

OLD DOG HAVEN

HELPING SENIOR DOGS LIVE THEIR
GOLDEN YEARS IN LOVING HOMES

www.olddoghaven.org



Final Refuge Dog,
Wiggums

July 2026

MEET PERMANENT FOSTER DOG, RAISIN



Raisin in her favorite place -
Jen's lap

Raisin came into Jen's life after a phone call from Old Dog Haven in January of this year. Jen, an Old Haven foster since 2018, learned that an old dog called Raisin had been found as a stray and was in particularly bad shape. Raisin was being looked after by experienced temporary foster, Daria (featured in our July 2025 newsletter).

Jen discovered that this little old dog had an extensive list of medical issues, including fleas, a heart murmur, and extremely bad teeth. She was also anemic, and perhaps most worrying of all, she was chronically underweight - so much so that she had developed ulcerated sores on her back end just from sitting.

A veteran foster up to that point of fifteen Old Dog Haven dogs, this was exactly the kind of challenge that Jen loved. She happily jumped at the chance to foster Raisin and made her foster dog number sixteen. The bonus was that Raisin was a dachshund, Jen's favorite breed.

Raisin was only about five and a half pounds when Jen took her in - Jen confesses she has never had a dachshund so underweight - so the first order of business was to get her back up to a normal weight. To do that, the vet had to tackle Raisin's teeth, and the solution wasn't as simple as a teeth cleaning, instead, all her teeth had to be removed. With the procedure completed, a course of antibiotics and pain meds followed. Raisin was able to eat properly for the first time in months, and she began to gain weight.

As her health returned, Raisin's personality started to emerge. Jen remarks,

"She runs around the house and also likes to go outside. When she is inside, she loves to watch from the window as people and their dogs pass by, which is lucky for her, as we live on a street with a lot of people walking their dogs. She does occasionally grab a toy and play, but she is really bonded to me - if I go somewhere, she wants to go too. She also loves to snuggle in my lap, but she's friendly to everyone, so if someone comes to visit, she will immediately sit in their lap."

Today, Raisin is at a healthy weight of around eight and half pounds, and though she does have a heart murmur, which she'll always have, all the extensive medical help has put her in the unusual spot of requiring no day-to-day medication at present. Raisin is due for a veterinary check up in a few months time, but for now she is basking in good health in her twilight years with best friend, Raina, a fellow Old Dog Haven dog.



It can be tricky keeping your
tongue in when you don't have
any teeth...



Taking some rays with best
friend, Raina



Drying off after a relaxing bath.



I like to go outside, but this bed is
awfully comfortable...

MEET FOSTERS, DALE AND WIDYA

Dale is delighted to share his experiences of being a foster parent with his wife, Widya:

"Our first ODH foster was in 2017, and he was a Corgie mix named **Bandicoot**, short legged with a long body. He was a slow and deliberate old gentleman who had been found as a stray in Renton. He reeked of urine and looked so depressed that he laid motionless when we first got him but he sprang to life after a bath and a walk. **Mulan** followed, she was a puggle who had a larger than life personality and a face that only a foster could love. When we picked her up at the shelter, a staff member brought her out at a slow walk and told us it would take a while for her to get used to us. We had left the back door of our car open and the second she saw that, she dashed inside and jumped into the front seat. Say less, she said! She rode home on Dale's lap and established that she was the queen of the household. She was extremely food motivated and soon found that the pantry contained more than just the dog food bin. If we missed her mealtime by more than 30 seconds, she would remind us by dragging her bowl over and slapping the empty bowl quite loudly."



Dale and Widya's first dog, Bandicoot



Attika

"**Attika** was a blind senior Samoyed lady, who carried herself like a Duchess, so graceful and royal. Unfortunately, she left us after less than two months. **Sidney** was a tall, lean pit mix who was the gentlest giant in our house. She didn't have a mean bone in her body. She shared the big doggy bed with her brother and sister and always waited last in line to get food or treats. Not long after we got Sidney, we brought **Sparkles** into the pack. She was a slightly chubby Staffordshire Terrier mix who was deaf. We used hand signals when she was watching and stomped our feet to get her attention so she could feel the vibration when she couldn't see us. Neither Sidney or Sparkles were barkers, but Sparkles would sound one bark when she thought it was time for dinner."



