



In This Issue

Events

Featured Dogs:

PEARL
ESTHER BUNNY
ANGEL

GiveBIG

Read to a Rescue

Mailbox

Dog smiles

Spring message from our executive director

Dog activity

The ODH dogs
featured in the
header are (L-R)
Honeybear,
Kobe, Charlotte,
Caden, and
Frost.

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 Pearl, Esther Bunny, and Angel, three dogs that came to us with pre-existing conditions that would have ended their lives if ODH hadn't taken them in and treated them. Their stories are a testament to what a difference love, excellent care, and being valued can make in a senior dog's life. We also include important information about GiveBIG 2020, *Read to a Rescue*, mailbox notes and photos, and dog smiles. As always, there is a summary of dog activity and a spring message from our executive director Ardeth De Vries.

JUNE EVENTS

Fri. June 19 11:00 A.M.
Mud Bay Meet & Greet
University Place

Sat. June 20 10:00 A.M.
Mt. Vernon Meet & Greet
Haggen store

Sat. June 20 11:00 A.M.
Tacoma Mud Bay Meet & Greet
635 Division Ave.
Tacoma

Wed. June 24 7:00 P.M.
Benefit: Enchant Vertical Dance
Charity Showcase at the Rendezvous
2322 2nd Ave. Seattle



Please note: The events
listed here may be
cancelled due to
social
restrictions. Please check
the Events
Calendar on our
website before you plan to
attend an event.

All of us at Old Dog Haven would like to thank those who are out there assisting other people during the COVID-19 pandemic. Your dedication and commitment is inspiring.

Our heartfelt sympathies and healing thoughts go out to people who are struggling financially right now, and to the families and friends of those who have lost their lives because of COVID-19.



RANDY

ADOPT!

The adoptable senior dogs you see pictured occasionally in the border that runs the length of the newsletter (see left) are posted as a courtesy for individuals, shelters and other rescues. These dogs are not in our care, but we are happy to post them on our website and in this newsletter with the hope that someone will adopt them. Go to our website (www.olddoghaven.org) to find out more about these adoptable dogs.

About Old Dog Haven

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

How to Help

If you'd like to be part of the Old Dog Haven family, select **How to Help** on the home page of our website to see the many ways you can join us in helping our dogs.

PEARL *by Lizzy Jennings*

We think Pearl is a Leonberger or a Leonberger/Pyrenees mix. She weighs about 90 pounds and is quite stubborn; when she finds a smell she likes, she'll brace herself and refuse to keep walking. She's also a bit pushy about getting pets—if you stop petting her, she'll nudge you with her nose or paw until you start again.



According to the shelter intake information Pearl's person was no longer able to care for her after losing housing. The notes also mention she used to live in TN, which may explain why she had heartworm.

Pearl came with tapeworms (easily treated), a tumor that had blinded her left eye (which may be removed in the fall when she's completely stable), and heartworm, which is much more serious. She went through a three month treatment, very carefully supervised by our veterinarian since it does involve some risk, and she is now testing clear of larvae. She will have another test to be completely sure this fall.



The hardest part of the heartworm treatment was having to restrict Pearl's physical activity —when I took Zeke out for a walk, I could hear Pearl scratch at the closed door. She's been a real trooper, though, but is very happy she can enjoy a long walk now.

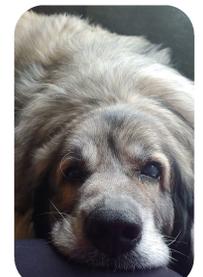


Pearl is also an expert napper! She's confident enough to take over the couch or the bed so she can get a good nap. Since I've been working from home lately, she's happy to settle in on the chair near my work desk and nap away! She's also a very loud snorer, so sometimes my coworkers and clients can hear her snoring away in the background over the phone.



