

# OLD DOG HAVEN

HELPING SENIOR DOGS LIVE THEIR  
GOLDEN YEARS IN LOVING HOMES

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



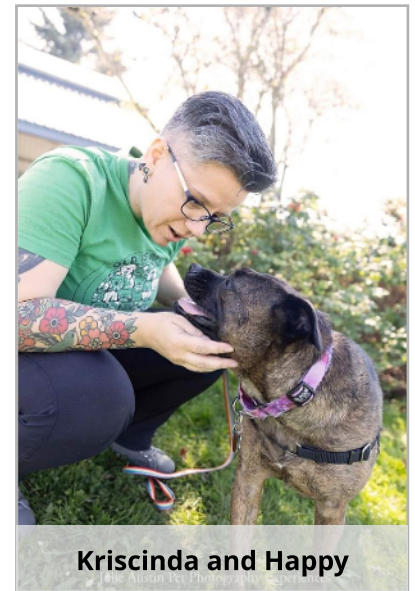
Permanent Foster Dog,  
Winterbelle

April 2026

## PERMANENT FOSTER DOG, HAPPY

"Happy is not called 'Happy' by accident," remarks Kriscinda, her foster parent. When she and her partner, Rick, fostered her in July 2021, they recognized she was "happy-go-lucky, so it was very simple, we named her Happy," Kriscinda says.

Happy, a boxer mix, lives with Kriscinda and Rick and two other Old Dog Haven dogs, Cheddar and Edie in Olympia. "Our home is on a good size lot of ¼ acre, so she has the whole back yard to roam in and there's a walking trail nearby, and she loves to go for walks a couple of times a week," says Kriscinda, adding that the added bonus is "she loves people – to her no one is a stranger." Kriscinda describes Happy as "a goofball", for fun "she'll launch herself at me," she says, "and she'll curl up at home using me as a pillow, otherwise, she likes to sleep in a tiny bed, curled up very tightly."



Kriscinda and Happy



Happy "the  
goofball"

Things weren't always so rosy for Happy. When she and her sister, also an ODH foster, were rescued, they were found locked in a shed, and Happy was only 30lbs - about two thirds of a healthy body weight for her breed.

Since Happy came to Kriscinda's home, there have been plenty of medical issues to contend with. Early on, a mast cell tumor had to be removed, and her vet discovered that her incontinence - which was originally thought to be stress from her former living conditions - were in fact due to a birth defect. "One kidney is not working properly," says Kriscinda, "and this has led to continual bladder infections." Happy also has a cancer on her leg that needs to be monitored, and she suffers from arthritis, so there is a daily regimen of kidney prescription pills, incontinence pills, and supplements for her joints, including fish oils.



Enjoying a well  
earned rest

Despite the challenges, Kriscinda describes Happy as "living her best life today", and she acknowledges this is only possible due to ongoing donations from Old Dog Haven's supporters.

Kriscinda knows a thing or two about this as she happens to be the board president of Old Dog Haven - as she says, "Donations provide Old Dog Haven the means to provide top-notch ongoing medical care for the dogs in our care. Happy and every dog in ODH's care will always receive the care she needs because of your support and donations, which we are deeply grateful for."



Forever friends, Cheddar, Happy (behind) and Edie

## PERMANENT FOSTER, DONNA

Donna began her foster journey fourteen years ago because a friend of hers was fostering for ODH, "I simply fell in love with her dogs and decided to apply." She fostered her first dog, George, in 2012 and has never looked back. Since then, she has fostered an astonishing 30 dogs, including the four she has now — Arlo, who has been with her the longest at 3 years, Gianna, Tigger and Quincy.



Donna with Evy

Donna writes that growing up her family always had dogs and cats, and as an adult she had cats. She relocated to Seattle from Tokyo in the mid-90s to join her husband who had work here.

"My days are scheduled around the dogs' needs. Meal times, medication schedules, potty breaks, walks, and vet visits. The day doesn't start until Quincy has gotten in some good wake-up snuggles before breakfast. Our days end with final medications, a nighttime snack, and then the 5 of us are off to bed."

But Donna loves the challenges of fostering old dogs and managing the host of medical issues that come with having them. "Many of the dogs I've had came with heart disease, often undiagnosed until coming into ODH's care - severe dental disease and eye problems are also very common, as are various skin conditions. I've also had dogs with Cushing's, kidney disease, diabetes and seizures. Many also

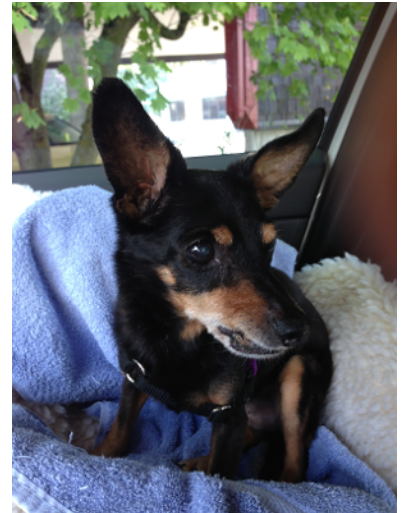
have no - or very limited - hearing and vision. One of the many wonderful things about this organization is the knowledge, guidance and support they provide to help us understand and navigate all the various health conditions, as well as the veterinary and specialist care the fosters have access to."

