

# Old Dog Haven



2018



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Captain Wally  
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help our dogs

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The Final Refuge dogs featured in the header are (L-R) Esther, Bubble, Moon & Lucy. The three dogs shown in the "thank you" are (L-R) Yoda, Rosie & Ella Mae.

These dogs represent the 300 + dogs in our care that are grateful for your support.

All photographs on this page were taken by Julie Austin.



ROSIE

## HAPPY NEW YEAR!

## A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS!



As we start a new year we'd like to offer special thanks to all who make our efforts possible. We'd love to publically acknowledge you by listing your names, but in the interests of respecting your privacy, we won't do that. Many of you have generously and consistently supported ODH since the very beginning and we want to let you know how much we appreciate your loyalty and commitment to our cause. Since we don't receive any government funding, what we do wouldn't be possible without your generous donations. PAWS UP TO ALL OF YOU!

**DURING THE PAST 14 YEARS, ODH HAS HELPED 5,868 DOGS!**

## ADOPT!

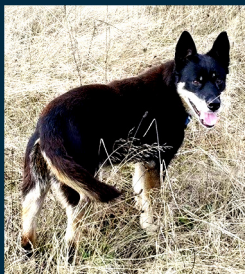
All of the senior dogs you see pictured in the border that runs the length of the newsletter (see left) are available for adoption (as of 1/6) Some are in shelters, living in cages, desperately waiting for a forever home; many are in foster care, and some are posted for individuals. All of these amazingly resilient dogs are looking for forever homes. Go to our website ([www.olddoghaven.org](http://www.olddoghaven.org)) to find out more about these adoptable dogs.



AMOUS

### 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](http://www.olddoghaven.org)



XENA



SHADOW

## CAPTAIN WALLY

*By Jim Perkins*

"Our latest Old Dog Haven foster is a stout 15-pound, one-eyed Shih Tzu. For a so-called toy breed, Wally is remarkably intelligent, pragmatic, and self-possessed.

"It all began when we drove south to Vancouver to pick him up. Within 15 minutes in our company, he had probably not decided much about us, but he had definitely decided that we were a better deal than a cage in a shelter. We stopped at the first rest stop to give him a shot at some grass, which he handled quickly so that he could get on with barking at the nice ladies at the closest picnic table. He led us around in service to his plan and earned the first part of his name. He is definitely the captain of his own command.



When Captain Wally first arrived home

"We don't know anything about his former life; he was picked up as a stray. The fact that he had one eye meant that someone was looking out for his health at some point, but when we got him, he was a mess. His skin was a collection of weeping sores and scabs, his fur was mostly gone, and he had a huge raw hotspot on his curly naked tail.

"By the time we made it home, there was the "naming moment" where he revealed the rest of his name. One particular look over his shoulder and he became Wally. Unfortunately to this day, he probably has no idea what we named him. He is deaf enough that most of our communication with him is visual. Luckily, his remaining eye works well. In our short history of ODH fostering, he would most likely win the award for visual acuity.

"Part of the challenge of ODH fostering is connecting with a dog that may not hear, may not see, but has a lifetime of training and behavioral patterns. It's both a chore and a game to decipher the dog's rules, to learn to communicate on his terms. With Wally and his one good eye, it has been relatively easy. Someone housetrained him to perfection, and he is still active enough to make going outside worthwhile for him. He loves to roll in dry grass and seems mildly offended by the onset of Autumn's wetter variety.

"Part of the joy of ODH fostering is to watch the rebound, the transformation, the new flowering of a dog that may have considered his purpose behind him. Even under the best of intentions, a stint in a shelter is tough on them. When we brought the little guy home, he struggled physically up the 5 inch step to the front door. Two days later, he was navigating those thresholds with ease. Two months later, he has been known to regularly break into a sprint, especially if a treat is waiting or he decides to play hard to get.







