



May 2016

Volume 9, Number 3

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WILLOW

WE LOVE OLD DOGS!

If you're reading this E-newsletter for the first time we'd like you to know that Old Dog Haven publishes two different newsletters: our print Newsletters—published in March, July and November—focus primarily on the people who help our dogs, and our E-newsletters—published in January, May, and September—feature our dogs in a variety of ways. The content is different for each newsletter, so don't miss any of them if you'd like to get the full range of news and features about us and the dogs we love.

In this issue you'll read about adopted dogs Maya and Elmer, "well-behaved and loving companions." And then you'll meet Percy and Zee, both blessings to their family. Also, Final Refuge dog Minky is described as a "dog for whom love comes easy." We also include a few mailbox letters, news bites, a notice about the new ODH blog, information about the Walk for Old Dogs, and GiveBIG. As always, there is information about dog activity as well as a message from Madam Old Dog, Executive Director Judith Piper.

DOG-CENTRIC EVENTS MAY/JUNE

**We'll be attending these events.
Stop by and see us!**

MAY

Wags & Wiskers

Sun. May 15 12:00 P.M.-3:00 P.M.
Northpointe Animal Hospital
Lynwood

Petpalooza

Sat. May 21 10:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M.
Game Farm Park in Auburn

Run 2 Be Fit

Sat. May 21 2:30 P.M.-5:00 P.M.
Scuttlebutt Brewing in Everett

JUNE

Meet & Greet

Sat. June 4 11:00 A.M.-3:00 P.M.
Reber Ranch, Kent

Meet & Greet

Sat. June 4 10:00 A.M.-3:00 P.M.
Olympia Haggen (Westside)

Meet & Greet Paws in the Park

Sat. June 25 12:00 P.M.-4:00 P.M.
Normandy Park

**The dog featured in
the header is Final
Refuge dog Cecil.**

SAVE THIS DATE!
SUN. JULY 17
**5th annual WALK FOR OLD DOGS and Old
Dog Pageant**
11:00 A.M.-3:00 P.M.
Cromwell Park Shoreline
www.odhwalkforolddogs.org
**for more information or to
register.**



ABOOD

ADOPT!

All of the senior dogs you see pictured in the border that runs the length of the newsletter (see left) are available for adoption (as of 4/29 Some are in shelters, living in cages, desperately waiting for a forever home; most are in foster care, and many are posted for individuals. All of these amazingly resilient dogs are looking for forever homes. Go to our website (www.olddoghaven.org) to find out more about these adoptable dogs.

by Philip & Veronica Linke

ELMER AND MAYA



"In January we welcomed Maya and Elmer to our family.

"Several months ago we started to follow several rescue groups on Facebook and realized that many senior dogs were in need of a new home due to changes in their owner's lives. As our children are now grown and we are near retirement, we started to consider finding a way to help one of the dogs in need. We already had two wonderful Mini-Aussies (Monty and Luna) and we needed to make sure any new addition was a smart choice and a good fit for all concerned. When we saw the Facebook post for Maya and Elmer, we knew right away that we needed to meet them and see if we could provide them a home. Maya and Elmer were still living with their owner and Old Dog Haven quickly put us in contact. We arranged a short meet and greet and quickly fell in love with them. Maya does have limited vision and hearing and was bonded with Elmer. Splitting them up was not an option. We were not expecting to end up with four dogs but adding them to our family just seemed like the right thing to do. A week later we finalized the adoption and brought them home. Our expanded family is doing very well and after just a few days we knew we had made the right decision. Maya has already mastered moving around the house and now has another brother and sister. They are both well behaved and loving companions. We hope others will welcome a senior dog in need into their home."

About Old Dog Haven

Old Dog Haven provides assisted living and hospice care for senior dogs, as well as help in placing senior dogs in new, loving homes. We serve western Washington, with foster and Final Refuge homes from Blaine to Vancouver. To find out more, see www.olddoghaven.org

How to Help

There are many ways to help! You can do anything from taking a foster or Final Refuge dog into your home, to hanging a poster or two. [Click on the Donate/Help us link on the Home page of our website for more information.](#)



Luna



Maya



Monty & Elmer

PERCY AND ZEE ZEE (ZEUS)

By Terri Breithaupt



KYLEE

"A small frail, stray, scraggly, ill-appearing apricot poodle was my initiation to fostering—something I had on my bucket list for years, but thought it best to wait until my kids were older, fewer of them home, and I was working part time. Our own very young chocolate lab, Mr. Brown was in the midst of therapy for lymphoma, and within days of Percy's arrival, he had taken an acute downward turn, only for us to learn his cancer was encasing his chest with a vengeance.



