



Olympic Mountain PET PALS

*Dedicated to better lives
for companion animals.*

Promoting
Spay & Neuter in
Jefferson County
Spring 2020



“May I Pet Your Dog?”

Before the Coronavirus, whenever a child would ask a Read to Rover handler this question, the answer would very likely be: “*Yes you may. Thank you for asking!*” With social distancing, no one asks anymore and we’d say “no” anyway.

One of the goals of the Read to Rover program is to teach kids the basic rules of how to safely interact with dogs. Early this Spring, a group of Read to Rover teams at Chimacum Creek Primary School visited with the preschoolers to begin to instill these ideas and give them a hands-on opportunity to practice the skills with our dogs. The preschool teacher, Ms. Sally Pfaff, invited us into her class and a number of teams responded, including Pat Swain with Lily (see Lily’s story later in this issue), Ginny Partridge with Brie, Linda Abbott-Roe with Simon, and Carla Ellis with Lumie. We each introduced our dog and told some interesting story about them.

We teach the kids to always ask to pet our dogs and to wait for permission from the owner before approaching the dog to pet it. The waiting part is hard! We also explain how to pet a dog one does not know in a way that the dog actually enjoys. The hardest thing to get across is that most dogs don’t enjoy hugs the same way most kids do. After these instructions, the kids get to line up and ask each of us in turn to pet our dogs and then get some good doggy love. We teach the kids the safe way to give a dog a treat on an open palm and then, the handlers give out treats to feed each of our dogs. The dogs love this part. Some of the kids complain about slimy hands while wearing a huge grin on their faces. We talk about foods they should never share with their pets at home like chocolate and raisins. Finally, we talk about what to do if an off-leash dog that you don’t know runs toward you. Do not run away and scream since that could trigger a prey response! We teach them to pretend to be a boring tree and not to make eye contact but, if they get knocked over, to become like a rock. The kids did very good rock imitations.

Teacher Sally commented on our program saying “It was an interesting and engaging lesson, the students were all listening quietly. The live animal presence clearly calms them and the presenters all responded in a relatable way to preschooler age inquiries! Plus they had their own personal stories of each dog that really clicked for the children as many of them had their own dogs too. The safety tips were absorbed as many kids go to parks and have the instant impulse to want to pet other dogs without realizing another dog’s quirks or owner preferences.”

The Read to Rover teams had a great time with the little kids. Thanks to Ms. Pfaff for making the session run so smoothly. By the time these kids become 2nd graders in the Read to Rover program, they will be old pros around our dogs.



Read to Rover dogs meet with preschoolers
photo credit: Sally Pfaff

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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

This has certainly been a time of reflection for all of us, as we struggle to adapt to the new reality of life during this COVID-19 pandemic. I'm sure you've all seen plenty of cartoons on social media about what our dogs and cats are thinking now that they have their humans on their hands 24/7. But aren't we lucky to have our pets to comfort and entertain us, make sure we get our exercise, and supply some needed daily routine (my Ollie and Lucy are not interested in flexible mealtimes!)

We are probably learning a bit from observing our furry household members. To quote Mary-Jo Dionne, editor of Best Friends magazine, "Greatness is the state of living a life we love. Need proof? The evidence exists at our ankles in the form of those animals who are today cherished family members. Just to be alive is the thing..... [they] live in a state of present-minded focus, seemingly grateful for each beautiful moment." What a great lesson for us to learn!

OMPP has an outstanding track record of accomplishments, which are listed in our 2019 Annual Report, available on our website at www.ompetspals.org. From our inception through the end of 2019, we have funded spay/neuter for 5,481 pets for low income families in Jefferson County and spayed/neutered 2,377 community cats. The result – happier families, healthier pets, and an "open admission" local shelter where no adoptable animal is euthanized for lack of space. Our therapy dog teams miss their visits to assisted living centers and local schools and libraries.

As always, I want to express our sincere appreciation to our supporters. When we began our mission, we didn't know the depth of the ongoing need for these services in our community. That need will only be greater in the next months, as the economy dips, jobs are lost, and community members have to change their living situations. Our small but mighty band of volunteers is dedicated to keeping these programs alive and we can do that with your help. Whether you support our mission by volunteering, helping spread the word about our programs, or responding to our fundraising appeals, you make it possible for us to help local people and pets. Thank you so much!



Pam Kolacy and her dog, Lucy



Photo credit: Deja Webster of
Deja View Photography

Solving Litter Box Woes

by Phyllis Becker

Even well-behaved cats who faithfully use their box can cause messy problems. When a large cat prefers to urinate in a standing position, urine can dribble over the side of the box onto the floor. Board member Phyllis Becker and her husband Paul solved the problem by switching from a regular litter box to a large plastic container. Paul cut an “entry way” into the box with a coping saw so that their cats didn’t have to climb over the tall sides. Their two cats appreciate the extra space the container provides.



