

WINTER 2018

Brief Paws

How Your Humane Society Achieved a 95% Save Rate in 2018

GOING TO PROM FOR THE PETS

A look at the Bowser's Boo Bash that raised over \$145,000 to support adoptable cats and dogs

3 ADOPTION STORIES THAT WILL MAKE YOU SMILE



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ON THE COVER: WHS Behavior and Training Manager Chelsea Rock poses with Piglet, adopted from the shelter in the early fall of 2018, after a training session.

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The lifesaving work carried out at Willamette Humane Society is made possible by our generous donors like Golden Hearts Club members Rita and Gayle. But what inspires them to give?



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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

My heart is full as I write this. It is overflowing with stories of the magic of the human-animal bond—one, in particular, I want to share.

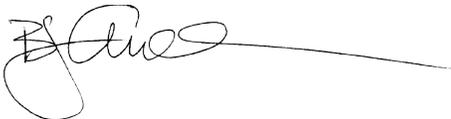
Perhaps you remember the story of our sweet diabetic cat Evelyn. She was a mere 4.5 pounds when she arrived at Willamette Humane Society with unregulated diabetes. Evelyn received immediate medical care and went to foster, returning regularly to the shelter for blood draws and adjustments to her insulin dosing. She spent eight months with her foster family, where they focused on perfecting her medication and helping her gain weight.

Soon Evelyn was ready to meet the world and potential families. Thanks to our amazing donors—perhaps some of you reading this—we were able to purchase some beautiful new adoption kennels for our “hard to place” cats. These new housing solutions were just the ticket for Evelyn. They are bright, spacious, and designed to help cats be comfortable. She would have a better chance of making her match in the lobby kennel than in her foster home.

While Evelyn was moving into her condo, a woman was getting off work a bit early. With extra time on her hands, the woman decided to just stop in to visit the cats. Right here in the lobby, curled up in her condo, was Evelyn. The woman read the signs on the kennel about her diabetic condition and immediately asked to visit with her. You see, this woman had previously owned a diabetic cat. And she was herself managing diabetes with insulin... the very same kind of insulin being used to manage Evelyn's condition. It was the perfect match.

This is the work you do when you support WHS. You keep the door open for pets in need—whether it's medical attention, behavioral modification, extra time in foster care, or a safe place to sleep. Our pets give us so much, and I am so grateful for the community of supporters like you, who give back to them.

I thank you, on Evelyn's behalf, with all the gratitude in my overflowing heart.



BJ Andersen
Executive Director



A 95% live release rate is more than an important statistic...it's a number that represents thousands of happy stories our community members—people like you—make possible.

Brief Paws is published quarterly by
Willamette Humane Society

Moving? Send us an email at
development@whs4pets.org

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Marketing Manager

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503-585-5900
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Visit us at 4246 Turner Road SE in
Salem, Oregon near the airport

Monday, Thursday, Friday: 12-7 p.m.
Saturday, Sunday: 12-6 p.m.
Closed Tuesday and Wednesday

Davenport's Den
Pet Supply & Gift Store
Located in the shelter
503-585-5900 (ext. 322)

WHS Spay & Neuter Clinic
Located in the shelter.
Phone: 503-480-SPAY
Monday-Friday: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

WHS Thrift Store
548 High St. NE, 503-362-6892
Monday-Saturday: 10:30-6 p.m.
Sunday: 12:30-5 p.m.

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BOWSER'S

This year's event—presented by Capitol Subaru—was



BOO BASH

a night fit for prom kings, queens, and heroes.

Photo Credit: Jean Dion, Martha Russell

BY ERIN WELDON DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

On October 27, Willamette Humane Society hosted our annual Bowser's Boo Bash. Over 300 pet lovers like you joined us at the Salem Convention Center for Bowser's: Prom Edition. Together, we raised more than \$145,000 to support shelter pets, breaking records and ensuring that local pets in need can get the help they deserve.

From zombie prom dates to 80s dresses, witches to werewolves, and elephants to dragons, attendees went all out for Salem's favorite costume party. Shelter dogs and cats joined the party, including some very special alumni like Buddy. Everyone enjoyed a gourmet dinner, drinks, and a silent and live auction. Lucky winners went home with a trip to Bali, custom photo shoots with our Community Engagement and Marketing Manager, a cruise, and more.

