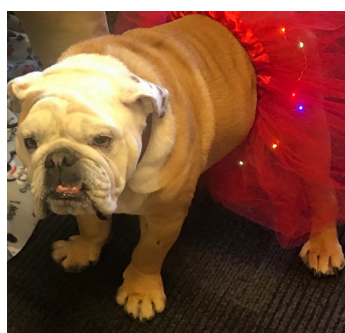


## Every Day at READ to ROVER Features Tricks and Treats

But it takes **Halloween** to bring out the creative costumes to the delight of the kids and teachers. On the last READ to ROVER session before Halloween at Chimacum Elementary School, the dogs and some of their humans came dressed to impress. After showing their appreciation for the outfits by handing out treats, of course, the kids started reading some really spooky and fun Halloween-themed books. There were some dogs doing tricks as well. Our next dressup opportunity comes right before Winter Break when all the elves, reindeer, and Santa helpers will pay the school a visit. For now, come on in and enjoy the Halloween show!



Whiskey and Christina, the Witch



Yogi in a tutu?



His Royal Highness, Jeeves



Larry and Piper aren't subtle with their costumes.



Boo could only be a ghost



Bailey is a great lion

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## WHO'S WHO IN OLYMPIC MOUNTAIN PET PALS

### Board of Directors

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**PETS TO PEOPLE:** Georgia Towle

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Chimacum: Kim Pratt, 360-385-3852

#### SPAY/NEUTER CLINICS:

Center Valley Animal Rescue, 360-765-0598  
Humane Society of Jefferson County,  
360-385-3292

### Board of Advisors

Steve Gillard  
Max Grover  
Ken McBride  
Ginny Messina  
Kathleen Mitchell  
Bob Podrat  
Michelle Sandoval

Olympic Mountain Pet Pals is a 501(c)(3) (non-profit) organization whose mission is to enhance the lives of pets and people, serving kids, seniors, and low-income pet families. We are funded by donations and grants.

For more information about Olympic Mountain Pet Pals, visit our website at [www.ompetpals.org](http://www.ompetpals.org)

## From the President

I've had trouble getting started on the President's Letter for this issue. It's because of this photo and considering whether I should use it one last time. Over the summer, we lost our beloved dog, Lumie, to cancer and we're still grieving his death. While our memories of him are unique and deeply personal, the experience of losing a pet is universal among pet owners. When we bring a pet into our home and heart, the deal we make comes with the knowledge that their lives are just too short. In spite of the pain, I am grateful for every day we had together. I also grateful to all the dedicated, highly-skilled, and caring veterinary professionals - local vets, vet techs, staff, and specialists in the region - who helped Lumie live a quality life for as long as he could.

During his long health journey, I got a glimpse into the many challenges of our current veterinary system. The clinics are overwhelmed and understaffed. I hear the frustration of owners who can't find emergency care on the weekends or nights. Regular appointments are often scheduled way into the future. The costs of care are rising and becoming unaffordable for many families. In the past, nonprofits trying to help lower-income pet owners in our community relied on vets who volunteered their time to provide basic services like spay and neuter surgeries. The shortage of veterinarians and veterinary technicians along with the resulting heavy workloads limit such efforts and affect the number of clinics that can be offered. Olympic Mountain Pet Pals is committed to providing financial support for spay/neuter clinics offered by our partners, the Humane Society of Jefferson County (HSJC) and Center Valley Animal Rescue (CVAR). We have been exploring incentives to improve clinic access for our underserved neighbors.

We need your help to ensure more Jefferson County cats and dogs can live healthier lives regardless of their family's economic status and to address the critical ongoing goal of reducing the number of unwanted and homeless animals in our community. Thank you for your continuing support!



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-eNews>

# ***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 printing and 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.

## ***Our History of Helping Low-Income Pet Families*** ***by Pam Kolacy***

**O**lympic Mountain Pet Pals began a trap, neuter and return program for feral cats in mid-2001 as a sub-committee of JCASA (Jefferson County Animal Shelter Auxiliary). In 2002, we became Olympic Mountain Pet Pals and voted to dedicate our efforts to assisting lower income residents of Jefferson County by offering free or reduced spay/neuter services to those who qualified. We have been supporting this program ever since with stunning results of over 9,000 spay/neuter procedures completed for community residents and feral cats. This has resulted in a greatly decreased number of animals coming to our local shelter, thus enabling it to be “open admission” – turning no animals away and not euthanizing any adoptable animals.