Rufus demonstrates use of his custom-designed litter box

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.

Thank You

Olympic Mountain Pet Pals Thanks These Local Businesses for Their In-Kind Contributions:

- **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. Kristen Pitsenbarger, Dr. Melissa Steinmetz and Dr. Rachel Strohmeyer of Hadlock Veterinary Clinic,

Dr. Jeff Highbarger, Dr. Abbie Doll, Dr. Lauren Clarke, Dr. Christopher Frank, Dr. Amanda Ramage, Dr. Dalton Webb, and Dr. Dana Wisniewski of Chimacum Valley Veterinary Hospital,

Dr. Madelyn Curll of Oak Bay Animal Hospital

Meet Read to Rover Dog, Lily

As relayed by her human, Pat Swain

I don't remember a lot about my past. I do remember at one time I was homeless in Los Angeles and then a man in a truck captured me and put me in a cage. Those were scary times. But, one day a beautiful young woman came to the shelter to donate a dog bed. She saw me and it was love at first sight. She told me that she was moving to Seattle and asked if I would like to go with her. I wagged my tail as hard as I could which meant, You betcha!!

My lady was named Karen and she put me in her car with her other dog who was named Sandy, and her cat, Katie. After a long drive and staying one night in a motel, we arrived in Seattle. It was all new and very exciting.

The people at the shelter called me Winky, probably because I only had one eye...I don't want to talk about how I lost my eye because it's a sad story and I try to forget it...but Karen decided I needed a new name. She had been working in Hollywood and had been part of the crew on a TV series called Pushing Daisies where there was a character called Aunt Lily who had only one eye. Karen thought Lily would be a perfect name for me so that is how I came to be Lily.

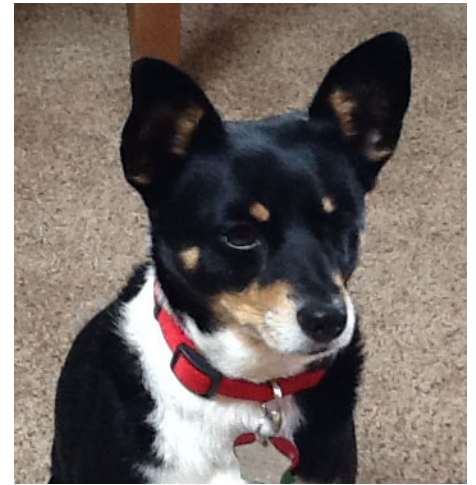
When I first arrived in Seattle, I had very bad manners. I got into the trash and didn't obey because I was used to being on my own. But, Karen was gentle and taught me manners. I so wanted to stay in my new home and new life that I was willing to be a very good girl. Life continued being wonderful until Karen became sick and died in 2014. I was so sad to lose the one person who showed me love and care

But, Karen's mother, Pat, comforted me and told me not to worry because Karen had asked her to take care of me and she did. She said she loved me very much and felt that I was part of Karen. After a couple of months Pat told me that she was going to enroll me in Read to Rover. I had never heard of such a thing, but Pat explained that her former dog, Kali, had been in Read to Rover and loved it very much. What could I do, but look forward to this new mysterious adventure.



Pat and Lily at Chimacum Creek Primary Read to Rover

Photo credit: Chris Parsons



Kali, Lily's Read to Rover role model

I have been a Rover dog for almost five years and it is the best part of my week. Wonderful kids read stories to me, pet me, and best of all, give me treats. I had never spent much time around children before, but they are the best little humans I will ever know and if I can help them learn to love reading and love dogs, what more can there be?

When I am not at school, I like to go on walks, especially at the beach and I love going for coffee with Pat because I always get a ginormous cookie. I love, love, love cookies and I have to admit that I have gained a little weight since I moved to Seattle.

Other things I love are my neighborhood and my neighbors. Sometimes I get to have sleepovers with one of my dog friends. His name is Dylan, and he has his very own dog park. How lucky is that? Dylan is still young and rambunctious. I am getting a little too old for rough play. My other good friend is Piper. He is a Jack Russell Terrier and he visits us a lot and

Meet Read to Rover Dog, Lily

(continued)

sometimes stays with us. Don't tell him I said this, but he's very spoiled. He has gone to Read to Rover with me a couple of times, but he doesn't follow the rules. I also love naps, I think I learned that from Katie the cat.

People always ask Pat three questions: 1. How old is Lily? 2. What breed is she? 3. And what happened to her eye? I think I am about 10 years old, and I think I am a Rat Terrier (Pat thinks I should be an Angel Terrier.) What happened to my eye...one time I heard Pat talking to a first grader who asked that question and she told him, "There was a dog who had no eyes, so Lily donated one of her eyes to that dog." You know what the first grader said to that? He said "rriiggghhtt."