We couldn't possibly crown a prom king or queen that night, because every single person in that room was a hero. Nights like this remind us all what our community can accomplish when we come together to pursue a shared goal. Together, we make our community a better place for the pets and the people who love them.

For the 12th year in a row, Bowser's Boo Bash was presented by our dedicated sponsor, Capitol Subaru. On behalf of Willamette Humane Society staff, volunteers, and



supporters, we'd like to extend a thank you to Capitol Subaru and all our amazing sponsors—Killer's Pest Elimination, Red Hawk Winery, Roth's Fresh Markets, Garrett Hemann Robertson, Maps Credit Union, Valley Credit Union, Airlie Winery, Santiam Brewing, VCA Salem, Cashmere Construction, and many more—for making this magical night possible.

We hope to see you next year at Bowser's Boo Bash 2019—The Monster Masquerade!



6 WAYS TO HELP THE PETS THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

Support adoptable pets this holiday season with a gift that works for you.

**BY ERIN WELDON
DEVELOPMENT MANAGER**

December is filled with holidays and time spent with friends and family. In this season of gratitude and generosity, the humans, dogs, and cats of Willamette Humane Society are touched to be included in your holiday traditions. We'd like to highlight the many ways you can support shelter pets hoping to go home for the holidays.

MAKE A DONATION

YEAR-END GIFTS

As we bid farewell to one year and welcome the next, make a difference. Get your gift in before the end of the year, and meet the 2018 tax deduction deadline. Giving is easy! Mail your donation in the envelope inside this magazine, or make a donation online at whs4pets.org.

TRIBUTE GIFTS

It's a question many of us face every year: What do you get for the person who has it all? During this joyful season, pay tribute to a friend or family member with a donation to WHS. They'll receive a letter letting them know you've given in their honor. You can also make a memorial gift in honor of a loved one.

WEEK OF WONDER

Every day from December 25 to December 31, we share a different success story about an animal who found happiness thanks to our donors' generosity. It's a week of love, compassion, heroics, and some incredible animals.

OTHER WAYS TO SUPPORT

HOLIDAY GIVING TREE AT WHS

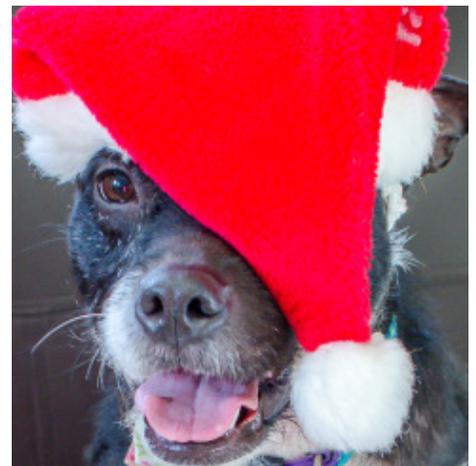
In December, we'll have a holiday giving tree in our lobby. Stop by WHS to pick up a tag to buy a special gift for a dog or cat this season. Don't have time to grab a tag? We are always in need of canned food for both cats and dogs. You can drop off your donation at WHS anytime we're open.

TEXT-TO-GIVE AT SALEM CENTER MALL

Want to help out without spending a dime? WHS will have a dog & cat themed tree at Salem Center Mall, with the chance to win a cash prize. Check out our tree (pictured, bottom right) at the Salem Center, and vote, vote for WHS via the Text to Give campaign! Just text GIVE4 to 444222 daily until December 17th!

BOTTLES AND CANS

Skip the line at the bottle return and drop off your refundable cans and bottles at WHS instead! Donations can be left at the back of the shelter in our WHS Can and Bottle Kennel.



PETCETERA

Happenings Around The Shelter This Season



SHOP ALL WEEKEND LONG AT THE THRIFT STORE

Your favorite thrift store is now open every day of the week! The Willamette Humane Society Thrift Store is excited to announce extended hours on Sundays from 12:30 to 5 p.m. for shopping and donations. The store is also open Monday through Saturday from

10:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Each purchase directly supports adoptable cats and dogs, contributing more than \$264,000 to the shelter's operating budget last year. The WHS Thrift Store is located at 548 High Street in downtown Salem. For additional information, call us at (503) 362-6892.