Pearl is very food motivated and mischievous as a result. She's tall enough to put her front paws on the kitchen counter, so we've had to protect our food from her! She's also not shy about swiping a bite of our dinner right from the plate if we aren't paying attention. Meal time is definitely her favorite time of the day. She even tries to squeeze through the cat door of the baby gate to get to food in the kitchen. Pearl was able to stuff her 90 pounds through a tiny opening in the baby gate and eat an entire package of heartworm tablets. Since that amount can be toxic, she spent 24 hours in the emergency room under treatment and observation but returned unscathed.

Thank you Lizzy for taking such good care of this beautiful big girl.





Forward to a Friend

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

ESTHER BUNNY *by Megan Callahan*

There is a lot to say about this little lady, yet not much is known about her past.

Esther came from the shelter with heart disease, dental disease and hadn't been spayed. Just before her planned echocardiogram/cardiology consult she became very ill with pyometra—infection of the uterus, which is a life-threatening condition that is a serious risk in unspayed older females. This required emergency surgery despite her age and health issues. She did well and was quickly on the mend. Thank goodness for ODH and all the vets.



Esther Bunny is an animated character: sassy, saucy, and an avid adventurer on a quest for the unknowable. She discovers things along the way like street scraps that I wrestle out of her mouth, her dog friends in the neighborhood—Ruth, Tobias, Mooshu, and Wesley, squirrels, birds, and lawn figurines that she finds startling.



She is loving, patient, gentle and kind toward people of all ages and dogs of all sizes, yet she will give you a warning growl and snarl if and when she doesn't want her paws touched. Toe touching is on her terms and that is okay.



She loves long walks, perching on pillows, rough housing and eating. Esther is mostly quiet unless there is a discussion about eating or walking and then she has a lot to say. Esther Bunny enjoys lots of pets and sleeping in, chasing her tail like a cat and showing me tricks she has hiding up her sleeve. At this moment she knows how to sit, lie down, roll-over and possibly speak.

Oh, and lastly, Esther likes to be snuggled and carried like a baby Joey. She's not so interested in bedtime snuggles, but she is definitely down for pouch travelling.



We look forward to a health checkup, teeth cleaning and many more years of being "The Princess and the Pea."

Esther is named after my grandmother who was originally named Easter but was teased and had her name changed to Esther, hence Easter/Esther Bunny. Like my grandmother, this Esther is resilient, spirited and loving.

Esther's 11 years betray her youthful exuberance, or is it stoicism we are discovering or discerning in that balance?

Thank you Megan for welcoming Esther Bunny into your home and heart. Hopefully her story will encourage people to spay and neuter their dogs.

ANGEL *by Beth Carroll*



Contact Us

Website:

www.olddoghaven.org

Phone:

(206) 280-7614

Inquiries about fostering and adoption:

office@olddoghaven.org

Help with placing your dog & social media:

placement@olddoghaven.org

Marketing & PR inquiries:

development@olddoghaven.org

Hosting a fundraiser for ODH and ODH participation at your event:

events@olddoghaven.org

Volunteer opportunities

volunteer@olddoghaven.org

Donation can at your business:

chrispartman@msn.com

End-of-life decisions & grief counseling:

ardethdv@comcast.net

Address changes & donor inquiries:

donations@olddoghaven.org

All other inquiries:

office@olddoghaven.org

We welcomed a ten pound fluffy white Angel into our home the beginning of February, and I honestly had no idea how great an impact she would quickly make on our lives. Named Reba at the shelter, our girl was found as a stray in California and brought in for a three day stray hold –how no one picked her up is beyond imagining as I think of her waiting so scared and alone. Once her stray hold was up, 16 year-old Angel was placed on the euthanasia list until a small Washington shelter flew Angel in to be rescued. By then Angel was so scared there were serious concerns about her mental status, and she was fostered by the shelter until Old Dog Haven could step in to place her in her a permanent foster home. How lucky we are to have seen her picture and volunteer to be her Final Refuge home, because she brings love and light into the room with her each day, usually with a bounce in her step.



