



Olympic Mountain PET PALS

*Dedicated to better lives
for companion animals.*

Promoting
Spay & Neuter in
Jefferson County
Fall 2018



Pet Pals Impact - In Our Clients' Own Words

We love helping the community through our spay/neuter assistance programs and our therapy dog outreach. We especially love hearing that we have helped someone in a meaningful way.

A letter accompanying a recent spay/neuter application said the following:

"I am retired and living on a social security fixed income which only gives me enough to pay my house payment and basic living expenses. If it would be possible to get assistance to pay for my dog to be spayed it would be a great worry off my heart."

This lovely client is 69 years old, lives alone and has multiple health issues. After loving a beloved dog who was by her side for 12 years through surgeries, heart attacks and cancer, she was inconsolable as most owners are who lose their best friend. Happily, a perfect dog entered her life. This new friend offers much needed emotional support.

"We are a pair. What a wonderful gift she is to me and I want the best care for her that I can afford."

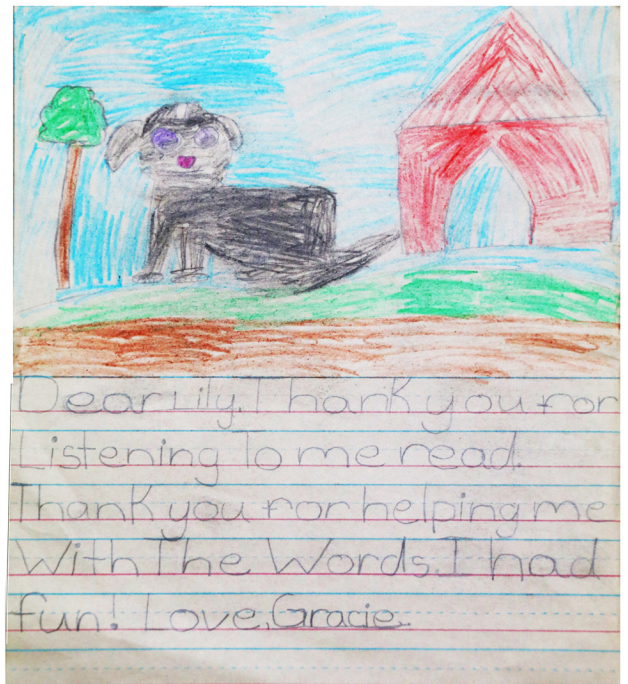
I asked if we could share her story and after receiving her voucher for financial assistance, she wrote:

"Thank you thank you thank you. Your voucher assistance for my dog's spay is such a relief. Use my story if it helps sponsors see how important your organization is for those of us who need help in being responsible pet owners. I know how important emotionally a special friend can be and having organizations like yours takes some of the financial burden off pet owners."

One of the second graders at Chimacum Creek Primary School wrote about his "forever dog", Kali. Here is an excerpt from his essay:

"Kali hit me with her tail twice one day because she wanted me to stay and read more. I like Read to Rover because you get to pet dogs and read to them. It's easier to read in front of dogs and the read to rover people because you get to practice reading in a crowd. Every time I read I learn different words. Kali is a big dog who is very special."

With your support, there will be many more happy stories.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Pet Pals Impact - In Our Clients' Own Words	1	More Volunteer News.....	5
From the President.....	2	Volunteer Needed for Community Cats Program in Brinnon.....	5
Track Record of Success - By the Numbers.....	3	Frannie's Story.....	6
Thank Yous	3	In honor of.....	7
Meet READ to ROVER Dog, Boji	4	In memory of... ..	7
Pam Gray Retires as Spay/Neuter Coordinator	5	Halloween With Our READ to ROVER Dogs.....	8

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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.ompetspals.org

From the President

Donor fatigue is very real these days. So many great causes and not enough in our budgets to support everything we would like. Whether political causes, social causes, or disaster relief, our dollars really can't stretch far enough. Stories about donation "scams" or money going to support an organization's bureaucracy rather than going directly to those we wish to help also give us pause. We want to make our contributions count and have a direct impact on the cause we believe in. In this confusing world, I like to think that "giving local" is the place to start. When you "give local" you know who's involved and you can see the impacts of your help. Here at OMPP, we have a clear record of making a difference in our community. Our program is unique because we operate on a "pay what you can" system for spay/neuter services. We appreciate the many clients who manage to contribute to their surgeries and allow our dollars to stretch farther but understand that it is not possible for everyone.