YOU GOT MOVING AT MUTTS ON THE MILE

On your mark, get set, go! More than 40 dogs and their humans joined us for Mutts on the Mile at Capitol Subaru on September 12th for a mile-long walk around the Capitol Auto loop.

The annual fundraiser focuses on getting pets and people moving while supporting adoptable pets with each step. A big thank you to Capitol Subaru, Hooked On Food, and Bauman's Farm and Garden for helping make the event even better.



ROUND OF APAWS

Celebrating Lifesaving Work in Our Community



WORKING HARD FOR OUR WORKING CATS

Have you noticed the barn outside the shelter recently? It will soon be the new home of our WHS Working Cat Program. A big thank you to Eagle Scout Carson McDaniel, pictured above with WHS Operations Director Betsy Bode (center) and Executive Director BJ Andersen

(right), for his hard work outfitting the barn for our future feline residents.



BREWING UP SOME LOVE FOR THE PETS

If you stopped by Bentley's Coffee on September 16th, you supported shelter pets with your morning mocha or afternoon latte. During the

"Every Cup Feeds a Pup" campaign, you and the generous Bentley's Coffee team raised enough money to cover 4,012 meals for shelter dogs and cats at WHS. The locally owned coffee shop donated \$1 for every 16-ounce drink sold.

PLAYGROUP PASSIONS

WHS Playgroup Trainer Jessi Henry, CPDT-KA, joined the team at Austin Pets Alive! for a week in September to explore best practices in canine playgroups. WHS already hosts weekly playgroups for both shelter animals and the public. A big thank you to the Petfinder Foundation for generously funding this internship opportunity.



MORE THAN JUST A NUMBER

How Willamette Humane Society Supports Its Pets (and Their New People) Before and After Adoption

FEATURE BY

Kristina Hogg, DVM, Shelter Veterinarian
Chelsea Rock, CPDT-KA, Behavior and Training Manager
Callie Gisler, Community Engagement and Marketing Manager

Each year, Willamette Humane Society (WHS) takes in more than 3,500 cats and dogs, from tiny kittens to senior dogs. That's a big number that is made up of unique cats and dogs, each with their own equally unique stories and needs. With the help of our community and volunteers, WHS works to treat each animal that arrives at our shelter as a special individual.

This year, our shelter proudly reached a combined live release rate of over 95 percent. To accomplish that, each cat and dog must receive individualized care. That allows us to ensure the

pet has everything needed to succeed, no matter what stage of life that pet is in. Our work starts the moment a pet arrives at the shelter, and sometimes, it doesn't end when that pet leaves our care.

Whether it's a senior cat with acute medical concerns or a younger dog struggling to grasp the basic manners he needs to succeed, the WHS team is finding new ways to continue serving each of our pets on an individual basis.

HELPING SENIOR CAT NOVA ENJOY HER GOLDEN YEARS

WRITTEN BY KRISTINA HOGG, DVM

At Willamette Humane Society, as well as shelters across the country, we are accepting more and more senior animals. While these older animals can be wonderful additions to any family, they do come with very specific needs their new people must keep in mind. And often, these animals need a little more medical care from us at the shelter as they wait for those forever families to find them.

Consider Nova. This 13-year-old cat was surrendered in April 2018 due to a family member's allergies. During her intake exam, we noticed that Nova had some wobbliness in her hind end—called ataxia. It's a little difficult to assess these things within the shelter. We didn't know how long Nova had been showing these signs, and it wasn't clear whether she recently stopped jumping on furniture when she used to love to spend her days on the back of the couch as her previous owners had told us. Her obvious symptoms, seen by staff and volunteers, were the only pieces of information we had to go on.

We let Nova settle into the shelter, tried adopting her from one of our



Nova, a thirteen-year-old domestic medium hair, arrived at Willamette Humane Society in April 2018. The sweet senior was adopted in the fall of 2018.

