



A Community Cats Success Story

by Phyllis Becker



On December 30, Jered Marley of Port Hadlock went out to his garage and was shocked to see over a dozen cats! They apparently entered through the cat door, but from where? Perhaps someone in the neighborhood moved away and couldn't take their cats with them? (This is apparently a common occurrence in Jefferson County, according to the Humane Society of Jefferson County.)

OMPP's Community Cat Program coordinator, Phyllis Becker, arranged a house visit with Jered on January 3, taking 3 cat carriers with her, as Jered said that some of the cats seemed to be tame. Three cats were taken to the HSJC shelter that same day. They were put on a "5-day stray hold," giving a potential owner the chance to claim them. After that, the 3, all males, were neutered, vaccinated, treated for parasites, micro-chipped and put up for adoption. Several more cats were taken to the shelter in February. By March, all of the new cats on Jered's property had been spay/neutered, avoiding the usual spring "kitten season." "What a relief these cats got fixed in time! I don't know what I would have done without Pet Pals," Jered said thankfully.

Alvin (top) and Simon (bottom). Both cats got adopted from the HSJC shelter.

Photo credit: Deja Webster of
Deja View Photography



Jered Marley is a motivated and capable trapper, posing with two young cats he caught and took to Hadlock Vet Clinic to be neutered.

photo credit: Phyllis Becker

Other community cat Trap/Neuter/Return situations are active on Black Bear Road and the Lake Leland area as we go to press. We urge our readership to spread the word about how OMPP can help prevent unwanted litters through its Community Cat Program, and Low-Income Spay/Neuter Program.

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Program Contacts

COMMUNITY CAT PROGRAM:

Phyllis Becker, program coordinator, and area coordinator for Chimacum, Port Hadlock, and Marrowstone Island, 360-437-9085

Donna Regester, Port Townsend, 360-385-1385

Terrie Burnston, Quilcene, 360-765-3889

NEWSLETTER AND WEBSITE: Carla Ellis

PETS TO PEOPLE: Lana O'Neill, 602-400-7890, oneilltm@aol.com

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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

It's no myth, there is an overpopulation of unwanted pets nationwide and in our state. Every year, more than 150,000 dogs and cats end up homeless in Washington State shelters and, sadly, there are just not enough people who adopt from those shelters.

Some animals in shelters are saved from the streets and cruelty, while some are given up by their families. Countless others never make it to shelters and suffer without someone to care for them. Spaying or neutering pets prevents animals from being born accidentally and is the most effective and humane way to save animals' lives.

In 2018, Olympic Mountain Pet Pals provided financial assistance to spay/neuter 244 animals in lower income families and 41 community cats in Jefferson County. Thanks to you, we have helped 7,560 animals since 2001.

Your understanding of this direct link between spay/neuter and the elimination of homeless pets keeps us going and we are ever grateful to our supporters for that. Local efforts are the key and, together, we can set an example that will inspire others and hope that we are reporting in another few years that all shelters can concentrate on finding forever homes for adoptable pets rather than trying to figure out how to make room for them all.

Our annual report for 2018 and other great news and information can be found on our website at www.ompetspals.org. Thank you for your generous hearts and compassion for animals. You make it happen!



Pam Kolacy and her dog, Lucy

Pet Pals on Local Radio

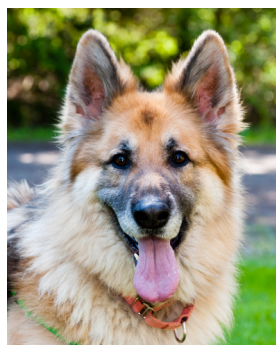


Photo credit: Deja Webster of Deja View Photography

Missy Nielsen, host of the program "Everybody Can" on KPTZ (91.9 FM), recently featured an interview with Pam Kolacy and Carla Ellis about Pet Pals. This radio series is inspired by the words of Martin Luther King Jr. who said "Everybody can be great, because everybody can serve." It highlights volunteering in Jefferson County. Pam and Carla talked about our therapy dog outreach to seniors and students as well as our low cost spay and neutering services. You can listen to the podcast here: <https://kptz.org/olympic-pet-pals/>.

Janet Harker's Legacy

In the past, the HTB Family Fund provided grants to Pet Pals for spay and neuter procedures. We are grateful to the Janet Harker Memorial Fund for continuing her legacy. Here is the family's memorial:

In loving memory of Janet Harker

February 5, 1933 to July 10, 2018

Janet will always be remembered for her great love of animals, especially cats. She gave unlimited time, love, and money to provide for the dogs and cats of the Olympic Peninsula. Her biggest dream was to achieve zero population growth of dogs and cats of the Olympic Peninsula through progressive spay/neuter programs. Her vision and compassion impacted unlimited animals. She is now at peace across the Rainbow Bridge, surrounded by the many animals who were touched by her loving care.