After we realized our very successful voucher program which directed clients to local veterinarians was becoming untenable due to rising costs, we began discussions with the local Humane Society as well as Center Valley Animal Rescue about providing low-cost clinics for county residents. These talks resulted in HSJC acquiring a full-service veterinary trailer to use for public spay/neuter events and in Center Valley being able to reduce their costs for clinics due to our subsidies. We are now supporting more procedures at a reduced cost per animal.

As you know, times change and we must change with them. The pandemic brought about a severe shortage of spay/neuter services as most public spay/neuter clinics were shut down and vets had to reduce the number of clients seen. The downturn in the economy meant many of the pets adopted during the pandemic were returned to shelters or abandoned. Veterinary services now come at a cost that is out of reach for many in our community. Throughout all of these events, we have held to our mission of providing economic support for lower income s/n services. Our firm belief is that the overpopulation of dogs and cats is the basic issue leading to the untimely deaths of many dogs and cats.

Many animal groups with specific missions are trying to help in response to this new climate of unaffordable vet care. We realize that all economic groups are impacted by the lack of affordable vet services. Although it is a stretch, many residents are still able to get the best care they can for their pets which includes being able to afford pet insurance and emergency care. Our concentration remains on preventive services - spay/neuter and vaccines - for pet owners who would otherwise be unable to afford them. Stemming the tide of animals from unintended breedings has a huge impact on quality of life for both pets and pet owners.

Although times change, the basic notion that overpopulation has the greatest impact on potential family pets being abandoned or euthanized is one we hold dear. We are committed to continue these efforts and hope you will join us in our mission. ALL dogs and cats deserve a loving home.

# Meet Therapy Dog, Toula

## *A Tale from Toula, with help from her mom, Araya Sol*

**M**y mom, Araya, and I moved to Port Townsend six years ago when I was a 5-month-old frisky puppy. We were among the first residents of Quimper Village, a new cohousing community in Port Townsend and the first senior cohousing community in Washington. I quickly learned which of my forty new neighbors liked to play and roughhouse with me, which ones I needed to be gentle with, AND which ones always carried treats in their pocket.

Mom adopted me from Center Valley Animal Rescue in Quilcene. Our good friend and volunteer vet there, Robert Nathan, called my mom one summer day to say that a litter of 8-week-old chocolate labradoodle puppies had just been brought in. We were all very sick. I later found out that we were rescued from a “meth house.” Drug poisoning put us in a dire state, along with flea infestation and worms, among other maladies. Thankfully, the good folks at CVAR nursed all of us back to full health. Three weeks later, we were ready to meet our new families.

At that time, we were living on the waterfront in Suquamish, getting ready to move to Port Townsend. I took to the water right away. In between packing boxes, Mom took me down to the beach where she liked to throw sticks far into the water.

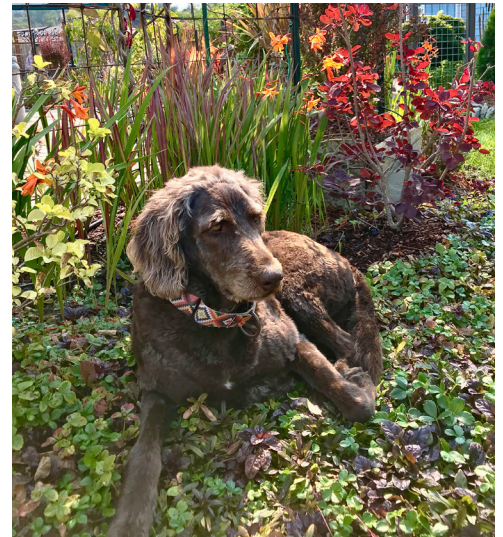


**Water dog, Toula**

exuding oodles of joy. I also became a more mature dog, eager to listen to and learn from the second graders at Salish Coast Elementary School.

First, I had to pass a Therapy Dog test. Even though we arrived right on time for the testing, we were the last of about 9 teams eagerly awaiting the test to begin. Because of my calm disposition and excellent training, I proceeded through my series of drills with flying colors. Yea, I passed and now I could become a READ to ROVER dog!