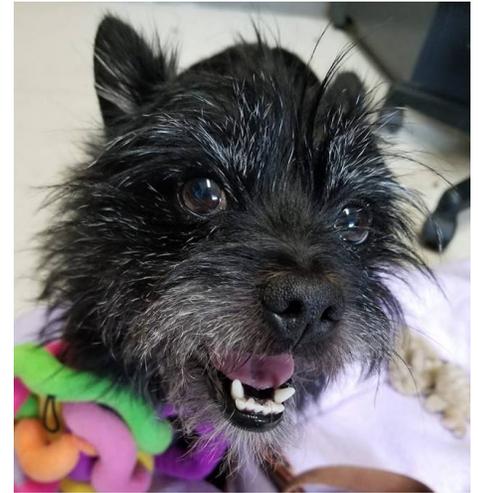
local partner pet stores, and then placed her in an office to allow her more room. Putting her in an office helped us get better information about her day-to-day activity level. Our caring staff members can let cats out of their kennels to stretch their legs—and decide whether or not to interact with people.

Nova had always been a laid back girl in any situation she was placed in, and she was always tidy. We felt this senior lady needed someone who would understand her need for a quiet life. And she would need a family to help her to manage her ataxia, most likely due to some arthritis in the hind end, an unfortunate side effect of aging. We were thrilled when she found that family after waiting for them for seven months. These are the happy

endings we live for. Nova is just one example of the many senior animals who arrive at our shelter. Often, our seniors have issues such as chronic kidney disease, arthritis, overactive thyroid, dental disease, or tumors.

Some of these issues we can treat, and nothing is more satisfying than completely removing a mass so that an animal can go on to live a happy, healthy life. Some of these issues are chronic and will be with the animal for life, requiring medication, regular trips to the veterinarian and/or special food.

We are fortunate to have staff, volunteers, and especially a community that supports these animals into their new homes.



Left: Dr. Kristina Hogg works with staff to examine a pup during the shelter's 2018 low-cost vaccine clinic. Above: Shelter dog Coal spends time in the Behavior and Training team's office.

TEACHING SPUNKY DOG COAL THE ROPES BEFORE AND AFTER ADOPTION

WRITTEN BY CHELSEA ROCK, CPDT-KA

Whether we're welcoming a single canine from our local community, or a new group of dogs from an overcrowded, out-of-state shelter, I am struck both by how fortunate they are to have landed here with us... and how fortunate we are to be able to support them in our community. Willamette Humane Society has so much to offer these dogs while they are with our compassionate staff and volunteers—and our ability to help extends past the adoption, and that's truly unique.

WHS's Behavior & Training Department has a team of four certified trainers, including myself. We do our best to provide the assistance adopters need to be successful with their four-legged additions.

Almost every week, we offer free behavior support to at least one family that recently brought a pet home, whether it's talking through challenges on the phone or via

email. Sometimes, though, it isn't safe or practical to advise a family on how to proceed unless we are working together, in person. When that happens, we offer a heavily discounted private behavior consultation for adoptees to help troubleshoot.

Some dogs will need in-person post-adoption support. Our exuberant adolescents come to mind! We know they'll be most successful in making the transition from shelter to home with a little additional training support. For these dogs, we offer adoption packages that include a group course that best matches the pup's training needs. We are always thrilled to have these teens join as students and are grateful their new owners are making that extra effort to teach them important life skills.

Another example is the budget-friendly course just for WHS alumni. RescuedU is offered on a quarterly basis, and class sizes are small to maximize instructor availability. Students will save about two-thirds the cost of one of our regular courses. The same high caliber, certified trainers will be

teaching the thoughtfully crafted curriculum in our beautiful classroom, but at a low cost to encourage adopter participation.

I'm also really happy to share that this year, we have been able to add free one-on-one lessons with each dog in our behavior program. These dogs get up to six hours of training in their first year and a free hour each following year.

