



July 2015

Editor: Ardeth De Vries

## FROM SHELTER TO HOME: ALF'S JOURNEY ... WITH HELP FROM HIS FRIENDS

Helping a dog transform from a throw-away homeless dog to a well-loved companion involves time, effort, commitment and the compassion of many people. In this story we honor those people who helped Alf find his way home.

On December 24, 2013 Animal Control Officer Carol Barnes brought a "stray" dog to the Whidbey Animals' Improvement Foundation shelter in Coupeville where he was welcomed by shelter staff and named Elf because it was Christmas Eve.



**WAIF Shelter Manager Shari Bibich (C) with Animal Care Technicians Nikki Parra (L) and Shelly Burton**

Elf was very thin, had skin issues, wasn't neutered, and he didn't see very well. As soon as the required five day holding period expired and no one came to claim him, Elf was neutered by veterinarian Michele Schmidtke at the WAIF Spay/Neuter Clinic and was brought to Penn Cove Veterinary Clinic in Coupeville where he was seen by Dr. Karen Schmid. Dr. Schmid diagnosed Elf's eye condition as "dry eye," so she



**Dr. Schmid**

prescribed drops and ointment as well as antibiotics and medication for his skin issues.

Elf spent nine months at the WAIF shelter where his medical issues were treated and he received all of the required vaccinations as well as flea medication, medicated baths for his skin condition and the necessary eye medication was administered twice daily by shelter staff. He was taken to Penn Cove Veterinary Clinic on five different occasions where Dr. Schmid checked his eyes and skin.



**Alf with WAIF volunteer Ron Kerrigan**

While he was at the shelter Elf became a staff and volunteer favorite and many different volunteers spent time playing with him, taking him for walks and just hanging out with him.

But no one adopted Elf. He didn't show well at the shelter (most dogs don't) and his forceful presence didn't serve him well when he met new people and other dogs. Living in a kennel 24/7 is very hard and after about eight months Elf began to suffer from shelter stress.

I walk dogs at the WAIF shelter so I spent time with Elf every week and as the weeks and months passed I knew that if he was going to survive mentally and emotionally he needed to be out of the shelter. ODH is the safety net for many senior dogs that have no other options, so I asked Judith if we could find a foster home for Elf and long-time foster dad Roland Lesta agreed to take him.

September 18, 2014 was the big day. When I arrived at the shelter to pick up Elf shelter staff had given him a bath and he was all spiffed up in a purple bandana and purple harness.



The staff walked us out to the parking lot and said their goodbyes to a dog they had grown to love but hoped they'd never see again at the shelter.

The drive to Roland's house was a bit unsettling for Alf, especially the ferry ride and the motion of the windshield wipers, but I shared my peanut butter sandwich with him and he soon settled down and slept with his head on my lap.

When we arrived at Roland's house, Elf and Roland greeted each other like long lost friends and I immediately knew that Elf was in good hands. Before I left that day Elf had become Alf.

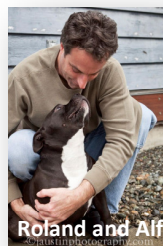
During the time Alf spent with Roland as an ODH adoptable foster dog he was seen by Dr. Karen Weeks and Dr. Jaymie Rennert at Frontier Village Veterinary Clinic. On his first visit Dr. Weeks did a complete blood panel, urinalysis, anal gland expression, fecal check, microchip, and vaccines. He was also checked a second time for minor lameness. (Alf pretty much has one speed when he moves: flat-out running.) Roland also took Alf to Northwest Animal Eye Specialists where Dr. Dara Zirowsky gave him a complete eye exam, confirmed the dry eye diagnosis and prescribed lifetime topical treatment.



**Dr. Weeks**



**Dr. Rennert**



**Roland and Alf**

What Roland did for Alf would fill a book, but the bottom line is that he loved him and helped him to see that he had value. Roland describes Alf as "...Goofy! Funniest dog I have ever known. Makes me laugh a lot. He's one spicy meatball."

