



Meet Pets to People Dog, Piper

by Corine de Boer

Piper is a 6.5 year old Parson Russell Terrier, which is basically a very similar breed to a Jack Russell Terrier. He’s a very sweet dog; we socialized him early on with lots of people and dogs; pretty mellow for the breed unless he sees the neighbor’s cat or any rats, raccoons or river otters.

I always loved the idea of therapy dogs and as soon as Piper was fixed I looked into the opportunity to volunteer with the Pets to People Program at local assisted living homes. Although Piper has also been subbing for Read to Rover, his favorite is Pets to People so he can give (and get!) lots of love. He always gets very excited when we drive down to the parking lot of Life Care Center since he knows he gets to do his job then. We both love making new friends and meeting his long-time friends, both residents and the great people who work there.

We have many heartwarming stories about our experiences. For example, he certainly learned how to count to three at Life Care Center. One of his long-time friends, Frankie, allows him on her bed and gives him three treats (after a perfectly performed “leave it”). When he gets his treats at home after breakfast and dinner, he keeps looking for Frankie’s third one after we give him two. Actually if I would let him go off leash after signing in to the Center (which I don’t) he’d run straight to her room at the end of the hall.

Besides Frankie, who I count as a friend as well and love chatting with, there are several severely demented residents in Life Care Center. One of the most profound experiences is to see people whose brain and mind unfortunately are almost gone and who do not respond to any human interaction anymore, smile when they see Piper. Life Care Center is a tough place for residents and some of the newer younger people who work there and it is so nice to see the appreciation everyone has for us showing up.



Piper knows how to relax

When he isn’t serving as a therapy dog, Piper loves to sunbathe, run on the beach, sniff out everything across town and on the fairgrounds. His most favorite game is running after a raccoon tail that I tied to a horse whip; he screams full of excitement when I grab it from our garage and runs like crazy after it. When I let him have it after a big jump, he hangs on for at least 5 minutes and I get my upper body work out. He also loves to snuggle and relaxes a lot during the day while making sure any possible intruder (mailman, guests) are noted.

One thing I’ve noticed across town, when I try to recruit more dogs to the program, is that there seems to be an idea that folks need to take extra “therapy dog” lessons at a training facility before they can do the therapy dog test. When I hear that, I always say that lessons are not needed, only the yearly membership that covers insurance. Piper was pretty young when he took and passed the test. I’d say the test is no big deal and you should just go for it.



Piper with Frankie at LCC

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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 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

Spring means many things – flowers, light, renewal. It also means “kitten season”. Yes, they are adorable but they are also one of the most vulnerable groups of cats for euthanasia at animal shelters. That’s why it is so important that OMPP continues our work providing spay/neuter services for community cats as well as cats and dogs whose owners could not otherwise afford the procedure. In large part because of our work, the local animal shelter operates as an open admission shelter, which means they are able to find room for all animals that come through their doors without resorting to euthanasia for any adoptable animals.

Since the inception of our community cat and low income programs, OMPP has funded spay/neuter for 7,265 animals in Jefferson County. This includes 4,991 family pets and 2,274 community cats. Imagine the number of unwanted dogs and cats there would be in Jefferson County without us! The shelter would be at capacity and would be forced to turn away and euthanize adoptable animals. This is NOT a nice thought for spring.

Please help us continue our efforts during our spring donation drive. A donation of \$90 will fund a cat spay, \$70 a cat neuter, \$125 a medium dog spay and \$115 a medium dog neuter. Your donations also help us provide emergency medical care for pets in low income families in the county and go toward paying for the insurance that allows our Read to Rover and Pets to People teams to visit schools and retirement centers. Celebrate spring by celebrating better lives for all dogs and cats in Jefferson County!

Our Board has had some changes this spring as well. Kate Schumann has retired from her Board position after more than 15 years of service. Kate’s accomplishments while on the Board are too numerous to mention. In addition to founding our Read to Rover program, she was the driver behind many of our successful fundraisers, most notably Bark! the Musical in collaboration with Key City Public Theatre. Kate has also been our graphic designer and initiated collaboration with local artists for our logo, website and signature sale items. She was also co-designer and producer of our signature cookbook. Kate has worked tirelessly on behalf of our programs and has been a joy to work with, bringing us new ideas, community partnerships and sensible advice during her tenure. We can’t thank her enough!

If you would like to know more about our accomplishments in 2017, please read our annual report, which is on line at www.ompetpals.org.

Happy (or yappy!) spring and our most sincere gratitude for your support!



Pam and her dog, Lucy

Pet Pals is Grateful for Community Support

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

In December, **Sea Change Canine** held a just-for-fun “Sniff and Go” Nose Work event with half of the proceeds going to OMPP. Nose Work is scent detection training in which a dog is trained on a certain odor and then has to work against the clock to find it hidden on vehicles, outside hides, inside hides or in Christmas packages! Thanks to **Sarah Becker** for dedicating the proceeds from her Sea Change events to animal causes and, in particular, for her \$340 donation to Pet Pals from the December event.