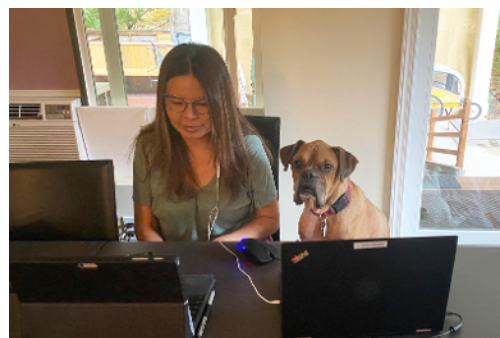
Dale with Ali, Sparkles and Sidney

"**Ali** was a boxer boy who was found laying in a ditch alongside the road on Snow Pass. He had a huge tumor on his chest the size of a large cantaloupe. The vet who removed the tumor called him Ali because he was a fighter so the name stuck. We had Ali during the Covid years and he was a velcro dog attached to Widya. He would sit next to Widya during online classroom time and loved to ham it up for the camera. He was a hit with her students and became a mascot. **Willow** was a feisty Corgi who preferred her own space but loved getting treats and belly rubs. Out of all our fosters, she was the only one who liked to play fetch."



Walter (front) & Marley creating another "kitchen traffic jam"

"Our current ODH fosters are Yellow Labs named **Walter** and **Marley**. Walter is a shorter slightly chubby guy who is mild mannered and afraid of noise, a bark or a cough will send him running to the patio door. Marley on the other hand is boisterous and clumsy, your best friend if you have a treat in hand ... just watch out for your fingers though, he's got a strong chomp! They especially love to congregate in the kitchen when someone is making dinner, it's a traffic jam in there! Walter is 12 years old and has severe arthritis, but after some acupuncture and visits to Dr Debroeck, he is able to do short walks. He was found abandoned on the Bothell-Everett Highway. Marley is 13 years old and came to ODH after his elderly owners were no longer able to care for him. Marley lived outdoors in a rural area and was a hunting dog retrieving pheasants and ducks. He has arthritis and degenerative nerve disease so he has trouble walking, drags his back legs and is slightly incontinent so he is officially retired."



Ali by Widya's side as always

"We normally have 3 dogs at any one time, one or two of our own and one or two ODH fosters. Don't ask who our favorite dog is, we couldn't choose. Each foster has a distinct personality and different ways of showing love. We just whisper to each, "You're our favorite dog, just don't tell the others!"

Like all Old Dog Haven dogs, Dale and Widya's dogs have bravely lived with a variety of medical conditions, from their first dog, Bandicoot, who had hip issues, retinal degeneration and cataracts to Attika, who had mammary gland tumors in addition to her blindness up to their present dogs, with their arthritis issues that requires daily management. Dale is eager to acknowledge this: "We would like to thank the unsung heroes of Old Dog Haven who make it possible for these special dogs to live out their days with comfort, love and the best medical care available."

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



As we move into the second half of 2026, the trend we have noticed this year is only increasing: owners are struggling financially and with worries for their own housing and ability to care for their senior dogs. During a time of considerable concern about stability in our communities and even the world, people are at a loss when faced with the serious illness of a beloved pet. We also get many calls from friends and relatives of people who have either passed away suddenly or had to move into a care facility and leave behind a dog (often a senior) with no one to care for them. Many of these folks find themselves responsible for a loved one’s lifelong companion and are at a loss as to what to do. We are committed to helping as many of these dogs as possible find safe, loving homes where they can live out the final chapter of their lives.

Often, we are able to post these dogs for adoption on our website and through social media. It is one of our greatest joys to receive updates and pictures showing a dog happily settling into their new adoptive home. Then there are those senior dogs that, due to medical challenges, are not candidates for adoption. Those are the ones for whom we strive to find an Old Dog Haven permanent foster home. We have the most wonderful fosters, who are willing to take in old pups often at their worst, and help them find comfort and love in a new home. And we NEED MORE FOSTERS! With the demand increasing, our existing foster homes are already at capacity, making it harder to find placement for senior dogs in urgent need. So, if you feel the call to open your heart and home to an old dog – likely with serious medical conditions – please read the [Fostering](#) section of our website and see if it sounds like a good fit for you. You can also email us at applications@olddoghaven.org for more information and to request an application.

Thank you for loving old dogs!

Deeanne Matz, Executive Director, Old Dog Haven

FOREVER FOSTER HOMES NEEDED!

Old Dog Haven needs more forever foster homes!