For now, my life is wonderful and more than I could have hoped it to be. I have a mom and dad who love me, a happy home, friends, walks, food and plenty of cookies and most of all I have Read to Rover.



Lily loves her naps

Photo credit: Pat Swain

Therapy Dogs Make Plans to Go Virtual



Composing a message to send to someone who needs my therapy

Photo credit: Georgia Towle

What can therapy dogs do when asked to stay at home? The challenge spurs canine innovation!

Every year at Chimacum Creek Primary School, the Read to Rover dogs are paired up with "forever kids" who refer to their dogs as "forever dogs." This means that they read with the same dog every week and get to form a relationship. But the school year abruptly ended without even a chance to say "goodbye" to our forever kids.

Many of the volunteers felt they wanted to communicate somehow with their forever kids. We are working with Principal Kyle Ehlis to find a way to forward messages from our dogs to their kids through their Class Dojo system. Now, what the dogs (with help from their computer savvy humans) need to do is decide just what they want to say. This is a work-in-progress and we hope to be able to report on the results in our next eNews.

The other plan that COVID disrupted was the Summer Read to Rover program scheduled at the Jefferson County Library. We are working with youth

librarian, Scott Bahlmann, to design a way to do a live video Read to Rover session with kids who want to read to dogs and chat with the volunteers about books and dogs. This should be an interesting experience. What could go wrong? We'll let you know.

The basic message is that nothing will stop our therapy dog teams who want to continue to serve the community.

This is the list of 2019 donors from January through December.
The list of "In honor of" and "In memory of" gifts is current as of April 15, 2020.

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Photo credit: Deja Webster of  
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*Jan Schroeder*

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*Rothert*

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### Katie Still and Steve

**Horstmann, dedicated  
parents to their wonderful  
dog "Birdie"**

*Kathleen Mitchell and Scott  
Landis*

### Margo Garton's beloved cats

**Ariel and Domino**

*Ron and Margo Garton*

### Pam Kolacy

*Catharine Robinson*



Photo credit: Deja Webster of  
Deja View Photography

**All the Read to Rover teams,  
past and present as well as  
those furry friends who are  
no longer with us**

*Kim Pratt*

**Our beloved pets Duffy and  
Button**

*Cynthia and Harry Reed*

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### Michael Gohn

*Candice Gohn*

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### Christine Johnson

*Johanna E. Goering*

### My sister, Erica Springstead

*Linda Jeannotte*

**Louie, beloved dog of and best  
friend to Patrick**

*Kathleen Mitchell and Scott  
Landis*

**All the dogs we have loved  
before**

*Jim and Noreen McCarron*

**Beloved cat Buttercup**

*Carol Baker*

**Beloved cat Webster**

*Jeanne Shold*

**Christina Pivarnik's beloved  
Read to Rover dog,  
Shawnigan**

*Carla Ellis and Rick Floyd  
Shirley Williams*

**Our beloved dog Betsy Ross**

*Donald and Celeste Dybeck*

**Donna Bodkin's beloved Read  
to Rover dog, Hadley**

*Carla Ellis and Rick Floyd*

**Finn and Buster our beloved  
dogs**

*Diane and Clinton Hurd*

**KC, much loved kitty of Dave  
and Nancy Pitkethly**

*Kay Adamson*

**Our beloved Bobo, "simply the  
best dog"**

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Bella**

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*Grace Dumenil*

**Peetie**

*Sandy Guinup*

**Phyllis Taylor's beloved Read to  
Rover dog, Rudy**

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Sebastian*

**Raven Grace, beloved dog of  
Diane Gale and Kathy Jones**

*Diane Gale*

**Rosie, beloved cat of Dr.  
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Landis*

**My beloved dog Sammy**

*Ruth Merryman*

**Zoe, our last beloved cat from  
Ankara, Turkey**

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**My beloved dog, Kali**

*Pat Swain*

**My beloved dog**

*Janet Sullivan-Davis*

**Our beloved Brix**

*Maureen Huff and Karen  
Crouse*

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# Introducing Pet Pals eNews

## Did you get our email?

In April, we sent out our first Olympic Mountain Pet Pals eNews. In addition to these printed newsletters (that we will continue to mail twice a year in the Spring and Fall), we are planning an eNews series to keep in touch with you, our friends and supporters, on a more regular basis. We promise not to flood your inbox. We plan to send eNews less often than once a month. Our next issue will be in June.

If you did not receive our first issue sent on April 2, it may be because we don't have your email address in our database or the address we have was recorded wrong or is out-of-date and the email bounced. If you want to receive our eNews, please make sure we have your correct address. You may send us a message asking to subscribe (it would be helpful to put "Subscribe to OMPP eNews" as the subject line) to [carla@cs.duke.edu](mailto:carla@cs.duke.edu). We will update our mailing list.

We hope you will enjoy these updates about our activities.



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