



## MEET THE “DOG TEAM”



Judith Piper



Tina Nabseth



Deeanne Matz



Shirley Stallings



Kelly Marlo



Noel Kjosness

You probably understand that homeless senior dogs don't just magically appear in an Old Dog Haven home, but we thought you might like to know how this life-changing journey is made possible by our dedicated “Dog Team.” **Paws up to all of you for your efforts!**

### Let's take the dogs first:

A shelter contacts Judith with information about a dog they think might be appropriate for ODH. Because we need to know as much as possible about the dog's health and temperament, Judith responds, asking for additional information and photographs.

Although our primary focus at this time is shelter dogs, sometimes an individual will ask ODH to take a senior dog that needs rehoming. Tina responds to these requests and gets more information. If the dog meets our criteria (i.e., 12 years or older and not adoptable, not aggressive), we may consider placing the dog in one of our Final Refuge (permanent foster) homes.

Judith may have the shelter do lab work at our expense to give us more information about what medical problems we would be taking on, and she considers all the medical reports available along with information an owner might have provided. Noel might check a microchip to get a more accurate age. We might even have one of our vets examine the dog if there isn't information available.

With this information, discussion occurs among the team about whether the dog is appropriate for ODH and whether we believe we can find the dog a foster home. Any red flags—i.e., bite history, needs to be an only dog, no cats, etc., are discussed by the group. Sometimes medical conditions can determine where a dog must be located if specialist care will be needed. The Dog Team provides input, but the ultimate decision about whether a dog is accepted into ODH is made by Judith.

Once accepted to be an ODH dog, the process begins to find a foster home. Judith continuously updates a wait list of dogs and of potential foster homes.

The Dog Team has an ongoing email discussion about matching the right dog with the right home. Some people waiting on the list are current or recent foster homes who are ready to take a new dog and others are new approved homes. If there is not a good fit, a dog may be posted on the website and featured on Facebook with the hope of attracting a new foster applicant.

Again, the ultimate decision about a placement is made by Judith. She sends an email to the potential foster home letting them know all the information we have about the dog. Sometimes that home may feel the dog is not the best fit for their family and then the process continues until the right home is found.

### Now the fosters:

Emails from people with questions about fostering or requesting an application are forwarded to Shirley. She responds to their questions, tells them about fostering, and sends an application when appropriate. A prospective foster home may be interested in a specific dog they have seen featured on Facebook, or they may want to be on the Wait List for the right dog when he/she comes along. The application tells us quite a bit about the person asking to foster for ODH. Shirley screens returned applications and sends those that could be potential homes on to the Dog Team for review and discussion.

When there is consensus that a home might work for an ODH dog, a member of the team (usually Dee or Kelly) does a phone interview with the applicant. Often a call is made by a team member to the person's current vet, if there is one, and to the applicant's personal reference. If everything looks good to everyone to this point, Shirley asks the Area Foster Coordinator or another current foster parent to do a home visit. Dee attaches interview notes, references, and home visit notes to the application.

Ultimately, putting all of this together, the applicant is chosen to be an ODH foster home for the right dog, is added to the wait list, and the matching process begins.

When the match is made, Noel arranges transport with our volunteer transporters who bring the dog to his/ her new ODH foster home.

## FUNDRAISING BENEFITS FOR ODH

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 :



**Kelina Bechtel, Ichiro Bechtel, Addison Bell, Nola Hamilton, Finn Dunne, Ellie Dunne and Lincoln Guenser** (pictured above) organized a community garage sale and donated a portion of their proceeds to ODH.

These enthusiastic entrepreneurs operated the cash register, advertised with pom poms and signs, sold lemonade, donuts and pizza, and they played Hawaiian music.

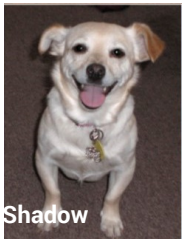
Money was also donated to Eastside Baby Corner, Issaquah Food Bank and the Seattle Humane Society.

Thanks also to **Malia and Andy Greening-Bechtel** for being the driving force behind the sale.

**Troop 45166** is closing and the troop decided to donate the remaining funds to ODH.



Our friends at the **Hop and Hound in Bellevue** celebrated the life of their beloved friend **Charlie** by donating \$4 from every beer sold to ODH on a special day honoring **Charlie** and supporting ODH.



