



READ to ROVER at Salish Coast Elementary goes to the Eagles Nest ***by Karin Nyrop***

The READ to ROVER program at Salish Coast elementary school meets in the school library on Wednesday mornings throughout the school year. In addition, each week when the library sessions are finished several dogs stay for an extra session in the “Eagles Nest.”



Eagles Nest students with Abbey

The Salish Coast elementary school mascot is an Eagle. The Eagles Nest is a nurturing supportive space for students with disabilities. The students are assigned to a regular grade level classroom and participate with their class in many programs throughout the school day. They come to the Eagles Nest for academics and other life skills. This allows the students to be educated to the maximum extent possible with their grade level peers while accommodating their unique learning needs.

This is a wonderful opportunity for students, volunteers and dogs. The students have the opportunity to improve their reading skills while learning ways to interact with dogs. The volunteers have a chance to contribute to the success of students with special needs. The dogs get another chance for treats. Abbey is especially appreciative of the fact that snacks are served in the classroom and they often end up on the floor.



Abbey at entrance to Eagles Nest

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

From the President	2	GivingTuesday is December 2	6
Pet Pals is Grateful for Community Support	3	In honor of.....	7
Making a Difference through Spay / Neuter	3	In memory of... ..	7
A Tribute to Stanley Roger, a special READ to ROVER Dog.....	4	Chimacum READ to ROVER Teams 2025	8
Need to Fill Holiday Treat Bags for Pets?	6		

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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

This summer, we had our 1 ½ year old female, Dipper, spayed at a local veterinary clinic. The veterinary staff were skilled, caring, and professional. The surgery and recovery went well, although Dipper had her own opinions about the restrictions on play and wearing the cone during the healing process. We are looking forward to no more three week disruptions in Dipper's activity schedule because of heat cycles. Overall, a positive experience.

I was prepared, so did not experience sticker shock, when I got the bill. One thing even the vets will agree upon is that no one can use the word "affordable" for this procedure at private clinics. Many pet-loving families in our community would see the expense as a big hit to their budget. How many spays and neuters are being deferred because of other financial priorities in today's economy? Like other examples of deferred maintenance on home, health, or vehicles, unwanted surprises can result. My own experience seeing the cost of a spay operation illustrates the point dramatically for me. That is why Olympic Mountain Pet Pals continues to search for more ways to increase the availability of low-cost spay/neuter clinics to serve our community and to ensure we have the funding to support them adequately. It's an ongoing challenge that we can not step away from. Please help us if you can!

Our other recent first-hand experience involves the incredible joy of starting a new year of READ to ROVER in the schools with a new crop of second grade readers meeting their dogs. It's hard to convey the excitement of the kids, the dogs, the volunteers, and the school staff when we arrive each week to share the fun of reading a good story. The dedicated volunteers who have been with the program for awhile



Carla Ellis and Dipper

sense the potential in these beginning readers since we've seen struggling readers in October become accomplished chapter book readers by June. I'm not claiming it's all because of our dogs, but being even a small part of these students' growth is very gratifying and the dogs do make the journey much more fun. Consider joining our therapy dog teams if you and your dog might enjoy it.

Finally, I return to asking for 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 goal of reducing the number of unwanted and homeless animals in our community.

Thank you for your continuing support!



One of Dylan's kids found him and handler, Paul Sammons, at the 2025 Pet Parade

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 Smith, 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.
- **Keith Lazelle** for taking our READ to ROVER group photo.
- **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 and scarves.
- **Max Grover** – for design of our READ to ROVER and Pets to People logos.
- **Quilcene Brinnon Garden Club** for awarding us a grant.

Making a Difference through Spay / Neuter

by Pam Kolacy

The late Dr. Jane Goodall, the eminent scientist who studied Chimpanzees and made startling discoveries about their lives, has said she learned how to live with kindness as a creed from her dog Rusty. Even before she went into the forests of Gombe, she had learned a deep lesson from her dog that animals think, feel and love unconditionally and that they are clever, individual and full of personality.

A story by Julie Castle of Best Friends Animal Sanctuary honors Dr. Goodall and her connection to animals. She quotes Dr. Goodall - "What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make."

At Olympic Mountain Pet Pals we continue to commit to making a difference for the animals in our community through our support of spay/neuter programs. In this way, we help control the pet homelessness crisis and ensure the medical and behavioral benefits that come with spaying or neutering pets.

I've written before about the scarcity of resources available for non-profits in our community to support spay/neuter clinics. We are currently continuing to work with partners and there is a collaboration in the works with the Humane Society of Jefferson County to plan a series of larger-volume spay/neuter clinics for lower income residents starting in 2026. Our part in this effort will be to financially support clinics and provide volunteers to help things run smoothly. We are talking with local vets and spay/neuter advocates to make this happen.

