



Pets to People Dog Parties

by Georgia Towle



I started volunteering with Pets to People at Victoria Place when I first moved to the Port Townsend area. Back then it was called Victoria House and there was a whole different cast of characters from the residents that are there now. Not to mention different staff, management and owners.

When Covid19 hit everything stopped. The residents of care facilities were placed in a lock down that even family members couldn't breach. The senior members of our community were the hardest hit with the deadly virus. There were no visitors. It was a hardship in so many ways.



Karin Lawrie and her dog, K.D., bringing joy to Colleen "Coco" Gawle of Victoria Place

Last fall, as restrictions in care facilities had eased, I approached OMPP to ask if I could restart the Pets to People program at Victoria Place and then the rejuvenation began. I sent out a letter to all the people who had passed the OMPP Therapy Dog tests and I was delighted at the outpouring of care and support for the elder members of our community. A brand new logo was designed for the program by Max Grover, the artist who created the READ to ROVER artwork. Scarves and t-shirts were printed up and we planned the kick-off for the revitalized program to start at the beginning of 2023.

Since that time it's been a party every week. It started slow with only one or two visitors coming into the common room on Wednesdays at 11:00 am for the "Dog Party" but soon it mushroomed into a roomful of dogs, residents, and volunteers all having a wonderful time. Every week some of the teams and their pooches visit the residents who are room-bound or who don't feel like coming out. Now there are many people coming to the weekly dog party that haven't been leaving their rooms at all, just so they can see their new friends (both the two-legged and the four-legged variety).

Borrowing a page from Kim Pratt's READ to ROVER Volunteer appreciation game plan, we've had door prize drawings for the residents and volunteers. Other fun activities are in the making such as a "Yappy Hour" with a wine/beer tasting in the outside courtyard. We've had demonstrations of Canine Scent Work and tricks for the residents. We have also had a wonderful overlapping of the two therapy dog programs (READ to ROVER and Pets to People) when Mike, a resident of Victoria Place, and Sari Judd, the Life Enrichment Coordinator, both came to Chimacum Creek Primary School to be special guests of the READ to ROVER Program. Hopefully we will be able to schedule another visit to the school from one of the residents before the scholastic year comes to an end. Last week when I was standing outside the door waiting to be let into Victoria Place, I could hear a joyous cacophony of excited voices and laughter. When I entered the common room I said "From outside the building it sounds like there's a raucous party going on in here!" And there was!

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Quilcene: Alicia Johnsen, 360-765-2942

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Humane Society of Jefferson County,
360-385-3292

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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.ompetpals.org

From the President

Those are mighty big pawprints I have to fill as the incoming President. For over 20 years, Pet Pals has been led by an amazing woman, Pam Kolacy, who served as President. At this year's annual meeting, Pam stepped back from the role, but not from the Pet Pals board.

Pam presided over many changes in the organization, addressing a wide-ranging set of challenges. Under her leadership, we grew the therapy dog program significantly, revamped our approach to providing low-income spay and neuter services, and weathered the COVID pandemic and economic challenges.

When asked to reflect on her service, Pam said "My involvement in Olympic Mountain Pet Pals is a great source of pride for me. Our commitment to financially supporting spay/neuter services for lower income County residents and to reducing the feral cat population has made a big impact, with over 8,000 animals receiving these services in our years of existence. Our therapy dog programs have grown successfully through the years as well and have brought joy to many. It has been a pleasure working with caring board members, volunteers, and members of the public and I look forward to seeing our programs continue their vital services to the community."

We offer a heartfelt "thank you" to Pam and a wish for a well-deserved retirement from the stress of being President. I am extremely grateful that she will be staying on the board as Past President to advise and help with the transition.

One of my primary goals for the future of OMPP is to address the fund-raising shortfalls that threaten our ability to provide adequate funding for our spay/neuter clinic partnerships. Your donations are so important for us to continue to meet the spay/neuter needs of low-income Jefferson County families. We appreciate all your support! My other goal is to nurture our therapy dog programs to touch the lives of even more children and seniors in our community. We are grateful to our volunteers who contribute their time and energy to make those programs so successful.



Carla Ellis and her dog, Lumie



Photo credit: Deja Webster of
Deja View Photography

Are you receiving our eNews?

