



September 2021 E-Newsletter

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The dogs featured in
the header are (L-R)
Koko, Happy, Gimli,
Mia, George, and
Phyllis

WE LOVE OLD DOGS!

In this special "pairs" issue you'll read about **Benny & Joon**, **Neville & Ginny**, and **Gizmo & Shatzi**, three bonded pairs that brighten the lives of their fosters and give new meaning to the phrase "double your pleasure." Also included: Mail box—showcasing mail ODH has received recently, Dog smiles, a story about Steve, the 2022 calendar cover dog, information about the ODH Holiday Store and the Maranda Fund, a message from our director of veterinary services/dog manager and dog activity since January.



TA DA!

Our 2022 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 Steve on page six.



Photo by Julie Austin



BABYCOW

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 transporting, or helping at an event. 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 9/1) 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.

BENNY & JOON

By Judy Pitchford



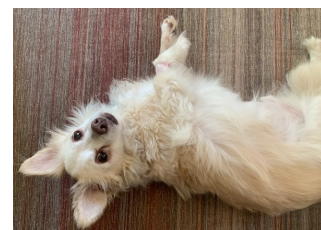
I had been thinking about applying to be an Old Dog Haven foster for about a year, thinking that it would be something I would do when I retired. But then in April 2021 I saw the plea for a foster for Benny and Joon, the cutest



Pomeranian Chihuahuas on the planet. They are siblings and a very bonded pair. They came from a seemingly loving home of an elderly couple but circumstances caused the pair to go into a shelter. They were there for six weeks before coming to our home.



Though they are 13 years old, and ODH was very concerned about their health, it turns out they are basically pretty healthy despite some concern about Benny's kidneys and recent diagnoses of a gastric ulcer. Benny also appears to be mostly, if not totally, deaf since he doesn't react to noises at all but he (and we) are managing fine. There are lots of hand signals and gesturing going on, which he seems to be figuring out. Joon doesn't seem to have any health issues and has come to like sitting on my lap once in a while.



They have distinct personalities. Benny is the serious one most of the time but he will, out of the blue, want to run around and play, and then flop on his back for belly rubs. We have learned to definitely NOT touch his ears or mess with his face! He will let you know if you forget! One of his favorite activities is to sit silently (sometimes I call him Silent Bob) and watch us cook. When he looks at me with those big brown eyes my heart just melts!



I call Joon my little circus dog. She is a twirler! She twirls in the morning while waiting for me to take her outside, while waiting for us to finish making her meals, and when we come home. Twirl, twirl, twirl! She's a happy girl and makes me laugh. Her favorite activity is to bark at the cats. They give her dirty looks, as only cats can do.



They both follow me around everywhere and, once I sit, they usually lay on the floor as near as possible, until I get up and move again. If I'm not home they will follow my husband, Jon, around. As a bonded pair, they are almost always together—if one goes to another room, so does the other. At first, they even slept in the same dog bed but soon discovered we had many dog beds around and now choose to sleep alone ... but close to the other. Joon was quite distressed when Benny had to spend the night at the emergency vet to get care for his bleeding gastric ulcer. Her first act upon his return was to do the ritual washing of his face.

Being our first Final Refuge dogs my husband and I went into this with some trepidation. But things have gone well and we feel very lucky to have them. They have shown us the joy of caring for dogs that just want to be loved and also give love. I am so glad we found each other!

NEVILLE & GINNY *by Cheri Moland*

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

After losing my 13-year-old pittie to cancer and my 16-year-old dog to liver disease within six months of each other, my kitty and I found ourselves in a quiet and empty house. That is when I received the joyful email from Judith asking me to take a bonded pair—an extremely overweight toy poodle and a little maltipoo, both thought to be about 12 years old. After losing their elderly owner, they had been unceremoniously dumped at the shelter.