This time of year is always difficult to find fosters for senior dogs in need, which means we currently have quite a few dogs on our waitlist right now. Old Dog Haven's mission is to rescue, as responsibly as we can, many old dogs deemed "unadoptable" due to advanced age and/or medical issues. We have no shelter or facility and can only help as many dogs as we have foster homes for.

Remember as an Old Dog Haven foster, you never have to pay a vet bill and our foster dogs stay with you forever. These are some of the amazing senior dogs on our waitlist:



If you live in western Washington or Portland, Oregon, and you'd like to learn more about giving a senior dog in need a forever home, please read through the link below.

olddoghaven.org/hot-to-help/fostering/

Our applications manager is waiting for your email, and a senior dog is waiting to join your family!

OLD DOG HAVEN ANNUAL GARAGE SALE



The Old Dog Haven annual garage sale was hosted yet again by the ever devoted ODH foster and AFC coordinator, Jill Czadek. Jill writes:

"This year’s sale was the busiest ever and the customers were generous and friendly. Many people were returning customers from prior years, and we also made many new friends. Even the light rain couldn’t stop the people from filling up the driveway with their cars and trucks. Truly a fun day for everyone."



'PUPS ON PARADE' 2026 IN CROMWELL PARK

Our Pups on Parade event in Shoreline brought lots of joy to all those who attended. Perfect weather set the stage for an incredible day featuring over 50 vendors and nonstop smiles. Like last year, the event used both fields of the park, and under the gazebo on the smaller field, a crowd witnessed the beloved contests of Smallest Dog, Oldest Dog, Biggest Dog in Attendance and Best Costume.



And the winner of the 'smallest dog' is... Taye, a mighty 7.5 inches



The 'oldest dog' winner claims the pennant:



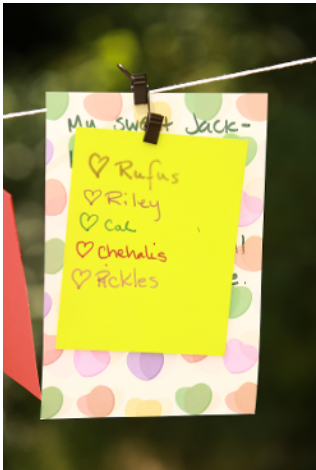
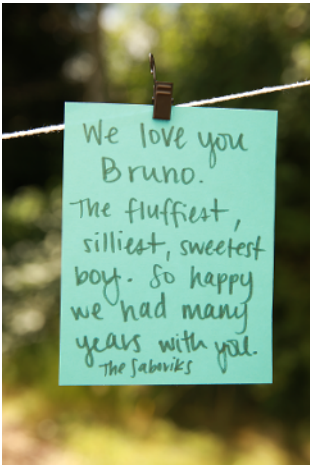
Two delighted 'best costume' winners

Plenty of fun booths filled the fields: Dogs old and young had their 'pawlm' read by our resident pawlm reader', there was also the Kissing Booth and the Silent Auction (so popular that it was anything but 'silent'.)



The Old Dog Haven sponsorship tent and Old Dog Haven merchandise tent were nicely busy. It was a pleasure to meet old friends, as well as people who were learning about Old Dog Haven for the first time.

Away from the hubbub, we recreated last year's private and peaceful space for the 'In Loving Memory' tent. There dog owners and fosters could write and pin up messages to their much loved and deeply missed furry friends, who had passed away.



THANK YOU TO OUR 'PUPS ON PARADE' SPONSORS

We would like to thank all the numerous organizations that sponsored PUPS ON PARADE :

Animal Medical Center, Animal Surgical & Orthopedic Center, BluePearl Pet Hospital Kirkland, Burien Veterinary Hospital, Compassion 4 Paws, Earthwise Pet, Frontier Village Veterinary Clinic, Heartkind Home Veterinary Care, Juanita Bay Veterinary Hospital, Kenmore Veterinary Hospital, Kulshan Veterinary Hospital, Livewell Animal Hospital Kirkland, Martha Faulkner Real Estate Broker, Metro Dog Seattle, Northeast Veterinary Hospital, Olympic Pet Spa, Olympic Veterinary Cardiology, Pet Dermatology Partners, Pet Health Certificate Guru, Puget Park Veterinary Clinic, Resting Waters, Seattle Purebred Dog Rescue, Seattle Veterinary Associates, See Spot Veterinary Ophthalmology, Summit Veterinary Referral Center, Timberline Veterinary Emergency & Specialty, Tito's Vodka, VCA Pacific Avenue Animal Hospital, VCA Redwood Animal Hospital.

