

OLD DOG HAVEN

HELPING SENIOR DOGS LIVE THEIR GOLDEN YEARS IN LOVING HOMES

www.olddoghaven.org



Final Refuge Dog, JAKE

January 2024



2024 marks the 20th anniversary of Old Dog Haven! Not only is this a remarkable achievement for a regional nonprofit organization, but we have become the largest senior dog rescue of its kind in the U.S.

From 2004 - end of 2023:

3,734 dogs were taken into care.






4,705 dogs were courtesy posted on our website to help others.

8,439 total dogs were helped.

At the end of 2023 we had 341 dogs in care (highest we’ve ever had), which is an increase of 36 dogs from the start of the year.

Thank you to our donors and supporters! We couldn’t possibly do what we do without your help and belief in our mission. Paws up to all of you!

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Cheri Moland writes about Casa Ahora's challenging journey to find her way home.

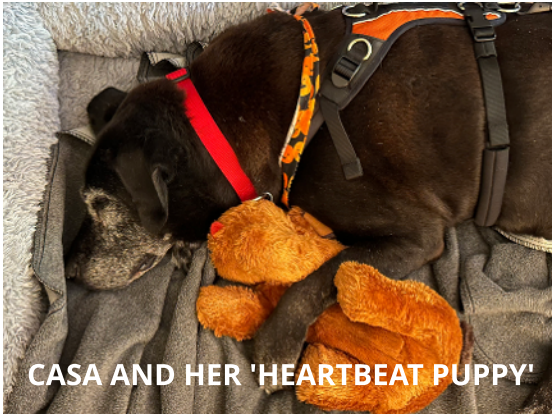
Casa Ahora's name is taken from "ella está en casa ahora" meaning "she is home now" in Spanish. Little is known about Casa Ahora's former life; all we do know is that she has spent a good part of her senior years abandoned, alone, and wandering the streets.



CHERI AND CASA

Neighbors had seen the chocolate lab wandering alone at night for years - one even called animal control to get her help, but she evaded them. But meanwhile, advancing age and the lack of veterinary care was taking its toll. Finally, a very kind man who specialized in trapping stray dogs saw her photo and set out to find her. She was captured, without a lot of difficulty, with some canned cat food and a humane trap. She was then turned over to a local rescue. Who knows how long Casa had been on her own? Due to her age and numerous physical problems, including severe arthritis, spondylosis, mammary tumors, and a neurological disorder, adoption for Casa through the local rescue seemed very remote. That's when Old Dog Haven came to the rescue.

Six months later, life is very different for Casa. Along with being treated for many of her major issues, she now receives almost every treatment available for her arthritis, including regular in-home acupuncture treatments. She wears a Help 'em up harness to aid her as her balance is poor, and she has trouble getting up. All of this is cheerfully provided by Old Dog Haven. But in addition to being pain free, almost as important to Casa, is her family. After years on the streets and being alone, and showing telltale signs of abuse, she has slowly come to cherish her little family. Her first love was her little heartbeat puppy, (a stuffed puppy with a battery heartbeat). She always sleeps cuddled up with it and now has two - her litter - so she can have one for each bed. Added to that is her little poodle brother, Neville, also an Old Dog Haven dog, and Flower, the resident cat and self-appointed senior dog



CASA AND HER 'HEARTBEAT PUPPY'

babysitter. Once a dog that would jump whenever touched, Casa now spends a great deal of the day following me around, patiently waiting for the many cheek and shoulder rubs that she knows will come her way. Under stress, like at the vet's office, she will even try to crawl in my lap for comfort.

Most important in Casa Ahora's life now are her daily, gentle, long walks, key to her maintaining her muscle strength and remaining balance. So, weather permitting, Casa walks, albeit slowly, a mile or more every morning., and in the afternoon, we make laps around the cul-de-sac.



CASA AND BUDDY NEVILLE

When Casa first arrived, she would freeze whenever she would see a person on the street, and refuse to move again till the person

was out of sight. If someone got too close, she would try to escape. It's easy to see how she remained hidden at night on her own. But living in a social neighborhood of dog lovers, Casa now has friends. Many people know her story, and will come out of their house or stop on their walk to say hello to her and to give her treats.

