Olympic Mountain Pet Pals

Annual Report 2021

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 services as well as 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.

Our mission includes the goal of sponsoring therapy dog programs to benefit the community.   These programs include Read to Rover for children in schools and libraries and Pets to People for seniors in assisted living facilities.

Strategic Planning

In 2021, as a result of our strategic planning process, we changed our spay/neuter financial assistance model from issuing vouchers for private veterinary clinics (which we determined was not sustainable in the long term) to providing financial support for two local non-profits, the Humane Society of Jefferson County (HSJC) and Center Valley Animal Rescue (CVAR).

Clinics

We provide dedicated funding for these spay/neuter programs which will help 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.

In 2021, JCHS started the year working out of a borrowed Spay to Save van. In late Spring, their new state-of-the-art medical trailer arrived and since then it has been used for weekly spay/neuter and vaccination clinics for lower income pet owners in Jefferson County as well as to provide medical services to shelter animals.

Center Valley Animal Rescue already had a fully equipped surgical set-up and our financing helped them increase the number of spay/neuter clinics by defraying costs for veterinarians and clinic overhead.

In 2021, JCHS performed 310 procedures and CVAR performed 267 procedures.

How many animals/families have we helped?

In 2021 we funded services for 577 animals, 172 dogs and 405 cats including community cats.

(In 2021, we included community cat procedures with the total cat procedures so there will no longer be a separate listing)

Spay/neuter service funding assistance for low-income families in Jefferson County since our programs began in 2002:   8,793 animals (2,211 dogs and 6,005 cats)

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

The cost of spay/neuter services in 2021 was approximately **$42,134**

Impact of spay/neuter clinics vs. veterinary clinic vouchers

In 2020, we funded spay/neuter procedures for 358 animals at a cost of $45,100.   In 2021, we funded spay/neuter procedures for 577 animals at a cost of $42,134.   The average cost per procedure under our new model went from $126 to $73.00.   More animals for less money!

Ginger's Fund

In 2021, we discontinued the Ginger's Fund program since we were no longer dealing with individual veterinarians.   Our clinic partners provide low- cost vaccinations and microchips in addition to spay/neuter procedures

Therapy Dog Programs

COVID restrictions remained in place for much of the year but our Read to Rover program was boosted by a very special project honoring the dogs who have served in the Chimacum Creek Primary School Read to Rover program.   Kim Pratt, co-coordinator of the Read to Rover program at Chimacum Creek Primary School, decided to honor the dogs who have served in the program by painting their portraits.   This three-year project culminated in an exhibit in January at the Elevated Ice Cream shop for the public to view.   It was also very exciting that the show was featured on King 5 TV's Evening Show! This short segment included interviews of Kim and her art instructor, Julie Read. Some of the Read to Rover teams stopped by to show off their wonderful therapy dogs and talk about the joys of participating in Read to Rover.   When protocols allowed, the Read to Rover Chimacum teams gathered outside for a social occasion and to receive their portraits.   Prints of each dog portrait are hanging in the Chimacum Creek Primary School Library.

In 2021, we also thanked Laura Joshel for her service the past three years in coordinating the Read to Rover program at Salish Coast elementary School. She was key to revitalizing the program before the COVID shutdowns and we are very appreciative of her excellent volunteer leadership.   We were pleased to welcome Donna Geer to this position. Donna and her dog, Cooper have been a Read to Rover team since the new Salish Coast School opened its doors to volunteers.   Donna has played a key role in coordinating with the school to keep the program alive through COVID and into the start of in-person sessions.

To continue Read to Rover during COVID, Denise Aedan, Salish Coast School Librarian, invited kids to read their favorite books to a few Read to Rover dogs on Zoom every Wednesday through May.   Over the year, 45 Salish Coast students attended these R2R reading circles.

After long months without any dog to person contact, it was an exciting time when in-person Read to Rover sessions started in again at both schools in October.

In spite of the challenges of the past two years, 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.

Funding

Our primary source of funding is individual donations. We also receive in-kind donations , which are listed in our semi-annual newsletter.   We are most appreciative of the long-time supporters who have also made us beneficiaries of their estates.

Board Development

At this year's annual meeting, we said goodbye to long-time Board members Phyllis Becker and Randi Winter and recognized them for their significant contributions to our organization.   We are pleased to announce the appointment of two new members to our Board of Directors, Kim Pratt and Donna Geer. Kim has coordinated the Read to Rover program at Chimacum Creek Primary School since its founding. Donna will be leading the Salish Coast Elementary School Read to Rover program.

Outreach

Our e-newsletters were published regularly in 2021 in addition to our semi-annual printed newsletters.   This has allowed us to share timely news on a regular basis between newsletters.

Special Projects

We received a generous donation which was earmarked for production of a professional quality film about the Read to Rover program that we will use to promote the program in our community, encourage donations and attract more volunteers.   Work has begun and the film will be done early in 2022.

Want to Know More?

Many more details about our partnerships, programs, and successes can be found on our website, www.ompetpals.org.   All of our newsletters, e-newsletters are posted there as well as other resources and helpful information.