



Olympic Mountain PET PALS

Enhancing the Lives of Pets and People

Serving kids, seniors,
and low-income pet
families
Fall 2024



READ to ROVER Training - for the Kids Too by Kim Pratt

Energy and excitement increases each year at the beginning of October for 2nd graders at the Chimacum Elementary School given that every student knows, “it’s almost time for READ to ROVER”! Each READ to ROVER dog team undergoes basic training and is required to pass an Olympic Mountain Pet Pals therapy dog test in order to become part of the READ to ROVER program. There are expectations that our dogs know how to behave with children and other canine participants as well as be very polite listeners. When you see a READ to ROVER dog in our schools, you know that these canine companions have “stepped up” and know how to be a respectful member of the school community!!!

What some people may not realize is that not only do our dogs go through training and testing, but also, at the beginning of the READ to ROVER program, our 2nd grade students participate in a training of their own! It is important that there is reciprocity between canine and kid in regards to expectations as well as appropriate behaviors around dogs.

The week prior to the start of READ to ROVER, several dog team volunteers come to Chimacum Elementary School to provide an orientation and teach students about “doggie etiquette”! Teams introduce their canine companions and tell a little about each dog and their history together. Students learn how to administer treats safely, how to approach and engage with the dogs, the correct way to pet/touch a dog, how to ask an owner if they may pet their dog as well as discussing behavioral expectations around the dogs in order to keep them in a calm and interested state. We also remind students to bring their favorite books OR books they think their new furry friend might enjoy! (“If My Dog Biscuit Could Talk” anyone???)

The day READ to ROVER starts, we see not only canine good citizens distributed throughout our hallways but indeed, we also see AMAZING 2nd grade good citizens who quietly (albeit VERY excited within) sit down beside their FOREVER dog, gently pet and respectfully administer the long awaited treat from their dog’s beloved FOREVER kid! A treasured book is then taken out of their book bag and the story telling begins. It is magic! Seriously!



Volunteers: Chris Walvatne, Lana O’Neill with Grady, Pam Rogge, Jill Hamilton with Ryder, Carla Ellis (heading toward the classroom), Laura Tucker with Yogi, and Christina Pavarnik with Whiskey



In the classroom, demonstrating how to safely give a treat to a dog (an essential skill).

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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

From the President

I have many personal reasons to be grateful this season. One of the biggest reasons is my new dog, Dipper. She has brought me laughter, joy, and daily lessons in patience. She has the temperament to have a promising future career as a READ to ROVER dog!

I also have many reasons to be grateful in my role as President of Olympic Mountain Pet Pals. The people who have aligned themselves with the goals and activities of Pet Pals are a major factor in making my job easier and more successful.

As you may know, OMPP is an all-volunteer organization. We are fortunate to have the best, most dedicated volunteers!

The members of our Board of Directors set a positive tone, are constructive and creative in discussions to solve problems, and are passionate about the mission of the organization. The officers and project leaders work hard and proactively in their special roles. I especially want to thank Donna Geer who did a wonderful job coordinating the Salish Coast Elementary School READ to ROVER program since 2021. She worked to grow the program in Port Townsend and brought in many new volunteers. Thanks to Karin Nyrop for being willing to step into that role (see her introduction on page 5). Thanks also to Marla Tangen for assisting at Salish Coast. Kim Pratt and her assistant Chris Parsons somehow manage all the moving parts of the Chimacum Elementary School READ to ROVER program, while making it look easy and making the volunteers feel appreciated. Georgia Towle leads the Pets to People program with creativity and enthusiasm and does the testing for therapy dog candidate teams (as well as doing much recruiting). Finally, I can't express my appreciation enough to all the therapy dog teams who share their dogs and give of their time to READ to ROVER and Pets to People. I am always amazed at their willingness to do a little extra when asked, such as the summer library program (see back page) or the classroom visits (see front page). Together they generate a joyful community!

The other people for which I am grateful are our generous donors. I especially wish to thank the anonymous donor who offered a matching grant during the GiveBIG fundraising campaign. This new donor and several other new folks discovered OMPP by searching the Washington Gives site and finding our page (see article on page 6). Finally, thanks to our long-standing donors who keep us going and step up whenever we let them know that we need them.

While I express my deepest gratitude to all our supporters, I have to ask for your on-going help to advance our goals. We are constantly recruiting new therapy dog teams, so if you are tempted by a volunteer activity that includes your dog while serving the local community, please let us know! We also need additional financial contributions to fund low-income spay/neuter clinics to ensure more Jefferson County cats and dogs can live healthier lives regardless of their family's economic status and to reduce the number of unwanted and homeless animals in our community. Thank you for your continuing support!



