

March
2019

Old Dog Haven

Helping Senior Dogs Live Their Golden Years in a Loving Home

LAHNI ALLEN: A WOMAN WHO WEARS MANY HATS



Life rarely goes as planned, but that unpredictability can lead to opportunity, and because I'm an animal person, every door that opens with the chance to work with animals has been a gift!

With a background in exercise science, education, and gerontology, I've had the chance to be part of a team that interacts with animals who motivate the best performances; console and listen quietly after the worst; bring comfort, love and smiles

to the most challenging of life's struggles; carry special needs kids to new heights and successes (on the backs of some amazing therapy horses); and who offer unconditional love every day—the best welcomes, lots of smiles and silly joyful moments that light up every corner of our lives!

Through my volunteer work, I've had the chance to give back—working as part of an animal-assisted therapy team at a local hospital, supporting local animal shelters, and working with Covenant Creatures, a local Olympia program that helps individuals and families facing food insecurity and homelessness, through education, vet care, and supplies for their beloved pets.

Through it all, my most enduring role has been as an educator/advocate for palliative care, making choices that lead to the best possible quality of life—and when that quality is no longer there, to love, comfort and care through the most peaceful, stress-free passing available. I work with people with Parkinson's disease, as an exercise and movement educator. For dogs, it began with a couple of abused dachshunds from a local dachshund rescue....



Somewhere in there Old Dog Haven appeared on the radar and it just made sense! About 10 years ago, our family began donating to ODH, sponsoring dogs, and regularly checking out the ODH website. We'd had experience caring for old, abused and special needs

dachshunds, so although we had our quota of dogs at home, we wanted to support this wonderful work.



In 2013 we adopted our first ODH dog—Dolly—a little, blind, double dapple dachshund, with boundless energy and a love of squeaky toys, and we also developed a wonderful friendship with Tina and Rick Nabseth, who had nursed Dolly into

adoptable form. Six months later, at Judith's urging, we added ODH dog Rudy, then Brownie and Crispie, Cecil, Heidi, and Molley. Some we fostered, working with Judith to ensure their best possible care, but mostly we are failed fosters: we chose to adopt the dogs outright, so that ODH could take on other dogs in need.

Five years ago, as an ODH volunteer I joined the transport team. I love 'springing' these dogs and sharing special rides with daughter Emily. Then, I added the 'thank-you' note team, assisted at some ODH info tables, and two years ago, became the person who handles the inquiries at ODH referrals—the wing of ODH where we list dogs on behalf of owners, and do our best to help them find wonderful forever homes for their dogs. I've also contributed to the educational materials for new ODH homes, and done dog evaluations.

ODH is such a wonderful collection of people who 'get it'. They recognize the plight faced by many old dogs in need and give of their time and finances, limit their travel, give up vacations, alter their social lives—in short, they do whatever is needed to provide the medical care needed, and the safe, comfortable, consistent, and loving homes that these dear old dogs deserve.

Our choice of special needs dogs has kept us on a three hour tether to home for the last 15 years. This type of commitment requires a 'village', and I am thankful to friends, and family—husband Greg, and daughters Ariel and Emily—for their commitment to these dogs and for their loving willingness to accept the many compromises made on their behalf.

It is a blessing to share our home and our love with these wonderful dogs, and such a joy to be part of the amazing transformation that occurs when they learn they can relax and depend on your love. As for the final goodbyes, it never really gets easier, but it is an invaluable gift to both the dogs and us to share joyously this last of life's journeys, together.

Thank you, Lahni! You are very much appreciated.

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 :



Brag Hair Salon ran a promotion in December and donated proceeds to ODH.

Rainier Agility Team donated money to ODH instead of giving out ribbons.



We are so thankful to **PetPros** for featuring Old Dog Haven as part of their Paw-liday Giving during the holidays. Thousands of dollars were raised for our senior dogs and we are "pawsitively" overwhelmed by the generosity of PetPros' customers and staff.



Thanks to so many we had our best **Giving Tuesday** ever ... raising over \$72,000 for the dogs.



Thanks to the folks at **Brouwer's Cafe** for choosing Old Dog Haven to benefit from their "BEERlesque" show.

Thanks to our friends at **Keeping Up with Jack LLC** for their donation to ODH.

No Bones Beach Club in Seattle chose ODH to be the beneficiary of their We Give Wednesday in January.

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.



Once again ODH's honorary photographer **Julie Austin** included ODH in a benefit photo shoot with Santa at Natural Pet Pantry.



Tiffany and Tamrah from **Dogworxx** (pictured left with ODH dog Buddy) organized a supply drive to benefit ODH.



