



ODH ASSISTS SHELTERS IN THEIR EFFORTS TO ADOPT SENIOR DOGS

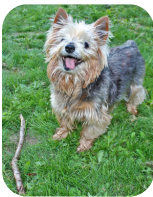
If you think there really aren't many adoptable senior dogs available from shelters you'd be wrong. Currently, there are over 9,000 adoptable senior dogs living in shelters across the country.

Very few of the 300+ dogs in our care are adoptable because of physical, mental or emotional issues and they happily live out their lives with our dedicated foster families. However, many healthier seniors remain in shelters waiting for adoption and ODH often assists in sending adopters their way. In some cases we pay for medical procedures to make the dogs adoptable while they're still at the shelter. Last year we posted 259 dogs for 13 different shelters (as well as 116 dogs for 32 rescue groups) and the majority of those dogs found homes. Thanks for sharing, Facebook fans!

Most people don't go to a shelter to adopt a senior dog. And yet, if you read what the people featured in this article say about the experience of adopting and living with a senior dog you'll understand why we encourage people to adopt senior dogs ... especially the homeless seniors living in shelters. It's all about joy, second chances and opportunities for older dogs to be happy and well loved.

Editor's Note: All of the dogs below were adopted from shelters because their people saw the post on the ODH website or Facebook page. Thanks to Andrea, Jane, Tessa, Judy, John and Cristine for sharing these excerpts from their stories. Paws up to all of you!

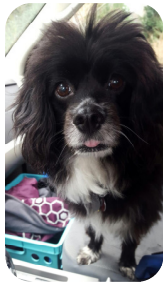
Andrea Hegland– pNut (*adopted from the Humane Society for SW WA.*) ODH paid for dental while pNut was at the shelter.



"... something about him tugged at my heart, and I drove two hours to the shelter to meet him. He was about 10, had only one tooth, and was completely blind. Naturally we adopted him! Although he could get around very well, we thought it would be nice if he could regain his vision so he had cataract surgery on his left eye and complete vision was restored in that eye. After surgery he became a much more confident and frisky stick-fletcher extraordinaire. He goes with me everywhere."

Jane Millar– Lucy (*adopted from the Everett Animal Shelter*) ODH paid for lab work, bladder stone removal surgery and x-rays while at Lucy was at the shelter.

"... Lucy jumps straight up, is enthusiastic about walks, meal time, naps and toys. I love, love, love having older dogs. They are so incredibly grateful, they know lots of commands, they're potty trained and, generally their level of exuberance is aligned with mine! Lucy's higher energy than I'd imagined. I mean, she is a senior, for goodness sake! She'll mellow, maybe in about ten years! I love my old ladies, (Jane has another senior dog– Gracie) and I think they love me! ... and then I know I've done all I can to give these seniors their best possible sunset."



Tessa Humphrey– Gregg (*adopted from PAWS in Lynnwood*)

"Gregg is quite the character: demanding, grouchy, wants what he wants when he wants it All these things about Gregg make us love him even more. His imperfections make him unique and we value them. It has been fun to watch him gain confidence in his surroundings and establish bonds with us. Gregg is a very comical old man who has earned happiness in his retirement and we are so happy to be able to give it to him."



Judy Carr and John Kirkman– Hanna (*adopted from the Humane Society for SW WA*)



"The first time we saw Hanna she was facing the back of her kennel, crying mournfully. She was withdrawn, depressed, frightened and generally miserable. It took

about two-three weeks of medications and special diet for her skin to show remarkable improvement ... the progression of hair growth continues at week nine. She is not "cured" because her condition is chronic and will always require special attention Hanna's personality, confidence and sense of attachment have grown dramatically. She is happy, playful, assertive and confident. And, she is no longer stinky! She had been returned to humane societies several times in the past. No longer – she has her forever home with us."

