



September 2020 E-Newsletter

WE LOVE OLD DOGS!

In this issue you'll read about **Sherlock**, who is "more than happy to spend the day cuddling on the couch." Then there is **Tikka**, whose family is "really smitten with this girl's zesty personality, sweet kisses, cuddles, and endless tail wags." Finally, **Ezekiel Denton**'s foster mom writes about his amazing transformation from a dog whose health was "atrocious" to a handsome and much healthier dog. Also included is Mail box—showcasing mail ODH has received recently, a story about the 2021 calendar cover dog, dog smiles, notes from our development director, a message from our director of veterinary services/dog manager and dog activity since January.

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SHERLOCK
TIKKA
EZEKIEL DENTON

Mailbox

2021 Calendar Cover
Dog

Notes from our
Development Director

Dog Smiles

A message from our
director of veterinary
services/dog manager

Dog Activity

The dogs featured in
the header are (L-R)
Yzma, Teko, Queenie,
Benny, Sassy, and
Chet Lee.

TA DA!



Our 2021 calendar, designed by Joe Myers, will be available soon. Watch our website, Facebook and Instagram for the release date and availability.



Read about cover dog Ole on page six.



**OLD DOG
HAVEN
2021
CALENDAR**

Helping senior dogs spend their
golden years in a loving home



ZELDA

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 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 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.

ADOPT!

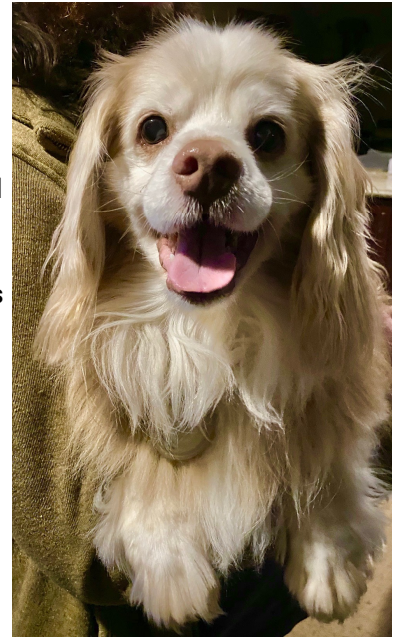
All of the senior dogs you see pictured in the border that runs the length of the newsletter (see left) are available for adoption (as of 9/2) Many dogs are in shelters, living in cages, desperately waiting for a forever home; some are in foster care, and several are posted for individuals and other rescue groups. 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.

SHERLOCK

by Kim Kaneali'i

Prior to coming to ODH, Sherlock lived with the same family for 12 years beginning at the age of two. Unfortunately, he was an outdoor only pet that received little or no veterinary care. As he got older, he began to whine and bark in the backyard, and the neighbors complained so he was taken to the shelter when he was 14.

When he arrived at the shelter he was vastly underweight. He was neutered and given a sanitary shave due to the amount of feces stuck to the fur around his feet and lower legs. Additionally, he was found to have significant heart disease, including life threatening arrhythmia, that is now being appropriately managed by Old Dog Haven veterinarians with four different medications, though it does mean he's unable to undergo anesthesia for a much needed dental cleaning.

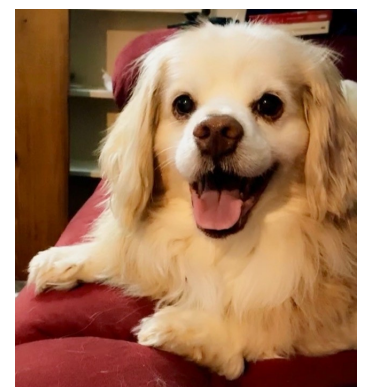


We fell in love with Sherlock immediately. He is a very sweet boy who loves love almost as much as he loves food. He is always happy to see us, believes there is no such thing as too many belly rubs, and he prefers to be near us at all times. Since bringing him home, he is thriving. Every day with him is truly a gift.



