



A Successful Community Cats Collaboration

by Phyllis Becker

It's no wonder that feral cats find Cindy and Dean Kobetich's property in rural Port Townsend an ideal place to take up residence: big trees, a barn, many outbuildings, and fenced-in pastures providing safety from coyotes. The Kobetichs have been trying to TNR (Trap-Neuter-Return) all of the cats living on their property, but that has proven to be a tall order. Since 2016 they have trapped 22 felines and taken them to Hadlock Veterinary Clinic for spay/neuter under OMPP's Community Cat Program. Some twelve or so of those fixed cats remain. But then there are the 6 trap-shy cats. "I keep the traps near their feeding stations so that the cats aren't afraid of them, but they

still manage to avoid them on "trapping day," complains Cindy.

As we walk around the property, we notice only two cats, keeping their distance from us in the pastures, and then I see the sleeping boxes built for the cats, cozy bales of hay to nest in, and food dishes. "I go through 60 pounds of cat kibble per month, plus some canned food as treats" explains Cindy.

"And we never see a rodent anywhere on the property, so the cats are doing their job," adds Dean.

"We can't thank Olympic Mountain Pet Pals and Hadlock Veterinary Clinic enough for their help during these past years," states Cindy. "We couldn't have accomplished all of this without them, and we look forward to working with the Humane Society of Jefferson County and Center Valley Animal Rescue in our efforts to get our remaining feral cats fixed."



Cindy and Dean Kobetich prepare to trap

photo credit: Phyllis Becker



Cindy and "Leon", one of Kobetichs' indoor cats

photo credit: Phyllis Becker

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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 and to serve the community through our therapy dog 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

This may be old news for those of you who receive our eNewsletter, but I wanted to make sure all our supporters know about the recent change in our service model.

For the past year, the Pet Pals Board of Directors have been discussing better ways of providing service to our low-income spay/neuter clients. Costs have risen and our income has not kept up with the expenses involved in issuing client vouchers for private veterinary clinics. We have also struggled with the increasing amount of work required of our small group of volunteers to make our programs run smoothly.

We are happy to announce that we are partnering with two local non-profits, the Humane Society of Jefferson County and Center Valley Animal Rescue, to provide a new and more cost-effective model for providing spay/neuter services to lower-income county residents. Both partners will also provide spay/neuter services for community cats. In addition to spay/neuter surgeries, these partners will be able to provide low-cost vaccinations, micro-chips and other services.

With our financial support, both entities will be able to provide regular clinics for low-income Jefferson County residents. Center Valley Animal Rescue held a very successful clinic at the end of September, performing 31 surgical procedures at a fraction of the cost of our prior model.

Our local veterinarians have made it possible for us to spay and neuter over 7,000 animals over the past 20 years. We are incredibly grateful for their support but are now looking forward to working with our new partners to provide services at a lower cost per animal to a wider range of clients.

We are continuing our planning process to address other services, particularly our beloved therapy dog programs and will keep you posted. Speaking of therapy dogs, our dear Kate Schumann, founder of Read to Rover, passed away recently. She was a vital force in OMPP and in the Port Townsend community, and will be greatly missed. Please take time to read our tribute in this newsletter.

We honor you, our supporters, for your love and concern for local animals and your generosity to our cause. We will continue to pay tribute to you by coming together with others who share our mission to make life better for animals in Jefferson County and maximizing your donations to that cause.

We wish you happiness and good health through this difficult time for our nation.



Pam Kolacy and her cat, Ollie



Photo credit: Deja Webster of
Deja View Photography

Pet Pals is Grateful for Community Support

Pet Pals is grateful to the **Port Townsend Food Coop** for including us as one of the non-profits in their Beans for Bags program for September and October. In this program, shoppers who bring their own reusable bags can ask for beans to drop in the jars provided. The results for September are in and Pet Pals will receive \$250, with another month yet to go. Thank you to the Food Coop for offering us this opportunity and thank you to our supporters for choosing our jar for your beans!

With Pet Pals no longer providing a Community Cat Program after December 31, we wish to thank the volunteers who made the program such a success in its almost 20-year service to the community: Pam Kolacy, Ginny Messina, Nancy Karam, Taylor Worth, Carol Winjum, Terrie Burnston, Donna Regester, Connie Graham, Sandy Kurrus, Sharon Railey, Pam Gray, Brenda Wagner, Heather Spencer, and Coordinator Phyllis Becker. (We're sorry if we missed anyone!) These women spent countless hours helping people trap, transporting cats, sheltering cats in their garages and homes, and fostering and taming feral kittens. The program was able to spay/neuter 2400 cats and kittens through our local veterinarians.