All of this put together means that dogs like Coal, one of my favorite little terriers, who we worked with for four months before his amazing adopter scooped him up, wasn't left high and dry once he trotted out our doors. Instead, when his mom had questions about certain quirks or needed suggestions for how to introduce him to pieces of their routine, we were able to counsel remotely. When she felt like she needed just a little bit more, we were able to get them in for multiple lessons with one of our trainers who knew him well. What makes it all so worth it is that, along the way, we also got to celebrate success. This little dog is well loved by a dedicated family, and we want that for every one of our dogs.

WHS HAPPY TAILS

At Willamette Humane Society, happy endings happen every day—and it's all thanks to the generous support and love of people like you. Catch up with some of our favorite shelter alumni and see what life really looks like in that perfect forever home.

BAILEY, ADOPTED 2008



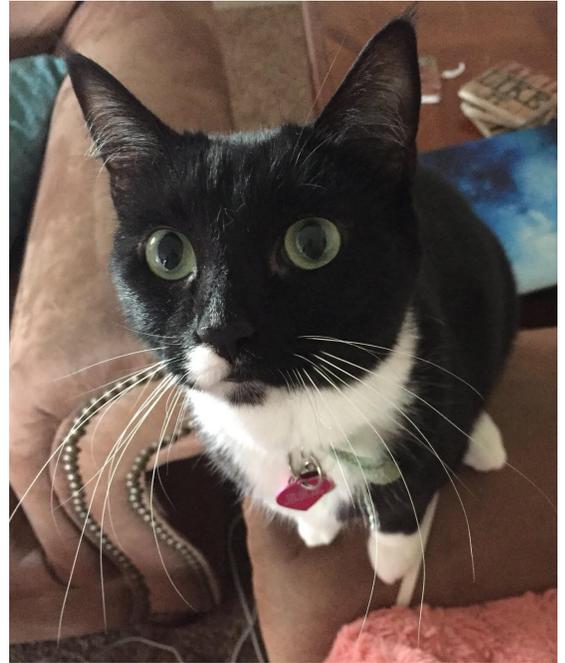
"I used to be a volunteer dog walker, and I walked into the kennel room and saw this sweet girl and her three siblings. I snuggled them for the better part of an hour, and I remember they all just huddled around me. I put a hold on the last available sweet girl. We brought her home the next day. She's been my sweet little snuggler ever since. We had another small dog at home who was VERY excited to have a sister. She passed away this last year but they had a happy sisterhood for just shy of a decade snuggling, playing, camping, beach trips, and, of course, sleeping in the bed. Bailey has a heart of gold and is the sweetest girl I could've asked for."

BRODY (NOW ICHABOD), ADOPTED 2018



"He's home! And loving it as much as I am. Ichabod is already cool with his much older sister Noel, however, he and his dog housemate Penny will take some adjustment time. He bounces between all out play mode, and needing to be held as close to my face as possible for optimal cuddle and nap time. He is already comfortable in his harness, so walks are in our near future. He fits in so well and I am in love. Thanks for helping me find my lil dude."

GEMMA, ADOPTED 2018



"It's already been two years since adopting this sassy cat. From our many trips back and forth between Oregon and Montana and her insisting to be sleeping with one paw on my head and snoring in my ear, I couldn't imagine life without her."