**Photo by Julie Austin**

After six months of "Rolandizing" it was time for Alf to find his forever home. With Roland's help, Judith wrote about Alf, Deeanne Matz (our webmaster) posted his photo and write-up on the ODH website and Tina Nabseth, our social media coordinator, posted him on Facebook.



On March 12, 2015 Alf was adopted by Elizabeth and Gary Lampers. The Lampers were looking for a companion for their dog Blue, and they felt Alf would be perfect. He is. Blue is deaf and Alf doesn't see very well, but they help each other. The Spicy Meatball finally has a forever home, a dog sister and two people who love him.

**Paws up to everyone who helped Alf find his way home!**

## FUNDRAISING BENEFITS FOR ODH

We're always **very grateful** that so many individuals, groups and small businesses take it upon themselves to host benefits for ODH. This kind of unsolicited generosity is a wonderful compliment, as well as a tremendous boost to our financial ability to help old dogs. We'd like to especially thank the following groups and individuals :



**A BIG THANK YOU** to the **Seattle Foundation** and all of our **amazing supporters** who gave **REALLY BIG** to Old Dog Haven on May 5! Give BIG raised \$75,000, all of which goes to help our senior dogs. An fabulous effort by everyone involved!

**Two Birds Tattoo** chose ODH to benefit from their art show and silent auction.

**The Riverside Neighborhood Association in Everett** held an auction to benefit ODH. Final Refuge dog Chester attended with his foster dad Bill. They're pictured with Toni Peterson, Secretary/Treasurer of the Association.



**Natural Pet Pantry** held a fundraiser for ODH to celebrate the 1st birthday of their Kirkland store.



**NO bones ABOUT IT** donated a portion of their proceeds during the month of May to ODH.

**Hope for Old Hounds** held a garage Sale and bake sale to benefit ODH.

ODH and our friends at **Save-A-Mutt** benefited from a great afternoon at **Skookum Brewery** in Arlington.

12-year old **Isabella Solis** hosted a fundraiser at her school in Bonney Lake to collect supplies for ODH dogs. This is the second time Isabella has helped our dogs: for her 12th birthday in lieu of presents she requested that her guests bring donations and supplies for ODH. Isabella is pictured above with her friend **Sammy**.



**Kiss Cafe in Ballard** held a VERY successful benefit for ODH.



**K-9 for Canines (Bothell Animal Control)** held a fabulous fundraiser to benefit ODH. Pictured are organizer **Debra Murdock**, Bothell ACO, (center) with foster moms **Dianne Marlow** (left), and **Donna Taylor**. Dianne's foster dog **Mochi** is being held by **Debra**.

**OLIVE + ATLAS** in Everett is donating \$1 of every handcrafted leash and collar they sell to ODH. Pictured are ... you guessed it—**Olive** and **Atlas**.



## WALK FOR OLD DOGS 2015!



Join us for the **Fourth Annual Walk for Old Dogs and Old Dog Pageant** Sunday, July 19, 12:00-3:00

**Cromwell Park**  
18030 Meridian Ave N  
Shoreline WA

**New Location!**

Registration fee: \$25

Old Dogs, young dogs, and people of all ages welcome!

### Schedule of events:

|             |                                    |
|-------------|------------------------------------|
| 12:00-12:45 | Registration and meet our sponsors |
| 12:45-1:00  | Fundraising awards and prizes      |
| 1:00-1:30   | Walk for Old Dogs                  |
| 1:30-2:30   | Old Dog Pageant                    |
| 2:30-3:00   | Awards for Pageant Winners         |

The Walk for Old Dogs is our biggest fundraiser and main event of the year. Every penny raised at the walk will be used to care for the over 260 senior dogs in our permanent foster homes.

The walk is not a race but a fun third mile promenade to celebrate with our senior dogs! It's a nice stroll on a paved path along lawns and fields. Walk as much (or as little) as you and your dog can do! Before the walk you can browse the many sponsor booths (many offering samples and goodies).

All donations are tax deductible. Old Dog Haven is a 501c3 charity. [www.odhwalkforolddogs.org](http://www.odhwalkforolddogs.org) for more information or to register.