Percy



ZeeZee

"The family tossed around names, "tried " several, and the vision of a Percy being a little feeble old man just fit. Done! Percy yearned for help and it was instantaneous that in the cloud of impending loss, we clung to each other for love, acceptance, and hope. Mr. Brown left us just a couple days later and the tiny waif Percy became our tower of strength. Someone was holding him 24/7, drenching his fur with tears—yet there he was, not leaving our side. He loved the electric blanket (hot!!), his sweaters, oil rubs, hamburger, and vanilla ice cream. He had a permanent dog bed in the passenger seat of my SUV, and was a constant companion to my yellow lab Dan, who is 12 and deaf. I called them my "two old men." Love truly has no bounds.



Percy and Greg



Percy and Dan

"Percy came with medical issues, and we tackled them head on as he mustered through like a trooper. His cardiac status, however, progressively challenged everyone. He had worsening fainting episodes despite medications, two consultations with specialists, and very close supervision. Little did I expect that after a great day of car rides, errands, and ice cream that I would find him gone in his bed by the fire.

"Percy blessed us with a short two months, but I loved him like he was with us forever. He left us with the best two months of Lord knows how long of his 14 year life, and I find solace in that. I saw in Percy (as in my own zillions of dogs over the years) the thankfulness for warmth, shelter, food, and love.

Terri and Percy on his first day



SOPHIE

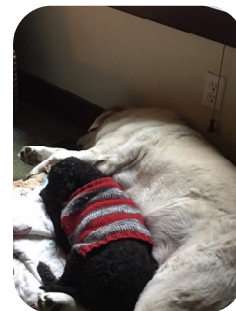




MJ

"Two days after Percy's death, I was asked to pick up "a scared out of his wits, will be euthanized soon" black miniature poodle, Zeus, who had been surrendered due to domestic changes.

"Now, this 14 year old character, full of life, buzzes around like a Mexican jumping bean, snaps his teeth with a Cheshire cat grin bearing gums and all, buries himself like a mole in the blankets, and hunkers at the door anxious to go in the car. He is the resident guard dog, notifying everyone of an "intruder" —pinecone on the roof, kids coming in and out, car in the driveway ... with the voracity of a shepherd K-9. After this "alert" he proceeds to pester Dan to let him know, 'Hey Dude, there's action going on here!' He is an Olympic gymnast when I walk in the door, literally twirling and flipping, so much so that I fear he will hurt himself. His joy at my mere presence is beyond words. He has lived here one month, but make no mistake, he's HOME! Not fond of the name Zeus, we call him ZeeZee. My husband Greg grew up being a Music aficionado, so the other day he started calling Zee ZZ Top after the rock & roll band since he's such a crazy vibrant character ! No one can believe he's 14.



"All of these dogs have assorted pasts and lessons in life they can teach us, and our children. They are helpless in their plight. In this materialistic, entitlement culture, they show us resiliency, unconditional acceptance, abounding love, and just pure heart in the most innocent form. These are lessons not learned in the formal education process. It's been storied many times in different ways, but if we look deep within, we end up needing them as much or more than they need us. Nursing home dogs, medical therapy dogs, prison reform dogs, mental health assistants, war dogs, just to name a few.

"In my professional career, now spanning decades of pediatric recovery and trauma, I have seen hundreds of children leave this world from accidents, disease, trauma, and abuse. Through the heartbreak of loss and grief, the only common thread is that of hope for tomorrow. Hope, however, is generated from action, and as human beings, we face the choice to act, to move beyond our grief, to redirect our grief and heartache toward making a difference. Is it hard? Yes. Does it take courage? Yes. Is it difficult? Yes. Will there be sadness? Yes. Can you do it? Yes. It takes diving into your soul and finding the strength to start over, bringing that happiness to another forlorn companion. Simply knowing that you can make a difference will give you strength. I honor every dog I have owned by revisiting moments, stories, and photos of their lives. These memories will stay with me forever, but on the horizon I know there is another asking, pleading, wanting help, and the true honor is to move forward and help their friend."