In January, the **Port Townsend Athletic Club** sponsored a raffle with all the proceeds coming to Olympic Mountain Pet Pals. The raffle raised \$400 for our programs. They sent us this lovely note: *“From all of us at PTAC, thank you for offering the services to your community that help our furry friends! Volunteers, individuals and organizations like OMPP make PT the most wonderful place to live and belong. Thank you, PTAC Staff and Friends!”* We wish to thank everyone at the PT Athletic Club for their support and recognition.

Thank you to **Sheila Piccini**, owner of **Secret Gardens Nursery**, who once again offered a fall sale in 2017 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 received \$620 as a result.



Find the hidden scent in these Christmas presents

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.
- **Bishop Hotel** for providing space for our Board meetings.
- **Max Grover, Eaglemount Winery, Green Eyeshade, Pet Townsend**, and **Kathy Stanger** for their donations to our volunteer appreciation event.

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. Rachel
Strohmeier of Hadlock
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**Dr. Jeff Highbarger of
Chimacum Valley Veterinary
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Dr. Madelyn Curll of Oak Bay Animal Hospital

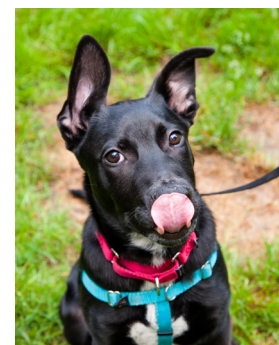


Photo credit: Deja Webster of
Deja View Photography

Changes in the Pet Pals Board

After more than 15 years of creative contributions to the Pet Pals board, **Kate Schumann** has decided to retire.



**Kate created our
Read to Rover program**

Among her many accomplishments, the one she remembers as being the most fun was the cookbook project for which she was co-editor with Ginny Messina, because it involved so many people from the community who contributed recipes and pet photos and then bought the book. Her most enduring legacy is the Read to Rover program that has helped so many kids to learn to love reading. Some of those early readers from the early days of the program are now graduating from high school. Kate put forth a lot of energy into various fundraising events. One movie event included an inspiring live presentation by Beth Rivard of the Prison Pet Partnership Program at the Women's prison in Gig Harbor and her canine trainee Quinlan. In addition to collaborating with KCPT on Bark! The Musical, Kate organized a fun contest in which over 40 community dogs competed to get their photos featured on the promotional poster for the play. Kate always emphasized the "fun" in her fundraising ideas.

Kate says: "It has been a pleasure to have served on such a productive and genial board. I look forward to following what Olympic Mountain Pet Pals accomplishes and keeping in touch with board members."

With all her new free time, Kate and her Read to Rover dog, Lillie, will continue reading with Port Townsend kids at school and at the library. She will also spend time in her beloved garden and visiting with friends.

Laura Joshel will be joining the board and assuming the coordination of the Port Townsend Read to Rover program. Laura moved with her husband and daughter to the North Olympic Peninsula from Seattle in 2000. They initially settled "in paradise" on an 8 acre property in Gardiner where they indulged their passion for gardening. Laura retired from the Human Resources Department of Olympic Medical Center in 2013 and they moved to Port Townsend in 2015. Over the last several years, she has volunteered with Read to Rover and the Food Bank veggie garden.

Laura says "We feel very fortunate to live in such a beautiful, vibrant community where there are so many opportunities to contribute. I look forward to joining the board of OMPP. I feel fortunate to have gotten to know Kate Schumann through a chance encounter while out walking one day. I thank Kate for first recruiting Chico and me to Read to Rover and then encouraging my participation in the Board. The community is a better place because of people like Kate!"



Laura Joshel joins the board.



**Pam Kolacy presents Kate with a
retirement gift.**

Volunteer Coordinator Needed for Community Cats Program in Brinnon

OMPP is seeking a volunteer in the Brinnon area to take phone calls, lend out traps, and explain procedures of the Feral/Community Cat Program to local residents. Please help keep this program going in Brinnon. For more information, call Phyllis Becker at 360-437-9085, or email phyllisbecker@cablespeed.com.

#MeowToo

Story by Ms. Kitty as told to Pat Swain

I don't really know much about my life as a kitten. My mom died when I was very young and all I know about my father is that his name is Tom, but he was never around.

All of my brothers and sisters have had big families which keep them too busy to visit. Life on the streets was hard. I lived with a bunch of other homeless cats in a wooded area near Port Hadlock. One day, as we were getting ready to go hunting for dinner, this handsome Tabby, who went by the name of Tommy, asked me to go with him. We had fun frolicking around, and he introduced me to many of life's mysteries - if you know what I mean. He said if I did everything he wanted he would set me up in a really nice place, one with an ocean view. Being young and naïve, I believed him.

A few mornings after our adventures, I woke up to the sounds of the surf. When I looked around I was wedged in a wall of big rocks just off the beach next to Port Townsend's Boat Haven. Well, he did promise me an ocean view, but this didn't offer much shelter from the wind and rain. I didn't see Tommy after that and I didn't know how to get back to Port Hadlock so I stayed where I was. Soon I felt funny and I started getting fat. An older cat named Sadie knew I was expecting before I did, she said she had been around a long time and if I kept hanging around every Thomas, Tom and Tommy, I would find myself pregnant most of the time.