Carla Ellis and Dipper

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.

Spay and Neuter: Commitment and Challenges by Pam Kolacy

Commitment to providing financial assistance to lower-income community members so they can afford to spay or neuter their pets is a core value for Olympic Mountain Pet Pals. Although we have had major success by facilitating spay and neuter procedures for over 8,000 animals in the last 20 years, the landscape these days is pretty grim. While we remain committed to financial support for low income spay/neuter, it has become more and more difficult for our partners to maintain regular clinics. Center Valley Animal Rescue (CVAR) has recently taken in over 100 cats from a serious hoarding situation in Brinnon. The Humane Society animal shelter (HSJCWA) last week had a total of 60 cats in their care. Their small number of dog kennels (10 plus 2 makeshift outdoor kennels) are always full. These facilities have waiting lists of people who want to surrender animals. And VERY long waiting lists for those who want to do the right thing and have their pets spayed and neutered. It's a vicious circle because when spay/neuter services are difficult to come by, more and more animals end up having litters, which can increase the overpopulation numbers exponentially.

Both CVAR and HSJC have a lot on their hands just spaying and neutering the animals in their care so they can be adopted to their forever homes. The state of affairs is a concern to every animal welfare organization.

In addition to the need for low income spay and neuter services, the cost of spay/neuter procedures at veterinary clinics is becoming prohibitively expensive for mid-income families. This is an issue not just in our corner of the world. In addition, animal agencies are still dealing with "Covid pets" who have been surrendered in record numbers as well as the influx of pets lost or abandoned because of the ever-increasing number of natural disasters.

Since animals adopted from shelters and other rescue organizations are already spayed/neutered and have initial vaccinations and medical checks, getting your next pet from a rescue organization not only saves a life, it saves you considerable money as well. Nominal adoption charges by animal shelters are rarely offset by the hundreds of dollars spent on medical fees prior to adoption.

OMPP is committed to providing maximum financial support to our current partners. We will explore any other possible partnerships in the future and plan to begin educational outreach to our community on ways we can all help address the overpopulation crisis.



When Spay/Neuter is Not Available

Meet the 4th Generation of Therapy Dogs

by Hannah Rose as related by Lana O'Neill

My name is Hannah Rose and I am new to READ to ROVER this year, as well as getting to visit Victoria Place and see more people. I am especially excited to see the 2nd graders and have them read stories to me. The County Library reading program has been fun this summer as well. My great grandparents, Darby and Callie Rose, were also READ to ROVER dogs and so is my great uncle Grady. This year, I will get to go to school with Grady and we will get to wear our red neck scarves that match the 2nd graders red shirts! I am the 4th generation of Shiloh Shepherds in our household that have become Therapy Dogs. Darby started READ to ROVER in 2015, Grady started in 2016, and Callie Rose started in 2022. This year is my turn to join!

My mom and dad have had Shiloh Shepherds since 1997, so they know we are well suited for families and service work. We are very smart and have nice temperaments!

Mom got interested in READ to ROVER a long time ago when she read about another Shiloh Shepherd back east that went to school and learned to read with 1st graders. I'm glad our mom got in touch with Kim Pratt and Olympic Mountain Pet Pals so that we could get started here too.

Great grandpa, Darby, had a good career with R2R and also was a Shakespearean actor in *Two Gentlemen of Verona* at Shakespeare in the Park. He shared the part with his golden retriever friend Sunny. They were both good actors. Darby was also a show dog and earned 26 titles at dog shows. He was also National Select Shiloh number 6 in the USA in 2017. Great grandma Calli Rose got her share of ribbons and titles at shows too. Great uncle Grady has earned 22 Titles and also has earned his share of ribbons.



Hannah Rose on passing her therapy dog test



Darby in Shakespeare play

In addition to all the accomplishments in my relatives' careers, they have always been good Therapy Dogs and behaved well with children and adults. Always willing to meet most everyone. Grady is the picky one and only wants turkey hot dogs as treats from the kids!! A bit spoiled ya think?? My uncle Sir Isaac is the other one in our pack. He loves people and children, but not so much other dogs. So, he can't come to school with me. So sad, because he is such a big handsome boy!

We are very sad to have lost both Darby and Calli Rose this last year, but Grady and now Hannah Rose are here. Grady just had his 11th birthday, so we are hoping he will stay with us a bit longer.

At home, all three of us like to run around the yard and play with our toys. Mostly the ones that squeek. We also watch for deer or coyotes on the other side of the fence. We all like to go for rides in the car and are eager to go when we see someone grab a leash off the coat rack. Also, we are all spoiled by Dad, Tim, who always give us too many cookies. We all know we are loved.