Pam and her cat, Ollie

Our programs have a deep and direct impact on the lives of families and their pets. By providing spay/neuter surgery for over 5,000 animals since our inception we have dramatically reduced the number of unwanted puppies and kittens. Over 2,200 surgeries on abandoned "community" cats have prevented thousands of feral kittens from being born. Our local shelter no longer euthanizes animals because of lack of space and in fact, can sometimes assist over-crowded shelters in other parts of the country by taking in and finding home for their animals.

Kids in our elementary schools are learning to read with the assistance of certified "Read to Rover" dogs and "Pets to People" dogs cheer the halls of our assisted living facilities. Our dedicated person and dog teams work many hours to keep these programs strong and relevant.

At this point, we are expending more funds than we are taking in, partly due to the loss of a generous three-year grant that defrayed some of the \$35,000 we spend on vet services annually. Please look at our track record and our impact on the community as you decide where your funding dollars will go this year. We are a completely volunteer organization without an office and little overhead. Over 90% of your money goes directly to help local families and their pets.

Speaking of dedicated volunteers, we are incredibly grateful to Pam Gray, who recently retired as our spay/neuter coordinator after shepherding literally thousands of animals and families through our program since its inception. We would not be where we are had she not sacrificed countless hours of her time running a program she believes in so deeply. We wish Pam all the best and although we hope she takes time to relax, we know she will continue to make the world a better place.

Wishing you all a quiet and joyful holiday season. Your support means a great deal to us and to our community. Thank you!

Track Record of Success - By the Numbers

	Low-income Cats s/n	Low-income Dogs s/n	Community Cats s/n	# of Animals helped with emergency medical services by Ginger's Fund
2018 YTD (Sept)	92	68	40	22
2017	178	99	69	26
2016	186	116	66	30
2015	169	141	104	26
2014	200	128	65	41
2013	193	141	48	43
2012	171	148	66	38
2011	199	156	88	42
2010	176	129	116	37
2009	185	139	137	49
2008	172	111	185	49
2007	157	77	271	43
2006	184	73	194	59
2005	238	90	270	37
2004	263	106	218	24
2001 to 2003	412	254	377	6
Totals	3175	1976	2314	572

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.

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 Strohmeyer of Hadlock Veterinary Clinic,

Dr. Jeff Highbarger of Chimacum Valley Veterinary Hospital,

Dr. Madelyn Curll of Oak Bay Animal Hospital

We are also grateful to the **Quilcene-Brinnon Garden Club** for recently awarding OMPP a grant of \$150.

Meet *READ to ROVER* Dog, Boji

by Georgia Towle

Boji is a three year old Leonberger. She has logged over 125 hours of therapy dog visits. She is the fourth dog I've brought to school as a Read to Rover dog.

My Leonbergers were made for this job! Leonbergers are an uncommon dog, originally bred to look like the lion on the coat of arms for Leonberg, Germany. Hermann Essig, the creator of the breed, used Newfoundland, Great Pyrenees and Saint Bernard stock to create his big "Lion Dog". He wanted a large, gentle, tawny colored dog with a dark 'mask'. An imposing dog that was still amiable and affable. The males weigh upwards of 160 pounds and have a fluffy mane around their necks. My dog, Topaz, weighs 125 pounds and Boji is a petit 110 pounds and both have earned their nickname of "Gentle Giants". Leonbergers are working dogs and these two love to work. Besides being therapy dogs, they also compete in obedience, Nosework, barn hunt, lure coursing and tracking.

Boji passed her therapy dog evaluation test when she was 10 months old and started visiting Victoria Place nursing home the next day. Naturally calm and friendly, her laid-back demeanor makes for a great therapy dog. Did I mention she has a great work ethic?



Big Beautiful Boji



Boji listening to a reader

I have been volunteering with Olympic Mountain Pet Pals since I moved to the Port Townsend area. In 2006, I joined the Read to Rover program at Grant St school where I was one of four dog/handler teams to help tutor 1st graders in reading. The next year the program expanded to include Chimacum Creek Primary school and I moved to that school where my two Bernese Mountain dogs would take turns coming to school to be read to by the 2nd grade children. My Berners have since passed over the Rainbow Bridge, but I still enjoy coming to the school with my two new Leonberger dogs, Boji and Topaz. Now the program has grown to three school districts (Quilcene was added in 2015) and a whopping sixteen tutor/ therapy dog teams meet every week at Chimacum Creek Primary School. It is truly an amazing sight to see that many "Rovers" laying quietly in the library listening to the young readers. I have

expanded my volunteering with Olympic Mountain Pet Pals to include visiting with Boji and Topaz at Victoria Place nursing home with Pets to People. I am also a Therapy Dog evaluator certifying new therapy dog/handler teams for OMPP. Doing volunteer work has given me the opportunity to make lots of new friends both young and old and also given me many amusing memories to share... Last week at Read to Rover, I had a youngster reading a book about



Boji competing in Lure Coursing

space and the galaxy to Boji. He read out loud: "Galactic fact: Our solar system is 4.6 billion years old." Then he turned to me and said "Actually, it's a little older than that because this book was written a couple of years ago." Well, now I know that the solar system is 4.6 billion and 2 years old!