All animals deserve to live their best lives. They should not suffer or be abandoned because they simply are not enough homes for all. We know as well that paying for spay/neuter surgery and other veterinary services is out of reach for many households. The need is great and, with your help, we are committed to supporting partnerships that will result in a new and effective way to provide this essential service for pets and pet owners in our community.



Photo credit: Deja Webster of
Deja View Photography



Photo credit: Deja Webster of
Deja View Photography

A Tribute to Stanley Roger, a special READ to ROVER Dog

by Cathe Clapp

We were in Stanley, Idaho for the 2017 total eclipse when we learned we could adopt a puppy on our way home. Stanley was one of three male pups in a litter of ten golden doodles. He grew into a lovable handsome gent.

Stanley was five years old in 2022 when READ to ROVER came into his life. He was not the best trained dog, but he made up for it by being a gentle giant that Georgia Towle recognized and he passed his therapy dog test.

Coming to Salish Coast Elementary School every Wednesday morning, he welcomed four second graders who spent 20 minutes each reading with him. When the kids came into the library, there was some competition to find their favorite dog. Most kids loved to be with Stanley. I used to tell people he was like a little horse, weighing in at 115 pounds. It was so special when the kids would cuddle up on the floor with him, Stanley wearing his red READ to ROVER scarf. When the 2-minute bell rang, signaling the end of our time together, his reading partners gently handed him a yummy treat, got stickers and a "Reading to Stanley Roger" bookmark.

It was a joy to see our young readers progress over the year from not being ready to read out loud, to sounding out words, and then advancing to more complex books. Two second grade readers were notable – one expressed their interest in fantasy books that also include historical fiction. Another one commented, "I'm not like most kids, I like biographies." I loved seeing a student who held up two books asking Stanley which book he would like to hear first. Kudos to their teachers who made it a priority for their students to participate in R2R weekly.

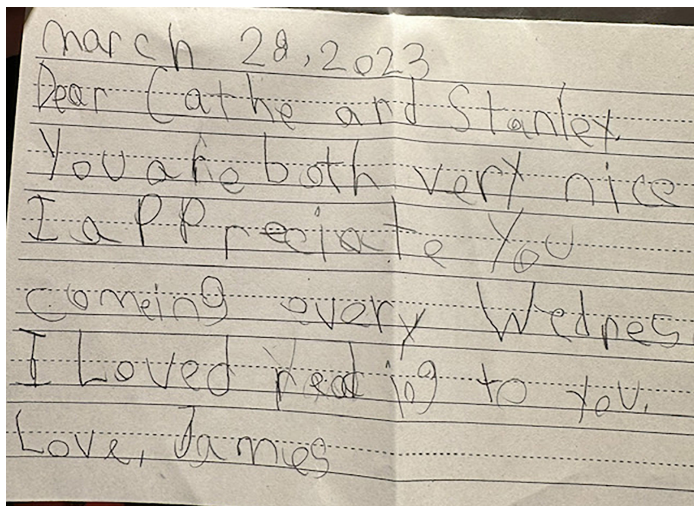
I was very touched to know that READ to ROVER started in 2004.

During the past year, a young man who was helping me with yardwork, and another who is a staff member in my doctor's office, both met Stanley. When I mentioned his READ



Gentle Giant

**Where to put all those stickers?
On Stanley, of course.**



Readers express their gratitude

to ROVER career, they both **FONDLY** recalled their **READ to ROVER** experience as second graders **YEARS BEFORE**. I love it when I recognize R2R readers around town and realize that I will have the pleasure of seeing them grow up in our community long after meeting during our special times together at Salish Coast.

Stanley Roger ended his partner teaching career at the end of this past school year when he died of leukemia. While very sad, I am so glad that Stanley Roger was able to bring joy to so many children through **READ to ROVER**.

I want to acknowledge and thank Olympic Mountain Pet Pals and the **READ to ROVER** Program, the leadership of Donna Geer and Karin Nyrop for keeping our Salish Coast teams of dogs organized, and especially all the volunteer dogs and their fun owners. A special shout out to the Salish Coast Staff, our Library hosts and partners Maggie Shay and Joy Wentzel, and Lainie and Lacey from the school office for a weekly smiling welcome.