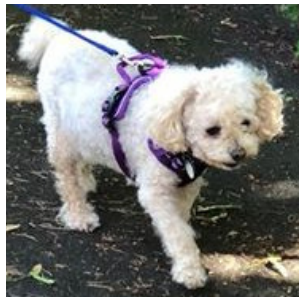


Polar opposites in personalities, extrovert Neville is outgoing and gregarious. But at 19 pounds, with arthritis, bladder stones, terrible teeth, and a serious heart murmur, it was all poor Neville could do to get to his feet and walking to another room would have him panting with effort. So, with ODH's help, Neville started a serious regime of a strict prescription diet, pain and heart medication, and gentle exercise.

At the shelter



Quiet little Ginny, also suffering from bladder stones, horrible teeth, and a heart condition, had additional problems. Where Neville was dangerously overweight, Ginny weighed in at barely seven pounds and had spells when her little tummy was so upset, she couldn't bear to look at her food bowl, much less keep anything down. ODH quickly decided she needed to see a specialist, who diagnosed her with IBD. ODH then supplied prescription food and medication to calm her upset tummy, as well as heart medication.



Still, Neville and Ginny are not your traditional bonded pair. They rarely play or sleep together (except when they both manage to squeeze on to my lap) and have made it clear that their people come first. When I really see their connection is in times of stress. During scary times, they will huddle together to give each other comfort as they did when they were first dumped at the shelter. Fortunately, now a car trip to the vet is about as scary as life gets.



A year and a half later, no one would recognize these two happy pups as the sad, bedraggled pair dumped at the shelter at Christmastime of 2019 as their lives have changed drastically. Pain meds and weight loss revealed the true Neville, an adventurous, mischievous little soul fiercely dedicated to his people. Now at just over 11 pounds, Neville, once unable to jump up on a curb, thoroughly enjoys his daily walks of one-two miles. Ginny, aloof at first, but now firmly bonded with us, excitedly spins in anticipation at feeding time and showers us with gentle little kisses. This summer they embarked on their first hiking adventure with us near Mt. Rainier, where Neville happily scrambled over hills and rocks for miles with nary a pause.



I will always be thankful to ODH for rescuing these two delightful little pups from an uncertain outcome and allowing them to stay together in their time of need. And as all of us know, old age is never easy. Ginny is slowly losing her eyesight (age related) and Neville is going a bit deaf. But as once their only source of comfort was each other, they now will always have healthy food, critical vet care, a comfortable home, and loving human companionship (as every dog should), so they don't need to desperately cling to each other in fear as they once did. And freedom from that terror and uncertainty might be the greatest gift of all.

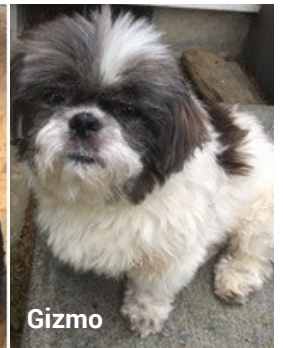
GIZMO & SHATZI

By Monte Wolff & Paul Pluth

Gizmo and Schatzi came to us when their mom died, and the family took them to the shelter. They are our third bonded pair. Our experience has been that one dog in the pair arrives as a jerk, and the other is the subdued partner, but after a few weeks of living with a pack of dogs (Gizmo and Schatzi raised our dog number to eight) their individual personalities bloom.



Schatzi



Gizmo



RANGO

Gizmo and Schatzi followed that pattern. Gizmo immediately took on the jerk role. He challenged every other dog in the house, including the much larger Cardigan Corgi, barked all the time, kept beating up on his smaller brother Schatzi, and was first for food. Life in a pack began to mellow him as the other dogs showed him what's what, including that scratch on his neck that mysteriously appeared (healed without problems). Then Gizmo discovered that Monte's room was "treatland" for dogs, and that became where he always wants to hang between meals. Our nickname for him at first was "Drac", short for Dracula who has to be invited in, because he would stand at the open door to Monte's room waiting to be asked in, but he has overcome that shyness.