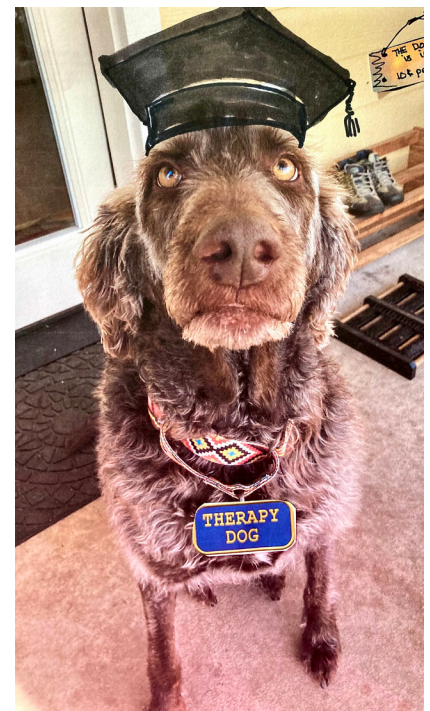
Over the course of the year, four young readers of varying abilities came to read to me each week. All the stories interested me, but none more than Pokémon. Whew! All those crazy characters! How do I keep them all straight? The kids patiently read to me all about the complexity of Pokémon. I pretended to understand what they were talking about, but really, I hadn’t a clue.



**Toula at home**

I swam out to bring them back to her. Then she did it again, and again. It was a fun game that I still love to play anywhere there’s water.

We knew about READ to ROVER when we moved to Port Townsend, but I was too young and too peppy to go on duty quite yet. Then something called Covid hit. The schools closed for a couple of years. R2R was on hold. While I waited for the schools to open again, I grew up and up and up into a 72-pound bundle of multi-color waves,



**Therapy dog graduate**

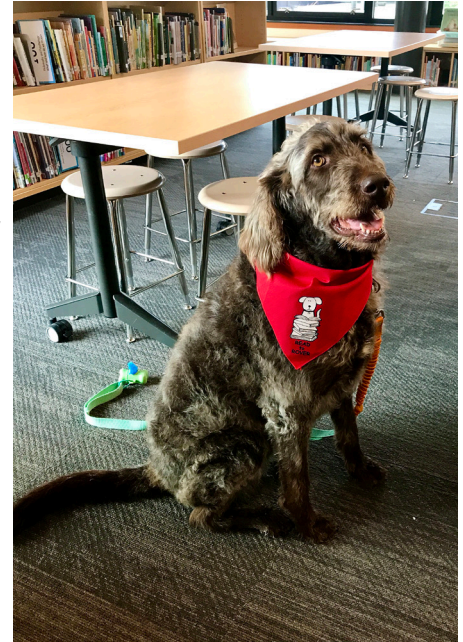


**Marching in Pet Parade  
with R2R pals**

Now, we're in our third year at Salish Coast Elementary. Every Wednesday, I proudly put on my R2R bandana in anticipation of our walk to school where I see my other canine pals and learn more from my second-grade friends.

Thanks, OMPP and thanks to my mom for bringing me to READ to ROVER. It's fun!

If you and your dog would like to become a therapy dog team and be able to participate in READ to ROVER like Araya and Toula do, go to <http://ompetspals.org/therapy-dog-training-and-testing> for more information.



**Toula at Salish Coast  
Elementary School**

## ***Unexpected Benefits of Moving to Chimacum Elementary School***

***by Kim Pratt***

**C**himacum Elementary READ to ROVER program has offered up great excitement for students at our new location. For the first time in our 15 year tenure, the Rover teams have been able to see students from years past - grades 3-6 - each Friday morning on their way into the Elementary School building to read once again with this year's second graders. It has been a truly heartwarming experience to watch past students gravitate to their old dog teams with such exuberance and joy at seeing their furry friends once again. Hugs, pets and an abundance of waggy tails have been endless during our first few weeks back when our old students realized that READ to ROVER had moved from Chimacum Creek Primary School to the Elementary School! Not only were the students thrilled to bits, but staff who had never experienced having 17 dog teams in their building were just bowled over at the sight of "Rovers" meandering throughout the halls and classrooms. Smiles were in abundance and a great appreciation for all of the volunteers was shared by many of the staff. Realizing what this program contributes to a student's educational experience was fully recognized by all. We are happy to be back and thrilled to welcome some of our 4th grade students once again into the fold as our trusty "substitute" readers. Scheduling logistics have dictated who are able to participate alongside our regular second graders. Plans are in place however to provide various forms of a "reunion" with our past students throughout the year! Here are some of the comments we have heard from our returning 4th grade students:

"I love dogs especially bulldogs!"