**Share your own
"Happy Tail" at
WHS4Pets.org.**

TRIBUTE GIFTS

Received August 1, 2018, to October 31, 2018

PEOPLE MEMORIALS

DONALD ALBERT

Karen and Bill Horner

BILL BAHDE

Geraldine Ball

HARRY BARBER

Wayne Barber

MILT AND JACKIE BELOUSEK

Sara Belousek

KENT CAMPBELL

Julie Steiner

CLEO M. CARNEY

Michael Carney

RUTHANNE CARSON

Karen Carson

ROSS CARSTENSEN

Yvonne Carstensen

KATHRYN CASTELLI

Jen and Chris Hatch

Annette Kendall

Jeff and Mary Kroft

Kathy Pentecost

John and Denise Swanson

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Linda and Joseph Kammerman

Bob and Mary Pearson

Bruce and Karen Stangeby

ROSIE DODGE

Denise Chapeyrou

DICK FREDRICKSON

Don and Marilyn Dunaway

RICHARD FREDRICKSON

Beverly Stephens

DOUG GILLETT

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Frank and Sue Gaide

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George Happ

Tom and Suzie Herburger

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Jean Rover

Edward Schultheiss and

Linda Cunningham

Anthony and Debbie Vassallo

Kevin and Candace Watts

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Joanne and Doug Kowitz

MICHAEL HATCHER

Deb Haugen

KENNETH JAMES

Patricia James

KERRIE JONES

Ronald and Joan Jones

ELLEN KERR

Patricia Eder

Mary Lou Beck

Oregon Epsilon ADKEC

KEVIN K. KING

E.J. King

ED KRAFT

Beryl and Rick Grabenhorst

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Martha J. Bailey

TAMMY L. LUCERO

Vernon and Mariel Tatchio

JON MANGIS

Peggy Mangis

DELILAH MCDERMOTT

Kimberlee and Robert McDermott

RICHARD MOSMAN AND PEPPER

Van Ness Mosman

RANDY O'CONNOR

Karen and Bill Horner

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Su Fennern

Kirsten Manning

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Salem Millstream Knitting Guild

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Michael and Laura Mushinski
David Burton; NutriSystem
Nanawa Otto
Dean and JoAnn Smith
Larry and Susan Stuart
Pat Swigart
Matt Switzer
Romino Tarry
Bernard Tarupi
Michael and Alix Truax
Renee Wagenaar
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Julie Wilson

VERA WABS
Douglas and Sharon Stoller

HAROLD W. WADE
Terry Wade

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Jody Germond; Polk County Sheriff
Stanley and Constance Butterfield
Daryll and Phyllis Combs
Melanie Edwards
Kelly and Eriks Gabliks
PNW Silky Terrier Club

REGI WOLF
Cathryn Ingalls

SHARON ZWASCHKA
Susan Becker

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ALFIE
Denny and Barbara Miles

ANNABELLE
Catrina and Tim Kersich

ANNIE VOLLMAR
Jeff and Lori Philips

APRIL & SHASTA
Leslye and Dale Barkdull

ASTER
Paul and Janice Eckley

BAILEY
Jenan and Gary Brandt

BELLE
Jan and Mike Morgan

BIG SNACK
Dr. Alison McKay

BILLY AND PETEY
Joanna Buckmaster

BLAZE
Jack and Jan Prebilsky

BLONDIE
Carolyn and Stephen Kalb
Stephen and Kristie Kalb

BUDDY BUTLER
Matt and Julie Lover

JACK CARROW
Marlene and Paul Haugland

CASSIE
Pam Morris

CHARLIE
Nancy Harrison

CHICO
Doris Hazel

CLARA
Todd Londin

CODY
Gerald and Joyce Garnas

DAHLIA
John and Sandra Bartruff

DOUGLAS
Diane Hulbert

FLETCHER
Stephen and Kristen Williams

FLUFFY
William and Marsha Hoskins

LUCY FRASER
Joan Fraser

FRISKIE
Suzanne Gebow

GABBIE
Jill Read

LADY GILLIS
Laura Daniel

GINGER-ALE
Heidi Nino De Rivera

HANNAH
Jo and Roger Vasend

HARLEY
Lori Woodbury and Ginny Coberly
Karen Walters

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Louise and Larry Martin

HONEY
William and Marsha Hoskins

SAMSON HURCKES IV
Ellen Miller and Patrick Kudszus

JACK
Barbara Jaxel
Michael and Linda Martini
Sharon Miller and Larry Nasset
Jan and Craig Tutor

JACK - BELOVED DOG
Lucia and Paul Norris

GINO JAMES
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JOSIE
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KLAUS
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Michele Priebe

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ROXIE
Anonymous
Char Riesterer