11 year-old **Ian Halbgewachs**, raised money for ODH as part of his black belt community service project. Thanks, Ian. We hope you earned your black belt!



Our wonderful long-time supporters at **Paddywack, Shane and Adam**, held their annual ODH **Have A Heart** sponsorship drive in February. Not only did they match the first \$1,000 in sponsorships, they added the option for people to donate \$1 or \$5 for a heart, and The Honest Kitchen donated an extra \$1 for every \$5 heart. Thank you!

Thanks to the following businesses that hosted photos with Santa or Giving Trees to benefit ODH:

Doggy Haven (100% of proceeds to ODH)
Wally Pets
Crown Hill Pets
Paddywack (Mill Creek)
Great Dog (Seattle)
Lucky Dog Outfitters (Tacoma, Gig Harbor)
Mud Bay (Maple Valley, Tacoma, Puyallup)



VCA Covington staff member Paula coordinated a very successful fundraiser for ODH over the holidays.

VCA Redwood Animal Hospital held a donation campaign for ODH and staff member Cindy Fee created fleece blankets, which they sold to benefit our dogs. Thank you Cindy!

Many thanks to the **Bell Vernon Kennel Association** for their very generous donation to ODH.



Once again **Alexa Robbins Tarotmancer, Movement-meister Joe Ruiz, and Crescent Moon Yoga** held a Pilates fundraiser for ODH. Between the class and a Facebook online fundraiser, they raised thousands of dollars for our dogs.



Six year-old **Iris Breene Ryan** asked for money to help our dogs instead of birthday gifts and she collected enough to sponsor three dogs as well as contribute to the general fund. Thank you, Iris!

THANKS TO OUR INTREPID MAILING WARRIORS

Jane Sims Rotunno, Michele Rotunno, Maryke Burgess, Bev Bowe, Valerie Gilstrap, Genese Harney, and Elizabeth Woche, for once again getting the tax letters ready for mailing. Special thanks to Elizabeth for hosting the party. This is a big job and your efforts are very much appreciated.

ODH WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBERS



Dawn Ford: As a board member I hope to bring fresh fundraising ideas as well as broaden awareness about Old Dog Haven and our efforts with a more established social media presence. My husband and I were hooked on Old Dog Haven after meeting our Final Refuge dog Marvin five years ago. Marvin was an amazing little man that was lucky enough to be taken under ODH's wing and receive incredible care that gave

him a wonderful retirement life for four years. We are now on our second Final Refuge dog, Hazel, who is LOVING every second of her retirement just like Marvin.



Forrest Giberson: My wife Wendy and I are proud to have fostered many dogs with Old Dog Haven over the last 10 years. As a new board member, I am honored to help ODH remain focused on providing homeless senior dogs a stable and compassionate home with an excellent quality of life. ODH is

already such a unique and great organization! My goals are to ensure that ODH remains on its successful path and continues to serve more senior dogs through increased fundraising and any improvements we can make to an already highly efficient operation.



Kelly Marlo: I have been honored to be an Old Dog Haven foster home since 2010 and it has become my life's passion to help senior dogs in need. I joined the board in 2018 to help fulfill Old Dog Haven's mission of helping to find safe, loving homes for senior dogs. I hope to help the board continue to grow our fundraising and

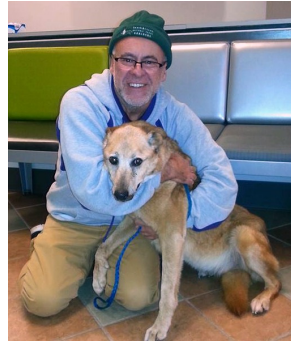
community outreach while advocating for the needs of the dogs currently in our care.



Bryan McCarty: Priscilla and I are long time supporters of Old Dog Haven. We have had the privilege and honor of having many Final Refuge dogs join us for what we hope will be the best chapters of their lives. The support ODH provides in caring for these

senior dogs is so vital. It is for this reason that I have joined the ODH board in the hopes that I may help in this effort.

KUDOS TO VOLUNTEER MICHAEL RAFFANTI



I owe my involvement with Old Dog Haven to a beautiful, grey-muzzled, black Labrador named Solomon. When I first became acquainted with ODH on Facebook, Final Refuge dog Solomon had become something of a poster boy for the organization. When I saw the opportunity to meet him in the flesh at a Northwest Cellars fundraiser for ODH, I couldn't resist. Making the trip to

Kirkland was well worth the drive from Tacoma. I fulfilled my wish of petting Solomon and other ODH dogs who I had admired on Facebook. I also purchased bottles of wine with Solomon's likeness on the label. Most significantly, I spoke with Tina Nabseth, who encouraged me to complete a volunteer application so that I could be called upon to transport dogs from the Tacoma Humane Society or other local shelters to their foster or Final Refuge homes elsewhere in the Puget Sound Region.

