



Back to School for READ to ROVER

So Many Preparations This Year!

The READ to ROVER program starts every school year needing to adapt to a few administrative changes, but this year has been particularly challenging. The second grade classes that we serve moved to the Chimacum Elementary School on the main campus from their old home in the Chimacum Creek Primary School building. This move has been a major undertaking for the teachers to set up their new classrooms. It also raised a bunch of issues for the READ to ROVER organizers and volunteers.



Ginny Partridge with Shona and Peggy Norcutt with Bailey wait to visit classes.

Thanks to the hard work of Kim Pratt, working with the Principal, Leigh Schwartz (shown above, gathering in front of the Elementary School), we are finally ready to start. On Friday October 6, several teams visited the classrooms to provide an introduction to the program and explain what the students should expect. Reading sessions with the kids started on Friday October 13 with 16 dogs and their humans.

Meanwhile at Salish Coast Elementary School in Port Townsend, reading sessions started on Wednesday October 11 with 13 dog teams eager to read with the second grade students. In response to requests for tips on how to help struggling readers, Donna Geer arranged a "training" session for interested volunteers held on October 4.

Decoding. Tapping it out. Sounding and blending. These are all things our READ to ROVER volunteers learned about when we attended the training on how to best help emergent readers. Salish Coast Elementary reading interventionist, Cherry Chenruk-Geelan, walked us through various techniques to help children when they have trouble reading certain words. As Donna explains "Now we can guide students using the same processes they are already familiar with. We're not teachers and our main objective is to make reading fun for the kids, but we can still provide assistance following the same methods they're learning in class. Sounds like a win-win."

Addressing a Community Need

One aspect of Olympic Mountain Pet Pals mission is to help underserved local families benefit from pet ownership while being able to afford basic veterinary services, such as spay / neuter procedures, for their beloved dogs and cats.

Studies have shown that owning a dog or cat provides physical and mental health benefits at all stages of life (children to senior citizens) and should be available regardless of economic status. Health benefits include lower blood pressure, a more active lifestyle, and a lower risk of heart disease. Psychological and emotional benefits include relief from stress, less loneliness and depression.



Unfortunately, staffing shortages and rising costs at animal hospitals present significant challenges in the ability of lower income residents to access vet care for their pets. At local vet hospitals, a wellness exam and vaccinations for puppies or kittens can run almost \$500 and a spay/neuter operation can cost between \$300 and \$900 for cats and between \$700 and \$1120 for dogs. Responsible pet ownership should not be a privilege restricted to the affluent members of our community.

One of our goals is to lessen the burden of basic vet services for the underserved residents in our community. We do this by subsidizing spay and neuter clinics held by our partners, Center Valley Animal Rescue and the Humane Society of Jefferson County, making it possible to offer more clinics and serve more low-income pet owners. In 2022, OMPP's expenditures for s/n clinics were \$39,000 (serving 485 animals); in 2021, s/n clinics cost us \$41,833 (serving 577 animals). These expenditures are funded entirely out of donations which have declined recently. We need your financial help to continue to meet the demand for spay and neuter services. Please consider helping us!

Beware the Treats of Halloween



Many of the traditional Trick-or-Treat goodies can be toxic to pets, so be careful what they might get into.

Raisins can cause kidney failure in pets. Candies with chocolate or sweetened with xylitol (a common sugar substitute in sugar-free candy) are also dangerous. Often, you won't be able to tell what a candy contains with individually wrapped candies lacking ingredient labels. Don't leave "self-serve" bowls of candies on your porch where animals can get into them.

Err on the side of caution when it comes to sharing human Halloween treats with your pets.

In Memory of or In Honor of



Sometimes it is important to have an outlet for expressing your appreciation to a living friend or beloved pet or to convey your sympathy when a dear friend experiences a loss of a companion. It helps to know that others care about their loss. Contributing a gift to Olympic Mountain Pet Pals in honor of or in memory of a friend or their animal companion both expresses your feelings 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.

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

Olympic Mountain Pet Pals

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