

OLD DOG HAVEN

HELPING SENIOR DOGS LIVE THEIR GOLDEN YEARS IN LOVING HOMES

www.olddoghaven.org



Final Refuge Dogs, Della and Scarlet

July 2025

MEET PERMANENT FOSTER DOG, HERMIT

Eugene Hermit Krabs: 'A Senior Gentleman Still Defying the Odds'



Hermit

Brooke writes about her foster dog, Hermit: 'Nearly two years ago, Eugene Hermit Krabs - 'Hermit' for short - arrived at Old Dog Haven. A frail, 14-year-old stray, caked in mud and weighed down by neglect, we feared he might only have days or weeks left. Just one week before Thanksgiving, I figured I could make room for one more at the "Inn" for the holidays. Everyone deserves to be surrounded by love in their final chapter. I hoped he'd make it to Christmas. But thanks to ODH's support, Hermit not only made it through that holiday season, he's now enjoyed two, and we're hoping for a third!'



Hermit and Brooke

'With the spirit of a fighter, Hermit embraced his new life alongside his senior foster siblings, Ida Mae and Lemon Poppyseed. The definition of resilience, his early days brought many vet visits and even a trip to urgent care, but the generosity of ODH donors gave him access to the care he needed not just to survive, but to thrive.'

'Hermit's medical history was long and daunting: untreated Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD), a heart murmur, heart disease, severely luxated patellas, irritated skin, an ear infection, a suspicious lump, and a jaw so damaged by dental disease that it left him toothless, with oronasal fistulas. But with dedicated care and a diet crafted just for him, Hermit's conditions have stabilized - and even improved.'

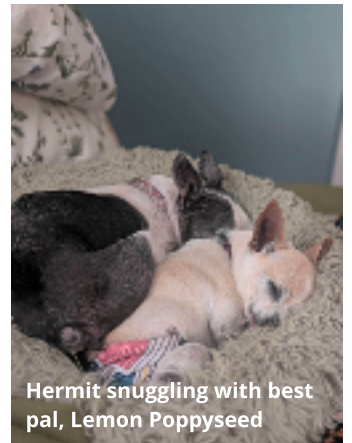
'Every day with Hermit feels like a gift. Recently, he gave us quite the scare, spending three days in an oxygen chamber at the ER. Hermit didn't mind the round-the-clock attention and five-star room service, but ultimately, his care team diagnosed him with pulmonary hypertension.

Thanks to a new medication routine, he's back to his usual self - grumbly, spunky, and full of charm.'

'Now effectively blind and deaf, Hermit hasn't slowed down much. He still loves snuggling with Lemon Poppyseed, exploring on walks with Ida Mae, and most of all, meandering with me through the garden. As "Farmer Hermit," he takes his chores very seriously - spending most days basking on the porch, "watching" his sunflowers bloom and keeping tabs on all the busy birds. He reminds me every day to slow down and savor life's simple joys. But don't let his sweet nature fool you.

When his sister needs correcting, Hermit knows how to lay down the law. Nobody argues with Hermit!'

'He's roughly 16 years old now, with more than his share of medical needs, but thanks to Old Dog Haven and all its donors, Hermit is proof that *every* life has value. He doesn't take a single moment for granted, and neither do I. I love him deeply. Thank you to Old Dog Haven for loving him too!'












Hermit snuggling with best pal, Lemon Poppyseed



Hermit, Lemon Poppyseed, Ida

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Some acts of kindness don't require a lifetime, just a moment, a window, a breath of space in one's life and one's heart. At Old Dog Haven, short-term fostering is one of the most immediate and powerful ways to change an old dog's life. These temporary homes serve as soft landings for senior dogs in transition - dogs that have just left the confusion of a shelter, or who urgently need refuge while a permanent foster is found.



PJ

It might be a two-week quarantine to protect other seniors from kennel cough. It might be a few weeks of care while a dog heals, settles, or simply breathes again. But for the dog, it can mean everything. Short-term fosters are the bridge between heartbreak and hope.

We are highlighting two examples of our wonderful short-term fosters, starting with Daria in Everett. Daria is an old hand at short-term fostering, "for thirty years I've been a foster for not just dogs but also cats," she says, and then rattles off the names of various organizations she has helped,

including Oakland Animal Services and Cat Town, Muttville in San Francisco, Austin Animal Services, BARC Animal Shelter in Houston, Berkeley Humane Society and Nashville Cat Rescue.