"He was diagnosed with Cushing's disease, which was contributing greatly to his skin problems. Under treatment, his skin is healing. It went from a horror show special effect to something we can touch without feeling an immediate compulsion to wash our hands. It's a remarkable improvement, and he is healing much more rapidly than we ever expected. If he's really lucky, he may regain some of that lost fur. He has one tiny new patch on his tail that looks like the head of a troll doll.



DICKEY



BANDIT

"The real reward is his emotional rebound. He is full of personality and has no trouble with any of our other dogs. The way he did it was remarkable to watch. He never challenged anyone. He just walked in and acted like he belonged here. His confidence is loud and clear, but it takes a second place to his intelligence. Those of us who live among dogs know that they spend a lot of time memorizing everything around them. Wally had us completely figured out within a couple of weeks, and every time we throw something new at him, he takes it in stride and adds it to the list. He understands our intentions from the most random collection of gestures, some of which we don't even know we're making. Like all small dogs, he can read us with remarkable subtlety just from watching our feet. If that doesn't do it, he looks up with one big brown eye, like a periscope on a cartoon submarine, and we fall in love all over again.

"None of it, not the rebound, the transformation, the renewed doggie purpose, or the love could happen without Old Dog Haven. While we are busy reaping our share of the rewards, and Wally his, they are paying for the ongoing medical treatment. We don't know how this story ends, but we know how it's playing right now, and each one of those days is a gift in our home. Who gets the most out of it is up for eternal debate."



**Note: Jim added this note recently after he and Wally attended an ODH fundraiser:**

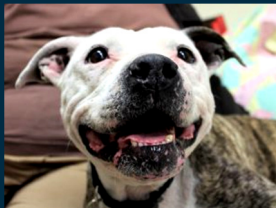
"Wally is a small dog with a huge amount of character. We did Christine Redmond's glass craft fundraisers last week in Olympia. A nice lady gave him a treat, which he apparently translated to mean that everyone in the room should give him a treat. He made a nuisance of himself. I found it interesting, for the most part, that the women found him charming and the men tried to ignore him. Unfortunately for them, Wally does not allow anyone to ignore him. "



**Thank you Jim and Sharon for welcoming Captain Wally into your home and hearts.**



MORRIS



HOLLY

If you have feedback about this newsletter or ideas for future newsletters, please send them to [ardethdv@comcast.net](mailto:ardethdv@comcast.net)

## Newsletter Team

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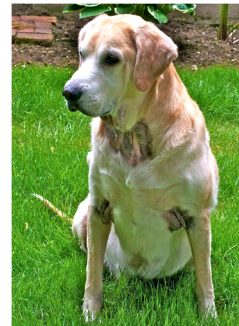
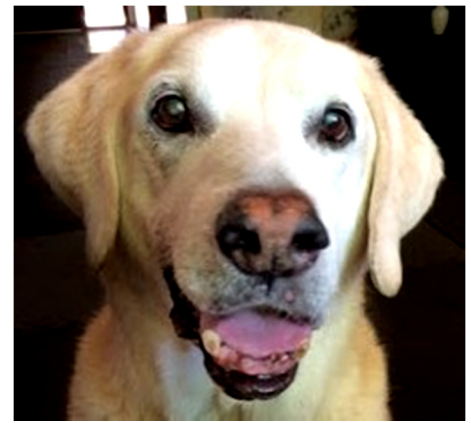
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Editor  
Ardeth De Vries

## BUDDY

by Fred Fuelberg

Five years ago Buddy was taken by his people to a vet to be euthanized because apparently they couldn't pay for treating his skin and ear infections. The vet refused to end Buddy's life and instead Buddy was taken to a big shelter. The shelter felt that he could still have a good quality of life so ODH was contacted and he became a Final Refuge dog.



The first day out of the shelter Buddy slept for a solid 10 hours and he was withdrawn and depressed. He had no interest in dog food or treats, and only after I started adding ketchup would he eat. He was

overweight (98 pounds) and had ear infections, skin infections and patches of bare skin on his body. ODH veterinarians prescribed treatment for all his issues and I've been diligent about cleaning and medicating his ears, bathing and treating his skin and controlling his diet. With excellent veterinary care his skin problems are under control.



eyes on the treats!

