



Permanent Foster Dog  
TINY

# OLD DOG HAVEN

HELPING SENIOR DOGS LIVE THEIR  
GOLDEN YEARS IN LOVING HOMES

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

## PERMANENT FOSTER DOG, BELLA MAE

April 2025

Brittney, husband, Steven and daughter, Lily, share their Seattle home with four dogs, including their beloved ODH dog, Bella Mae, a German Wirehair Pointer mix.

Brittney loves nothing more than talking about Bella Mae, "She came to us in August 2022. We were brand new to ODH, and we had inquired about a different pup, but we were given another option - Bella Mae. Once we saw a photo of Bella and a short bio, we fell in love."



Bella Mae showing some love to Steven

"Bella was our third dog to join the pack, and our Border Collie & Australian Shepherd mix welcomed her right away. We now have four dogs, and they're all friends. Bella is such a hoot - she will sometimes try and get our youngest dog to play tug of war with her. She also has a talent for spotting squirrels from a mile away - you can see just how badly she wants to chase them. At night, this girl LOVES to hog our king size bed. She is very much a diva. When she deems it's time to go to bed, she will glare at us and bark if we aren't joining her. Once asleep, she snores louder than any dog I've ever heard."



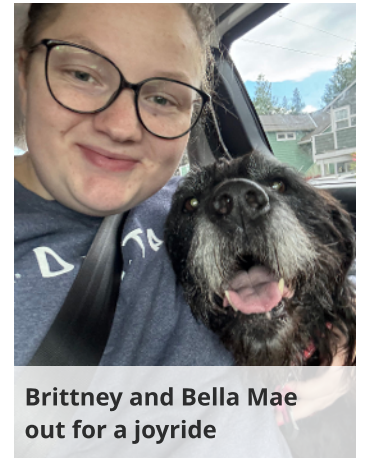
Kodiak, Aero, Rudder and Bella Mae

"Her great grandpa - my grandpa - is her favorite person. She absolutely loves him, and he loves her

back. She follows him around when we go and visit and begs for treats because she knows he has some for her. She has him completely wrapped around her paw."

"Bella Mae is a chewer. Thankfully she doesn't chew on things she shouldn't, but if you give her a rubber dog toy or stuffed toy that will be torn apart in two minutes or less. She'll occasionally fetch a ball, though she's quite uncoordinated, and it is adorable, as she looks like a puppy hopping around being silly."

"She's had a few health issues: a gnarly mass hanging off of her leg that had to be removed quickly when she first came to us. She's had multiple mass removal operations since then, but thankfully the tests have all come back benign. Lately, her back end has been giving her trouble, and she has been slowing down." But Bella Mae rises above her daily challenges and is unfailingly affectionate: 'She is very much our fur baby girl, we love her dearly. We're just so thankful for our time together these past 2.5 years.'"



Brittney and Bella Mae out for a joyride



Bella Mae and "her favorite person" - her grandpa

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# PERMANENT FOSTERS JUDY AND RALPH



Judy and Ralph picking up COLEAH

Retired Dressage horse trainer and riding instructor, **Judy** and husband **Ralph**, a retired tool-and-die maker, live on two and a half acres in rural Kent. However, they are not the kind of people to simply put their feet up - far from it - their home life revolves around an astonishing menagerie of animals, comprising horses, cats, parrots, chickens, goats, rabbits, and last, but by no means least, four dogs, three of which are ODH dogs.

Before fostering for ODH, Judy and Ralph have shared their lives with many breeds of dogs, including Chihuahuas, Italian Greyhounds and Great Danes.

After hearing about ODH ten or so years ago, their profound love for dogs inevitably led to Judy and Ralph embarking on their own ODH foster journey. Though they have fostered several dog breeds for ODH over the years, currently it's chihuahuas all the way at Judy and Ralph's, with Fern, Coleah, and the uniquely named, Pan-Z.

"We keep them pretty much housebound as we worry about the hawks outside, but they all get along," says Judy, "Fern is the leader, while Coleah is quite shy. We definitely feel they have their favorites between us - Fern chose me, and Pan-Z chose Ralph", remarks Judy, hinting at more than a bit of spoiling from Ralph.

When asked what makes fostering old dogs so worthwhile, Judy says it's "seeing the dogs start out so meek and broken and then over a course of months watching them totally transform. They have been through so much when they first arrive." Dealing with beloved dogs passing away, Judy and Ralph are comforted knowing that "when they pass, they're happy, and that makes it worth every minute." Her advice to other fosters is simple: "you need patience and time." But perhaps Judy is not giving the entire picture, because anyone who has seen Judy and Ralph in action knows you also need a very big heart.