DAISY

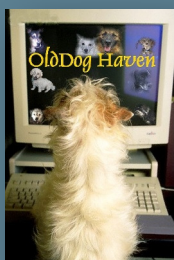
" The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated." *Mahatma Gandhi*

MINKY

by Jim Perkins



COMPEE



Forward to a Friend

Know somebody who loves old dogs? The more people who join our network, the more old dogs we can help!



"Let's talk about Minky, a nine pound Shih Tzu and our first Final Refuge foster from Old Dog Haven.

"First off, Minky is an unfortunate name for a male dog of such age and stature. We constantly debate whether he was named after a species of whale of the same name, or whether it was because his bark actually sounds like he is saying, "Mink, mink mink!" Either way, he lives with the gender confusion that comes with the name. Various vets constantly refer to him as her, which is an affront to his larger than life self-image, the same kind of self-image that is the hallmark of small dogs everywhere. In their little heads, they are monsters, ready to take on the largest of challengers, a mental take on themselves that adds a solid 80 pounds to their personal firepower. Mink is no different.

"When we first brought Minky into our home, he was ... I guess a polite term is bedraggled. His fur was thin, his mouth was rotten, his eyes were dry and infected, and he had a problem with bladder stones. All of those things were quickly solved, thanks to Tumwater Veterinary Hospital and the immense support from Old Dog Haven. That was July and August. By October, his health had rebounded to the point that his fur filled in and began to grow. By "grow", I mean that you could practically watch it grow. Suddenly we had a dog that needed a groomer, unusual in a house full of dogs that don't need haircuts - ever. Although we were very excited by the fact that his fur indicated a level of vitality he hadn't seen in quite some time, we were also faced with the fact that he didn't like people messing with his face (see what I did there?), and it takes a special, patient groomer to keep the fur out of his eyes.



"We found that special groomer, got his mouth cleaned up, down to five teeth on the bottom, and the bladder stone was removed, although we are fully expecting them to return. As a result, we're giving him a special diet to forestall he recurrence of those pesky stones. The special diet looks and smells terrible, and according to Minky, tastes pretty bad too. His fur grows like crazy, which I like to imagine he equates to his virility and general studliness. If you watched him as much as I do, you would agree. Unfortunately, more problems were waiting in the wings.

"A few weeks ago, he began to show signs of collapse and seizure. I saw it as a simple collapse, where his four little legs would splay out, and he would pause for second and then continue on his agenda. My wife saw a more complete picture of a seizure, which involved the collapse and twitching in seizure-like fashion. We consulted with Judith, the leader of Old Dog Haven and a veritable encyclopedia of practical health knowledge about old dogs, and decided to get him checked out by some specialists.

"We drove him down to Clackamas to see the specialists. They were in the midst of a renovation and a big crowd of patients. They took Minky to the back room to check him out. Sharon and I went to lunch. When we got back, they pulled us into a dramatically lit room, and the emergency room vet told us that Minky had pulmonary hypertension, and that, although he could go at any time, he probably had about four months to live.



GELLIE



ODDBALL



MILLIE



LUCY

"I'm fascinated by how vets react when they are giving fatal news. It is always accompanied by a wince, as if most people react as if it's the vet's fault. Don't shoot the messenger, right? We understood what we were signing up for with an Old Dog Haven final refuge dog, so it wasn't a great shock. At the same time, the Mink is a charming little fellow, whom we saw recover from a number of problems, and we weren't quite ready to accept that another problem could end it. They prescribed some drugs, and recommended a follow up in one week.

"The follow up, we decided, could double as a second opinion, and we took him to a different veterinary cardiologist, one who had a good relationship with Old Dog Haven. Dr. Woodfield walked us through the ultrasound results, explained to us the measures he was taking, and gave us a detailed plan for Minky's treatment. He refused to make any predictions, other than the fact that Mink could still suffer heart failure at any time, but could last a while, based on several backup medications that we could use if the current set stops being effective. We like an open prognosis, because frankly, we are attached to the little fellow.