When we started walking at a local park he was not trusting of people, but after a short time he came around and now wants to meet everyone. Buddy today is very sociable, he loves treats and remembers people who have treats. At his park he will let everyone know when a squirrel or coyote is in the area.



On squirrel patrol

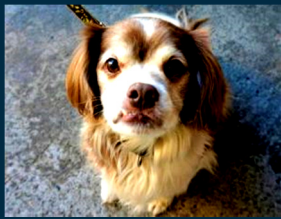
Buddy at age 16, is always ready to do something and still wants to play.



Buddy and Fred

Thank you Fred, for taking such good care of Buddy and giving him an opportunity to be a well-loved happy dog.

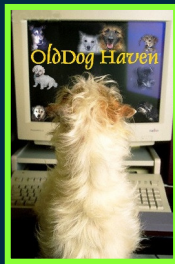




STEVIE



ZOEY



Forward to a Friend

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



PEETE & ROGAN

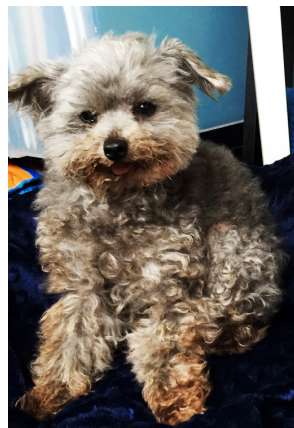


BUDDY

## GIDGET

by Caroline Phan

Saturday morning, May 28, 2016, a transport volunteer arrived with a tiny, shaking bundle of tangled gray poodle fur that did not even weigh three pounds. Little Miss Gidget had arrived! It felt like she weighed next to nothing, and all I could feel were skin and bones! She seemed to have a lot of trouble walking, it looked like she was missing her jaw, she was dirty, and boy did she stink! But she had bright, curious eyes, expressive ears, and already wanted to be best friends with Dutch—my resident dog ... a four pound Yorkie (who was indifferent at best)!



With a copy of her shelter paperwork and Judith's memory, I eventually found out some of her past ; she was found in 2013 as a stray and in such horrible condition that they had to shave off all her hair (the shaved-off hair weighed almost 1.25 pounds alone! ) They determined she was at least 13 years old, was spayed, microchipped, and had been adopted by an elderly person. Unfortunately, the elderly person passed away, and Gidget was passed around from person to person, until whoever ended up with her last did not want her and left her at the shelter. So here she was, three years later and now at least 16 years old, and also with a big mess of snarled hair, but at least she had been indoors this time and somewhat cared for.

We eventually got her in to see one of the great ODH vets where we discovered that she was indeed very underweight and definitely at least 16 years old, if not 17. She was unable to walk well because she had badly luxating patellas in her two back legs, and her front left leg was broken at some point and never reset, so she couldn't put weight on it. She also had a compressed/bent spine, a small mammary tumor, fistulas and three rotting teeth (one top molar and two bottom molars) in very bad shape, and it did indeed look like her jaw was missing. However, she could still see and hear just fine, and her heart and lungs were those of a two year-old dog!

We were able to get in to see the dental specialist about three months later, and he confirmed that Gidget's jaw was indeed missing. It had not been surgically removed, so it most likely had rotted away from infection! Her top molar was also hanging on just by a thread. Unfortunately, because of her advanced age, Judith did not want to risk putting her under anesthesia, so we couldn't get her teeth and tumor removed. We went back to the vet a week later, and he thought he might be able to just pull that top molar out : turns out the tooth broke off when he pulled, so she still had half a rotten tooth and the whole root of the molar in her mouth! So she had a course of antibiotics to help reduce all the pathology going on in her mouth, which definitely helped reduce the smelliness!

