



Olympic Mountain PET PALS

*Dedicated to better lives
for companion animals.*

Promoting
Spay & Neuter in
Jefferson County
Fall 2017



Community Cat Family Gets Help

Feral/Community Cat Program coordinator, Phyllis Becker, got a call in June from a woman in Port Hadlock who noticed a cat going underneath her deck quite often. She started feeding it and, some time later, three kittens emerged with mom cat. Phyllis provided a trap and the cat family was caught. The mom was feral, so she was spayed and adopted out through the Humane Society of Jefferson County's "barn home" program. Fortunately, the kittens were young enough to tame. Phyllis had them for about a week in her garage cage. Forced proximity to humans is essential in taming feral kittens, and Phyllis got as close to them as she could. (Notice the leather gloves for safe handling.)



Phyllis starts the process of taming the kittens

photo credit: Paul Becker



A volunteer at the Humane Society was able to take the kittens and complete the socialization process in her home. After spay/neuter, they were adopted to good homes through the Humane Society. Volunteers are essential in creating a good outcome for homeless animals!

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WHO'S WHO IN OLYMPIC MOUNTAIN PET PALS

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NEWSLETTER: Carla Ellis

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Ginny Messina
Kathleen Mitchell
Bob Podrat
Michelle Sandoval

Olympic Mountain Pet Pals is a 501(c)(3) (non-profit) 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.ompetspals.org

From the President

A friend forwarded me an interesting New York Times article about stray dogs in India. As I read it, I realized that we can take some lessons from this approach to animal welfare. India's Constitution says every Indian should "have compassion for living creatures". The government has made a decision not to kill strays but to reduce the population gradually through sterilization. Animal welfare experts call this a "virtuous circle," saying "sterilized dogs which don't have puppies or prowl around for mates tend to be more relaxed, which makes people less fearful of them, which makes the dogs friendlier, which makes people even more accepting of them." Stray populations in the United States are more likely to be cats but the same philosophy holds true for them.

As we in the U.S. have begun to label cats without homes "community" cats rather than "feral" cats, so has India begun to use the term "community" rather than "stray." The cat population we refer to includes strays that have come from generations of homeless animals and are thus "feral" as well as animals newly on their own who still have a chance for a good life if they can be rescued and adopted.

Niharika Kishan Gandhi, a wealthy Indian woman who feeds more than 100 community dogs every day, speculates on why Indians, in general, seem especially friendly to animals. "It comes down to tolerance," she said. "It's crowded here, it's diverse, and to survive, you need to be tolerant. The more tolerant you are, the more compassion you have."

Compassion is at the core of our mission and services for animals in Jefferson County. We care about homeless cats that, without intervention, produce litters that increase the feral cat population exponentially. We care about cats and dogs suddenly on their own when abandoned by their owners. We care about members of the community who have pets but can't afford basic care for them. We care about animals abandoned on the street or in shelters because they have no home. We care about making sure kids understand how valuable animals are in our lives. We care about seniors who miss their beloved pets.

Supporting Pet Pals helps assure that we can continue to provide programs that target all of these needs. The community cat and low income spay/neuter programs provide free sterilization for animals in order to curb the population and reduce the number of dogs and cats who are homeless. Ginger's Fund defrays expenses for emergency medical care for pets of low income residents. Our outreach programs bring therapy dogs to grade school kids and seniors.

In these turbulent and confusing times, embracing tolerance and compassion is more important than ever. Doing what we can in our small corner of the world is a start. Our most profound thanks to those of you who find it in your hearts to contribute to our work. We can make a difference.

Speaking of compassion, retiring Board member Donna Regester has dedicated her services not only to Pet Pals, but to many other animal welfare organizations. She has nurtured countless kittens so they can have happy homes with adoptive parents and provided a home herself for lucky dogs and cats, many of whom needed a special home. She also dedicated many hours to entering information into our database and made the process much smoother since its inception. We are happy that, although leaving our Board of Directors, Donna will continue to be active as a Pet Pals volunteer. Thank you Donna!