Cristine Dahl (Good Dog 101, Seattle School of Canine Studies) -**Leroy** (*adopted from the Humane Society for SW WA*)

"... a 14 year-old deaf dog that's an architectural mess; his heart is on the wrong side of his body and his sternum is concave rather than convex ... long standing chronic arthritis. Learning his patterns taught me how to insert myself into his routine so he couldn't help but pay attention. He's an utter delight. We cannot shower him with enough love or thank the heavens for bringing him to us. He loves walks ... is the softest soul I've met in a long, long time. He glows."



FUNDRAISING BENEFITS FOR OLD DOG HAVEN

We're always very grateful that so many individuals, groups and small businesses take it upon themselves to host benefits for ODH. This kind of unsolicited generosity is a wonderful compliment, as well as a tremendous boost to our financial ability to help old dogs. We'd like to especially thank the following groups and individuals :



Dogalities held a Pilates fundraiser for ODH and raised a significant amount of money for our dogs. *Pictured left are Alexa Robbins and her teaching partner Joe Ruiz. Joe is holding their mascot Dora, a puppy mill survivor.*

K-9 Korral in Lake Stevens again "adopted" ODH at their client Christmas party with donations of cash and a sleigh full of supplies. Thanks to the Schlossers and their clients who have been loyal ODH supporters for years.

Northwest K9 Sniffers benefited ODH with proceeds from their holiday party and silent auction. *Pictured are club president Shelly and her dog Diesel.*



Muddy Paws Agility Club donated proceeds to ODH from their fall trial ribbon exchange.

Our wonderful long-time supporters at **Paddywack** held their annual ODH sponsorship drive in February.

Operation Wandering Waffle held an online auction to benefit ODH.

Thanks to everyone who participated in our **Giving Tuesday** Drive. Over \$20,000 was raised for our dogs!



For her birthday **Hayden Lindbo** asked guests to bring donations for our dogs instead of gifts for her!



Five year-old **Colin Carroll** told his mom that he wanted to help dogs so he looked up our wish list on the ODH website and collected several items as well as \$70. *Colin is seen left meeting Final Refuge dog Eleanor Rigby.*

An **anonymous donor** sold his Star Wars toys from the early 80's and donated the money to ODH.

Restless Vocal Band donated 75% of their share of ticket sales for their holiday show and 100% of CD sales to ODH.

Pound Arts benefited ODH with a silent auction at their Holiday Open Studios.

Yoga: From Dawn to Dusk held an event to benefit ODH.

GoodFeet Seattle North did a very successful promotion for ODH and devoted December sales to benefit ODH.

Advanced Care Animal Clinic in Smokey Point did a Santa photo shoot (their annual benefit) for ODH.

Seattle Barkery donates money from their tips jar to ODH.



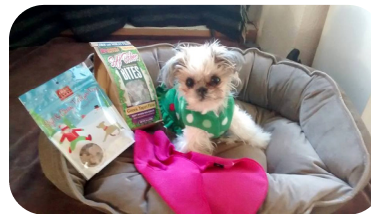
Girl Scout Troop 4416 from Gig Harbor donated money from their cookie sales to ODH. Thank you, girls. The dogs appreciate you!



Northwest Cellars hosted a wine-tasting event for ODH to benefit the Maranda Fund.

The following businesses hosted Giving Trees for ODH during the holiday season. Many thanks to them and especially to their customers for purchasing such wonderful gifts for our dogs:

Frontier Village Veterinary Clinic
Great Dog
Lucky Dog Outfitters
Paddywack
Issaquah Mud Bay
Mud Bay Ballard
Mill Creek Mud Bay
Off-Broadway Mud Bay
Northwest Animal Care Hospital in Everett
Seattle Veterinary Specialists (Kirkland)



Sasha (above) and Esther (right) love their gifts from Lucky Dog Outfitters



Odie really likes to snuggle in his new blanket from Paddywack.



Wicket poses in front of the Mud Bay tree.