I remember being hungry a lot. We were able to catch birds and mice but as I grew larger it was more difficult. One morning I woke with a terrible pain in my stomach, Sadie said it was my time. After a lot of panting and pushing, I saw ten little kittens all wet and tiny, mewling for food. I'll tell you, I was too young to know what to do. Sadie and her friend, Agnes, brought me food when they could and stayed with the kittens so I could hunt. One night a coyote came snooping around, but he got scared when he saw old Thomas, a Maine Coon, and the biggest cat in our colony.

After that, the kittens went their own way and more Toms came along. By the time I was two, I had four litters, a total of 40 kittens. And, in addition to that, I saw a kitten from my first litter leading a line of her own kittens down the beach. Then something really strange and scary happened. I smelled food, fresh food. It was near the rocks where we lived but none of the older cats were interested, they told me it was a trap. But, I was so hungry that I didn't care. My last litter of kittens wore me out and took most of the food I could find. So, cautiously I approached the box with the yummy smell. WHAP!! Before I knew what was happening, I was locked inside the box and I could hear all of my neighbors,

"Well she wouldn't listen, had to find out for herself, didn't she? I swear these youngsters think they know it all and we know nothing."

I felt awful, but most of all I felt scared, so scared that I even wished one of my Toms was around to help me. I stayed in the box all night and in the morning a human came, looked at me, lifted the box and carried me to a car. I had seen cars before and I had even seen one run over and kill a cat I knew. Before long, the car stopped and the human lifted me in the box and we went through a door. I'm not going to go into all the details. Agnes and Sadie told me that no one wants to hear all of this. Let me just tell you that I woke up dizzy and sore and stayed in this place for a while. The good thing is that they fed me.

Now I live in a barn with my own bale of hay. It makes a warm bed and I don't have to go out in the wind and the rain unless I want to. The cat colony here is a good bunch, we look out for each other and sometimes we hunt together. But the biggest change in my life is no more kittens! Oh, I like kittens - other cats' kittens. The Toms don't bother me anymore and that's just fine with me. Life is better now and someone was telling me that some cats, if you work with them while they are young, can actually go and live with humans. This seems pretty odd to me, but, Gladys, my new friend, says it's true. I can tell that there are fewer cats these days and fewer cats mean more food and a lot fewer kittens. It makes me wonder if the Toms miss the old days...I sure don't!



Trapped, but destined for a better life.

This is the list of 2017 donors from January through December.
The list of "In honor of" and "In memory of" gifts is current as of April 15, 2018.

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Nicky, brave and beloved dog of Claudia and John Davis

Madelyn Curll

My extraordinary friend, Bayli

Heidi Ruegg

Heidi Ruegg's beloved Read to Rover dog Bayli

Carla Ellis and Rick Floyd

Dolly, beloved dog of Laurie and Rick Crawford and grandog of Laverne Hicks

Henry, our wonder dog

Don and Sarah DuBose

Frankie, beloved dog of Donna Regester

Phyllis and Paul Becker

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HoneyBear, my beloved dog

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Jasmine, great dog and loving member of the Ellis family

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Kitty, our beloved cat

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Lilly, sweet kitty of Karen and Tony DeLorenzo

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Max, our beloved dog

Betty and Joe Plaskett

Monte, beloved dog of Sam Milham

Linda Scott

Mr. Pickles, beloved dog of Sarah Becker

Phyllis and Paul Becker

Sarah Becker's Mr. Pickles. He showed us how Nosework is done!! What a champ!

Kay Adamson

My best friend, Trinity

Heidi Ruegg

Red Dog Farm's beloved mascot, Rupert Dandelion

Kay Adamson

Scamper, who will remain in our hearts forever

Helen and Mel Williams

Helen and Mel William's Read to Rover dog Scamper

Carla Ellis and Rick Floyd

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Mary Munford

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Skipper, beloved dog of the Swain Family

Pat Swain

Stormy, beloved dog of Vanessa Herold

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Photo credit: Deja Webster of
Deja View Photography

Sunny, beloved dog of Carla Ellis and Rick Floyd

Donna and James Bodkin

Barbara Walker

Beloved cat Pablo of Peggy and Dave Hawker

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Pet Pals Appreciates Its Volunteers

On Saturday November 4th, Pet Pals hosted a party at the Chapel at Fort Worden to show our appreciation for all the efforts of our volunteers. People from our various programs got to meet each other and share stories. There was great food. Door prizes were donated by Max Grover, Eaglemount Winery, Green Eyeshade, and Pet Townsend. Kathy Stanger of Macs Macaroons baked cute “Good Dog” treats for our canine volunteers who were left at home this time. Thanks again to all our volunteers and to the community supporters who helped make the event special.



**Volunteers share stories about their experiences with
READ to ROVER, Pets to People, and
activities supporting our spay/neuter and
trap/neuter/return programs**

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