**The Walk for Old Dogs is followed by the Old Dog Pageant.**

Events include Best Costume, Best Begging Face and Grand Old Dog.

**Support our Walkers and help us reach our goal to raise \$50,000 for the dogs!**

Currently Old Dog Haven's vet bills are \$49,000 per month. All money raised at the walk will be used to care for our senior dogs who might not otherwise have a home.

Thank you to our corporate sponsors for their generous support.

**\*= 3 time sponsor**

### Gold Paw Sponsors

- \*Shoreline Veterinary Dental Clinic
- Animal Eye Clinic
- The Coop
- \*Seattle Veterinary Associates
- \*Dolan's Dog Doodads
- Crown Hill Pet Supply
- Frontier Village Veterinary Clinic

### Bronze Paw Sponsors

- \*The Mailbox Ballard
- \*Hands to Paws Small Animal Massage
- ACCES (emergency/specialty centers)
- \*Natural Pet Pantry
- Feral Cat Spay/Neuter Project
- Realty Seattle.com
- Tacoma & Pierce County Humane Society
- Aussie Pet Mobile
- Animal Surgical Clinic
- Jet City Animal Clinic

### Silver Paw Sponsors

- Dogs-a-Jammin'
- Seattle Veterinary Specialists
- \*Sunset Hill Veterinary & Rehabilitation Center
- Paddywack
- Martha Faulkner Real Estate
- One Dog at a Time
- Seattle dogspot

\*Media Sponsor **Pet Connection Magazine**

Last year over 300 people and their dogs celebrated at the largest gathering of old dogs ever held anywhere. Don't miss it this year !

## KUDOS TO VOLUNTEER BEV BOWE

We couldn't possibly do what we do without our loyal volunteers, so we thought you might like to meet Bev Bowe, a volunteer who gives new meaning to the phrase "Multi-tasking."

"A year ago, after a 37 year career, I was fortunate to be able to retire a few years early, and I wanted to start giving back to my community. I love animals and have volunteered with various animal welfare organizations over the years so on my first morning as an official retiree I made the call to Old Dog Haven. I'm so happy I did: it has been such a rewarding experience!

"There are many ways to volunteer with Old Dog Haven and I've done quite a few so far. I'm signed up as a Final Refuge foster, and have had three foster dogs, two short term and my special, supposedly short-term hospice girl Sammy, who fooled us all and decided to stick around for eight loving months! Sammy's stay with me was such a blessing: she became my Velcro dog, and repaid my care for her tenfold with unlimited love and devotion. I miss her still and use her as an example when I speak to others about the miracles Old Dog Haven can do for old abandoned dogs.

"In addition to fostering, I've also manned the Old Dog Haven Booth/Tent at various events and venues. I get to speak to all sorts of people at ODH outreaches in the neighborhoods, and I like that too. I love telling folks about how old abandoned dogs thrive once in a loving safe home!

"After fostering, though, my favorite role for ODH is as a transporter. I get to drive all over Western Washington, picking up dogs from shelters and taking them to their new foster homes. There is nothing more fun than springing an oldster from a shelter, popping him/her into my car and telling him, "Okay, little buddy – you're heading to your forever home!" They may not understand me, but I know the wonderful new life that is in store for them!

"Old Dog Haven has become a big part of whom and what I am becoming as I transition into retirement. Everyone involved in this organization is of one mind – helping old dogs, and I'm making many new friends, because everyone I've met in this organization is also lots of fun! I feel like I have found my people!

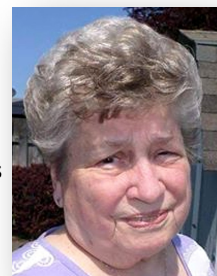


Bev with special friend Sammy in what she describes as "... my favorite photo, as it shows how much I loved my girl!"

Thank you for all you do for our dogs, Bev. We're very happy that you think of us as your people. We appreciate you!

## IN MEMORIAM: LOIS FEASER

"ODH is sad to have lost our foster mom Lois Feaser of Vancouver WA in late April. Lois was a longtime friend of pugs in need in the Northwest and leaves her family, many devoted friends, and the dogs that she so loved. Her little ODH dog Angel was lucky that Lois's heart was big enough to take in a chihuahua who really needed her." *Judith Piper*



Thanks to Shirley Stallings for providing photos of Lois.