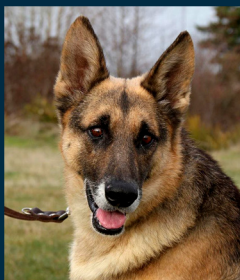
We put June 1 down as her birthday, so we celebrated her one-year anniversary with me and her 17<sup>th</sup>, maybe 18<sup>th</sup>, birthday. Now 18 months later, she's still with us and still as bright-eyed and sassy as ever! She just about breaks the four pound mark now (when she's soaking wet!), and going on a walk means she gets to ride around in her carrier on my chest while Dutch checks out the pee-mail on the ground (His legs are only four inches long, so it takes us 20 minutes to go around the block).



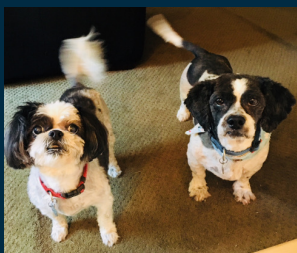
NOELLE



THOR



FALCO



MAZIE & DODGER



JOHNNY & JUNE

Her tumor is about seven times the size it was, and she is now on Denamarin for her liver, Incurin for her leaking, and Gabapentin twice a day to help manage her pain, and the occasional course of Clindamycin to keep her mouth infection under control. She now wears diapers at night, since she loses bladder control when she falls asleep, and most nights she needs one diaper change, but some nights we have a couple changes, and some nights she makes it all the way through with a dry diaper. With her pain, she no longer loves belly rubs like she used to, since I think it hurts her to be on her back, but she still loves to be held and will paw at you until she gets your attention and you pet her.

She can still see and hear great, which is amazing, and she has the most expressive sideways Yoda ears of any dog I have ever had! She is very vocal when she wants something! She handles being wiped down with baby wipes every couple hours (that missing jaw means a lot of drooling) and after every meal (soft food mixed with crumbly ZiwiPeak dry food) like a champ.

She and Dutch go to church and to choir rehearsal with me every week, and they are dearly beloved by everyone, especially the children and the seniors! She's been blessed by multiple priests more times than we can count (pretty much nearly every week) at the communion rail and brings so much joy to elderly seniors who are not able to have their own pets and who are overjoyed to give her hugs and pets each week. She and Dutch have also been great teaching tools for the children, most of whom were terrified of dogs—because of their small size and sweet natures, they've been great for showing the children how to approach and appropriately pet (and hold) dogs.



With children at church



Choir practice

I truly believe Gidget's giant spirit is what still keeps her frail little body going! Her bent spine makes her look like an AT-AT and her extremely expressive sideways Yoda ears are always flapping here and there and everywhere, so I call her my Star Wars dog. Her favorite position is to lie on top of Dutch (she

LOVES him and can never be close enough to him!), whether in their bright pink carry bag or the stroller that someone so kindly donated to ODH that we received! I didn't even expect her to last a month when she first arrived, and I know that at her advanced age and with her health issues, she may go at any time, but I feel like the luckiest mama in the world to be blessed with an always-smiling, always-cheerful, and endlessly loving little senior dog. She never ceases to bring me joy every single day! I am so happy to be able to make her final days and years here on earth as comfortable and as loving as possible. Dogs are, in my mind, God's way of reminding us of the unconditional love he has for us!

Gidget's story tells us not only how ODH is able to provide needed medical attention (thanks to our generous donors) for the dogs that come to us, but her story is a marvelous example of the kind of care and dedication our fosters are willing to give to the dogs that come to them. When Gidget does move on to her next expression of spirit she'll do so as a very happy well loved dog because of Caroline.