"We like to think we can beat the odds through sheer force of love and care. After all, we have had an old dog who beat cancer for more than four years, when he was only predicted to survive a single year. We do know it's not ultimately in our control, but if you can love a dog into survival, we've got a shot.

"At the time this heart diagnosis was in progress, he developed fluid buildup and lost his appetite. Anyone who knows dogs also knows that the loss of the will to eat is the beginning of the end. A week or so later, he is still particular about what he eats, but he *is* eating and he is about as lively and alert as he has been since we got him. He sits up tall and watches everything around him. Not that he can see very well (or hear for that matter) but it's the effort that counts. It's the interest and involvement in his surroundings that lets us know he is bouncing back and willing to fight on.

"After the first prognosis, four weeks to live, we were forced to consider the experience of being an ODH Final Refuge in total. Is it worth it?

First of all, it's worth it for the dogs. They have come a long way and frequently through some hard times to reach Old Dog Haven. They may not live forever, but they are born to work in concert with us, in a sense made by us for that purpose, and they have the right to a return on their lifelong investment in a partnership with humanity. They don't hold back on trust, or love, or cooperation. If they seem to fail in any of those regards, it's virtually guaranteed that one of us failed them first. If we can do nothing else to make up for our shortcomings, we can at least do our best to let them leave this life with the love they deserve.

"In the middle is an organization that does phenomenal work. As we invest the love and care, they invest the resources and expertise to support us in our effort, and we are grateful that such a system exists. I can't speak to the motivations behind Old Dog Haven, but I can fully endorse the results.

Minky and Roscoe

"As for us, the sad conversation that came from realistically considering the end of our short time with Minky went something like this:

Sharon: 'Would you do this again?'

Jim: 'In a heartbeat.'

Sharon: 'Good. Me too.'

"So yes. It's entirely worth it."



MAILBOX



"Thank you for helping our family find Baxter (once named Harrison and who was nine at the time of the post). A year ago today my wife and I saw his picture cross posted on your page from PAWS of Lynnwood. After a brief discussion we loaded our pack (Bowie, then 15 1/2 and Dylan, then six) into the truck and headed north for a meet and greet. Things went well and at the end of the day Baxter joined our family. Over the next few months, we carefully monitored his weight (he was morbidly obese when he adopted us) and over time helped him reduce from a rotund 30 pounds down to his current weight of 22 pounds. In fact, when we first got him home, he could barely walk one block without limping and struggling to breathe. One year later, he loves going for long outings in the neighborhood and as a family, we've gotten in better shape because of this guy. He also had some allergy issues but we've worked with our vet to get him on a diet and bathing routine that works for him. He'll tell you he doesn't like baths, but secretly, he really digs them. Our favorite moments were watching his personality evolve as he settled into the pack: he's a big fan of chewing antlers, napping, crawling on his belly, rolling around on his back, and he's very vocal. He is a lovely, charming little guy and we adore him. As we write this, he is wearing a grey hoodie sweatshirt from a recent Ocean Shores beach trip, and is snuggled between us, sound asleep."



DAISY

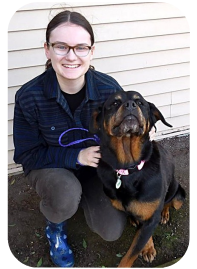


TWINKIE

"I just have to say your organization does the most amazing posts showcasing senior dogs in need of new homes. I fall in love with every one of them (so it's good I live in Ohio and not Washington). You are doing great work, so THANK YOU!!"

From the Humane Society for Tacoma and Pierce County:

"Rose, now known as Roxy, left the shelter today to go to Old Dog Haven. She looks pretty darn smug like she knows she is breaking out. Thank you to all the people at the shelter for making sure she got out for short walks a few times a day and thank you to all the volunteers at ODH for all the good work they do and all the people who donate so we can continue to send them dogs. Her foster mom loves her."



