

Old Dog Haven



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Director

Dog Activity 2020

Dogs featured in the header are:

(L-R) Clyde,
Violet, Jesse, Pie,
Luca and Elsie.

Dogs featured in the Thank You message are:

(L-R) Ricky,
Princess Bella,
Quigley, Brody,
Aidy, Bootie, Faline
& Pugsley



SHADOW

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS!

Thank You!



As we start a new year we'd like to offer special thanks to all who make our efforts possible. Whether it's sponsoring a dog, contributing to the Maranda Fund, donating on GiveBIG and Giving Tuesday days, buying T-shirts or other ODH products, reading and sharing our newsletters and blog, or donating in general, we appreciate your support and dedication to our mission. Many of you have generously and consistently supported ODH since the very beginning, and we want to let you know how much we value your loyalty and commitment to our cause. What we do wouldn't be possible without your generous donations.

PAWS UP TO ALL OF YOU!

DURING THE PAST 16 YEARS, ODH HAS HELPED 7,268 DOGS!

ADOPT!

All of the senior dogs you see pictured in the border that runs the length of the newsletter are available for adoption (as of 1/2) 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) to find out more about these adoptable dogs.

MISHKA

By Brandon and Rachel Ford

Soon after we got her, Mishka was diagnosed with heartworm and we started treatment immediately. Unfortunately, she also had some severe skin issues that could not effectively be treated at the same time as the heartworm due to conflicting medication issues.

Early on in her treatment, her medication made her extremely food-motivated and she ended up getting into our other dog's treat-flavored pain medication.

She had to spend two nights in the emergency hospital under observation and was very excited to come home in good health!



After a lot of hard work she tested negative for heartworm earlier this year and we started to address her skin issues. Unfortunately, she has a strong antibiotic-resistant skin condition, which means she had to see a dermatologist to try to get

the itchiness under control. She is currently taking both Apoquel and Cytopoint injections to help her be less itchy, and this seems to be working well for her for the time being. She has also put on a healthy amount of weight over the last year and her coat is getting very full.



Personality wise, she is a big goofball who likes to bury her face in the carpet and headbutt people she likes, almost like a cat.

She is a total daddy's girl and likes to run errands with dad and patiently waits in the car for him to return while he quickly runs into the store. When we leave her at home, she sits in her spot by the window where she can watch for our return, then greets us with whines of joy like we had been gone for days.



She is very food motivated, and wants to be wherever we are in the house, even following us around like a little shadow. She has recently learned to fetch and a couple other new tricks (trying to learn 'speak' right now). She seems really happy and is a wonderful addition to our family. She and our other dog Casey (who just turned 14!) get along well.

Thank you Rachel and Brandon for taking such good care of this beautiful girl. What a transformation!



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

MAX

By Elaine Goodrich

Max is my ODH Forever Foster and I call him my "Sweet Pea". Also, Maxi Max, Maximus and Buddy.

Max, at 15, was left at the shelter as a dog that needed dental help, pain relief and a loving home. He was not a good candidate for finding what he needed, so Old Dog Haven stepped in and pulled him.



I was the lucky one to become Max's guardian. When he came to my house, he had a blank, vacant stare, was disengaged and not confident. I had five Boston terriers of various ages, and coming into an established "pack" can change a dog immensely and I saw this happen with Max. There is a pecking order, and once a dog has found his place, he feels more secure.



Max has been here for over a year now. The changes have been astounding! His eyes are clear and bright. He is very engaged and alert. He has personality! He has a place he can count on and feel safe in a home.

I call him "my old dog with a long nose" because he nudges me for pets with his pointy nose. He is a Seahawks fan! Truly! When I watch the Seahawks, he comes down from upstairs where his bed is and stays by me the entire game. It has become a routine!



Old Dog Haven took care of his bad mouth. Max has no teeth now, so his little tongue always hangs sideways out of his mouth. He is cute as cute can be. He is on medication to keep his aches and pains under control. He would scream out in pain in the beginning, which was heartbreaking, but now he has no more pain episodes.



Max loves fleece blankets...he has many. Max likes to be upstairs and have his own space (with three beds to choose from) in my bedroom. Max (and my other four dogs) sleep on my bed all night. Max cannot jump off the bed, so he lets me know (by barking) when he wants to get off.