Finally, a very special thank you to the local veterinarians and their staffs who have made our spay and neuter programs possible. Over the years, these programs have depended on the generous help of everyone at the **Hadlock Veterinary Clinic**, **Chimacum Valley Veterinary Hospital**, and **Oak Bay Animal Hospital**. We are so very grateful to them!

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 Ned Schumann, for hosting our website.
- **Bishop Hotel** for providing space for our Board meetings
- **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.



Same Goals, New Partners

The first OMPP assisted spay/neuter clinic for lower income residents at Center Valley Animal Rescue was held September 30 and was a great success. "We had our biggest clinic yet," said CVAR Director Sara Penhallegon, "with 28 surgeries, 21 spays!" The October 21 clinic resulted in 24 procedures with 16 spays being done. Sara noted that "as we combine CVAR and OMPP expertise and resources, we can ideally get more volunteers out in the community to promote spay/neuters and trap feral/community cats." Center Valley has a fully operational medical clinic and will use OMPP funding for veterinary staff.

The Humane Society of Jefferson County is gearing up for on-site clinics at our local shelter. According to Director Paul Becker, HSJC has purchased a veterinary surgical trailer which will not only provide spay/neuter services, but will enable superior and timely medical care for shelter animals. This unit is expected to arrive in March 2021 but in the interim, a Spay to Save trailer from Port Angeles will be rented and used by HSJC once or twice a month for clinics. The date of the first clinic will be announced soon.

Clinic dates and contact information will be published on the OMPP website: ompetpals.org. We are excited to be partnering with these two excellent local non-profits!

Meet Leo, the Smiling Goldendoodle Therapy Dog

As relayed by his human, Carolyn Brummel

Once upon a time there was a little puppy who loved people so much he smiled at them. A nice lady drove 6 hours across a mountain pass to meet him. She said she was a nurse who helps kids and she always wished for a very special dog that likes to visit people and make them happy. She asked if he wanted to join her family and meet people and make them happy. The puppy kissed her face and sat calmly in her lap for an hour, so she decided that meant “Yes!” And it did! That puppy was ME, Leo the Smiling Goldendoodle Therapy Dog!

I’m a teddybear goldendoodle and 62 lbs of fluffy fur. I LOVE people and making new friends! I started classes at Lucky Dog when I was tiny. I did basic and advanced obedience and trick classes, and right after turning 1, I earned my Therapy Dog Certificate, AKC Canine Good Citizen, and Intermediate Trick Dog Title. I started agility classes since I can’t do therapy dog visits now because of human kennel cough. I LOVE training and doing



Leo as Dog of Honor

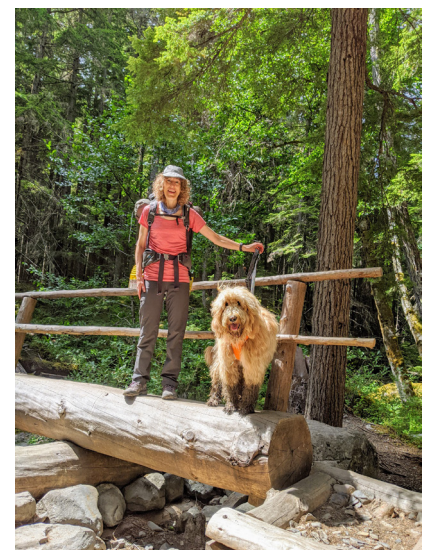
tricks and going to different places to practice.

I love living on a farm in Chemicum with my family! We have horses, sheep, and chickens I wish I could chase. My Dad is Assistant Fire Chief and I visit fire stations. I miss my big brother at college and my big sister who got married. I was DOG OF HONOR and greeted 150 guests. I walked down the aisle and did tricks. Besides people, my favorite things are running, hiking, playing games, dog parks, napping, and watching “The Office.” I run with my Mom, we’ve done 5K’s and I got a medal. I like backpacking and crossing log bridges over rivers. One thing I don’t like is villains on TV and I bark at them.

You probably want to know how I became a therapy dog! My trainer knew about Pet Pals and thought it would be a good fit. I had a Gammy at Avamere and I loved her. We played fetch and she gave me treats. I visited 3 times a week since I was a puppy. I fell in love with the residents and staff and they loved me. As soon as I earned my certificate in January 2019 I started visiting my Avamere friends in the Pets to People Program, and Gammy was proud. Then Gammy crossed over the Rainbow Bridge and I was sad, but we wanted to keep visiting our friends every week. I love seniors because they pet me and give me cookies. They say I remind them of their old dogs and tell me stories. I sit very quietly while

everyone pets me and I do my tricks. They love shaking hands best. The staff say I make them happy with my goofy smiling face. I know when I’m on duty and I take my job of visiting each person very seriously. I make sure my Mom walks me down all the hallways so I can say “hi” to everyone. One time she tried to sneak out early, but I turned around and made her take me back inside so I could finish visiting.