From the Everett Animal Shelter: "PENNY WENT HOME TODAY!!! We all shared this angel so many times and today was the day that her forever family came to bring her home. Penny was loved by the Everett Animal Shelter, by **Old Dog Haven**, by Save-A-Mutt and by the many thousands of people who followed and shared her posts over and over again. We would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to the person or people who knew that she was their special someone and for giving her what she has waited so long for... to be a treasured member of a family. It is that support and love that makes these happy endings possible. Have a wonderful life Penny ... you are loved!!!"

"A huge thank you to Old Dog Haven for all the work you do! I didn't even know I wanted another dog until I saw Sable's face on your page. ♥"



NEWS BITES



"Everyone Needs a Home."

Martha Faulkner (Real Estate Broker– RSVP Real Estate) not only finds homes for people, but she donates 10% of her commissions to animal rescue groups, including ODH. We welcome Martha as our new partner and thank her for so generously supporting ODH. Martha is also a volunteer and past President of Homeward Pet Adoption Center so she really does understand that EVERYONE needs a home. Paws up to you Martha!

Senior dogs have much love to share with those who need it and Final Refuge mom Melanie Granfors always makes sure that her dogs have time to spend with people who need to talk to a dog.

**Pictured right: Final Refuge dog
Sunshine visits with
residents at Merrill Gardens.**



SEQUOIA

Contact Us

Website:
www.olddoghaven.org

Phone:
(360)653-0311

Inquiries about fostering
and adoption
office@olddoghaven.org

Help with placing your
dog & social media
placement@olddoghaven.org

Walk for Old Dogs,
marketing
& PR inquiries
benefits@olddoghaven.org

Hosting a fundraiser for
ODH, donation can at
your business
benefits@olddoghaven.org

ODH participation at your
event
events@olddoghaven.org

End-of-Life decisions &
Grief Counseling
ardethdv@comcast.net

Address changes & donor
inquiries
donations@olddoghaven.org

All other inquiries
office@olddoghaven.org

ODH IS BLOGGIN'

ODH now has a blog you can access on the home page of our website: www.olddoghaven.org. You'll find a new post each week covering a variety of topics all centered around the theme of learning life lessons from old dogs.

THE JOURNEY HOME

Getting a dog from a shelter to one of our foster homes is often a logistical challenge that involves more than one person. In the case of Magic there were three people involved in the relay to get him to his foster home.



***pick up from the
shelter by **Randi*****

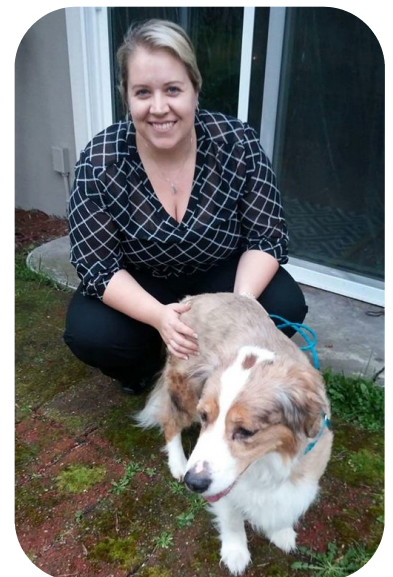


***transfer from Randi
to **Karen**.***



***Rik provided the
last ride home.***

**Magic says Thank
You!**



***finally home with foster
mom **Jamie*****

If you have feedback about this newsletter or ideas for future newsletters, please send them to ardethdv@comcast.net

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ROCO

WALK FOR OLD DOGS

Old Dog Haven WALK FOR OLD DOGS



Join us for the Fifth Annual Walk for Old Dogs and Old Dog Pageant

Sunday, July 17, 11:00 - 3:00

**CROMWELL PARK SHORELINE 18030 Meridian Ave. N
Shoreline WA**

Old Dogs, young dogs, and people of all ages welcome!



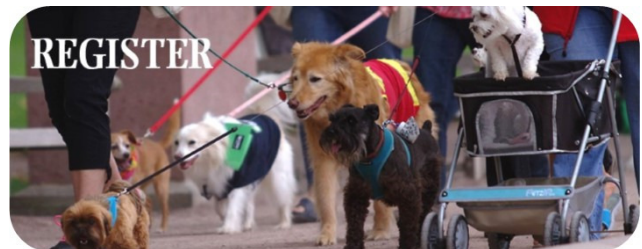
The Walk for Old Dogs is our biggest fundraiser and main event of the year. Every penny raised will be used to care for the over 300 senior dogs in our permanent foster homes. This year the event will again be held at Cromwell Park in Shoreline with a paved walk path and a natural amphitheater.