Though he doesn't engage in much play, he loves his walks around the block, and is more than happy to spend the day cuddling on the couch. He has brought so much love and joy to our little family, and we could not be more thankful to have the opportunity to give him the better life he deserves.

*The smiles and looks of contentment say it all!
Thank you Kim and Jacob for opening your hearts
and home to Sherlock.*



TIKKA

by Megan Dodder



BABYCOW

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

Tikka came to us in November 2019 from a shelter where she was turned in as a stray. She arrived extremely anxious, vocal and disoriented, and she frantically pulled on the leash wherever she went. It became obvious to us that she was once a beloved pet, so her transition home with us seemed very difficult and confusing for her. It took her many weeks before she accepted us as “her people,” and we now know she is a dog who bonds very strongly.

The shelter believed her to be 13 years old, and she had a mast cell tumor on her leg, as well as three other large growths and two fractured teeth (all since removed). Though her recovery from surgery went well, Tikka continued to be seen at numerous vets and specialists almost monthly for a “mystery illness” causing extreme and lengthy episodes of physical and emotional distress. She recently saw a wonderful specialist who knew of a rare salivary gland disorder that caused similar episodes, and since starting new treatment, Tikka has been doing excellent! We are all optimistic that this is the right diagnosis and are thankful for the exceptional care she has received.



Even with Tikka’s medical challenges and age, she has proven to be a vibrant, energetic, deeply sensitive and loving dog. She had significant separation anxiety for the first few months in our home, but with patience, love, physical and mental exercise, and an established routine, she has absolutely flourished! She loves to play with her many toys (especially a stuffed sloth and Nyla bones) and will beat anyone in a game of tug. She will run and explore on the Oregon coast and on hikes until we physically stop her. Rain or shine she loves adventures! Tikka also recently went on her first camping trip near Mount Hood; she wasn’t so sure at first about the change in routine, but was won over by the cozy campfire and tent cuddles. She’s extremely intelligent (and sassy!) and has learned so many new things since coming home via clicker training. She’s learned how to heel (she pulled like a sled dog when we first got

her), sit, down, shake, stay, recall, and her crowning achievement: she shuts the kitchen cabinet doors with her nose when we say “close the door!” She will do ANYTHING for a treat but is very clear she won’t work for free!



One of the special things about Tikka is her hilarious vocalizations and talkative nature. She not only whines with many different inflections depending on what she wants (a walk, to go to bed, be tucked in her bed with a blanket, to jump into OUR bed, belly rubs, to go outside and sunbathe, to share our human food, to go see that dog NOW) she also quite literally screams like a human when she’s excited. Many have likened her screams to the bugle of an elk or a velociraptor. We’ve found the only way to stop her vocal outpourings is to put a toy in her mouth, like a pacifier.



We are really smitten with this girl’s zesty personality, sweet kisses, cuddles, and endless tail wags. We are just so thankful for the opportunity to love her every day and for ODH donors who are ensuring Tikka gets all of the care she needs and deserves in her golden years.

Thank you Megan and Nathan for taking such good care of Tikka and for loving her as much as you do!

EZEKIEL DENTON

By Meredith Moses

Please meet Mr. Ezekiel “Zeke” Denton, a 13 pound, 11-year-old shih tzu. This little man came to Old Dog Haven in February 2020, shortly before the pandemic kicked into high gear. He had been surrendered at the shelter because of his person’s health issues—something we see far too often. Clearly he hadn’t been cared for in some time because he was in bad shape.