After a few weeks visiting Avamere, my Mom said I could be a therapy dog at Salish Coast Elementary School for Read to Rover! The very first day I got only as far as the parking lot and I started smiling like crazy and boogying sideways because I was so happy and excited to meet everyone, and that made them laugh. I didn’t know anyone at first but by the time I left I had 100 new friends because the teacher lined up all the kids on the playground and they got to pet me as they walked by. I smiled at everyone. It was awesome! I LOVE kids! They are silly like me! I have a blanket with my photo and my own book, *Leo’s Adventures in Petlandia*, that the kids love so much my Mom bought a copy



Backpacking with Mom

for the school. The kids earn 1 photo sticker after they read to me. I give every one of them a high five and they give me a treat. I love the librarian and she calls me a R2R Rockstar. I love lying on my blanket and snuggling with the kids while they read and putting my head on their laps. Sometimes it's hard to sit quietly for so long but I'm patient because I know it's my job and I go every week. My Mom says I'm very wise. One time there was a girl who was crying because she wanted to read to another dog. She was a long way away, so I stood up and walked off my blanket, which I never do, so my Mom knew something was wrong. I looked at my Mom and then looked at the girl and my Mom understood. She let me walk across the room to the girl so I could

stand right in front of her. I looked in her eyes and wagged my tail. Then I started kissing the girl gently on her face until she started giggling. She stopped crying and then was laughing, and she walked back over with me and read her book to me. My Mom said she was proud of me for knowing exactly what to do to make the girl feel better. Another girl asked, "Does Leo do private therapy sessions?" because she wanted me to go with her to The Courthouse to talk to some scary people and she wanted to have me with her to help her be brave. I was excited to do that but the judge said no dogs, so she did extra sessions with me for fun. My Mom says it's awesome to help kids and we love it.

So that's me and my story! My Mom says someday she'd like to write a children's book about me, but for now, if you want to keep up with my adventures, I have an Instagram account Doodle_Leo_Loves_Life with 1,500 followers, and I'm also a dog model for online pet stores. Happy tails to you!!!



Running 5K races with Mom



At Salish Coast Read to Rover

Read to Rover Plans for the 2020 School Year

The local elementary schools opened this year with a hybrid model involving some in-class time and some on-line learning from home and with no outside volunteers allowed in the buildings. So our usual Read to Rover model of sitting down with kids in the school libraries is out for now. Based on our summer library virtual Read to Rover (see the article on the last page), we have been in discussions with the schools to explore alternative ways of offering fun reading experiences with our dogs to young readers during this unusual school year. There are many more technical and legal issues involved than we expected.

At Salish Coast Elementary School in Port Townsend, librarian Denise Aedan is hosting a voluntary on-line "reading circle" on Wednesday mornings and is working with Salish Coast Read to Rover coordinator, Laura Joshel, to enlist the involvement of Read to Rover teams. The first session was held on October 28 with Read to Rover teams Carolyn Brummel and Leo, Pam Rogge and Belle, Laura Joshel and Chico, and Carla Ellis and Lumie.

At Chimacum Creek Primary School in Port Hadlock, Carla Ellis and Kim Pratt from the Chimacum Read to Rover program are working with CCP Principal Kyle Ehlis to keep our partnership going. Our goal is to serve *all* the second graders and they all will receive a red Read to Rover t-shirt, as always. We have not yet found a virtual solution that maintains the best features of our usual model, such as the one-on-one assignments between kids and their "forever dogs," while satisfying the school's liability concerns. So, it's back to the drawing board as we explore other ideas.

Finally, Pet Pals is carefully restarting its therapy dog testing with COVID-19 precautions that meet state requirements and with guidance from the American Kennel Club on how to adapt our test. For more information, go to ompetpals.org/therapy-dog-training-and-testing.

The Lucky Dog Training Center
"Train, Don't Complain!"



Georgia Towle
360.732.0908
www.theluckydogtraining.com

581 Ole Torkelson Rd
Chimacum, WA 98325

A Tribute to Kate Schumann

Kate Schumann's recent death has saddened the hearts of everyone in the Pet Pals family. We are reflecting on her generous and significant contributions to our organization and to the greater community of animal lovers and advocates.