Although still cautious, now after several minutes of talking to a neighbor, Casa will shyly sidle up to them and gently lean against their leg to be petted. Because she is unable to wag her tail due to the neurological disorder, a Casa "lean" is quite a show of trust and considered a great honor in the neighborhood.

So, in six months, Casa has journeyed from a frightened, unwanted stray in chronic pain, to a beloved family member and neighborhood celebrity. Many are to thank for helping her on this journey: **James Branson**, of **Three Retrievers Lost Pet Rescue**, who, of his own accord, took the time to find her, trap her, and get her help, **Useless Bay Sanctuary**, her first rescue, and finally Old Dog Haven, who has provided Casa constant support and the best of medical attention and will continue to do so for the rest of her life.

Unfortunately, nothing can change the neglect, abandonment and abuse Casa experienced in her former life. But that is in the past, because my Casa Ahora is home now, forever.

MARY WAGNER talks about her decade long fostering experience with ODH:

"How it all began was that I had wanted a dog for some time. My husband, David, was hesitant, but fortunately, David has a wonderful soul when it comes to animals. After hearing about ODH, I found there was a way to adopt which was through 'ODH Adoptable' - this was what it was called back in 2012. They were very good about making sure we were a good fit for our first dog, **Sal**, a 9 year old black lab mix."



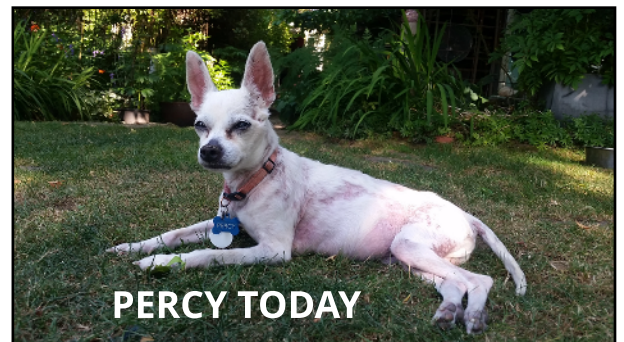
"Sal never made a sound in his 4 years with us unless there was an ambulance or fire engine with sirens. Then he would raise his head and howl along with them. Hence, we used to say he 'sang'. It was wonderful."

"The moment Sal came to us, he was a great dog. Immediately, he enjoyed being with any adult, any child, any dog with such patience. He taught us that having a special spirit in our world deserved all that we could do for him. And we continue to follow his example all these years later."

"Our next dog was **Satchel**, a brindle lab mix. We immediately called her 'Sweetie'. She was originally denuded from severe mange and very reactive. She had been a stray for a long time and had trouble feeling safe. By treating her as though she was always wanted, loved and safe, Sweetie eventually stepped into her name. All the care and medications that started continues to this day by ODH. And because of that, look at her now after 5 years - you would know why we call her Sweetie."



"**Percy**, our nine year old chihuahua, almost died from being a stray too long in the cold. It took months before his weight and skin started to recover. He has Cushing's, but you wouldn't know it due to ODH'S continuing medical coverage which has allowed him to be our smart, independent, and handsome busy fellow."



"And **Titan**, our sixteen year old German Shepherd is just a gift. He suffered from osteoarthritis but an expensive monthly injection, provided by ODH, has made him a new man. He loves his walks and trots ahead me which is a joy."



"The gift of being an ODH foster is having a senior dog come into our world and at a certain point, see them joining our pack as if they've always been here. For us, knowing that these dogs are not going to be re-housed, nor placed in a shelter, nor be a stray again. That this is truly their final refuge. That's the beauty of it."

"Being a retired oncology RN, it certainly transferred the ability to closely monitor as to how our aging dogs are doing. Keeping up on appointments, med changes, health issues, discussing with our great vets about concerns, and end of life is made not necessarily easier but knowing this is how to do right by our beloved."

"We've been so lucky with all our twenty two ODH dogs over time (and two shelter dogs also). It is amazing how much love, care, and patience can allow a dog to feel safe and become who they are. Thank you, ODH, for all you do."