Pam and her cat, Ollie

Changes in the Pet Pals Board

Donna Regester, board member since 2008, is scaling back on her task load for Pet Pals, retiring from the board at the end of this year. Donna moved to Jefferson County in 2004 from California, where she was involved with kitten fostering (several hundred over a ten-year period) and off-site adoption events for a humane society there. After learning about OMPP's Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) program for reducing feral cat populations in 2005, she became a volunteer for that program, and joined our board several years later, still continuing her work with the feral cats, and also fostering countless litters of kittens and taking on the management of our membership database. "I plan to continue volunteering with Pet Pals because I firmly believe in their spay/neuter programs. It's the only way to reduce pet overpopulation and euthanasia of healthy adoptable animals at shelters." Donna will still be involved with TNR and fostering kittens for Pet Pals. She also volunteers with the Humane Society of Jefferson County, and Center Valley Animal Rescue. With her range of experience in the county's animal welfare organizations, she encourages people to consider adopting older pets: "Some of us are getting older, and can better appreciate older pets' needs for love and care." Donna lives in the Port Townsend area with her rescued dogs and cats. We thank her for her past service, and her continued help towards our mission.



Retiring board member, Donna Regester
photo credit: Phyllis Becker

Kim Pratt has also recently retired from the board which she joined in 2016 on a one year basis. Upon her retirement last spring from the Chimacum Schools, she made the decision to minimize personal obligations in order to be able to tend to family needs and do a little traveling. Kim has been a strong advocate for READ to ROVER and she will continue volunteering in the Chimacum Creek READ to ROVER program. When asked, Kim said "Witnessing the incredible exchange between a student reader and Rover dog team was something too extraordinary to walk away from. Continuing to support this program as we enter our 9th year is a joy and a privilege. I am grateful to have the opportunity to continue the relationships that have developed over time and couldn't imagine not seeing our furry friends each week!" We thank her for her contributions that have included helping with fund-raising efforts through her many community connections.

We are pleased to welcome **Pat Swain** as a new member of our board. Pat was born and raised in St. Louis, Missouri. She left the Midwest in 1963 and has spent her adult life on the West Coast. She met her husband, Bill, in Alaska where they lived and worked for more than 30 years. Pat's background and focus was public relations and sales. Prior to leaving Alaska, the Swains owned and operated Jack White Real Estate, a full service real estate company. In 1998 they decided to take a six month sabbatical and came to Port Townsend. At the time, they had just purchased a 40 foot sailboat and decided the best place to do a complete refit on the boat was Port Townsend. As they were leaving Anchorage, they were approached by Prudential with an offer to buy their company and, at almost the same time, someone wanted to buy their house.

"I figured someone was trying to tell us something, so we decided to retire, move out of Alaska and become live-aboard sailors," Pat explains. The next few years were filled with travel on and off the water, including trips to Boston to spend time with their four growing grandchildren. Nine years ago they purchased a house in the Ocean Grove subdivision and made Port Townsend their home. The boat found a new home in Seattle last summer.

Pat has always loved animals and became a member of READ to ROVER with her former dog, Kali, a yellow lab/golden retriever mix. Three years ago Pat's daughter, Karen, died and Pat inherited her dog, Lily, a one-eyed rat terrier rescue, who has become an enthusiastic READ to ROVER participant.

"READ to ROVER is such a special joy for me, Lily and the children. Not only do they delight in reading to the dogs, but they develop a love of reading," says Pat. "It's a win-win situation; I look forward to serving on Pet Pals' board of directors."



New board member, Pat Swain
photo credit: Carla Ellis

Meet Our New Spay/Neuter Veterinarians

Our wonderful veterinarians are at the heart of our efforts to end pet homelessness. We recently welcomed new veterinarians at Hadlock Veterinary Clinic as participants in our spay/neuter programs.

Dr. Rachael Strohmeyer began working at Hadlock Veterinary Clinic in 2010, and officially joined the staff last Fall. Growing up in Bozeman, MT, she always knew that she wanted to become a veterinarian. After high school, Dr. Strohmeyer attended Montana State University where she studied at the college of agriculture. She earned early admission to Colorado State University College of Veterinary Medicine, and earned her Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine in 1998. She earned a master's degree from Colorado State University in 2005 in clinical sciences and epidemiology. Her thesis focused on raw meat diets for canines.

Dr. Strohmeyer is a member of the American Veterinary Medical Association and the Peninsula Veterinary Medical Association, where she serves as the vice president. Her professional interests include dermatology and infectious diseases.