Kate was instrumental to the success of Pet Pals in many ways. She created the Read to Rover program in 2005 as a summer program with the Port Townsend Library. With her guidance, the program



Kate and Lillie with a Salish Coast Elementary reader

has grown to include Chimacum Creek Primary, Salish Coast Elementary, and Quilcene schools and both the Port Townsend and Jefferson County libraries. More than 100 volunteers have gained certification for their dogs and the program has gathered accolades from librarians, school staffs, and, most importantly, the children who have developed their reading skills and bonded with

therapy dogs over the years. Many students express their appreciation years after going through the program in elementary school and have never forgotten their "forever dogs." Kate had a way of inspiring volunteers that contributed to the growth and success of the program.

"Her memory will live on through the delightful program she created. So many kids have been touched by her generosity."



"Such a beautiful woman, inside and out. What a wonderful legacy she leaves behind with OMPP/Read to Rover"

Kate's graphic skills and artistic expertise helped us present ourselves in a far more appealing and professional manner. In addition to her own contributions, her contacts and

collaborations with local artists resulted in a new look for Pet Pals, represented by our logo and signature sale items. Her beautiful calligraphy adorns our board member identification badges.

Her expertise as a fundraiser was second to none. Her creative ideas resulted in collaborations with Key City Public Theater, the Rose Theater, Prison Pet Partnerships and PT Shorts. She worked tirelessly but was always the picture of calm and graciousness. Although most



Kate's Kissing Booth with Lillie. Ginny Messina, and Marsha Weiner stand by to help

projects involved months of planning, her inspiration sometimes came "on the fly" as when she and her sweet dog Lillie came to staff our booth at the Uptown Fair one year and after seeing a lack of engagement with the fair attendees, set up a kissing booth. Kate sold the tickets and Lillie delivered the "kisses." Attendee engagement ensued!

Kate offered her home as a meeting place, encouraged us when we needed it, and was the face of Pet Pals for many in the community. Her work seemed so effortless it was easy to think things had just "come together" when she had spent countless hours perfecting every detail. She encouraged us, supported us and stepped up every time we needed her. She served on our Board of Directors for 12 years, most of those as Vice President and was our touchstone. Our gratitude can't be measured.

Our hearts go out to her husband Ned and the rest of her family. We cherish Kate's legacy.



Kate and Ned at a Read to Rover celebration

"She was a person of great courage, grace and strength whom I greatly admired. Sometimes you are inspired by someone you have only known for a short period of time and may not know not well and Kate was one of those rare individuals."

The list of 2020 donors will appear in the Spring 2021 issue.
The list of "In honor of" and "In memory of" gifts is current as of October 20, 2020.

IN HONOR OF...

Dr. Ginny Johnson

Leonore and Harvey Kilmer

Kim Pratt

*Shirley and George Williams
All the Chimacum Creek R2R
Volunteers*

Chloe, beloved Black Lab of Patti and Marty Ivers

Peter and Glenda Geerlofs

My beloved cat Scout

Sandy Guinup

My beloved cat Bella

Maria Holtgrave

My beloved dog Maddie

Barbara McColgan

IN MEMORY OF...

My sister, Erica Springstead

Linda Jeannotte

Steve Delucchi

Kathy and Chuck Krause

Kate Schumann

*Ginny and Mark Messina
Linnea Patrick
Carla Ellis and Rick Floyd
Pam and Keith Kolacy
Sam and Lilianne Glast
Kay Adamson
Helen G Williams
Randi and Lindsay Winter
Pat Swain*

Diane Allen and her two kitties, Mac and Kui. All three were special in their own way and are dearly missed

Priscilla Jensen

Janet Harker 2/5/33 - 7/10/18. Her love for animals was a driving force of her life.

Sharon Gyovai

Eva Ahlson

Mo and Chris Jenkins

Huey, my beloved husband

Eva Ahlson

Beloved "Little Cat" of Laura and Bernard Rosenberg with many tears

Karen and Tony DeLorenzo

Abbie, the gentle giant of love, a great spirit and great dog

Nancy Wyatt

Buddy, fierce protector and loyal companion to Taylor Worth

Susan and Mort Robinson

Bugg, beloved dog of Judy and Jerry Angeline

Patti and Marty Ivers

Dana Kovac and Pam Den Otter's beloved dog Tegin "he lived a long life, loved by all"

Pat Swain

Our beloved cat Willow

Jim and Debbie Dodd

Frankie, beloved dog of Anne Quade

Bonnie Masi

Harry, beloved dog of Nancy Rohl

Peter and Glenda Geerlofs

Holly and Ginger, beloved dogs of Kathy and Ron Ryan

Jan Schroeder

Rufous, our beloved "Big Red" gone too soon

Jan Schroeder and Steve Iden

Jan Schroeder's beloved dog Rufous, the awesome "Big Red"

Pam and Keith Kolacy

Kate and Ned Schumann's

Lillie, a Read to Rover dog who brought happiness to everyone near her.