Schatzi was very focused and reserved when he arrived, content to be in his own space: so much so that Paul nicknamed him "Little Buddha." He loved nothing better than finding a quiet space in Paul's room and curling up. His attitude was "you can pet me if you want to, but if you don't that's okay." And he was very deferential to Gizmo. All that has changed. Schatzi is now always the first one to race out of the house to the gate to greet us when one of us arrives home. He likes being out in the main room with all the other dogs during the day. At bedtime he is eager to get up on Paul's bed for the night, to cuddle with other dogs unless it's too crowded. And he and Gizmo now have a playful relationship of equals that still like to spar. Schatzi still keeps that inner calmness and doesn't need to engage all the time with Monte and Paul and the other dogs, but he is definitely not anti-social.

Gizmo too has changed. His bravado was a cover for his basic shyness and neediness. He loves being near a human, runs out of Monte's room when he senses food is being served, and races to the defense along with our Corgi and our girl Shih Tzu whenever UPS or FedEx or the gardener drives up, racing around the yard. (all three dogs are black and white, so we call them the Po Pos's). He is a staunch patroller of the yard. Although he spends most nights with Monte, one of his favorite tricks is to sneak into Paul's room during the night, hide under the bed, then leap onto the bed sometime later and take over the pillow next to Paul's head, to the surprise of all.

Of the two, Gizmo was the most in need of veterinary care when he arrived. Dry eye and mucus were affecting his eyesight, he urgently needed a dental, and there was a nasty looking mass on his back. Thanks to Old Dog Haven, he now goes to Dr. Matthew Landry at Animal Vision Center and his tear production and eyes are improving. The dental and mass removal were done together under anesthesia, thanks to Old Dog Haven, and the mass was benign. One unexpected "side effect" of Gizmo's surgery was that he didn't go for a grooming until his stitches were removed. In that time his coat grew out, revealing the beautiful brown highlights and framing his cute face—it was such an improvement that we keep him that way now. Schatzi will be getting a dental soon, but his eyes are clear, and his one ailment is arthritis. He came to us limping pronouncedly in his right front leg. Thanks to Judith, our local vet Kristen Reiter, and the medicines they supply, Schatzi is getting around normally.



BUDDY



We have been taking in senior rescue dogs since 2015 from several rescue groups including Old Dog Haven, and we say that each dog is a blessing, and we learn something from each dog. Gizmo has taught us that patient love expressed in concrete actions draws out the true dog from their shell. Schatzi makes us appreciate that quiet centeredness and peace of dogs "who do not tax their lives with forethought of grief," as the poet Wendell Berry says. Both of us are heading into retirement in a few months, and our retirement goal is to be able to take in more dogs and expand our rescue work.



TOBEE

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

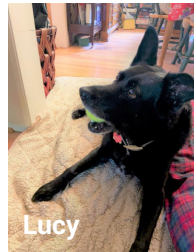
volunteer@olddoghaven.org

Other inquiries

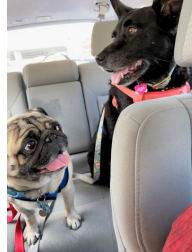
office@olddoghaven.org

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 **Lucy**, **Serenity**, **Buddy**, **Chewy**, and **Clancy**, thank you for sharing!



Lucy



"I wanted to take a moment to share some happy photos of **Lucy** in her new life with our family. Lucy joins her new friend Tucker the pug (also a rescue - alum of Pacific Pug Rescue) on trips to the Marymoor dog park where she loves to swim in the river. She is spoiled by our three kids. We are making every one of her days with us as happy as possible. We are all grateful to Old Dog Haven for connecting us to Lucy. She radiates love and gratitude. With deep gratitude for your work on behalf of dogs including Lucy and for Old Dog Haven. *Kathleen.*"



Serenity



Buddy



Chewy



Clancy

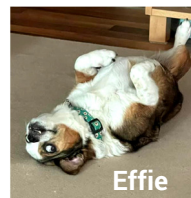
If you've adopted a senior dog through our website, let us hear from you! We're in the "happy beginning" business, whether it be a dog that comes to us as a permanent foster or an adoptable senior dog that finds his way home to you.