Dr. Strohmeyer and her husband Chris have two sons named Eric and Ryan. They share their home with three dogs named Steve, Lillie and Squirt, as well as a cat named Mike. In her free time, she enjoys hiking, biking, camping and scrapbooking.



Dr. Rachael Strohmeyer



Dr. Corrine Fry

Dr. Corrine Fry began working at Hadlock Veterinary Clinic in August of 2017. As a full-time staff member, Dr. Fry is responsible for diagnosing patients, patient prognosis, treating illness and injury of animals, preventative care, counseling on husbandry, and surgery. Her favorite part of the job is making the patients that come into our facility feel better.

After attending the Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University, Dr. Fry received her doctorate in veterinary medicine. Upon completing college, Dr. Fry began working as a Large Animal Technician from 2014-2016, and also worked as a volunteer for TNR programs, a pet loss hotline, animal shelters, wildlife rehabilitation, and low-cost clinics.

Dr. Fry enjoys spending her free time by hiking, bicycling, volunteering, and reading novels. She wants to learn how to downhill ski, horseback ride, and boat. At home, she has two cats named Norman and Monkey.

Please Think of Pet Pals for your End of Year Giving

Please give as generously as you can this holiday season to help us meet our goal of reducing the population of homeless and unwanted dogs and cats in Jefferson County. We have no offices or paid staff and this means over 90% of your contributions go directly to providing programs such as spay and neuter veterinary services for the pets of low-income community residents and preventing runaway population growth of homeless community cats. You can count on Pet Pals volunteers to use your contributions wisely and efficiently. Since 2002, we have provided s/n services for over 4,700 pets in low income families and over 2,200 community cats. We have helped nearly 600 pets get emergency veterinary services their families couldn't afford. The need continues. We thank you on behalf of the local families and the local animals that you will help through your support of Olympic Mountain Pet Pals.



Photo credit: Deja Webster of
Deja View Photography

Fall Gardening Helps Local Animals



Gardening for animal lovers
photo credit: Helen Williams

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 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. Last year, Pet Pals received \$450 from this sale.

Donations and discounted plants must be paid for by cash or check - no credit cards. 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.

Secret Gardens Nursery is located at 13570 Airport Cut Off Rd., Port Townsend. For information, call 360-379-3900.

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.
- **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, Dr. Corrine Fry,
Dr. Melissa Steinmetz, and
Dr. Rachael Strohmeier of Hadlock Veterinary Clinic,

Dr. Jeff Highbarger of Chimacum Valley Veterinary Hospital,

Dr. Madelyn Curll of Oak Bay Animal Hospital



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Meet Quilcene *READ to ROVER* Dog, Boomer

by Jenna Kinghorn

Boomer is usually mistaken for a big poodle, but he's actually an Irish Water Spaniel, a much rarer breed.

My husband and I don't have kids, so Boomer has been the center of our lives since he came along. He goes everywhere with us -- visiting friends, hiking and camping, eating at outdoor cafés, riding along in the car on errands. He meets lots of people and is exposed to a variety of situations, which is good practice for a Therapy Dog. Another benefit is he doesn't mind going to the vet -- he just

considers it another visit!

Boomer is very smart and he's a great all-around athlete. He loves to swim and has won lots of Canine Agility ribbons. About two years ago he tore the cruciate ligament in his right rear knee and had surgery.

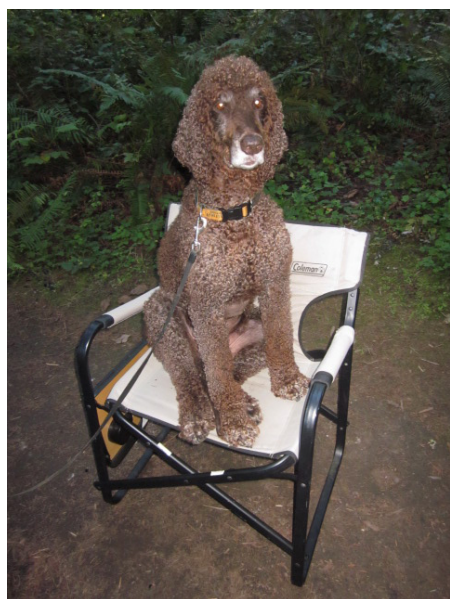
After a month of total bedrest and more than a year of physical therapy including warm-water swimming sessions, he is back to normal.