Modeling session at zulily





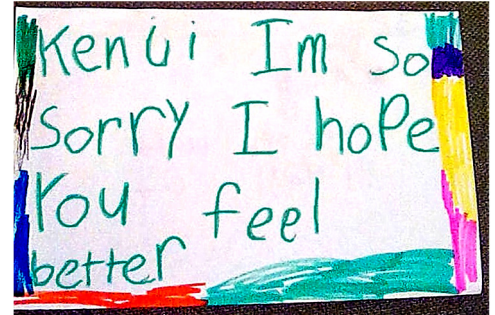
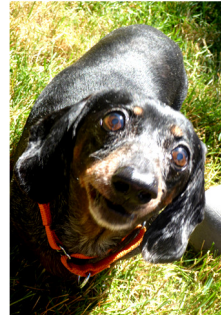


**BONNIE**

## MAILBOX

Renee Canfield, one of our FR moms is also an elementary teacher. Her new dog, a very old doxie, Kenji, came with bad heart and terrible teeth. Thanks to ODH he saw his regular vet, a cardiologist, and then a dental specialist to get his teeth fixed safely. Here's what Renee had to say:

"I've taught for over 25 years and have been working with shelters and rescues for about as many. Animals are one of the best ways to teach young children compassion and empathy. When I told my class I was getting a new dog they were thrilled and asked every day if he had arrived. When I told them the story about my husband building a ramp because he could not use stairs they all wanted to write about it. When I told them Kenji was having dental surgery today they all wanted to write cards. Even if it is in a small way, I think this old dog is impacting young hearts as they learn to value animals...especially old ones."



**LAURIE**

"We've had Missy (formerly Minnie) for almost three weeks now. In this photo, she just returned from the groomer. She's not a hippie anymore! She's been on a diet and exercise regimen. So far she's lost 1.7 pounds. Pretty good for an old gal. She also got her teeth cleaned at the vet the other day. No dental extractions required! We were so happy for her! She's a great girl! We are so happy to have the opportunity to give Missy her forever home. Thanks ODH!"



If this email was forwarded to you, and you'd like to receive it in the future, send an email to [office@olddoghaven.org](mailto:office@olddoghaven.org)

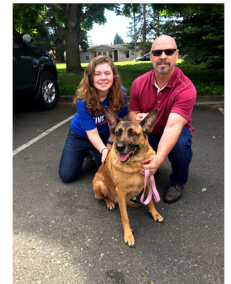
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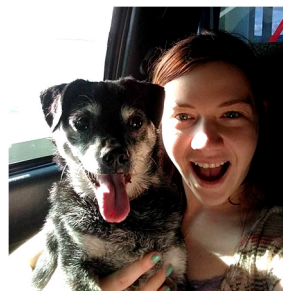
### No words ... just happy ending smiles



(L-R) Greggor, Lucy and Dakota with their new families



Sabrina (L) with new mom and brother Olaf



Jack and new mom



Ozzie and Quigley with Santa

## Contact Us

Website:

[www.olddoghaven.org](http://www.olddoghaven.org)

Phone:

(360)653-0311

Inquiries about fostering  
and adoption

[office@olddoghaven.org](mailto:office@olddoghaven.org)

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[placement@olddoghaven.org](mailto:placement@olddoghaven.org)

Hosting a fundraiser for  
ODH, ODH participation  
at your event

[events@olddoghaven.org](mailto:events@olddoghaven.org)

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All other inquiries

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HOUDINI



FRANKIE & JOEY

## SPECIAL WAYS TO HELP OUR DOGS

Thanks to you over 310 senior dogs have safe and loving homes with our foster families. On behalf of all of us at Old Dog Haven, thank you for loving them. As we begin a new year our hope is to continue helping as many senior dogs as possible.

Here are some ways you can help our dogs:

**SPONSOR A FINAL REFUGE DOG:** These dogs spend their final days in one of our permanent foster homes and appreciate your help. <https://olddoghaven.org/how-to-help/sponsoring/>

**MARANDA FUND:** Support the Maranda Fund: <https://olddoghaven.org/donate-2/the-maranda-fund/> This fund is set aside specifically for major medical procedures beyond what we could normally cover.