Pet Pals sends a short email newsletter approximately every other month.

If you are not getting it and wish to, please subscribe by going to <http://ompetpals.org/subscribe-to-ompp-e-news>

Pet Pals is Grateful for Community Support

Olympic Mountain Pet Pals Thanks These Local Businesses for Their Generous Contributions:

- **Lucky Dog Training Center**, owned by Georgia Towle, for therapy dog testing.
- **OlympusNet**, owned by 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.
- **The Gathering Place** for providing dog treats for READ to ROVER.
- **PT Shirt Company**, owned by Frank Iuro, for supplying our READ to ROVER and Pets to People tee shirts.
- **Max Grover** – for design of our READ to ROVER and Pets to People logos

Results of Spay/Neuter Clinics for 2022

This past year, 2022, marks the second year since we changed our spay/neuter financial assistance model from issuing vouchers for private veterinarians to providing financial support for clinics with our partners, the Humane Society of Jefferson County (HSJC) and Center Valley Animal Rescue (CVAR), who each have their own surgical facilities in which to perform operations. In our Annual Report for 2022, we present the results of our funding of these services.

The good news is that we are funding as many or more spay/neuter operations for low-income Jefferson County residents as in the old system. This year we funded services for 485 animals, 118 dogs and 367 cats including community cats. This brought the total number of animals spayed or neutered with our financial help since we started in 2002 to 9,189 animals. Our costs for these spay/neuter services in 2022 was approximately \$39,000 with an average of \$80.40 per procedure. The graph shows how the clinics are very cost effective compared to the rising prices at the private vets in recent years with our old model. More animals for less money! HSJC performed 259 procedures and CVAR performed 226. Many of these pets received low-cost vaccinations and micro-chips as well.

Now the bad news. Going forward, there are some challenges we face in meeting the community needs. One new challenge is the shortage of veterinarians and veterinary technicians which has been affecting the number of clinics that can be offered. Our other challenge is that donations have not been keeping up with the demand. Since the bulk of our annual budget goes to these services, a drop in donations risks our ability to continue providing this level of financial assistance at our partners' clinics.

Your help is important to us as we continue to address the critical ongoing goal of reducing the number of unwanted and homeless animals in our community. Thank you for your continuing support!

| | Cats | Dogs | CVAR | HSJC |
|-------------------------------|------|------|------|------|
| Average 2002-2020 (old model) | 311 | 116 | | |
| 2021 | 405 | 172 | 267 | 310 |
| 2022 | 367 | 118 | 226 | 259 |

Our funded S/N clinics compared to S/N operations over previous years



Costs of spay / neuter operations in recent years. 2020 and earlier are under the old vet voucher model.

Meet Therapy Dog, Bailey

by Bailey as told by “Mom” Peggy Norcutt

Hi – My name is Bailey. I am what is called an All-American Dog. I am a mix of Labrador Retriever, German Shepherd Dog and “Super Mutt”. I just had my 7th birthday on March 6th.

I am a very busy dog. As a therapy dog, I do both READ to ROVER (R2R) and Pets to People (P2P). While working with Georgia at Lucky Dog Training in Chimacum, Mom and I learned about the Therapy Dog and Canine Good Citizen Programs. They had tests scheduled for that weekend, so we took the tests and passed! These two certifications require passing tests that showed that I could follow basic obedience commands, can be calm around different dogs, and don't mind being touched by new people. They also tested to make sure I was not



Listening is so relaxing at READ to ROVER

frightened by equipment used by seniors like walkers and canes, etc. I think mom was a little nervous, but I knew I could do it.

My Mom Peggy says the READ to ROVER program combines her favorite things: books, kids and dogs. We became a regular R2R team in the 2021 school year and got our first “forever” kids. It is great to see them each week and they get better at reading and petting me at the same time. We are doing R2R this year as well as starting up with the Pets to People program again. I get so excited when mom puts on my P2P or R2R scarf. I know it means we are going to see our kids or the senior center folks. That means lots of attention, pets and treats.

I also love to chase balls and frisbees. I think I got this from daddy, the Labrador Retriever. I love anything to do with the water. When I was a puppy I would climb in the kayak with Mom and paddle around. I am too big for the little kayak now, Mom should get a bigger one. If there is water around I will find a way to jump in and swim around. I even enjoy swimming in the water here in Admiralty Inlet and wow is it cold! I don't mind the cold as long as there is also a game of fetch.