When asked how she learned about ODH, Daria replies, "It was just last year in October - I was at a vet and I picked up a pamphlet, it was as simple as that." Daria had just moved to the Northwest and that vet visit rapidly set things in motion - she began her foster journey at the start of this year, and in only six months she has already fostered five dogs: two chihuahuas - one named **PJ**, the other named

Beverly, a Rat terrier called **Myrtle**, a shih tzu mix named **Ma Petite Saucisse**, and her present foster dog, **Maggie**, a schnoodle.



Ma Petite Saucisse

Daria's love for animals goes back to her childhood in California and is partly inspired by her science teacher father, who had a habit of bringing home an eclectic variety of unusual animals, including snakes, lizards and the odd horny toad. Daria's other animal companions during her childhood were a bird, mice, rats, cats and, of course, dogs. It is no surprise to hear her say she seriously considered becoming a vet, and that in high school she worked in a veterinary hospital.

Daria was accepted by the University of California San Diego to study veterinary medicine, but at this point she decided that years of study weren't a good fit for her, and she started to explore her other passion, music. This led to her becoming a successful music agent, while fostering animals became a way of keeping herself connected to her first love.

Daria describes her present short-term foster dog, Maggie, as "a quiet, sweet dog. "She is still mobile and can get up and downstairs and can even do a twenty minute walk, but she is taking two different antibiotics at present for infections on her stomach and in her ears, so I'll be fostering her until the infections are cleared up."

Like many fosters, Daria says she often hears friends say, "Oh, I could never foster, I would get too attached", but Daria thinks about it differently. "There's so many parts to it, firstly, animals are great company, there's also a big need for fostering, particularly old dogs and sick dogs" she says, "I find fostering very meaningful." Her focus on short-term fostering is simply a way of helping as many dogs as she can in the most effective way she can, "Since I don't have a dog and work from home, I have a safe place to get them out of a precarious position quickly, and I'm able to identify any issues that might arise. That way we can get them the medical attention they need, and I can evaluate their personalities in order to find a better final Foster."



Daria with Maggie



Myrtle



Beverly



Maggie

THE ART OF SHORT-TERM FOSTERING: SANDIE & ALAN

Another great example of short-term fosters, who have embraced short term fostering with a passion, are Sandie & Alan:

Alan writes, 'We both have retired in the past few years, Sandie was a high school counselor, and I worked at King County EMS and WA State Dept of Health/ EMS/Trauma system. We started fostering with ODH in Oct 2023, as we had two dogs that recently passed away within a month of each other, which we'd had for about 13 and 15 years or so.'

'Sandie and I had other dogs besides these two, and we loved them so much, it was so difficult to see them pass, but getting a new permanent dog to replace the ones we lost just was too emotional and too early for us, so we decided that maybe for our own emotional and mental state we could foster dogs on a temporary basis.'

'Sandie did some research and found the ODH program - volunteering to be a temp foster home for dogs that are in need to decompress or to get out of scary situations seemed like the right thing to do.'

'In just the past 18+ months, we've fostered 17 dogs - normally from two weeks to a few months. Some of the dogs tend to have health issues - blind, deaf, under fed, skin issues etc, so we kind of nurse them back to health - (of course, with guidance from Judith.) Don't get me wrong though, many times giving up the dogs to their forever home is very, very sad.'



Alan & Sandie



Squirt

'There was one dog named "**Squirt**"... I really loved him - we bonded so well - then came the day to take him to his forever home. We transferred Squirt to the forever home car, and he was going a bit crazy jumping up on the window looking for me - I could hear him howling, saying where am I going without you! He looked so sad, and I was sad too, but knowing that he was going to be loved and well cared for made things easier for me.'

'Right now, we have an 11 yr old dog that was rescued about 4 months ago. She has some lung issues, but instead of putting her into another stressful situation by transferring her to a forever home, which could have had detrimentally affected her lungs, we decided to adopt her and have named her **Ipo** ('sweetheart' in Hawaiian). She gets along with our other rescued dog, a golden retriever, named - what else - but "**Goldie**."'



Goldie and Ipo



Simba and Mickey Simba, two of their short-term foster dogs

'Short-term fostering has been fun, exciting, enjoyable, tiring, but most of all, getting these old dogs healthy and giving them another chance at life is truly rewarding for us, since we know that Judith's team will find the dogs a great loving forever home. At times I wish we had a large ranch to safely house more old dogs where they can spend the rest of their life without fear or any malice towards them - they deserve a good healthy life...'

If you've ever wished you could help ODH, like Daria, Sandie & Alan, but are worried about the commitment, this is your invitation. Short-term fostering offers a powerful way to make a difference, even if your time is limited. You don't need to be perfect, or have everything worked out. You just need to open your door - and your heart - for a little while.

