



Growth of Salish Coast Read to Rover

With the challenges of COVID and its impact on the schools over the past two years, the Salish Coast Read to Rover program started the year with only 4 teams to serve all the second graders in the school. We are thrilled that we have added 5 new teams that recently passed our therapy dog test, doubling the size of the Salish Coast program. We welcome Aimee Dailey-Fallat with Bodhi (pictured above), Janice Chappuis with Barry, Kristina Kelley with Finn, Collene Funk with Bailey, and Araya Sol with Toulia. In addition, Chimacum Creek Primary School added new substitute teams, Debaran Kelso with Rocket and Karen Sherwood with Bailey. Congratulations to all of them on becoming Pet Pals Therapy Dogs!

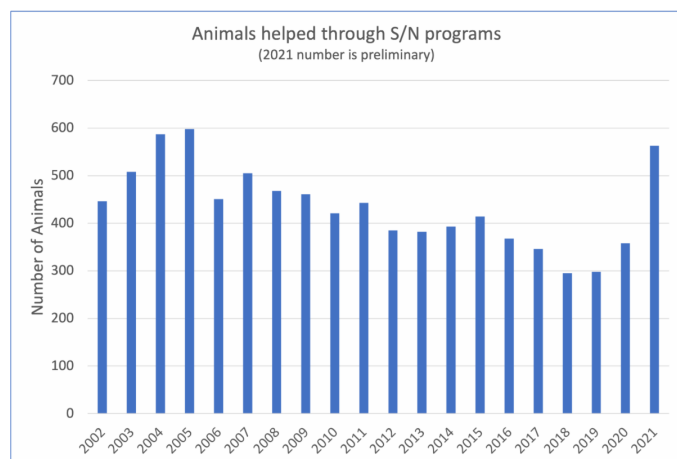
One of these new teams at Salish Coast is Araya and Toula, her 4 year old Labradoodle. She relates their early experiences in Toula's new career as a Read to Rover dog:

"Each Tuesday morning, we arrive early at new Salish Coast Elementary School. We find our corner of the library, set up our treats and stickers, and get ready to meet the second graders who arrive, books in hand, to read to Toula. Some of the students read with ease and enthusiasm, others struggle to sound out the words. Toula is very patient waiting to hear each story. On our first day, one boy brought in his rather complicated, I thought, book about Pokemon. I told him that neither Toula nor I knew much about Pokemon, so he not only read the story to us, but also educated us about all the different characters. Toula looked proud with her new-found knowledge. Both Toula and I love being around all these eager learners filled with youthful energy. And they love reading to the dogs! What a great way to encourage the love of reading in these young students!"



Spay/Neuter Clinics - First Year Success

We agree with Best Friends Animal Society, that “spaying and neutering is one of the greatest gifts you can provide your pet, your family and your community. These routine medical procedures not only help control pet overpopulation, they may also prevent medical and behavioral problems from developing, allowing your pet to lead a longer, healthier and happier life.”



Although February was Spay/Neuter Awareness month, it is always worth reviewing the benefits of spaying/neutering your pets and it is especially critical to prevent unwanted litters during the spring and summer months.

Olympic Mountain Pet Pals is dedicated to helping provide spay/neuter services to lower-income families in Jefferson County by subsidizing clinics at the Humane

Society of Jefferson County and Center Valley Animal Rescue. In 2021, initial numbers indicate that, with our support, local clinics have performed 563 spay/neuter procedures. Since we started in 2002, over 7,700 animals have been spayed or neutered with our help. The 2021 results exceed all but a couple of our best years.

Your help is important to us, as we continue to address this critical ongoing need in our community. Thank you!

[Visit our website](#)

Power of Storytelling

At the start of the school year, Denise Aedan, Salish Coast librarian and first-class storyteller, created a video expressing joy that Read to Rover was back. She says that when it's time for Read to Rover sessions to begin, the school is abuzz with positive energy, with whispers from children and adults alike of "the dogs are here, the dogs are here," reverberating in the hallways. 2nd grade students proudly bounce down the corridors in their bright red Read to Rover T-shirts hugging the books they have brought to share, and they are so excited to enter the Library to read with their dog. As one student hugged her furry friend goodbye, she whispered in his ear, "I just wish every day was Read to Rover Day!"

Click on this photo to view video:



Please Contribute!

Please consider donating. Your contributions help fund our spay and neuter clinics and support the needs of our therapy dog programs. In addition, some generous donors have made a special offer to fund a professional video promoting the Read to Rover program to the community and to encourage new volunteers. You may add your support and become a part of that exciting project.

Olympic Mountain Pet Pals is a 501(c)(3) (non-profit) organization. Please consider donating today.

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Olympic Mountain Pet Pals

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