When Zeke arrived, he had a whole host of issues. Top of the list was Demodectic mange. Demodex are mites that live in the skin of all dogs, minding their own business until for some reason the dog’s immune system is weakened, causing red, itchy skin, loss of hair, and then their skin gets thick and leathery. Scratching causes bacterial and yeast infections. This is what happened to Zeke. His people couldn’t take care of him, and by the time he arrived at ODH all the hair on his front half was gone, his skin was red and leathery, and in places it had turned thick and black. He also had three bacterial infections including one that is antibiotic resistant as well as some yeast and fungus. Add to that badly infected ears and dry eye. He had to have been beyond miserable. And the smell. Oh my, it was horrible. Even if I wrapped him up in a towel, I could barely stand to hold him. The good news is that all of this is treatable with certain oral flea treatments, antibiotics, frequent baths, ear drops, topical skin treatments, and eye treatment. Within a week, he smelled better. Within a month we saw improvement. And now six months later, he’s a new dog with a beautiful coat. He still has some remaining infection under his neck—this is the resistant infection—but slowly with regular topical treatment, it is shrinking. And sweet boy is such a good guy about all his treatment.



BEN



February



June

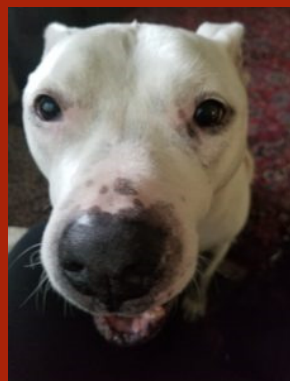
He has taken over the spare bathroom, with his bathtub and his medication station. Every day I plop him up on his medication station (the counter) treat his eyes, ears, and his skin. Once or twice a week he gets a bath. He doesn’t like it much, but he stands still and takes it. It helps that treats come at the end. Sometimes he goes into the bathroom and barks at the counter to see if some treats will appear. Through it all he is always a sweet, snuggly, loving, little guy. Which is not to say he doesn’t have opinions. He has a whole repertoire of vocalizations. He grumbles, he growls, he gurgles, he whines, he trills, he has a soft bark, and a louder bark and a full on “I really mean it” bark. And when he talks, he always has a reason. “Feed me, now.” “Take me out,

now.” “On the bed, now.” “Off the bed, now.” He doesn’t bark for the sake of barking. He doesn’t bark because he hears something. He only talks when he has information he thinks I need. (I know some people who would benefit from his approach.) Sometimes it makes me crazy. I haven’t been able to convince him that barking while I prep his food doesn’t speed up the process, but he looks so sincere I often just laugh out loud.

Zeke recently had his six month check up and I’m happy to report he’s in great shape for the shape he’s in. His blood work looks fantastic so we just have to keep up with the things we are already doing to manage his skin and eyes.

I am so incredibly lucky to have Zeke in my life. He makes me laugh. He shows me love; he shows me forgiveness. In this challenging time of COVID 19 he keeps me sane.

Thank you Nurse Meredith for taking such good care of Zeke, for listening when he talks to you, and most of all for loving and valuing his presence in your life.



BUDDY

MAIL BOX

We help adoptable homeless senior dogs (eight years and older) in 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 **Athena, Chico, Ryan, Lady, Ralphie, Jake and Daisy**, thank you for sharing!

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

Corporate giving, fundraisers, & PR inquiries
development@olddoghaven.org

Art & Marketing
art@olddoghaven.org

ODH participation at your event & benefits
events@olddoghaven.org

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

Address changes & donor inquiries
donations@olddoghaven.org

Website questions/Issues
ODHWeb@olddoghaven.org

Volunteer opportunities
volunteer@olddoghaven.org

Other inquiries
office@olddoghaven.org



Athena, adopted from Misspits Rescue



"Chico is an energetic sweetheart. We love him. Thank you so much for helping us find each other."



Ryan and his new mom.



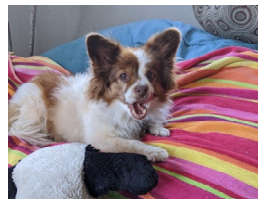
Lady, adopted from Smidget Rescue



Ralphie, adopted from Pacific Pug Rescue.