These dogs don't ask for much. They've already given the best years of their lives. All they need now is someone to help them feel safe again, even just for a few weeks. If you're home most of the time, and a little flexibility in your days, you could be the lifeline an old dog is waiting for. Please consider joining this program. With your help, we can say "yes" to more seniors in crisis. With your help, they don't have to wait.

<https://olddoghaven.org/how-to-help/fostering/>

If you think ODH fostering would be a fit for you, please email applications@olddoghaven.org

'PUPS ON PARADE' RECAP

Pups on Parade, held on Saturday, July 12th at Cromwell Park, was the most elaborate and possibly the most well-attended version of our summer event that we've ever staged. For the first time we used both fields of the park, filling one with over 40 vendors for all the pet needs, and filling the other with activities for attendees and their dogs to revel in.

For the activity seekers there was Lick Art, an Auction, a Doggie Kissing Booth, a Photo Booth and even a Booth of Fortunes, where humans and animals alike could have their paw(lm) read by a fortune teller.



The main gazebo in the park and center of many of the day's activities



Chris Partman (on the right) with Moira,



The Great Zoltar speaks

Those who dared to delve deeper into the mysteries of their future visited **Zoltar**, (rumored to be local actor, Bo Mellinger, the brother of board member, Kait Robinson.) Whatever his murky identity, due to popular demand, he may deign to grace us with his presence next year.

Meanwhile, we had a number of popular contests for dogs, including costume, oldest in attendance, smallest in attendance, and a lookalike contest for dogs and their humans!

After we wrapped up our contests, we gifted the first **'Friend of Old Dogs'** award to **Peabody Johanson** for her remarkable and unstinting support in fundraising and fostering for Old Dog Haven over the years. (Had there been a most whimsically dressed award she would have won that too.)



PEABODY (on the right) accepting her 'Old Dogs Best Friend' award



For those who wanted their paw or palm read...



Our always understated Peabody leading the way on the 'Pups on Parade' walk

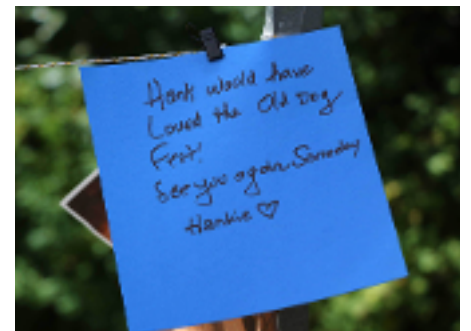


Rainbow Bridge leading to the 'In Loving Memory' Booth

Peabody was the the leader of the day's main event, our Walk, which we hadn't featured for several years. It was well worth reviving with hundreds enthusiastically taking part. Designed for dogs of all ages and abilities, it was more of a gentle stroll, perfect for the old dogs and a chance to socialize and catch up with old friends.

Nearby, for those who got a bit peckish, there were five delicious food trucks to sample and enjoy, shade tents, yard games, icy water pools to cool off in.

There was time for reflection too, as this year we turned a footbridge on one side of the park into 'The Rainbow Bridge, which led to the 'In Loving Memory Booth'. With boxes of tissues at hand, fosters left messages to their beloved foster dogs, who had passed on. It proved so meaningful for so many, that it will likely become a permanent fixture at our future summer events.



10 QUESTIONS ABOUT PERMANENT FOSTER DOG, SNUFFLEUPAGUS

Renee answers a few questions about her beloved foster dog, Snuffleupagus

Age? 15 years old

How he entered ODH? Through an Animal Shelter

Health challenges? Arthritis, especially in his back legs, prone to cysts and ear problems. He is deaf.

Most endearing quality? His loyalty and his 'glumpf, glumpf' movements.

Favorite toy? A tennis ball

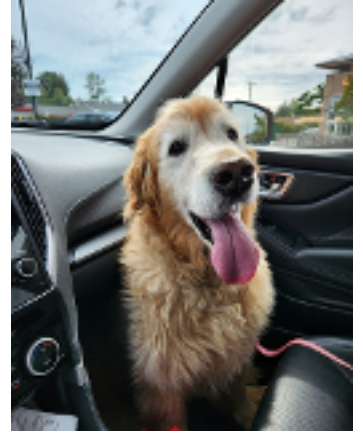
Night dog or morning dog? Definitely a morning dog. By around 9:15 at night many nights he disappears to his bed.

Favorite food? Liverwurst, his preferred method of taking pills. Snuffles will sit patiently waiting for his Liverwurst treats before eating his meal.

Favorite packmate? Snuffles was absolutely infatuated with the late Honeybee. He would follow her all over the house sniffing her closely. He is starting to take a similar liking to Fantasia.

