



Final Refuge Dog  
**DUSTY (2010-2023)**  
with his  
favorite ball

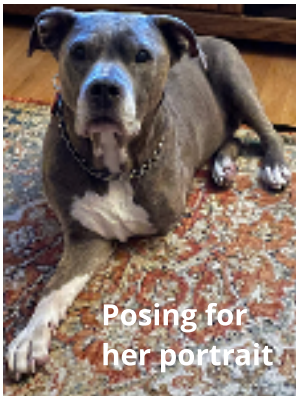
# OLD DOG HAVEN

HELPING SENIOR DOGS LIVE THEIR  
GOLDEN YEARS IN LOVING HOMES

[www.olddoghaven.org](http://www.olddoghaven.org)

April 2023

## MEET FINAL REFUGE DOG 'MAMA T'

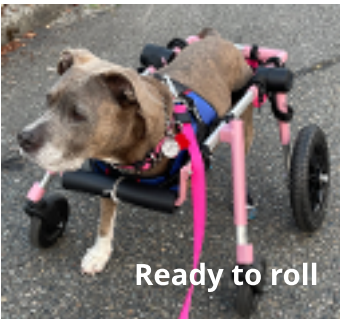


Posing for  
her portrait

This adorable three-legged Pitbull mix was found abandoned by a busy I-5 interchange and brought to a shelter by a Good Samaritan in 2021. The shelter named her **Mama**, but her new foster parent, **Julia Allen**, didn't feel that quite captured the uniqueness of her 'tripod' appearance, so in affectionate tribute, Julia added the 'T' to her name. When Julia first brought her home, a chronic ear infection, and itchy, flaky skin were attended to relatively easily, but Mama T's mobility issues were a much bigger problem. Mama-T wasn't just dealing with only having three legs, she also was battling osteoarthritis in her spine and front leg, as well as cruciate ligament damage. Julia describes her as being "a little like a beached seal. She could hop maybe 3 feet, but then she would face-plant."



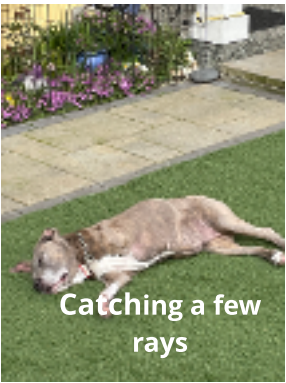
Santa on wheels



Ready to roll

A comprehensive pain management plan was the first step, but what Mama T really needed was a way to enhance her mobility. Julia had an idea and got in contact with a manufacturer of specialized carts for dogs. After adding two extra wheels to the original design and experimenting with different harnesses, Julia was finally able to lock down a fancy design that gave Mama T a new lease on life. Attached to her eye-catching pink chariot, Mama T was now charging around the neighborhood, up and downhill. One of her favorite spots quickly became the nearby elementary school, as Julia says, "She absolutely LOVES children and could spend all day with them, watching them and playing with them, and the children absolutely adore her."

Recently, Julia has noticed that Mama-T is slowing down a bit, "Unfortunately, she can no longer run the cart up hill - I have to pull her. Going down steep hills is difficult for both her hind legs and her front leg - she mostly stops on hills rather than paddling the cart at top speed like she used to. She has more difficulty getting around the yard - she'll go a short distance, then lie down to rest." So these days charging round the neighborhood has been balanced with the leisurely pursuits of pottering round the garden and sunbathing - though eating is one area where she hasn't slowed down, so Julia keeps a close eye on that. But however, Mama-T spends her golden years, she will be living them in her inimitable style.



Catching a few  
rays

## IN THIS ISSUE

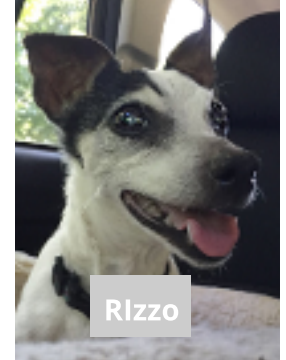
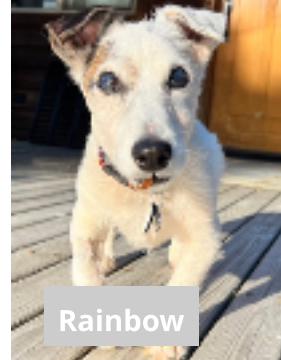
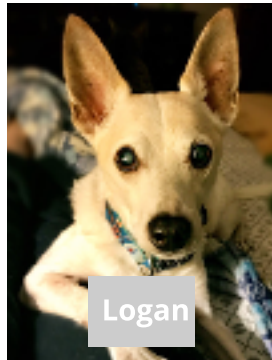
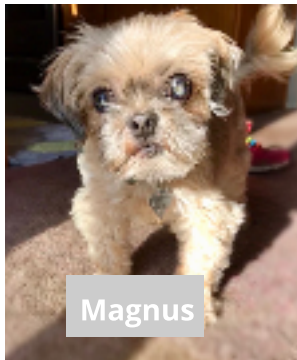
Meet Final Refuge Dog 'Mama T'	1	Message from Lahni Allen, Referrals Coordinator	3
Meet Foster Donna Gonder	2	Adopt a Senior Dog & How you can help	3
Save the Dates	2	Thank you to Recent Fundraisers & ODH Dog Stats	4

## MEET FOSTER DONNA GONDER



Donna's love for animals has at its root a passion for helping the most vulnerable. A three-legged pig, and a blind chicken are examples of some animals Donna has cared for, and it is this kind of compassion which marks her out as a perfect candidate for fostering ODH dogs.