Staff at Issaquah Mud bay load up gifts for our dogs

KUDOS TO VOLUNTEERS KRISTI SILVERNALE AND MARY SCHUMACHER



Kristi and Pyper

"I started with Old Dog Haven in 2011-2012 when I saw a collection jar on the counter at my local feed store. At the time I had two senior dogs: a yellow lab and an American cocker spaniel that came from a puppy mill. After they crossed the Rainbow Bridge I knew that all old dogs needed the chance to have a safe loving home and much needed medical like my dogs had all of their senior days.

"I looked on the Old Dog Haven website to learn more and I must say the story and history of ODH is one of dedication by the founders and true love and support from the communities throughout Washington. I knew I couldn't foster but as I read on I saw a need for people to write thank you notes to those who donate to Old Dog Haven. Each and every person makes a big difference in the lives of the old timers and there is no greater reward than to send them a hand written THANK YOU! I add my own touches like a paw print sticker with my signature from Old Dog Haven and I seal my envelopes with a heart sticker.

"When I saw again a need for volunteer transporters I knew that was for me. I have done many missions because I love to jail break these seniors and give them a loving safe ride to a foster home or to a Final Refuge home. I can't say enough about the people who take in these endearing seniors and get them to vet appointments and make their golden days, months or even years a loving experience in a home not a shelter. I will share a story from one of my latest transports: I picked up an emaciated, sad, stray black lab from the Tacoma Humane Society. He didn't have a name but I called him George as I didn't want him to travel without one. George was blind and confused, but when I put him in my Highlander I told him it was going to be a great day for him. He had a hard time settling down so I decided to roll down my side windows so the warm breeze could blow through the car. Not much time passed and when I looked in my rearview mirror George was lying down looking forward with a shine in his eyes and the biggest labrador smile on his face. I knew his time was most likely short with Judith and Lee but for that day and weekend George knew he was loved. That's all that matters. It still tears me up and I will never forget that smile. This is why I volunteer and support Old Dog Haven in the ways I can. I can lay my head down at night knowing I helped a old dog have a great day!"

"I have my own rescued English Cocker Spaniel who travels on most missions with me and I also have two rescued goats that are great ambassadors for a home we call "Harmony."

"I became familiar with ODH via a friend of mine who was fostering for ODH. I followed her on Facebook and then started following ODH. Having a senior dog myself, it really broke my heart to see all of the seniors abandoned by their families. At one point I saw Oliver, at that time unnamed, listed as urgent. I convinced my husband John that we needed to take Oliver in to keep him from being euthanized so I drove down to the Tacoma Humane Society to pick up Oliver. After Oliver had 22 teeth removed he was available for adoption, but I couldn't part with him so he was our first "foster failure." Not quite a year after we adopted Oliver, Bambi showed up on ODH's FB page as urgent. Bambi has been a true blessing in our life. She has a number of issues, mainly with her skin and heart, but she just tugs at your heartstrings. She can usually be found snuggled with one of us, or buried in a blanket. We have also fostered Lancelot, our Christmas miracle, Edgar, and Diego. A year ago December we took in Nina, a long haired Chihuahua, to keep her from being taken to the shelter. She most likely would have been euthanized as she is not the friendliest little dog at first. Her vet records said the same thing I said - she has one tooth and knows how to use it. It is amazing what 4 ½ pounds of fur can do.

"Besides fostering for ODH, I am also the Seattle/N Seattle Area Foster Coordinator. I have enjoyed my tenure and organizing our group meetings. I have been blessed to have such great support from Great Dog. They have assisted in providing a safe location to be able to include all of our dogs, Bark Espresso has furnished yummy refreshments, and Great Dog Staff has helped with meeting content. We have had a massage demo/training session, learned about nose work and stimulating seniors' brains with fun dog games. Most recently we learned that even old dogs can learn new tricks. It was super fun to watch these seniors learn how to roll over, take a bow, army crawl and read a book. I am lucky to have such a great group. Most recently Great Dog sponsored our group's 2015 Giving Tree, which was a very successful venture and we are looking forward to the 2016 tree.

