



Olympic Mountain Pet Pals

Annual Report 2020

Spay and Neuter Services

Goals: In 2001 and 2002, our organization determined that we could best help animals in Jefferson County by providing funding dedicated to programs that would reduce the population of unwanted and homeless animals. Our targets were pets in low-income families who did not have the resources to pay for spay and neuter service and feral and abandoned (“community”) cats. Our goal was to make Jefferson County a community with no homeless cats and dogs and to make our local shelter a low or no-kill facility.

Strategic Planning

In 2020, the Pet Pals Board of Directors conducted a months-long strategic planning process to discuss better ways of providing service to our low-income spay/neuter clients and community cats in light of inevitable changes, most significantly the increasingly high costs of services at private veterinary clinics. We have also struggled with the amount of work required of our small group of volunteers to make our programs run smoothly. We determined that our current model of issuing vouchers for private veterinary clinics was not sustainable in the long term.

Our conclusion was that the best way to continue to achieve our goals was to provide a new and more cost-effective model for providing spay/neuter services to our clients. We discussed our wishes with two local non-profits, the Humane Society of Jefferson County and Center Valley Animal Rescue and a new partnership was formed. With our financial backing, both partners have initiated plans to hold regular clinics to provide spay/neuter services to qualified community residents and community cats, as well as low-cost vaccinations, micro-chips and other services. The first three months of the program are showing great potential for an increased number of procedures at a much lower cost.

We will continue to provide dedicated funding for these spay/neuter programs which will enable both entities to provide this essential service to our community. We expect growth in the level of service over the next year as CVAR and HSJC gather more experience and establish their programs.

Our statistics for 2020

Spay/neuter services for low-income families in Jefferson County funded since inception:

5,810 animals (2,211 dogs and 3,599 cats)

In 2020 we funded services for 329 animals, 105 dogs and 224 cats

Trap/neuter/return for community cats since inception: 2,406

In 2020: 29 cats

Total number of spay/neuter procedures to date: 8,216

Even with conservative estimations of potential population growth, OMPP has prevented many thousands of dog and cat births in our county.

The cost of spay/neuter services in 2020 was approximately **\$45,100**

Ginger's Fund

Once the spay/neuter programs were underway, the Board voted to add a program that would provide subsidies to our veterinarian partners to use at their discretion for emergency services for pets in low-income families. **Ginger's Fund** has provided funding for a total of 639 animals at a cost of \$82,856 since inception. In 2020, we helped 23 animals, total spent was \$5,092.

Therapy Dogs

Of all our programs, the therapy dog program was impacted most significantly because of the pandemic. Therapy dog testing and certification has not been possible due to COVID protocols. In-person visits to schools, libraries and senior facilities through Read to Rover and Pets to People programs had to stop as well.

With all these challenges, Read to Rover teams continued to do their best to connect with students. Many participated in the Chimacum Creek Primary School drive-by this summer which celebrated the end of the strange school year. Kids saw our teams spaced out along the school drive encouraging the kids to keep reading over the summer ahead. In July, Read to Rover teams offered Zoom reading sessions for kids in cooperation with the Jefferson County and City of Port Townsend Libraries.

Our volunteers remain dedicated to serving students at Chimacum Creek Primary School, Salish Coast Elementary School, the Quilcene School District, the Jefferson County Library and the Port Townsend Library. Pets to People teams will be ready to visit seniors at Life Care Center, Avamere, and Victoria Place as soon as it is safe to do so. Since November, a few Read to Rover teams have attended weekly virtual reading circles on Zoom hosted by Salish Coast Elementary School Librarian, Denise Aedan.

In spite of the year's challenges, our outreach volunteers continue to be wonderful ambassadors for OMPP and can't wait for the time they can connect again in person.

Funding

Our primary source of funding is individual donations. In 2020 we received donations from 170 individuals as well as generous donations through the Port Townsend Co-op Beans to Bags program and a grant from the Quilcene-Brinnon Garden Club. We received many in-kind donations as well, which are listed in our semi-annual newsletter. Some long-time supporters have also made us beneficiaries of their estates.

Outreach

This year we initiated an e-newsletter that is published and sent to our supporters electronically every two months with short updates on our activities. This will enable us to share timely news in addition to our semi-annual newsletter.

Veterinarians

We have worked for many years with generous and caring local veterinarians at Hadlock Veterinary Clinic, Chimacum Valley Veterinary Clinic, and Oak Bay Animal Hospital. Dr. Ginny Johnson and the late Dr. Tony Rogstad were our earliest and best supporters. We lost Dr. Tony all too soon and Dr. Ginny has announced her retirement this year. As we move on to a new way of doing things, we acknowledge our enormous debt to them and to all the veterinarians and staff at the local clinics who have contributed so much to the community through our low income spay/neuter programs.