"Several years ago I adopted **Jake** and **Daisy** from the Old Dog Haven website. Both are doing well. I just wanted to share a picture of what Jake's life is like in our home. Our old cat LOVES Jake. Wherever you find Jake, Spooky is right there beside him. I also included a picture of Daisy. This angel loves to chase her enormous stuffed animal.



"Thanks for the gift of these two dogs. Keep up the good work. (I would adopt more, but Jake seems to only like Daisy, so we are keeping our dog count to two for now.)"

Lisa Walls



A special note from former ODH dog, Iggy:

"Iggy wanted to say hello during this time of social distancing... he has been with us for 15 months now (we officially adopted him from Old Dog Haven last summer) and is still going strong. I'm still so so grateful to Old Dog Haven for helping get these old souls out of shelters. We had a wonderful experience being a foster. - and encourage anyone that has been thinking about it to just do it!!"

Note: Just recently Iggy went on to his next expression of spirit. He is remembered with love by his ODH friends.

If you've adopted a senior dog through our website, let us hear from you! We're in the "happy beginning" business, whether it be a dog that comes to us as a permanent foster or an adoptable senior dog that finds his way home to you.

2021 CALENDAR COVER DOG: OLE

Ole Solbjørnson The Loud *by Leslie McLean*

Ole, the big ol' 11-year old Lab mix, found himself in the shelter as a stray, very confused and stressed, with injuries to both knees and significant arthritis. He didn't do well in the loud, active, shelter environment and he was anxious. With an uncertain mobility prognosis due to two untreated ACL injuries and knee braces, no one seemed to be willing to take a chance on big, broken ol' Ole. But we just saw in him another old Labrador who needed help. Ole's so glad we saw his true, shining self!

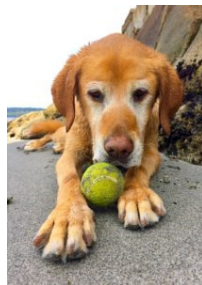


CHARLIE & MACY

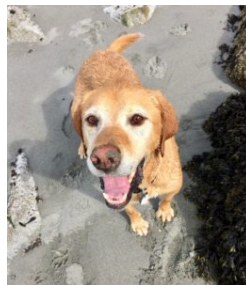
Once in his forever home, we discovered that mobility was less of a problem for him than what was likely longtime separation anxiety (SA) and fear issues around other dogs. Ole can't tell us which came first, the injuries or anxiety, but we're happy to report that with consistent, positive distract-and-redirect training (and great vet care), Ole has progressed by leaps and bounds in the two months he has been in his forever home! He's getting much better on walks with his fellow ODH senior brother, and his SA has diminished as he realizes he's finally SAFE and he won't ever be abandoned again.

Turns out, Ole is an absolute love of a dog that hasn't met anyone he doesn't like. He's great with kids and cats, and is a boisterous, but good friend to his fellow ODH buddy, who is somewhat less interested in spooning than Ole is. Spooning is the best! Ole loves to snuggle and wiggle and stretch out his wake-up routine as long as possible with belly rubs and kisses on the nose, before he finally gets up and plops himself down in the kitchen to act as roadblock/stray food catcher. He knows he's going to get fresh-cooked chicken and vegetables and medication for his arthritis and joints, so he can then get out and about in the neighborhood—which he's learning is a very good place.

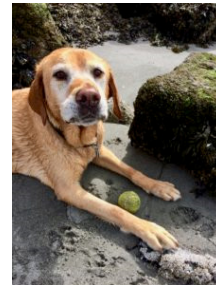
And the beach! While we're careful to limit the activities that can stress his knees, we're hopeful that his swimming skills will improve as he finds his confidence ... after all, there's nothing better than a Labrador in the water. Because of your support of Old Dog Haven, this salty old Viking gets to be the puppy he is in his golden years: very joyful, a bit naughty, and a complete delight to have around.