Accepting this call to volunteer has proved to be an incredibly rewarding experience. I have picked up dogs for transport who are deaf, blind, barely able to walk, or otherwise disabled or unwell. But I can always sense their happiness as they head outside and even more of a sense of freedom when they get in my car. I like to spend quality time with them while we are driving, offering treats and words of encouragement about how much they are going to enjoy their new home. Even though I spend just a little time with them, I always fall in love and am lonely on my return to Tacoma. If you are considering becoming a transport volunteer, I recommend it highly.

I have recently collaborated with friends in Washington and La Paz, Mexico, to form a nonprofit called Mila's Mutts. Our aim is to rescue dogs from Mexico, get them healthy, and find them homes in the Pacific Northwest. My own rescue dogs are from La Paz, so this effort is near and dear to my heart. My experiences with ODH informs my approach to dog rescue; that is, we will rescue all dogs who need our help, whether they are puppies or seniors. Of course, most dogs living on the streets don't make it to old age, but there are some who are dumped by their families when they become old or sick. In the spirit of Solomon and the ODH organization, we won't turn our backs on these animals.

Yes! I would love to help Old Dog Haven. Enclosed please find a donation in the amount of : _____

Please make check payable to Old Dog Haven.

Old Dog Haven is a 501(c)3 charitable organization. Donations are tax-deductible.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Thank you for your support! Please mail your check to: P.O. Box 1409, Oak Harbor WA 98277

Did you know many employers match charitable donations? Your gift could have twice the impact for Old Dog Haven. Visit your human resource department to see if they offer employee giving.

Want to donate online? You can choose to give a one-time gift or become a Golden Guardian monthly donor.

www.olddoghaven.org

**THANK
YOU!**

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

March 2019

A MESSAGE FROM EVENTS/BENEFITS COORDINATOR AARON DAVIS



Hi ODHers and supporters,

I used to say I could not sell a crutch to a person with a broken leg, but being associated with Old Dog Haven for 10 years has changed me. I love turning people on to our mission.

Events and benefits are necessary to get the word out about who we are and the wonderful things we do. We collect some monies selling our merchandise and collecting donations, but our real goal is to let everyone know what we do and how we do it.



We have several families that come to a pet store each time they see we are going to be there. One recently became a temporary foster and helped us save a dog.

Please join us when you see that we are going to be at a pet store or pet event near you, and bring your pup if he/she is friendly and can act appropriately around new people and other pets. Everyone loves to see the dogs, so please come even if you are not comfortable talking. Please check out the [Events Calendar](#) on our website to find an event or benefit near you: www.olddoghaven.org.

If you are interested in hosting your own benefit or event, please email events@olddoghaven.org. I will be glad to help!



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OLD DOG HAVEN BOARD OF DIRECTORS & STAFF

Board Members: Deeanne Matz, Bryan McCarty, Kelly Marlo, Dawn Ford, Forrest Giberson

Director of Veterinary Services/Dog Manager: Judith Piper
Administrative Coordinator/website: Deeanne Matz
Placement & Social Media : Tina Nabseth
Director of Finance/Transport Coordinator: Noel Kjosness
Events/Benefits Coordinator: Aaron Davis
Foster Administrator: Shirley Stallings
Development Director: Paula Moreschi
Executive Director: Ardeth De Vries
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The dogs featured in the header on the front page are (L-R) Gumby, Roxie, Porter, Norman, Iggy and Redd.

Newsletter Editor
Ardeth De Vries

DOG ACTIVITY 2018

313 DOGS IN CARE AT YEAR END, 221 ACTIVE FOSTER HOMES (MORE NEEDED!!) 601 NEW DOGS HELPED, 220 PLACED IN ODH FOSTER HOMES, 88% OF THOSE FROM SHELTERS AND RESCUE GROUPS, 12% OF THOSE FROM INDIVIDUALS, 293 DOGS ADOPTED (16 ODH & 277 REFERRALS)



ODH REMEMBERS FRED KEMP

"Fred Kemp was a devoted foster dad to three lucky dogs over several years. He took on tough assignments and stuck with the dog, no matter how rough the going, and his last ODH dog William stuck with him to the end as well. His family, William, and ODH staff miss him greatly."

Judith Piper