If you and your dog would like to volunteer as a therapy dog / handler team please contact me for testing at 360- 732-0908.



**Boji's Canine Family: (left to right)
Anja, Topaz, and Boji**

Pam Gray Retires as Spay/Neuter Coordinator

Pam Gray has been our #1 volunteer and the “face of OMPP” for 16 years, during which time she processed nearly 5000 applications for spay/neuter surgery and made sure everyone followed through on their appointments. Sometimes this involved phone calls in the middle of the night from distraught pet owners. Pam liked to call herself an “unpaid social worker”.

She has also been one of our biggest boosters, telling people whenever she could about the benefits of spay/neuter and about our programs.

For the last 16 years she has stayed pretty close to home in order to respond to requests for help from OMPP. She enjoys traveling and will now have more time to pursue the nature travel that she loves. Next up is an expedition to the South Georgia Island near Antarctica to see penguins and shorebirds.



Pam Gray presented her spay/neuter message at the Food Coop

More Volunteer News

There have been changes in the Quilcene Schools READ to ROVER program. Alicia Johnsen and her newly certified therapy dog, Ellie Mae, have taken over the program from Jenna Kinghorn. Alicia works as the Quilcene Schools Librarian, so organizing this program is perfect fit. Jenna stepped down when her dog, Boomer (featured in the Fall 2017 newsletter), was diagnosed with a serious disease. Pet Pals thanks Jenna for her contributions to the program, including heading up a recruitment drive for new therapy dog teams for Quilcene. Additional teams are still welcome. If you are interested, please contact Alicia (360-765-2942).

Last Spring, Lana O'Neill generously volunteered to take over the leadership of the Pets to People Program. She has been a long-standing Pets to People visitor at Life Care Center and Avamere (formerly Seaport Landing) with her dogs, Darby and Grady. The program is in great hands. Thank you, Lana!

Finally, Laura Joshel has stepped down from the OMPP Board, but remains the coordinator for the Salish Coast Elementary School READ to ROVER program which she recognized as her top priority for her energy as a volunteer. Thanks, Laura.

Volunteer Coordinator Needed for Community Cats Program in Brinnon

O MPP 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.

A logo for Dog Townsend featuring a stylized evergreen tree in the center. To the left of the tree is a silhouette of a dog, and to the right is a silhouette of a cat. Below the tree, the words "Dog Townsend" are written in a cursive font.

DOG TOWNSEND

Doggie Day Care
& Boarding for
Socialized Dogs

360-379-3388
dogtownsend.com

The Lucky Dog Training Center

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A black paw print logo with four toes and a pad.

Georgia Towle
360.732.0908
www.theluckydogtraining.com

581 Ole Torkelson Rd
Chimacum, WA 98325

Frannie's Story

By Connie Graham

My name is Frannie and I'm going to tell you a story ... I was a mischievous youngster living with folks that loved me, played with me, and fed me but allowed me to continue my young adult years as an unspayed female kitty! I had 8 kids before I ran away from home! I had 3 boys and 5 girls. Things got so crowded that I just couldn't take it anymore and moved out! Of course that didn't protect me from the boys!! I moved down the road into a cozy barn all by myself. My new family knew nothing about my past or where I came from, but the entire situation occurred just a bit down the road. So it was very difficult to keep secret.

Soon all was out in the open. My daughters, at a very young age of about 7 months, all gave birth about the same time. My new family then knew about my kids, but didn't at that time know I was the original Mom! It was a very difficult situation. Kittens were born everywhere - on boats, in tree branches, in an RV, and in the woods. There were way too many mouths to feed and my daughters were not old enough or healthy enough to be raising families. Where was it all going to stop?? You can see why I had to go.

And then in comes Olympic Mountain Pet Pals to help correct this dire situation. My girls and all their kitties were rounded up and put into foster homes. Lucky enough they were, for the most part, very sociable kids so could be put into carriers instead of trapped, except for one unlucky group. These kittens were born to a very private mother. They were born on a boat that was in storage. They were moved between boats by their mom and ended up on the bow of one 7 feet above the ground. The bow was covered with a tarp, it was summer and really hot. The kittens were overheating, scared, and not willing to be caught. One of the tiny youngsters fell off the boat but, as luck would have it, ended up caught in a tarp that was protecting the bow of the boat from the rain. He discovered how loud his vocal cords could be and was rescued. It was him and his lungs that helped locate his brothers and sisters. All were reunited with their mom and put into foster care.