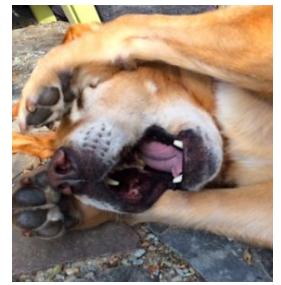
Ole the Big-Footed



Ole the Sandy-Nosed



Ole the Tennis ball Eater



Ole the Loud

VENDORS NEEDED FOR THE 2021 CALENDAR

If you have a vet clinic, pet store, or other local business interested in selling the 2021 calendar, please email:

development@olddoghaven.org



NOTES FROM OUR DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR, PAULA MORESCHI

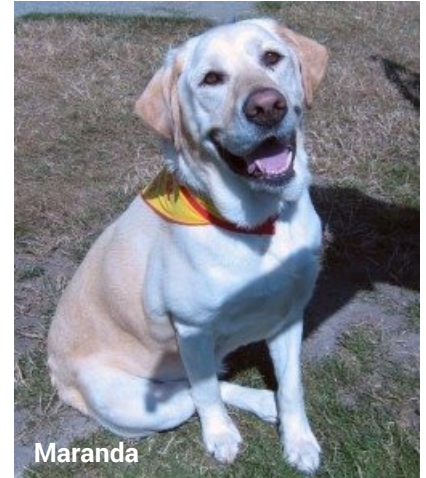
MARANDA FUND

The Life Saving Maranda Fund

We are so excited to share stories and photos of our 2020 Maranda Fund dogs during the second annual Maranda Fund Fundraiser, October 1 – 31. This life saving fund helps dogs in our care that need major, one-time veterinary procedures that would give them a good chance for a happy life if successful, in excess of what we would consider normal veterinary expenses.

These dogs are fighters and survivors and are a true testament to the vets who treat them, our fosters who care for them, and to YOU dear supporter for your continued devotion to the dogs. During the month of October all 2021 calendar sales and Maranda Fund dog sponsorships will benefit the Maranda Fund. To read more about the fund click here:

<https://olddoghaven.org/the-maranda-fund/>



Maranda

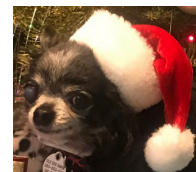


JACKSON

OLD DOG HAVEN HOLIDAY STORE

Old Dog Haven Holiday Store

The Old Dog Haven Holiday Store is coming soon. If you're like many of us at Old Dog Haven, due to COVID you'll be doing a lot of holiday shopping online. This year we hope you'll do some holiday shopping to help old dogs. Watch our social media pages, website, and the November newsletter for updates.

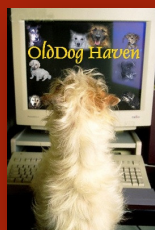


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Forward to a Friend

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

If this email was
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donations@olddoghaven.org

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donations@olddoghaven.org

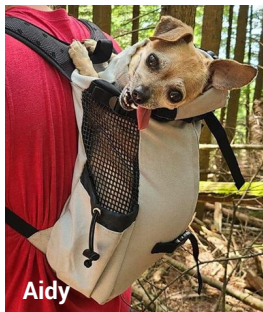
To have this
newsletter sent to
a different email
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donations@olddoghaven.org

DOG SMILES

Our fosters do such a wonderful job of posting interesting photos of their dogs I can't ever resist putting captions on them ... with apologies to any dog I've misquoted.

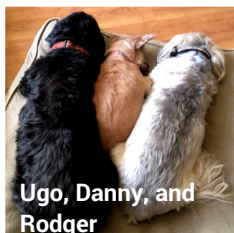


Zee



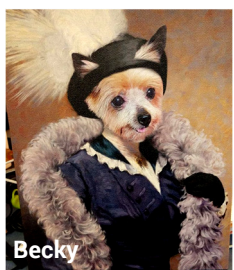
Aidy

"So, when we were invited to go hiking with our families, some other dogs said it would be great exercise, but we'd be really tired. We have no idea what they were talking about; We're not tired at all."