The Walk is not a race but a fun third mile promenade to celebrate with our senior dogs! It's a nice stroll on a paved path along lawns and fields. Walk as much (or as little) as you and your dog can do! Before the walk you can browse the many sponsor booths and various pet-supply/service vendors.

All donations are tax deductible. Old Dog Haven is a 501(c)(3) charity.

www.odhwalkforolddogs.org for more
information or to register.

If you are interested in distributing posters and flyers about the Walk for Old Dogs, please email:
Walk@olddoghaven.org



There will also be food trucks, a pet photo booth, an ODH race car, a pageant (Best Costume, Best Decorated Stroller, Best Trick, 30 yard Lollygag) and much more!

Support our Walkers and help us reach our goal to raise \$80,000 for the dogs!

Currently Old Dog Haven's vet bills average \$80,000 per month. All money raised at the Walk will be used to care for our senior dogs who might not otherwise have a home. To read about the wonderful senior dogs in our permanent foster care go to:

http://olddoghaven.org/dog_category/final-refuge-dogs/

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR CORPORATE SPONSORS for the 5th Annual Walk for Old Dogs. Because of their generous support all money raised at the walk can be used to care for our senior dogs.

GOLD PAW SPONSORS



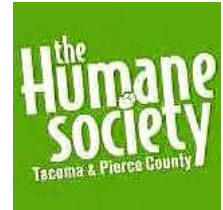
Martha Faulkner, Real Estate Broker donates 10% of her commission to animal rescue, including Old Dog Haven.

www.Homes4petlovers.com



"At **Frontier Village** we provide a warm, compassionate, and friendly experience."

<http://frontiervillagevet.com/>



The Humane Society Tacoma & Pierce County "advances the welfare of animals and promotes positive relationships between animals and people."
www.thehumanesociety.org



THE KENNEL FREE CAMP FOR DOGS

Unleashed Boarding "provides day camp and overnight boarding for dogs of all ages, sizes and energy levels."

<http://unleashed-boarding.com/>



Seattle Veterinary Associates "passionately treats pets while caring for their owners too."
<http://www.seattlevetassoc.com>

SILVER PAW SPONSORS

Paddywack



<http://paddywack.net>

Bow Wow Fun Towne



425-481-6825

Blue Pearl



info.wa@bluepearlvet.com

Seattle Veterinary Specialists



info@svsvet.com

Aussie Pet Mobile



www.petgroomingedmonds.com

North Pacific Industries

www.npi-seattle.com



The Coop



www.thecoopshop.com

Compassion 4 Paws



www.Compassion4Paws.com

Northeast Veterinary Hospital



www.neveterinaryhospital.com

Wendy Gardner

BRONZE PAW SPONSORS

the Mailbox Ballard

www.themailboxballard.com

Veterinary Oncology Center

info@helpingpetswithcancer.com

All the Best Pet Care

www.allthebestpetcare.com

Deborah and Mario Ehlers

Jet City Animal Clinic

www.jetcityanimalclinic.com

Realty Seattle

www.realtyseattle.com

MEDIA SPONSOR

pet connection
MAGAZINE



TYLER



KD



RUDOLPH



YOSHI

GiveBIG

Give BIG to Old Dog Haven Tuesday, May 3

Your gift to **Old Dog Haven** goes even farther on the Seattle Foundation's **GiveBIG** day **Tuesday, May 3**. Every dollar of your gift is increased thanks to the Seattle Foundation's stretch pool. Please Note: Only gifts made online on May 3rd (between 12:00 midnight and 11:59 p.m. Pacific Time) on the Old Dog Haven Seattle Foundation Donation page are eligible for GiveBIG funds. Click <https://givebig.seattlefoundation.org/npo/old-dog-haven> to read more about **GiveBIG**. The dogs thank you from the bottom of their happy tails!