"I am excited to read to Rover ...  
and pet them!"

"I like to read to dogs, it gets the  
stress out of you."

"If I ever got the chance to Read to Rover  
in second grade I would  
ALWAYS take the offer."

"The READ to ROVER has been so much fun.  
It's my FAVORITE way to read!"

# *It's a Race to Read at Salish Coast READ to ROVER*

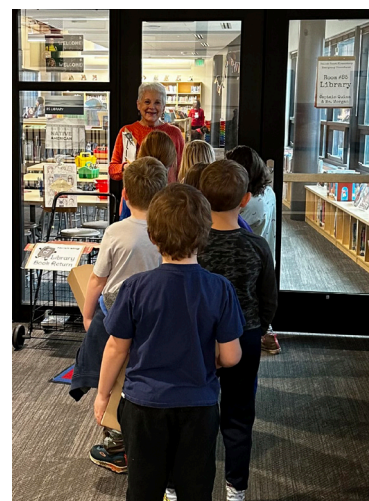
*by Donna Geer*

**T**he second grade kids at Salish Coast Elementary worked really hard to quietly walk down the hall from their classrooms to the library, but it wasn't easy. They knew the READ to ROVER dogs were waiting for them and, for those that had already participated the week before, they were asking for the dogs by name. And they weren't really walking. It was more of an exaggerated slow skip, if there is such a thing. "Slow down," I loudly whispered. "Wait at the corner so the others can catch up."

When we finally reached the library's glass doors, they were standing on tip-toes, trying to see where their favorite dogs were sitting, ready to make a run for them. The excitement was palpable and when I opened the doors, they couldn't help themselves. They giggled and walked a little too fast for library standards, trying to claim their special reading buddy before anyone else could get to them.

Twenty minutes is not very long when it includes petting and hugging a dog, reading a favorite story to the dog, rewarding the dog with a treat, and collecting a sticker or two...or three. It's like herding cats (no offense to the kitties!) to get the kids lined back up once the session is over. But there's another group of kids waiting to claim their favorite dog and read their favorite story. We'll get to do this three more times today!

As I chaperone the first group of kids back to their classroom, I hear kids giggling to each other about their dog's antics and the stickers they got. They know most of the dogs' names by now. Some gravitate to the same dogs every time they come; others want to sit with different dogs. Mostly, they just want to spend some time with a furry friend who likes listening to them read, even if they stumble.



**Enthusiastic readers,  
waiting at the door**

## *Ways to Give*

**O**lympic Mountain Pet Pals is a 501(c)(3) (non-profit) organization. Every year, the Tuesday after Thanksgiving is designated "Giving Tuesday." This is intended as a way to encourage donors to help the nonprofit community. This year, that is November 28. There are a number of ways to give, whether on Giving Tuesday or any time:

- Make a gift online. Please go to our website at <http://ompetpals.org> where you can find a paypal link.
- Send a check directly to Olympic Mountain Pet Pals. Use the enclosed envelope or, if that has gone missing, mail to OMPP, P.O. Box 1466, Port Hadlock, WA 983392. Include your contact information.
- Ask whether your employer will match your charitable gift.
- Make your gift "in honor of" or "in memory of" a person or their beloved pets. Directions for doing so are on the donations webpage, <http://ompetpals.org/join-pet-pals>
- Leave a bequest to OMPP in your will with help of your estate planner.
- If you are over 70 ½ years old, ask your financial planner about making a Qualified Charitable Donation (QCD) directly from your Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) of your tax-deferred retirement account.

We will be grateful for any amount, no matter how or when you donate. Thank you!



Photo credit: Deja Webster of  
Deja View Photography

The full list of 2023 donors will appear in the Spring 2024 issue.  
This list of “In honor of” and “In memory of” gifts covers the period of April 15, 2023 to October 18, 2023.