SASSY AND KASEY
James Stone

SHREK
Robin Green

SIMBA AND CASEY
Jennifer Bowen

SPENCER & LUCY
Randy and Betty Buholts

SPOOKY
Norma Gabriel

TEKOA
William and Marsha Hoskins

THEO AND T-BONE
Marjorie Ann Jackson

TOBEY
Donna and Greg Burgess
Chris Fletcher

TOBY
Phil and Kay Cogswell

TOBY
Jeff and Lori Philips
Irene Price
Dave and Dawn Vollmar

TWINKLE AND SCOOTER
Dwight and Judy Courtney

WESTLEY & GWENDOLYN
Christine Deighan

PAM WOOD'S BELOVED DOG
Pamela Wood

ZANE
Tom and Cesie Scheuermann

ZOEY
Tom and Barbara Halsey

SHERMAN TRAYLOR'S BELOVED PET
Paul Kylo

HONORARIUMS

FRANK J. ADAMS
Barbara Adams

ALACRITOUS ALTRUISM
Tim Woodden

SUE BECKER
Jeanie Stark

BOOMER
Robert Miller

JILL CANNEFAX'S BIRTHDAY
Shannon Priem

BARB CASH
Mary Rumsey and Karl Olmstead

ECHO
Linda Bobnes

TERRI ELLEN'S BIRTHDAY
Sherri and Lindsay Partridge

RANDY FRASER
Joan Fraser

GRACIE
Greg and Diane Burton

KATE GRAY
Robyn McCarty

ABBY HARPER
Nathan and Crystal Rietmann

ETHAN HORNER'S 15TH BIRTHDAY
Karen and Bill Horner

KELLY JONES
Traci Burks
Debbie and James Miller

MAGGI
Richard Costa Jr. and Valerie Costa

DOROTHY NICHOLS AND
RUSTY THE CAT
Jeffery Seeley

LEE ANN O'S BIRTHDAY
Megan Obright

MICHAEL OBRIGHT
Megan Obright

SHANNON PRIEM
Mari Sue Johnson
Barbara Mayer

MARTHA RUSSELL
Monte and Barbara Turner

ROSEMARY SAVAGE
Arnold and Mildred Larson

KARI ANGLE SCHUCK
Terri Ellen

ALLIE DEA SCHWARZINGER
Ken and Becky Hoagland

BILL AND ROBERTA SEELEY
Jeffery Seeley

KRISTY AND CHARLIE SPENCER
M and M Reams

ANN THOMMEN
Lindsey Kerr

WALDO
Todd and Ann Ferrell

ZURRIE
Chris Lidstone and Katherine Laudon

FEATURE A TRIBUTE



Spotlight your loved ones!

Combined tribute donations of \$250 or more are eligible for a small featured photo in the tributes gift section in an upcoming issue of *Brief Paws*.

Please include a photo in your Brief Paws donation envelope, e-mail a digital copy to development@whs4pets.org, or upload a photo when making a tribute gift of \$250 or more at whs4pets.org.

TWO HEARTS OF GOLD

Donor Feature: Rita and Gayle of Salem, Ore.



BY SHERRI PARTRIDGE CHIEF PHILANTHROPY OFFICER

For 60 years, Rita (pictured, left) has called a quiet south Salem neighborhood home. Rita is 99 years old, and she raised her two daughters—and quite a few cats—here. Lady (pictured) became a member of the household when she was tossed out of a car while pregnant, and Rita took her in.

“My neighbors know I’m the cat person,” said Rita. “But I don’t mind. It breaks my heart to see animals suffering, so I do what I can.”

Rita’s daughter Gayle (right) feels the same way. One of the first cats she had came from Willamette Humane Society (WHS). But it wasn’t her first animal friend. “Growing up I would bring home all sorts of animals, like owls, birds, squirrels, and cats...My mom never turned them away,” said Gayle.

Like her mother, Gayle is partial to cats. And also like her mother, Gayle is committed to supporting WHS. Rita and Gayle are both members of the Golden Hearts Club, meaning they each generously make a monthly financial contribution. The shelter relies on this consistent, crucial support from the almost 400 donors who are part of the monthly giving program.

“I know it’s important for the shelter to have money coming in regularly to provide care for the animals,” said Rita. “At my age, there are a lot of things I can’t do, but giving my financial support each month is one thing I can do because it’s easy, and it makes you feel good.”

At her age, feeling good is something Rita doesn’t take for granted. “Cats mean a lot to me,” said Rita. “They are great company and make me happy, and I appreciate that WHS helps make so many cats (and dogs) happy while they are waiting to find a home.”

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