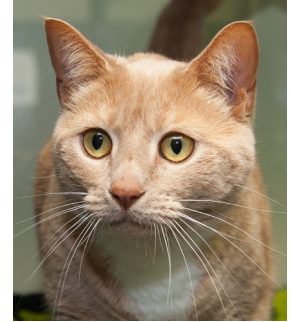


Photo credit: Deja Webster of
Deja View Photography

Pet Pals is Grateful for Community Support

Pet Pals is grateful to the Quimper Unitarian Universalist Fellowship for designating the offerings from their January 13th service for us. The congregation generously contributed \$794. Pam Kolacy attended both services to describe our programs.

Also, thank you to Suzanne Eggleston for contributing her time and expertise in design work for a Pet Pals promotional brochure.

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. 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**



Photo credit: Deja Webster of
Deja View Photography

The Chimacum Creek Primary School Read to Rover Program will be celebrating our 10th anniversary on Friday May 31. Having started with just 4 teams, we've grown to 18 teams and serve all the second graders in the school! We invite any past volunteers to join us for the celebration. For more information, email carla@cs.duke.edu.

Meet Pam's Therapy Poodles

by Pam Rogge

I am proud to be part of OMPP's Therapy Dog Program. The fun started with my mini poodle **FLEURETTE** when she became an OMPP Therapy Dog in 2008. She was an enthusiastic member of the Read to Rover team at Chimacum Creek Primary and loved the attention and energy and cuddles from her young readers. She was also a regular in my office at Mountain View Elementary, where I was school counselor. Fleurette was awarded Mountain View's "Outstanding School Spirit" award for her contributions to the school community. Fleurette was a regular visitor to Victoria Place Senior Living where she warmed many laps and received many pets from welcoming seniors. Fleurette passed over the bridge in 2017. She was an avid competitor in agility, earning 3 Master Agility Champion titles. She also loved nose work and hiking.

Meet **JEEVES**. He is a 9 year old toy poodle. Jeeves joined OMPP in 2015. He is also a weekly lap warmer at Victoria Place, particularly for the ladies. Pets to People is such a lovely program! Jeeves has participated in several agility and nose work demonstrations

for the residents. Jeeves is a substitute Read to Rover dog at Chimacum Creek Primary. Serving as a sub is an essential role and Jeeves is needed almost every week. Because he is so tiny, the kids want to hold and cuddle him. He is amazingly patient and good natured with them. Jeeves is a regular competitor in agility and nose work. He is closing in on his 5th AKC Agility Champion title, earned his Trick Dog Performer title and is competing at the Advanced level in nose work. Jeeves and Fleurette both trained with Georgia Towle at The Lucky Dog Training Center.

Meet **BELLE**. She is a 10 month old small mini poodle. Belle earned her OMPP Therapy Dog certification when she was only 7 months old. She follows in the family tradition as a weekly visitor to Victoria Place, and is a Read to Rover team member at Salish Coast Elementary. I am very proud of how she naturally adapted to the expectations and how affectionate and mellow

she is with seniors and young children. Belle will be introduced to agility and nose work in the near future. For now, her favorite things to do are to annoy Jeeves, play with puppy friends, and go for long walks at Fort Worden.

For many local seniors, the Pets to People volunteers are the only visitors they get. We may not be able to change things on a national level, but at least we can bring some joy and positivity into our own community. Its a win-win for dog/handler teams and the person we are visiting.

Agility is one of Jeeves's extracurricular activities.

Photo credit: Pam Rogge



Fleurette visiting Victoria Place.

Photo credit: Pam Rogge



Jeeves, listening to a second grade Chimacum Creek reader.

Photo credit: Pam Rogge



Belle starts her career as a Salish Coast Elementary Read to Rover dog.

Photo credit: Pam Rogge

Grand Reopening of Read to Rover at Salish Coast Elementary School

by Laura Joshel

The 2018/2019 school year has been a year of many big changes. As we said goodbye to Grant Street Elementary, ending the 2018 school year quietly with 5 volunteer teams, we looked forward to moving to the new school then under construction. School personnel at the newly constructed Salish Coast Elementary faced many challenges in getting classrooms set up, sorting out operational details and setting up the new library. As a result, our start was deferred until November. In the meantime, thanks to Georgia Towle (Lucky Dog Training) who scouted out new participants, we grew to 11 teams by the time Salish Coast was ready for us.

While Grant Street was very cozy, in comparison the new school fills a much bigger footprint! Classrooms are more spread out along long, spacious hallways. The school is light-filled, especially shared spaces such as the library and cafeteria. This necessitated a big adjustment in the process of students moving to and from their classrooms to the

library. With the increase in our

volunteer numbers we are proud to be able to offer Read to Rover to most of the 89 second graders and a couple of eager readers from the fourth grade.