## ODH BOOK RECEIVES 2ND BOOK AWARD



*Old Dog Haven: Every Old Dog Has a Story to Tell* has been named a Finalist in the 9th Annual Indie Excellence Awards. This is the second honor the book has received—it was also named a Finalist in

the USA Best Book Awards in October 2014.

The book is available for sale at all of the locations listed on the Old Dog Haven website, at all events attended by ODH, through Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and your local bookstore. An EBook version is also available through Amazon.

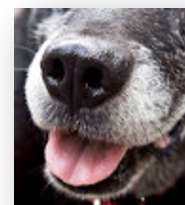
To check out the latest news about the book go to the book's Facebook page.

All proceeds from book sales are donated to Old Dog Haven.

## ODH AWARDED WET NOSE TROPHY



Auburn Valley Humane Society gave us their Wet Nose Award, recognizing the great work we do for senior dogs in the community as well as our partnership with AVHS.



I would like 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: 621 State Route 9 NE, PMB A-4, Lake Stevens, WA 98258-8525.

**THANK YOU!**

If you would like to help by fostering or providing a Final Refuge home, please contact us! (360) 653-0311

July 2015



## A MESSAGE FROM "MADAM OLD DOG" (aka Executive Director, Judith Piper)

The good thing about ODH events is meeting supporters and foster families, but the very best part of the outdoor events is meeting all the dogs! (My apologies to the great people with those dogs.) Please do join us at the Walk for Old Dogs on July 19, and remember the **NEW LOCATION IN SHORELINE**. Last year the parade of dogs and people strolling around the beautiful park was heartwarming and almost unbelievable, and the number of dogs in strollers was truly impressive. We met dogs of pretty much every breed and mix; too many to pet them all but some of us tried to do so. If you'd like to meet many of the ODH dogs and their families, this is your chance. Come with or without your dog of any age, make a statement about how much we value senior dogs, and have a good time to boot. Being surrounded by a whole lot of well-loved dogs just HAS to be a good time!

Hope to see you there!



262 dogs in care as of 6/1/15  
254 are in Final Refuge homes  
8 are in foster homes awaiting adoption  
January-June 1, 2015  
71 new dogs were taken into care  
65 came from shelters  
6 came from individuals  
209 new dogs were posted for adoption to help others  
14 ODH dogs were adopted  
157 dogs were adopted through our referrals



621 SR 9 NE, PMB A4  
Lake Stevens, WA 98258

## Dog-Centric Events: July and August

### JULY

9th Annual Poochpalooza  
Sat. July 11  
10-4  
Asbery Field, Marysville

ODH Meet & Greet  
Sat. July 11  
10-4  
Haggen in Marysville

**WALK FOR OLD DOGS**  
**SUN. JULY 19**  
**12-3**  
**CROMWELL PARK**  
**SHORELINE**

### AUGUST

Woofstock  
Sat. Aug. 2  
10-3  
Todd Field, U Puget Sound, Tacoma

WAIF Wag 'n' Walk  
Sun. Aug. 16  
11-3  
Greenbank Farm, Whidbey Island

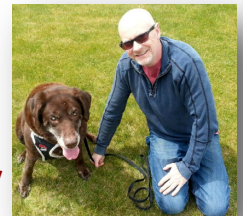
Scrub-a-Mutt  
Sat. Aug. 22  
11-4  
Strawberry Fields,  
Marysville

Dog Days of Summer  
Sun. Aug. 23  
10:30-3  
Lake Padden  
Park, Bellingham



Nina (L) with foster mom, Chris

Harley with foster dad Jerry



### OLD DOG HAVEN BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ardeth De Vries, Gabrielle Flanagan, Decanne Matz, Paula Moreschi, Anna Mumaw

Placement/Intake Coordinator: Tina Nabseth  
Transport/Foster Coordinator: Barb Bauer  
Executive Director: Judith Piper  
Chief Factotum: Lee Piper  
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