*Kate and Ned Schumann
Sally Rodgers
Carla Ellis and Rick Floyd
Sam and Lilianne Glast
Carrie Andrews and Ross
Goodwin
Pam and Keith Kolacy
Randi and Lindsay Winter*

Linda James's beloved dogs

*Karma and Sophie, former
Read to Rover dogs
Carla Ellis and Rick Floyd*

Lise and Scot Solvang's beloved kitty Zoe

*Ellen Ostern and Dwight
Oberholtzer*

Maggie, sweet much-loved dog of Jerien Binney

Kay Adamson

Magic, my beloved dog

Scott Walker

Maia, beloved dog of Marilyn

*Lewis
Sally Rodgers*

Max, beloved cat of Steve and

*Joni Barkyoumb
Jane Krabill*

Pepe, our beloved dog

*Marcia Coleman and Phil
Grinton*

Priscilla Jensen's beloved kitty Raven

Pam and Keith Kolacy

My dearly loved kitty Raven, he was special, he was a pistol, he can never be replaced and he is sorely missed.

Priscilla Jensen

Rudy, beloved Read to Rover dog of Phyllis Taylor

Barbara Walker

Sammy, my beloved Read to Rover dog

Ruth Merryman

Shawnigan, beloved dog of Christina and Jim Pivarnik

Cathy and Steve Tucker

Topaz, sweet giant R2R dog of Georgia Towle and Patty Greeny

*Carla Ellis and Rick Floyd
Christina and Jim Pivarnik
Shirley Williams*

Winnie, beloved dog of Eric and Barbara Effman

Elsa Golts

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.

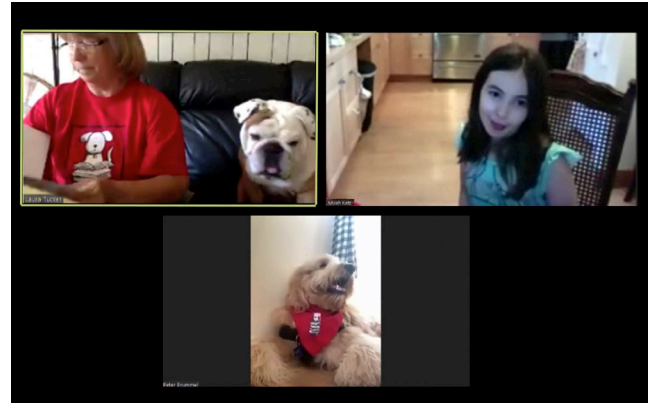
Summer On-line Read to Rover

There is no substitute for the hands-on experience of reading with one hand in the fur of a friendly dog. However, with everyone trying to stay safe at home, even therapy dogs have to innovate and experiment with new models. So, on Thursday mornings throughout July, Read to Rover teams offered Zoom reading sessions for kids, in cooperation with the Jefferson County Library and Port Townsend Library. The kids who participated seemed to have fun and enjoy our dogs.

One of our readers, Micah, had this to say about her experiences: "What I liked about Read to Rover was that I got to see a bunch of different dogs and talk to the owners. They were all so cute and fun and I liked to see their tricks. I loved all the dogs, and I don't want to pick a favorite, because I don't want to offend anyone. I liked reading Dr. Seuss with the dogs. I also just liked some of the things they did when I read to them. I liked how some of the dogs could keep a treat on their paw and wait for the owner to give them a signal to go ahead and eat the treat. I just loved seeing all the dogs, meeting the owners, talking, reading, everything."

We thank Scott Bahlmann, youth librarian at Jefferson County Library and Hilary Verheggen, youth librarian at Port Townsend Library, for advertising the program, hosting the sessions and scheduling readers. They had assistance from library staff, Chloe Vogel and Martha Ashenfelter. It has been a pleasure to work with all of them on this project.

Thank you to the participating Read to Rover teams: Carolyn Brummel with Leo, Carla Ellis with Lumie, Ginny Partridge with Brie, Christina Pivarnik with Sidney, Melody Sky with Gryfin, Pat Swain with Lily, and Laura Tucker with Yogi. We have the very best volunteers ever!



Zoom session with Laura and Yogi, Micah, and Leo

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