10 QUESTIONS ABOUT FINAL REFUGE DOG FAYE

CHELSEA LANGSTON and SAM SWANSON answer questions about their Final Refuge Dog, **FAYE**, that they fostered this past November.

1. **Age?** - 13ish.
2. **How she entered ODH?** Previous owner passed, she was brought to shelter.
3. **Health Challenges?** Underweight, alopecia from severe skin infections, bad teeth.
4. **Most endearing quality?** Cuddlebug.
5. **Night or Morning Dog?** She's definitely an evening dog, doesn't want to be disturbed in the morning!
6. **Favorite hangout?** On the couch, as close as she can get.
7. **Priceless moment?** On Christmas, the dogs were alone for about 6 hours (longest stretch to date.) When we got home, Faye did a few laps around the yard, then chased her tail like a puppy!
8. **Squirrels?** Solid point of interest as prey, but she has impeccable manners and will only chase when off leash in the backyard.
9. **Favorite ice cream?** She loves to get a lick of sugar free popsicles.
10. **The most important lesson you've learned from him/her?** Being reminded to pause and truly enjoy the smaller moments in life. She is so patient and loving, it is impossible to be grumpy about her.



Just a few weeks later Faye was joined by **DAISY**. Chelsea says, "Bringing these girls into our lives, especially in rapid succession, has been truly life changing. They've brought more joy and pure love into our home than ever imagined. My Golden Girls require a bit more structure than our kitties, which has been beneficial in these long dark winter days! Going on walks, keeping track of vet visits, being home at regular intervals for potty breaks, learning their specific body language to meet any and all wants. Seeing their personalities blossom is SO rewarding!"

THANK YOU TO RECENT FUNDRAISERS!

The following businesses and individuals held events to benefit Old Dog Haven. Thank you so much for choosing to help old dogs!

Enchanted Parlour Haunted House, 36th Ave W, Lynnwood, WA took donations to support Old Dog Haven Oct 27th, 28th and 31st.



At their respective Santa Photos events, **Wally Pets** in Wallingford, **Soggy Dogs** in Federal Way and University Place and **Crown Hill Pet Supply** in Lynnwood all raised donations for Old Dog Haven.



If you recently did a fundraiser for Old Dog Haven and it's not listed here, we sincerely apologize. Feel free to send a picture to office@olddoghaven.org for a future newsletter!

ODH CONTACT INFORMATION

Website	www.olddoghaven.org
Phone	(206) 280-7614
Mailing address	P.O. Box 1409, Oak Harbor WA 98277-1409
General issues and volunteer opportunities	office@olddoghaven.org
Inquiries about fostering	office@olddoghaven.org
Help with placing your dog and social media	placement@olddoghaven.org
ODH Instagram	instagram@olddoghaven.org
Corporate giving, fundraisers, PR inquiries, art, and marketing	development@olddoghaven.org
ODH participation at your event and benefits	events@olddoghaven.org
End-of-life decisions and grief counseling	ardethdv@comcast.net
Address changes and donor inquiries	donations@olddoghaven.org
Website questions or issues	ODHWeb@olddoghaven.org
Donation cans and calendar vendors	outreach@olddoghaven.org

ODH BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND STAFF

- Board Members: Rita Chan, Kriscinda Hansen, Bob Jensen, Kait Robinson
- Executive Director, Office Administrator, and Website Coordinator: Deeanne Matz
- Director of Veterinary Services/Dog Manager: Judith Piper
- Veterinary Services Coordinator, South Sound: Kim Wake
- Placement and Social Media Coordinator: Tina Nabseth
- Financial Director and Microchip Coordinator: Noel Kjosness
- Fostering Coordinator: Shirley Stallings
- Events/Benefits Coordinator: Aaron Davis
- Veterinary Advisor: Victoria Peterson, DVM
- Database Administrator and Vet Services Assistant: Lee Piper
- Instagram Manager: Ashley Bradford

ODH DOG STATS - TOTAL FOR 2023

188 Dogs taken in

246 Dogs posted for adoption

434 Dogs helped

341 Total dogs in care at year's end (highest number ever)