DOG SMILES



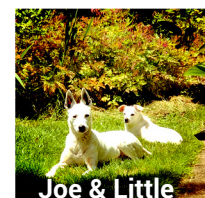
Albert

"Has anyone seen my food bowl? If it's in here, we need to get it out so I can have dinner."



Effie

"I AM exercising! This is just my version of the R & R roll."



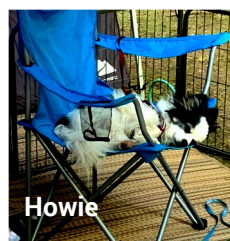
Joe & Little

"We see a magazine cover in our future."



Clarissa

"I'm ready for my nap now."



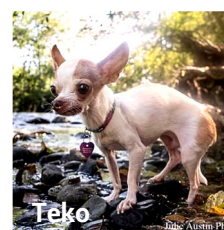
Howie

"I love camping... especially Smores after a nap."



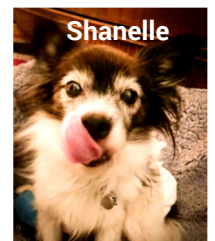
Marybell

"You want what? Oh no, this is my chewy."



Teko

"Hey! My feet are getting wet. Where's the boat?"



Shanelle

"Yeah, well...peanut butter is always a little tricky to eat."

2022 CALENDAR COVER DOG: STEVE

By Meredith Moses



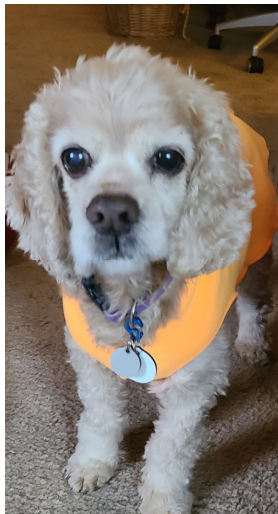
POGO

Steve came from a “breeder” who docked his tail badly as a puppy (damaging the base of his tail and pelvis), allowed him to become infested with fleas and worms, and then sold him to an older couple. Almost immediately, Steve developed allergies (which he’s struggled with ever since), and along the way developed dry eye, a corneal injury, a cruciate

ligament injury, and intervertebral disc disease (IVDD). When one of his people died and the other was no longer able to take care of him, he and his remaining person moved in with family members who did not want a dog. This little guy was so sad: he’d lost one of his people, moved to a place where he wasn’t wanted, and was made to live in a 60” x 60” space separate from the only family he knew. He was very, very lonely.



At first, Steve chose to sleep in another room, then he moved a bit closer, then he moved into the same room. Now, he often sleeps under my chair so I have to be very careful about getting up. I think he has decided he will keep me! Steve’s a sweet, quiet boy who wants to be friends with everyone he meets. He especially adores his dog walker!



Steve has been here just over a year now (Gotcha anniversary was 8/2). He turned 14 in July and unfortunately his age is really starting to show. We’re currently battling a recurrence of his skin infections. His skin seems to be hyper sensitive and he hates to be touched—and he wants to be touched—it’s really sad. He’s also showing signs of dementia. He seems to lose track of what he is doing; he’ll go to the water bowl then seem to forget why he came. Sometimes he’ll just mumble at it and go away, other times he’ll take a drink. We thought that might have been related to his teeth, but after his dental, he still mumbles at his bowl. It’s sort of funny. But just when I start to think maybe it’s time to let him go, he’ll come bounding joyously in from the yard and dance for his dinner; mind you dancing for Steve means jumping up and down paying no attention to where he is or when he might land—in the water bowl on me on another dog (they’ve gotten pretty savvy about avoiding him). And of course he sleeps a lot. I find I love watching and taking pictures of him sleeping. I am so lucky that Steve has joined our household – thank you Old Dog Haven!”