Favorite hangout? Sunning himself with his pack mates in his back yard on a nice sunny day.

The most important lesson you've learned from him? Golden are Golden at any age!



OUR DEDICATED CARD WRITING TEAM



Holly with a collection of carefully crafted thank you cards ready to mail!

At Old Dog Haven, gratitude is at the heart of everything we do. And behind the scenes, a large number of special people, who few people know about, are helping us share that gratitude, one hand-written card at a time. These people belong to our incredible **Card Writing Teams** - dedicated volunteers who quietly pour kindness, comfort, and appreciation into every message they send.

Kelsey Minor coordinates our **sponsorship thank-you cards**, reaching out to the wonderful people who sponsor our senior dogs in permanent foster care. Her words help connect sponsors to the dogs they're helping, reminding them just how much their support matters. **Susie Kush** oversees our **sympathy card writing team**, which sends heartfelt messages to those who have lost a beloved dog. These cards are never rushed, they're a quiet way of saying, we know, we care, your loss matters.

Holly Boehme leads the way with our **donor thank you cards**, making sure our generous supporters feel seen and valued. Every contribution helps an old dog feel safe and cared for, and Holly's thoughtful notes help reflect that love right back.

Holly has been an ODH donor thank you card writer for 8 years, and before that was an ODH transport volunteer for 5. Holly approximates that in her best week she'll write around 25 cards - "October, November, December and May are some of the busiest months" - but a huge part of her job is actually coordinating the writing of cards by the rest of the 'donor thank you card' team, because this team alone numbers 56 people.

"It's a number that is always in flux," she says, but she has to keep her ever-changing team supplied with cards and divide up between them the donors to write to. A genuine, personal touch is very important, so each card writer's list has details about the donors to whom they are writing. While there are some suggestions for the phrasing of certain lines, Holly likes each ODH card writer to put their own stamp on the message. One of her favorite sign offs is "Wagging Tails in Thanks".

ODH founder, Judith Piper, is who Holly credits for championing personal hand-written messages right at the start of ODH. In an age when a hand-written card is a dying art, Holly says that comments by donors seem to support just how meaningful a personal card is.

Together with their team of volunteers, Holly, Kelsey, and Susie help ensure that Old Dog Haven's mission isn't just about saving dogs, it's also about honoring the people who make it all possible. In a digital world, these handwritten notes are small miracles and tangible reminders that even in grief, even in generosity, we are not alone.

To our Card Writing Team: thank you for giving your time, your heart, and your pen to the community. You make a difference, one card at a time.

SAVE THE DATE



Two quick reminders to put in your calendar:

October 1st is the release date of our **2026 Old Dog Haven Calendar** and the **Maranda Fund Celebration**

NOVA MIDDLE SCHOOL CARD WRITERS

We were extremely touched by pupils from Nova Middle School in Olympia deciding to do a whole class project creating beautiful thank you cards for ODH fosters. It seems we know where to look for future generations of ODH card writers!



Dear amazing foster parents
Thank you so much for taking in these dogs and caring for them for the rest of their lives. I can't imagine the joy that you bring them. You are so special and amazing. Thank you for all you do!

with love and care,
Maha
(7th grade / NOVA Middle School)



Dear ODH Foster Families,

We here at NOVA middle school appreciate the care and love that you show for the elderly dogs in your custody. These pets deserve a nice and happy end to their life, and it is very noble of you to be the ones to offer it to them. It is your impeccable care and love that changes the lives of hundreds of creatures.

—James Emory Smitherman II,
NOVA Middle school

Thank you so much for doing this for dogs so that they can spend their last months or weeks happily with you. You are so kind for that ♥

—Ella from NOVA middle school.

HOW WE CAN ALL HELP OLD DOGS



At Old Dog Haven, we believe that helping old dogs isn't just about fostering or adopting - it's also about looking out for the ones right next door.

Many of the senior dogs that come into our care arrive in heartbreaking condition. Their people may have meant well, but illness, memory loss, or major life changes - like a move to assisted living, divorce, or death - can leave beloved pets behind, confused and neglected. We're seeing more and more of these cases. Dogs who were once cherished companions are suddenly alone, with no one realizing just how much they need help.

That's why one of the most meaningful things any of us can do is simply this: pay attention.

Keep an eye out for neighbors, friends, or relatives who have aging dogs. Check in when you notice a dog looking thinner, unkempt, or anxious. Gently ask how things are going, and if someone seems overwhelmed, offer to help find resources. Sometimes the difference between a dog suffering in silence and getting the care they need is just one caring person stepping in.