Another fun thing Mom and I do together is scent work. This is when people hide q-tips with scents on them that I have been trained to find. This is really fun because I lead the searches and tell Mom where they are hidden. Mom says I really make her look good when we do scent work trials. I have a whole wall of ribbons. I really don't care, but Mom really likes it when I win ribbons for my wall.

Anyone who might be interested in becoming a therapy dog and joining in the R2R or P2P fun should contact Lucky Dog Training in Chimacum. Georgia can tell you all about it.



The many hats (scarves) of Bailey



My Ribbon Wall



As a puppy, ready to kayak

Changes in the Pet Pals Board

We will miss retiring board member, **Pat Swain**, who joined the board in 2017. After 15 wonderful years living in Port Townsend, Pat and her husband, Bill are moving to Boston to be closer to their children, grandchildren and a new great grandson. Pat hopes to find a pet-related volunteer program in her new home.

Pat has always loved animals and was introduced to OMPP in 2012 when she became a member of READ to ROVER. During her time in READ to ROVER she started with Kali, a lab/golden mix, next came Lily a sweet, one-eyed terrier she inherited after her daughter's death and is ending with Dylan, a neighbors' labradoodle who is full of life, loves being with the kids and celebrates every session. "READ to ROVER is such a special joy for me, my dogs and the children. Not only do they delight in reading to the dogs, but they develop a love of reading," says Pat. "It's a win-win situation. There is something about being with a dog that brings so much joy and love."

Pat joined the board in 2017 because she understood the need to help the pet owners of Port Townsend afford spay/neuter services and to keep the community cat population under control. Her many contributions to the organization (beyond being a dedicated READ to ROVER volunteer) include serving as Secretary, writing press releases and articles, designing promotional materials and supporting other one-off activities. She could be counted on to offer good ideas and to step forward whenever a need arose. We highly valued her talents and hard work on behalf of OMPP.

Pat believes that her time on the Pet Pals Board and her years with READ to ROVER are filled with many wonderful memories. She says "Have no doubt, I will miss Port Townsend, it's a wonderful place to live and filled with very special people." We wish her all the best in her new life on the east coast and we will miss her as well.

We are pleased to welcome **Georgia Towle** as a new board member.

Georgia and her partner, Patty, moved from Seattle to a small farm in Chimacum in 2006 so she could expand her dog training business to include dog performance sports like agility, tracking and scent work.

One of the first people she met when she moved to the Port Townsend area was Kate Schumann. Kate and her daughter Carrie became one of the first clients at The Lucky Dog Training Center. Kate introduced Georgia to READ to ROVER and Pets to People. Georgia started participating in READ to ROVER at Grant Street School (now Salish Coast Elementary School) and started visiting Victoria Place, as well. She moved to become a founding member of the Chimacum Creek Primary School READ to ROVER program in 2009 and has teamed up with six dogs over the years. She recently took on the leadership of the Pets to People program (all this before joining the board).

Georgia worked for Northwest and later Delta Airlines for thirty six years. Her flexible schedule made it possible for her to pursue her avocation as a dog trainer at the same time. She especially enjoyed flying to Europe and would fly to Amsterdam every Monday and return on Wednesdays so that it left weekends open to training dogs and competing at various dog sports.

Georgia's training philosophy has changed a lot over the years. Now she employs a force-free style of positive reinforcement type training. She says the difference is tangible with a better relationship with dogs that is based on mutual trust and affection instead of pain and discomfort. Georgia has leveraged her classes to recruit promising candidates for therapy dog teams and has been responsible for administering OMPP's therapy dog tests.

Georgia feels that volunteering builds strong communities and the 'return in her investment' with OMPP has been a thousand-fold. She hopes that she will be able to help with these programs for years to come and inspire others to volunteer too. OMPP is excited to have Georgia join the board.



Retiring board member, Pat Swain
photo credit: Carla Ellis



New board member, Georgia Towle
photo credit: Carla Ellis

This is the list of 2022 donors from January through December..
The list of "In honor of" and "In memory of" gifts covers the period of November 15, 2022 to April 15, 2023.