FERN



PAN-Z before extensive mammary surgery



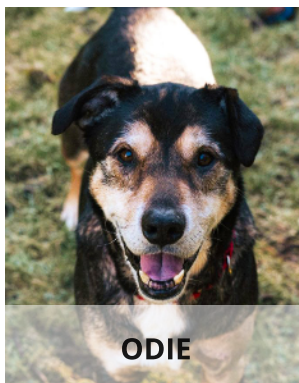
VIOLET, one of their earlier ODH foster dogs, and possibly the cutest 'Meet and Greet' ambassador ever.

## ADOPT A SENIOR DOG!

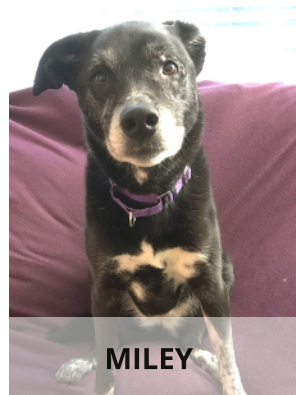
ODH dogs are permanent fosters, but there are MANY more wonderful senior dogs at shelters or rescues waiting for their forever homes! Here are just a few of those dogs that have been at shelters for some time. While they have specifics which might make placement more difficult, they certainly deserve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



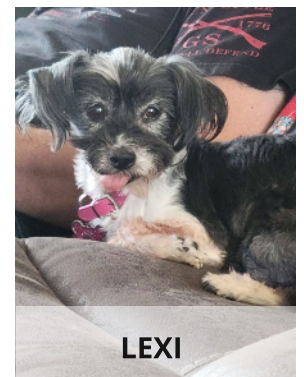
BODHI



ODIE



MILEY



LEXI

# SAVE THE DATES!

**SAVE THE DATE**  
OLD DOG HAVEN

**PUPS ON PARADE**

**SATURDAY JULY 12**  
10AM - 3PM  
CROMWELL PARK, SHORELINE

★ **FREE ADMISSION** ★  
[www.ODHPupsOnParade.org](http://www.ODHPupsOnParade.org)

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★ INTERESTED IN BEING A VENDOR OR SPONSORING? ★  
EMAIL: [marketing@olddoghaven.org](mailto:marketing@olddoghaven.org)

Save the Date for Old Dog Haven's **Pups on Parade** Summer Event at Shoreline's Cromwell Park on July 12th from 10-3 pm.

Bring your dog and enjoy a fun-filled day with games and activities, including palm reading, lick art, face painting, and a costume contest. There will also be a new silent auction with hourly flash sales, vendors, and delicious food trucks.

And this year, Old Dog Haven's Walk is back! Create your fundraising teams and participate in The Walk with all proceeds going towards providing care to over 300 senior dogs in permanent foster homes.

Mark your calendars and visit [odhpupsonparade.org](http://odhpupsonparade.org) for the latest details.



Our annual GiveBIG campaign kicks off on Tuesday April 22 for early giving and will culminate in a 48-hour giving event on May 6-7. Stay tuned!

## THANK YOU TO RECENT FUNDRAISERS



Thank you to our friends at **PETPROS** for holding two events in March to benefit ODH at their Lake Stevens and Magnolia branches.



**HELLBENT BREWING COMPANY** held a March ODH fundraiser - \$1 from every pint sold was donated to ODH.



ODH received 34 amazing handwritten drawings and thank you letters from the students at **NOVA MIDDLE SCHOOL** in Olympia. (Look out for their drawings and thank yous in our next newsletter!)



**JUANITA BAY VETERINARY HOSPITAL** raised money for Old Dog Haven as part of their 'Unleash Joy' fundraiser campaign.



The donation check presentation

## ODH STATS

**YEAR TO DATE:** 305 dogs currently in ODH permanent care  
32 dogs taken into care  
45 dogs adopted through ODH's placement services

# IN REMEMBRANCE

On January 20, 2025, Old Dog Haven lost one of our own. **Jenny Aleksich** was an Old Dog Haven volunteer, donor, and cheerleader for all things Old Dog Haven. We are honored to have supporters not only in Washington state, where we originated, but all over the country and even the world. Jenny lived in California and found our rescue through Facebook. Jenny truly cared about the senior dogs in our care, our forever fosters and the mission of Old Dog Haven.

When Jenny quit smoking, she decided to spend the money she saved on buying cigarettes to sponsor 3 Old Dog Haven dogs once a month. As a volunteer, Jenny wrote thank you cards for Old Dog Haven until she physically couldn't. In 2018, Jenny decided to make her way to the PNW to meet her Old Dog Haven friends in person at our annual foster/volunteer picnic. So many of our fosters and volunteers got to know and love Jenny. Jenny was a positive, encouraging force of nature. She rooted for our old dogs, celebrating when a dog was brought into care and grieving with us when one had to be sent on. We all miss Jenny very much.



**JENNY with foster dog, Patty**



P.O. Box 1409  
Oak Harbor, WA 98277

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## 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.

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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!**