We think the READ to ROVER and the Pets to People programs are very beneficial to our community and rewarding to all of us participating. Mom and dad have had many people, kids as well as parents, thank all of us for the work we do. It is fun for all of the volunteers and dogs who are participating in these programs. We encourage more volunteers to share. Mom and dad say they will be involved as long as we can do some good with the kids. Much thanks to Kim Pratt, Carla Ellis and Olympic Mountain Pet Pals for making these programs possible!



Calli Rose visiting
Victoria Place



Grady at READ to ROVER

Welcome to New Board Member, Karin Nyrop by Araya Sol

We are thrilled to welcome Karin Nyrop as the newest member of the OMPP Board. Additionally, she is taking on the duties as coordinator of the READ to ROVER program at Salish Coast Elementary School.

Ever since Karin heard about READ to ROVER, she knew she wanted to be involved, along with her trusty black lab, Abbey. After retiring from working, as she explains it, as the in-house counsel for the University of Washington, Karin and her husband moved back to Port Ludlow, to a house they had built 30 years ago. She wanted a change of pace and an opportunity to contribute to OMPP.



Karin Nyrop and Abbey

Karin is a world traveler, long-distance bike rider, and marathon runner. Astonishingly, she completed seven Ironman races! Through training for and participating in these grueling races, learning to intensely focus her mind, she realized that “there’s just about nothing I can’t do.”

She became a stronger leader, eventually becoming the chief of the law office at UW.

Now she is enjoying riding her new electric bike. After all her long-distance accomplishments, she says, “the lesson is sometimes you need to set your ego aside, and just have fun.”

Continuing with her love of recreational activities, Karin also serves on the Advisory Board of the Jefferson County Parks Department.

Her dog, Abbey is the right dog for the right time. She’s a “couch potato,” and is the perfect dog for READ to ROVER. Her previous dog, Haley, was a ball of energy, accompanying Karin on her long-distance runs, again the right dog for the right time then.

Her love of dogs and her need to have a purpose in life drew Karin to become the new “leader of the pack” for the READ to ROVER teams at Salish Coast and a member of the OMPP Board.

Welcome Karin!

Giving Tuesday is December 3

This is the time of year that we often feel gratitude and generosity. Starting on December 3 with **GivingTuesday** through the end of the year are traditionally the biggest giving days of the year. Pet Pals is asking for your support!

Our end-of-year fundraising goal is to ensure we have the funds to support the needed spay and neuter clinics for lower income residents in Jefferson County. Our data show that we need to raise an additional \$10,000 to meet the expected demand for these services for the rest of the year.

A group of dedicated OMPP supporters has pledged to match donations until our year-end goal is met!

In the Spring, Olympic Mountain Pet Pals became a registered non-profit in Washington Gives, the organization that sponsors **GiveBIG** in May and GivingTuesday. The Washington Gives platform makes it easy for new donors to discover non-profits serving the causes they support. The two big fundraising events are designed to create a sense of collective energy around supporting non-profits in Washington State. We are proud to be participating in this broader community effort and we were thrilled at our success during the GiveBIG campaign. We were deeply grateful to an anonymous donor who generously offered a matching grant to help OMPP reach our GiveBIG goal! We raised \$5775 and many of the 20 donors were first timers who found us through the site. This helped us keep up with demand for low income spay/neuter operations through the summer. Thanks to all the donors who responded to make GiveBIG a huge success for us!

There are a number of ways to give, whether on GivingTuesday or any time:

- Make a gift online from our page at Washington Gives: www.wagives.org/organization/Olympic-Mountain-Pet-Pals
- Make a gift online from the OMPP paypal account. Please go to our donations webpage where you can find a paypal button: ompetpals.org/join-pet-pals
- Send a check directly to Olympic Mountain Pet Pals, P.O. Box 1466, Port Hadlock, WA 983392, and please 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 also on our donations webpage.
- 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.

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

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

A Pet Pals “Thank You” Spotlight!

There are so many “thank yous” that transcend the amazing READ to ROVER program at both Salish Coast and Chimacum Elementary Schools each and every week. We would like to shine a light on a most unexpected participant at Chimacum Elementary School, Administrative Assistant, Lindsey Boltinghouse! Not only is Lindsey responsible for all things “administrative” but on Friday October 18, she went above and beyond her job description to help out our READ to ROVER coordinators, Kim Pratt and Chris Parsons with heavy duty lifting given the transporting of two very cumbersome and very dirty parking cones (used to reserve spots for some ROVER teams). The cones were inadvertently left out in the parking lot in the rain! After an urgent phone call from Kim who realized the oversight, Lindsey left her desk, trekked through the extremely long courtyard to retrieve “said parking cones” and dragged them both back into the building to their respective storage area. Way to go Lindsey! We thank her for stepping up to help us out when she had so many other responsibilities to take care of!