THANK YOU TO RECENT FUNDRAISERS

Below are several organizations that have generously raised funds for Old Dog Haven in the last few months:



Puget Sound Labrador Retriever Association’s annual Old Dog Benefit Run for Old Dog Haven was held Saturday, June 20, 2026. A generous supporter of ODH, the PSLRA has held the Old Dog Benefit Run for over twenty years at their annual AKC Summer Agility Trial. Club member’s retired agility dogs walk or “run” a modified agility course (showing the youngsters how it’s done)! It is very emotional as members celebrate the achievements of their older dogs, some with many agility and other titles.



Dogs in photo, from left to right:

- Apollo** - Border Collie (12); **Rumble** - Border Collie (11 1/2) ; **Bailey** - Mini-American Shepherd (15); **Oliver**- Cavalier King Charles Spaniel (11 1/2); **Pink** - Labrador Retriever (12); **Jared** - Labrador Retriever (12); **Charlie Parker** - Australian Shepherd (11); **Riley** - Irish Setter (14 1/2); **Minx** - Border Collie (16); **Felony** - American Staffordshire Terrier (13 1/2); **Orson** - American Staffordshire Terrier (10); **Rikki** - All American Dog (11 1/2); **Hope** - Australian Shepherd (10); **Mikey** - Australian Shepherd (11); **Tucker** - Border Collie (16); **Ninja** - Weimaraner (11)

IN REMEMBRANCE, KELLY FELICE



We would like to remember one of our beloved and dedicated volunteers over many years, Mary Kelly Felice, 76, who passed away peacefully in her home on April 1, 2026.

Kelly was one of Old Dog Haven's dedicated 'thank you card' writers. Head of the team, Holly Boehme, said, "Kelly wrote batches of Thank you cards at least 8 times a year, more during the holidays. Her dedication to our senior dogs was amazing. It was a true pleasure to work with her, and she is missed."

Kelly's full obituary is posted here:

<https://whatcomcremationandfuneral.com/content/mary-kelly-felice>

ADOPT A SENIOR DOG!

The dogs that come into the care of Old Dog Haven have permanent fosters, but there are MANY more wonderful senior dogs in need of adoptive homes.

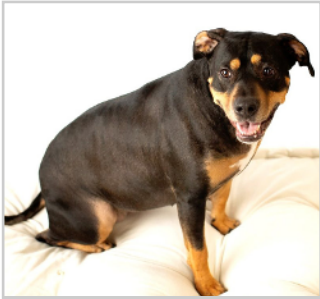
Here are just a few of the senior dogs Old Dog Haven is courtesy posting in the hope of giving them the best chance at finding new homes.

Every dog deserves a forever home full of love and care.

For more information, [visit ODH adoption page](#)



LANA
Bulldog Haven NW, WA
www.BulldogHavenNW.org



THELMA
Lucky Paws Rescue of W. Washington
form.jotform.com/50488470409157



LADY BIRD
Blue Mountain Humane Society, Walla Walla, WA
adoptions@bluemountainhumane.org



GINGER
Stanwood, WA
referrals@olddoghaven.org



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



KARMA
Ilwaco, WA
referrals@olddoghaven.org

SAVE THE DATE



If you missed the excitement of **Pups on Parade** in Shoreline, or simply want to experience the magic all over again, come wag your tail with us at our next stop in Lacey.

Event: Pups on Parade
Date: Saturday, August 1, 2026
Time: 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM
Location: Woodland Creek Community Park
Address: 6729 Pacific Ave SE, Lacey, WA 98503
More Info: odhpupsonparade.org

After last October's very successful Old Dog Haven 2026 Calendar Release Party, we are partnering again with our friends JM Cellars.



Event: Old Dog Haven 2027 Calendar Release Party
Date: Saturday, October 10th, 2026
Time: 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM
Location: JM Cellars Tasting Room 'The Vault in Maltby'
Address: 9206 200th Ste SE c5, Snohomish, WA 98296
More Info: development@olddoghaven.org

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	applications@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	development@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 collection containers	odh.kelly@gmail.com

ODH BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Rita Chan, Kriscinda Hansen, Bob Jensen, Kaitlin Robinson, Judy Pitchford
Deeanne Matz, Exec. Director

ODH DOG STATS - TOTALS 2026



286 Dogs in ODH care; Year to date: 70 Dogs taken in, 129 Referral adoptions, 151 dogs posted for others

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!