Shadow

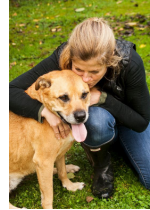


**Jenn and Jason Sonker** organized the seventh annual Hike-A-Thon in memory of their dog **Shadow**. The event, very much like a Walk-A-Thon, was wildly successful and raised thousands of dollars for our dogs.

Thank you to ALL of the people who had **birthday fundraisers** to benefit ODH. There are too many of you to name here, but each effort is very much appreciated.



**Northwest Cellars** hosted a Calendar Release Party to benefit ODH dogs. Thank you to **Bob Delf** of **NW Cellars** for donating a portion of proceeds from ticket and wine purchases to ODH.



Thank you to ODH's honorary photographer **Julie Austin** for the wonderful photos she took of our dogs at the ODH fosters/volunteers picnic AND for the cover photos of the 2019 calendar and the new brochure.

Thank you to **Greenwood Physical Therapy** (especially **Jeni and Emma**) for choosing ODH as the recipient of a portion of their profits this quarter.

**Run 2 Be Fit** hosted another fun 5K Walk to benefit ODH.

Thanks to **Lori Sciacero** and **Steven Lynn**, co-founders of **Brokers Supporting Pet Rescue**, for supporting ODH through their program.

### Dog Activity: January-October

325 dogs in care as of 10/10/18  
324 are in Final Refuge homes  
1 is in a foster home awaiting adoption

174 new dogs were taken into care between 1/1 - 10/10  
153 came from shelters  
21 came from individuals

292 new dogs were posted for individuals, shelters and other rescue groups

446 new dogs were helped 1/1-10/10

228 dogs were adopted 1/1-10/10

### Old Dog Haven Remembers Foster Dad Brad Nowlin



Brad loved being a foster parent for ODH and **Rocky** (seen left in photo) enjoyed Brad's special brand of TLC in so many ways. Brad said about **Rocky**: "I could not have any better purpose in life than caring for him. Thank you for allowing me to be his last refuge."

**Rocky** now lives happily with Brad's daughter **Shawn** who continues to love and care for him as her dad did while he was still physically with us.

We'll miss you, Brad. Your dedication and loving energy was an inspiration to all of us who love and care for senior dogs.



## PAWS UP TO FOSTERS TRACY & CHRIS KIM



Tracy, Chris  
and Phoenix

My husband Chris and I have always had a soft spot for discarded pets. When we were ready to adopt our first dog, I went to the local city shelter and looked for the dogs that had been there the longest and came home with a terrific year-old pittie we named Sitka, after the town where we had married earlier that year.

While some people might think adopting a wild and woolly pit bull wasn't the most responsible choice for a

first dog, it was a great learning experience for us and encouraged us to be a safe home for future hard-to-place dogs (and cats, and eventually pigs, goats, horses, llamas, alpacas, chickens and turkeys). We have volunteered and fostered both cats, dogs, and a pig, for a number of different animal welfare organizations, and back in 2001 we helped co-found Peninsula Spay/Neuter Project, the grassroots organization that evolved into Northwest Spay & Neuter Center in Tacoma.

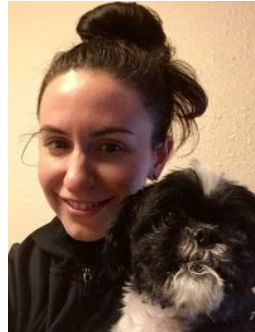
As volunteer dog walkers at a local shelter, it was distressing to see people surrender their senior dogs to the shelter, not to mention the many old, ailing dogs brought in as strays. But it was always so exciting when one of those unfortunate dogs was scooped up in the protective arms of ODH and put into a loving home where they could receive all the proper care they needed. That's what made me decide that I had to be a part of this fantastic organization. ODH is a rescue in the truest, most admirable sense of the word, and we are honored to help ODH help these dogs.

Since February, we've taken in three ODH dogs: FR Molly, FR Daphne, and Phoenix, who has fully recovered from the surgical removal of a large sarcoma and is soon to be adoptable!