**GOLDEN GUARDIAN MONTHLY GIVING:** Your monthly gift helps ensure a reliable source of income so we can provide care for over 300 dogs in permanent foster care, and continue to help more senior dogs in need. To become a Golden Guardian check *"make my payment a recurring payment"* when signing up:



<https://co.clickandpledge.com/sp/d1/default.aspx?wid=64969>

**WORKPLACE GIVING:** Many companies and government organizations offer payroll deduction programs. Some will match or even double or triple your gift at your request. Or, if your employer is signed up with an annual giving campaign such as United Way you can designate Old Dog Haven as one of your charities. Contact your Human Resources department for more information about employee giving.

**VEHICLE DONATION:** Have an old car, RV or other vehicle sitting around? You can donate it to Old Dog Haven from anywhere in the US. Call toll free at 1-800-393-4483 or fill out the form online. It's fast and easy and Donate For Charity takes care of all the details. <http://www.donateforcharity.com/car-donation-form/>

**WISH LIST:** Donate items on our Wish List to help keep our Final Refuge dogs comfortable. <https://olddoghaven.org/donate-2/wish-list/>

Our deepest gratitude for your continued support. Please go to our website [www.olddoghaven.org](http://www.olddoghaven.org) for more details about how you can help our dogs.

## DOG ACTIVITY NUMBERS: 2017 WRAP UP

2017

309 DOGS IN CARE AT YEAR END

222 ACTIVE FOSTER HOMES (MORE NEEDED!!)

605 NEW DOGS HELPED

200 PLACED IN ODH FOSTER HOMES

94% OF THOSE FROM SHELTERS AND RESCUE GROUPS

6% OF THOSE FROM INDIVIDUALS

306 DOGS ADOPTED (18 ODH & 288 referrals)

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



## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

### Miracles and Heartaches All The Way

#### Good bye to 2017

As with all of our previous years, 2017 was journey of miracles and heartaches for all of us at Old Dog Haven. The challenges grew and so did the love and caring of all those who support us. We have been able to help thousands of senior dogs since we began this journey more than 12 years ago—all because so many care.

Our wonderful staff all put an incredible deal of time, effort, and love into their “jobs.” We particularly want to thank one who is a vital part of ODH: Tina, our Placement Coordinator. She is on the front lines for the desperate calls when someone needs a new home for their old dog NOW or when an owner needs help or counsel as their dog nears the end of his or her life. This is often a very difficult and heart-wrenching job; Tina has truly given her heart and soul to our mission. Many people and dogs are in her debt.

#### Hello and Welcome to 2018

We begin 2018 with renewed energy to continue to offer loving care and a final home for as many old dogs as possible. We are exploring new ways to continue our mission in the face of ever more challenging times. We are moving toward a sustainable operation with new Board members, a new Events/Benefits team coordinator and other key volunteers, some additional staff members joining in 2017, and technology upgrades. We hope to have a talent pool to lead, organize and direct our fundraising projects and this small army of volunteers as we hit the Reset button for ODH.

Thank you all for being part of the unique organization that is ODH. It warms our hearts to know how many people care about homeless old dogs and want them to end their lives with love and comfort in a family that wants them. You are remarkable! Now we need all of you to remain with us and help us expand our network of committed supporters and talent pool.

With your continued support, we will be able to celebrate the miracles, withstand the heartaches and continue to serve our dear old dogs in 2018.



LUCY



ROXANNE



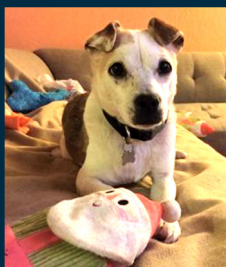
DOMO & LUCY



Ricki



RICKI



PEANUT



Mr. January



Old Dog Haven 2018 calendar

## 2018 CALENDAR

What better way to ring in the New Year than with our January 2018 calendar model Augustus, Mayor of Whoville.

The calendar is available by mail with your gift of \$40 or more. Click here

<https://co.clickandpledge.com/sp/d1/default.aspx?wid=64969> and make sure to note “send calendar” in the other instructions section of the donation form. By joining together we can provide hope for old dogs. Thank you for your support!