Lindsey, you are the recipient of the Pals of Pet Pals Award!

Lindsey Boltinghouse
(on Pajama Day) with cones



The full list of 2024 donors from January through December 2024 will appear in the Spring 2025 issue. This list of "In honor of" and "In memory of" gifts covers the period of April 15 to October 16, 2024.

IN HONOR OF...

Chimacum READ to ROVER

Coordinators Kim Pratt, Carla Ellis, Chris Parsons and Chris Walvatne

*Maggie Smith
Paul Sammons
Bonnie Stenehjerm
Lana and Timothy O'Neill
Kathy Long
Brian Roe and Linda
Abbot-Roe
Jane Hall
Christina Pivarnik
Laura Tucker and Hank
Walker
Ginny Partridge
Peggy Norcutt
Pam Rogge*

Tanya Robaitus on her birthday - BIG LOVE for animals!!

Nancy Wyatt

Jane Krabill, a treasure to her community, on her special birthday

Wendy Barlow

Kim Pratt

Keri French

All the dogs I have loved

Barb Mahoney

IN MEMORY OF...

Abbey, beloved cat of Donna Bodkin

Donna and James Bodkin

Alder, beloved cat of Alderbrook Resort & loved by her sibling, Brook

Kay Adamson

Aniken, beloved cat of Day Logan

Jane Krabill

Bailey, beloved therapy dog of Peggy Norcutt

Carla Ellis and Rick Floyd

Juliet Martin's beloved pet, Barry, wonderful companion, friend and avid squirrel watcher

Maureen Huff and Karen Crouse

Gloria Brown, beloved sister of Keith Kolacy

Pam and Keith Kolacy

Dallas, beloved dog of Devin and Kyle Thompson

Patricia Hale

My beloved hourse, Freddie

Christina Pivarnik

Freddie, beloved horse of Christina Pivarnik

*Shirley and George Williams
Maggie Smith*

Gus, Frodo, and Harry, beloved cats of Bonnie Ludlow

Nella Ludlow

Gus, beloved dog of Melody and Tim Rowe

Maggie Smith

Jackson, beloved dog of Marla and Thomas Oberman

Maggie Smith

Jim and Carole Marshall's beloved dog Dusty

John and Donna English

Meg Mason

*Janet Sullivan-Davis
Jan Davis*

Mossyrock, my beloved dog

Katie Whitman

Taz and Wiley, our beloved cats of 16 years, missed so much!

Steve and Patty Hill

Rufus, beloved cat of Phyllis and Paul Becker

Pam and Keith Kolacy

Beloved puppy Sam for the Sexton Family - may Sam's memory help animals in need

Melody Sky and James Weaver

Beloved dog Scout, who brought joy to Joe McKinstry and Paul Butler

Melody and Tim Rowe

Sue Van Pelt

Dawn Cline

Jan Schroeder's beloved dog Soapy

Pam and Keith Kolacy

The Quaker, beloved horse of Jan Davis

Janet Sullivan-Davis

"The Quaker" - my beloved horse

Jan Davis

Tiki, beloved Read to Rover dog of Susie and Jim Gorski

Maggie Smith



Photo credit: Deja Webster of Deja View Photography

Turbo, my beloved dog

Catherine Cloutier

Winnie, my beloved dog

Janice Hodge

Ziggy, beloved cat of Shelby, Matt, Juniper and Rigel Smith-Orr

Maggie Smith

Zoe, and Cleo, dear cats of Marilyn O'Connell and Deidre Boirdet

Will and Patricia Barrett

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.

Summertime *READ to ROVER* in the Libraries

Both the Jefferson County Library and the Port Townsend Public Library offered READ to ROVER sessions this summer. This program helps kids maintain their reading skills during the summer break while having a great time with our dogs. Many thanks to our therapy dog teams who volunteered their time: Cathe Clapp with Stanley Roger, Jill Hamilton with Ryder, Charla Jean with Iris, Kristina Kelley with Finn, Kathy Long with Larry and Piper, Selden McKee with Poppy, Lana O'Neill with Grady and Hannah, and Ginny Partridge with Shona.



Kathy Long with Larry and Piper at the Jefferson County Library



Charla Jean and Iris at Port Townsend Library



Ginny Partridge's Shona at the Jefferson County Library

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