Since 2011, she has fostered seven ODH dogs, with three being the most she has fostered at any one time, "that is about the largest number I can look after while giving them all the attention they deserve and need - besides an obvious love of animals, to be a foster you need patience, and you need time." Time is what Donna has lavished on her dogs. She works from home, so she can keep her eye on her foster dog, **Magnus**, who is blind. She has a good-sized backyard, plenty of large nearby parks for him to explore, and she tries to go a few times a year to Orcas Island, so Magnus can roam as far as his little legs will take him. Looking back over her thirteen years of fostering, each foster dog's character and quirks brings back wonderful memories and moments of joy, and she has taken tens of thousands of photos. Here are some of them.



When asked why she is a foster, Donna says, "It is something about their little souls, when you pick up a dog from a shelter, they are just so broken.... and you're rescuing them and giving them comfort and that brings me the most immense joy." Clearly, any old dog is truly blessed to have a foster parent such as Donna.

## SAVE THE DATES!



Giving creates hope and makes it a reality. Early Giving Begins April 18

**GIVE ♥ BIG**

POWERED BY 501 C3 NONPROFITS

**2023**

**May 2 & 3**



Old Dog Haven will host **SUMMER SPLASH** at Cromwell Park, Shoreline.  
**SATURDAY AUGUST 5 2023**

There will be a silent auction (a big hit last year!), food trucks, vendors, dog-centric activities, ODH merchandise, and more! More information coming soon.

We are excited to see our human and canine friends on August 5th!



# MESSAGE FROM OUR REFERRALS COORDINATOR



If you've ever looked at Adoptable Dogs on our website, you know of our community focus. Beyond the dogs we're able to take into our network of ODH homes, we draw attention to old dogs needing homes from local shelters and rescues. We also post dogs on behalf of owners, doing our best to bring together people who are no longer able to keep their dog for whatever reason with people with the heart and resources to care for an old dog.

When it all works, we are able to spare these old dogs the trauma of relocation to shelters or premature euthanasia, while providing advice, personalized counseling, reference documents, and connecting them with potential forever homes, all through our 'referrals program', which in 2022 alone helped 150 dogs find new homes.

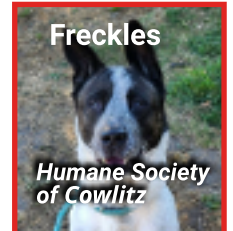
It's really a team effort though. Tina and Judith assess dogs in need for suitability, then Tina does the write ups and manages the Facebook communications. Dee is in charge of the website, and since 2017, I've been at the end of '[referrals@olddoghaven.org](mailto:referrals@olddoghaven.org)' both guiding families trying to decide on adopting an old dog, and those rehoming their dogs.

We do our best because we believe every old dog deserves a loving place to land. It is a tremendously rewarding process, but not always an easy one. The effectiveness of our work is determined by those of you who love old dogs enough to adopt, or to help find homes for them. We can't thank you enough for partnering with us in this important work.

*Lahni Allen, Referrals Coordinator*

## ADOPT A SENIOR DOG!

ODH dogs are permanent fosters, but there are MANY more wonderful senior dogs in other organizations and situations waiting for their forever homes! Here are just a few of those dogs that have been at shelters for some time. While they have specifics which might make placement more difficult, they certainly deserve loving adoptive homes. For more information, check out our website: [https://olddoghaven.org/dog\\_category/adoptable-dogs](https://olddoghaven.org/dog_category/adoptable-dogs).



## HOW YOU CAN HELP



I would love to help. Enclosed please find a donation in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to: **Old Dog Haven**. ODH is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Donations are tax-deductible.

Name\_\_\_\_\_

Address\_\_\_\_\_

City\_\_\_\_\_ State\_\_\_\_\_ Zip\_\_\_\_\_

Phone\_\_\_\_\_ Email\_\_\_\_\_

Please mail your donation to: Old Dog Haven, P.O. Box 1409, Oak Harbor WA 98277

To donate online,  
please go to  
<https://olddoghaven.org>

**THANK YOU!**

## THANK YOU TO RECENT FUNDRAISERS



This past February's **Have-A-Heart** fundraiser was a huge success with our friends at **Paddywack** once again making a vital contribution. \$7,400 was made from their in store donations, plus over \$30,000 in online donations.

Enormous thanks to **Paddywack** and all of you who visited their store or donated online!



Huge thanks too to **OC RAW** and **Northwest Naturals Raw Pet Food** for their generous contributions. Old dogs owe everything to organizations like you!

*. If you recently had a fundraiser for Old Dog Haven and it isn't listed here, we sincerely apologize. Feel free to send a picture to [office@olddoghaven.org](mailto:office@olddoghaven.org) for a future newsletter!*



P.O. Box 1409  
Oak Harbor, WA 98277

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## ODH DOG STATS

Year to date:

- **48** dogs were taken into ODH Final Refuge homes.
- **42** dogs were adopted through ODH's placement services.
- **314** dogs are currently in ODH permanent care.