"Along with volunteering for ODH I volunteer for Project Canine, Pawsitive Alliance and Red Waggin Rescue.

"I could not do the things I do with out the help of my husband, John. He is integral in the day to day care of our animals, and in the volunteer work I participate in."



Mary with (L-R) Oliver (16)
Bambi (14) and Nina (13.5)



John and the gang.

Thank you Kristi and Mary. Your volunteer efforts on behalf of our dogs is very much appreciated by all of us.

I would like to help. Enclosed please find a donation in the amount of \$_____

Please make check payable to: Old Dog Haven.

ODH is a 501(c)3 charitable organization: donations are tax-deductible.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone () _____ email _____

Please mail your donation to: 621 State Route 9 NE, PMB A-4, Lake Stevens, WA 98258-8525.

**THANK
YOU!**

If you would like to help by fostering or providing a Final Refuge home, please contact us!
360) 653-0311

March 2016



A MESSAGE FROM "MADAM OLD DOG" (aka Executive Director, Judith Piper)

ODH reached a major (and astonishing) milestone this past month: 300 dogs in our care. As you read on page 1, we have been developing partnerships with several shelters and rescues to help them place their senior dogs, which sometimes includes covering surgeries, dentals and lab testing when those needs are keeping an otherwise healthy dog from being adoptable. It's really a win-win situation: More seniors find homes and we don't have a permanent commitment (foster space or expenses) to them. Our help in marketing adoptable senior shelter dogs has encouraged shelters and rescues to take in more seniors because now they are much more likely to find homes.

The downside of this: Nearly all dogs coming to us now have major medical problems which are very expensive and require much effort from their ODH families. Our veterinary costs are skyrocketing as we try to give these dogs really good care and help out other groups as well. The Maranda Fund is a big help for the major surgeries and procedures, but overall we are now caring for a LOT OF DOGS with serious needs. We do well at making them comfortable and giving them loving homes, but this care is expensive. Please consider the Maranda Fund for your next donation! And please join me in thanking the wonderful foster families who take their dogs to endless appointments and far-off specialty centers, give countless drugs and eye or ear treatments, give medicated baths, and help them recover from surgeries or illnesses. All this is so worth it – just look in the eyes of the dogs on our website's Final Refuge page and see their gratitude.

DOG ACTIVITY 2015

296 DOGS IN CARE AT YEAR END
201 ACTIVE FOSTER HOMES (MORE NEEDED!!)
679 NEW DOGS HELPED
201 PLACED IN ODH FOSTER HOMES
93% OF THOSE FROM SHELTERS AND RESCUE GROUPS
7% OF THOSE FROM INDIVIDUALS
410 DOGS ADOPTED



621 SR 9 NE, PMB A4
Lake Stevens, WA 98258

MAILING WARRIORS REUNITED!

Thanks to our intrepid Mailing Warriors for their time spent mailing out tax statements. We appreciate you!



Jane and Michele Rotunno



Bev Bowe, Donna Adams, Kassandra

Jones, Genese Harney, Donna Mathews, Maryke Burgess, Carolyn Rawe. Not pictured: Elizabeth Woche, Dianne Marlow, Gabrielle Flanagan.

The dogs featured in the header on the front page are Final Refuge dogs Clancy (L) and Harley. photos by Penny Holland (Clancy) and Mary Jo Adams (Harley)

Newsletter Editor
Ardeth De Vries

The 5th Annual Old Dog Haven Walk for Old Dogs is just four months away. If your company is interested in becoming a corporate sponsor for this year's walk, email

walk@olddoghaven.org for more information.

OLD DOG HAVEN BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ardeth De Vries, Gabrielle Flanagan, Dianne Marlow, Deeanne Matz, Laura Milleville

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