When Angel first came home she was overwhelmed and shut down. Nothing could console her, and she paced, refused to eat and shrugged off affection. Not only were we concerned about her mental status, but she had a large 6x6cm hard and swollen cancerous mammary mass, severe cataracts and her liver and kidneys were failing. It was almost too much for a senior girl, and in earnest we observed her every movement hoping for a glimpse of the sweet girl who first greeted me with kisses to my chin and nose the moment she was placed in my arms or was she just hidden away or permanently lost?

With time, comfort, routine, patience and so much love she revealed herself like a gem in the darkness. Angel went from refusing to eat or being petted to bundling up in my arms, eating from my hands, choosing her favorite tidbits and treats, letting us bathe her and clean her eyes, and bouncing joyously when we called her new name.

Angel had the cancerous mass removed, 11 rotting teeth were pulled, 12 mouth abscesses were treated and her lab work showed her liver and kidney functions to be near normal again. She felt so much better! A different dog came home; she was a senior puppy!



Angel now frolics like a baby deer—jumping and gallivanting about, trying to play with the other dogs. She knows her favorite spots for a sunny afternoon nap and a morning rest, and will stubbornly refuse to do anything else by throwing her head into her bed with her eyes shut as if to say, “I’m trying to get my beauty sleep here!” Angel insists on being fed only the best homemade food and supplements; she relishes meal time in the kitchen with her family pack, and she knows when its meal time! She loves to follow me around the house, but I have to make sure to shuffle when I’m in the kitchen because she’s under my feet looking up at me with a sparkle in her eye! She explores the yard and sits in the sun, and I know she is at

peace and happy when I hold her in my arms and watch her face the wind, shut her eyes, and twitch her perfectly pink heart-shaped poodle nose wafting in the day’s news ... because it’s usually followed up with a chin kiss.

Angel has taught us that looks can be deceiving, and sometimes you just need a moment to acclimate and adjust. You’re capable of going through great big scary things and coming out stronger and loved on the other side.

Thank you Beth. Angel’s life with you is a perfect example of why we do what we do.





Please GiveBIG to our dogs on May 5 and 6.

On Tuesday May 5 AND Wednesday May 6 Old Dog Haven is participating in #GiveBIG, and all money raised will be used to help the senior dogs in our care.

#GiveBIG is one of Old Dog Haven's most important fundraisers of the year and now more than ever we need your help. Will you give BIG to Old Dog Haven and help us raise \$80,000 so we can continue caring for over 315 dogs like Grace and Gus in our permanent final refuge care?



Thanks to our donors, Grace was spayed, had several mammary tumors and 17 teeth removed and is doing very well. She loves to burrow under blankets, play with squeaky toys, nap in the sun, and defend her castle with the loudest barks she can muster. She also does amazing snoring duets with her brother Quigley. Her cheerful tail wags and friendly disposition win over all the people and dogs that she meets.



Gus was treated for an extremely painful ear infection, dermatitis, cherry eye, as well as a cataract and detached retina in his right eye. Now, Gus is enjoying life to the fullest in his ODH home doing his share of backyard excavating, playing tug of war with his westie buddy, napping, taking daily outings, and playing with his favorite toy.

Thanks to generous donors we have \$37,500 in #GiveBIG matching funds, which means if we meet the match your #GiveBIG gift can go even further.

With all of our hearts—animal and human—we thank YOU for believing in us, supporting our mission, loving old dogs, and coming together to help senior dogs in need.

CLICK HERE to donate: <https://www.givebigwa.org/old-dog-haven>



DELLA & BESSIE

ODH DOGS MAKE GOOD LISTENERS

Children are often more comfortable reading to animals than to humans, so with that thought in mind the Maple Valley Rotary Interact Club hosts a special day in March called *Read to a Rescue*. 1st-5th grade students are given an opportunity to read to dogs and cats representing Left Behind K-9 Rescue, South County Cats and Old Dog Haven. Each child receives a grade level appropriate book when they first come in to read to the rescue of their choice, and before they leave they can pick any book they want from a variety of books to take home with them.



