Beans for Bags program.
- Helmsman Financial for help with our accounts.
- Deja View Photography, owned by Deja Webster, for providing photos of shelter dogs and cats for the newsletter.

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**



Photo credit: Deja Webster of Deja View Photography

Read to Rover Teams Contribute to Chimacum Choice

himacum Choice is an enrichment program in the Chimacum School District that started 30 years ago. Teachers, HS students, parents, and volunteers from the community offer a range of topics that give the students an opportunity to experience novel and exciting activities that go beyond the everyday school curriculum. This year, the Chimacum Primary Read to Rover teams were asked if we might be interested in sharing our dogs with the kids in a new way.



Elementary School kids acting as the robber and as the voices of the dogs (top to bottom), Jeeves, Toby and Sunny.



Primary School kids enjoy art projects about dogs.

In the Elementary School (grades 3-5), Read to Rover volunteers offered two days of "Dog Theatre" in which we read a play to solve "The Case of the Stolen Library Book." Kids had roles that included the voices of the 4 dogs who participated, their fictional owners, a cop, a robber, a library cat, and a crow attracted by shiny objects. Of course, the dogs eventually solve the crime and find the missing book, using their noses to sniff out clues. Along the way, the students got a demonstration of the dog sport called nosework and expressed interesting opinions about what the birch scent we used smelled like to them. The Read to Rover dog actors were Pam Rogge's Jeeves, Pat Swain's Lily, Carla Ellis's Sunny, and Connie Jump's Toby, chauffeured by Maurene Morgan.

There have been three consecutive Fridays in the Primary School Chimacum Choice (grades 1 and 2). The kids learn about how to be safe around dogs. This covers skills such as always asking the owner if it is OK to pet their dog, how to give a treat safely, what to do if an off-leash dog runs toward you, and how to tell if a dog might not be friendly by understanding dog body language. Other activities include dog-themed art projects and, of course, sitting down with a dog to read a book. Read to Rover volunteers participating in one or more of the Primary School sessions are Pat Swain with Lily, Sue Peterson with Amber, Lana O'Neill with Darby, and Carla Ellis with Sunny.

Kids settle down to read with Darby



Elementary School kids reading their scripts



Lily helps Primary School kids learn about safety around dogs.



Become a Pet Pals Therapy Dog Team!

f you love spending quality time with your dog, but you also want to spend time in a volunteer activity that lets you contribute to your community, consider combining these two demands on your time and becoming a Pet Pals therapy dog team! This will enable you to participate in our Read to Rover Program in the schools and/or our Pets to People Program, visiting senior residents in local assisted living facilities. We are always looking to recruit new volunteers with their wonderful dogs. Ideally therapy dogs should be loving, empathic and well-socialized toward humans (of all ages, genders and abilities) and other dogs. If you have ever thought that you would love to participate in one of our outreach programs, but weren't sure your dog was therapy dog material. we encourage you to explore the possibility. This article will give you an idea of what to expect.

Our therapy dog test is a modified version of the American Kennel Club's **Canine Good Citizen (CGC)** test. The evaluator will greet the dog/handler team, shaking hands with the handler. The dog may show casual interest but not show aggression, bark, lunge, or jump on the evaluator. The evaluator will ask "May I pet your dog?" and then pet the dog, examine ears and front feet, and run a comb lightly over the dog. For the therapy dog part, this includes "clumsy petting" as might be done by someone who is very young or in an assisted living facility. The evaluator will ask the handler to show that the dog will sit and lie down on command, stay in place while the handler walks 20 feet away and returns to the dog, and stay in place and then come when called, from a distance of about 10 feet away. Next, the evaluator will instruct the handler to walk with the dog on a loose leash. While the dog should not pull on the leash, formal "heeling" is not required. Next, a "crowd" will be assembled, possibly including children, people in wheelchairs or using walkers or crutches, people acting erratically, and people running or skipping. The crowd will randomly mill around the room while the handler and dog pass through the crowd several times. The handler/dog team will encounter sound distractions, such as a dropped pan or book, or a ringing bell. The dog may startle but should recover quickly, and should not bark, lunge or act aggressively. The evaluator will instruct the handler to walk the dog around the perimeter of the room, past a toy and a food item on the floor. The handler may instruct the dog to "Leave it" (or similar

command) and the dog should not lunge for the toy or the food. Gentle corrections are allowed. The handler and dog will meet another handler with a neutral and friendly dog. The two handlers will stop, shake hands, and exchange a few words before continuing on. The dog(s) may show casual interest in each other, but should not try to sniff each other, bark, behave aggressively or fearfully, and should not cross over in front of or behind the handlers to approach each other. The handler will be asked to leave his/her dog with a "friendly stranger" for 2 minutes while the handler goes out of sight. The dog should not whine incessantly, bark, lunge or pull on the leash, pace, or act otherwise stressed. Mild concern is acceptable. The "friendly stranger" may speak to the dog and pet it briefly, but should not have to continually soothe it by petting or other means. Finally, the handler will be asked to go through a door with the dog waiting to follow through the open doorway upon command. The dog must not surge through the doorway ahead of the handler as soon as it is opened. Many dogs I see walking in town can pass these requirements, possibility with just a little extra practice.



Photo credit: Deja Webster of Deja View Photography

For more information and to schedule a test, please contact Georgia Towle at (360) 732-0908,

theluckydogtraining@gmail.com. To learn more, you may also go to http://ompetpals.org/therapy-dog-training-and-testing. We ask participants in our therapy dog programs to make an annual \$25 donation to Pet Pals which goes toward providing \$2M liability insurance for our volunteers while performing their therapy dog activities.