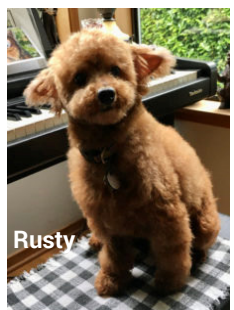
Ugo, Danny, and
Rodger

"We asked for a bigger bed, and look at this! Now we can snuggle in style. Just one thing missing: a treat dispenser on the side. That way we could have treats without getting up. Oh, and we like the ones with peanut butter in them."



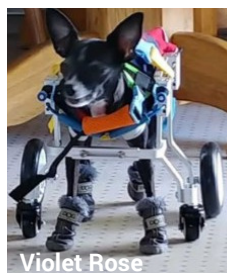
Becky

"Do you think there's a modeling career in my future? I have lots of other outfits, and you should see me strut my stuff down the runway my mom made for me in the backyard. I've been told that this is a very classy look on me. What do you think?"



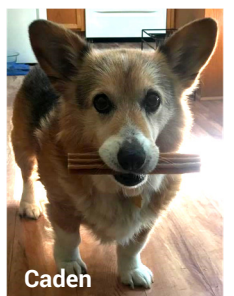
Rusty

"I was told there would be piano lessons, but I'm not even facing the right direction. C'mon people, I'll never get to Carnegie Hall if I can only play *Chopsticks*. Let's get this show on the road!"



Violet Rose

"I'm ready to rock and roll. First one to the dinner bowls gets to have dessert! And, you should see me do wheelies around the kitchen; I'm fast ... really fast."



Caden

"No, it's not a cigar; I don't smoke. I like it, but I'd trade it in a heartbeat for a chocolate chip cookie. Got any?"

A MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTOR OF VETERINARY SERVICES, JUDITH PIPER



RANDY

What a challenging spring/summer this has been for anyone needing or working in veterinary care! The COVID-19 protocols have slowed down all of it considerably; keeping clients and staff safe takes extra time and means seeing fewer patients in any day even as demand seemingly has increased. Staff who are still available are stretched very thin; everyone is working much too hard and communication is difficult with the "curbside service" protocol. From our end, we are really missing that direct communication during our dogs' exams.



Worse yet, it's become very difficult to get prompt care for our dogs. Most practices are booking weeks out, leaving little room for urgent issues that come up, and emergency facilities are totally overwhelmed. Very often the wait is several hours and too often the big hospitals are turning patients away: too full to even put another case on the list. I can't imagine how hard it must be to work under that kind of pressure! General practices, already stretching to see all their own clients, are being asked to see patients whose regular clinics cannot fit them in—and almost always it's for something urgent.

I work with probably 80 different vet facilities, and hear the same story from all the doctors: they are exhausted and frustrated. And I too am frustrated and a bit scared by how hard it is to find care for our ODH dogs. More collateral damage from this pandemic.

My hope is that we can all have patience with vet staff who are trying SO hard to do their jobs, help all the animals that need them, keep their strength, and keep their sanity. Try to plan ahead for non-urgent visits, be ready with written-down information to send with the dog into the exam, and understand that vets and staff are pressured as well, and are doing their very best. There have been many heroes over these six months and I for one am grateful!

DOG ACTIVITY NUMBERS JANUARY 1 – AUGUST 31



ORINA

321 dogs are in care as of 8/31
ALL are permanent fosters

111 new dogs were taken into care
between 1/1-8/31
98 came from shelters
13 came from individuals

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

222 new dogs were helped 1/1-8/31

90 dogs were adopted 1/1-8/31

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
P.O. Box 1409
Oak Harbor, WA
98277

Or, if you prefer to donate online, just click on the link below the donate button:

DONATE

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

THANK YOU!