Meeting other doodles at the 2024 Pet Parade



Stanley is listening to a good book

Are you considering becoming an OMPP Therapy Dog team with your dog and joining programs such as **READ to ROVER**? Here's what you need to know:

We hold therapy dog tests once a month (first Saturday at noon) at Lucky Dog Training Center in Chimacum. For more information and to get on the schedule for a test, please contact Georgia Towle at (360) 732-0908, theluckydogtraining@gmail.com.

The skills you and your dog need to demonstrate include being able to approach and greet a friendly stranger without jumping up on them, sitting politely for petting, sitting quietly in proximity to other dogs, walking on a loose leash, sitting, lying down, staying, and coming when called, walking past another dog/handler team without aggression and under control, leaving a pile of toys or food on the ground from a distance of several feet, milling around in a crowd of people and dogs, responding well to visual and noise distractions, and waiting at a doorway until the handler crosses the threshold. No treats are allowed during the test.

For more information go to <http://ompetpals.org/therapy-dog-training-and-testing>.

Need to Fill Holiday Treat Bags for Pets?

Kim's Famous Liver Cake

Ingredients

1 box Jiffy Corn Muffin Mix
1 egg
1 lb liver (chicken or beef)
1 cup grated cheese (your choice)

Instructions

1. Preheat oven to 400 F.
 2. Grease 9 x11 inch cookie sheet with raised edges.
 3. Mix together corn mix, egg, and liver in food processor until batter is thick.
 4. Pour batter into cookie sheet.
 5. Sprinkle with cheese.
 6. Bake 15 minutes.
- Can keep in refrigerator for 4-5 days or freeze for later.

GivingTuesday is December 2

This is the time of year that we often feel gratitude and generosity. Starting on December 2 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 anticipated expansion of spay and neuter clinics for lower income residents in Jefferson County. Our data show that we need to raise an additional \$5,000 to meet the demand for these services.

A group of dedicated OMPP supporters has pledged to match donations during this fund-raising drive.

Olympic Mountain Pet Pals is 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 previous successes during these campaigns. We are grateful to the donors who provided matching grants and to all the donors who responded to our appeals!

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!

The logo for GivingTuesday features the word "GIVING" in a large, blue, sans-serif font. The letter "V" is replaced by a red heart icon with a white grid pattern. Below "GIVING" is the word "TUESDAY" in a smaller, blue, sans-serif font.

The full list of 2025 donors from January through December 2025 will appear in the Spring 2026 issue.
This list of "In honor of" and "In memory of" gifts covers the period of April 15 to October 16, 2025.

IN HONOR OF...

Dave and Anne Krabill's 50th wedding anniversary
Jane Krabill

David and Teresa Goldsmith
John and Donna English

Kim Pratt, Boo Radley and Bridger
Chris Walvatne

IN MEMORY OF...

"Gus" beloved Lab of Geoff and Joanne Blackett
Maggie Smith

Anja, beloved Read to Rover dog of Georgia Towle
Carla Ellis and Rick Floyd
Maggie Smith

CeCe, beloved St. Bernard of Linda and Bill James
Maggie Smith

Clint Hurd
Diane Hurd

Dandy, beloved pony of Juniper and Rigel Orr
Maggie Smith

Grady, beloved Read to Rover dog of Lana and Tim O'Neill
Carla Ellis and Rick Floyd
Maggie Smith

Grady, our beloved dog
Lana and Timothy O'Neill

Leo Gleesun, beloved dog of David Bellecci
Will and Patricia Barrett

Lucy, beloved dog of Pam and Keith Kolacy
Carla Ellis and Rick Floyd

Maggie, beloved cat of Rhonda and Steve Scharf
Maureen Huff and Karen Crouse

My beloved cat Nedward
Margo Garton

Ollie, beloved cat of Pam and Keith Kolacy
Carla Ellis and Rick Floyd

Piper
Alberdina de Boer

Rose, beloved cat of Mary Eggert and Rebecca Nerison
Elizabeth Thompson

Stanley Roger, beloved Salish Coast Read to Rover dog of Cathe Clapp
Carla Ellis and Rick Floyd

Sweet Lucy, our beloved dog
Pam and Keith Kolacy

The amazing Ollie, our beloved kitty
Pam and Keith Kolacy

Violet Schroeder
Jan Schroeder

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.

Are you receiving our eNews?

Pet Pals sends a short email newsletter no more often than every other month.

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

The Lucky Dog Training Center

"Train, Don't Complain!"



Georgia Towle
360.732.0908

581 Ole Torkelson Rd
Chimacum, WA 98325

www.theluckydogtraining.com

Chimacum READ to ROVER Teams 2025



Everybody say "TREEEATS"!
A huge "Thank you" to photographer **Keith Lazelle** for his gift of this wonderful group photo.

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