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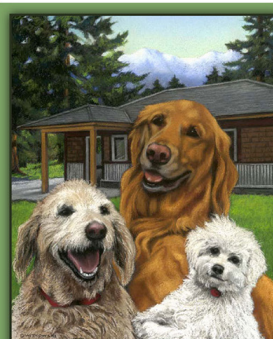
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**Deb Wiese for her many years
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*Lisa Enarson and Randy
Kraxberger*

**Jane Krabill who has dedicated
her life to care for her
rescued pets and others who
have a need**
Robert Salomon

Jane Kurata
Jim and Noreen McCarron

**Janie, beloved dog of Roger
McPherson**
Sandy Guinup

Kay Adamson and Jasper
Kim and Phillip Henry

**Our very special Rover
volunter at CCP, Tom Speer,
who helped bring joy to so
many partnered with his pal
Larry.**
Kim and Erik Pratt

**Yogi, our beloved Read to
Rover dog**
*Laura Tucker and Hank
Walker*

IN MEMORY OF...

**Annie, beloved dog of Kim
Nelson**
Priscilla Jensen

**Bill Curtsinger and Sue
Ohlson's beloved dog Arlo**
Kathleen Mitchell

My beloved dog Frannie
Bob Podrat

**Brody Pine/Lawrence, beloved
dog of Jay Pine and Penny
Lawrence**
Joanna Sanders

Catherine McNabb
Patricia Foster

**Darby, our beloved dog and the
other Read to Rover dogs
that have been lost this year.**
Lana and Timothy O'Neill

**Dave and Anne Krabill's Aunt
Carol Diller**
Jane Krabill

**Gidget, beloved dog of Daria
Frank**
John and Donna English

Harry the JRT, my beloved dog
Meemie Sullivan

**Ivy, my beloved Read to Rover
dog**
Kathy Joyce

Janet Harker
Sharon Gyovai

**Katie, a most special dog and
family member of Pete and
Laurel Rowan**
Nancy Wyatt

**Linnea Patrick's beloved sister
Louise Hartford**
Pam and Keith Kolacy

**Liza, beloved dog of Pete
Cannon**
Pam and Keith Kolacy

Louie, Reggie, Pita and Oleka
Jan Stein

**Lulu, beloved cat of Crystal
Sund**
Jane Hall

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Candice Gohn

My mom, Eva Ahlson
Rhonda and Steve Scharf

My dad, Duane Foss
Janice Hodge

Otis, our beloved dog
Shirley and George Williams

**Pat Landis and all the animals
she loved in her lifetime**
Kathleen Mitchell

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**Phyllis Litke's beloved dog
Nouie**
Sally Rodgers

**Polly Thurston's beloved dog
Bluebird**
Kathleen Mitchell

Ray Steinberg
Jan Schroeder

**Recently lost, beloved Read
to Rover Friends of CCP
School Boji, Brie, Darby and
Sidney**
Kim and Erik Pratt



Photo credit: Deja Webster of
Deja View Photography

**Selden McKee's beloved dog
Maggie**
Kathleen Mitchell

**Micah, beloved dog of Karen
and Lew Bezanson**
Melody Sky Weaver

**Seven, beloved cat of Catherine
Case**
Will and Patricia Barrett

**The Langston family's beloved
dog Jake, the joy and
affection he freely gave will
be missed.**
Nancy Wyatt

Tom Speer
*Henrietta Griffiths
Kathy Long
Kim and Erik Pratt
Carla Ellis and Rick Floyd*

**Waldo, beloved pet of Bruce
Fountain**
Kim and Phillip Henry



Photo credit: Deja Webster of
Deja View Photography

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.

Pet Pals Around Town



Linda Abbott-Roe with Simon represented the Pets to People Program

On Sunday April 16, OMPP participated in the **Connectivity Fair** as one of 70-some area nonprofit organizations aiming to establish partnerships and recruit potential new volunteers. Our secret weapons for attracting visitors to our table and initiating conversations were our therapy dog teams. Our next community event will be the **Rhody Pet Parade** on May 18. We hope to see you there!



Carla Ellis set up our table at the Connectivity Fair



READ to ROVER volunteers Arya Sol with Toulou and Lana O'Neill with Grady

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