Boomer's agility career

Photo credit: Jenna Kinghorn

But since he's 11-and-a-half years old, we have quit Canine Agility. Now we take Nosework classes from Georgia Towle to keep us all learning and having fun.



**Boomer commandeers
the camp chair**

Photo credit: Jenna Kinghorn

When my father-in-law was still alive, we would take Boomer to visit him in his assisted living center, and all the folks we met in the hallways loved to visit with Boomer. I wanted to have him become a Therapy Dog, but we never had time for it while living in California.

Soon after we moved to Port Townsend, I learned about the Read to Rover program. As soon as Boomer was healed from surgery, we passed our Therapy Dog test!

Now I take him to Quilcene Elementary School every week during the school year.

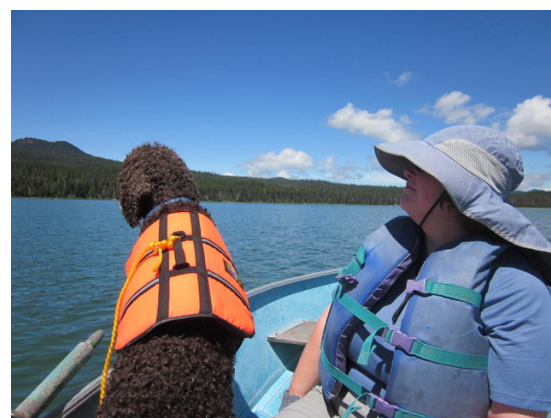
We sit quietly in their library while second-graders come in one at a time to read aloud to Boomer for about ten minutes. He loves getting attention from the kids, and they get to read aloud to someone who doesn't judge them. There are fourteen kids in the program and only two dog teams, so we're at the school for about ninety minutes. That's a little long for Boomer, but he's a good sport about it.

If any of you Therapy Dog teams out there want to join us in Quilcene from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. on Thursday mornings, contact me at jennakinghorn@me.com!



**Jenna and Boomer on the way to
Quilcene *READ to ROVER***

Photo credit: Morgan Conrad



Boomer goes everywhere with his family

Photo credit: Morgan Conrad

IN HONOR OF...

Dave and Ruthe Rugh for giving "Tawn Cat" a second chance

Kathleen Mitchell and Scott
Landis

Debra Andrews birthday

Eva Ahlson

Dr. Cindy Alexander

Carla Ellis and Rick Floyd

Dr. Virginia Johnson

Jean Murphy

Pam and Keith Kolacy for giving Lucy the best home ever

Kathleen Mitchell and Scott
Landis

Phyllis Taylor and Rudy, Founding Chimacum R2R Team, on their retirement

Carla Ellis and Rick Floyd

Piper

Corine de Boer and Jak Mang

IN MEMORY OF...