Remembering Nels "Oke" Lindh

We have been honored to have Nels "Oke" Lindh as a loyal supporter of Olympic Mountain Pet Pals through the years. Mr. Lindh, a resident of Port Hadlock, passed away on March 17, 2017 at age 85 and provided a bequest to OMPP in his will. Oke was born in Port Townsend, lived in Edmonds for many years and had a cabin on Thorndyke Bay on Hood Canal. A full and active life included time as a manager for the Washington Huskies rowing crew, military service in Korea, and a lifetime love of the outdoors. In 1998, he retired to a home he built near Port Hadlock. He loved his own dog, Gracie, who preceded him in death in 2016. We are moved by his kindness and generosity and are grateful for this legacy that will benefit families and animals in Jefferson County for years to come

Starting with this issue of the Pet Pals newsletter, we list donors for the entire calendar year (January - December) only in the spring issues. Thus, here is the list of 2016 donors.

"In Honor of" and "In Memory of" gifts will continue to be listed in every issue.

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IN HONOR OF...

Amy

Sandy Guinup

Bonnie Holt and Family

Janay Collins and Dave Loney

My daughter, **Debbie Andrews** *Eva Ahlson*

My daughter, **Rhonda Scharf** *Eva Ahlson*

Rhonda Scharf's birthday! *Debra Andrews*

Dr. Jim Sherwood

Jim and Noreen McCarron

Grizzer, wolf of Lori Schmidt

Johanna E. Goering

Nick, my beloved dog Thomas Dillon

My cats, Oreo and Max

Sandra Flaherty

Princess, our beloved pet *Mina and Michael Atkins*

Smoke, my beloved cat *Maria Holtgrave*

IN MEMORY OF...

John Bodger

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Michael Gohn

Candice Gohn

Oke Lindh

Phyllis and Paul Becker

Gabe Ornelas, husband of Robin Ornelas

Ron and Margo Garton

Jill Van Heusen

Susan and Mort Robinson

5-Ball, beloved kitty of Jennifer Regester

Donna Regester

Pam Gray's dog, Alex

Ginny and Mark Messina

Amadeus, beloved dog of Mr. & Mrs. David Tonkin *Kenneth and Christine*

Hohman

Annie, my beloved little happy

Carolynn Moody

Beloved dog, **Bear**

Sam and Lili Glast

Donna Regester's cat, **Becky Sue** *Ginny and Mark Messina*

Biggie, beloved best friend of Suzanne Lamon Bonnie and Nelson Ludlow

Bob and Kali, beloved cats of Center Valley Animal Rescue *Brighid McCarthy*

Beloved dog **Brandy** of Peach and Steve Stebbins Pam and Keith Kolacy

Marc and Laurie's beloved cat, Charlie

Mel and Erica Epling

Beloved dog **Chuey** of Linda Martin and Mike Cornforth Pamela Rogge and Ted Barkhoefer

Clarkie, beloved hand raised kitty of Lisa Pritchard

Bonnie and Nelson Ludlow

My Best Kitty Cleo

Nancy Stickney

Carla Ellis and Rick Floyd's dog, **Dilly**

Ginny and Mark Messina

Dolly and Shelby, our beloved

Karen and Chuck Russell

Read to Rover dog **Dolly** of Maria and Jeffrey Tangen

Kate and Ned Schumann

Beloved cat **Emma** of Nora and Randy Mitchell

Randy Mitchell
Pam and Keith Kolacy

Flora, beloved dog of Diane and Clinton Hurd *Donna Regester*

Elizabeth Reutlinger's Read to Rover dog, **Leica** Ginny and Mark Messina Lincoln, Read to Rover dog, of Patricia Hale and Paul Bishop Patricia Hale Carla Ellis and Rick Floyd Kate and Ned Schumann

Sweet kitty, **Mabel** and Lisa's dad, **Phil** W. Dwight Oberholtzer, PH.D. and Ellen Ostern

Maggie, beloved dog of Cheryl and Steve Shapiro Jane Krabill

Pam Kolacy's dog, **Mingus** *Ginny and Mark Messina*

Moly, beloved dog of Harold Nelson and Patti Reynolds Sally Rodgers Sam and Lily Glast

Onyx, Read to Rover dog and beloved companion of Georgia Towle and Patty Greeny Carla Ellis and Rick Floyd Phyllis Taylor
Kate and Ned Schumann Barbara McColgan Pamela Rogge and Ted Barkhoefer

Beloved dog **Ozzie** of Steve Gimbel Sally Rodgers

Rocko, my beloved cat *Bonnie Masi*



Photo credit: Deja Webster of Deja View Photography

Deja's wonderful dog, **Ruby** *Mel and Erica Epling*

Sammy, our beloved cat

Emily Holmes and Vern

Barnett

Carrie Andrew's dog, **Tacy** *Ginny and Mark Messina*

T-Lou, beloved dog of Jeanie Murphy and Scott Marckx *Randi and Lindsay Winter*

Trinity, a Read to Rover dog, beloved by Heidi Ruegg *Carla Ellis and Rick Floyd*

Ulysses, beloved dumpster kitty of Lisa Pritchard *Bonnie and Nelson Ludlow*





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Feral Cat Becomes "Lion"



n unowned, presumably feral, cat trapped in Quilcene turned out to be tame, but was so severely matted that while undergoing neuter surgery at Hadlock Vet Clinic through our Feral/Community Cat Program, he had to be shaved down to the skin to remove the mats. The little "lion" was adopted to a great home through the Humane Society of Jefferson County.

Please, brush your longhaired cats regularly or they too could require a close shave.

Community Cat Finn, the "lion" Photo credit: Ellen Heinemann

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