Click on the link below to watch a video created by foster dad Joe Myers featuring photography by ODH foster families and Julie Austin. You'll be inspired to GiveBIG! <https://youtu.be/beuDoTNefzE>

Together we can make an impact!

WAYS TO HELP OLD DOG HAVEN

SPONSOR A FINAL REFUGE DOG (MAKES A GREAT GIFT!)

<http://olddoghaven.org/how-to-help/sponsoring/>

PROVIDE A FINAL REFUGE HOME

<http://olddoghaven.org/how-to-help/fostering/>

DONATE YOUR VEHICLE

<http://olddoghaven.org/donate-2/donate/>

SIGN UP FOR A RECURRING DONATION

<http://olddoghaven.org/donate/donate/>

HELP SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT OLD DOG HAVEN BY PROVIDING BROCHURES AT YOUR LOCAL COFFEE SHOP, PET STORE OR VETERINARY CLINIC benefits@olddoghaven.org

DOG ACTIVITY NUMBERS JANUARY 1- APRIL 30

- 290** dogs are in care as of 4/30
 - 286** are in final refuge
 - 4** are in foster homes awaiting adoption
- 56** new dogs were taken into care between 1/1-4/30
 - 51** came from shelters
 - 5** came from individuals
- 144** new dogs were posted to help owners find homes
- 200** new dogs were helped 1/1-4/30
- 113** dogs were adopted 1/1-4/30

Even non-profits are affected by the economy. Because our responsibilities, expenses, and dogs in care are increasing, your donations are more important than ever. If you can help, please send your tax-deductible donation to:

**Old Dog Haven
621 State Route 9 NE
PMB A-4
Lake Stevens, WA
98258-8525**

Thank You!

NEWS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



SADIE



HEIDI



CARLY



LEROY & LILLY



MAIZEY



TEE

As we go into a big fundraising season, I want to show you where our funds go – primarily for veterinary expenses! 75-80% of our expenses are for medical care/medications every year. Here are two different examples of what we do with your donations to help old dogs.

Some come to us in urgent need of very expensive procedures to relieve long term severe pain. The Maranda Fund is intended for those dogs. In January we were asked by one of our vet clinics to take a client's dog who desperately needed major ear surgery.



Lucy, a beautiful buff cocker, had suffered with infection and tumors in her ears for several years from uncontrolled allergies. She had a thorough medical workup and visited the allergist. He recommended a Total Ear Canal Ablation on both ears. Our wonderful surgeon, Dr. Jha at VCA Veterinary Specialty Center, performed the delicate and very expensive surgery. With lots of nursing by her ODH family, monitoring from her regular veterinarian and some post-op checkups and medications, and with continuing help from the allergist, Lucy is finally free of the constant pain in her ears—a tremendously happy and loving girl. We and

Lucy are grateful to the donors who made this possible!

Others come to us needing some serious initial medical work and then a lot of regular care. These dogs are basically healthy and well adjusted but high maintenance—expensive enough that no one wants to adopt them, so they stay with us for several years. They are happy and wonderful friends, but there are lots of bills to pay.



Toffee, my "princess shih tzu," came to us from a shelter in 2012 when her person went into a care facility. She had immediate surgery for a very large bladder stone collection, had a dental, and saw the ophthalmologist for her dry eye condition. Since then she has had 10 more ophthalmologist visits as her dry eye worsened despite daily drops costing \$50-100/month. She has a urinalysis every three months to make sure her bladder stones aren't coming back and she's had periodic x-rays for the first year after surgery. She developed Inflammatory Bowel Disease in 2015 and needed an ultrasound and then an internal medicine consult and endoscopy. Since then she's done very well on prescription hypoallergenic diet to keep the IBD at bay. She's also prone to impacted anal glands so has those expressed every two months. The little princess DEFINITELY takes a lot of medical care.

Toffee's care is not extraordinary or heroic treatment; it is just expensive. Most of the dogs coming to us now need significant medical care; often that is why they have been abandoned. We feel that dogs like Lucy and Toffee are WELL worth the expense and effort and we hope you do too. Multiply their needs by 290-310 dogs in our care and you'll understand how important our donors are to a lot of really nice old dogs.