Stepdaughter Deirdrei Keegan

Sydney Keegan

Beloved husband Huey

Eva Ahlson

Bill Parker

Ingrid and Martin Musson

Sherry Picinich

Kathy Krause

All my sweet pets

Sandra Flaherty

Aurora, beloved horse of Tonia and David Schmidt

Eva Ahlson

Sweet kitty Bella

Lisa Enarson and Randy
Kraxberger

Belle, beloved dog of Evergreen Fitness

Shirley and George Williams

Bogey, beloved dog of Karen Kuznek-Reese

Pam and Keith Kolacy

Canela, beloved dog of Sue Milliken and Kelly Dodson

Kathleen Mitchell and Scott
Landis

Cheddar, beloved cat of Max Grover

Pam and Keith Kolacy

Chester, beloved dog of Marlene and Pat O'Keefe

Nancy Wyatt

Chloe, beloved dog of Dave and Ruth Whitney

Kate and Ned Schumann

Dottie and Ladybug, beloved dogs of Colleen and Tom Zmolek

Cathy and Steve Tucker

Dear cat Ebony

Linda Scott

Emma, beloved cat of Nora Mitchell

Sheila Danielson

Fleurette, beloved dog and Pet Pals Therapy Dog of Pam Rogge and Ted Barkhoefer

Carla Ellis and Rick Floyd
Kate and Ned Schumann

Frankie, beloved dog of Donna Regester

Phyllis and Paul Becker

Gabe, beloved dog of Jeff and Wendy Robinson

Susan and Mort Robinson

Gracie, sweet dog of Joanna Sanders

Pam and Keith Kolacy

Jake, beloved dog of Cindi Streblo

Jane Krabill

Jane Russell, beloved cat of Donna Regester

Phyllis and Paul Becker

Jolie, beloved dog of Sharon Comer

Sally Rodgers

Joemma, beautiful dog of Brooke Taylor

Rhonda and Steve Scharf

King Henry, beloved dog of Don and Sarah DuBose

John and Donna English

Kirby-a sweet lady of Ray and Nancy Steinberg

Nancy and Ray Steinberg

Lily, adored cat of Taylor Worth

Susan and Mort Robinson

Maple, beloved dog of Catherine Herrick

Sally Rodgers

Turkish cat Oliver, beloved pet of Carol and David Self

Phyllis and Paul Becker

Beloved kitties Peetie, Joey, Wimsey and Handley

Sandy Guinup

Phoenix, beloved dog of Art Carpenter and Barbara Laske

Sally Rodgers

Pilot, chief greeter dog of the O'Neill pack

Shirley and George Williams

Pwee, beloved dog of Gitte and Leonard Zweig

Kathleen Mitchell and Scott
Landis

Ryley, beloved dog of Jill and Tim Copsey

Jan Schroeder

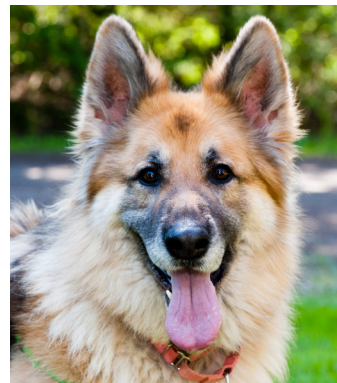


Photo credit: Deja Webster of Deja View
Photography

Scooby, sweet cat of Christina Griffin

Kay Adamson

Sprocket, beloved friend of Sally Rodgers and the Sepler family

Sally Rodgers

Sunny, beloved dog of Carla Ellis and Rick Floyd, a Read to Rover and Pets to People therapy dog

Carla Ellis and Rick Floyd
Kay Adamson
Pam and Keith Kolacy
Maggie Smith
Kate and Ned Schumann
Pat Swain
Phyllis Taylor
Shirley and George Williams

Beloved cat Tabitha

Pat Zieske

T-Lou, beloved dog of Jean Murphy

Randi and Lindsay Winter

How to Make a Memorial Donation Through PayPal

After submitting your donation amount, click on either "Donate with PayPal" or "Donate with a Debit or Credit Card". Next, below "Donate to Olympic Mountain Pet Pals" and your amount, click on "Add special instructions to the seller." In the box, type in the information about the recipient of your gift (i.e., name of person or pet, whether a pet is a dog, cat, or other animal, the recipient's contact information, and whether this is an "in honor of" or "in memory of" donation). Also be sure to check the box sharing your mailing address with us. For further clarification, see <http://ompetpals.org/join-pet-pals>.

A Happy Ending for Clooney

We at Pet Pals love happy endings and this is a story that starts with abandonment and, with the intervention of some caring folks, ends with a happy home. A couple in rural Jefferson County realized a cat had been “dropped” on their property, apparently abandoned by his owners. They could not determine if this big orange guy was tame, but he stuck around for a few weeks. With winter coming on, and being unable to bring a cat into their household, they contacted Pet Pals to see if we could provide a live trap so that he could be taken to the Humane Society of Jefferson County in hopes that either a barn home or an adoptive family could be found. Board member and community cat volunteer, Donna Regester, arranged to drop off a trap and provide instructions on how to use it. The couple started feeding the cat in the trap for a few days until it was time to go to HSJC. Kitty was not happy when he arrived and was subsequently taken to a local vet for assessment. It turns out he was neutered and tame so the clinic microchipped and returned him to HSJC. A couple of days later, Donna came in to meet Clooney (perhaps his name indicates he is as handsome as George?) and was greeted with purrs and a tummy ready for rubbing. This guy was totally tame! It was only a week and a half after his arrival that Clooney charmed a family into taking him to his forever home. The family who rescued him stated that “we do miss him a bit, but now that the weather is turning raw and winter is coming, we’re happy to know he’s got a good home.” We are delighted as well and glad that Pet Pals could help facilitate this happy ending.



photo credit: Ellen Heinemann

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