



Olympic Mountain Pet Pals

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PRESS RELEASE

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7,858 ANIMALS SPAYED/NEUTERED IN JEFFERSON COUNTY

A remarkable 7,858 animals in Jefferson County have been spayed or neutered with the assistance of Olympic Mountain Pet Pals since the inception of their program in 2001. This statistic was announced at the OMPP annual meeting by President Pam Kolacy. "When OMPP was founded in 2001, the goal was to make Jefferson County a community with no homeless dogs and cats and to make our local shelter a no-kill facility," she explained.

The organization has funded spay/neuter services for 2,106 dogs and 3,375 cats in low-income households and Trap-Neuter-Return services for 2,377 community/feral cats.

In 2019, the annual cost of the spay/neuter program was approximately \$39,375. According to Kolacy, the organization's primary source of funding is from individuals. "Last year we received donations from 163 individuals as well as contributions from Quimper Unitarian Universalist Fellowship and the Quilcene-Brinnon Garden Club. We also receive many in-kind donations, but the need remains great" noted Kolacy.

OMPP also provides testing and certification for therapy dogs for two outreach programs, Read to Rover and Pets to People. In 2019, 40 human and dog teams participated in these programs. Read to Rover teams serve students at Chimacum Creek Primary School, Salish Coast Elementary School, Quilcene School District and the Jefferson County library. The program helps children learn to read in a safe and fun environment and encourages students to love and appreciate dogs.

Pets to People teams visit seniors at Life Care Center, Avamere and Victoria Place. These dogs brighten the day for many residents who miss having pets of their own

Spay/neuter clients are served by local veterinarians at Hadlock Veterinary Clinic, Chimacum Valley Veterinary Hospital and Oak Bay Animal Hospital. "Our programs could not exist without the generous support of our local vets" added Kolacy.

"We are an all-volunteer organization; we have no paid staff. The Board and I feel that we have come a long way in reaching our goal of no more homeless cats and dogs and humane control of community/feral cats. It takes a community committed to the well-being of their pets and it takes a lot of money to support the work we do. We are always in need of donations of time and money to continue our mission," Kolacy remarked, as she closed the 2019 annual meeting of Olympic Mountain Pet Pals. More information is available at www.ompetpals.org.