Support from school personnel has been fantastic. Principal Lisa Condran took photos of our volunteer teams at the beginning of the year that she posted in front of the library, to welcome and “introduce” us to the students. We had a “volunteer only” orientation session with Lisa and our school liaison, Counselor Ellen Thomas. Ellen has been readily available to help sort out any issues. Librarian Denise Aedan has provided “hands on” support at every Read to Rover session, offering encouragement, expert guidance and advice in working with our young readers, whose capabilities range across a broad spectrum. She has even “bailed us out” on occasion when we needed help getting students from their classrooms to the library. Denise says “Before we chose to retire to Port



Barbara Lelarge and Rudder

Townsend, I remember reading about Read to Rover and how impressed I was. I did not know at the time that I would have the privilege to be a part of R2R at Salish Coast Elementary. Now I get to see the joy on my students faces as they enthusiastically read aloud stories to their furry friends.”

In addition to the excitement of adding new volunteers, we have also said “goodbye” to three long-time volunteers, whose dogs have reached well-deserved retirement age: Kate Schumann (Read to Rover founder and long-time OMPP board member) and Lilly, Linda James and Sophie and Donna Bodkin and Hadley.

Our school year ends June 10. We are still eager to add new participants before the start of our first full year at Salish Coast.



Salish Coast Read to Rover volunteers: (L to R) Sue McGregor, Carolyn Brummel, Pam Rogge, Susie Gorski, Nan Toby Tyrrell, Mark Condran, Pam Parker, Laura Joshel, Kris DeWeese, Mary Blackburn, Marla Tangen and their dogs.



Kate Schumann and Lilly. just before their well-earned retirement

This is the list of 2018 donors from January through December.
The list of "In honor of" and "In memory of" gifts is current as of April 15, 2019.

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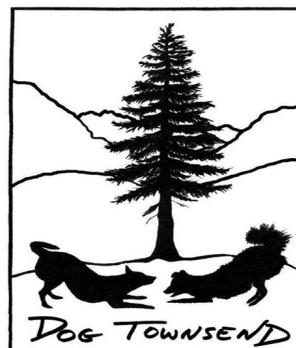
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Diane and Clinton Hurd

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Carol Baker

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Johanna E. Goering

Sam and Lili Glast's anniversary
Sam and Lilianne Glast

Pam Gray, with gratitude for her inspiring service to Pet Pals
Ginny and Mark Messina

Pam Kolacy and all volunteers at OMPP!
Lisa Enarson and Randy Kraxberger

Raven, the Wonder Cat
Priscilla Jensen

IN MEMORY OF...

Maria Holtgrave's beloved cat Bella
Maria Holtgrave

Susie Keefer, Jud Haynes and Sofie's beloved dog Brisby
Randi and Lindsay Winter

Dear kitty Charlie Mingus
Priscilla Jensen

Phyllis and Paul Becker's beloved cat Daisy
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Duffy, beloved dog of Cynthia Reed
Cynthia and Harry Reed

Jeanne Emeny, a friend to animals
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Frodo, beloved cat of Nella Ludlow
Bonnie Ludlow

Blake, Carl and Kay Jensen's 100% special puppy, Grover
Ann Weston

In loving memory of Janet Harker
Sharon Gyovai

Beloved dog Harry (JRT)
Meemie Sullivan

Jay and Paula Clark's beloved dog Jasmine
Sally Rodgers

Krisi, Mori and all the animals that have lived and loved with me through the years.
Dr. Virginia Johnson

Jeni and Jim Little's beloved dog Lucas
Janet and Mike Mortenson

Lucy, beloved dog of Jim Christensen and Vicki Davis
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The Legendary Luther Lassen, beloved cat of Christie and Marc Lassen
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The Hanson Family's beloved Belgian Shepherd Mykr
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Kathleen Mitchell and Scott Landis's beloved dog "Scruffy"
*Kathleen Mitchell and Scott Landis
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Gitte and Leonard Zweig*

Kara and Jason Hops's beloved dog Sunny
Sheila Danielson

Tia, beloved dog of James Weaver and Melody Sky Eisler
Pam and Keith Kolacy

Toast, beloved overseer of great bread making
Janet and Mike Mortenson

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.



Come Read with Our Dogs Over the Summer!

Our Read to Rover program and the Jefferson County Library are teaming up to help prevent kids' reading skills from getting rusty over summer vacation. **Every Friday in July from 10:30-11:30 am**, Read to Rover dogs will be in the library eagerly listening to young readers with their favorite books.

Martha Ashenfelter, Youth Services Librarian at the Jefferson County Library, invited the Read to Rover program to participate saying "I recently visited Chimacum Creek Primary to present a preschool storytime and was curious about the sea of red shirts in the library. What a thrill to see 16 dogs with 16 students fully engaged in reading to them! We look forward to hosting Read to Rover this summer at Jefferson County Library."

We encourage parents, grandparents, and sitters to sign up for one or more of the 15 minute sessions and watch your kids enjoy reading with our great dogs. For more information (as the time draws nearer), call the library at (360) 385-6544.

Read to Rover teams, Christina Pivarnik with Shawnigan and Pat Swain with Lily, are looking forward to summertime reading at the Jefferson County Library



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