## IN HONOR OF...

**All the dogs and people at  
Dog Townsend**  
*Katie Whitman*

**Beloved pets Finn and Buster**  
*Diane and Clinton Hurd*

**Great cat Amy**  
*Sandy Guinup*

**Gus, Frodo, and Harry**  
*Nella Ludlow*

**Christina Pivarnik's beloved  
horse Seniorita Polita**  
*Maggie Smith*

**Cooper, bestest pug puppy ever  
of Sheila and Ken Danielson**  
*Melody Sky Weaver*

**Daphne, sweet dog of Sarah  
Grossman**  
*Kay Adamson*

**Gracie, beloved dog of Debbie  
and Jeff Andrews**  
*Rhonda and Steve Scharf*

**In loving memory of Fred  
Bailey, an extraordinary  
man**  
*Kathleen Mitchell*

**Our beloved 12-year-old RR  
Sammy**  
*Janet and Mike Mortenson*

**Judy McPherson, my beloved  
sister**  
*Janice Hodge*

**Uli, sweet and beloved  
dachshund of Kim and  
Philip Henry**  
*Kay Adamson*

**Linus, beloved dog of Beta and  
Michael Ozar**  
*Jean Marzan*

**Linus, beloved kitty of Sharon  
and Bruce Bastion**  
*Pam and Keith Kolacy*

**Our beloved pet, Little Man**  
*Jo and John Aklonis*

**Our beloved dog, Lumie**  
*Carla Ellis and Rick Floyd*

**Carla Ellis and Rick Floyd's  
beloved dog Lumie**  
*Maggie Smith  
Lana and Timothy O'Neill  
Kay Adamson  
Pam and Keith Kolacy  
Mike Accurso and Maria  
Lococo*

**Lumie Ellis, my chemo-sabi  
buddy**  
*Kim and Erik Pratt*

**One Straw Ranch's beloved cat  
Buster, iconic greeter and  
friend to many**  
*Pam and Keith Kolacy*

**Patricia Welber's beloved dog  
Emma**  
*Maggie Smith*

**Piper, Corine deBoer's beloved  
Pets to People dog**  
*Carla Ellis and Rick Floyd*

**Ramone, the best  
neighborhood cat for almost  
2 decades! He was loved  
and cared for by loving  
friends next door, and had  
no wishes that weren't  
granted.**  
*Nancy Wyatt*

**Rucker, beloved dog of Paul  
and Rita Scothmere**  
*Jean Marzan*

**Snowy, beloved dog of Sue  
Ohlson and Bill Curtsinger**  
*Kathleen Mitchell*

**Tom Speer**  
*Sue Gibbons*

## IN MEMORY OF...

**Adelma, beloved dog of Beth  
Johnson**  
*Kay Adamson*

**Bubba, Ozzie and Solly, our  
beloved dogs**  
*Leonore and Harvey Kilmer*

**Calli Rose, Lana and Tim  
O'Neill's beloved therapy  
dog**  
*John and Lisa Lynes  
Carla Ellis and Rick Floyd*

## 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.

The Pets to People Program wishes to express our condolences on the passing of therapy dog visitors, Piper and Calli Rose, and our deep gratitude to their owners for sharing their lovely dogs with the residents of assisted living homes in our community.

**Calli Rose at  
Victoria Place**



# Time for Holiday Baking?

## Pumpkin / Peanut Butter Holiday Dog Cookies

### Ingredients:

3 cups brown rice flour  
1 teas cinnamon - NOT pumpkin spice\*  
¼ cup peanut butter  
2 eggs  
2 cups cooked down pumpkin or canned pumpkin puree

### Instructions

1. Heat oven to 350 F
2. Stir all ingredients in a bowl until dough forms
3. Roll portions of dough on floured surface with rolling pin to ½ inch thickness. Cut with cookie cutters of your choice. Place cookies 1 inch apart on cookie sheet lined with parchment paper.
4. Bake 35 to 40 minutes until dry and golden brown
5. Cool completely, about 30 minutes.
6. Decorate, if desired, with a pet-friendly icing that hardens, such as a mixture of plain yogurt, tapioca starch, and milk.

Can be stored at room temperature for a week - longer than that, freeze for later.

\* **Pumpkin Spice** refers to a mixture of several spices, such as cinnamon, ginger, nutmeg, allspice, and cloves. This combination is often used to flavor baked goods made with pumpkin. Unfortunately, **nutmeg** is toxic to dogs in large quantities. So it's not safe to feed foods flavored with pumpkin spice to pets.