In the photo left Brielle can be seen reading to ODH dog Dandy.

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

MAILBOX

We help adoptable homeless senior dogs (eight years and older) in western Washington by posting their pictures and information on our website and our Facebook page. The dogs shown below were adopted because of those posts AND your shares on Facebook. On behalf of Theeya, Marley, Espee, Betty, Liza, and Monty, thank you for sharing!



"This is Theeya. We adopted her after seeing her posted on Facebook. She loves to go for walks and we're enjoying exploring our long time neighborhood with her. She also likes to keep an eye on our street from one of the bedroom windows and then curl up on the bed for a long nap."



"We love to adopt senior dogs and our whole family agreed that we wanted Marley to be a part of our family. ...he's the sweetest old guy—a little quirky, but we like quirky. His sweet personality is coming out more each day."



Espee, (L) posted for Smidget Rescue is shown here with her adoptive family

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(L-R) Betty, Liza, and Monty were all adopted from Pacific Pug Rescue



Primrose

"This IS my version of social distancing."

DOG SMILES



Banjo

"Oh... Was I supposed to wear this bandana over my nose and mouth?"



Button

"I'm not really posing ... well, maybe a little. It's important for the camera to get my best side."



Jack

"Ok, so it's my 18th birthday. Where's the cake?"



Foster mom Cheri Moland was asked to join a virtual tea party, so her ODH dogs Ginny (L) and Neville dressed up for the occasion. Ginny and Neville said they had fun, but both agreed that real treats are better than virtual ones.

MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Ardeth De Vries



BUDDY



ZELDA



RUTH & FARRAH



MILO



ROXIE & MIKO

Spring is a time of rebirth ... much needed in the world right now.

But if you want to look a little closer at the haven our dogs call home there's a kind of rebirth we see with the dogs in our care every day. Dogs that come to us damaged, neglected, and abandoned are taken in by our foster families, and then the rebirth begins. With love, patience, excellent veterinary care and a sense of belonging, our dogs are reborn into what we hope are the best versions of themselves. Their time with us is a time of healing and a process of shedding the skin of despair and neglect and replacing that skin with a new covering of hope for their futures.

Rebirthing is never accomplished as a solitary act. Just as the flowers need sunshine, food and nurturing to complete and maintain their beauty, our dogs need happy homes, veterinary care and donors.

I can't even begin to tell you how fortunate we are that we have the homes, veterinary care and money to make it possible for us to do what we do. Our foster families are extraordinary, our vets are skilled, dedicated and committed, and our donors ... they're amazing. Our donors believe in us, and their loyalty is really quite impressive and heartwarming. They care about our dogs and do what they can to help them.

So, if you're a foster parent, a veterinarian or a donor, please know how much you are appreciated and valued. Your help in making our garden of special dogs grow and be reborn is invaluable. We couldn't do it without you.

Thank you from all of us ... especially the dogs we all love.



Rusty

DOG ACTIVITY NUMBERS JANUARY 1 – APRIL 30

325 dogs are in care as of 4/30
ALL are in final refuge

56 new dogs were taken into care
between 1/1-4/30
54 came from shelters
2 came from individuals

52 new dogs were posted to help owners
find homes for their adoptable seniors

108 new dogs were helped 1/1-4/30

50 dogs were adopted 1/1-4/30

If you'd like to make a donation please
send your tax-deductible
donation to:

Old Dog Haven
P.O. Box 1409
Oak Harbor WA
98277

Or, if you'd like to donate online, please
click on the link below the
DONATE
button

DONATE

<https://olddoghaven.org/donate-now/>



Buster



Lulu Marie



Cleo



Joe