You don't have to do it all. You don't have to have the answers. But if we all stay alert to the quiet needs around us, we can prevent so much heartbreak - for people and for pets.

Old dogs are loyal, loving, and often overlooked. They've spent their lives giving joy. When their people can't care for them anymore, they deserve to be seen - and helped - with kindness and dignity.

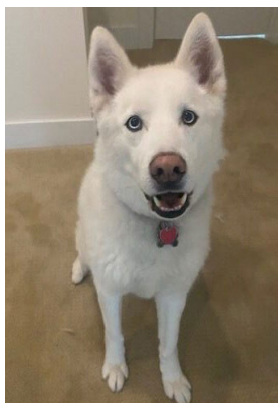
We can't be everywhere. But together, with a community that cares, we can make sure no old dog is forgotten.

If you live in Western Washington or Portland, Oregon and spot an old dog in need of help, please contact placement@olddoghaven.org. Much as we would love to help everyone, if you live outside those areas, do reach out instead to local rescues and shelters.

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!

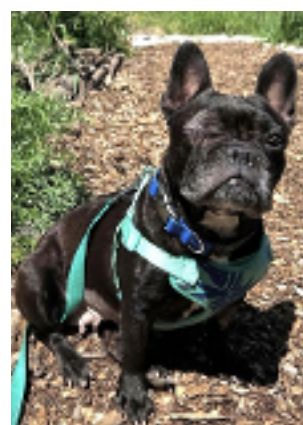
Here are just a few of those dogs that have been at shelters for some time. While they have specific needs that make placement more difficult, they certainly deserve loving adoptive homes. For more information, check out our website: https://olddoghaven.org/dog_category/adoptable-dogs



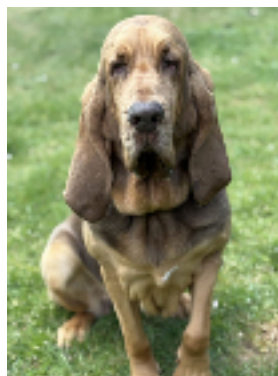
CYRUS
Edmonds, WA
referrals@olddoghaven.org



STELLA
Spokane Valley, WA
referrals@olddoghaven.org



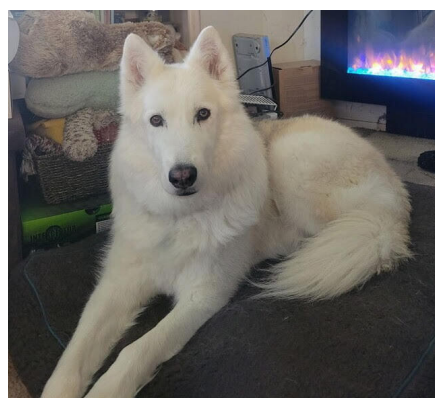
FIONA
Pacific Pug Rescue, Portland
adoptions@pacificpugrescue.org



PURDY
Save-A-Mutt, Snohomish
elizabeth@save-a-mutt.org



STELLA
Pacific Pug Rescue, Portland
adoptions@pacificpugrescue.org



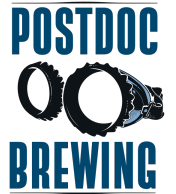
MARLEY
Alternative Humane Society, Bellingham
alternativehumanesociety@gmail.com

THANK YOU TO RECENT FUNDRAISERS!

MARCH through JULY, we've been the beneficiary of some wonderful generosity from many organizations in and around Seattle - we're delighted to share their names with you:



FOSTER/WHITE
GALLERY



The Puget Sound Labrador Retriever Association once again generously supported Old Dog Haven at their 'AKC Summer Agility Trial'. The Old Dog Benefit Run held June 21, 2025, was an ongoing testament to the fact their members neither give up, nor give up on their old dogs. As Cheri Levine, Event Chair, states, "we have been supporting ODH for twenty years" because the members of PSLRA and ODH treasure the old ones.



Photo L-R: Luna (Vizsla), Bailey (Mini-American Shepherd), Pink (Yellow Labrador), Tucker (Border Collie), Heidi (Papillon), Belle (Mini-American Shepherd), Journey (Beagle), Rumble (Border Collie), Villain (Border Collie), August (Shetland Sheep Dog)

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

Rita Chan, Kriscinda Hansen, Bob Jensen (on temporary leave), Kait Robinson, Deeanne Matz, Exec. Director

ODH DOG STATS - 2025 TO DATE



69 Dogs taken into ODH care , 151 Dogs posted for adoption to help others, 286 Dogs presently in ODH care.

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!