I have learned a bit about Max's story through Max. He does not like men, perhaps because he had a bad experience with a man. This makes having a handyman over difficult, but if I hold Max and/or put him on my bed, he is fine. He loves attention when He wants attention. He barks when he has something to say. He loves his mealtime. He wants to be counted in for dog treats, dog chews, anything, teeth or no!

Most importantly, Max wants be seen, loved, cared for and given a way to live out the rest of his life. I am honored he can do that with me.

Thank you Elaine for welcoming Max into your home and heart.

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

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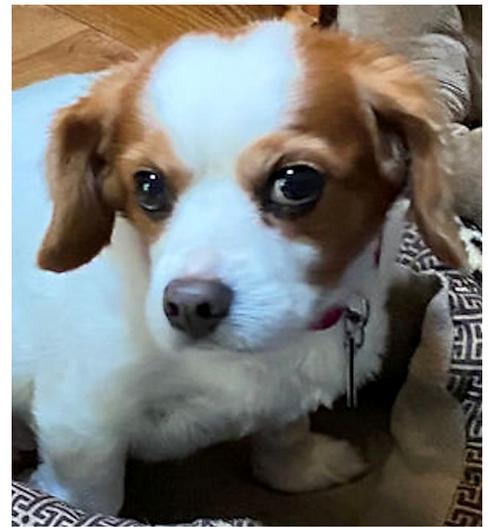
Ardeth De Vries

TRACY

By Judith and Lee Piper

Tracy is supposed to be a Cavalier King Charles spaniel, but must have something else in there.

She came to us in a similar way to quite a few other ODH dogs: Her owners found she needed expensive vet care right away, and couldn't or wouldn't pay for it so they left her with the veterinary clinic. This was the clinic that has seen more than 1200 ODH dogs over 16 years, and when I showed up for an appointment that day I was tackled—well, sweetly asked—to look at this cute dog. Very cute indeed!



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But, she needed immediate surgery to remove bladder stones threatening to block her urinary tract. How could I say no? So, of course, I signed the papers and authorized surgery, and one of the great doctors stayed late to do the cystotomy.

The problem was that I didn't have a foster with room and capability nearby who could pick her up that night for recovery at home, so Tracy came home with us and moved right in. We have taken a lot of dogs through this surgery, and Tracy recovered far more easily and quickly than any other dog. She must have been VERY UNCOMFORTABLE before! By the time she was recovered, she was part of the family and stayed with us; what a surprise.

She had been clipped fairly short all over, but has now grown out a lot of feathers, which make her even cuter. She is energetic, friendly to all, a good cuddler, and very well behaved. She gets along with all the dogs, and the ancient kitty, and loves playing in our big pasture.



We have worked on a long-ago-damaged ankle that made her sore on walks, but with medication and supplements she is now comfortable on quite long and vigorous trips on the trail.

She will be on prescription bladder diet all her life and will have very frequent urinalyses and x rays to look for more stones. Definitely worth the investment, she's such a joyous dog and such a light in our lives. Sometimes being a sucker for old dogs is very rewarding!

Thank you Judith and Lee for welcoming this cute little light into your lives.

MAILBOX



RANDY

We're always happy to hear that our courtesy posts on the ODH website, Facebook and Instagram are so successful. In 2020 **125** dogs were adopted through our courtesy posts! Thanks to everyone for sharing them and spreading the word.

"I just wanted to let you know a happy story.



"I was looking for an older dog and in February of 2018 I saw "Doug" on your website. His info was posted by his human at the time. Doug was 11 years old, had heartworm and needed that treatment. (ODH was not aware of the heartworm) I adopted him, we successfully went through the heartworm treatment, and he was with me for about 2 and 1/2 years before passing recently. He was just the best, most wonderful friend. I was truly blessed to have him and I want to thank you for providing the way for us to find each other. (Doug enjoyed his time with my family also. I have a large yard and he was able to live

freely)

"Blessings to you all for the wonderful service you provide."



Forward to a Friend

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



"We'd like to express a huge thank you to all of you for making this adoption possible. Magpie is simply delightful. Magpie is well mannered, loving, gentle and it makes me smile to see that she's found the hidden stash of tennis balls in the yard. This girl plays a mean game of Frisbee too. Impressive! The joy she's brought to our home is simply wonderful. I find myself laughing and smiling more...refreshing. I could go on and on. Taking the leap to adopt a mature companion has exceeded our expectations. We're already in love with Magpie."