I guess the biggest lesson for me has been that no matter how much a human has to offer an old dog they always, always give back more. The adoration of a senior dog is something that only a person who's been the subject of it can fully appreciate, and I plan to continue wallowing in it for a very long time to come 😊

**Thank you Tracy and Chris for joining the ODH family! We love your enthusiasm and commitment.**

## MEET BLOGGER JOANNA MITZEL



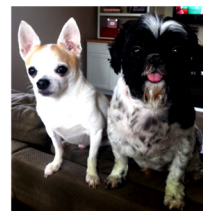
Joanna and Jack

I can't recall how I heard about Old Dog Haven. It was a number of years ago—perhaps Facebook or a booth at an event initially. My four animals were barely seniors at the time, but through various medical crises brought on simply by the aging process, I felt so rewarded by their presence despite any additional care taking demands. I would read the limited histories of other senior dogs, often abandoned because their needs simply became too great, and just couldn't imagine not adapting to the changes required by the four lives that have given me so much.

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Last year I was winding down some other volunteer opportunities and work projects and wanted to become more involved. I filled out my volunteer paperwork and checked off just about every opportunity Old Dog Haven offered that I might have some semblance of experience to offer. I always received good grades in English and Creative Writing—most notably known for writing as I speak despite the limiting rules of grammar and punctuation. I was connected with Ardeth and offered the opportunity to write a blog post once monthly. And just like that, I became a writer/blogger. I try my best to come up with a variety of posts whether it be stories about my personal experiences or informative posts from chatting with my veterinarian to lists of activities to share with senior dogs.

I work full time in Bellevue, WA at a financial services firm and spend most of my free time caring for my animals. I have three senior dogs : Sal (lab/dane/mystery mix), Mr. B. (Chihuahua) and Jack (shih-tzu) and one senior cat , Farrell (part cat, part demon). I also love yoga and home design projects and often try blending all of my interests together whether via a cat or goat yoga class or building new furniture pieces to offer my dogs of various sizes equal opportunities to access the couch or doggie door. Outside of any short-term fostering, at this time I'm not able to offer any additional animals the level of care I believe they deserve, but I look forward to becoming an ODH permanent foster home in the future.



**Thank you Joanna for contributing so successfully to our blogs. We appreciate you!**

I would love 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: P.O. Box 1409, Oak Harbor WA 98277

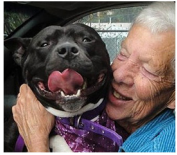
☐ Check if you would like an ODH Calendar (available with donation of \$40 or more)

**THANK  
YOU!**

November 2018

If you would like to help by providing a permanent foster home, please contact us!  
(206) 280-7614

## A MESSAGE FROM ODH'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: ARDETH DE VRIES



**To our donors:** When you send a donation to help our dogs—no matter the amount—what you're doing is not only providing much needed medical care for old dogs that need help, but you're letting these dogs know that they have a future. The donation is symbolic of the fact that you care about them, that you value our mission, and that you have a spot in your heart for the unwanted, neglected, and sad senior dogs that find themselves homeless. Your gift is translated into a way for a dog that is miserable because of an untreated skin condition to feel better. Your contribution finds its way to the dog that has a heart condition that could be improved with the right medication. Your donation is transformed into a surgical procedure that will add months or years to an old dog's life. Dollars are a tangible way to tell an old dog found in an abandoned house that he will now have a home with people who will never leave him. Your donation matters!

**To our fosters, staff and volunteers:** Your ability to see beyond the skinny, frightened dog that doesn't feel safe and see the dog that will be your friend forever is a gift—both given and received. You see the raw gem that just needs polishing and nurturing. You see a life to be valued, loved and respected. You see hope.

To everyone who helps us do what we do: **Thank you from our animal hearts to yours.**



ODH dogs featured in the header on page 1 are: (L-R) Bella Luna, Kit Kat, Corrie, Lilly, Ginger & Sissy.



P.O. Box 1409  
Oak Harbor WA 98277

NON-PROFIT ORG  
US POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
SEATTLE, WA  
PERMIT NO. 1997

*photo by Julie Austin*

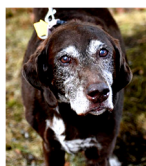


### Love Abounds!

Love Abounds at Old Dog Haven. And thanks to your love and support, over 300 Final Refuge dogs have safe, loving homes and more senior dogs are helped every day.

As the season of giving approaches we would deeply appreciate your support. You can help by making a donation, sponsoring a Final Refuge dog, donating a vehicle, sharing our social media posts and even shopping! To learn more about how you can help our senior dogs visit our website ([www.olddoghaven.org](http://www.olddoghaven.org)) or follow us on Facebook and Instagram.

From all of us at Old Dog Haven—both furry and otherwise—thank you!



*photos by  
Aaron  
Davis*