One enormous pleasure of being a foster is seeing the huge transformation in an old dog physically and emotionally. Donna recalls, "One dog who immediately comes to mind is Bodie, a little Pekingese who really didn't feel good. He was very shut down emotionally, hunched over, mostly bald, and couldn't stand without swaying from side to side.

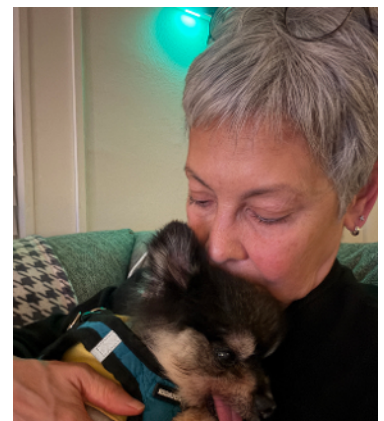
Eventually his hair grew in, he became physically stronger and more outgoing, initiating play with the other dogs and testing the patience of the cat. This little dog, who at first could barely stand straight, felt so good he started doing zoomies one day in the backyard. Bodie's time with me was far too short, but I'm so very glad he was able to experience that joy before the end of his life."

"Some dogs might just walk in and make themselves right at home, but for those dogs who need extra time to heal and adjust, it's important to remember that the first few days, weeks, or months are not an indication of how things will always be, and with time and support, your dog will blend into your family as if he or she has always been part of it."

Looking back over the years, the qualities that Donna sees as essential for a foster are: "patience, flexibility, and above all, a love for old dogs." The rewards for her are immeasurable, "it's about getting to know these dogs, having their affection and companionship, providing a home where life feels safe and predictable, and seeing their personalities emerge."



George, Donna's first ODH dog



Arlo and Donna

## ODH DOG STATS

### YEAR TO DATE:

286 dogs currently in ODH homes

32 dogs taken into care

66 dogs posted for others



## THANK YOU TO RECENT FUNDRAISERS

We've got another bumper crop of companies and organizations to thank in this newsletter, both old friends and new:



Special thanks to **JUANITA BAY VETERINARY HOSPITAL** and their 'Unleash Joy' Charity Holiday Campaign which made a large donation to Old Dog Haven. Thanks also to **PADDYWACK** and their core team of Shelby, Shane and Adam for organizing their HAVE-A-HEART fundraiser that once again raised funds for Old Dog Haven.



## ADOPT A SENIOR DOG!

All Old Dog Haven dogs are permanent fosters, but there are MANY more wonderful dogs waiting for their forever homes!

Here are just a few of the many senior dogs that we cross-posted for local shelters, rescues and owners on our website. While they have specific needs which 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)



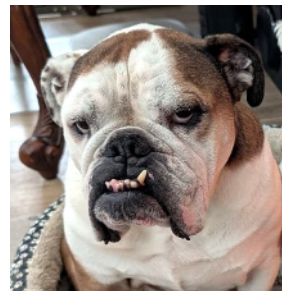
**LADY BIRD**

[referrals@olddoghaven.org](mailto:referrals@olddoghaven.org)



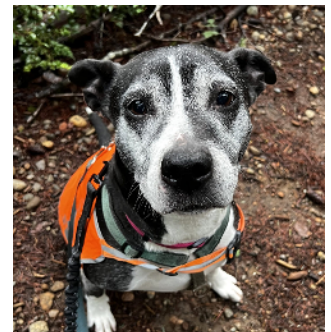
**BEAR**

Seattle Purebred Dog Rescue,  
Redmond WA



**FERGUS**

Bulldog Haven NW  
Woodinville WA  
[www.BulldogHaven.org](http://www.BulldogHaven.org)



**MOMMA MAIA**

Adopt-A-Pet, Shelton WA  
[adoptapet-wa.org/adopt](http://adoptapet-wa.org/adopt)

# 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\_\_\_\_\_

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

Address\_\_\_\_\_

City\_\_\_\_\_State\_\_\_\_\_Zip\_\_\_\_\_

Phone\_\_\_\_\_Email\_\_\_\_\_

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

**THANK YOU!**



P.O. Box 1409  
Oak Harbor, WA 98277

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## SAVE THE DATES!

**GIVE**   
**BIG**  
POWERED BY  
501 COMMONS  
**2026**

**SAVE THE DATE**  
OLD DOG HAVEN  
**PUPS ON PARADE**  
TWO EVENTS THIS YEAR!  
2026  
**SHORELINE**  
SATURDAY JULY 11  
CROMWELL  
PARK  
**LACEY**  
SATURDAY AUGUST 1  
WOODLAND CREEK  
COMMUNITY PARK  
INTERESTED IN BEING A VENDOR OR SPONSORING?  
VENDOR: [VENDORS@OLDDOGHAVEN.ORG](mailto:VENDORS@OLDDOGHAVEN.ORG)  
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