"We adopted Shorty nearly three years ago from ODH, and we said a tearful goodbye to him yesterday when our vet put him to sleep. He was struggling with vestibulitis that did not respond to treatment, most likely due to a brain tumor, and was no longer able to eat or relieve himself without help. Shorty was incredibly sweet, and was fast friends with another rescue we brought home this past March, a cocker spaniel named Biscuit.

"We're so grateful to the ODH staff for helping us adopt Shorty, and for the good work you do."



Big Poppa



Fifi



Charlie and Macy



Orina (L)



Tyson



Max A Million

If you've adopted a senior dog through our website, let us hear from you! We're all about happy beginnings, 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.

AN OLD DOG'S PRAYER

People often ask why we do what we do at Old Dog Haven, and I think this poem, sent to me by one of our foster moms, Alice Eller, says it all. Alice says, "Thanks for reading this; it's why we do what we can for old dogs, isn't it?"

An Old Dog's Prayer

"One by one, they pass by my cage,
Too old, too worn, too broken, no way.
Way past his time, he can't run and play.
Then they shake their heads slowly and go on their way.

"A little old man, arthritic and sore,
It seems that I am not wanted anymore.
I once had a home, I once had a bed,
A place that was warm, and where I was fed.

"Now my muzzle is gray, and my eyes slowly fail,
Who wants a dog, so old and so frail?
My family decided I didn't belong,
I got in their way, my attitude was wrong.

"Whatever excuse they made in their head,
Can't justify how they left me for dead.
Now I sit in this cage, where day after day,
The younger dogs get adopted away.

"When I had almost come to the end of my rope,
You saw my face, and I finally had hope.
You saw through the gray, and the legs bent with age,
And felt I still had life beyond this cage.

"You took me home, gave me food and a bed,
And shared your pillow with my poor tired head.
We snuggle and play, and you talk to me low,
You love me so dearly, you want me to know.

"I may have lived most of my life with another,
But you outshine them with a love so much stronger.
And I promise to return all the love I can give,
To you, my dear person, as long as I live.

"I may be with you for a week, or for years,
We will share many smiles, you will no doubt shed tears.
And when the time comes that God deems I must leave,
I know you will cry, and your heart, it will grieve.

"And when I arrive at the Bridge, all brand new,
My thoughts and my heart will still be with you.
And I will brag to all who will hear,
Of the person who made my last days so dear."

Unknown Author



BABY COW



BUDDY



TAMMY

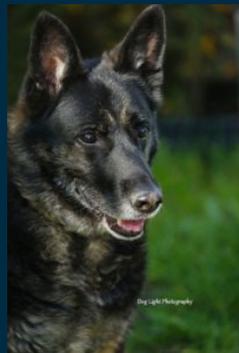


PERCY

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BEN

MESSAGE FROM DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR, PAULA MORESCHI

My personal message 2021

As we enter 2021 I know all of us are hoping the hardship and chaos of 2020 will ease. But despite everything that happened in 2020 I discovered if you slow down and appreciate everything glorious about life you can still find peace and joy.

In fact, I started living life "like a dog." Have you ever marveled at their resilience and attitude about life? So many of the senior dogs taken into our care have had rough, downtrodden lives. Many have endured neglect, pain, hunger and loss that we can't even imagine. Yet with strength and determination they can heal, find joy, and love unconditionally. And many of the dogs in our care who are still experiencing hardship due to blindness, arthritis and other ailments still wake up every morning and embrace the day.

When dogs wake up they greet EVERYTHING with enthusiasm like they have never done it before. Every mealtime is the best. Every day is open to new possibilities. Every walk is glorious. Every sunny day is a reason to rejoice. Every nap is blissful. Sleeping by your side is pure heaven. So I started embracing all the simple pleasures in my life.

All of the healing and love we give the dogs happens because of your unending love and support. In return the dogs would like to give you a message today: "Embrace your routine and bring joy to everything you do. No matter what may happen slow down and use all of your senses to experience and appreciate your gift of life."

Live life like a dog!



DOG ACTIVITY NUMBERS: 2020 WRAP UP

2020

323 DOGS IN CARE AT YEAR END

210 ACTIVE FOSTER HOMES (MORE NEEDED!!)

314 NEW DOGS HELPED

174 PLACED IN ODH FOSTER HOMES

84% OF THOSE FROM SHELTERS AND RESCUE GROUPS

16% OF THOSE FROM INDIVIDUALS

125 DOGS ADOPTED (5 ODH & 120 referrals)

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/>

GO SEAHAWKS!