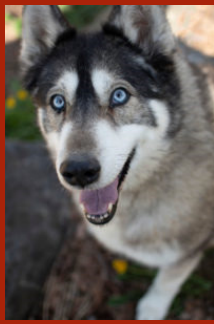
HAKU

VENDORS NEEDED FOR THE 2022 CALENDAR

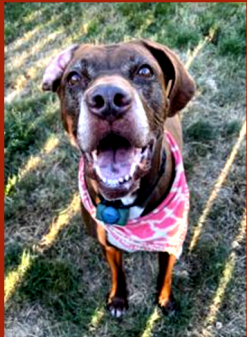
If you have a vet clinic, pet store, or other local business interested in selling the 2022 calendar, please email:

development@olddoghaven.org





KAIN



KONA



MOMO

NOTES FROM OUR DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR, PAULA MORESCHI

MARANDA FUND

Our Special Maranda Fund

On October 1 we kick off our annual Maranda Fund Fundraiser. Who was Maranda? A very special dog that was the first of our Old Dog Haven intakes to receive a major one-time veterinary procedure in excess of what we would consider normal veterinary expenses, that would give her a good chance for a happy life if successful. Maranda went on to live a joyful life with her adoring adoptive parents. Her success story inspired us to start the Maranda Fund in her honor.



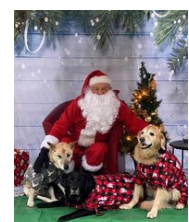
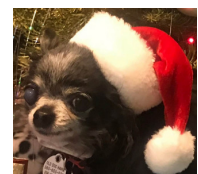
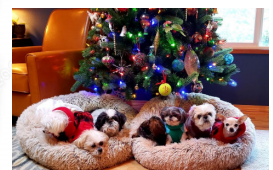
Since it was founded the fund has been used to help hundreds of Old Dog Haven Final Refuge dogs. Skilled veterinary experts, our loving and devoted fosters and YOU make this all possible. During the month of October all 2022 calendar sales and Maranda Fund dog sponsorships will benefit the Maranda Fund. Click here to read more about the fund: <https://olddoghaven.org/the-maranda-fund/>

OLD DOG HAVEN HOLIDAY STORE

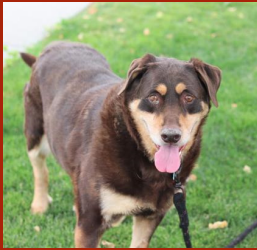
Back By Popular Demand!

The Old Dog Haven 2021 Holiday Store

Ring in this holiday season by doing your holiday shopping for the dogs. We'll have oodles of tees, sweatshirts, hats (and more) that are sure to warm the hearts of all the dog lovers in your life. Watch our social media pages, website and the November newsletter for updates.



A MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTOR OF VETERINARY SERVICES, JUDITH PIPER



GEORGE



DAISY



AOIFE



BAILEY



ALTA

These last few months ODH has taken in several dogs whose elderly owners could no longer care for them or died. Since our beginning in 2004 this has been the most common reason for dogs coming to us.

Note that the three pairs featured in this newsletter all came from that situation!



Sometimes the dogs come directly from the owner/their family or through a concerned vet; sometimes they end up in a shelter first. The sad thing is that SO MANY are in terrible shape. We remind ourselves that if Grandma is having a hard time caring for herself, she undoubtedly isn't caring for her beloved dog. The dog may be very thin, may have skin conditions, may have heart disease, may have bladder stones, etc. I stopped counting how many dogs like this have come to our home needing bladder stones removed IMMEDIATELY! Sadly, the dog is in constant pain and getting into trouble for "accidents" at the same time.

Right now, getting vet care isn't quick or easy, but I urge you to keep an eye on your elderly relatives', friends', and neighbors' pets. Perhaps you could offer to make/take the dog to a vet appointment, or to take him for walks, or to the groomer, and make sure he's being fed enough of something appropriate (not just sharing Grandma's dinner). The dog will appreciate your help and his human will likely appreciate it as well. These are very difficult situations for all, with much emotion involved. But if we all try to watch out for both dog and human, we might save needless pain or suffering.

DOG ACTIVITY NUMBERS JANUARY 1 – AUGUST 31

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

106 new dogs were taken into care
between 1/1-8/31
82 came from shelters
24 came from individuals

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

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

83 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!