My daughters and their kittens stayed in foster homes till the kittens were old enough to be spayed and neutered and the Moms were spayed. The Moms were placed in new homes and 3 of them actually got to stay together! The kittens went to the Humane Society of Jefferson County and were all adopted.

My boys were neutered - one went to a new home and the other two went back to their original owners.

And I am now spayed - NO MORE BABIES. I am well loved and cared for. I have a perfect home in my barn - heated in the winter and cool in the summer. I am locked in every evening to keep me safe! I live with all sorts of creatures, help to stack hay, clean stalls, and all sorts of stuff that a well-rounded barn cat gets to do.

And just think, if Olympic Mountain Pet Pals didn't exist instead of having 8 kids and 21 grandkids, there would have been lots more kids, grand-kids, great-grandkids. Who know where it would have stopped or what living conditions would have been. Thank you Olympic Mountain Pet Pals!

This story has a happy ending, but lots don't!



Frannie, without a worry in the world



Frannie at home in her barn

The is the list of "In honor of" and "In memory of" gifts received between April 15 and October 22, 2018.
The complete list of 2018 donors will be acknowledge in the Spring 2019 issue.

IN HONOR OF...

Kathleen Mitchell's dedication to her mom

Gitte and Leonard Zweig

My beloved cat Bella

Maria Holtgrave

Pete and my pet Nick

Thomas Dillon

Our beloved cat Buster

Diane and Clinton Hurd

IN MEMORY OF...

Tom and Nina Daly

Janice North

Frankie

Corine de Boer and Jak Mang

George Hanson

*Jan Schroeder
Tom and Nina Daly
Janice North*

Dolores Harvey

Pam and Keith Kolacy

Beloved husband Huey

Eva Ahlson

Bob Krause

Sam and Lilianne Glast

Beloved grandmother Lily

Eva Ahlson

My beloved dog Bailey

Harmony Pinette

Beloved dog Bonsley of Liz

*Piglowski
Sally Rodgers*

Sue Long's beloved former Read to Rover dog Brighton

Carla Ellis and Rick Floyd

My best cat Cleo

Nancy Stickney

Beloved cat Frances of Katy & Jim Gilmore "master of all she commanded".

Kathleen Mitchell and Scott Landis

My beloved black kitty Franz

Laura Reutter

D.D. Wigley's beloved dog Frenzl

Sally Rodgers

Beloved Lab Harley of the Mark Miller family

Nancy Wyatt

Jethro, wonderful and beloved cat of Kathy and Chuck Krause

Sam and Lilianne Glast

Our beloved cat Kiya

Ron and Margo Garton

Eliana Rose's beloved Read to Rover dog Maggie

Carla Ellis and Rick Floyd

Mason, beloved cat of the Lundgren Family

Pam and Keith Kolacy

Our beloved kitty Mason

Erin Lundgren

My beloved cat Molly

Carol Winjum

My cat Nano

Rebecca Kimball

Beloved cat Pablo of Peggy and Dave Hawker

Pam and Keith Kolacy

Dianne Diamond's sweet Sadie

Karen and Tony DeLorenzo



Photo credit: Deja Webster of
Deja View Photography

Roger Wilson's beloved dog Sandy

Sally Rodgers

Beloved dog Symba of Alise Moss Vetica

Sally Rodgers

My beloved horse Trouper

Sandra Flaherty

Zuca, beloved dog of Ellen

*Emmenegger
Kathleen Mitchell and Scott Landis*



The Bishop The Swan
Distinctive Rainshadow Properties



Mac's
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DOG TREATS

All Natural Ingredients
Low Fat High Fiber No Preservatives

360-385-2865

www.macsmacaroons.com

Remembering Our Pets

Losing a beloved pet can be devastating but it helps to know that others care about your loss. Contributing a memorial gift to Olympic Mountain Pet Pals in honor of a friend's dear companion both expresses your sympathy and helps local animals. When we receive a gift in memory or in honor of a pet or person, we acknowledge that gift to the family with a personalized Olympic Mountain Pet Pals card. Please include the name of the pet or person to be remembered and the name and address of the person who should be notified of your donation when you make your contribution. Your kindness will be greatly appreciated.

Halloween With Our READ to ROVER Dogs



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